



June 7, 2022

Dear Grand Area Mentoring Supporter,

Another academic year has come to a close! Attached you'll find Grand Area Mentoring's annual report. It has some powerful findings, but may I share a few special details first?

## **95% of mentees say that mentoring helps them feel happier.**

That's not a trivial thing. For youth who face daunting obstacles – like learning disabilities, depression, social isolation, or a hundred other risk factors – feeling happier is the first step toward a better life. Nobody functions well when they're down. How can you pay attention in class or be generous with others when meaningful friendships and rejuvenating moments are hard to find?

Mentees look forward to their mentoring sessions each week, a time when they can get the emotional support they need. 91% of mentees agree that mentoring helps them feel cared about. Too many kids feel frustrated and desperate in America today, but the mentors and supporters of Grand Area Mentoring are stepping up to help youth before they harm themselves or others. This intervention is not a panacea, of course. Innumerable variables influence the lives of our children. But when children say things like this, you know you're making a difference:

**"Thank you for everything! You're like a dad to me. You are always nice, and I appreciate you."** –Sixth grade student

**"Where would I be without you?... nine years, wow... I love you with all my heart, and I will forever love that I got to meet you."** –Ninth grade student

**"I hope you had a great year like I did with you. Thank you for being there at my toughest times. I am very grateful that I was able to meet you and spend all these years together. I hope that next year we will continue to meet."** –Eighth grade student

**"Thanks for helping me get through a lot of stuff this year and to learn new games. You really inspire me to paint more and care more about myself."** –Fourth grade student

**"You make me so happy, and I am so glad that we are doing mentoring. You give me confidence and courage to keep going."** –Sixth grade student

**"Thank you for supporting me... You are one of the best things in my life."** –Third grade student

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**“My biggest challenges are to feel good about myself and to fit in. My mentor understands me and I can talk to her about it.” –Fourth grade interviewee**

**“She helps me. She knows all my problems... She always makes me feel whole inside.” –Ninth grade interviewee**

**“A week ago, something happened that was really traumatic. I went to her and she was able to give me advice, and if I needed anything, she was just a call away.” –Eighth grade interviewee**

**“My mentor makes me laugh, and it's fun to be with her. She helps me feel better.” –Third grade interviewee**

**“My mentor is a nice guy and he inspires me. I don't know where I'd be without him.” –Fifth grade interviewee**

Broadening a mentee's horizon is crucial too. 100% of parents believe that mentoring provides their children with new opportunities. 93% of mentees agree that mentoring helps them try new things. For our promising children, mentoring can open their eyes. The list of new experiences afforded mentees this year is long. It includes things like learning to ride a bike, going on zip lines and a high ropes course, visiting paleontology sites, working on a farm, and much more.



So thank you. Thank you for being part of this program as a supporter or mentor. We can't wait for the 2022/2023 school year and another season of top-notch mentoring. This is a vital part of being human, and we consider it a privilege to create, with your help, relationships that achieve so much good.

Sincerely,

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