

Become a Mentor

Society has painted a very unfair portrait of the youth in the foster care system. Our youth need and want what every other youth needs and wants – to be accepted, valued and loved.

The young men and women in Optimist's care are in need of adult "friends" to form positive, pro-social, caring relationships with. Mentoring can improve a youth's self esteem, school attendance, academic level and life choices. Our youth deserve the help and support you can provide.

All we ask is that you spend a minimum of eight hours per month for at least one year with the same youth. By becoming a mentor, you can make a tremendous difference in the life of at least one young person and that in and of itself is an incredibly rewarding experience. For more information on the program or to review the requirements to become a mentor, please see below.

How to Become a Mentor Guidelines & The Process

Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor. Since Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services works with minors who are wards of the court, we must do everything in our power to protect the safety of our residents. As a result, we have stringent requirements in place for Mentors.

In order to become a Mentor, you must:

- Be interviewed by the head of our Mentoring program
- Complete an application
- Pass a background/criminal clearance check, drug test and TB test
- Submit 4 personal references, one from a significant other or employer
- Have a valid CA Driver's License
- Submit your DMV record (last 10 years)
- Show proof of auto insurance
- Sign an Oath of Confidentiality
- Attend 4-hour Mentor training
- Attend Optimist's New Hire Orientation (Offered 8:30-3:00 last Wednesday of each month)

In addition, we ask that Mentors:

1. Commit to 1 year of mentoring (8 hrs per month)
2. Commit to completing training
3. Meet with Mentee with supervision initially
4. Document the time you are spending
5. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

We understand this may seem like a large undertaking but we assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible. We are here to help you and our kids need you! Once you become a Mentor, you won't look back. It's one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or to start the process of becoming a Mentor, please contact :

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