

Kids Hope Mentor and Prayer Partner

PURPOSE OF THE MINISTRY: This ministry contributes to our church mission of **leading people to a full life in Christ ... by helping our members to serve the Lord.**

Kids Hope USA is a national organization which develops church-school partnerships to provide mentors who stand alongside parents, teachers, principals and counselors to ensure kids that they are valued and loved. Through the power of relationship, kids build resilience and a brighter future.

The program purpose is simple: Help to fill the relational voids in kids' lives - by sending people to personally meet with students who need reliable, caring adult relationships.



The church recruits **volunteer mentors** plus a prayer partner for each of those mentors. Prayer partners provide support, encouragement, and accountability. The program director meets with the participating school principals or social workers and they match mentors with students the educators select.

MINISTRY/POSITION RESPONSIBLE TO AND SUPPORTED BY: Our program director is Cheryl Loughman. The St. Peter staff person who provides additional St. Peter church support for this ministry is Kayla Olson, DCE.

JOB DUTIES: Kids Hope mentors meet weekly to spend lunch with an at-risk child at connected schools in the area.

TIME REQUIREMENT: A mentor will meet with his/her student for an hour, once a week, at school during the lunch/recess time period.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT: Mentors should be committed for 1 school year (September -May)

TRAINING: Kids Hope USA provides structure, training, support, and resources designed for use in public schools by churches, as well as ongoing materials and a support team for personal assistance. The program director attends a comprehensive training course. Many of the training materials are available on-line. To ensure child safety, all volunteers complete an application, interview, and background check process. [Application and training time is approximately 4 hours.]

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED: Patience, understanding, and being a good listener are all important skills for this role. It is also helpful if a mentor has a background in education, psychology, or parenting. Mentors should be able to hold and guide conversations with children.

BENEFITS TO THE VOLUNTEER: A volunteer is willing to share his/her most precious commodity; time. Convinced that a student's life can change when given the chance within the context of a reliable relationship, a mentor provides the love of presence and the hope of a better tomorrow. Together, with a prayer partner, a mentor's deepest desire is to see a difference. The program positions the mentor to form relationships and meet the real needs of real people.