January is Youth Mentoring Month

9 million kids in America grow up without a mentor to offer real life guidance. Having a mentor empowers young people to make smart choices that put them on a path to making better life decisions. Students who have mentors are more likely to stay in school and succeed.

The Friends Youth Mentoring Program is working to solve this problem here in NH and here is how you can help:

1. **Become a Mentor.** Attend one of our upcoming orientations and be a positive influence on a youth in need.
2. **Donate** to the Youth Mentoring Program to give us the financial resources to help those youth in the community.
3. **Host** a neighborhood meeting or schedule a workplace lunch and learn so others can learn about the Friends Youth Mentoring Program.
4. **Learn** more about the importance of youth mentoring.

There are approximately 100 kids in the Youth Mentoring Program receiving this needed support but there are others still waiting to be matched with a mentor. Don't let Youth Mentoring Month go by without **YOU** taking action to make a difference.

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**Annual Appeal**

With the rush of the holidays over and a New Year in front of you, now is the time to send in your annual appeal. It's not too late to show your support for the Friends Program so please [donate today](#).

Thank you for your continued support!

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**TD Charitable Foundation Support Friends Program**

The Friends Program would like to thank the TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank® for awarding us a training grant to help our administrative staff be more efficient.

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January 2017
In addition, the TD Bank branch at 143 North Main Street in Concord had a Friends Program display in their lobby for the month of December to help educate their customers about our organization.

Thank you TD Bank!

Concord Cold Weather Shelter

The Friends Program is managing the 2017 Concord Cold Weather Shelter, which is located at Christ the King Parish: Saint Peter’s Activity Center in Concord. The shelter opened on January 2nd and there are still opportunities to volunteer. Go online to sign up or contact Terry Blake if you are interested.

Monthly Giving

Do you know that you can support the Friends Program by giving to us monthly through your bank account or credit card? No need to remember to send in a check or find a stamp. Contact us today and we can set up your monthly giving at a level you feel comfortable with - $10, $25, $50, etc. Your support makes a difference.

Donate Your Concord Food Co-op Green Stamps!

The Friends Emergency Housing Program has been selected as a 2017 Co-op Community Partner. Thank You Concord Food Co-op!

You can help us by donating your filled Green Stamp books to the Friends Program. The Co-op will donate $5 for each filled Green Stamp book turned in before April 2, 2017. Check here for more information.

Emergency Housing Says Thank You

A Big Thank you to Bead It!, Crossroads Chiropractic, Hearts for Kindness, Concord Food Co-op, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 for donating supplies, holiday gifts, meals, and financial donations to the Family Shelter in December. You made the holidays a little brighter for our families.

Friends Program Welcomes
Do you belong to a neighborhood group, service organization, or workplace giving collaborative? If so, we would love to be a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting to let others know what the Friends Program does. Contact us if interested.

Speedway Children's Charities Supports Youth Mentoring

The Friends Youth Mentoring Program received a grant from Speedway Children Charities totaling $3,500, which was distributed on December 8th at a festive event at the Palace Theater in Manchester.

Youth Mentoring Orientations

Make a difference in the life of a Merrimack County young person & be a mentor. The first step is attending an orientation that will introduce you our program and outline what’s involved.

Upcoming orientations:
Wednesday, February 15th 4:30-7:00pm
Thursday, March 2nd 5:00-7:30pm

Step up and step in to help a needy child. Call 228-0108 for more info.

Free Senior Exercise Classes

Don’t let the winter weather stop your exercise plans. Friends Bone Builders is a low-impact workout that yields high-impact results. These osteoporosis and senior strength programs are held at over 20 locations. Click here for class locations.

New Trustees

The end of 2016 closed with two new people joining our Board of Trustees.

Lindsay Gonzales is a lifelong resident of New Hampshire and has worked at Granite Ledges, an assisted living facility in Concord, since 2008 and is currently the Director of Communications. Lindsay is no stranger to the Friends Program as she was a Senior Friend in our Youth Mentoring Program from 2008-2012.

Jason LaCombe is a Principal at Sheerr McCrystal Palson Architecture, Inc. dba SMP Architecture and lives in Hopkinton with his wife and 4 daughters.

A big welcome to Lindsay and Jason!

Thank You......

Thank you to the following businesses, foundations and non-profit organizations who financially contributed to the Friends Program in December:

Burdruck Faulkner Charitable Trust
Concord Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors
First Baptist Church of New London
Flood, Sheehan & Tobin
Johnny Prescott & Son Oil Company
NH Charitable Foundation Donor Advised Funds
Quita David Fund
Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.
The Ladies Room

Youth Mentoring Says Thank You

The Youth Mentoring Program would like to thank
We Want YOU!

Do you support the Friends Program and want to get more involved? We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Development Committee and the RSVP Advisory Committee. If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities, contact us.

Your donations were greatly appreciated by the youth in our program and their families. You made the holidays special for these local families.

Thank you to our 2017 Business Sponsors!