

StandUp For Kids Mentoring Program

Mission

Provide mentoring and financial support to high school students in select Fulton County Schools who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless to enable them to remain in school and graduate.

Mentoring Program Overview: What is the need?

The barriers and challenges homeless and at-risk students face takes a drastic emotional, physical, and academic toll on their lives. Over 1,600 students were identified as being homeless in Fulton County Schools in the 2013-2014 school year. They live in hotels, are doubled up, couch surf with friends, are unaccompanied, or have kids of their own.

They experience fatigue, hopelessness, anger, and isolation, which diminishes concentration and can weaken initiative. The only time we are able to reach out to them is when they are at the one and only place that is constant in their life, their school. None of our students can afford to be taken out of classroom instruction, so we meet with them during their lunch period to provide the care, support and empowerment to strengthen their self-efficacy. The main goal is for students who are experiencing homelessness to receive the support and guidance needed to stay in school, graduate high school, and move towards self-sufficiency. Our students' social and life skills are often underdeveloped. As a program, we also strive to help our students in the following areas throughout the semester:

- Job Search/Career Readiness;
- Resume Building/Mock Interviews;
- Developing life skills (e.g. money management, leadership skills, etc.);
- Awareness/Assistance with post-secondary educational opportunities, and
- Assistance in connecting community resources (e.g. tutoring, medical, dental, etc.) is offered through a working collaboration between SUFK, the Homeless Liaison of Fulton County Schools, school social workers, and other community partners.

For kids who lack basic necessities, succeeding in school is about more than just academics. To aid in alleviating the financial strain that is created to meeting their basic needs, a financial stipend is awarded to students who meet the criteria. The stipend is \$100/month WalMart gift card per student and is used to purchase basic necessities. The stipend is based on academic achievements, students must maintain a C average or better in their classes, as well as, maintain good attendance. We also strongly encourage job preparation.



How can YOU help?

Become a Mentor!

Mentors hold consistent bi-weekly (2x month), one-on-one meetings with students. Emotional support is critical for a successful student/mentor relationship. Trust is needed first. Once trust is gained, mentors are able to explore family relationships, academics, attendance, and job skills. Everyone needs someone who cares about them in their lives...someone who will listen to them...

Donate Resources

We work for the community...with the community! Local fundraisers through restaurants and other community partners, not only, raises funds for our program, but most importantly, it raises awareness and EDUCATES about our invisible youth in our local community.

Sponsor a Student or a School

1 month student sponsorship = \$100

1 semester student sponsorship = \$500

1 year student sponsorship = \$1,000

Provide professional services (e.g. guest speakers, tutoring, pro bono legal, dental, etc.)

Our Students Need Your Help!

Because . . .

. . . One student needed warm clothing for the winter. . .

. . . One student had migraine headaches because she did not have the money to pay for an eye exam and purchase prescription eyewear. . .

. . . Another student needed a physical examination because of her poor health and low energy level. . .

. . . Another student lived in his car because he was unable to keep his job. . .

. . . Yet another had her utilities turned off during a very cold week this winter because her roommate lost her job, and they could not pay the bill . . .

. . . One student's parents returned to their native country and left their son to live with a friend. It didn't work out. . . .

. . . A pregnant female student was told by her family she couldn't live at home as she was a bad example to her siblings. . .