THE MENTORING PARTNERSHIP OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

January Mentoring Leaders' Network Meeting
Match Support Recap

"Woohoo…you've made a mentor/mentee match! Now what?"

We all know the importance of matching; however, it is oftentimes easy to overlook ongoing support for mentors and mentees once they've been matched. Match support is a critical component to the success and effectiveness of the mentor/mentee relationship. It is important to check in with both the mentor and mentee to hear how both parties feel about the match and how it is progressing.

The Art of Checking In

- The key to successful match support? **Consistency, consistency, consistency.** Make regular check-ins a part of your program's match support process so they become a **standardized activity** for all volunteers. Supporting a match increases its chances of success. And developing a regular schedule will keep you and your program organized.

- **Frequency** of these check-ins depends on the structure of your program and what you feel comfortable with. But don't be afraid to vary the lengths of time. For example, have monthly check-ins for the first six months of a mentor/mentee relationship. Then scale back to once every other month.

- Again, depending on the structure of your program, you may find that **in-person meetings** work best. However, don't underestimate the power of a **phone check-in**. These are oftentimes more convenient for mentors who balance work and home life with their volunteer activities.

- As part of these regular check-ins, don't forget to make sure your volunteers are in the know on the latest **training opportunities**. The Mentoring Partnership offers regular trainings on topics covering everything from cultural differences to stress in adolescence. These trainings can be valuable tools to enrich mentor/mentee relationships.

Interview Questions for Mentors and Mentees

- Pre-Interview Questions – Availability, Site Preference, Health Issues, Criminal Record
- Knowledge of the Program – What they know about being a mentor and why they want to do it
- Educational/Occupational Information
- Family Relationships
- Current Relationships/Friends
- Leisure Time/Drug & Alcohol Use
- Experience with Children
- Match Relationship
- Qualities of past mentors
- Potential Challenges in Match Relationship
- Comfort level with different types of children
- Match Preferences
- Gender, personality, interests