Funding Opportunities

Kansas Mentors Background Checks Grants
Next Due Date: February 28

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Charitable Contributions
The Nation continually strives to build relationships with neighboring communities in which we live and do business. Sponsorships are distributed four times a year. Next Due Date: March 1, 2013

Kansas Health Foundation Recognition Grants
This grant is targeted for organizations and agencies proposing meaningful and charitable projects that fit within the Foundation’s mission of improving the health of all Kansans. Applications due: March 15, 2013

BNSF Railway Foundation
The BNSF Railway Foundation will support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in communities served by BNSF. Applications accepted: On-going

Grants.gov
Serves as a single, comprehensive web site with information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs.

Fundsnet Services Online
Online collection of grants searchable by subject area.

Community Foundations
List of community foundations and contact information.

Kansas Mentoring Month Kicks off 2013

January not only marked the start of a fresh new year, but also an acknowledgement to some of the most important people in our lives—our mentors. The month of January is celebrated as National Mentoring Month (NMM), and on January 10th, Governor Sam Brownback proclaimed it Kansas Mentoring Month. Mentoring matches from YouthFriends Basehor Linwood, Kansas Mentors (KM) Advisory Council members, and Kansas Mentors and Kansas Volunteer Commission staff participated in the proclamation signing.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was celebrated across the state as “A Day on, not a Day Off!” Many partner programs participated and hosted Day of Service events to honor Dr. King’s legacy of service to others. Ford County Volunteer Center hosted an evening meal, entertainment and keynote address for over 400 people to celebrate diversity. RSVP of Saline County hosted a Sunday supper and Monday musings event for members of the Hispanic community to discuss community needs from their perspective. Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence hosted a canned food drive the week leading up to MLK Day. The food was donated to Just Food. In addition, they worked with youth to create MLK reflections and displayed them at community MLK Day celebrations. Roger Hill Volunteer Center, through United Way, participated in a Habitat for Humanity MLK Day house build. HandsOn Kansas State participated in a MLK Jr. Community Celebration and Candlelight Walk on K-State’s campus. They also hosted a large day of service volunteering in various community nonprofits across the city of Manhattan.

National Mentoring Month is a month full of celebration. It is a way for Kansas mentoring programs to celebrate the everyday people who are making a difference in the lives of our young people.

Kansas Mentors celebrates NMM by advocating for mentoring and recognizing the great work and efforts put forth by its 175 plus partners that work tirelessly everyday to ensure that every youth has access to a caring and quality role model.

What a great way to kick off 2013!
Something to think about......

Q: Did you know that Kansas Mentors offers FREE technical assistance to programs looking to become Gold Star Certified?

Kansas Mentors is deeply committed to safe and quality mentoring. Based on the latest mentoring policies, practices, experiences, and research, the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™ serves as the gold standard for mentoring. This is why Kansas Mentors and its Advisory Council, comprised of mentoring programs, created the Gold Star Program.

The Gold Star Program not only recognizes mentoring programs that meet or exceed these standards, but it also provides a framework in which KM can assist mentoring programs looking to improve and expand their practices.

To help programs achieve Gold Star status, KM offers free resources and technical assistance to programs looking to develop their programs.

If you are not a Gold Star Program but would like to become one, Kansas Mentors invites you to take the Gold Star Self-Assessment and then contact us for resources and assistance in areas you need to develop.

---

26,250 new mentors have been recruited since the Coaches’ Challenge began in 2008.

---

Partner Spotlight

Donnie Dempewolf (center) has been a YouthFriends mentor at Basehor-Linwood High School for five years. He has mentored sophomore Clark Briscoe (right) and James Blauvelt (left) since he began. During the fall of 2012, Dempewolf was named the ‘Top District Mentor’. “It’s a cool feeling to be an inspiration in their lives”, he said.

Dempewolf had his own YouthFriends mentor when he attended Santa Fe Trail High School near Carbondale, and when he moved to the area, he wanted to become a mentor. Both Blauvelt and Briscoe agree that the mentorship has helped them come out of their shells. They’ve taken steps on their own to branch out into new activities—Blauvelt with running and Briscoe with student council—that they probably wouldn’t have done otherwise.

“Having that constant support through high school is an important aspect”, Briscoe said. Meeting with Dempewolf provides something to look forward to and something to break up the week. “If the students are struggling, frustrated, or need help, they can count on their mentor”, said Tammy Potts, YouthFriends District Coordinator. “The cornerstone of YouthFriends is to provide a positive and supportive person to help students academically”, Potts said, “but often the mentor has more to teach than he or she realizes. They offer friendship, advice, and valuable insight from their own lives.”

-Taken from the Basehor Sentinel article, Sept. 2012

Dempewolf, Briscoe, and Blauvelt all attended the proclamation signing with Governor Brownback (pictured above) declaring January 2013 as “Kansas Mentoring Month.”

---

Snapshot of Mentoring in Kansas

Kansas Mentors is committed to providing every young Kansan access to a caring and quality mentor. During the fall of 2012, KM conducted a State of Mentoring Assessment in order to collect data and feedback from mentoring programs across the state. The outcomes of the Assessment provide a snapshot of what mentoring looks like throughout the state. In addition, they provide a road map for Kansas Mentors to follow when developing and delivering training resources to the field of mentoring. The aggregated data was compiled in a formal report that was distributed by email to all partner programs. Click on this link to view the report for mentoring programs and the report for the general public. Feel free to use these documents however you deem necessary.

---

2012 Coaches’ Challenge

Kansas recruits 4,385 new mentors

For the fifth year in a row, Kansas won the annual Coaches’ Challenge, recruiting more mentors that both Iowa and Nebraska combined! In total, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska recruited over 7,000 new mentors! Coach Snyder headed up team Kansas and Kansas State University hosted the Challenge promotional event during the Kansas University vs. Kansas State University football game on Saturday, October 6th, 2012. Mentoring programs across the state were given the opportunity to nominate “Outstanding” matches to attend the game and meet Coach Snyder.

Matches from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Flint Hills, and Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters attended the game.

---

In 2011, average Twitter communities grew by 81%*
Kansas Mentors Background Check Grants

In an effort to reduce a significant funding barrier that mentoring programs face when trying to recruit and match mentors with youth on their waiting lists, Kansas Mentors is excited to announce a grant opportunity for Gold Star programs to help reduce the costs of Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) criminal background checks. In 2012, VolunteerKansas graciously granted Kansas Mentors $100,000 to reimburse Gold Star mentoring programs in the state of Kansas conducting KBI background checks. This year, Kansas Mentors will be distributing $58,000 in background checks grants to qualifying programs.

The Kansas Mentors Gold Star program was developed in an effort to provide a safe and effective mentoring environment for the youth of Kansas. This program recognizes mentoring partners across the state who have committed to maintaining a basic set of standards to ensure a quality mentoring experience. Programs interested in becoming a Gold Star program, simply need to register and submit a self-assessment checklist along with supporting documentation.

Gold Star information and application and grant application materials can be found at www.kansasmentors.org. You may also contact Kansas Mentors at mentor@ksde.org or 785-368-6211.

Did you know?

The search Engine Google Chrome does not print the date on State and National Sex Offender Registry searches. Kansas Mentors suggests using other search engines when printing off volunteer results from these registries.

NEW Kansas Mentors Website

If you have bookmarked your favorite pages on www.kansasmentors.org you will need to update those addresses! You can still type in www.kansasmentors.org into your address bar and find us, as this is a “vanity address”. The true address is: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5166. Please feel free to post KM links to your own websites - just be sure it is the new address and not the old one.

Kansas Mentors Partner Spotlight

Kansas Mentors believes that mentoring programs in Kansas are some of the best out there! We want to showcase your programs and tell the world how AWESOME you are. Send us your stories-be it an amazing collaboration, a cool match activity, a new recruitment idea or an inspiring mentor/mentee story. You can also share your stories on Facebook and Twitter-we LOVE to share, repost and retweet!