"I’m no hero. I just want to help young people be able to reach their own unique potential. That motivates me to be a mentor.” – Mentor volunteer

Help Change Lives

Do you remember a time when you tried to complete a project— or tried to make a sports team or the school play? Remember when you first tried to find a job? What if someone had been by your side, cheering you on, supporting you? What if that person had the experience to help you navigate the obstacles you faced?

Imagine you’re a young adult preparing to transition from a familiar school campus to the unknown world beyond high school. Sometimes all you need is that ONE person who believes in you.

Many promising students step away from their education because they fear they cannot navigate the journey alone. When facing challenges, many students don’t know where to turn for help.

At the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, we believe that all children deserve to reach their full potential. Will you join us?
Why Students Appreciate Mentors

Trustworthy, non-judgmental, encouraging, knowledgeable and committed to a supportive, enduring relationship — these traits mean so much to students who are balancing school and planning for their futures while holding down jobs and facing challenges at home. Students who request mentors come from various backgrounds and family structures, but they all are looking for a trusted advisor willing to help.

Student Description and Expectations

- Be a rising junior or senior at a Sarasota County high school
- Share your plans to pursue postsecondary* education
- Attend and participate in workshops and meetings
- Engage in a financial literacy workshop
- Attend school regularly (no more than four absences per quarter)
- Stay drug and crime free
- Exhibit good behavior in and out of school

Why Mentor?

“Having a mentor made all the difference.”

― First-year university student

*Postsecondary refers to post-high school education, including two-year and higher college degrees and/or workforce relevant industry and professional certifications from technical colleges and military service.

“"To whom much is given, much is required." Mentoring is a joyful duty, a purpose, an opportunity to share hard-earned life experience.

Caring mentors become members of a student support network and augment the work of the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, which provides a professional organization and experience to help student-mentor relationships flourish.

“I was excited and scared after I got accepted to a large university. My parents hadn’t been to college, and I had many questions and concerns — so I jumped at a chance to have a mentor. My mentor’s advice and support have made all the difference.”

― First-year university student
Research shows that only 11% of low-income, first-generation college students will earn a degree within six years of enrolling, compared to 55% of their more advantaged peers*.

First-generation-in-college students are more at risk than those whose parents have first-hand experience in navigating the postsecondary education process. The risk is exacerbated for students from low-income families.

Mentoring makes a difference. The National Mentoring Partnership found that at-risk young adults who met regularly with trusted mentors were 55% more likely to enroll in postsecondary education and 130% more likely to grow into leadership positions.

Motivated young people, caring adults and benevolent funding partners who want to make a difference—to matter—will find an exceptional opportunity through this unique Mentoring Program.

*Research conducted by The Postsecondary National Policy Institute.

“Here I am, able to **invest** in the Education Foundation of Sarasota County and **help kids** like him. Why wouldn’t everybody join me in making that investment?“

— Philanthropist and CEO
to the Community
“I believe in making sound investments in future human potential. I believe that helping students to improve their circumstances strengthens our community. Supporting the Education Foundation of Sarasota County is a no-brainer.”

to the Economy
Lost human potential, with its devastating generational impacts, is not the only negative effect on a community’s economy. A 2015 study noted by Mentoring.org found “that human potential lost as a result of the educational achievement gap is the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession.”
Mentoring helps prepare young people for college and careers. It helps narrow the gap and develop the future workplace talent pipeline.

to the Individual
The consistent support system, reliable availability, guidance and dedication throughout the journey make a difference that lasts a lifetime. Additional resources provided for low-income, at-risk students include financial scholarships for postsecondary education and emergency assistance funds for life events.

Your donation is an investment in student success. Give Today!
EdFoundationSRQ.org | 941.927.0965
1960 Landings Blvd. Suite 120, Sarasota, FL 34231

Mentoring Matters

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