

MENTORING FOR 50 YEARS!

Windsor County Mentors

HELPING YOUTH THRIVE



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Another wonderful year of mentoring!

We've had another great year – with lots of new mentor/mentee matches and loads of fun!

As we set out on our second half century, Windsor County Mentors has implemented a new strategic plan which calls for us to continue our recent trend of modest growth over the next few years. We are not seeking growth for growth's sake; we have identified additional areas where we can provide our high-quality mentoring services to children who can benefit from having a trusted adult in their lives.

We continue to see growing demand for mentoring on the New Hampshire side of the river and are working to recruit new mentors all the time. Our school programs, in particular, are very popular in NH and are going gangbusters.

This January our very own Nathan Gardner, coordinator for our northern towns, was selected as one of 10 National Mentoring Summit Scholars nationwide chosen to attend the national Mentoring Summit in Washington, D.C.. The Scholar designation recognizes young mentoring professionals around the country who are making contributions to our industry.

On the money side, as everyone is most likely aware, nonprofit funding has become more difficult this past year, with federal dollars and resources disappearing without notice or explanation. Luckily, WCM has managed to maintain our budget and we continue to have the wherewithal to serve all corners of our service areas.



This year we successfully completed our third three-year National Quality Mentoring System appraisal by Mentor NMP and Mentor Vermont. This process examines every aspect of our organization to insure we are following best practices. We passed this newly-expanded review with flying colors once again.

We continue to create and support mentoring matches in all 24 towns in Windsor County, Vermont as well as adding new mentorships in New Hampshire, both in our community and school programs throughout Sullivan County, New Hampshire, as well as in our now thriving school programs in the Kearsarge Regional School District, and surrounding areas, including in parts of Merrimack County, New Hampshire.

- Matthew C. Garcia, Executive Director

From the President

Fifty-one years ago, in 1974, Richard Nixon resigned from serving as U.S. President. Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record (a record since broken by only one player). Young Frankenstein debuted in movie theatres. And, in that year, a group of local residents set out to reduce juvenile delinquency. For this, they set up Windsor County Mentors, to provide positive examples and leadership for local youth.

We currently have more than 50 mentee/mentor pairings. Research shows that mentees experience less youth violence; improvements in their mental health and academic performance; have a reduced risk of opioid and other substance use; and, an enhanced sense of belonging and personal identity. So valuable.

Beyond mentees, there are others who benefit. First, there are our caring adult mentors. Mentoring provides satisfaction and a sense of well-being and giving to our volunteers who meet regularly with their mentees and have a front seat view of their impact.

Families and friends of mentees also benefit. As do peers, teachers and employers. Benefits extend to the towns where our mentees live and raise their own families. Helping our mentees thrive in our communities helps our communities thrive.

Windsor County Mentors cannot function in a silo. Rather, it achieves its mission through a talented Executive Director and staff, who work tirelessly to create and support our school and community-based mentoring relationships. We are proud that one of our regional coordinators was recognized nationally by way of a scholarship for this past year's National Mentoring Summit.

We also have a committed Board and Advisory Council, who contribute their time, talents, experiences and ideas in shaping our program. As a priority this year, we created our next set of Strategic Goals. These goals focus on expansion of our mentoring program, staff enrichment, and sustainability. On a regular basis, we evaluate objectively our progress in meeting these goals.

Finally, Windsor County Mentors would be nowhere without the generous support of our donors. Our funding comes exclusively from grants and individuals. We are so very grateful to you, All.

Big news makes the news media. Little news, like Windsor County Mentors launching in 1974, not always. Yet, this latter event has had an extraordinary impact on the lives of over 2000 mentees – plus their mentors, families, teachers, peers, employers, and communities. Ordinary youth supported by ordinary caring adults. I am incredibly thankful for Windsor County Mentors and to you, our backers. As we look forward, a bright future awaits and my hope is that you continue to help our youth thrive in their homes, school and communities where they live, learn and work. Thank you.

- Rite Gylys, Board President

Future Goals

- Continued expansion of services, mostly in NH
- Increasing our financial strength
- Fine-tuning our processes and procedures to insure we remain a National Quality Mentoring System



**Thank You to
All of Our Donors
and Volunteers!**



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FOR 50 YEARS!**



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