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# The Good News

July 2024

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Save Our Youth

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The belief that every human is created in the image of God (Imago Dei) drives everything we do here at Save Our Youth. This principle sets us apart as a mentoring organization. Our vision is "a world where every young person embraces their God-given worth." Every human being has inherent worth and value because they are created in the image of God. Our core values, mentor training, and match support reflect this ideal. This creates a ripple effect through our staff, supporters, mentors, mentees, and families, promoting a community that treats everyone with inherent value.

We recognize the presence of systemic barriers that create an unjust society, where not everyone has access to and knowledge of available resources. Our evidence-based and uniquely spiritually-founded training strives to equip our mentors with the skills to help level the playing field for their mentees. Two crucial aspects of a mentor's role are that of an advocate and a connector.

Every child needs people in their corner who can see them, understand them, and recognize their strengths. Because mentors have the opportunity to do that, they are in an amazing position to be an advocate. If a situation arises where the mentee is misunderstood, overlooked, or mistreated, the mentor and Mentoring Specialist can intervene and speak up on their behalf. This is particularly evident in school settings, where staff members may have large caseloads and students can easily slip through the cracks.

Mentors are sometimes the first to notice when their mentees are struggling in school or could use additional support. When this happens, Mentoring Specialists can work with the school to identify and access appropriate resources. We can also advocate for tailored support that meets the mentee's specific needs and accommodates their learning style.

A mentor who expresses genuine interest and curiosity in their mentee's life can identify areas of potential for the mentee or areas where they desire more direction. This often comes up when a mentee is nearing the end of high school and considering next steps. A mentor may have a friend in a career their mentee is interested in or know of career options that their mentee hasn't heard of. While mentors are not expected to be career or education experts, they play a crucial role in facilitating connections and pointing their mentee in the right direction.

Angela, our Education Manager, also does this through her expertise by providing many applicable resources to our Mentees. Our goal is to ensure that all mentees are aware of the available resources, which can help them recognize and embrace their inherent worth. It is through God's strength that we can see others as Christ sees them.

Alisha Turner  
*Mentoring Specialist II*

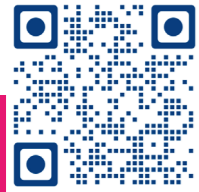


**We connect young people to hope through long-term mentoring relationships.**

## Thank you to the 25th Annual Save Our Youth Golf Tournament sponsors!



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## 30 Years of Connecting Youth to HOPE



Back in 1999, a friend of Save Our Youth **donated a neighborhood grocery store** for us to use as our headquarters. It's incredible to see what God has done in this space since then, and we're excited to announce a **grand RE-OPENING** this summer (Date TBD)! We unfortunately had some flooding that forced renovations, but God has been faithful throughout the process, and the upgrades will actually allow us to use the building for more mentor trainings!

## Back to School BBQ

ANNUAL  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
BBQ



SHINE  
**BRIGHT**

You are the light of the world! Join us for FREE backpacks/school supplies for our mentees & siblings; BBQ; painting; summer fun; our annual watermelon eating contest; and so much more!

*\*This event is free and reserved only for existing mentors, mentees, and direct family members of mentors/mentees. Contact your Mentoring Specialist for more info on registration.*



As summer nears its end, we want to ensure our mentees have something to **look forward to** as they prep for school. One of the ways we do that is by offering our annual Back to School BBQ at which we provide each mentee, as well as their siblings, with free backpacks and school supplies—made possible by our generous church partners! Not to mention, we also have a ton of fun at the event! If you are a mentor/mentee, please **RSVP** via the Mentor Zone. Also, if you have any fun game ideas for matches to play at the event, please feel free to send them to [info@saveouryouth.org](mailto:info@saveouryouth.org). **We want to hear from you!**

## Summer Updates



This summer, we wanted to help keep our youth connected by providing them with ways to stay engaged all summer long. In addition to regular event programming, we offered mentees the option of a stipend (up to \$300) to help cover the cost of an activity of their choosing. Through this opportunity, 13 students have received stipends so far, covering a wide range of activities including coding, aerial arts, gymnastics, church camps, and more!

## Run for Save Our Youth



In our last newsletter, we shared that we were gearing up to run at the **Denver Colfax Marathon**, and invited you to join us in the race. Since then, we're excited to announce that runners from a fellow nonprofit, Forging Youth Resilience, selected us as their charity partner and **donated \$1,000 in proceeds!** We were also selected as having the **Best Tent** out of the entire Charity Village (mostly thanks to the decor efforts of our Program Specialist, Hannah Woodhouse!). Thank you to everyone who joined us and/or shared our mission with people in your network. Your support goes a long way!