



## Mentor PLUS (People Learning and Uniting in Service)

The Mentor PLUS project is a partnership of Alma College and Alma Public Schools. It provides Alma College students, faculty, staff, and alumni an opportunity to be engaged with disadvantaged youth and build connections to the community.

Mentor PLUS is a new program being tailored to specifically meet the mentoring, academic, recreation and enrichment needs of middle school and high school disadvantaged youth. Students who are struggling academically will attend the after school program to receive tutoring assistance from volunteers and staff. Enrichments and recreation activities will also be offered during the after school hours.

### **Mentor Program Descriptions**

A main component of the project is to establish Mentoring Programs to assist disadvantaged youth. The program will meet the Michigan Quality Program Standards for Youth Mentoring. On-going relationships will be developed with mentors meeting once a week for at least one hour with their mentee. The mentoring model used will be one-to-one or one mentor to four mentees.

#### After School Mentoring Program

Mentors and Mentees will meet at either the middle school or high school. They will meet individually to work on goal setting skill building strategies. In addition, the mentor pairs will be able to select to participate in any of the enrichment programs offered on-site: open gym, fitness room (weight room), arts and crafts, board games, cooking lab, computer lab, homework help room and special activities of the day. Mentors will assist with academic plans, social skill development, goal setting, and career exploration.

#### Paw Print Designs -- a student run business

The mentor and mentee will volunteer to work at the school store at least once per week. They will be involved with learning how to run a business and will be part of the management team. All proceeds generated will help with sustainability.

#### Girls Empowerment

The Mentor will utilize resources from Girl Press which is dedicated to helping girls become strong, self-reliant and ready for life's adventures. A Girls on the Run program is being explored.

#### Masonic Pathways – International Volunteer mentoring

Mentors and Mentees will meet at Masonic Pathways and be matched with at least one resident to conduct friendly visiting. They will engage in recreational activities and offer assistance to enhance the resident's living experience.

#### Dog Tales

Mentors and Mentees will meet once a month at the Red Bird Pet Food Store with a therapeutic dog and trainer. The other weeks, mentoring will occur at the After School Mentoring Program.

### **PLUS (People Learning and Uniting in Service)**

Recognizing that all people will not be able to make the commitment of a mentoring relationship, the PLUS portion of the program was formulated. It encourages college students, faculty, and staff, and alumni to volunteer in the program by offering a variety of service opportunities that fit the needs of the program. People can select to serve as academic assistants, enrichment leaders, recreation leaders, environmental researchers, grant writers, web-page designers, data collectors, evaluation assistants, event chaperones, public relations assistants, computer specialists, fund development organizers and more. These volunteer positions are critical to the success of the program and will help with long term sustainability. Volunteer opportunities can also be tied to classroom service learning projects to assist disadvantaged youth.