

Guide to Mentoring Programs in Aiken County

Successful education of Aiken County's children is crucial to the future vitality, economy, and overall well-being of our community. It affects us all. Unfortunately, many of our students drop out before graduating. In today's world, the lack of a high school diploma is a handicap that can be ill afforded. A key approach to improving this situation is through volunteer *mentors*. A mentor meets with a student once a week for at least an hour for one-on-one conversation.

Aiken County public schools identify elementary and middle school students who need help, who are in danger of dropping out of the system, and who may benefit from a mentor relationship. A mentor can be a role model. Often a mentor may be a person that a child otherwise might never meet. Mentors converse in an informal, friendly environment and seek to build self-esteem and encourage participation in class. Often students can't relate education to future success in life or have negatives in their lives that may hinder academic success. By talking, by listening, by relating, by just showing up when they say they will, mentors simply provide the opportunity to see the world differently. The opportunity is surely there to "touch a life."

What does it take to be a mentor? Dependability, patience, flexibility, and desire to contribute to a young person's success in life -- a young person you may never ever meet otherwise. (This is truly "*Service above Self*".) You don't need special training or skills. You don't send money. You simply share your experiences in life and you listen. Every member of our club can be a mentor. There is no cost, there are no meetings to go to, there is simply an hour of your time each week spent with a young person.

Please review this guide. It provides information on existing programs as well as schools who recognize the need for mentors. **Touch a Life Committe**

Elementary Schools

Aiken Elementary, 2050 Pine Log Rd., Aiken, SC 29803, **Principal:** Rebecca Koelker, Phone: (803) 641-2740 **Mentoring Program:** Mentors would be welcomed. We will launch a new program this year (2013-2014) to encourage fathers, uncles, and grandfathers to participate in the school day; as mentors and role models and as an academic support system for struggling students. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor: Keisha Uhle, Phone: (803) 641-2740

Belvedere Elementary, 201 Rhomboid Place Belvedere, SC 29841 **Principal:** Alison Churm Phone: (803) 442-6330 **Mentoring Program:** Foster Grandparents Program through the Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Commission, Inc. **Contact Person:** Juliana Johnson or Kimmeria Lee, Phone: (803) 442-6330

Byrd Elementary 1225 Weldon Way, Graniteville, SC 29829 **Principal:** J. Russell Gunter: Phone: (803) 663-4320 **Mentoring Program:** No formal program; mentors would be welcome. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor, Danielle Cox: Phone: (803) 663-4320

Chukker Creek Elementary 1830 Chukker Creek Rd., Aiken, SC 29803 **Principal:** Amy Gregory Phone: (803) 641-2474 **Mentoring Program:** No formal mentoring program. Mentors would be welcomed **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor Miranda Whitson, Phone: (803) 641-2474

Clearwater Elementary 4552 Augusta Rd., Beech Island, SC 29842 **Principal:** Trey Laube **Phone:** (803) 593-7240 **Mentoring Program:** No formal program currently; has had one in the past and recognizes a need. **Contact Person:** Assistant Principal Meredith Noland Phone: (803) 593-7240

East Aiken School of the Arts, 223 Old Wagener Rd. Aiken, SC 29801 **Principal:** Lisa Fallaw: Phone: (803) 641-2450 **Mentoring Program:** We will continue our mentoring program with USCA basketball coaches and players during the 2013-2014 school year. The coaches and players will be mentoring a group of 4th and 5th grade boys. They will be focusing on behavior and academic issues. We will also start a literacy tutoring/mentoring program with the Aiken Rotary Club called Rotary Readers. Struggling readers in the 4th and 5th grade will be the targeted population for this program. We have many students who would benefit from a mentor. Mentors from Rotary or other community groups are needed and welcomed. **Contact Person:** Meredith Cassels Phone: (803) 641- 2450

Gloverville Elementary 114 Gloria Rush Circle, PO Box 220, Gloverville, SC 29828 **Principal:** Michelle Padgett: Phone: (803) 593-7280 **Mentoring Program:** Gloverville is developing a mentoring program for 4th and 5th graders. Mentors are welcomed and needed for both boys and girls. Mentors are asked to make a once a month commitment to visit the student they are mentoring and to attend a onetime training. We also use the Foster Grandparents Program through the Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action

Commission, Inc **Contact Person:** Guidance
Counselor, Katrina Brooks, Phone: (803) 593-7280

Greendale Elementary 505 S. Boundary Ave. New
Ellenton, SC 29809 **Principal:** Sonya Colvin Phone:
(803) 652-8170 **Mentoring Program:** Greendale has
had an active mentoring program since 2003 **Contact
Person** Counselor Debra McDermott Phone: (803)
652-8170

Hammond Hill Elementary 901 W. Woodlawn
Avenue, North Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** Janet
Vaughan Phone: (803) 442-6170 **Mentoring
Program:** AMP (Athlete Mentoring Program) –North
Augusta High School athletes serve as mentors to HHE
5th grade students. The athletes will keep a journal
documenting the activities and lessons that are
completed with the students. These mentors will help
encourage and motivate students to meet their MAP
goals and multiplication goals for the year. **Contact
Person:** Guidance Counselor Cathy Martin, (803) 442-
6170

Jefferson Elementary 170 Flint Drive, Warrentville, SC
29851 **Principal:** Becky Wilson: Phone: (803) 593-
7180 **Mentoring Program:** Foster Grandparents. No
formal mentors program. Mentors would be welcome
Contact Person: Guidance: Erika Smith Phone: (803)
593-7180

J.D. Lever Elementary 2404 Columbia Hwy Aiken, SC
29801 **Principal:** Cathy Ellis Phone: (803) 641-2760
Mentoring Program: We utilize USC-Aiken students
from the Professional Development School (PDS)

housed on our campus to assist students who are having difficulty academically. The college students also reach out to the students a “Big Brothers and Sisters”, mentoring them in other areas of their lives.

Contact Persons: Guidance Counselor Renee Harper, Phone: (803) 641-2760

Millbrook Elementary 255 E. Pine Log Rd. Aiken, SC 29803 **Principal:** Denise Huff Phone: (803) 641-2580

Mentoring Program: We are starting a mentoring partnership with USC Aiken athletes this school year. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor Chastity McDaniel, Phone: 641-2580

Mossy Creek Elementary 421 West Five Notch Rd. N. Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** Stephania Hammond Phone: (803) 442-6090

Mentoring Program: ‘Adopt a Turtle’ Mentoring Program. Teachers of 4th and 5th grades are asked to refer males and females they thought needed extra support, encouragement and guidance to assist them in overcoming barriers to academic achievement. Upon their referrals, the parent(s) will be sent letters of permission. Each student will be paired with a mentor. The mentors are encouraged to meet the student and lunch schedules will be given for the mentor to have lunch with the student occasionally as well as establishing a rapport with the teacher(s) and parent(s). We strongly encourage that the mentor to be familiar with the student’s interests, special occasions (birthdays, achievements etc.). We will have a training in September for all new mentors. **Contact Persons:** Shari Hooper, Vicki Turner, and Vilencia Leslie, Phone: (803) 442-6090

North Aiken Elementary 100 Bears Rock Rd. Aiken, SC 29801 **Principal:** Elisa Sanders-Pee, Phone: (803) 641-2690 **Mentoring Program:** Mentors are welcome. We have 2 formal mentor programs: Young Men of Distinction Program for males and The Girls Circle for females. Last year we provided mentors for 26 females and 25 males once a week. The mission of the program is to focus on academics, behavior, attendance, and career goals. We have many more students who would benefit. **Contact person:** Dr. Robert J. Johnson, Guidance Counselor (803) 641-2690

North Augusta Elementary 400 E. Spring Grove Ave. N. Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** Laurie Reese Phone: (803) 442-6280 **Mentoring Program:** We implement the Great Leaps Reading program. Great Leaps is a scripted reading fluency program. We offer training to our volunteers and then they are assigned a student. We have several students who would benefit from a mentor. **Contact Person:** Jean Taylor, School Counselor Phone: (803) 442-6280

Oakwood-Windsor Elementary 3773 Charleston Hwy Aiken, SC 29801 **Principal:** Debra McCord Phone: (803) 641-2560 **Mentoring Program:** No formal program. Mentors would be welcomed. **Contact Person:** Guidance: Jennifer Randall, Phone: (803) 641-2560

Redcliffe Elementary 22 Double Springs Rd. Aiken, SC 29803 **Principal:** Julie Revelle Phone: (803) 827-

3350 **Mentoring Program:** Redcliffe has an active mentoring program **Contact Person** Guidance counselor, Erica Williams Phone: (803) 827-3350

Warrenville Elementary 569 Howlandville Rd. Warrenville, SC 29851 **Principal:** Brad Watson, Phone: (803) 663-4270 **Mentoring Program:** No formal program. Mentors would be welcome. Volunteers from the Foster Grandparents Program mentor students in kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. The youth pastor of a local church mentors a select group of 4th and 5th grade males to assist them in overcoming academic, social and emotional barriers. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor, Thurmisha Brown Phone: (803) 663-427

Elementary and Middle Schools

Busbee-Corbett Elementary and Middle Busbee Campus, 20 A.L. Corbett Circle Wagener, SC 29164, A.L. Corbett Campus, 10 A.L. Corbett Circle Wagener, SC 29164 **Principal:** Dr. Laura Bacon, Phone: (803) 564-1054 **Mentoring Program:** No formal mentoring program. We see it as a need at Busbee Corbett and would gladly welcome any mentors. **Contact Person:** Tina Widener, Phone: (803) 564-1054

Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary/Middle 422Hazzard Circle, Ridge Spring, SC 29129 **Principal:** Callie A. Herlong Phone: (803) 685-2000 **Mentoring Program:** No **Description:** No formal mentoring program. We have a need for mentors and would

respond positively to inquiries. **Contact Person:**
Guidance Counselors: Kim Carges or Stephanie
Barlow, Phone: (803) 685-200

Middle Schools

Aiken Middle 101 Gator Lane Aiken, SC 29801
Principal: John Bradley, Phone: (803) 641-2570
Mentoring Program: No formal mentoring program.
Mentors would be welcomed **Contact Person**
Guidance: Rob Underwood Phone: (803) 641-2570

Jackson Middle 8217 Atomic Rd. Jackson, SC
29831 **Principal:** Jason Holt: Phone: (803) 279-3525
Mentoring Program: The program It is called "The
Connection". Jackson Middle School recognizes that
some students need additional guidance and support.
The mentor program will connect students with positive
role models who will assist and guide them through
their school experience and help them to deal with
everyday situations. Mentors are needed to help
motivate and encourage students to meet their goals.
Contact Person: Asst. Principal: Kathy B. Freeman
Phone: (803) 279-3525

Kennedy Middle 274 East Pine Log Rd. Aiken, SC
29803 **Principal:** Teresa Mitchem: Phone: (803) 641-
2470 **Mentoring Program:** No formal mentoring
program. We do not have mentors per se but do have
volunteer tutors who serve as role models and support
for children at our school. We have students in all three

grades who would benefit from mentors. **Contact Persons:** Paula Deen or Evelyn Guess Phone: (803) 641-2470

LBC Middle 29 Lions Trail, Warrentville, SC 29851
Principal: Brenda DeLoache Phone: (803) 593-7260
Mentoring Program: No formal mentoring program. However, we are hoping to develop a program this year. Mentors would be welcomed. Please contact the school if interested. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor Paula Winchester Phone: (803) 593-7260

Leavelle McCampbell Middle 82 Canal St. Graniteville, SC 29829 **Principal:** JohnnySpears: Phone: (803) 663-4300 **Mentoring Program:** Ladies Club and Gentlemen's Club. Student learn about goal setting, self-esteem, making good decisions, and etiquette. Mentors are welcomed **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor, Heather Haynes, Phone: (803) 663-4300

New Ellenton Middle 814 Main St. South, New Ellenton, SC 29809 **Principal:** Shunté Dugar Phone: (803) 652-8200 **Mentoring Program:** The program is called "Connections". The Connections Program is designed for students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades who are two or more grade levels behind. The mentor monitors the student's academic and personal goals. If a student completes the program successfully, he or she can move ahead as many as two years, 6-7th, 7-9th, or 8-9th. **Contact Person:** Guidance Counselor, Bridget Kearse, Phone: (803) 652-8200

North Augusta Middle: 725 Old Edgefield Road, North Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** Wendy Jacobs Phone: 803-442-6200 **Mentoring Program:** Mr. Tim Butler volunteers his time to coordinate the Men Being Accountable (MBA) mentoring group for North Augusta students. They meet periodically throughout the year for lunch and participate in other activities with their mentors outside of school. Over the past few years, these mentoring groups have helped change the lives of many students. **Contacts:** Tim Butler 803-442-9677 or 803-292-6168 or Susan Greer, School Guidance Counselor 803-442-6200

Paul Knox Middle 1804 Wells Rd. N. Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** Kyle Smith Phone: (803) 442-6300 **Mentoring Program:** No formal mentoring program. Mentors would be welcomed **Contact Person:** Christy Cosh Phone: (803) 442-6300

Schofield Middle 224 Kershaw Street, NE Aiken, SC 29801 **Principal:** Dr. Lloydette Young, Phone: (803) 641-2770 **Mentoring Program:** Yes Description: Our mentoring program uses teachers, administrators, USCA students and community stakeholders. **Contact Person:** Cindy Keating; Phone: (803) 641-2770

High Schools

There are seven high schools Aiken County. Mentoring opportunities exist in each but are specialized based on the needs of the students enrolled.

Aiken High 449 Rutland Dr. Aiken, SC 29801
Principal: Garen Cofer Phone: (803) 641-2500

Midland Valley High 227 Mustang Drive Graniteville, SC 29829 **Principal:** Carl White Phone: (803) 593-7100. Mentoring opportunities are offered through our Freshman Academy and peer mediation initiatives. The individuals involved in our mentoring program include community stakeholders, teachers, and college students. **Contact:** Elesha Ellison in guidance (803) 593-7104

North Augusta High 2000 Knobcone Ave. N. Augusta, SC 29841 **Principal:** John Murphy, Phone: (803) 442-6100, **Contact,** Assistant Principal, William Hudson, Phone: (803) 442-6100. We are currently working to expand a mentoring program with teachers to include community volunteers

Ridge Spring-Monetta High 10 J.P. Kneece Dr. Monetta, SC 29105 **Principal:** Warren Wintrode Phone: (803) 685-2100

Silver Bluff High 64 DeSoto Dr. Aiken, SC 29803
Principal: Collette Johnson, Phone: (803) 652-8100, If interested in volunteering, contact Gail Hicks, Guidance Counselor. Phone: (803) 652-8100

South Aiken High 232 East Pine Log Rd. Aiken, SC 29803 **Principal:** Bryan Skipper, Phone: (803) 641-2600, Mentoring opportunities are offered through our advisory program (all grades), 9th grade males program, and peer mediation. **Contact:** Linda Hook in guidance (803) 641-2600

Wagener-Salley High 272 Main St. S.,Wagener, SC 29164 **Principal:** Pat Keating Phone: (803) 564-1100
Contacts: James Arnold and Mary Mason, Phone: (803) 564-1100

Charter Schools

Aiken Performing Arts Academy 130 Avery Lane, Aiken, SC 29803 **Principal:** Keisha Lloyd Kennedy
Phone: (803) 644-4824

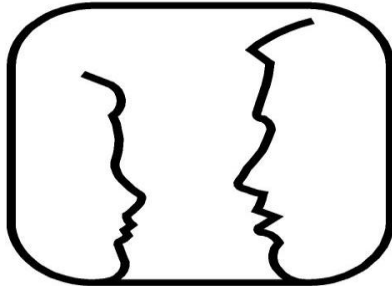
Midland Valley Preparatory Charter 2432 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Graniteville, SC 29829 Phone: (803) 51028

The Gear

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MENTORING



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Rotary Club of Aiken