



The H.O.P.E. Newsletter: Mentor Edition

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Special points of interest:

- Mentor Minute: The Lesson of the Four Trees
- MYOI: Elections
- New Event: Mentor Mixer! (07/15)
- H.O.P.E. Garden!
- Mentoring Weekend

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Mentor Minute:

The Lesson of Four Trees

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son he sent in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and returned, he called them together to describe what they had seen:

The first son said, "The tree is ugly, bent, and twisted."

The second son said, "No, no! The tree that I saw was covered with green buds and full of promise!"

The third son disagreed with both. He said, "You are both wrong. The tree is laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful that it is surely the most graceful thing in the world."

The last son disagreed with all of them, saying, "The tree is ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment."

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. Instead, that the essence of who they are—the pleasure, joy, and love that come from their life—can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are experienced.

The same is true for mentoring, if you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of spring, the beauty of summer, and the fulfillment of fall.

We must remember to not let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest, and to not judge a life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches. Another season is just around the corner!



Youth Board News: Election Results

Congratulations to the 2010 Executive Board! These seven youth were voted into office on June 1, 2010 and are now officially in charge of ensuring that youth board runs smoothly and carries out the vision of H.O.P.E. to help improve the lives of children within the foster care system. Next time you see one of these youth be sure to congratulate them and ask them about their new position!



Newly Elected Positions:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Historians
Technical Advisor

Skill of the Month: Responsibility



Part of creating a “Community of Caring” is establishing an environment in which mistakes are recognized as part of having human relationships and can be learned from.

This means that when mentees make mistakes, it needs to be handled in a way that holds them accountable without condemning them.

Similarly, it is crucial that both program staff and mentors actively take responsibility for their own mistakes. When adults in the mentor program show mentees that they are not afraid to take responsibility for their mistakes by apologizing, admitting wrongdoing, and taking steps to correct negative consequences, this gives mentees permission to be honest with themselves and their mentors about their mistakes too.

It helps them learn when they are treated with acceptance and understanding—especially when they do admit their mistakes!

Program staff and mentors can begin modeling these principles as soon as they begin to engage with mentees. As we all model these skills, and as our mentees enter into that Community of Caring, they will have lots of good models of how to handle themselves

"Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again."

— James Cook



H.O.P.E. Youth at the “Rising Above the Odds Against Me” Conference in Oakland University

Mentoring Weekend 3: July 16-18

Michigan 4-H Youth Mentoring is happy to announce that this year’s Mentoring Weekend will be taking place July 16–18 at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI. In its third year, Mentoring Weekend offers matches from around the state an incredible opportunity to strengthen their relationship and create lasting memories together.

Youth and their mentors will have 3 days, 2 nights lodging at the wonderful Kettunen Center, all meals included, access to their choice of workshops, and a free Mentoring Weekend T-shirt!

In the past, workshops have included Explosion Scrapbooking, Duct Tape Fun, Capture the Flag, canoeing, geocaching, and many more! This year’s event will also give participants the opportunity to experience the new rock climbing wall.

While at Mentoring Weekend, mentors will be given the chance to develop skills and network during two workshop blocks dedicated solely to mentor training and support. Youth will get the chance to

meet other mentees from around the state and explore positive recreational activities.

Contact Missy if you are



Jeff VoVillia after the Jell-O Wars at last year’s Mentoring Weekend!

Upcoming Events

- 06/01 **Youth Board:** Elections!!
- 06/05 **Dow RunWalk:** Zany Zone (cheering section for Girls on the Run & 5K racers!) 7:45am-10:00am
- 06/18 **Youth Board:** General
- 06/22-23 **Foster Care Conference:** “Take Charge of Your Journey”
- 07/04 **Happy 4th of July!**
- 07/06 **Mentor Mixer & Youth Board:** Mentee/Mentor Training
- 07/10 **Crop Day:** 10am-6pm, Midland
- 07/16-18 **Mentoring Weekend:** Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI
- 07/20 **Youth Board:** No Selene. (Any help would be appreciated!)
- 07/23 **Foster Care Conference:** “Be Your Own Ring Leader”



Contact Missy for times, locations, and details of specific events!

Seeds of Hope: The 2010 H.O.P.E. Garden



Come see our garden...!

The H.O.P.E. Youth Board has planted their garden for the 2010 growing season!

Thanks to a generous land donation from Mr. and Mrs. Brandle of Brandle Roofing, this year's crops include: lots of tomatoes, sweet corn, pumpkins, broccoli, zucchini, watermelon, as well as 5 varieties of peppers, and 3 different types of squash.

The youth hope to support the

funding needs of the youth board this year through selling half of the produce at local Midland and Isabella county farmers markets.

The other half of the fruits and veggies will be donated to people below the 200% poverty line as part of H.O.P.E.'s vision of giving back to the community and helping those in need.

We need lots of help weeding and watering on a weekly basis. So if you and your mentee are in need of match meeting ideas, this would be a great choice!

Just contact Missy for directions.

This couldn't have happened without our generous community partners: a BIG "Thank You!" goes out to both MMCAA for donating seeds and supplies the Brandle's and Brandle Roofing for donating the land and water!



"In life there are two kinds of people: those who give up and those who don't. It's the ones who don't who make all the difference."

- Michelle Obama

Mentor Mixer: July 6th

There will be a separate office space from the regular Youth Board meeting. Mentors can meet other mentors, enjoy some delicious snacks, and "talk shop".

There will be a brief training session and update from the Mentor Coordinator on new resources for you to use.

Come and meet the team, trade tips and stories, and learn about upcoming mentoring events.

Afterwards, you are free to either join the Youth Board meeting for the night, go home, or stay and talk for as long as you'd like!



Tuesday, July 6th from 5:30-6:15pm at Midland DHS.

This event will be held directly before Youth Board happens on the 1st Tuesday of the month in a

Article: Midland Gleaners...

The Midland Gleaners in partnership with the H.O.P.E Youth Board worked together on Join Hands Day, May 1, to assemble survival kits for youths aging out of two local foster care systems.

Over 30 kits were assembled for youth exiting the foster care system in Midland and Isabella counties. The kits contain hygiene products, cleaning products, and other necessities—as well as folders

explaining the do's and don'ts for youth exiting care.

In addition, HOPE updated, designed, and restructured the back entrance of Department of Human Services with a bright and sunny art project that will provide encouragement and warmth to foster families visiting DHS.



The Youth of HOPE on Join Hand's Day, May 1, 2010...!



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"Helping others prepare for everything... through mentoring!"

::Mission::

"The youth of HOPE come together for a common purpose of unity to make a difference in both our lives and in the lives of our community. Creating connections through our dedication to leadership and participation for the common goals of youth transitioning into adulthood."

::Vision::

"Helping lives of youth in everyday improvement, making them successful in transitioning into adulthood. Advocating for positive change through community support, with an emphasis on responsibility, respect, financial security, healthy relationships, and furthering education."



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Name:
MYOI Youth Board:
Helping Others
Prepare for
Everything

Status:
No Recent Updates

Fans:
81

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