

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

We hope you were able to relax and reflect during this past Memorial Day weekend. As we approach the end of the school year, our students are wrapping up, and I know summer plans are fairly uncertain for many. We will be working in collaboration with others to find innovative ways to support our mentees throughout the summer months. We will also be working with schools to figure out the best ways to support our mentees going into the next school year. Your donations are welcomed as we look to support safe summer activities for our youth. New mentors will be strongly welcomed as we have an increase in mentoring needs to support our youth during this time. We remain hopeful as we look at the awesome ways our community is rallying together to support one another during this time.

One Life and One Day at a Time

Making a difference, however small, one life and one day at a time: This is how one mentor describes both her work as a police officer and her involvement as a mentor with Intentional Mentoring. This month we caught up with Meg Hamilton, who has been with the Madison Police Department for the last thirteen years; here she spent the first ten as a patrol officer and became a sergeant in 2017. Over this time, she has worked with and has overseen various programs that positively impact our community, and in 2019 she started with what she describes as her dream job -- the Community Outreach and Resource Education (CORE) team with MPD.

"As I learned about the dozens of programs Community Outreach officers were engaged in, I became particularly interested in Intentional Mentoring. I was

drawn to the opportunity to have continuous dialogue with a young person, with a wrap-around perspective on the youth's family, school work, and community," Meg said. "I met my current mentee in a different program my work unit undertakes. She and I 'clicked' over a shared love of books, travel dreams, and the fact that we are both students."

Over the past nine months, their similar interests created a strong bond, and they began to share experiences and enjoy a meaningful mentoring relationship. "It's a wonderful challenge to think of activities that a 34-year-old police sergeant and a 14-year-old middle schooler will enjoy!" Meg explained. "My mentee lives on the busy west side of Madison, so one of our successes has been getting her out of the

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Shout-out

To all of our families and community members who are **FRONT-LINE** (especially during this pandemic)!



Food for Thought

Some evidence shows that having a **WELL-CONNECTED MENTOR** is associated with higher educational attainment and income even twenty years later.

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city and into nature. We frequently visited Elver Park and ran the HUGE hill or jogged on the wooded paths." They also shared their enjoyment of running when Meg's mentee invited her to watch her run at the National Cross Country meet late fall. "It was an amazing opportunity to see my mentee's family on a big day for the household and to be part of literally cheering my mentee on."

When we're not in a pandemic, Meg and her mentee look forward to seeing each other each week. In our current situation, they have worked to keep in touch in different ways even though they miss getting together. "My mentee isn't particularly interested in her phone, which is a blessing in 'normal' times," Meg noted. "During the pandemic the phone is my only link to her, so our contact is more irregular. I really miss getting to have hour-long conversations with her, as opposed to simple one-line texts." Even though they, like many of us, are relying on texts for now, it's cool to see their relationship grow as they stay in touch. Even these small, consistent efforts can have a long-term impact.

"Being a police sergeant and being a mentor stem from the same passion,"

explained Meg. "In mentoring, I am also seeking those small moments of impact. I truly believe that most of us aren't shaped by HUGE life events; rather, we are slowly altered by a series of small events. I want to be a force for positive change, and spending time with youth is a powerful way to connect and try to make positive inroads in another person's life."

As for advice, Meg offered, "If you want to make a small difference in the world, mentoring is the place to start. Intentional Mentoring offers coaching for mentors, access to community resources, a thoughtful matching process, and a social worker to help address challenges. It focuses on not only the mentor/mentee, but on the young person's entire life. So many kids in our community need one additional positive adult that they trust. You can be that person. It's OK to feel intimidated by the prospect of befriending a middle schooler -- take the leap, put yourself out there, and you'll find a community of like-minded people also looking to be the change in this world."

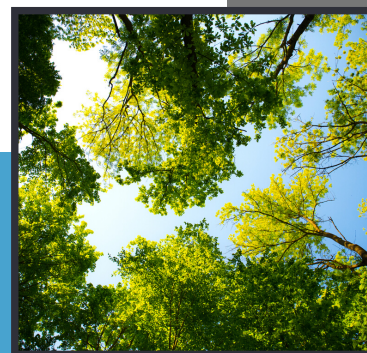
If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a mentor, contact us! We are currently doing virtual pairings and would love to help you get involved!

Interested in getting involved with Intentional Mentoring but not sure you have the skill set or the available time for coaching/mentorship? We still value your contributions! Consider monthly community outreach or helping to organize one of our events. Have questions about what help Intentional Mentoring could use or other ideas for ways you think you could help? Email us at katiemae@intentionalmentoringmadison.org.

Contact Us

Our Mission Statement

With guidance from coaches, mentors interact with school staff, community members, and families in order to strengthen the support network for students facing adversity.



Upcoming Events

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