

Inspire
Empower
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**A Non-Sectarian Program
for Single Parent Families**



WWW.MENTORING4KIDS.ORG

Mentoring 4 Kids

*A non-sectarian program
for single-parent families*

Program Overview

The **Mentoring 4 Kids** program at Alpert Jewish Family Service has helped many families since it was established in 1998.

- ◆ **M4K** is a **no-cost, non-sectarian** mentoring program.
- ◆ We serve children **ages 6-14** who are being raised in a single parent family due to the **loss or absence of a parent/guardian**. The program also provides mentors for children being raised by grandparents.
- ◆ We match children with volunteer mentors who provide **unconditional friendship** and support to help **fill the void** of the absent caregiver.
- ◆ Potential mentors are **carefully screened**.
- ◆ Children are **assessed for eligibility**.
- ◆ Throughout the match, **supervision and ongoing support** are provided to mentors and families.
- ◆ Together, the child and mentor share in a wide range of community-based activities while building a **long-lasting friendship**.

*“My child has access to a world
that prepares her for the future.”*

- Parent of Mentee



Benefits of Mentorship

As evidenced by **M4K** program outcomes, mentoring helps mitigate potential at-risk behaviors in children.

Research shows that mentoring:

- **Raises children’s self-esteem**
- **Increases academic performance**
- **Strengthens communication skills and family values**

“The encouragement, planned group activities and support truly enhance the program.” - M4K Mentor

Keys to M4K Success Rate

- ◆ **Annual surveys** are used to measure program goals and satisfaction.
- ◆ **Ongoing supervision, support and training** to volunteer mentors and families ensures longevity of the match.
- ◆ **Group outings** help to connect all the program participants leading to greater satisfaction with the program.

Mentoring 4 Kids

Make a difference. Be a Mentor!

A volunteer mentor is a **caring** person who shares a one-to-one friendship with a child of the same gender.

A mentor is a **positive role model** who offers guidance, support and encouragement.

Mentors gain an increased sense of **personal satisfaction**.

“My mentoring relationship is very fulfilling; I love knowing that I’m making a positive difference in my mentee’s life” - M4K Mentor

Criteria for Volunteer Mentors

- Mentors must be at least 25 years of age with a valid FL driver’s license and car.
- Mentors must be year-round FL residents.
- Mentors commit to seeing the child a minimum of twice a month for at least one year.

Screening Process for Mentors

- All mentors are required to pass a Tier-2 background screening.

Be A Mentor ...

Mentor Responsibilities

- Successfully complete orientation.
- Provide online monthly progress report.
- Participate in ongoing supervision with M4K program coordinator.
- Attend quarterly trainings and mentor network meetings.
- Provide fun, community-based activities.
- Attend group outings hosted by the M4K program.



*“Steve’s a really great guy and he’ll always be by my side.” - Sam
(pictured with his mentor Steve)*

What our mentors like best about M4K:

“Gaining and giving trust and respect to and from a mentee.”

“Watching the mentee have a good time and continuing to grow.”

“The ability to connect to a young person who might need my help in navigating life.”

“The opportunity to help someone.”

“Having an impact on a child who would have otherwise not experienced many of the things I have introduced him to.”

Mentoring 4 Kids

No-cost program for single-parent families

Criteria for Mentee Participants

- Children **ages 6-14** being raised in a single-parent home due to the **loss or absence of a parent/guardian**. The program also provides mentors for children being raised by grandparents.
- Child is in need of a **positive role model** to help fill the void of absent parent.
- Child must be **motivated** to have a mentor and be able to establish a relationship with a caring adult.
- Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Alpert JFS is an **accredited social service agency** and has specific criteria that a family must meet prior to being accepted into the M4K program.



- * *Children in foster care are not eligible, however, Alpert JFS will provide community resources.*
- * *Children with serious mental health or behavioral issues will be evaluated.*



Parent Responsibilities

- Encourage child to be a great friend to his/her mentor.
- Communicate with child's mentor to help coordinate outings.
- Complete online monthly progress report.
- Participate in supervision with M4K Program Director.

What our parents love about M4K

“I love that my children have another adult as their support but above all a role model to look up to.”

“The support of having another adult in my child’s life.”

“The graceful heartfelt approach they take toward the service they give.”

What our mentees like best about having a mentor

“To have a friend that I can trust.”

“I like that I have someone else to talk to and have fun with .”

“My mentor teaches me new things.”

“Having someone to talk to.”

Mentoring 4 Kids
is a program of
Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service.

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