AMPLIFYING FUTURE LEADERS

MENTOR GREATER MILWAUKEE
2024 ANNUAL REVIEW

MENTOR
GREATER
MILWAUKEE

MILWAUKEE BUCKS



REFLECTING ON 2024 CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF IMPACT

As we close out 2024 and celebrate five years of growth, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for the continued elevation of mentoring in our community. This past year has reinforced the critical role mentoring plays, as demonstrated through our partnerships and ongoing community engagement events.

At MENTOR Greater Milwaukee, we live by a powerful formula: Amplify, Advocate, and Activate. This energy drives our mission and fuels how we engage the broader community in adopting a mentoring mindset.

Our work is anchored in three priority areas:

1. Training, professional development, and technical assistance for any organization seeking to strengthen its mentoring capacity.

2. Increasing the number of mentors throughout Southeast Wisconsin.

3. Uplifting mentoring through advocacy—making sure the voice of mentoring is heard across every corner of our community.

In 2024, we proudly stood in the gap to support all young people—helping redefine mentoring not as something for "troubled youth," but as something for EVERY youth. By working alongside and supporting over 100 mentoring programs across Milwaukee County and surrounding areas, we continue to serve and empower our diverse neighborhoods.

During 2024, we delivered over 1,000 hours of program support and advocacy, and hosted four mentor fairs, connecting with more than 200 potential mentors ready to make a difference.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to:

- Expanding our reach with new mentoring programs across Milwaukee County
- Launching peer mentoring initiatives in local schools.
- Recruiting mentors who are ready to support ALL youth in the Greater Milwaukee community

We envision a future where every young person in Milwaukee has access to a trusted mentor—someone they can count on for support, encouragement, and guidance. A community where mentoring is not just a program, but a way of life.

HERE'S TO CONTINUED GROWTH, STRONGER CONNECTIONS, AND AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT IN 2025.



LaNelle Ramey, M.A.
Executive Director, MENTOR Greater Milwaukee



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PEER MENTORING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US

ABOUT US

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee (MGM), affiliated with MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, promotes quality mentoring expansion in Metro Milwaukee. As a county-wide resource hub for mentors and initiatives, MGM collaborates across sectors to support existing and emerging youth mentorship organizations. In 2016, a study funded by the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), convened by the Public Policy Forum (PPF), identified a need for quality mentors. This led to partnerships with MPS, The Milwaukee Bucks, and the City of Milwaukee.

OUR VISION

Ensure all youth in Milwaukee who want and need a mentor have access to a quality mentor by strengthening the organizational capacity and quality of mentoring organizations, advocating for policies and funding for mentoring activities, and actively recruiting mentors throughout the Greater Milwaukee community.

OUR MISSION

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee increases quality mentoring relationships by building the capacity of existing mentoring organizations matching a caring adult with children in need through safe, effective mentoring programs.

MENTORSHIP
MATTERS

MENTORING PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL



JASMINE JOHNIKIN

CEO, AS I AM MENTORING

So, since being involved with Mentor Girl in Milwaukee for almost three years now, I've witnessed them touch lives of so many people, not just for mine, but other programs as well. Mentor Greater Milwaukee, they always make sure to put all the other programs first. All programs, we're all different, but they make sure they do their research to see what do we all need, and they do their best to put all of our needs first and provide the programs and services that we need.

Instantly when I first connected with MENTOR Greater Milwaukee , they were just so welcoming and loving. Coming into this new to running a mentoring program, I didn't know what was needed, what direction to head in. How to make this work. All I know is I wanted to work with YOUTH. So, they took me under their wing and I'm just thankful that they were able to, they taught me so many great values in mentoring and what was all needed. They were patient, very kind, and just understanding of where I was at in my journey and helped push me in the right direction. When I first started my program. I didn't think that I was even capable of starting something like this and they were like, "No, we're not going to let you talk like that about yourself and we're going to help you launch your successful program." So the support, the encouragement, the countless amount of support was definitely appreciated and needed.

MENTORING PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL



NEIL WILLENSON

PRESIDENT/CEO, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTER OF METRO MILWAUKEE

Big Brothers Big Sisters. OF METRO MILWAUKEE

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee and Big Brothers Big Sisters have proudly partnered together to champion mentorship and create a lasting impact for our youth throughout our community. Since MENTOR Greater Milwaukee inception, Big Brother Big Sisters has worked side by side to strengthen local youth mentorship and our collaboration has only grown over the years.

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee, THANK YOU! You have been instrumental in amplifying the message of mentorship and creating strong relationships with so many local partners has helped us elevate our brand awareness, reaching a wider audience and bringing the importance to mentorship. Together we have ensured that staff and volunteer mentors have access to ongoing trainings, equipping them with the skills they need to support our youth effectively. Together we are creating a culture of support, growth and opportunities for these young people that extends so much further because of our partnership. Thank you again for all of that you do every single day.

MENTOR GREATER MILWAUKEE











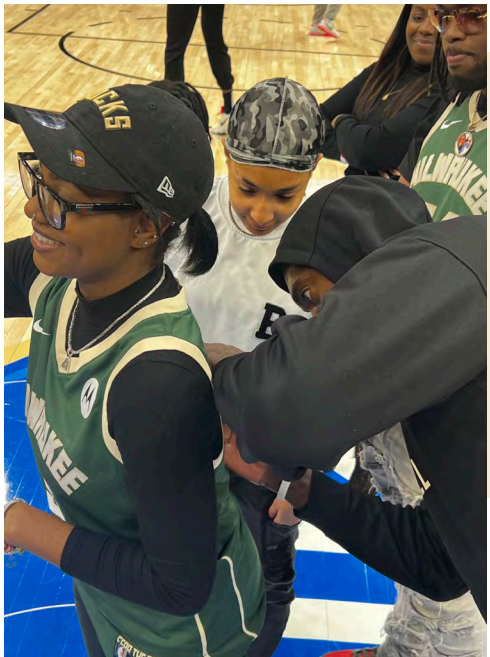

POWERED
MILWAUKEE BUCKS
MENTOR
GREATER
MILWAUKEE




GREEN BAY PACKERS
FOUNDATION
06/19/2024
MENTOR Greater Milwaukee
$ 75,000.00
Seventy-Five Thousand
2024 Impact Grant
Green Bay Packers Foundation




ON AIR





CULTIVATING MENTORSHIP

EMPATHY, ACTIVE LISTENING, AND GROWTH

Our mentor training sessions are designed to foster a mentor mindset in adults by focusing on the core values of empathy, active listening, and growth. Through interactive workshops, we guide participants to reflect on their own experiences, helping them recognize the potential impact they can have on others. Adults are encouraged to embrace the role of a mentor, understanding that mentorship is not about having all the answers, but about offering guidance, support, and encouragement.

By developing critical skills such as effective communication and goal-setting, participants learn how to establish meaningful, trust-based relationships. Our training also emphasizes the importance of being open to learning from mentees, creating a reciprocal dynamic that benefits both parties. Ultimately, the goal is to empower adults to confidently step into the role of mentor, contributing to a culture of mentorship in our community.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON EVENTS HOSTED WITH HUNDREDS IN ATTENDANCE

20+ COMMUNITY COLLABS & EVENTS



BRIDGING CONNECTIONS

CREATING IMPACTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Our services are dedicated to connecting proteges with mentor programs that align with their specific needs, interests, and goals. We understand that finding the right mentor is crucial for personal and professional development, which is why we take the time to identify programs that best support each mentee's journey. With a vast network of partner organizations across the city, we offer a wide range of mentorship opportunities, from career development to personal growth.

We only recommend programs that have been carefully vetted. Each organization we collaborate with shares our passion for mentorship and demonstrates a commitment to creating positive, impactful relationships. By working with trusted partners, we ensure that mentees are placed in environments where they are supported, encouraged, and empowered to reach their full potential. Our goal is to make mentorship accessible and meaningful, helping mentees connect with mentors who will make a lasting difference in their lives.

> **"I had no idea what to do or how do... they were patient, they were kind... they helped push me into the right direction...when I first started, I didn't think I was capable... they helped me to launch a successful program"**
>
> ***Jasmine Johnikin, Founder - As I Am Mentoring***









OUR HISTORY

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE MENTORING NETWORK IN MILWAUKEE

In 2016, the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) funded a study to explore developing a Mentor Affiliate in Milwaukee. This group convened the Public Policy Forum (PPF) to conduct a study, "Mentoring in Milwaukee: Developing a Regional Mentoring Network," (September 2016). The study engaged more than 13 additional mentoring organizations in the strategic planning process. This study found that there is an unmet demand for quality mentors. As a result, Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Bucks, and the City of Milwaukee developed a partnership to address the issue. One of the primary goals of Mentor Greater Milwaukee (MGM) is to build capacity among agencies that are currently offering mentoring services and to increase collaboration among mentoring services by implementing an administrative component that will be able to coordinates recruitment and training efforts.

A UNIFIED PUSH FOR GREATER IMPACT

STRENGTHENING MENTORING COLLABORATION

This collaboration and consistency established "best practices," which created synergy among mentoring agencies and increased capacity by assisting with the recruitment and training responsibilities that are currently the sole responsibility of each individual mentoring agency.

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!

As we celebrate five years of MENTOR Greater Milwaukee, we reflect on an incredible journey of growth, impact, and success.

Over the past half-decade, we have fostered a strong foundation of mentorship that has empowered countless young people and connected dedicated mentors from all walks of life. Through our programs, we've seen firsthand how mentorship transforms lives—helping mentees build confidence, develop leadership skills, and reach new goals, while mentors experience the joy of making a lasting impact.

Our success is due in large part to the unwavering commitment of our partners, volunteers, and community members who have embraced the call to mentorship. Together, we've created a vibrant network that touches every corner of Greater Milwaukee.

But while we celebrate these achievements, we know there is still more work to be done. The challenges our community's future leaders face are ever-evolving, and the importance of strong, supportive mentorship is being felt now more than ever. We remain focused on expanding our reach and deepening our impact, ensuring that every young person in Milwaukee has access to the guidance and support they need to thrive. The journey continues, and with Milwaukee's continued support, we boldly embrace the path forward into the future.





LET'S TAKE A LOOK...

THE LAST YEAR IN NUMBERS

750+

Hours of training support & mentoring consultation provided

180+

Programs, Organizations, and Companies Trained or Supported

16
Community Resource Fairs and Community Engagement Events

100+
Participants at Youth Voice Summit

14
Boys and Girls of Color Summer Youth Ambassadors

117
Mentor Connector Programs Partners

450+
Hours of Mentoring Advocacy & Recruitment Support Provided

20+
New Programs Added

2024 MOMENTS IN MENTORING

BIPOC GIRL'S WELLNESS SUMMIT

The summit, hosted in partnership with Alverno College's Thea Bowman Institute for Excellence and Leadership, took place on June 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It was a day-long event designed specifically for Black and Brown women and girls of color. With a pilot capacity of 80 participants, 104 individuals registered, and more than half of them attended the event.

The summit marked the official launch of our new "Mentoring Black and Brown Girls Curriculum and Toolkit," with each session intentionally aligned to our Wellness Wheel, which complemented the toolkit. Offered at no cost to local women and teen girls, the transformative gathering was hosted by MENTOR Greater Milwaukee and MENTOR National Partnership.

It aimed to empower BIPOC women and girls by enhancing their personal, professional, and holistic well-being, providing them with valuable resources to support their overall wellness and mentoring journey. Throughout the day, participants engaged in a variety of activities to increase their knowledge on wellness, learned practical techniques for their individual learning environments, and fostered self-empowerment and community building.



A DAY TO EMPOWER BIPOC WOMEN & GIRLS











YOUTH VOICE SUMMIT

Over 114 participants registered for our 3rd Annual Youth Voice Summit, where the theme was Community Development. Last summer, 14 MENTOR Greater Milwaukee Youth Ambassadors diligently researched and engaged in hands-on experiences within our Milwaukee communities. They learned about the importance of community health, environmental wellness, and the need for improvements in our educational systems, as well as the necessity of positive youth presence and representation in building stronger, more unified, and resourceful communities.

By attending the summit, participants joined the movement to provide sustainable, attainable resources to help the youth of Milwaukee and surrounding areas thrive.

MENTORING SYMPOSIUM

Our Fourth Annual Mentoring Symposium brought together the mentoring community from Greater Milwaukee and surrounding areas. The 2024 Mentoring Symposium was convened by MENTOR Greater Milwaukee and garnered support from both the private and public sectors, including a group of national mentoring and youth-serving organizations that served as Supporting Program Partners.

The symposium provided an opportunity for the mentoring movement to gather, advance a collective mentoring agenda, strengthen programs and practices, and collaborate to support positive youth development through mentoring. This year's symposium highlighted the role of mentorship in fostering youth development and positioning it as essential for growth and success.



REAL MENTORS MAKE A REAL IMPACT

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee takes great pride in fostering a diverse network of mentors and mentees from all areas of Milwaukee's cultures and communities. Our ongoing dedication to inclusivity and accessibility helps us expand our impact, ensuring that anyone seeking mentorship has the opportunity to do so. Whether you're aiming to uplift others or empower the next generation, we provide resourcing and opportunities to make a meaningful difference through mentorship.

1 IN 3 PEOPLE LACK A MENTOR

Our aim is to cultivate mentoring mindsets among adults to enhance their ability to serve as mentors for young people.

"If I could tell Betty, and LaNelle, and Paul one thing it would be definitely thank you for the opportunities because it help realize where I want to go in life...they may not realize it but they have a strong place in my heart"

Dominic McDogual, Summer Youth Ambassador

THE LAST YEAR IN PHOTOS













2024

MEET THE TEAM



LANELLE RAMEY
Executive Director



BETTY HILL
Director of Youth Development
& Strategic Partnerships



GAULIEN "GEE" SMITH
Board Chair
Gee's Clippers



DARICE BROWN
Board Vice Chair
ServiceNow



JOE ZIDANIC
Milwaukee Bucks



JACK SNOW
Board Secretary
Milwaukee Bucks



JERRY ROBERTS
Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance



MAKDA FESSAHAYE
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



ANTHONY POOLE
UPS



TERREL WALTER
Royal Capital Group



KATINA SHAW
Milwaukee Brewers



NOLETA FRANZ
Northwestern Mutual



GHULAM KHAN
Johnson Controls



TIFFANY DAVISTER
Board Treasurer
Ernest & Young



SHANE ARNOLD
GE Healthcare



AMANDA BRAUN
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

OUR STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

American Family Insurance

Bader Philanthropies

Ernest and Young

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

City of Milwaukee

Milwaukee County – Department of Health and Human Services

Milwaukee County – Office of Equity

Taco Bell Foundation

Green Bay Packers Foundation

Democratic National Committee

Michael Jordan Foundation

Milwaukee Succeeds

Milwaukee Workforce Alliance

State of Wisconsin – Apprenticeship Department

Goodwill Industries Foundation

Johnson Controls Foundation

Kohls Philanthropies

Milwaukee Brewers Foundation

Milwaukee Bucks Foundation

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Rockwell Automation

RW Baird

WE Energies Foundation

TOGETHER, WE'RE NOT JUST SHAPING OUR CITY—WE'RE BUILDING A BLUEPRINT FOR CITIES ACROSS THE NATION TO FOLLOW.

MENTOR
GREATER
MILWAUKEE

1543 N. 2nd St, 6th Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53212

LEARN MORE AT MILWAUKEEMENTOR.COM