Our Mission

is to build positive relationships to help young people reach their full potential.
Dear Friends of TeamMates,

Why are we as employees, volunteers and donors so committed to the Mission of TeamMates? RESULTS!!!!!!!

Here is a success story I want to share with all of you.

“...My daughter was considered very high risk and fought a battle against so many odds. However, with the incredible support from her mentor, she graduated from high school. TeamMates has been part of her success. My daughter is currently a college student and has plans to audition for a renowned music conservatory. She has emerged from an extremely shy and “difficult to reach” high school teen to becoming a confident young lady. I wanted to make sure you were aware of this success and let you know that she’s proof...

....The TeamMates Mentoring Program does work!”

——TeamMate Parent

We believe in making a positive impact on our youth that will affect them for the rest of their lives. The impact that TeamMates has had on our youth over the past year is very impressive. Because of our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and other special friends, over 2,700 youth are better prepared to be contributing members of society. These are indeed impressive results, and we are sincerely humbled in our appreciation for the opportunity to be of service to our youth.

If you should ever have a question or a suggestion about the TeamMates Mentoring Program, please feel free to contact me personally. Thank You!

Sincerely,

DeEtta Vrana
Executive Director
TeamMates Mentoring Program

Illustration provided by Humberto, Grand Island TeamMate. Thank you!
CAROLIN ROEHR “Everyone can benefit from another caring individual in our lives! We provide this relationship through TeamMates; how lucky our youth are to be recipients and how fortunate mentors are to be included in the reciprocity.”

DICK DAVIS “Youth are a critical element for the future of America and if you can just be a difference maker in one person’s life, it means everything.”

MARK HANSEN “Mentoring is investing in our future, one child at a time.”

ALAN HIRSCHFELD “Feel the warmth of reaching out and touching someone else’s life.”

JERRY SELLENTIN “Mentoring benefits not only the youth being mentored, but the volunteer who is mentoring.”

DENNY WALKER “Mentoring is like medicine, it makes you feel good, it’s heart medicine. It’s one of the most enjoyable parts of my week!”

JOHN SCHUELE “We have proven for decades money will not cure our social issues ... it’s time for people to become involved personally.”

KEN RISK “Young people are the future; we can never give-up on the future.”

ART KNOX “Mentoring is an opportunity to share your life experiences with a young person and make a difference in their life.”

TONY RAIMONDO “As global dynamics increase, I believe the need and importance of mentoring our youth increases.”

KEN STINSON “The most valuable thing we can give young people is our time.”

FRED KAUFFMAN “We all need the wisdom and counsel of others, and this is particularly true with our youth. For those children having limited options in seeking wise counsel and guidance, TeamMates provides an answer that returns immediate benefit and reward, not only to the child and his or her mentor, but to our schools and communities as well.”
TEAMMATES is a school based, one-to-one mentoring program. We recruit caring adults from the community to volunteer one hour per week in the school. The volunteer serves as a positive role model for a young person who could benefit from another caring adult in their life. We are currently in 70 communities throughout Nebraska and Iowa and 2,743 students are active in the program. The mentors matched with these students are making the difference of a lifetime one hour at a time.

TEAMMATES STAFF Vikki Carlson, Western Regional Coordinator • Jennifer Fortune, Development Coordinator • Gigi Inness, Central Regional Coordinator • Gayle Norris, Administrative Assistant • Suzanne Osborne, Metro Omaha Regional Coordinator • DeEtta Vrana, Executive Director

05 HIGHLIGHTS Annual Fall Celebration and Fundraiser is held in October each year to celebrate TeamMates and the youth whose lives have been touched through the volunteers who mentor them. National Mentoring Month is held annually in January to celebrate and promote mentoring. The One Hour Walk held every April promotes awareness of TeamMates and the power of mentoring throughout Nebraska and Iowa. Summer Golf Tournaments are hosted by supporters of TeamMates such as Adrian Fiala. TeamMates Partnership Meeting is a leadership forum for program coordinators to share ideas and collaborate.

05 AWARDS Outstanding Mentor Recipients Laura Hadwiger, Columbus • Darrell Granahan, Omaha • Cynthia Rubendall, Franklin. Outstanding Program Coordinator Recipients Marilea Thiem, Crete • Jean Brown, Papillion-LaVista • Deb Eickhoff, Kearney. Outstanding Program Recipients Ord • Omaha Westside • Hastings
MENTEE, GRADE 8  “I love my TeamMate! She is the only person who ever asks me how I am!”  MENTEE, GRADE 5  “I’m getting better grades. I used to cut school. I used to do anything to get sick. Once I even kissed a frog to get sick. Now I come to school a lot more. Bob helped me. He even helped me when my parents got divorced.”  MENTEE, GRADE 5  “I use to not do my work or want to go to school. I used to have to eat in the office because I made bad choices. Now I show up every day and I get better grades. I even get to eat with my friends.”

MENTEE, GRADE 12  “In the future I want to be an involved person in the community and reach out to kids on as many levels as possible. TeamMates has taught me how to succeed and how to accept failure and that these are lessons not many have a chance to learn. . . I plan on attending SCC in Beatrice and I believe that with a good education and hard work, along side my family values, I can attain anything.”

MENTEE, GRADE 8  “Deb has made an enormous difference in my life by explaining to me how to set goals. When I met Deb, I wasn’t trying hard in school and always turning my homework in late! Then Deb entered my life and explained to me how important school is and how it has an enormous effect on my future and career... Deb is a great influence on my life and I hope she never goes away.”  MENTEE, GRADE 12  “Julie has always been there for me ever since 7th grade. She always listens to what I have to say and she is a very positive influence on me and my life. MENTEE, GRADE 7  “Having Charlie as my TeamMate is the best thing that has ever happened to me. He helps me with everything.”

MENTEE, GRADE 6  “Having a mentor is great! It’s the best thing that has ever happened to me. Charlie helps me get better grades and he is always there for me when I have a problem or need someone to talk to.”  MENTEE, GRADE 11  “TeamMates has affected my outlook on life by showing me that life won’t be fair, but there will be people and organizations I can trust and get advice from.”
Last year, we logged over **57,600** volunteer mentoring hours at an estimated value of **$17.55 per hour**, according to the March 2005 Independent Sector. Mentors and mentees average **3 1/2 years** as part of the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

**MENTEE ETHNICITY**
74% Caucasian, 10% African American, 8% Hispanic, 5% Other
2% Native American, 1% Asian

**REASONS FOR REFERRAL**
33% Personal, 21% Academic, 16% Peer Relations,
10% Discipline Issues, 7% Attendance, 3% Legal, 10 % Other

**MENTOR JOB STATUS**
74% Currently Employed or Self-Employed, 11% Students,
11% Retired, 4 % Other

**TEammates REVENUE**
39% Fundraising
26% Organizations
24% Individuals
7% Grants
4% Other

“Being a TeamMates mentor has been a wonderful experience for me. I have been given the opportunity to watch my mentee grow and learn throughout her educational experience. The relationship we have built through the program will touch me forever. I am fortunate to have met my TeamMate and enjoy watching her grow into a mature, young adult. I enjoy being a mentor and am thankful for the chance to be a role model in a child’s life.”

— Columbus Mentor, Michelle Bentz
The Time to Make the One Hour Difference.

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This list includes gifts received between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.
It costs $500 per year to support a TeamMates Mentor match. The investment in our youth is certainly worth it. Please consider showing your support through a contribution to TeamMates.