

Statistics to Validate Mentoring

Everyone has had a mentor – that woman/man whose children were grown and whose advise/tips/compassionate ear helped you cope when yours were young, that senior person at the office who helped you navigate a career path, the older student who took you under his/her wing to get you through school...the list goes on and on. Mentors help youth to overcome the challenges that hinder success in life. Youth that have limited access to pro-social opportunities are more likely to engage in destructive behaviors. Social conditions directly impacted by mentors include:

Poverty: 64% of children living within the city limits of Baton Rouge live in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Mentors provide youth with experiences outside of their immediate communities thus giving them goals to strive for.

Crime: Our city has the highest crime rate per capita in Louisiana and it can be estimated that 2,124 children in our community has a parent that is incarcerated in state or federal prison.

Mentoring can address risk factors that promote academic success and positive youth development to break the cycle of crime.

Broken Homes.: Over 30% of Baton Rouge youth come from single-parent households. According to the Department of Labor, youth from single-parent homes are less likely to be employed than youth with married parents.

Mentors help provide youth with extra support that will lead to better decision making.

Academic Failure: Louisiana Dept. of Education ranked the East Baton Rouge Parish School District in the bottom third out of 66 districts in the state.

Mentors provide additional help with academic skills that can mean the difference between a youth failing or passing.

The Big Buddy Program seeks to match caring adult role models with youth in need of a special friend. Mentors/Big Buddies can guide youth in good decision-making and give them a sense of direction and purpose for their futures. Participation in positive school and community activities helps provide protection for youth against the many negative factors that surround them daily.

