

# Franklin County Youth Mentoring

## An Investment in a Youth's Future

The Franklin County Youth Mentoring program serves youth, ages 12 to 17 in Franklin County, Virginia using the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) mentoring model, which emphasizes long-term evidence-based practices, and provides significant and effective bridging and bonding opportunities for at-risk youth. Mentored youth experience reduced rates of recidivism, diminished drug and alcohol misuse, and increased on-time high school graduation rates among at-risk youth involved in the criminal justice system. Participating youth will also improve social competence and develop successful and meaningful adult relationships with mentors, parents and guardians.



Franklin County Youth Mentoring program helps not only the youth and mentor but the entire community.

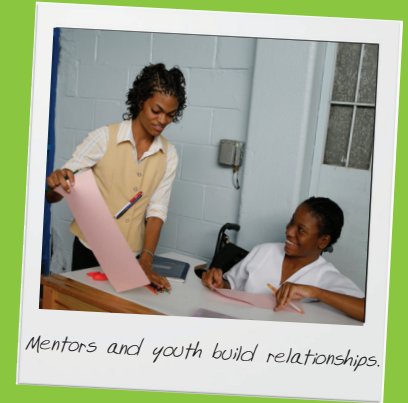
Through placements with volunteer adult mentors, youth receive guidance, support, and encouragement needed for character development through educational, recreational, and relationship building activities. After enrolling, youth will complete assessments and participate in a 12 month, matched mentor relationship meeting minimally at 4 hours each month.

Youth are referred to the Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program by the Franklin County Court Services Unit (FCCS), community agencies or the local school systems. Youth and/or parents may also complete an interest form and will be contacted by staff member. The program is funded primarily through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

## Mentoring Benefits Everyone

Mentoring programs are designed to help youth learn to lead successful, responsible lives. Mentors help them learn to resolve conflicts and accept responsibility while the youth is gaining this experience. There are also positive outcomes for the mentor and community.

- Benefits for youth: improved academic performance, higher graduation rates, increased communication skills, improved peer/family relationships, and improved self esteem.
- Benefits for mentors: sense of accomplishment, appreciation of youth from diverse backgrounds, greater pride in their community, and increased self-respect for having affected a child's life.
- Benefits for employers: improved image in the community, increased community awareness of mission, prepared workforce, and advanced diversity goals.
- Benefits for communities: decreased rate of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and juvenile crime.



*Mentors and youth build relationships.*

## Mentor role

Mentors will undergo extensive screening to include interviews, criminal background, reference, and DMV checks.

The mentor will:

- Be a responsible, caring adult who in partnership with the parent and legal guardians, provides support, guidance, friendship, reinforcement, and a constructive example
- Be a good listener with a desire to bring out the strengths of the youth
- Provide an in-depth assessment of the individual youth's needs
- Become involved through one-on-one interaction with the youth

**For more information on  
Franklin County Youth Mentoring:  
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