

Littleton



Hello, I'm
Janis

Girl. Age: 14

A little about me:

I want a mentor because I need good role models in my life. My friends aren't the best influence on me.

I like sports and painting!



Denver



Hello, I'm
Collin

Boy. Age: 14

A little about me:

I don't have a lot of stability in my life. I think having a mentor would help me be more confident and do better in school.

Aurora



Hello, I'm
Zyrie

Girl. Age: 15

A little about me:

I do well in school and usually enjoy it, but I've been sad and stressed lately. I want a mentor who helps me process those feelings.

For fun, I like to read or paint.

120 Kids on Our Waitlist and Why That Gives Us Hope

- The 3 cards above represent real mentees on our waitlist.
- To protect identities, we use generic names and stock photography, but their written "about me" sections are real.
- Images with a pink star in the corner mean that the youth has an incarcerated family member.
- A match is not guaranteed from this list; however, it is a great place to start if you feel like you might be a good personality fit for anyone listed!
- Take the first step by filling out the mentor interest form at:

www.saveouryouth.org/mentor

We **connect** young people to **hope** through long-term **mentoring** relationships.

At Save Our Youth, we're celebrating a milestone: **more than 120 young people are now on our mentee waitlist.** While some might see a growing list as a challenge, we see it as a powerful sign of trust. Each name represents a child, a family, or a school that not only believes mentoring can change lives, but that Save Our Youth is the place to make that happen.

We've been finding new ways to share our mission, such as on radio outlets like WayFM and K-Love, and the response has been incredible. More and more people are reaching out to us asking for help with the youth in their circles, but the truth is, if every young person in our community who could benefit from a mentor knew about us, our waitlist would likely be over 1,000. Knowing that, the 120 names we currently see aren't discouraging. They are a glimpse of the trust that's already forming and a reminder of the thousands more we have yet to reach.

A larger waitlist also makes us stronger. With more youth waiting, we can create matches that are truly personalized, such as pairing mentors and mentees not only by location, but also by personality, interests, and goals. That means **deeper connections, more meaningful relationships, and life-changing impact.**

Every name on our list represents **possibility, trust, and hope.** It's a reminder that our work matters and that the need for mentoring in our community is real. And while the list continues to grow, so does our commitment to connect every young person we can with a caring mentor who will walk alongside them.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. **Together, we are turning waitlists into matches, and matches into stories of hope.**

Maria Borrego
Program Director, Save Our Youth



Celebrating the Impact of the TYL Golf Tournament

Last month, Save Our Youth once again gathered with generous supporters for the annual TYL (Thank You Lord) golf tournament: a recent tradition that has become so much more than a day on the course. It's an opportunity for friends of the organization to come together, celebrate community, and **invest in the future of young people.**

We are deeply grateful to the TYL Foundation, founded by the late longtime supporter, Ed McVaney, as well as the event sponsor, Nextworld, whose partnership makes these gatherings possible.

We're often asked if we are impacted by changes in government funding, but since Save Our Youth is a privately funded nonprofit, our work is sustained primarily by private foundations and individual donors who **believe in our mission.** We rarely receive government funding or grants, so the generosity of those who come together for fundraising events like these **makes all the difference.**

We also want to recognize the outstanding work of our Donor Development team, Keith McVaney and Jay Jung, whose leadership and vision make these tournaments not only successful, but meaningful. To every supporter, donor, and friend, we want to **thank you.** Together, you are **fueling hope and creating life-changing mentoring relationships.**



Match Spotlight: Marcus & David

At just 12 years old, Marcus has already faced challenges that many of us can hardly imagine. While his mother serves time for a DUI, Marcus and his older sister have been temporarily living with a family friend, doing their best to stay afloat in a season of uncertainty.

In the midst of it all, David, Marcus's mentor, has become a **steady and encouraging presence.** Their weekly time together is a bright spot Marcus looks forward to, whether it's setting new goals, talking about school, or sharing simple moments of fun. From afternoons of paddleboarding to conversations that spark confidence, David has given Marcus not only guidance, but also laughter, adventure, and a sense of belonging.

This summer, Marcus's family received an eviction notice at the apartment they lived in with their mom. As they waited for her to be released, this notice threatened to uproot their lives once again. Thanks to the swift action of our mentoring specialist and the generosity of supporters, benevolence funds were provided to keep their residence, allowing them to live in the same household as their mother returned to home and work.

Together, David's **consistency and the support** of Save Our Youth have given Marcus more than just stability, they've given him hope. In a season where so much feels uncertain, Marcus knows there's someone in his corner, cheering him on and walking with him every step of the way.

Stories like Marcus's remind us that **mentoring changes more than one life:** it strengthens families, builds resilience, and creates hope for the future.



Match Spotlight: Ethan & Mark



When Ethan's dad left after a divorce, his world shifted overnight. Suddenly, the steady presence of a father figure was gone, **leaving a gap** in his life at a critical time. That's when his mentor, Mark, stepped in not only to spend time with Ethan, but to provide the kind of guidance, encouragement, and stability every young man needs.

Mark has been right there in the passenger seat as Ethan learned how to drive, celebrating milestones and calmly coaching through mistakes. He rolled up his sleeves to teach oil changes, car repairs, and the kind of practical know-how that builds confidence. Together, they've tackled home projects too, with Mark showing Ethan that reliability and care **aren't just words, they're actions**.

But what stands out most is not just the skills Mark has taught, but the **consistency** he has shown. Week after week, he shows up. He listens. He invests. And in doing so, Mark has become more than a mentor, he has become a model of what it means to be **steady, dependable, and supportive**.

For Ethan, those lessons go far beyond fixing cars or learning to drive. They are shaping the kind of man he is becoming. One who knows what encouragement feels like, and one who has experienced firsthand the power of a mentor's presence.

Stories like Ethan and Mark's remind us why mentoring matters. It's not about grand gestures, but about **everyday faithfulness**.

And with each moment of care, another young life is strengthened with **hope for the future**.

A Legacy of Love: Honoring Late Mentor Kimary

For more than five years, Save Our Youth was blessed by the faithful presence of mentor, Kimary, whose life modeled resilience, compassion, and steadfast faith. Though she faced her own health challenges, including living far beyond the expectations of a Stage IV cancer diagnosis, she never let that stop her from showing up wholeheartedly for others.

Six years ago, after a hiatus from mentoring, she called Save Our Youth with a simple but powerful request: "I want to mentor again." That call turned into a **life-changing journey** for her mentee, Kailyn, and for everyone touched by her steady encouragement. Kimary had a way of noticing people others might overlook. She always saw value, potential, and beauty in every person she met.

Her relationship with Kailyn quickly became more than a weekly meeting; it was a bond of laughter, trust, and growth. They shared quiet afternoons together, lighthearted nicknames like "cardboard destructo," and countless moments that built a foundation of belonging. Even when health concerns made travel difficult, Kimary and her husband drove faithfully to ensure those **mentoring connections continued**.

Beyond mentoring, Kimary's heart for service overflowed into every area of her life: teaching art at the juvenile detention center, serving faithfully in her church, and investing in countless young people.

She **fought the good fight of faith**, and her legacy reminds us of the power of showing up with love, even when life is hard.

Kimary will be deeply missed, yet her impact will continue to ripple through the life of her mentee and our Save Our Youth family.

As we remember Kimary, we celebrate a mentor whose faithfulness leaves behind a **legacy of hope**.

