

Interested in becoming a mentor?

Do you reside in the metropolitan Atlanta area?

Are you at least 22 years old, *

- interested in working with young people
- willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures
- willing to complete the application and screening process?

Are you dependable and consistent in meeting time commitments?

Are you willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities?

Do you have access to an automobile, auto insurance, and a good driving record, ** and have a clean criminal history?

Will you attend mentor training sessions as prescribed,

- commit to not using of illicit drugs
- commit to using alcohol or controlled substances in an appropriate manner

Not currently in treatment for substance abuse and have a non-addictive period of at least five years

Not currently in treatment for a mental disorder or hospitalized for such in the past three years

* College Students and peer to peer mentors may be eligible to be a mentor at the age of 18.

** A defensive Driving Course may be required.

Do you know of a potential Mentee?

- Are they 12-18 years old, currently incarcerated or have recently been released from a Cobb County, GA youth detention facility?

- Do they currently reside in Cobb County
Are they currently under treatment for a mental illness, addictive disease or both?

Mentor Applications are available online at:

www.biycobb.org

For additional information please

Email: biy@cobbsb.com

Y.O.U.T.H.

(Youth Offenders Utilizing Transitional Services for a Healthy Recovery)



Believe In Y.O.U.T.H.

Next Steps

1650 County Services Parkway

Marietta, GA 30060

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Believe in Y.O.U.T.H.

MENTOR PROGRAM

“Next Steps” Child & Adolescent Services
Cobb County Community Services Board



“creating vision through mentoring”



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The Believe in Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Offenders Utilizing Transitional Services for a Healthy Recovery) Mentoring Program matches incarcerated, Cobb County, GA youth, ages 12-18, with substance abuse, and/or mental illness with adult mentors from the metropolitan Atlanta area.

MISSION

“The mission of the Believe in Y.O.U.T.H. Mentorship Program is to assist with the re-entry of at risk youth with mental health or substance abuse issues from detention to the community. By engaging in supportive and sustainable relationships, youth will improve positive decision making skills and reduce re-offending.”



PROGRAM

The Believe in Y.O.U.T.H. Mentorship Program is a three year initiative sponsored by Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) "Second Chance Grants" program. The Believe in Y.O.U.T.H. Mentorship Program is a collaboration between the (1) Cobb County Juvenile Courts and (2) The Cobb County Community Services Board. Several other collaborations (i.e. youth oriented nonprofit organizations, youth social services program, youth athletic associations) will be developed to maximize the positive impact of this initiative.



MENTEES

Youth participants (Mentees) in the program are referred from various juvenile detentions centers in the Cobb County, GA area. Participants must also be engaged in some type of therapeutic program (public or private) that will address their addictive disease and/or mental illness while participating in the mentorship program.



MENTORS

Mentors in the program are recruited from various public, private, or faith based organizations. Mentors are thoroughly vetted using national criminal and sex offender registers. They are also trained with "best practices" for interacting with youth with various backgrounds. Mentors will not have any counseling, clinical, or therapeutic requirements during the mentoring program. The minimum time commitment for mentoring is six months. Mentors participate in one on one activities with youth at least twice per month for two hours each. Mentors also communicate with Mentees using various forms of electronic communications devices (cell phones, texting, social network sites) throughout the month.



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps Child and Adolescent Services is a program of the Cobb and Douglas Community Services Boards, an agency accredited by CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Next Steps provides a comprehensive array of mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents in both Cobb and Douglas counties. The services of Next Steps are child centered and family focused with an emphasis on individualized and accessible treatment for young people and their families.

PARTNERS

Cobb County Community Services Board

Cobb County Juvenile Court

