



**MENTOR  
KANSAS**

## **MENTOR KANSAS CONNECTION**

*A monthly newsletter that aims to strengthen the connectivity of the statewide youth mentoring network and to educate programs on the resources and technical assistance available through Mentor Kansas.*

### **Welcome New Mentor Kansas Director!**

The Kansas Volunteer Commission is excited to announce **Emily Steimel as the new Mentor Kansas Director**. Emily was born in central Kansas and moved to the Topeka area in high school. She went on to graduate from Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Recently, Emily was the Public Education Coordinator at the YWCA Northeast Kansas Center for Safety and Empowerment where survivors of trauma are served. She has a strong background in trauma-informed care, professional training, community organizing and promoting

awareness around social issues.



## Dear Mentor: You Matter.

An Open Letter to All Mentors,

Maybe you hear it a lot and maybe you do not hear it at all, but let me put it out there right now: **thank you.**

Thank you for all that you have done, all that you do, and all that you will do in the future. You are selfless. You are patient. You are so full of love and kindness. You knew that being a mentor may be a "one-way street" type relationship, where you teach and give, knowing that you may not get anything in return. Yet, you stay.



Hopefully, you do gain something beneficial from this experience, from this journey, as I am sure your mentees most certainly have. Hopefully, part of your soul lights up as you guide and support a child in need. I hope you find this worthwhile. I hope this experience lifts your spirits in some way.

Honestly, there is no other relationship quite like the one that forms between a mentor and a mentee. You are a teacher. You are a guardian. You are a confidant. You guide. You support. You inspire. You are there through it all.

**Mentoring matters. You matter. You are making a difference.**

**I am here for you.**

Emily Steimel, Mentor Kansas Director

## #MentoringMatters: Why mentor?



DO YOU  
REMEMBER YOU?

**1 in 3 young people will grow up without a mentor.**

Mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity. Yet 9 million children in America will grow up without this critical asset. That is 9 million chances to build a better future.

The vision of Mentor Kansas is that every young person has access to the positive and supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive and engaged adults.

The mission of Mentor Kansas is to promote safe, inclusive, and effective youth mentoring practices and to encourage and inspire more Kansans to become mentors by fueling the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships.

To learn more about Mentor Kansas and to connect with a mentoring program in your community, please visit our website at [www.MentorKansas.org](http://www.MentorKansas.org).

**#MentorIRL: We want to hear from you!**



If you have mentoring stories and/or photos that you would like to share with the mentoring program network in Kansas, please forward your content to Mentor Kansas at [mentor@ksde.org](mailto:mentor@ksde.org). We would love to share these in future editions of the Mentor Kansas Connection!

**Stay tuned for more exciting updates!**

For more information, visit us at [www.MentorKansas.org](http://www.MentorKansas.org)

**Contact Us:**

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