



Serving At Risk Kids in Henderson County, NC

Mentoring Opportunities

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This document provides information to individuals who are interested in serving as mentors to at-risk children in Henderson County, NC. The booklet reviews several local organizations that offer mentoring opportunities and provides a brief overview that can help individuals choose an organization they might be interested in working with. Individuals should make direct contact with any organization they are interested in working with.

Adolescent Parenting Program

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Agency: Children & Family Resource Center

Address: P.O. Box 1105, Hendersonville, NC 28793

Phone: (828) 698-0674

Email: lindac@childrenandfamily.org

Website: www.childrenandfamily.org

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Linda Carter, Director of Family Education & Support

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: The Adolescent Parenting Program (APP) serves teenagers who are pregnant or parenting for the first time. Teens in the APP program are enrolled in school or are working toward their GED. The program offers education and support to help teen mothers reach their goals of completing their high school education and postponing a second pregnancy until adulthood.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Mentors are needed to encourage teens as they work toward their goals, to deliver components of the Smart Girls curriculum, to provide general emotional support to the teens and their babies.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Teen mothers ranging in ages from 13-19.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: 2-4 hours per month

Qualifications of mentors: Good communication skills; ability to relate in a friendly and helpful manner, counseling and tutoring experience helpful, and must be a high school graduate.

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: a wide range of interests are welcome

Where will mentoring activities take place? Activities will take place around the community, in the client's home or at the Children & Family Resource Center.

Will mentor be transporting children? Mentor can decide whether or not they wish to transport teens and their babies, but transportation is very helpful in promoting the teens participation in the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS: To apply, call 698-0674, ext. 106 or email Volunteer Coordinator by email at bobk@childrenandfamily.org or visit www.childrenandfamily.org and click on volunteers. Volunteers must go through a screening and background check prior to being assigned to a teen mom.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: The Children & Family Resource Center will provide comprehensive training to mentors.

African American Reading Project

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 526 Seventh Avenue Hendersonville, NC

Phone: (828) 698-7878

Email: jdc33@mchsi.com

Website:

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Dr. John Cato, Director

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: The African American Reading Project works with minority students to stimulate a love of learning and self help as the catalyst to encourage positive participation of youth in civic life and their own educational pursuits.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: AARP encourages group mentors—already established groups of individuals who can come (as a group) to read stories, assist with homework for youngsters in grades 3-5, and to work one-on-one with students between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Students in grades 3-5

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: 1.5 hours per service

Qualifications of mentors: Good communication skills; ability to relate in a friendly and helpful manner, counseling and tutoring experience helpful.

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: a wide range of interests is welcome.

Where will mentoring activities take place? Activities will take place at 526 Seventh Ave., Hendersonville

Will mentor be transporting children? No

APPLICATION PROCESS: To apply, call the AARP at 698-7878 or email jdc33@mchsi.com

AVAILABLE TRAINING: N/A

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Henderson County

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 722 5th Avenue West

Phone: (828) 693-8153

Email: Henderson@bbbswnc.org

Website: www.bbbswnc.org

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Program Coordinator for Henderson County

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: In the **traditional Big Brothers/Big Sisters** model, children are matched with volunteers ages 18+ for one-on-one activities, twice monthly for a year-long commitment. Adults are encouraged to participate in simple, fun activities designed to build a child's self-esteem and confidence while creating a mutually beneficial friendship. **Mentors & Matches**— is a school-based mentoring opportunity that allows volunteers (ages 16+) to meet with an elementary age child one hour a week, during the school day. Adults engage in a variety of relationship-building and academic activities, such as crafts, reading and board games with the child at his/her school.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Adults of all ages and interests are encouraged to apply. Couples may apply together or separately. There is a great need for male mentors in both the traditional BBBS program and the school based mentoring program.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Children, ages 6-18, who are in need of a positive and caring adult role model in their lives and are of various need levels. Children are matched with a volunteer of the same gender.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: The traditional BBBS program has a minimum commitment of two meetings per month for a year. In the Mentors & Matches program adults meet with the child for one hour, during the school day, once a week for a year.

Qualifications of mentors: Ability for mentor to be consistent and caring are key to success.

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: All interests are encouraged, indoor or outdoor.

Where will mentoring activities take place? Volunteers pick child up from their homes and participate in activities of their choice throughout the community. Mentors & Matches take place in the child's school.

Will mentor be transporting children? Mentors in the traditional BBBS program will transport children. Mentors in the Mentors & Matches school program will not.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Complete an application (paper form or online), give four personal/professional references, and participate in an individual interview (1-1.5 hours). Background and driving checks.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: BBBS offers a brief training (1.5 hours) prior to the adult being matched with a child. Training is available on an individual basis afterward, with contact at least once a month from program staff. Attendance at quarterly 'Big's Nights' is also strongly encouraged.

Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 1304 Ashe Street, Hendersonville, NC

Phone: (828) 693-9444

Email: bgc_hendersonco@hotmail.com

Website: www.bgchendersonco.org

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Diana Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: The Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County offers after school and summer programs for school age youth with a focus on education and career development, the arts, character and leadership development, health and life schools and sports, recreation and fitness.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Mentors are needed to assist Club Staff in providing programs to children.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Ages 6-18; children in this program are ethnically diverse, low income, and there is a 50/50 male to female ratio.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: varies on capacity of volunteers

Qualifications of mentors: love and commitment to children

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: a wide range of interests are welcome

Where will mentoring activities take place? At the Boys & Girls Club site

Will mentor be transporting children? No

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Volunteer mentors will be required to fill out an application, submit to a criminal background check and complete an interview and orientation session.

AVAILABLE TRAINING:

On-site training with the volunteer coordinator and B&G Club staff is provided.

Henderson County 4-H

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 740 Glover Street, Hendersonville

Phone: (828) 697-4891

Email: Denise_Sherrill@ncsu.edu

Website: henderson.ces.ncsu.edu/4-H

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Denise Sherrill, 4-H Agent

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: The focus of 4-H is to develop life skills in youth ages 5-18. 4-H Clubs meet monthly for educational programs. In addition to clubs, short-term classes include: sewing, gardening, cooking, photography, modeling, public speaking, and more. 4-H also works with the Henderson County Public Schools to provide quail eggs, incubators and teacher training for all 2nd grade classrooms to hatch.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Adults are needed to serve as 4-H Club leaders, teachers, helpers and judges. Adult volunteers are needed to help maintain and distribute the embryology equipment to schools.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Children ages 5-18.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: **4-H Club Leaders** spend a minimum of 5 hours per month in preparation and leading 4-H Club meetings. Leaders assist members in conducting a business meeting using parliamentary procedure and facilitate an educational activity at each meeting. **Short-term class teachers** spend about 2 hours per week for 4-6 weeks preparing for and leading classes (time varies with each class). Adult volunteers are needed to help with sewing, cooking and other classes. **Judges** are needed for one-time commitments to judge baked goods, sewing projects, photography, career posters, and public speaking. **Coaches** are needed to help train youth in gardening and public speaking.

Qualifications of mentors: Enjoy children. Ability to commit the time to prepare and lead club.

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: Typical interests include sewing, gardening, cooking, photography, modeling, or public speaking. Volunteers may have another skill or area of interest that they wish to focus on.

Where will mentoring activities take place? Most of the classes take place at the NC Cooperative Extension Henderson County Center located across from the ball fields at Jackson Park. 4-H Clubs also meet in churches or community centers.

Will mentor be transporting children? No.

APPLICATION PROCESS: There is an application for people to work face-to-face with children. It is available online at <http://www.nc4h.org/publications/forms/VolunteerApplicationDoc.pdf>. Volunteers will also go through a background check, reference check and drug testing and an interview process.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: Class teachers and Embryology volunteers meet for about one hour to discuss the program and prepare for classes. We have training for 4-H Club Leaders in the fall. Leaders who want to start at other times of the year will meet separately with the 4-H agent to be trained. We encourage potential leaders to visit existing clubs, and develop mentoring relationships with experienced 4-H leaders. County-level training and meetings take place at least twice per year. District and state-level trainings are offered for leaders, but not required.

Henderson County Public Schools: Balfour Education Center

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 2529 Asheville Hwy, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Phone: (828) 697-4628

Email: bferris@bal.henderson.k12.nc.us

Website: <http://www.henderson.k12.nc.us/>

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Beth Ferris, Principal or Phil Neville, Teacher

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: Balfour Education Center is an alternative school in the Henderson County Public School system. Students are referred to Balfour Education Center for a variety of issues which may place them at risk for becoming a school drop-out. Students in this school are in great need of developing healthy relationships with positive adult role-models.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Mentors for at-risk students to help with both academic needs and social and 'life skills' needs.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Students in grade 6-12 who attend Balfour Education Center

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: one school year

Qualifications of mentors: Clean criminal record

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: All interests are encouraged.

Where will mentoring activities take place? Open

Will mentor be transporting children? Maybe

APPLICATION PROCESS: All volunteers with the Henderson County Public Schools are required to go through a background check.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: N/A.

Henderson County Public Schools: Homeless Education Link Project (HELP)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 2529 Asheville Hwy, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Phone: (828) 388-0266 or (828) 388-0294

Email: jlively@bal.henderson.k12.nc.us

Website: <http://www.henderson.k12.nc.us/>

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Jay Lively, HELP Case Manager; Joanie Pedito, HELP Case Manager

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: Provide assistance to students and families who are experiencing homelessness or an unstable living situation. Facilitate enrollment, advocate for services, enroll in free lunch program, and assist in navigating local resources.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Family to family mentors and mentors for at-risk students to help with both academic needs and social and 'life skills' needs.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: We serve pre-school age through 12th grade. We also work with parents or guardians of these students.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: one week to one year

Qualifications of mentors: Clean criminal record

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: All interests are encouraged .

Where will mentoring activities take place? Open

Will mentor be transporting children? If possible, yes. Not necessary

APPLICATION PROCESS: All volunteers with the Henderson County Public Schools are required to go through a background check.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: Individual mentor training with HELP Case Managers.

Henderson County Young Leaders Program

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: P.O. Box 751, Hendersonville, NC 28793

Phone: (828) 697-2000

Email: director@hcylp.org

Website: www.hcylp.org

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Paige Hafner, Program Director

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: The Henderson County Young Leaders Program (HCYLP) secures and allocates funds and scholarships to enable deserving children, who may otherwise lack the means, the opportunity to experience a progression of residential camp experiences and year-around mentoring. HCYLP is a nonprofit corporation that partners with the Henderson County Public Schools, the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County and with representatives of the summer camp community.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Mentors are needed for the HCYLP year round program. Mentors are assigned to a camper in the spring, get to know the camper through a series of monthly activities, and support the camper through applying to and attending a summer camp experience.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: Children served are boys & girls ages 8-14 that come from varying ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Children are primarily referred to HCYLP by the Henderson County Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Club. HCYLP serves children with potential, that otherwise lack opportunity.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: minimum of about 9 months

Qualifications of mentors: Adults, a positive background check

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: Willingness to spend one Saturday per month, typically during the school year, participating in HCYLP activities. Mentors must have the ability to deal with various types of family environments.

Where will mentoring activities take place? A variety of activities will take place throughout the community, at the Boys & Girls Club and at local area camps.

Interfaith Assistance Ministry: Faith Link

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Agency Name: Interfaith Assistance Ministries

Address: 210 Ehringhaus Street, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Phone: (828) 697-7029 x319

Email: jd7iam@bellsouth.net

Website: www.iamhendersoncounty.org

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Janna Davis, Faith Link Coordinator

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: Faith Link is a collaborative program of the Henderson County Department of Social Services, Interfaith Assistance Ministry, and the local faith community. The program works with predominately low-income, single-parent families involved with the Work First (welfare reform) program, partnering them with church volunteers and volunteers from civic organizations who offer encouragement, mentoring and emotional support. Tutoring children is also offered in the Learning Enrichment and Enhancement Program (LEEP) on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: Teams of six to eight adults to mentor a family striving for self-sufficiency.

A DESCRIPTION OF FAMILIES SERVED: Low-income, single-parent families involved in the Work First program.

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: For LEEP tutoring program: 1 hour per work during school year. Teams of mentors who partner with a family should be able to commit to a one-year covenant which is renewable on an annual basis. Weekly time commitments vary with each team and family.

Qualifications of mentors: Good listening skills, empathy, positive attitude, good communication skills, a sense of commitment and resourcefulness. Basic high school education.

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: A wide range of indoor and outdoor interests is needed.

Where will mentoring activities take place? Tutoring sessions for the LEEP program will take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church in the 2009-2010 school year. Family mentoring takes place throughout the community (ex. Library, museums, parks, theaters, sports events, hiking, etc.).

Will mentor be transporting children? Transportation is very helpful, but not a requirement.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Prospective volunteers may contact Faith Link Coordinator for an interview and follow-up background check.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: Faith Link offers several training sessions to selected teams.

The Salvation Army

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: 239 Third Avenue East, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: (828) 693-4181

Email: chris.thornhill@usssalvationarmy.org

Website:

CONTACT NAME & POSITION: Captain Chris Thornhill, Pastor/Corps Officer

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: We have an afterschool program for children in grades K-8th and summer day camp. We offer a Neighborhood Program on Wednesday evenings during the school year and Friday Night Teen Club for youth in middle and high school.

A DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES MENTOR NEEDS: We serve children of all ages. The Salvation Army meets human needs without discrimination.

A DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED: All kids

AGENCY EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS:

Length/Frequency of commitment: N/A

Qualifications of mentors: pass a background check

Preferred activities/interests of mentors: working with children & youth

Where will mentoring activities take place? At The Salvation Army

Will mentor be transporting children? If they would like to, we can put them on the driver's list.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The Salvation Army requires anyone working with children to have a background check and to sign our working with minors form and brief application.

AVAILABLE TRAINING: Will be set up on an individual basis with each adult mentor. Contact Cheryl Gudger-Thompson (828) 693-4181 x. 20 to set up training.