



CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN (CYCP) REPORT CARD

ALEXANDRIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ENSURING EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS TODAY AND TOMORROW

JANUARY WAS...

National Mentorship Month

CYCP GOAL

All Children, Youth, and Families will have Positive Experiences

MENTORING SPOTLIGHT

Casa Chirilagua is a faith-based, non-profit organization in the Chirilagua neighborhood. Casa Chirilagua's Mentoring Program matches a student from the Chirilagua neighborhood with a mentor and together they engage in activities that center relationship building, develop academic, social and emotional skills, and improve the student's overall well-being. It's this very Program that connected Axel with his mentor, Jesse, over 10 years ago.



Pictured: Axel (left) with mentor Jesse (right) at the US Botanic Garden; circa 2012.



Pictured: Jesse (left) and Axel (right) today

Over the last 10+ years, they have had a meaningful impact on each other's

lives. They have spent countless hours fishing, hiking mountains, visiting museums, and doing homework in the library. They have also supported one another through many of life's transitions. Throughout their time together, they have talked a lot about the value of working hard.

"I always told Axel he had one job: to get good grades," says Jesse. "Getting good grades and staying in school would give him many opportunities."

Since last year, Axel landed a part-time job at Target and bought his own car. Jesse is most proud that Axel is also applying to college. "Whether he decides on college, a trade school, or the military, I know hard work will follow," says Jesse.

Another mentoring relationship that we are celebrating is the one between Kayla and her mentor, Elisa. The two met in the fall of 2018 through the SOHO (Space of Her Own) program. They bonded over working collaboratively on creative arts and carpentry projects. Kayla knew that she wanted to be matched with Elisa because of the way that Elisa positively engaged with the other SOHO girls. "Even though I didn't really know you yet," Kayla said to her mentor, "I just got that vibe; like, I could really tell you were a good person and I just wanted you in my life."



When describing one another, Kayla thinks that her mentor, Elisa is "smart, kind, loving, supportive, and trustworthy" - all the makings of a really great mentor. Elisa sees how "brilliant, curious, hilarious, remarkably kind and thoughtful, intuitive, and wise," Kayla is. She has also noticed that Kayla "oozes emotional intelligence" and "is attentive to the needs of everyone around her."



Since SOHO, the two have continued to build their relationship by making time for one another. The pair enjoy going for walks, riding bikes, painting, ice skating, watching TV and movies, game nights, eating, talking, and the occasional sleepover. Kayla loves the time that she got to spend the night at Elisa's and snuggle with all of Elisa's dogs.

The two have learned a lot about themselves through their relationship. "You've really boosted my confidence," Kayla shares with her mentor. "You have made me like myself a lot more and have higher self esteem. You always allow me to be myself without making me feel like I'm being judged, and you make me feel like it's completely okay to make mistakes. You also make me feel like asking for help isn't a big deal at all." Because of her mentor, Kayla has developed advocacy and communication skills. "I'm starting to really speak up for myself instead of letting someone walk all over me..." Kayla now has the ability "to communicate what I need or just expressing my ideas in ways that other people can understand. Learning to be patient and understand when things can't go the way I want."



What mentoring means to me...

For Elisa, being a mentor means, "Personally investing in the growth and well-being of the young people in my community. It means making a consistent effort to show up as the best, most healed/healing version of myself. It means doing everything I can to embody the traits I want to see in my community so that the young folks among us can see examples of how to cultivate safe, accepting, and enriching communities and how to be of loving service to others."

"For me," Kayla says, "it means having another person I could go to or talk to. It means having that person I could count on if my mom or my aunt isn't there, I know I have someone else to count on to be there for me. For example, like how you [Elisa] help me when I tell you I have a problem, or like, when I tell you that I'm struggling at school, I know that you're gonna stand up for me and you're gonna try to find ways to advocate for me and help me get me what I need."



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RESULT

Alexandria's youth have three or more caring adults (besides parents or guardians) who support them

WHY THIS MATTERS

Young people who have three or more caring adults who support them feel happier and more hopeful, do better in school, and are less likely to rely on drinking, smoking, or drugs to feel good or fit in. That's why the Search Institute® identified this preventative measure as one of the 40 Developmental Assets®. Research has consistently shown that these 40 Assets, also known as protective factors, buffer youth from risk while helping them to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

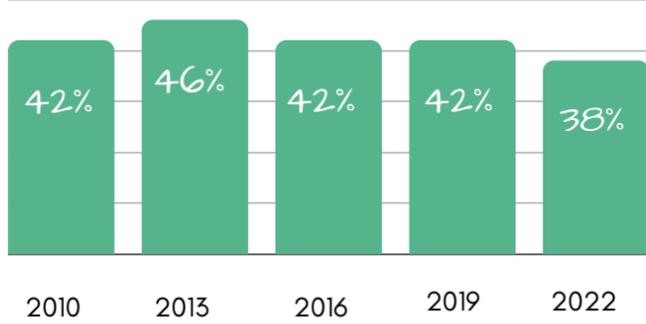
Young people want adults besides their parents to count on. Caring adults are important to the development of young especially if those adults know how to listen without judging. So whether you're a neighbor, educator, coach, uncle, older cousin, or barista — you can be a good friend to a young person.



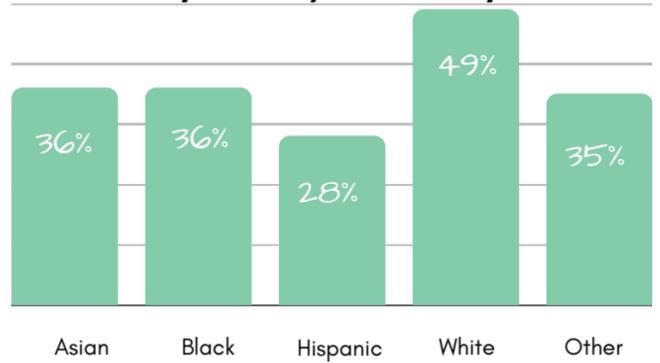
HOW WE ARE DOING

Other Adult Relationships

Young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.



Other Adult Relationships by Race/Ethnicity



STRATEGY

#40: Ensure that every young person is embedded in a web of positive relationships with trusted, caring adults

CHAMPION

[Alexandria Mentoring Partnership \(AMP\)](#)



MENTOR ONE CHILD.
CHANGE TWO LIVES.
ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERS

- [4-H Alexandria](#)
- [Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy](#)
- [Alexandria Police Department](#)
- [Alexandria Seaport Foundation](#)
- [Alexandria Tutoring Consortium](#)
- [Building Better Futures](#)
- [Building Momentum](#)
- [Building Your Power](#)
- [Casa Chirilagua](#)
- [Community Lodgings](#)
- [Decoded](#)
- [GoPursue](#)
- [Higher Achievement](#)
- [SOHO](#)
- [The Dream Project](#)
- [The Untouchables](#)
- [The Spitfire Club](#)
- [Uncut Youth](#)
- [Wright to Read](#)

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Progress with connecting youth to caring adults:

1 Strategy, 5 Action Steps,

100% are in progress or fully implemented





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WHAT DID WE DO?

To connect more youth to trusted, caring adults, the AMP:



Focused mentoring efforts to close the gaps that exist in communities of color and among males

- Formed a partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation to increase recruitment in the Latino community



Raised community awareness of the importance of mentoring by strengthening marketing and communications

- Celebrated "Thank Your Mentor Day" with a social media campaign
- Began using Instagram and Twitter social media accounts
- Published a [Report Card](#) to celebrate National Mentorship Month and all the work that the AMP is doing to connect youth to caring adults
- Recorded "Who mentored you?" videos
- Joined City Council whenever they have made Proclamations recognizing January as Mentoring month in Alexandria



Strengthened community settings so they inspire youth-adult relationships and asset building

- Formed a partnership with Building Momentum, a local business, to expand space dedicated for mentoring programs



Leveraged resources to support mentoring programs and ongoing mentor development and retention within the AMP

- Hosted three Open House events to recruit new mentors
- Welcomed seven more mentoring programs to the Partnership
- Received a grant to support start-up costs for Mentor University



Incentivized the workforce to work with young people

- Inspired the City of Alexandria and Building Momentum to support their staff in mentoring youth during work hours.
- Rewarded City employees who attended a Mentor Open House with Work'n Well points

HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

3

mentor recruitment events



2

partnerships have been created to expand the number of places that can dedicate space to mentoring activities



of Mentoring Programs that have joined the AMP



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

10

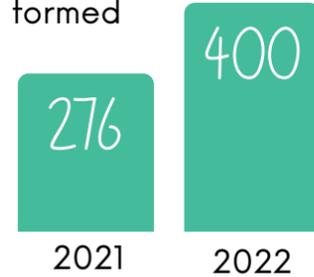
City staff became mentors



210

mentors & mentor program staff have been trained in Developmental Assets since 2021

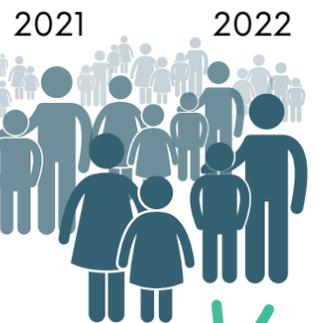
of mentoring relationships formed



Hours of Mentoring

14,000 hours

20,000 hours



676

young people have been matched with mentors since 2021

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

\$64,300

has been raised so far to establish a **Mentor University**: A tuition-free college for caring adults. This will be the first Mentor University in the country!



RESOURCES

- To learn more about Alexandria's mentoring programs or to join the Partnership, [visit the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership webpage](#)
- To find a collection of resources on best practices for mentoring programs, visit [MENTOR Virginia's webpage](#)
- If you are interested in becoming a mentor for at least one hour a week, submit a [Mentor Interest Form](#), or contact the AMP Coordinator at 703.746.4455 or mentoring@alexandriava.gov



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ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP