2016-2017
Annual Report
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Letter from the Executive Director

Primarily, I want to thank all our volunteer mentors, our board of directors, our students, our families, and our donors. Without any of your support, our program would not exist. Each year, as the students and mentors return, and families continue to return and share with me the differences they’ve seen, I think of you. As a volunteer based nonprofit we solely survive on our volunteers and our donors, each day we continue to support and impact our middle school students is because you saw and recognized the need. Maybe it is because you lacked the support you wanted in middle school, or maybe it is because you’ve been affected by mentoring, or maybe you just see the importance of this generation, but whatever it is that drives you to be our biggest supporter, I thank you. In the next few pages you will see the impact you made this past year, on our mentors, our students, and their families. You will read highlights about the matches throughout the year, see how the students have grown as individuals through reading about our program evaluations, see how your dollars were spent, and our goals for the next school year.

Again, I want to thank you for the support this past year, and in advance, for the support that has yet to come.

[Signature]
Program Highlights

This year we had 8 mentors and 8 students participating in the program, including 3 returning students and 2 returning mentors. Three students were 6th graders, 2 were 7th graders, and 3 were 8th grade students. Our mentors and students spent time engaging with each other at our monthly workshops, learning new and exciting communication skills, competing to build the tallest spaghetti and marshmallow structure, learning, and discussing body image and false advertisement surrounding healthy bodies, and so much more. Our matches played the original Oregon Trail at the Living Computer Museum and Labs, spent time ice skating in the winter, competed to be the all-time best pinball master, and telling jokes at our Thanksgiving Brunch. Each individual match was founded on different interests. Some mentors and students spent their time just bonding and talking about the future of high school, while another match spent time petting cats and the cat cafe. One match spent time learning to make pasta, and another match enjoyed a concert at the Seattle Symphony. The group had a mix of personalities, and everyone was equally engaged and learned a lot from the material, and from each other’s insights.
Program evaluation

Middle school is a tough time of transition and stress, and many times grades suffer. While Empower Mentoring Program is not a tutoring program, many matches spent some time discussing studying tips, and goals surrounding grade improvement. Each of our students have 7 classes, so 56 classes combined. Our students worked hard, and were able to raise their grades in 8 classes, by at least one grade level. This year, beyond just looking at how the students perceived the benefit of mentoring, we also asked the parents and guardians. According to our parents they saw improvements in how their student resist negative influences, how they started to build relationships with people that are different than them, learns to accept others as they are, experienced how their student stands up for what they believe in and what they feel is right, and saw the growth in the student because of their increase in support through their mentor’s hard work. All our students saw improvements in their self-esteem and their confidence. While this is hard to explain on paper, when comparing our students at our workshops in the fall and then again in the spring, you can see how confident they are just based on their level of involvement, how quick they are to engage with their mentors, others, and the group leader, and how well they support the other student’s ideas and thoughts.
Financials

This year, through individual contributions, and a few business matching grants, we raised $5023.97. Besides just individual contributions, we raised funds through GiveBig, a dine out fundraiser at Zippy’s Giant Burgers, and through our 2nd Annual Spring Brunch and Fundraiser, which all of this is because of YOU! As we continue to grow, and improve our program, our expenses are going to grow, with this year being at $7608.51.

Of these expenses $3366.85 were program expenses, getting broken down into workshop rental space, program materials, workshop snacks, and outings with the matches. Our fundraising expenses came in at $1677.03, which paid for our annual fundraiser, and fundraising databases and fees. Our general and administrative expenses came in at $2203.57, which this being broken down to web service fees, professional development, executive director stipend, and marketing.
Looking Forward

As a program, our goal is to provide adult mentors to all middle school students. We believe that everyone can benefit from additional support, especially during this tough time. For the 2017-2018 school year our goal is to provide 30 adult mentors to any student who resides in the West Seattle neighborhood. We hope that by opening up to all students, and all schools, our students will benefit from a larger community, and one with people that come from a varying of backgrounds, but all share two major similarities: that they are in middle school and that they live in West Seattle. Another change we are going to implement is interviews and using students, mentors and families simple testimony and retrospective reporting to evaluate our effectiveness in improving confidence, self-esteem and support.
Thank You

Volunteer Mentors
Katy Spelman
Onaleisha Petty
Stefanie Palunick
Rachel Riegel
Han Nguyen
Leilah Gober
Andrew Thomas
Meagan Dodge

Board of Directors
Kim Co
Wes Harris
Phong Dang

Donors
Philip Weiss
Gary Ly
Hans George Hodges
Jan Kozlow
Rachel Riegel
Kim Khanh Van
Sue Kershaw
Kelly Daviscourt
Jon Canan
Onaleisha Petty
Brandon Giles
Diana Nguyen
Shelby Holzknecht
Teresa Glenn
Stefanie Palaniuk
Phong Dang
Wes Harris
Kim Co
Valerie Moen
Katy Spelman
Josh Chan
Barbara Hodges

Corporate Matching Grants
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AmazonSmile
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