Bridging the Gap Mentor Application

Who We Are:

Bridging The Gap (BTG) is a one-to-one mentoring program that pairs youth with caring adults. BTG is a program of Family Cornerstones. Family Cornerstones is a non-profit, Christian community development organization that began in 1998 located in Cleveland, Tennessee that holds a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status.

Family Cornerstones Mission:

Strengthening Families for a Strong Community

Bridging the Gap Mission:

BTG nurtures mentoring relationships for youth that encourage positive decisions and academic success.

Mentor Qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Complete and pass a background check and drug screening
- 1 hours a week to commit to the program for a minimum of 12 months

Role of the Mentor:

- As a mentor you are to be a friend to the mentee. Mentors in no way take the place of a mentee’s parents or guardians.
- Mentors will develop a trusting relationship by being a good listener, offering support, encouraging the mentee, and engaging in activities the mentee enjoys.
- Mentors are not to act as a psychologist or social worker. The role of the mentor is not to “fix” the mentee’s problems but to simply walk with the mentee on his or her journey.
- Mentors should be a positive role-model for the mentee but should not try to change a mentee’s values, traditions, or spiritual beliefs.
- Mentors give to the mentee by spending one-on-one time at least once a week. Mentors are not to support the mentee financially or regularly provide the mentee with gifts.

Process to become a one-on-one mentor:

- Submit a completed application form
- Interview with the BTG program director
- Attend Mentor Training
- Pass a background check and drug screening
- Attend a mentor/mentee meet-and-greet session to be matched with a mentee
If you agree to become a mentor, you will be asked to agree to the following basic requirements:

- To serve as a Mentor, you will be asked to make a **minimum commitment of one year**
- To attend **Mentor Orientation** before you will be matched with a mentee.
- To maintain **weekly contact** with your mentee (in person except in special circumstances with prior approval of the BTG Program Director)
- To attend quarterly mentor/mentee group events
- To be **consistent and dependable** in trying to assist your mentee to achieve academic and personal goals.
- To base your relationship on respect for the mentee and his/her family.
- To maintain regular contact with Chrissy Pugh, Family Cornerstones Assistant Director
- To attend group activities sponsored by Bridging the Gap Mentoring Program.

**What you can expect from BTG Program:**

- **Mentor orientation** where you can meet other mentors and gain a knowledge of what the role of a mentor is, how to become an Asset builder for a child, and what to do with your mentee
- **Continuing Education opportunities** offered throughout the year based on topics that have been requested by mentors or that address topics specific to mentoring and youth development
- **Family Cornerstones Assistant Director** will be available to answer questions, address concerns, provide suggestions, offer encouragement, and guide you through your mentor/mentee relationship
- **Games, crafts, and other materials** will be available for you to use to enhance weekly meetings with your mentee
- **We will work very hard** to help you have the best mentoring experience possible

**Bridging the Gap Mentoring Program** appreciates your interest in becoming a mentor. The information in this application will help us to match you with a mentee and will be kept confidential.
Date ______ Name ______________________ Male/Female

Occupation/Student ______________________ Employer/School ____________________________

Cell Phone ____________________________ Date of Birth __________________________

Home/Work Phone __________________________

Address and Zip __________________________

Ethnic Background (optional) ________________ E-mail____________________

Languages other than English ______________

Family: Single ___ Married ___ Divorced ___ Separated ___

Name of Spouse __________________________ Children’s Name(s) and age(s) ______________

______________________________________________________________________________

What are your hobbies and interests?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Why would you like to become a mentor?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Please circle the words that describe your personality:
Spiritual Sensitive Quiet Outgoing Adventuresome Happy
Shy Talkative Confident Moody Nervous Friendly

What do you feel you can offer a young person through mentoring?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Have you ever been a mentor before with us or any other organization? If yes, what organization and how was your experience (positive? negative)?

____________________________________________________________________________________

What do you expect to gain from mentoring?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

What do you think will be most challenging about mentoring?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

What days and times are you available to meet with your Mentee?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

*Photo Release*

I hereby consent to the use of my name, likeness, and speech in any audiotape, videotape, film, or photograph made at any Bridging the Gap activity for any promotional or fundraising purpose of Bridging the Gap Mentoring Program. I also give consent for any printed materials or quotes to be used for any fundraising or recruitment purposes of Bridging the Gap.

_____________________________    __________________________
Signature                        Date

*Mentoring is an enriching experience for both the mentee and the mentor. As a mentor not only will you positively impact the life of a child- potentially keeping them from turning to drugs or dropping out of school- but you will also see a positive impact on your own life.*
List three people who can serve as a character reference for you. Please do not use relatives, spouses, or anyone you have known less than a year if at all possible.

Name __________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
City __________________ State _______ Zip __________
Phone __________________________________________________________
Relationship ______________________________________________________

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Relationship ______________________________________________________

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Phone __________________________________________________________
Relationship ______________________________________________________
Bridging the Gap Mentoring Program accepts or declines volunteers based on the information gathered. For reasons of confidentiality BTG will not share this information or reasons of denial with any applicant.

I certify that the information I have supplied is correct to the best of my knowledge. I give my permission for BTG to contact the references provided and to complete a thorough background check.

Signature _______________________________ Date __________________________
Signature (Mentor Director) ___________________________ Date _________________

Contact Us:
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“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