



APRIL 2026

THE GOOD NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF SAVE OUR YOUTH



INTRODUCING STAFF MENTORS AND THEIR MENTEES!

At Save Our Youth, mentoring isn't just something we invite others into; it's something we live out ourselves. Across our team, staff and leaders step beyond their hired roles to build consistent, meaningful relationships with mentees. It's not about a job. It's about showing up, week after week to pour into the lives of our young people.

Carol, Mentoring Specialist (pictured above, left), has been matched with her mentee for over 30 months, and has mentored multiple youth over the years, including one match that lasted eight years. Whether they're grabbing snacks or talking through life's ups and downs, their time together is grounded in trust and conversation. Carol states, *"My favorite part is just sitting and talking. Those are the moments where you see her open up. One fun activity we did was take a bus together to Fort Collins and spent the day visiting with my sister and sightseeing. We truly enjoyed our time together."*

Jay, Major Gifts Officer (pictured above, center), has been matched with his mentee for 9 months. Their favorite days are spent hiking, exploring trails, and talking about everything from bugs to life's biggest questions. *"We don't need to spend money, we can spend hours just being together,"* Jay says. *"Recently, he and I got into an amazing conversation when we were talking about his caterpillar that turned into a cocoon, then a moth. He let it go, knowing it would likely try to mate and then die within a few days. It got kind of quiet, and then he asked me what I thought happens when we die. I told him about heaven, and God, and Jesus, and the cross. We talked about each piece, and I was happy to hear how much he knew. It was easy to fill in some holes and talk about the 'why's.' That was the best 45 minutes I've ever spent in a car with anyone. I really care about this guy, and he always asks how I'm doing and what I've been up to. What a blessing it is to be a part of his life."*

Don, Director of Operations & Finance (pictured above, right), has mentored multiple young people and has been matched with his current mentee for 31 months. From playing (aka winning : p) basketball games to trying new things like skiing, their relationship is built on shared experiences and steady support. Don says, *"My mentee teaches me through his humble and gracious spirit to be appreciative of everything I am offered and receive from others. He also teaches me through his straightforward, authentic expressions of his personality. He has such a pure and joyful perspective on the world!"*

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Introducing Staff Mentors and Their Mentees! (Cont.)



Maria, Program Director (pictured, left), has been matched with her mentee for 22 months. Whether they're grabbing ice cream or making TikToks, their time together creates space for joy and freedom.

Maria says, "Mentoring has become a time for my mentee to escape feeling stuck in her fostering situation and be a kid. We laugh and she loves learning to edit the videos we make. One of my favorite memories is when we went to Film on the Rocks at Red Rocks and it was her first time ever being there. Seeing someone's eyes see something for the first time is so special."

Even one of our board members, Christina Ison, answered the call to become a mentor six years ago and is still with her mentee!

We always say mentoring is a two-way street, because as you can tell from these stories, it doesn't just impact the mentees. Our mentors are shaped, stretched, and inspired in return, reminding us that sometimes the most meaningful impact comes simply from showing up.

We have more than 85 young people on our wait list, meaning they have asked us for a mentor, but we do not have enough mentors to fill their requests. You do not have to be a perfect parent, or even a parent, to become a mentor.

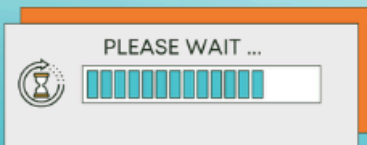
**All you have to do is show up, show interest, show faith, and show tomorrow.
If you are interested in learning more, fill out the interest form at saveouryouth.org/mentor.**

Prayer Request: The Need for More Male Mentors in Aurora

Michael, and his 15-year-old mentee have been matched for only a couple of months, and within weeks of them meeting, Michael would end their get-togethers with three questions: 1. How can I pray for you? 2. How can I pray for people in your life? And 3. Can you dial back the cussing a bit? :) His mentee grumbled a little at this last request, but at their next meeting, his mentee started out with his usual vocabulary before remembering and honoring his mentor's request, at least in part.

"This was less about the language as an offense to me, but in preparation of my goal to introduce him to other people." Michael's life lesson for his mentee is that something as second nature to a youth might cause doors to shut, barring valuable connections to be made. Michael was gracious enough to allow his mentee to be himself around him, but also reminded him that there are other positive ways to express himself. This small suggestion serves to teach him how to present himself for job interviews and other important connections: a valuable lesson that might not be learned any other way.

Did you know, 70% of our waitlist is made up of young boys? In fact, in Aurora alone, we have over 20 boys waiting with very few male mentors in process. This is the highest number of boys we've ever seen asking us for mentors and we simply do not have enough.



**THE MATH DOESN'T ADD UP
CONNECT A YOUNG MAN TO HOPE
BECOME A MENTOR**

www.saveouryouth.org/mentor

Are you willing to mentor one of them? If not, do you know someone who would be a great fit? Or, do you know any networks of men we can present to? And last but not least, will you pray for this great need to be filled? Please reach out to us at info@saveouryouth.org if you have any thoughts about how to support these young men.

Faithful Supporters Throughout the Decades

We are incredibly encouraged and grateful for Don Pittser and his faithful support of Save Our Youth over the past 24 years. His commitment has been both steady and impactful, reflecting a deep belief in our mission and the young people we serve.

Through his company, Jedi Balancing, Don has been a consistent and generous partner. From 2003 to 2021, Jedi Balancing participated in our annual golf tournament every single year: an extraordinary example of long-term dedication and loyalty.

They began sponsoring the tournament in 2004, and more recently, they stepped in as a title sponsor for our 30th Anniversary Gala in 2024, helping make the celebration a meaningful success. In 2025, they went even further by doubling their gift for our 100 Hole Tournament, demonstrating a continued willingness to invest in the future of our program.

Don truly embodies what it means to be a dedicated supporter. His generosity goes beyond financial giving and reflects a genuine care for the lives being impacted through mentoring. Because of partners like Don, we are able to continue showing up for youth and families, providing consistency, encouragement, and hope.

We are deeply thankful for his partnership and the many ways he continues to champion the mission of Save Our Youth.

THANK YOU, DON & JEDI BALANCING!



6TH ANNUAL
SAVE OUR YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT
2004

Celebrating Our Matches Through Shared Activities

Our recent "Great SOY Bake Off" was filled with joy, connection, and a whole lot of sweetness! Ten matches joined us, each bringing cookies, baked goods, or treats to share. For many, it was their very first dessert exchange, making the experience even more special.

Laughter and excitement filled the room as matches sampled each other's creations and bonded over their favorite desserts. The highlight of the event was our Match Challenge, where each pair worked together to build their own "birdhouse community." From creative designs to thoughtful teamwork, it was incredible to see each match collaborate, problem-solve, and bring their ideas to life.

Events like these create space for relationships to grow in fun and meaningful ways. Whether trying something new, sharing traditions, or working side by side, these moments help build the trust and connection that mentoring is all about.

We're so grateful for the matches who showed up and for our staff who joyfully host these kinds of events on the weekends. If you have an idea for a fun program event or would like to facilitate bringing an idea to life for our matches, please reach out to us at info@saveouryouth.org.

