

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

Whew! What a whirlwind to kick us off into 2021! We hope you are enjoying the snow and getting a chance to pop outside when the sun is shining! As we go into this next year, we hope you find time to read about some of our hopes and connect with us for ways to stay involved. We have enjoyed learning alongside you during the course of 2020 and look forward to more this year!

Connecting & Growing in the New Year

This past year has been full of many things. Over the past number of months, our staff have spent much time around the planning process, continuing to look at feedback and also look forward as we apply what we've learned and prepare for the new projects and goals that we are excited to share for this year.

First, we are looking forward to launching a new training plan later this year. "We believe that ongoing training is an important element of any program or organization in order to adapt and support new learning and reflection," explained Katie Mae Imhoff-Bebeau, Program Coordinator and Founder. "After gathering some information through empathy interviews within the organization, we decided it was a key element of our organization and that it needed some refreshing. IM has been working on understanding, reworking, and planning for a new way of training for people within the program. This includes all of IM staff and mentors. As we get closer to the launch date, we look forward to sharing more about the plan,

what changes have been made, and what this means." This opportunity was created based on feedback and reflection from our mentors and mentees. "Our program is not just a place where we hope students learn and grow. We also hope other staff and mentors find themselves learning and growing as a member of the Madison community as well," Katie continued.

In addition to this, we want to transition back in-person when we're able to safely and with a greater intentionality and purpose. "We value mentoring, and one thing this pandemic did was stress the importance of these individual connections between people. As we move from our current virtual state back to in-person, we hope to find new energy and drive in the work we are doing to be even more intentional with our face-to-face time, never taking it for granted." As we continue to monitor what's going on, we hope that we can come back together in some capacity this year and do so safely and smoothly.

(continued on page 2)



Shout-out

To our
AMAZING MENTORS!
Thank you for all
you do for students!
**HAPPY NATIONAL
MENTORING MONTH!**



Food for Thought

A 2018 estimate
by MENTOR found
69% of adults in the U.S.
**ARE WILLING
TO MENTOR
A YOUNG PERSON**
but may not know
how to get involved.

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We also will continue to support our mentoring relationships by providing different activities. "We hope to share more activity kits with our mentor pairs so that they can continue to connect, learn, and grow with one another," commented Katie. We also hope to "support a couple large group activity events (even if it's virtual) to keep our community strong. We are currently planning a Valentine's Day card service event where we hope to make and share Valentine's Day cards with the Madison community."

Much of our focus for this coming year has stemmed from what we've learned through what was a unique 2020. "We try to constantly reflect and learn so we are an organization that fits the needs of the students and families we are serving. Not only this, but we have learned a bunch from the pandemic that caused us to use the time to pause and reflect...These learnings have led to the development of our new training plan, activity kits, and innovative ways to do group events (even in a pandemic)," reflected Katie. "While mentoring never ended or stalled with the pandemic, neither did our learning and growth as an organization. We hope that some of these new learnings will strengthen our relationship with schools

and families, and ultimately provide a more seamless support for students. We hope to empower our mentors and learn from our mentees as well. Mentoring is multidimensional."

As 2021 gets underway, we are looking forward to these projects and opportunities. We are grateful for our crew of mentors, mentees, staff, and community members for their support. As always, additional funds can always help our projects; if there are questions on how funding helps to support a program, we are always happy to share! We are also always looking for mentors. "We have seen a pause on people's confidence for starting a mentorship during this pandemic," explained Katie. "However, we can share with certainty that your time would not only be appreciated by the student you are paired with, but that it will be a reciprocal space to learn and grow during this time. As a community we have learned that a pandemic makes some things difficult, but it also increases the awareness and emphasizes the importance of any relationships within our lives. Think about adding an intentional relationship to yours." Contact us with questions or click the "Become a Mentor" button on the right to get started!

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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