

Greetings from the Executive Director

It is with great excitement and joy to be sharing our first Annual Report as a 501c3 nonprofit. Mentor North supports two programs, Mentor Duluth and Mentor Superior, and together the programs elevate mentoring to be a critical component of how we serve youth in the Twin Ports community.

This transformation began with a simple question “What does it mean to be truly youth-centered?”. Through this question, we followed a vision to become a 501c3 and we updated our mission, practices and policies to better serve the needs of youth and families. We implemented new evaluative efforts, and currently we gather input from mentors, mentees, and parents/guardians on the impact of the match relationship. Based on the feedback, we make strides to change and improve our services and we continue to strengthen our programs to meet the dynamic needs of youth..

We are excited to share with you a snapshot of our journey, and we look forward to offering high quality mentoring services to the Twin Ports for years to come.



Erin Moldowski

Sincerely,

Erin Moldowski
Executive Director, Mentor North

*This report is funded by the Second
Chance Endowment Fund of the Duluth
Superior Area Community Foundation*

Match: Sierra & LaReesa

Kari (Mom/Guardian)

We have been part of the Mentor Duluth program for three years now. Sierra was going through a tough time full of transitions and losses in the family and she needed one on one time with a positive female influence. LaReesa, Sierra's mentor, has been able to provide that for her. They've gotten close in many ways. Sierra has become more outgoing and willing to try new and more challenging activities, such as horseback riding. LaReesa has had a profound impact on Sierra's confidence and helps her to come out of her shell. I couldn't be more thankful as her mom for the experiences LaReesa has provided for Sierra.



LaReesa, Sierra & Kari

Sierra (Mentee)

My favorite part about having LaReesa as my mentor has been the new experiences. My mom and LaReesa both helped me apply for the Ann Bancroft grant and this funded my participation for Horseback Riding lessons. Horseback riding has been a bonding experience that has helped strengthen my confidence, and I've been able to be outdoors and active more. LaReesa would describe me as "outgoing, respectful, and fun!"



LaReesa & Sierra

LaReesa (Mentor)

I love hanging out with Sierra, we always laugh together and we are developing traditions. We make sugar cookies and decorate them around Halloween and Christmas, and while we're not very skilled at it it's always a lot of fun. I have come to realize how important it really is to listen to youth. Like most young people, Sierra has a lot to teach me. She reminds me what that time was like and she has made me more empathetic. Sierra is funny, smart, compassionate and keeps me up to date on trends - how else would I know about TikTok and Riverdale and Hydro Flasks? Sierra gives me hope for the future, we're all in good hands with Gen Z!



LaReesa & Sierra

Match: Kiara & Sally

Breanne (Mom/Guardian)

Our family has been a part of Mentor Duluth since 2014, and through this program my children are more rounded and have had different opportunities they might not have had otherwise. They have built relationships, learned how to trust and they care about others outside their family and friends. Since we've been a part of the program, my children have had a new sense of community and their confidence has increased.

Kiara (Mentee)

My favorite part about having my mentor Sally is that we go to places that are fun. We've been to World of Wheels, bowling at Skyline, and gone rock climbing at the YMCA. Sally says that I am smart, and my favorite thing about myself is that I am funny!

Sally (Mentor)

I have really enjoyed getting to know Kiara. We have a lot of fun together and get to do activities in the community that I would not seek out if I was not planning time with her. I am a teacher full time so I spend a lot of time with children, but I have found it really rewarding to spend time with a youth who is not my student. I get to engage her in a more fun and silly way than I would at school. Youth provide mentors a chance to be fun, silly and enjoy their "young side" again. Additionally, I believe we always learn from one another when given the opportunity!



Sally & Kiara



Breanne & Kiara



Kiara

Match: Adam & John, and Summer & Greta

Cindy (Aunt/Guardian)

I found out about Mentor Superior through a flyer that was sent out from the school and immediately called because I was looking for help with Adam, my nephew, whom I have guardianship over. Adam was matched with John in 2014, and has since become a part of John's family. They all support and care for him, and Adam knows John will hold him accountable while also being reliable and consistent in his life. John has helped Adam overcome bullying and has helped share important life lessons. This was such a good experience I signed up my niece Summer when she was five years old, and Summer was matched with Greta. Greta is going to school for social work and is a perfect fit for Summer. She does sensory-friendly activities with her and they have a ton of fun together. It helps Summer to have another adult who is patient, as she herself is very energetic! She loves the activities Mentor Superior plans and we all enjoy attending. I am so thankful for this program and for both John and Greta, it's been a wonderful experience and I can see the difference the mentors have made in our family.

Adam (Mentee)

John is caring, nice and takes me to places. We always have a good time and I love hanging out with his family and playing monopoly. During the school year John and I hang out one-on-one and in the summer I get to participate in family activities such as fishing, swimming and being outdoors. My favorite thing about myself is that I am unique and John always encourages me to keep doing good in school and keep up the good work!

John (Mentor)

Having been a mentor now for a number of years, the thing I really enjoy is seeing Adam mature and learn. We enjoy doing things that are not necessarily out of the ordinary or special. For the most part, we just spend time together having dinner, talking about school or sports, playing basketball or baseball, or going fishing. Since we live in this part of the world we also need to be inside at times so we play board games or occasionally Wii baseball or basketball. The biggest thing I have learned through this experience is that any amount of time spent with a child is important. Being a mentor is humbling; I have seen that time may be the most important thing we can give or receive from somebody else. Young people have so much to give, they just need someone to give to. Being a mentor has reinforced my belief that we can have a positive effect on our community, simply by helping one person at a time. Mentoring is very rewarding and I would encourage other people to give it a try.



Adam & John



Summer (Mentee)

Greta is great! She teaches me how to swim, and she would say that I am a good reader. My favorite thing about myself is that I can sometimes control my emotions, and Greta has helped me with this.

Greta (Mentor)

My favorite part about being a mentor is watching Summer learn and grow. When we were first matched Summer was not yet in kindergarten, and almost two years later she is reading to me, holding longer conversations, and recognizing and labeling her emotions. I love when she teaches me things she learns in school. Cooking has been really fun because it introduces her to numbers, reading recipes and she can enjoy her creation. She constantly makes me laugh and loves to share her rhyming skills, singing, dancing, and knock-knock jokes. Through my time being a mentor I've learned about patience and understanding, and it's been humbling to build a meaningful relationship together. Although I am there to help Summer, I think she has offered just as much, if not more, to myself. When Summer faces difficulty she looks me in the eyes and says "it's important I never give up". She reminds me to try my best and I hope I do the same for her. I am so thankful for the opportunity to build a relationship with her and her family, and I have grown as a person because of it.



Cindy, Greta & Summer



Summer & Greta



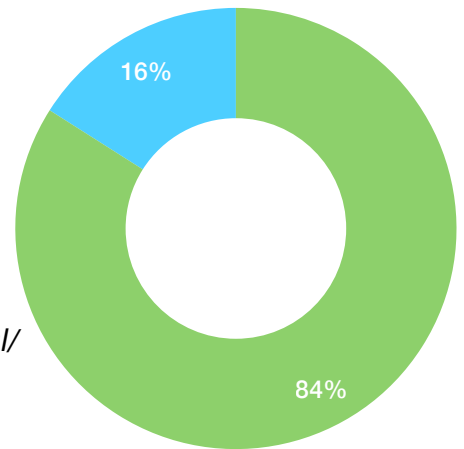
Mentor Duluth and Mentor Superior are funded in part by the Ordean Foundation, Head of the Lakes United Way, Youthprise, and the City of Superior Community Development Block Grant.

2019 Impact Report

- 235** total matches supported
- 69** new youth enrolled
- 1,546** uniquely documented match visits
- 4,633** total hours logged between mentors and mentees
- 464** total children served
- 52** new mentors trained
- 16** hosted program activities
- 97** unique evaluation interviews assessing the health of the mentoring relationship

Income

- 84%** Grants/
Foundations
- 16%** Individual/
Business
Contributions



Expenses

- 70%** Staff Salaries/
Benefits
- 15%** Administrative
Costs (rent,
insurance, contract
service fees, etc)
- 15%** Program Costs
(activities, program
supplies, training, etc)

