

Volunteer Opportunity

Date: Winter 2009

Volunteer Position Details

Title for Opportunity	Mentor for Community Friends Mentoring
Worksite Location	Throughout Your Community
Position Supervisor	Professional Mentoring Match Specialists
Position Contact	Kristen Hayden-West
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Volunteer Job Description

Jessie, a 10 year old in Chittenden County, likes exploring the outdoors, talking about sports, and eating ice cream. His sister, age 8, likes "science stuff", swimming and animals. Both of these kids are living with a caring, but overwhelmed grandmother and they are both hoping for a mentor through HowardCenter's Community Friends Mentoring program. So are 100+ other kids.

Now in its 28th year, Community Friends Mentoring supports over 100 area children such as these by providing fun, caring relationships with adult volunteers. Mentoring pairs are carefully matched and then meet regularly to spend time together on their own in the community, sharing activities they both enjoy.

Being a Community Friends Mentor is about having fun. It's about sharing time and exploring the world together with a young person age 6 and up. Our mentors provide inspiration, acceptance, challenge, a sympathetic ear, and exposure to new ideas and activities.

It's about a great match. Through our enrollment process, Community Friends Mentoring gets to know you and the child so we can make a strong, consistent big-buddy match. Our program is one of the oldest (28 years) and largest in Vermont, and we base our matches on your common interests, location, and time considerations.

Qualifications, Education, and Experience

If you can be a good friend to a young person, you can be a great mentor; the main requirement is a sense of enthusiasm for volunteering with children in an enjoyable, healthy manner. Previous experience with kids is helpful, but not required. Through interviews and training, Community Friends works to make sure that the program is a good fit for both the volunteer and the child. Participants are asked to commit to a one-year friendship. The Community Friends staff will be there to cheer you on and offer support because all friendships have their bumpy moments.

Prospective volunteers may be asked to participate in a screening process.