

# **SINGLE PARENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF BENTON COUNTY- MENTORING PROGRAM GOALS**

**Purpose:** To let students know that ours is not just a scholarship of money, but also one of caring.

**Goal #1:** To have an assigned mentor for each student who requests one, as well as to see that all students feel mentored.

- We consider all board members, OHC personnel, and many community members and organizations to be mentors.
- We want to remove the feeling of isolation many students have because of the circumstances of their life at this time.

**Goal #2:** To match the career interest of the student with that of the mentor i.e., teacher/teacher, nurse/nurse, etc.

- To create a common ground for comfortable interaction.
- To help students grow into their new roles as members of the community.

**Goal #3:** To encourage mentors to stay with the same students until the students' goals are achieved.

- We attempt to place students with mentors in the same phone area to facilitate calling on the part of the student.
- We recommend that the mentor's first meeting with the student be face to face.
- We recommend that the mentor call the student every three or four weeks and encourage the student to stay in touch.
- Mentors are encouraged to use their own ideas in establishing a relationship with a student.

## **Sources of Mentors:**

- Volunteers who come forward after attending a benefit.
- People who hear our speakers.
- Media coverage, church bulletins, etc.
- Acquaintances or mentors.
- Graduates of our program.
- Board members.

## **Present Method of Orientation:**

- Lunch with new mentor to learn about background, career interests, and experiences.
- Discuss program and exchange ideas.
- Introduce materials.

## **Qualities and Experiences that Contribute to the Success of Mentors:**

- Many have been single parents themselves and have the desire and understanding to help other in the same situation.
- Many, by the nature of their own career, are already trained as mentors.
- Those in fields of higher education know how to advise and guide students.

- Small business owners are well grounded in qualities to be good role models.

**Current Mentors' Fields of Expertise:**

- Teachers, counselors, and social workers.
- Nurses and medical-related fields.
- Business and industry.
- Higher education and related fields.
- Finance.

**Current Number of Mentors: 67**

**Current Number of Students being Mentored: 57**

**For More Information on this Program call Jean Tinesley at (479)925-6253.**