



# Youth of Promise Mentoring

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## Police and firefighters help struggling kids find their promise

### Changing Lives, One Match at a Time

Washington Middle School students, identified as high-need and high-risk, are paired with volunteer mentors from the Pasadena Police and Fire Departments.

We focus on youth with grade point averages well below 2.0 and high truancy and absentee rates.

The mentors provide emotional support and guidance and serve as positive role models, meeting weekly with the youngsters, either one-on-one or in small groups.

Mentors make a one-year minimum commitment. However, most matches continue on through high school.

Prior to being matched, all mentors attend a basic mentoring training. In addition, Flintridge provides ongoing sessions in mentoring best practices throughout the year.

### All Youth Need Guidance and Support from Caring Adults

Located in NW Pasadena, Washington is the lowest performing of six middle schools in the Pasadena Unified School district with a 2011 API score of 667. (The state target is 800.)

More than three fourths of the student population is Latino and 90% qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program, an indicator of family poverty.

These youngsters face numerous socio-economic challenges that present obstacles to school achievement.



Photos: Brian Biery

**Mission:** To build hope and resilience in the lives of youth and their families in Northwest Pasadena and West Altadena. We work in partnership with the community to provide life-changing services and to act as a catalyst for pragmatic solutions that reduce community violence, improve academic achievement, and launch career paths for the benefit of the greater Pasadena/Altadena area.

**Vision:** A healthy, safe community where families thrive, youth reach their full potential, and equality and opportunity are accessible to all.

*“The impact of the mentoring program has been phenomenal. Grades have improved and our young mentees feel more empowered and confident about themselves.”*

**Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez**

**Our Goal: To match 100 kids with mentors!**

### **Promoting Mentorship by Building Skills**

Flintridge services include intensive training in evidence-based mentoring practices. These workshops are free and open to anyone interested in mentoring.

Flintridge helped create and now manages Pasadena Mentoring Partners, a coalition of local agencies providing mentoring services.

### **We Get Results**

As of fall 2011, 27 students have been matched with police and firefighter mentors.

71% of students in the program show improved grades after a year, along with positive changes in their attitudes, relationships and behavior.

Most importantly, these kids know that their mentors believe in them, and they see possibilities for achieving their dreams.

A tutoring component and social skills and anger management training are planned to provide additional supports for the youngsters, along with workshops for the parents and caregivers.



**Join us in making an investment to benefit the future of our young people.**

*Contact Sarah Orth, Director of Fund Development and Strategic Planning, at 626/449-0839, ext. 128 or Sarah@Flintridge.org.*

## ***Mentoring Works***

*Jamal (not real name) has faced many challenges in his young life—an older brother who is a gang member, a mother with alcohol problems and a father who is seriously ill. At 13 he had a 1.8 grade point average (GPA), a bad attitude towards school and severe behavioral problems. But with the help of his mentor, a sergeant with the PPD, Jamal finished his freshman year at John Muir High School with a 3.25 GPA and made the school's football and track teams!*