

MONTHLY



UPDATE

A Note from Our Team

Hooray for the warmer weather! We hope the warmer weather is helping to lift some of the feelings of isolation while we remain Safer at Home. Moving into this next month, the Intentional Mentoring team continues to support our students and families through this time. If you (or someone you know) are looking for ways to help, please consider being a mentor for one of our local students, or donating online. While we are social distancing, there are still many connections being made! We are standing strong in our belief that social distancing does not mean relational distancing.

Mentoring through Life's Challenges

Human connection -- sometimes when we get lost in the busyness of life, we can take it for granted. During our current times when our day-to-day looks much different, we're reminded of the importance of having meaningful relationships and what they bring to our lives. Whether they're family, coworkers, friends, or mentors, and whether we're spending time with those in our own homes or with others virtually, these connections can help keep us going in the most challenging and uncertain situations.

This month we caught up with Dominique Harvey, a mentor with Intentional Mentoring, who shared his story and why mentoring connections are so important.

Growing up with nine brothers and sisters in Chicago, Illinois, Dominique

moved to Madison when he was a freshman in high school. He then moved back to the inner part of Chicago for the last two years of high school where he faced what he calls "one of the lowest parts in my life." Then, he got involved with Chicago Mentor Advocate Program, and his mentor helped him to overcome obstacles he was facing. He experienced firsthand how important it was to have a mentor in his life.

Fast forward a bit, and he has an awesome story about how he got involved with Intentional Mentoring: "I accidentally sent a text message to everyone in my contact to join a group chat. It just so happened that an old college classmate, Dianne, responded back. Once I explained that it was an

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Shout-out

To our team working to continue INTERVIEWS and PAIRINGS VIRTUALLY!



Food for Thought

BEHAVIORS and ATTITUDES developed throughout life can affect the ease with which someone may OVERCOME OBSTACLES.

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Online

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accident, she asked me, would I be interested in being a mentor? My first thought to myself was to say no thank you, but when I reflected on my experience of having a mentor, I quickly said yes."

Dominique got paired through Intentional Mentoring soon after and has been a mentor with us for four years this upcoming fall. "Some of my most enjoyable moments are spending time with my mentee. Sometimes it amazes me that I met my mentee when he was in fourth grade, and now he is heading into eighth grade this upcoming school year," he reflected. "I also enjoy my conversations with my mentee. Sometimes it's like talking to a younger me!"

Fortunately, Dominique has been able to work with the same mentee through both elementary and middle school.

"My relationship with my mentee becomes stronger and stronger each time that we meet. I almost kind of consider my mentee like a nephew," he explained.

No matter when mentor/mentee relationships form, they provide a valuable space for students. "I believe that having a mentor is giving [my mentee] a safe space and a comfort zone. Having someone to express your feelings to without any judgment is helpful for kids," Dominique stated. "I also feel like, as a mentor, my role is to provide my mentee with the skills to be successful in his life."

If you or someone you know might be interested in mentoring, contact us for more information! We are currently doing virtual pairings. You never know when a little encouragement, or even an inadvertent text, will lead to a great connection that can impact a life!

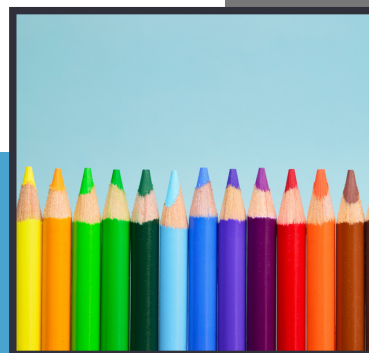
"Sometimes it's like talking to a younger me!"

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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