



Mentors Matter will work with mentoring organizations in Pottawatomie County to increase their capacity and recruit qualified mentors.

We envision a community where every child at risk of not achieving their full potential will be matched with a caring adult mentor.

This initiative is built on a collaboration between the United Way and our local mentoring organizations delivering this service to the youth in our community. Mentors Matter will bring together area nonprofit organizations engaged in mentoring to 1) build their capacity, 2) raise community awareness for mentoring and 3) recruit and engage mentors.

United Way will work to convene the Executive Directors of mentoring organizations, HR staff from major local employers, community leaders and student body leaders of the local colleges to:

- Recruit and place 50 new mentors by January 1st
- Host 2 mentoring events
- Host on-site lunch and learns at community employers
- Raise awareness for mentoring in the community
- Organize service-learning opportunities for mentors and youth

**In order to be successful we need the engagement of three groups:**

**Mentors Matter Coalition:** This is you! We must develop a strategy that effectively recruits mentors, develop networks to ensure mentors are in the “right” programs and raise awareness for the cause of mentoring by joining our coalition.

**Mentors Matter Community Connectors:** These are our local employers, community leaders and school officials. The Community has already indicated this is the number one need in our community. We have already asked and received the answer to the question “What Matters to You Most?” We now must ask the question “How can we engage you in the solution?”

**Mentors Matter Militia:** We must raise an army of willing mentors! By targeting the right recruiting base (young, old and in-between), utilizing each other as resources and ensuring that we solely focus on the children of our community, we can ensure that Mentors Matter.

The late and great Coach John Wooden said “The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.” In order for our children to shine the brightest that they possibly can, we must come together as a team to cheer them on, to develop them, to enable them and most importantly simply be there for them. We, as a Team, can far exceed the goals of one individual or organization. We, as a community, cannot afford to fail. We, as Mentors, Matter.