Our Mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring.
TeamMates Mentoring Program

The TeamMates Mentoring Program is a school based, one-to-one mentoring program founded by Tom and Nancy Osborne in 1991 in an effort to provide support and encouragement to youth. The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. To reach this goal, community members volunteer one hour per week within their local school. These caring adults from the community serve as a positive role model, creating a mentor/mentee bond that gives youth a sense of hope, purpose and vision.

A Perfect Match

Together they have sold popcorn at a track meet, cheered at a pep rally and trekked through a park to raise funds for their TeamMates mentoring program.

“It’s all about encouragement, support, listening and building a relationship,” says Nancy Tjaden-Nolan about her work with her young mentee, Sierra. “It takes so little time to make such a big difference.”

Nancy, senior underwriter/group underwriter for the Principal Financial Group in Grand Island joined the TeamMates Mentoring Program more than four years ago. “I wanted to make a difference in someone’s life. With the TeamMates program, you spend an hour a week and stay with the same person throughout their school years,” she says. “If she’s successful, you see her graduate; if she meets the program’s expectations, she gets a college scholarship. It means a lot to me to have been part of that.”

Support from her employer has been invaluable to Nancy. “They don’t just give you the time to do it, they encourage and they give suggestions.” Her happiness with mentoring inspires others. “You may not feel like you’re doing a whole lot, but it adds up over the years. It’s sit-down time. I think it’s made me much less judgmental, even with my own children. Our relationship will last a lifetime, and it’s been so much fun.”

Measuring Our Impact

Over 3,200 youth in 111 communities in Nebraska and Iowa are benefiting from the time spent with a mentor. TeamMates mentors logged more than 50,000 hours with their mentee during the 2007-08 school year. Research shows greater improvement for youth who are mentored 24 or more hours in a school year. In a survey of mentors, 97% rate their overall mentoring relationship as Good, Very Good or Excellent and 98% feel they are making a difference in the life of their mentee.

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More than Magic

Data collected on TeamMates matches shows students involved in TeamMates show improvement in their grades, have fewer disciplinary referrals and fewer unexcused absences.

Dear Friends of TeamMates,

Nancy and I would like to thank you for your support of the TeamMates Mentoring Program. We are grateful for the thousands of people who have responded to the mission of TeamMates through mentoring, serving on local boards and providing financial support. There is no greater way to invest in the future of our country than by investing in our youth.

The TeamMates Mentoring Program is serving over 3,200 youth in 111 communities across Nebraska and Iowa. While we are very proud of the program’s growth over the past 17 years, we know there are thousands more youth waiting for a mentor.

In a recent poll, youth were asked if they would like a mentor. 86% of youth responded that they would like a mentor yet only 30% reported having a mentor. In order to address the mentoring gap, more caring adult volunteers are needed.

As friends of TeamMates, Nancy and I encourage each of you to reach out to those you know and encourage them to mentor. Mentors give youth a sense of purpose and vision by volunteering one hour per week.

Thank you for making the one hour difference.

Sincerely,

Tom and Nancy Osborne

TeamMates Staff

Suzanne Hince, Executive Director
Judy Booth, Development Director
Jennifer Fortune, Regional Coordinator
Gigi Inness, Regional Coordinator
Tom Miller, Recruiting/Training Specialist
Gayle Norris, Administrative Assistant
Julie Swain, Regional Coordinator
Adrienne Watson, Screening Specialist
Julie Wente, Chief Financial Officer
Annette Woodhead, Regional Coordinator

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Joining the TeamMates Mentoring Program Board of Directors are three new members. First row, pictured left to right: Bruce E. Grewcock, President and CEO, Peter Kiewit Sons’, Inc., Omaha; Terry Kroeger, Publisher & CEO Omaha World-Herald, Omaha; Cynthia Milligan, Dean of the College of Business Administration-UNL, Lincoln.

Current Board Members are pictured below: Kim Baxter, Dick Davis, Mark Hansen, Steve Martin, Ben Muraskin, John Northrop, Jim Pillen, Ken Risk, Kim Robak, Carolin Roehr, John Schuele, Denny Walker.

Sincere thanks to retiring board members Art Knox and Ken Stinson. The TeamMates Mentoring Program appreciates their commitment to strengthening the foundation for mentoring in Nebraska and Iowa through their years of service.

My mentor has helped me in a lot of ways since becoming my mentor in middle school. I plan to live a life that makes everything he invested in me worthwhile. He is a really good guy and a true friend. Maybe I’ll have an opportunity in the future to return some of his kindness.

Brandon, TeamMates Scholarship Recipient

My mentor and life-long friend, has given me a different outlook on life and continues to do so every day. I know as my life moves forward I will come to reflect on TeamMates as being one of the true building blocks in my early life, and I hope, one day, I too, can leave a positive impact on a young person’s life through mentoring.

Jacob, TeamMates Scholarship Recipient

TeamMates has helped me be more confident in everything I do. They have taught me to believe in myself and I can do anything if I work hard. TeamMates gave me so much support with high school and college and it has pulled me through a lot.

Vance, TeamMates Scholarship Recipient

If I were to write out every detail of how TeamMates impacted my life it would take pages. I can honestly say that without my TeamMate I wouldn’t have made it through high school, let alone college. In a quick summary I’d probably say TeamMates has been the biggest influence on my life, my high school career and it continues to help me in college.

Richard, TeamMates Scholarship Recipient
TeamMates Financials

The TeamMates Mentoring Program’s 2007-2008 annual operating budget was $1,520,922. The annual operating budget includes over 80 chapters in 111 communities across Nebraska and Iowa. The TeamMates Mentoring Program provided a mentor to 3200 youth bringing the 2007-2008 cost per match to $475.

TeamMates Chapters

Arapahoe, NE • Auburn, NE • Aurora, NE • Beatrice, NE • Bellevue, NE • Blair, NE • Boone Central, NE • Box Butte County, NE • Cambridge, NE • Centennial, NE • Central City, NE • Chadron, NE • Columbus, NE • CORE Schools • Council Bluffs, IA • Cozad, NE • Crete, NE • Doniphan, NE • Elkhorn Valley, NE • Elmwood-Murdock, NE • Elwood, NE • Falls City, NE • Fairbury, NE • Fillmore County, NE • Franklin, NE • Fremont, NE • Fullerton, NE • Garden County, NE • Gordon-Rushville • Gothenburg, NE • Grand Island, NE • Gretna, NE • Hastings, NE • Hershey, NE • Holdrege, NE • Holt County, NE • Howard County, NE • Hyannis, NE • Johnston, IA • Kearney, NE • Kimball, NE • Laurel-Concord, NE • Lawrence-Nelson, NE • Lexington, NE • Lincoln, NE • McCook, NE • Medicine Valley, NE • Millard Public Schools • Milford, NE • Minden, NE • Nebraska City, NE • Neligh-Oakdale, NE • Norfolk, NE • Norris, NE • North Platte, NE • Ogallala, NE • Omaha Public Schools, Omaha NE • Ord, NE • Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas, NE • Papillion-La Vista, NE • Pierce, NE • Plainview, NE • Plattsmouth, NE •Ralston, NE • Randolph, NE • Red Cloud, NE • Sandy Creek, NE • Saunders County, NE • Scottsbluff-Gering, NE • Seward, NE • South Sioux City, NE • Stanton, NE • Superior, NE • Sutton, NE • Syracuse, NE • Thayer County, NE • Wallace, NE • Wausa, NE • Wayne, NE • West Point-Bancroft, NE • Westside Community Schools, NE • Wisner-Pilger, NE • Wood River, NE • Woodbine, IA • York, NE • Missouri Valley, IA • Osceola, NE • Valentine, NE

The Dreamer Award

TeamMates established “The Dreamer Award” to recognize individuals and organizations that provide inspiration and make dreams come true for young people. The recipients of the inaugural “Dreamer Award” are the members of the family of Gary Scharf. Gary was tragically killed in the Westroads Mall Shooting in Omaha and the family has created a truly inspirational legacy for Gary by their dedication to young people through the establishment of a scholarship fund, financial support for a new mentoring program in Curtis (Medicine Valley) and with several of the Scharf family members becoming TeamMates mentors. On the scholarship application it says:

Gary Scharf was a smart man, but he was never very fond of studying while in college. Nevertheless, he felt college was one of the best times in his life. College is an experience we wish more young people could have. We, the members of Gary’s family, hope you can use this money to have a similarly memorable college experience, and to help prepare yourself for all life has to offer. As Gary would say, “Whatever you want to do, or accomplish in life, it starts with a solid college education.”

TeamMates Scholastics

Celebrations were held across TeamMates programs as 145 youth received diplomas for high school graduation. This is the largest group of TeamMates graduates to date.

In addition, over $58,000 in college scholarship dollars were given out through local TeamMates programs, the Osborne Opportunity Fund, and the Gary Scharf Scholarship Fund. Scholarship recipients are recognized annually on the field at a Husker Football game.
Program Growth

The TeamMates Mentoring Program took major steps toward reaching the vision of providing mentors to 10,000 youth by 2015. Through the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska and the Wal-Mart Foundation, TeamMates was able to provide seed money to communities to start new TeamMates Chapters. The number of programs grew from 96 to 111 in the 2007-2008 school year and will continue to grow. The support of local school districts, businesses, foundations and individuals provides opportunities for youth to receive the support of mentors.

TeamMates Mission

To positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring.

TeamMates Core Values

• Commitment to youth -- We are committed to serving youth with compassion and respect.

• Safety -- The safety and protection of the mentee and mentor is first priority.

• Integrity and Trust -- We are committed to integrity and trust in all relationships.

• Inclusion -- We are committed to the inclusion of mentees and mentors from diverse backgrounds.

TeamMates Vision

To serve 10,000 youth and be nationally recognized as the leading school-based mentoring program by 2015.

TeamMates Mentoring Program Announces Creation of Foundation

TeamMates success is due in no small part to your contributions. The establishment of the TeamMates Foundation has created a new avenue for support of the TeamMates Mentoring Program. The mission of the TeamMates Foundation is to provide financial resources to the TeamMates Mentoring Program in support of its mission to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential. Please consider a donation to the TeamMates Foundation or the TeamMates Mentoring Program and make an investment in the future of our young people. Donations can be made online at www.teammates.org or by calling 1-877-531-TEAM.

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Kathryn Burney

COACHES CLUB - 25,000 to 49,999
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Mid American Energy Holdings Company
Norfolk Area United Way Inc.
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Tom and Nancy Osborne
The Sherwood Foundation
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Wiebe Charitable Foundation

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The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation
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Creighton University
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2007-08 TeamMates Donors

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The Valmont Foundation
Walt-Mart
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Thank you for your support. We couldn’t do it without you.
Giving Back

As a true freshmen, Chad Kelsay contributed to Nebraska’s 1995 National Championship season. A 1999 graduate with a degree in finance, Chad was drafted into the NFL and played for nearly two seasons. Today, Kelsay is giving back in a big way to the community.

As a mentor for the TeamMates Mentoring Program for nearly eight years, he knows the importance of young people having an additional caring adult in their lives. Mentoring helps reinforce the fact that young people are really eager to succeed. All young people have great talents, and if they have support and positive influences in their lives, they can and will do great things.

While mentoring has its high points, Kelsay acknowledges there are times when working with young people can present challenges. The challenges to mentoring, however, are small compared to the reward that both mentors and mentees experience.

“It is encouraging to see the time you are spending with these young people having an impact. Improvements in grades and attendance at school have been high points, as well as seeing them take a more positive outlook on life in general,” said Kelsay who is currently matched with his mentee Steven.