

Dear Potential Sponsor:

Life is a series of choices. We make choices as youth that affect our lives as adults. The choice to study in school – or not. The choice of our career focus. The choice of what types of people we surround ourselves with. The choices of how we participate in our communities.

As a youth, how did you make these choices? How did you seek out the answers to these important questions? How did you have the bravery and motivation to answer them?

Was there a special individual who you knew you could turn to? Maybe you have been that individual to another. That is the essence of mentoring. It shapes lives in a subtle and everyday ways. And it has been proven through practice and research to be one of the more powerful interventions that a human being can receive.

The Bedford Youth and Family Services Peer Mentoring Program seeks to maximize the benefit of this mentoring relationship by not only providing trained mentors for Middle School aged youth but giving the opportunity of *being* the mentors to the High School aged youth. By helping another, the older youth are given motivation, bravery, and empowerment to make choices in their own lives and the proximity in age fosters a close bond.

Started in March, 2006 through a grant from Northwest Suburban Health Alliance (CHNA15) the Peer Mentoring Program has already grown to encompass over ten youth aged 11-18 – and there is room to grow.

Now we are asking for your help to support this program. In addition to the stipend incentives, the Peer Mentoring Program has a need for supplies for the mentor meetings. Examples would include board games, nerf balls, rubber balls, frisbees, jump ropes, hula hoops, card games, play dough, arts and crafts supplies, and snacks.

We are currently seeking donations of the above mentioned items or funds to cover the supplies as well as partially funding the mentor incentives. The cost is minimal - \$25 for one mentee for 3 months or \$100 for the entire year. You could also sponsor a mentor directly for \$550. The choice is yours.

Questions? Contact Jessica Santos at 781/275-7727 x262 or jessicas@bedfordma.gov

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support; when our community pulls together our limits are boundless.

Jessica Santos
Prevention Services Coordinator

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Donated in honor of: _____

Amount included (check one)

- \$25 to sponsor one mentee for three months
- \$100 to sponsor one mentee for a year
- \$550 to sponsor a mentor
- Other _____

Return to:
Bedford Youth and Family Services
12 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 10730

ATTN: Peer Mentoring