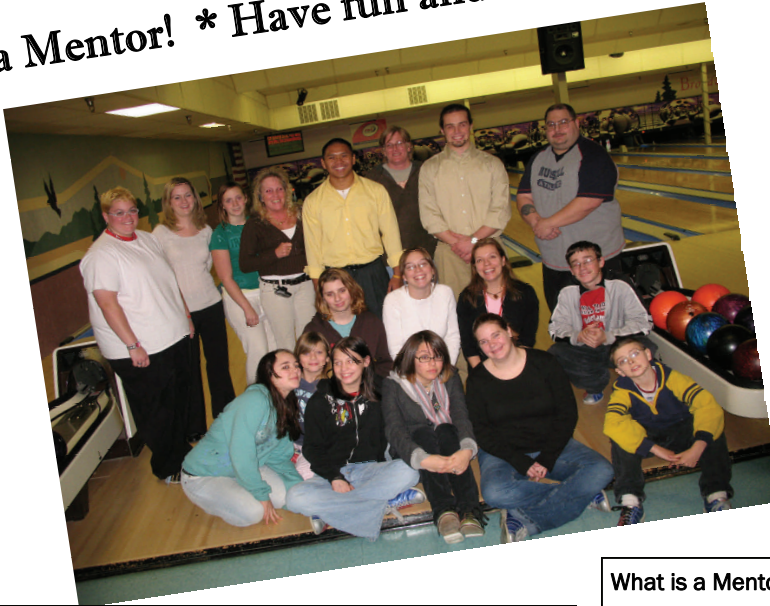


# Washington County Building Bridges Mentoring Program

**Be a Mentor! \* Have fun and make a difference!**



## The Program

Managed by the Youth Bureau with cooperation of Social Services.

**Goal:** Nurture the personal growth of a Washington county youth (ages 7-17) by providing a mentor for guidance, encouragement and friendship of a caring, non-judgmental adult.

Utilize research and strategies of the 40 Developmental Assets from the Search Institute, [www..search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

### Research shows mentoring successfully:

- Increases the self-esteem of young people
- Increases student academic success
- Increases positive social interaction by youth
- Reduces the risk that young people will use illegal drugs
- Reduces the risk that youth will begin using alcohol

### What is a Mentor?

A mentor is someone who, along with parents, provides young people with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive example. Mentors are good listeners, people who care and people who want to help young people bring out their strengths.

### What does a Mentor do?

A mentor helps connect children and youth with resources, safe places and structured activities. Mentors provide a positive role model.

### Who needs a Mentor?

All children can benefit from positive role models, however many children do not have any in their lives and need someone like you! Search Institute's studies show only 27% of youth have a positive, adult role model.

### How much time is required?

Mentors and mentees meet 2-4 hours a week for one year. This provides time to develop a consistent, positive, healthy relationship.

