



MUSTANGS MENTORING PROGRAM

PRIMARY CONTACT

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program is a community collaboration composed of local agencies that provide mentoring services, groups that refer adult volunteer mentors, and the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD).

Mentoring services focus on high-risk youth at Washington Middle School and John Muir High School. Students struggling with low academic achievement, poor school attendance, emotional distress or behavior problems are referred by teachers or school counselors and matched with a caring adult who commits to spending 5 hours per month (minimum) for one year (minimum) as a mentor. The mentor provides educational and social support to help the young person reach his or her potential, leading to a future that is safe, healthy, and productive.

Flintridge coordinates the collaborative and leads its fundraising efforts. Flintridge also offers training opportunities for the mentors and technical assistance and resources for the mentoring agencies.

THE NEED

In contrast to its long, proud tradition, in recent years John Muir High School has become better known for substandard academic achievement and delinquency issues. Compared to the State of California's 83.1% graduation rate, only 56.7% of Muir students completed graduation requirements in 2007-2008. Both John Muir and Washington Middle School have suspension rates that are significantly higher than the district: in 2007-2008, Muir had a 43.1% suspension rate compared to the district's 16.7%, while Washington had a 41.5% rate compared to 20.6% among comparable schools district-wide.

GOALS/PURPOSE

- Provide quality one-to-one mentoring services for 100 at risk-youth each year.
- Reduce negative behaviors among students served, including but not limited to gang participation, pregnancy, truancy, and substance abuse.
- Enhance the abilities of local organizations to provide evidence-based mentoring services.
- Increase community support and awareness of youth issues.
- Increase the numbers of students graduating from high school prepared for higher educational opportunities or vocational training.

POPULATION SERVED

- Severely at-risk 7th and 8th graders attending Washington Middle School and 9th and 10th graders attending John Muir High School.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Mentor referral agencies recruit mentors from their membership.
- Mentors are screened and matched by one of five mentoring agencies and must complete a background check with PUSD.
- Students are referred for mentoring by school personnel and nonprofit partners, then matched with a mentoring agency.
- Mentoring agencies meet with students and parents, match students to mentors, and monitor relationships via monthly visits and phone calls.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2008, the program's first year, 44 9th grade students were matched with mentors. As of October 2009, 41 of these students remain matched.
- Mentors undergo two significant trainings: a full-day mentoring conference on cultural competency and other issues, and a presentation by a nationally recognized mentoring expert.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Pasadena Unified School District
- Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters
- College Access Plan
- Lake Avenue Community Foundation
- Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development
- YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley
- All Saints Church
- Black Male Forum
- El Centro de Acción Social
- Leadership Pasadena

For information on how you can help,
please visit www.Flintridge.org or contact the Program Director.