

Marion County Children's Alliance
3482 N. W. 10th St.
Ocala, Florida 34475
(352) 438-5996
www.mcchildrensalliance.org



Marion Mentoring Coalition

men • tor (men'tor) n.
A trusted counselor or
guide.

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings people in need of support in their lives together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee. Mentors are good listeners; people who care; people who want to help others bring out strengths that are already there.

The Marion Mentoring Coalition consists of organizations who offer varied opportunities for mentoring.

Once you have decided that you want to be a mentor:

- ✓ Review the listings included in this guide;
- ✓ Find the mentoring situation that is right for you;
- ✓ Contact the organization that meets your needs;
- ✓ Set up an appointment to explore their mentoring opportunities further.

The Marion Mentoring Coalition meets on a regular basis. For more information please call Rev. Jim Bullock at (352) 438 - 5997
email: jim.bullock@mcchildrensalliance.org

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel."
- Maya Angelou*

Mentoring Information and Opportunities

Arnette House - 2310 NE 24th Street Ocala, FL 34470 - (352) 622-4432 - www.arnettehouse.org

Youth ages 18-21 participating in Independent Living Program housed in the 14th Street Apartments. Mentees may be seen on or off site.

Requirements: Dept. of Juvenile Justice background screening is required; age range of volunteers 35 - 65 and should have experience working with youth in designated age range; good role model and a love and understanding of young people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid Florida (Marion/Levy County) - 2652 NE 24th St. Ocala, FL 34470 - (352) 840-5757, Cell (352) 342-7613
www.bbbsmidflorida.org

Children age 5-17 are screened and interviewed to ensure proper placement with a selected mentor. A variety of programs are offered meeting the needs of both our mentor's and our children. Go fishing, read a book, help a child with homework or just sit around and talk about life. **Requirements:** FDLE background check required, in-person interview, references (2-3). Community program requires 12 hours a month with a commitment of at least 1 year. Additional requirements discussed during the interview. Training and ongoing support is provided. Our mentors range in age from 16 to senior.

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) - 1515 E. Silver Springs Blvd., #117 Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 732-1274 -

Delinquent youth ages 11-19 who are on probation supervision and in secure detention. **Requirements:** FDLE criminal background check required; no criminal history, willingness to work with delinquent youths.

Devereux Kids - 1629 NW 4th Street, Suite 102 Ocala, FL 34475 - (352) 598-6705 - www.devereuxfl.org

Seeking mentors to work with youth in West Ocala from birth to age 18. Mentors are also needed to work with adults on issues such as budgeting, education, employment, child raising and in navigating the system of receiving assistance.

Requirements: Volunteers will be referred to an appropriate agency for background screening and training before being matched with a child.

Eckerd Mentoring Program - 4200 NW 89th Place Ocala, FL 34482-1109 - (352) 445-1410

www.eckerd.org/EIPS/mentor/mentoring_form.html

Children ages 5-17 with parent(s) in prison. Program is community based; the mentor is allowed to pick the child up from their place of residence and spend time with them in the community. **Requirements:** Non-judgmental caring guide and friend; willing to spend at least one hour per week for one year. Level 2 background screening to include fingerprinting, DJJ, DMV, local. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, no criminal or DUI convictions.

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) - 223 SW Broadway Ocala, FL 34471 - (352) 369-2525 - www.guardianadlitem.org

Children from birth to 18 years old that are involved in Dependency or prior involvement with DCF and Court due to neglect, abandonment, or abuse.

Requirements: Must be 19 years of age or older, have no criminal history and complete a 30 hour training class provided by the GAL Program. Time commitment varies from 1-6 hours per week.

Habitat for Humanity - 926 NW 27th Avenue Ocala, FL 34475 - (352) 351-4663 - www.habitatocala.org

Young adults buying their first home and their children. **Requirements:** Must be at least 21 years of age, a home owner, have a strong belief in the goals and mission of Habitat for Humanity, and have the ability to work well with people. Training and ongoing support is provided.

Kids Central, Inc. - 2117 SW Highway 484 Ocala, FL 34473 - (352) 873-6332 - www.kidscentralinc.org

Peer mentors for youth ages 13 and up. Peer mentors are needed to support the youth's development of their financial and budgeting skills, communication training, employability skills, etc. Kinship Care Mentors for children living with relative caregivers. **Requirements:** Background check, no criminal history, volunteers must be 18 years or older and be able to pass a background check, including criminal record check.

RSVP - 3001 SW College Road Ocala, FL 33474 - (352) 291-4444 - www.cfcctraining.com

RSVP recruits for mentor partner agencies and does not provide direct services. **Requirements:** Volunteers age 55 or better. Each partner organization has its own requirements.

Take Stock in Children (Public Education Foundation) - 1239 NW 4th Street Ocala, FL 34475 - (352) 671-4162 - www.PEFMC.org

High school aged children who are low-income scholarship recipients. **Requirements:** Volunteers must be 19+ years of age, commit to a minimum of one school year of service including meeting with student once per week for approximately 1 hour during the school day and a few after-hours events. Background check required.

Turning Point Mentor Centers/Afterschool Program - 9528 SE 190th Street, Ocklawaha, FL 32179 - (352) 299-5830

www.turningpointmentors.com - email: staff@turningpointmentors.com

Children 5-17 years, Rural poverty/At risk of dropping out of school. **Requirements:** Background screening is required. Mentors who are able to spend a least one hour per week helping children in Afterschool Program; many times and locations available. No degree required. Must be willing to listen and encourage children in rural areas of Ocala.

Youth Reach - 13 NE 36th Avenue Ocala, FL 34470 - (352) 624-2001 - www.yrfl.org

Older children currently incarcerated in facilities located in the Ocala area. Some do not have a family or responsible adult in their lives; others are already young parents themselves and need guidance on how to be nurturing, reliable parents. **Requirements:** Background screening is required. Youth Reach is looking for people with a talent they would like to share with these children and who can enrich the children's lives through new experiences. Time required is at least one hour per week and must be willing to commit at least one year.

Marion County Children's Alliance - "Children First"