

You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be there.

Mission

To enrich the lives of Pueblo middle school students by providing opportunities to build relationships with nurturing adults who empower and encourage them through one-to-one mentoring.

Vision

That all Pueblo middle school students have access to nurturing mentors who help them develop into confident, responsible, and positive members of our community.



Program overview

Since 2012, United Way of Pueblo County's Middle School Mentoring Program has been connecting positive and caring adults with middle schoolers in our community. Through weekly communication, mentors help mentees cultivate character and strength by fostering relationships centered on trust, hope, and growth.

The program focuses on engaging youth in an in-person setting, with occasional remote options. We continue to work closely with Pueblo School District 60 and Pueblo County School District 70 to ensure the safety and well-being of both mentors and mentees.

A word from past program participants:

"I was able to trust my mentor with many things and she always gave amazing advice. She definitely had a huge impact on who I've become."

-Program mentee

"I strongly suggest for those that can mentor, I suggest you do it. It definitely changes kids' lives."

-Mentee parent

"This has been such an amazing experience and I am so thankful for United Way and the opportunities to our youth!" -Program mentor



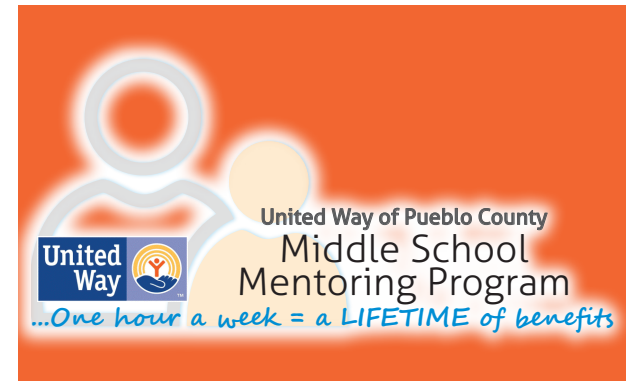
For more information about the program and how to get involved:

719-225-8580, option 1

www.pueblounitedway.org/mentor

United Way of Pueblo County 

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Who are the MENTORS?

Think you have nothing to provide to help a youth in our community? Think again! All that is needed is a commitment to be there for one hour per week!

YOU can be a great mentor!

Our mentors are:

- At least 21 years of age
- Free of a criminal history/record
- Committed to a minimum of one school year and a maximum of three until student completes middle school
- Comfortable with technology
- Committed to weekly connections with a mentee, in-person at the school (primarily) or remotely (occasionally)
- Good listeners and attentive to the needs of the mentee
- Willing to learn and grow



Mentor process

All mentors go through a screening, training, and selection process that includes the following steps:

1. Submit application and references at: www.pueblounitedway.org/mentor
2. Attend interview with UWPC staff
3. Complete background check and fingerprinting
4. Attend school interview
5. Attend 2-hr New Mentor Orientation



Supporting the Mentor-Mentee Relationship

All mentors receive ongoing support and guidance from the UWPC staff, school staff, and school liaison.

At least two mentor development trainings are held during the year for ongoing education.

Up to two relationship building field trips are scheduled during the school year with an optional trip during the summer, as permitted by current health and safety guidelines.

Diversity, equity & inclusion

Mentors are positioned to frame the mindset of our younger generation and make a substantial impact on the course of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community and our country.

We suggest mentors take inventory of their knowledge and assess where personal learning gaps exist regarding race, ethnicity, and cultural norms. To that end, we provide equity resources and training opportunities for mentors while enrolled in the program.

Who are the MENTEES?

Mentees are middle school students who can thrive and be successful with a little extra help and support from an adult role model outside of the classroom setting.

Mentees are:

- Enrolled in participating middle schools in Pueblo School District 60 or Pueblo County School District 70
- Referred to program by school staff who collaborate with UWPC staff to make compatible mentor-mentee matches

Progress measurement

The effect of a student having a mentor in their lives is seen in multiple aspects—many may be quantitative, such as the reduction in absenteeism and increased academic success, while other impacts may be qualitative as is the case in higher confidence levels and self-esteem, improved attitudes toward attending school, and effective decision making.

The United Way of Pueblo County Middle School Mentoring Program utilizes the following progress indicators:

- Attendance
- Academic achievement/grades
- Behavior
- Engagement

Success!

Over 75% of program participants have shown significant improvements in the progress indicator areas.