

## Who will be mentoring my child?

Adults volunteering as mentors for the Bridges Mentoring Program must be 18 years or older and submit a completed mentor application.

### The application includes:

personal background, education and employment, special interest and hobbies, three character references, desired/available times and locations for meeting with their youth, and background checks



**Bridges Mentoring Program**  
PO Box 131  
Osage, IA 50461

**Phone: 641-732-3566**

**E-mail:**  
[mcbridgesmentoringprogram@gmail.com](mailto:mcbridgesmentoringprogram@gmail.com)

## Bridges Mentoring Program





## Mission Statement

The mission of the Bridges Mentoring Program is to strengthen the self-esteem and social skills of youth by providing positive mentoring relationships at no cost.

### What is a Mentor?

- Individuals that volunteer their time to be a role model to youth in our communities
- An adult who provides a young person with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement, and to be a positive role model
- People who want to help young people bring out strengths that are already there
- Do not to take the place of parents
- Mentors in this program are not specialized as counselors and they do not provide respite care

### Who is eligible to be matched?

Youth in Kindergarten through age 17.

### Reasons for a referral include:

- Could benefit from one on one attention, needs another positive role model in their life
- Grades
- Truancy and/or Absence
- School-behavior or discipline concerns
- Peer relationship concerns
- Behavior outside of school
- Family factors (divorce or separation, not getting along with siblings, death in family, major illness, etc.)

\*Referrals can be made by teachers, school counselors, or parents.

### What is the Commitment?

- Pairs commit to meeting at least 4 hours per month for a minimum of one year
- Meetings are scheduled weekly, but can be flexible based on the mentor/family schedule
- Commitment is one of the key ingredients in a successful mentoring experience for both the mentor and the mentee

### Matching Strategy

- All matches will be same gender unless specifically requested
- Youth are matched based on availability of mentors and interests
- The youth and their mentor will formally commit to the match for the next year, or indicate the desire not to become a formal match following their initial meeting.

### Meeting Process

- The 1st meeting usually takes place at your home. The mentor, mentee, parents and Program Coordinator will go over guidelines and rules of the program
- Contact and emergency information is exchanged
- A date and time for the first mentor/mentee meeting is set

Everyone benefits from a successful mentoring relationship; the mentees, the mentors, and family members. Mentoring provides a young person with a wealth of benefits. From improved grades to an enhanced self image, the research shows mentoring helps young people.

