



Fall/Winter 2022
*Connections,
Celebrations, and
Community with
Mentor North*

Welcoming Jill Hinnners, Mentor North's new Executive Director

Jill Hinnners comes to Mentor North from the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA) where she was part of the administration team for nearly a decade. Jill is a dedicated, community-minded professional with 13 years experience developing, directing and evaluating non-profit program and fundraising activities to ensure delivery of organizational mission and goals. She has over 25 years of experience connecting diverse individuals and groups with beneficial services, partnership opportunities, events and education. Jill has a proven ability to guide and support staff, interns and volunteers while fostering a positive workplace environment, meeting deadlines and maintaining attention to detail. Welcome, Jill! We look forward to growing with you in this next phase of your career.



Jill Hinnners
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Mentor North Executive Director
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Fall greetings to you all!

I'm thrilled to join Mentor North as Executive Director, supporting our dedicated staff while spreading the word about all of the meaningful partnerships this organization makes possible.

Through the years, I have recruited, supervised, and worked alongside many volunteers. I have such appreciation for every volunteer who contributes time, ideas and heart in support of Mentor North's life-changing mission! Volunteer mentors drive this work and make a lasting impact on the lives of young people in our Twin Ports community. Former mentors have told me repeatedly that even after their mentees graduated from their official match, they stayed in touch as friends and as members of each other's extended family.

I often describe myself as an "information gatherer," as well as a positive person who continually returns to the ideas of hope and possibility. In the months to come, I plan to ask many questions to learn more about how Mentor North can best respond to the needs of our diverse volunteers, program participants and community. I am also curious about the barriers that keep community members from becoming mentors, and how we can close the gap between our waitlisted youth and the availability of prospective mentors. In the face of challenges like these, I commit to staying hopeful and collaborating with all of you to find solutions.

If you have questions, feedback or suggestions you would like to share with me about Mentor North's work, please reach out to me. I look forward to hearing from you!

-Jill

mentornorth.org

For the latest events and updates, be sure to check us out on social media.
Find us @mentornorth on Instagram and Twitter and
@mentorduluthsuperior on Facebook.



What Can Mentoring Look Like?



Christopher and Barry at their match meeting

Barry and Christopher

Barry and Christopher were matched in September 2017.

During the beginning of their match, Barry was always looking for new things to try with Christopher. In late 2017/early 2018, Barry saw an advertisement offering the opportunity to come work on airplanes at the local airport in Superior. Christopher and Barry tried volunteering one week, and

a passion was born. Christopher and Barry meet weekly, have a meal, and then head off to the airport together. Each season of this mentoring relationship has brought a different theme, which typically becomes the focus of conversation during their meal. Topics have included fishing, ATVing, driver's education, and school challenges. *The interest in airplanes sparked during that initial volunteer session grew to a deep passion that informed Christopher's career goals and secured him a scholarship to move towards getting his pilot's license.* Christopher will be a senior this coming school year and plans to attend NDSU. This summer, he's working with an airplane mechanic and learning how to repair airplanes. Barry plans to continue mentoring Christopher through his senior year, and will work with Christopher to determine how they'll keep in touch once their match graduates from Mentor North.



Connections, Celebrations, and Community with Mentor North

Celebrating Our Amazing Volunteer Mentors

Every day our Program Advocates talk about, and even brag about, how great their mentors are. They share stories of mentors working alongside their youth mentees to bring out the best in each individual. In turn, these conversations and stories motivate all of us in the work that we do.

Mentor North is grateful to have an extremely talented and outgoing volunteer team. Our volunteer mentors are the heart and soul of what makes our small non-profit have such a large impact. Mentoring is such a crucial need in the Twin Ports and beyond, and our volunteer mentors are happy to fill that role. We know the role can be challenging at times (think COVID-19) and we can't thank them enough for continuing to show up for our youth.

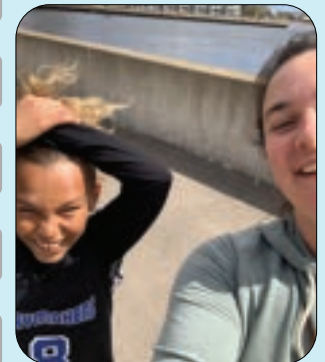
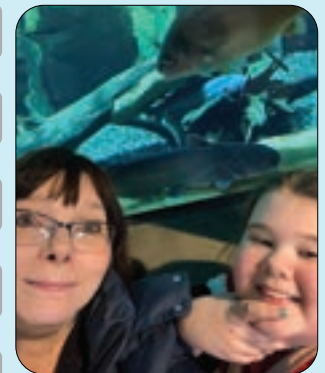
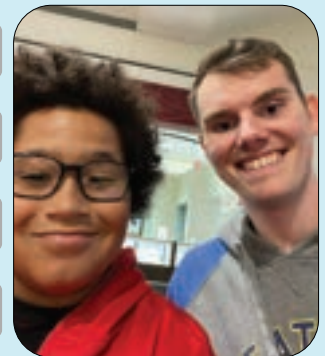
As an organization, Mentor North is investing more time and effort into our volunteers to show our appreciation to them. Even though our programs run as the one-to-one mentorship model, we strive to make sure our volunteers feel heard, engaged, and a part of the community. If you know someone who is a mentor in our programs or in any program, thank them for all that they do!

The commitment to mentor comes with a one year promise to spend at least four hours a month with a youth mentee. Mentors and mentees do a wide array of activities together based on shared interests while also exploring new activities to build a bond and trust with one another. If you or anyone you know is interested in enhancing our strong volunteer mentorship program, please contact our Recruitment and Volunteer Coordinator, Jordan.



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 Mentor North Recruitment and
 Volunteer Coordinator
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Mentoring takes all different forms. Mentoring is as unique as the people who engage in the mentoring relationship.



We'd love to hear from you!



supports two programs:



Mentor Superior celebrated several graduations this year as mentors and mentees moved on from the program. Congratulations everyone!

If you know of any families or youth who are interested in learning more about mentoring opportunities in Superior, please help us make that connection. We do have space to enroll some new youth in our Mentor Superior program at this time.



In July 2022, Mentor North welcomed Leah Simmons as a new Mentor Duluth Program Advocate. Leah moved from the Twin Cities to the Duluth area due in part to her love of the outdoors, hiking, and natural history. She's spent the last decade working in human services and was super excited to join the Mentor North team. Welcome, Leah! We're glad to have you!


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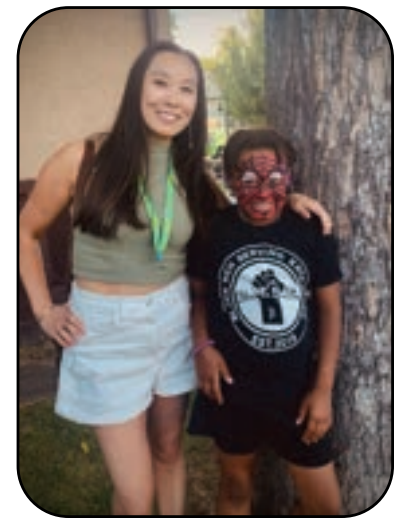
Mentor North Summer BBQ

We were so excited to bring back our Annual Summer BBQ after a two year break from this beloved tradition. In early August, mentors, youth, families, staff, Board members, and others gathered to celebrate our mentoring community at Harrison Park in Duluth. Thank

you to the Duluth Noon Optimist Club for their continued support of this annual event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Mentor North ended the Mutual Mentoring program after its pilot year largely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which interfered with the safe continuation of programming across generations. However, we welcome older adults to apply as mentors for our two community-based programs, Mentor Duluth and Mentor Superior!



Parker and Kaiden, Mentor Duluth Match; Emerie and Isaiah, Mentor Superior Youth Participants; Amy and Kaiya, Mentor Duluth Match.

- Mentor Duluth
- Mentor Superior

Program Updates

“

To realize value, mentoring partners must create relationships where both mentor and mentee can show up fully and authentically.

-Lisa Fain

”

In July, Mentor North partnered with the Kako Foundation and St. Mark's Giving Garden to offer Hiking in Harmony. This second year of the program was a huge success, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in years to come.



Want to Talk to a Program Advocate?

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Mentor North Lead Program Advocate
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Becka Tuinei-Williams | she/her/hers pronouns
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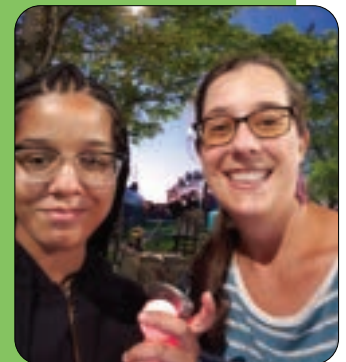
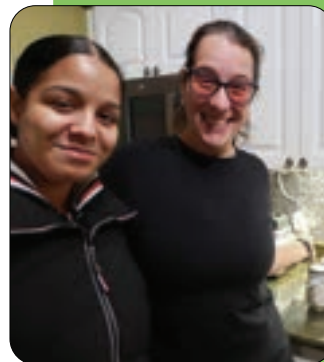
Leah Simmons
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Mentor Duluth Program Advocate
218-206-4649
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Let's Celebrate!

Mentee	Mentor	Match Date
Brayden	Geof Wendorf	8/21/2013
Neveah	Mary Zastrow	9/29/2016
Christopher	Barry Beyer	9/6/2017
Journie	Meghan Lozinski	1/15/2018
Pookie	Danielle Smilanich	9/5/2018
Calliope	Leanne LeNeau	1/6/2019
Josiah	Dan Rossow	8/29/2019
Brock	Scott Larson	9/10/2019
CorieAnn	Diane Lundahl	9/10/2019
James	Micah Schwecke	10/25/2019
Samantha	Jocelyn Hoft	10/30/2019
Isaiah	Tianna Day	11/6/2019
Amelia	Claire Musech	1/20/2020
Gabe	Jerry Madsen	1/30/2020
Averi	Jamie Dillon	9/25/2020
Aiden	Brynn Bohan	8/2/2021
Ahnika	Ariel Wolf	8/3/2021
Kamilla	Megan Huber	8/5/2021
Maria	Samantha Smingler	8/5/2021
Alyssa	Pam Foster	8/25/2021
Nariyah	Michaela Smith	10/12/2021
Hayden	Jeremy O'Connor	11/1/2021
Ava	Sarah Beckman	11/3/2021
Isaiah	Bethany Bogenholm	11/29/2021
Kaiden	Christian Lopez and Sharon Eicher	12/6/2021
Kaiya	Amy Davis	12/7/2021
Tala	Ryann Signorelli	1/14/2022

Congratulations Matches!



Maria and her mentor Samantha know how to have fun! From creating at home to exploring local Duluth sites, this match always finds great ways to spend their time together.



Your Support Matters!



Mentor North Summer Fest 2022 was very successful! We ended up just shy of our \$5,000 goal, and we look forward to hosting this event again next year. In addition to wonderful attendance, good weather, lots of smiles, and good conversations, we received incredible support from event sponsors Gavilon and Solid Foundations along with 35 other businesses and individuals who engaged as event supporters.



Mentor North Summer Fest planning crew



We've Moved!



Please note that we've moved offices in the Damiano Center. You can now find us in suite 203. Reach out to a member of our staffing team if you'd like to visit our new space.





mentornorth.org
 206 W 4th St.
 Suite 203
 Duluth, MN 55806

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Support Mentoring Opportunities by Making a Donation to Mentor North

- Choose your donation level:
- \$500 - Support getting the word out by sponsoring our newsletter
 - \$250 - Support enrolling and training new mentors
 - \$100 - Support recruitment of mentors
 - \$75 - Support fun activities for mentors/mentees
 - \$25 - Support youth and mentor recognition and celebrations
 - Other Amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Mentor North or charge to your credit card:

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Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name _____ Pronouns _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

This gift is in honor of: _____ Please send notification for this gift to:

Name: _____

This gift is in memory of: _____ Address: _____



Mail completed form and donation to Mentor North. You can also make your donation online through our website.