

Committed Partners for Youth / Fact Sheet

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Committed Partners for Youth

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Committed Partners for Youth (CPY):

CPY is a non-profit mentoring agency that has been servicing youth-in-need in the Eugene/Springfield community since 1991. We serve youth (ages 6-17) through our partnerships with Eugene/Springfield elementary schools, middle schools, social services agencies, and the juvenile court system.

Mission: Connecting youth to their community through mentors who inspire the development of personal identity, healthy relationships, and meaningful opportunities.

CPY operates mentoring programs which are designed to inspire youth to form pro-social friendships, skills, and talents. These unique programs also foster positive change in youth's lives thorough goal-setting, self discipline and skill development in the areas of athletic, outdoor, artistic, academic and vocational pursuits. Youth are matched with caring volunteer adults (mentors) who are trained to focus on positive reinforcement, trust-building and the achievement of goals by engaging youth in one-on-one and group activities in the community.

CPY's 4 Mentoring Programs:

PATHFINDERS – This is the hallmark CPY program upon which the agency was founded. Mentors and at-risk middle school students are matched in January. Shortly afterwards, mentor youth pairs participate together in an energizing bonding retreat. These are followed by monthly Group Gatherings during the school year that foster positive life skill development through supportive group experiences.

BOLDER OPTIONS – A running program where mentors foster positive changes in the lives of adolescents through goal setting, self-discipline and athletic skill development.

TRUE FRIENDS – Targets children between the ages of 6-17 who have at least one parent or primary caregiver currently incarcerated within the criminal justice system. Mentors and youth enjoy a one-on-one relationship, complimented by group activities and limited family/caregiver services.

Improvement in CPY Youth:

Our own evaluative research has shown that mentored youth:

- ◆ 65% Decrease their drug and alcohol use
- ◆ 58% Increase their school attendance
- ◆ 52% Increase their sense of self-worth in establishing new relationships
- ◆ 58% Avoided use of guns and knives
- ◆ 52% Increase their trust in parental relationships
- ◆ 72% of CPY youth in the juvenile court system have avoided committing new crimes

(Sources: CPY Program Evaluation for the office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention – 1999 & 2002 Lane County Department of Youth Services)



Four Cornerstones:

Four cornerstones form the basis of each CPY mentoring relationship:

Commitment

Committed Partners programs are designed to inspire pro-social friendships, skills and talents, and to inspire youth with a strong sense of hope for their future. Mentors and youth agree to meet for between 10 - 15 hours per month for one full year.

Responsibility

The responsibilities of: planning with the mentors for outings, keeping appointments and agreements, choosing activities that remain within budgetary constraints, and participating in volunteer work for other community members and agencies, all help empower CPY youth to take responsibility for their personal relationships, as well as their role as valuable and proactive citizens in the community.

Possibility

Through community-based recreational, cultural, and educational activities, youth are exposed to a wide array of experiences that expand their awareness of life's possibilities. In developing their new friendships with caring adult volunteers, youth gain access to a variety of viewpoints and problem-solving skills that enhance their recognition of the existence of alternatives to those that may have limited them in the past.

Support

Mentors provide youth with a neutral outlet for communicating their hopes and needs. Partnerships with other agencies, individuals and businesses in the community provide potential fulfillment for educational, experiential and career related goals.

