



Making a Difference in My Life

My friend Devin is 9 years old and always ready for fun and boy, it is contagious! Days can go by without seeing each other and we fall back into a groove of comfortable friendship. It's great to see him race out to my car and be ready for our adventure of the day.

We have been friends for about six months now and I am really enjoying our time together. I think he is, too. When I decided to mentor I thought this adventure would be something that I would do with just my buddy. I was wrong...My wife and our three children, who are in their twenty's, have as much fun as I do! Devin is always ready for anything; racing me to the car, going to a movie or a hockey game, painting a small planting pot for Mother's Day, playing checkers...biking. There was a whole afternoon recently that Devin spent explaining all the Harry Potter movies to me. (See, I learned something, too.) It has been so easy to assimilate Devin into our lives, whether it is just the two of us or Devin and my family, we always have fun together. My favorite time together is fishing, seeing his eyes light up and his magnificent smile when he catches a fish. It is rewarding to realize that a few hours each week can make such a

difference—yeah, Devin has made a big difference in MY life. I cannot say whether I have made a difference in Devin's but he surely has in mine.

-JOHN ROTHSTEIN

Mentoring doesn't take a lot of planning. It doesn't take a lot of time out of your normal casual schedule. Think about including a kid in those activities that you have planned...boating, making a mother's day present, fishing, baking cookies—it doesn't take a superhero, but a child will still think you are his/her hero because you have spent the time with them. You have listened to them. You have deemed them valuable by hanging out with them. Six hours a month is all it takes.