

WELCOME TO The Mentoring Project!

The Mentoring Project (TMP) would like to thank you for making the decision as a faith community to rewrite the fatherless story through mentoring. You have become a part of a movement that is working toward providing mentors for millions of youth who are growing up without fathers. Together, one child at a time, we hope to rewrite the story of fatherlessness in the world. By providing Christian men from your faith community to mentor fatherless boys, we believe you are being faithful to advancing the kingdom of God in your community.

The first steps in the mentoring process are very important. If you haven't already done so, you will need to appoint a contact person from within your faith community to oversee your mentoring community. This position should alleviate the time commitment of your pastoral and faith community staff. Information and qualifications for this position are provided in the pages to follow. Next, you will need to consider which ministries in your faith community you will want to promote mentoring in (i.e. men's ministry, college ministry, small groups, etc). Through this, you will be able to gauge your faith community's level of interest in creating their own mentoring community. Once these steps are taken, you should establish a training date to help your faith community begin the process of mentoring.

While this TMP Operations Manual provides your faith community with all the information you need to begin and sustain a mentoring community, TMP is available as walk through the process. In the beginning, our goal is to provide you with the tools necessary to build a sustainable mentoring model.

Ultimately, however, we would like your faith community to eventually take 'ownership' of its individual mentoring community. To help with this, TMP will make a two (2) year commitment to your faith community.

We are grateful for your decision to partner with us to help rewrite the fatherless story. We hope, through our partnership, to help you build a sustainable mentoring community that will last for years to come. As you walk through this process, you will most likely have questions and insights, please feel free to share those with us. In order to help with your questions and insights, we have included a Partner ID number on the outside of your TMP box. Please make sure to write this number on the enclosed Contact Person Agreement Form, as well as your mentor Sign Up Sheet. We will be praying for you as you begin this journey to rewrite the stories of the fatherless.

Blessings,

THE MENTORING PROJECT TEAM

M.E.N.T.O.R.

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MENTORING OVERVIEW

The Mentoring Project (TMP), a 501c(3) organization founded in 2009, seeks to respond to the American crisis of fatherlessness by inspiring and equipping faith communities to mentor fatherless boys. TMP exists to work in, with, and through the faith community, building sustainable mentoring communities that together, are able to rewrite the story of fatherlessness.

In America alone there are at least 25 million children growing up without a father in their home. Although this void may not be able to be filled by earthly means, we believe in a God who can fill it, as He is a father to fatherless. We also believe that no one can replace an absent father; however, they can certainly become a friend and a trusted confidant; they can become a mentor. While TMP will be available to give support to your faith community, this toolkit gives you the resources you will to begin, build, and sustain your mentoring community.

We have found that mentoring in community, as opposed to simply mentoring one-on-one, can create a longer lasting relationship between the mentor and the mentee. While your faith community will determine the age of the boys to be mentored, we at TMP suggest the age range to be from 7-14 (up to 16). While this is suggested, we encourage and desire these relationships to last longer.

To begin, your faith community will need to appoint a contact person to oversee your mentoring community. TMP materials provide biblical, faith-based training for your mentors, and once trained, your mentors will meet with a representative from a matching agency (see section 2.4) in order to further their training. The overall matching process can take anywhere from 4-6 weeks depending upon the specifics of the mentor/mentee relationship (and upon the matching agency you choose as a faith community). This process should also include a background, DMV, and reference check, as well as an in-depth interview process.

Once the matching process is complete, each mentor is expected to spend at least one (1) hour per week with their mentee. No more than that is expected; however, more than that is certainly encouraged! When and how that time fits into the mentor and mentees' schedule is up to each mentor. Each mentor/mentee relationship will also become fully immersed in group activities every other month, which will be planned by your contact person.