

Mentoring Matters

A Parent's Perspective

By Sharon Pflueger

I am a single mother of three children, one being a boy - Jeremy. I needed a positive role model for my son, and I knew he needed to spend some time with another male. It took a year to find a match for Jeremy, but it was well worth the wait. Jeremy was so happy to be able to get out of the house and have time away from his sisters. He finally had some man-to-man time and his mentor, Mark, was a very positive role model. I loved that he was asking if he could go and spend time with him. Bridges Kinship really put a lot of time into doing the research and matching Jeremy with Mark.

After Jeremy was matched, I found that my daughter Julia was having a hard time with the passing of her father and really needed someone other than her mom to talk with and spend some "girl" time with. Bridges Kinship was able to find a couple, Joen and Denny, to mentor my daughter, which was perfect for her. She was so excited about being able to spend time outside of the house and doing the things she likes to do and not have to share with her sister.

Meanwhile, due to unforeseen issues, Mark was unable to continue to mentor Jeremy. Joen and Denny offered to mentor Jeremy as well as Julia. Jeremy was once again excited about getting out of the house and doing "guy" things. The match has been perfect for both of my children. Julia still does her "girl" things with Joen and Denny, and Jeremy does his "guy" things with them also. They have become such a huge part of our lives and I couldn't imagine life without them in it. It is so nice to see my kids excited about spending time with their mentors, and I have peace of mind that they are positive role models for my children.

Jeremy says his mentors are "awesome, it's best thing ever! They are doing a good job to try and contact us when they can, and they go by our schedules."

Julia says "it's amazing! It really helped me. It's a new way to meet people you never knew. They are like family, so you can kick back and be yourself."

I know there are many kids who are waiting to be matched with a mentor. I want to encourage others in the community to consider being a mentor. It really does make a difference.

