



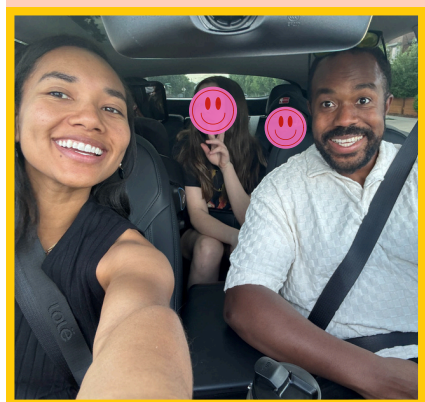
JULY 2025

THE GOOD NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF SAVE OUR YOUTH



A Father's Day to Remember: Showing Up When it Matters Most



At Save Our Youth, we believe mentoring is about presence, not perfection. This past Father's Day, a husband-and-wife mentor pair in our program (Cam and Kyra) took that to heart and asked their mentees' mothers if the kids (one boy—11 and one girl—14) would like to spend the day with them since they both do not have contact with their fathers. Both mothers joyfully agreed, as did the mentees, when they were presented with the option.

Cam and Kyra weren't trying to replace anyone, but since Father's Day can be a painful reminder of absence, they simply showed up to provide a safe space. They took the mentees to a virtual golfing range at Stanley Marketplace with their family and then ate Sweet Cow ice cream afterwards. It was a simple gesture, but it meant the world to two kids who often feel left out on days like this. It wasn't elaborate, just a few hours of laughs and encouragement in a space where both kids felt seen and valued.

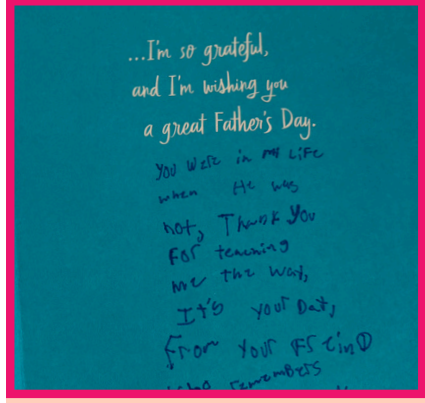
At the end of the day, the boy mentee gave his mentor a folded card with the following handwritten words: "You were in my life when he was not. Thank you for teaching me the way. It's your day, from your friend who remembers your day."

Later in the week, the girl's mom texted Kyra: "Thank you to you both for being so amazing and supportive and picking her up and sharing your day with her. You're healing her in so many ways. We talked about it tonight during family therapy. You've been the most consistent person in her life besides myself. Thanks for showing up."

Moments like these are why mentoring matters. They remind us that it doesn't take perfection to make a difference, just a willingness to be present.

To every mentor who steps into the gap, you are seen. And to every supporter who makes these moments possible, thank you. You're helping us connect youth to hope, one relationship at a time.

All stories shared in this newsletter are real, but names have been changed to honor privacy.



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

Security Central's Bold Commitment to the Next Generation

At Save Our Youth, we know the transition from high school to adulthood can be a make-or-break season. In addition to facing staggering dropout rates in their first year of college, low-income students are three times less likely to pursue education beyond high school. That's why we're thrilled to partner with Security Central who has boldly committed to invest in the future of under-resourced young people through their Impact 2030 initiative. Their generous five-year investment is helping 30 students each year cross that crucial bridge from adolescence to adulthood with coaching, tailored support, and the practical tools they need: from laptops to tuition assistance, as a way to help secure their futures.

Through this partnership, they brought a team of 10 volunteers to our Graduation Celebration, cheering on students to their next chapter with open hearts and hands. Their partnership is more than financial, it's relational. They believe in generational change and are walking it out alongside us. From event sponsorships to future engagement with alumni and families, Security Central is helping create not just successful students, but thriving adults. We're honored to partner with Security Central in this life-changing work!

Thank you for all that you do!



Finding Creative Ways to Support Our Youth

We're so grateful to have a number of faithful church partners, and this month we'd like to specifically highlight and thank Park Church. In addition to being open to helping recruit mentors in their congregation, they continue to find creative ways to support our mentees. Last Christmas, their Gospel Community and youth groups came together to bless our first-year college students by putting together care packages to encourage them to finish their last semester strong. Then two months ago, they generously opened their facility to host our Graduation Party where we joyfully celebrated 14 of our graduates.

In addition, Park Church's commitment goes much deeper than events; they currently have 16 active mentors serving in our program and continue to help efforts by allowing our recruitment team to share our mission during gatherings. In a recent outreach at the church,

nearly 50% of those who signed up to mentor followed through with an application and are now on track to meet their new mentees this August. We are so grateful to partners like Park Church who help to mobilize the local community in tangible ways that directly help our youth.

If you would like to welcome our recruitment team to your church to help share more information with your congregation, please contact dan@saveouryouth.org.



*Thank
you.*



PARK CHURCH

///////Evan's Journey: From Refugee Camp to College Student

Mentorship isn't about having all the answers. It's about showing up, listening, and believing in someone's potential.

Evan was first matched with his mentor through another organization that eventually closed, so when given the option to continue their relationship through Save Our Youth, both Evan and his mentor agreed. And we're so glad they did because Evan is a remarkable young man!

He spent most of his childhood in a refugee camp where they incorrectly thought he had an infectious skin disease, so he was not allowed to leave for many years before coming to the U.S. His family relocated to America in 2019 and his parents have done the best they can to support and provide for him and his four siblings. Upon graduating high school, Evan still struggled with English, and had never been away from his parents. Going to college seemed like a long shot for a while, but with the support of his mentor and Save Our Youth, Evan applied to Colorado State University and was accepted into their summer bridge program for first-generation college students. His mentor and our staff took turns driving him to campus and helped him navigate financial aid, class registration, dorm life, and bus routes between Fort Collins and Denver.

Since starting at CSU, Evan has maintained strong academic standing, received scholarships, and built the confidence to ask professors for support as an English-language learner. He is now pursuing a degree in Architectural Design and recently shared a project that incorporated elements of his culture. Evan's journey is a powerful reminder of how far a young person can go when someone believes in them and walks alongside them through every step.

///////10 Years at Save Our Youth: Angela Maher, Education Manager

"It's hard to believe 10 years have passed since I joined Save Our Youth. After earning my Master's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012, I packed everything into a little Ford Taurus and drove to Colorado, filled with hope and nervous excitement. A few entry-level jobs later and a bold cold call to the Save Our Youth front desk led me to my first role here as a Mentoring Specialist in 2015. Over the years, I've held a few different roles at Save Our Youth, but one thing has remained constant: the deep joy of walking alongside mentors and mentees long-term. While I loved working with teens in previous settings, the reality was that our time together was often brief. I always wished I could stay connected, knowing the world they were walking into was full of obstacles and challenging dynamics. That's what makes Save Our Youth so special. Through all of life's changes—moves, school transitions, custody shifts, challenges, and celebrations—we get to keep journeying alongside of those we serve. That kind of steady, long-term presence is rare, and it's a gift I don't take for granted.

Now, as Education Manager, I oversee our three education initiatives: Skills 4 Success (equipping mentors to help mentees grow in life and career skills), Summer Programming (combatting "summer slide" through engaging activities and community programs), and Scholars (supporting post-secondary students emotionally, academically, and financially). But, this work has never just been about what we give; it's also about what we receive. Recently, I got engaged, and I've shared the news with my caseload this summer because I know how deeply they care. I'm not one to make a big deal about myself, but I knew they would be disappointed if I didn't tell them personally. The mentors, mentees, families, and coworkers who have genuinely cared about me—who mean it when they ask "How are you doing?"—are a blessing I never expected when I first walked through Save Our Youth's doors. When people ask if I'd ever leave, I say: it would be hard to find another place where I feel this cared for and believe so deeply in the work. I'm grateful for the past 10 years. Cheers to many more!" - Angela Maher

