

Dear Partners Mentoring Youth Referral Agent,

Thank you for your interest in Partners Mentoring Youth. Enclosed is a packet of information that will give you a better understanding of our program and give you everything you need to refer a youth. The forms you will find inside include:

Partners Three Phase Process Overview-The 3 phases are enrollment, NEXUS group, and matching process for youth who are referred to Partners Mentoring Youth.

Referral Packet: including a referral form (3 pages) and a parent permission form (1 page). This packet should be sent to my attention once all pieces are complete.

-Referral form – **for you to complete** when referring a youth age 8-17. Please call me if you have questions regarding the appropriateness of a referral.

-Parent permission form –included both in English and Spanish. This is for you to have **signed by the parent/guardian** and then attach to the referral form.

Parent informational flier-a great tool to educate parents about the Partners program and help them feel comfortable about having their child referred. This form is two sided with one side in Spanish and one side in English.

Volunteer Screening Summary-information for you but also to be shared with Parents as you see fit.

Research shows that of the youth in our program 42% have improved their school performance and 65% have shown a decrease in delinquent behavior. This research supports how powerful a positive mentor relationship can be for our youth, especially those who encounter challenges in their daily life.

Please let us know if you would like additional information.

Thank You,

Heather Vesgaard, MSW
Program Director, Partners Mentoring Youth
heather@partnersmentoringyouth.org
(970)484-7123 X19



Building our future ... one child at a time.

Our Mission: To create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships between positive adult role models and youth facing challenges in their personal, social and academic lives.

Partners Three Phase Process for Youth

Phase 1: Enrollment

Once the Referral and Permission form is received, Partners will contact the family and the Referral Agent to let them know the status of the child. If there is a waiting list, the youth will be considered “deferred”. Currently there is a 6-9 month waiting list for boys and a 0-2 month list for girls. Once enrollment is possible, a Case Manager will come to the youth’s house to: answer any questions about Partners Mentoring Youth program, interview the parent/guardian, fill out Enrollment paperwork and conduct a Confidential Interview with the youth. While the youth waits for a successful partner match they will be placed in the Partners Nexus Group.

Phase 2: Partners Nexus Group (Waiting to be matched with a mentor)

The Partners Nexus Group is a temporary group that plans one or two activities a month to keep kids engaged while they wait to be matched with a Senior Partner. During this time Case Managers are actively searching for a good Senior Partner match. While in the Partners Nexus Group, kids are invited to attend free monthly activities where they will be picked up, hang out with and dropped off by a fully screened Activity Volunteer. Such activities include: rock climbing, sledding and game night.

Phase 3: Match with Senior Partner

Partner matches are based upon shared interests, compatible personalities as well as the individual needs of the youth. When a good match is found, the Case Manager will contact the family and the Referral Agent. A meeting is then set up between the youth, their family, the Case Manager and the Senior Partner to make the match official. At the match everyone will be introduced and have the opportunity to become acquainted. Also, at this time a Partnership Agreement Form is signed by everyone making the partnership official. Lastly, the Case Manager will take the youth to a separate room to fill out a confidential survey while the Senior Partner and parent/guardian visit.

***Please see the Volunteer Screening Summary and Parent flyer for additional information**



Volunteer Screening Summary

At Partners Mentoring Youth, the safety of the youth we serve is always at the forefront of our attention. We screen our volunteers as thoroughly as we can to ensure that the partnership experience is positive and beneficial for both the youth and the volunteers. By the end of this 6-8 week process, we feel confident that our volunteers are suited for the role of a senior partner or activity volunteer through our organization.

Step One: Informational Meeting- This meeting is a volunteer's first opportunity to learn about the program and assess whether or not volunteering with Partners Mentoring Youth is a good fit for them. We discuss the requirements to become a volunteer, detail the screening procedures, give information about the population of youth we serve, and outline the commitment associated with volunteering. Volunteers may pick up an application at this meeting. The application is similar to an employment application and can be brought, completed, to the interview (see step two).

Step two: Personal Interview – A personal and confidential interview is conducted by a trained case manager with the potential volunteer. This interview is a very in-depth discussion designed to assist us in getting to know the potential volunteer, their reasons for wanting to volunteer, learn about their life experiences and assess their appropriateness to work with children. Many volunteer's leave the interview saying things like "I think you all know more about me than most of my friends do now!!"

Step Three: Character References-a minimum of 4 character references are sent out to individuals who interact with the potential volunteer at various levels in different areas of the volunteer's life; such as personal friends/family, co-workers, employers, counselors etc. These references help us to get a broader picture of the potential volunteer in their various settings as well as to give us information that assists in the matching process if the volunteer goes on to become a senior partner.

Step Four: Background Checks- As a mentoring organization, Partners Mentoring Youth has access to a high level of screening offered through the government. Partners Mentoring Youth's background screening is a two phase process. We first run a fingerprint check through the FBI database using SafetyNet. If the results are clear then we will run an additional check through a third party screening company called Premier Employment Screening. This check includes a Social Security Validation, Colorado Multi-County Criminal History (looks for Felonies and Misdemeanors in all counties within Colorado), Colorado Sex Offender Registry, and a Colorado MVR. If the applicant has lived in another state within the past 7 years we will run an additional County Criminal History, Sex Offender Registry, and MVR in that state.

Step Five: Training- If a volunteer has successfully completed all other components of the above discussed screening process, and it is deemed by both them and the organization that he/she is a good fit to be a senior partner, they are invited to a senior partner training. At this training, more specific details about working with children are discussed. Training is given on topics such as communication with kids, setting boundaries, safety protocol, etc.



WHAT IS PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Partners is a non-profit organization dedicated to matching youth with adult mentors. Each youth (junior partner) is matched with an adult volunteer (senior partner) in a year-long partnership, meeting for 3 hours each week. A volunteer in the program is an adult who simply wants to share some of his/her experience and time with a child. Volunteers are thoroughly screened, interviewed, trained and supported by our staff. Partnerships spend an average of 3 hours a week doing a variety of activities together according to their interests, which may include: homework, playing, outings, talking, or making dinner together. Staff supports these relationships through volunteer trainings, recreational opportunities, life skills education and other support services.

WHY WAS MY CHILD REFERRED TO PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Although Partners would be an asset to many children, unfortunately, we only have a limited number of volunteer mentors. Therefore, we have to limit the number of youth we can serve. Partners receives referrals of youth from local organizations that are already working with youth. Partners focuses on youth who could use some extra support in any area of their life, be it academic, social, or personal.

"I like having someone to look up to. My Senior Partner is really nice and she helps me see things differently."

-Junior Partner



"My son's Senior Partner was able to teach him how to ride a bike. I was too busy with my 1 year old and job. It has been wonderful."

-Mother of a Junior Partner

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD BE IN PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Partners is not a program for "bad kids" or for kids with "bad parents". A partner is an adult friend for your child to spend quality time with. Research has shown that providing youth with an additional caring adult, increases the youth's self-esteem, family relationships, grades and prevents the initiation of drug and alcohol use. Most of us can think of an adult, outside of the family, that we looked up to in our youth: perhaps it was a coach, a special teacher, or member of our faith-community -- someone who taught us a skill, motivated us, or just listened. This is the role the Senior Partner will play in your child's life.

WHAT IS PARTNERS NEXUS GROUP?

Nexus is a Latin word that means "the next in line." The Nexus group is for youth who have been interviewed to be in Partners and are waiting for a Senior Partner. The group meets once or twice a month and does different types of activities. After we have met with you and your child, we invite your child to attend Nexus activities while they wait to be paired with a Partner. It can take some time to find a Partner that is just right for your child and the Nexus group provides some fun opportunities for youth while they wait.



More Info:
www.partnersmentoringyouth.org

Fort Collins
528 S. College Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970-484-7123

heather@partnersmentoringyouth.org



¿Qué es PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Partners es una organización sin fines de lucro que se dedica al propósito de emparejar jóvenes con compañeros adultos en la comunidad. Cada joven (Compañero Menor) se reúne con un voluntario adulto (Compañero Mayor) y por un periodo de un año, los dos pasan tres horas juntos todas las semanas. Un voluntario en el programa es un adulto quien quiere compartir algo de su tiempo y sus experiencias con un niño. Cumple el papel de modelo, consejero y amigo. Los voluntarios tienen que pasar por un chequeo extensivo y una entrevista personal antes de participar en Partners. Los Compañeros Mayores y Menores pasan un mínimo de tres horas juntos por semana haciendo una variedad de actividades según los intereses que comparten. Por ejemplo, actividades pueden incluir: cumplir tarea escolar, jugar deportes, hablar, y preparar una cena. Los empleados de Partners entrenamos los voluntarios, ofrecemos oportunidades recreativas y apoyamos estas relaciones.

¿Cómo se involucra un niño en PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Aunque Partners estaría una buena adición a la vida de cualquier niño, tenemos una cantidad limitada de voluntarios adultos. Por eso, hay que limitar el número de jóvenes que servimos. Enfocamos el programa en jóvenes que se beneficiaran del apoyo adicional en cualquier lado de su vida, incluso lo académico, lo social y lo personal. Las escuelas y organizaciones locales que ya trabajan con los niños les recomiendan a Partners.

“Me gusta tener alguien pasar tiempo conmigo. Mi compañera mayor es muy simpática y me ayuda a ver las cosas de otras perspectivas.”

-compañera menor

“El compañero mayor enseñó mi hijo a montar su bici. Yo estaba muy ocupada con mi bebe y trabajo. Ha sido maravilloso.”

-Madre de un compañero menor

¿Por qué quiere mi hijo participar en PARTNERS MENTORING YOUTH?

Investigaciones científicas muestran que los adultos como modelos positivos pueden aumentar el auto estima de un joven, apoyar su éxito académico, ayudar con relaciones familiares y prevenir el inicio del abuso de las drogas y el alcohol. La sociedad provee naturalmente adultos a los jóvenes mediante familiares, comunidades privadas y programas de aprendices. Ahora, con el incremento en la movilidad, las tasas de divorcio cada vez mas altas y mas familias no tradicionales, la juventud a menudo se encuentra a si misma aislada y carente de modelos adultos positivos. Para esta juventud, un Compañero Mayor puede proveer un soporte crucial que brinda autoestima y productividad en vez de opciones destructivas sobre comportamiento y estilo de vida.

¿Qué es PARTNERS NEXUS GROUP?

Nexus es una palabra latín que significa “la próxima en línea.” Estar en el grupo Nexus es el siguiente paso para los jóvenes que Partners ya se ha entrevistado y que están esperando un Compañero Mayor. El grupo Nexus ofrece actividades divertidas una vez por mes. Después de conocer a Usted y su hijo, le invitamos a participar en las actividades de Nexus cuando esta esperando juntarse con un Compañero Mayor. Puede tomar tiempo encontrar el mejor compañero para su hijo y el programa Nexus provee unas oportunidades recreativas durante el tiempo en que se esta esperando.



More Info:

www.partnersmentoringyouth.org

Fort Collins

528 S. College Ave

Fort Collins, CO 80524

970-484-7123

heather@partnersmentoringyouth.org



JUNIOR PARTNER REFERRAL FORM

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DATE: _____

Referring Agency _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE
REC'D: _____

REFERRAL

#: _____

PROGRAM: _____

CASE
MANAGER: _____

This form is to be completed by the agency of referral and returned to Heather Fitch at Partners, 528 S. College Avenue Fort Collins, CO 80524. Information will be kept confidential and will be used to assist the case manager in matching the child with an appropriate Senior Partner. **Please take the time to fill in all information completely.**

CHILD IDENTIFYING DATA

AGE: _____ GENDER: _____ ETHNIC ORIGIN: _____

NAME:

_____ D.O.B: ____/____/____
First Last

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

HOME PHONE: _____

Mother: _____ Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Living with Youth?: _____ How
do they get
along?: _____

Father: _____ Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Living with Youth?: _____ How
do they get
along?: _____

Step Father: _____ Phone: _____

Living with Youth?: _____ **How do they get
along?:** _____

StepMother: _____ **Phone:** _____

Living with Youth?: _____ **How do they get
along?:** _____

**Language spoken in the
home:** _____

**Brothers/sisters and significant others in the home (please include ages of
each):**

_____ **age:** _____

_____ **age:** _____

age: _____ **age:** _____

FAMILY HISTORY

PHYSICAL ABUSE

SEXUAL ABUSE/INCEST

NEGLECT

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY/ALCOHOLISM

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

DISABILITY

RAPE/TEEN PREGNANCY

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

CONSTANT RELOCATION

FAMILIAL DIFFICULTY WITH THE LAW

LOW ECONOMIC STATUS (**free/reduced lunch**)

POVERTY STATUS _____

BEHAVIOR

YOUTH "ACTS OUT" AT HOME OR IN SCHOOL:

HAS YOUTH RUN AWAY? YES _____ NO _____

YOUTH HAS COUNSELING NEEDS (please

discuss): _____

DISPLAYS FOLLOWING BEHAVIOR PATTERNS:

- _____ overly dependent on peers/parent figures _____ quiet
- _____ withdrawn
- _____ early experimentation with drugs/alcohol _____ passive
- _____ aggressive
- _____ delinquency behavior (list below under legal) _____ acting
- out _____ destructive _____ fearful
- _____ temper tantrums

Comments: _____

IS YOUTH

DEPRESSED? _____

DOES YOUTH HAVE A DRUG OR ALCOHOL
PROBLEM? _____

SCHOOL

SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDING:

_____ GRADE: _____

WORKING AT GRADE LEVEL: _____ IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION PROGRAM: _____

SCHOOL COUNSELOR/SOCIAL WORKER/OTHER: _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

YOUTH IS NOT ADEQUATELY FUNCTIONING IN SCHOOL AS EVIDENCED
BY:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| _____ | low grades | _____ | poor peer relations |
| _____ | low motivation | _____ | fighting |
| _____ | learning disability | _____ | withdrawn |
| _____ | poor attendance
(including truancy and tardiness) | _____ | defiant of authority/questioning rules or instructions
disrupts classroom environment |

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

LEGAL

Please list ALL contacts with police and juvenile system, including all contacts in other jurisdictions if possible.

DATE	OFFENSE	# OF PERSONS INVOLVED
OUTCOME		
1.		

2.		

3.		

PROBATION: yes ____ no ____

PROBATION OFFICER: _____

PHONE: _____

DIVERSION: yes ___ no ___

DIVERSION COUNSELOR: _____

PHONE: _____

OTHER AGENCIES WORKING WITH CHILD/FAMILY

AGENCY PERSON	DATE OF SERVICE PHONE	CONTACT
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

YOUTH'S INTERESTS:

RECOMMENDATION FOR MATCHING

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD WORK BEST WITH THIS YOUTH?

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU WORKING WITH THE YOUTH?

WHY ARE YOU REFERRING THE YOUTH TO PARTNERS?

WHAT IS THE YOUTH'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF?

VERY GOOD: _____ GOOD: _____ FAIR: _____

PARENT PERMISSION
To Nominate Youth to Partners Program

I _____

Parent/Guardian/Custodian (circle one)

of _____ do hereby give permission for

Youth's name

Referring agency and agent

to nominate _____ to the Partners program.

Youth's name

Nominations to the Partners program are done by written referral and require the release of academic, family and social background of the youth to the Partners program. I

understand that there is no guarantee that my child will be accepted into the program after he/she has been nominated.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Phone #

Signature of Witness

Phone #

Date

Youth's Name

**PERMISO del PARIENTE
Nominar el joven al programa Partners**

Yo _____

Pariente/Tutor legal (rodee uno)

de _____ oficialmente doy permiso a

Nombre del joven

Agencia de referidos / Nombre del agente

A nominar _____ al programa Partners.

Nombre del joven

Nombramientos al programa Partners se hacen por referido escrito y requieren que se comparta información académica, familiar y social acerca del joven con el programa Partners. Entiendo que no hay ninguna garantía que se aceptara a mi hijo al programa después de nominarle.

Firma del pariente o tutor legal

Número de teléfono

Firma del testigo

Número de teléfono

Fecha

Nombre del joven

