Great Expectations Mentoring Program

Job Description: Volunteer Mentor

Great Expectations (GE) is an exciting, outcome-driven initiative that coordinates the efforts of our excellent Wayzata and Orono school districts with the goodwill and resources of our community so that every single child has the cradle-to-career support needed to succeed in school and community and life. As a part of this initiative, a school-based mentoring program is being developed for Wayzata High School students, as a strategy for addressing educational opportunity and achievement gaps.

The GE Mentoring Program will support and empower students at Wayzata High School to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their potential. The mentoring program will use adult volunteers that commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least one school year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about the youth, the mentor can help students develop and reach positive academic, career and personal goals.

**Mentor Role**

* Focus on building a positive relationship with the student
* Serve as a positive role model and guide
* Support the student through an ongoing, one-to-one relationship
* Help identify mentee strengths and opportunities
* Strive for mutual respect
* Work with the student to set goals and work toward accomplishing them

**Time Commitment**

* One school year
* A minimum of two visits/month at Wayzata High School
* Attend an initial two-hour training session and additional in-service training sessions twice during each year of participation in the program

**Participation Requirements**

* Be at least 21 years old
* Be enthusiastic about working with a student and supporting the student to reach their goals
* Be willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures
* Be willing to complete the application and screening process
* Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
* Attend mentor training sessions
* Be willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities
* Have a clean criminal history
* No use of illicit drugs
* No use of alcohol or controlled substances in an inappropriate manner
* Not currently in treatment for substance abuse and have a non-addictive period of at least three years
* Be open-minded, willing to learn and reflect on own biases, assumptions and practices. Respect and celebrate individual differences.

**Desirable Qualities**

* Willing listener and empathic
* Encouraging, supportive and caring
* Open to sharing own life experiences; eager to learn about other life experiences
* Not afraid of a challenge
* Patient and flexible
* Have previous experience (paid or volunteer) working with youth, or have an awareness of high school life

**Benefits**

* Personal fulfillment through contribution to individual students and the community
* Satisfaction in helping a young person mature, progress, and achieve goals
* Training sessions and group activities
* Personal ongoing support, supervision to help the match succeed

**Application and Screening Process**

* Written application
* Background check
* Personal interview
* Provide two personal references
* Attend two-hour mentor training

**Applications are due by Friday, September 13.**

