

HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN HELP WITH ALEXANDRIA'S MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

Your organization can play a vital role in our community by recruiting mentors from your workforce or membership. Currently, there are 13 mentor programs in Alexandria, and all of them need mentors!

There are many different opportunities for mentor volunteers, given the wide range of mentoring programs from which to choose.

If you are in position to help your organization initiate, or expand, its mentoring efforts, you will be "making a difference," one that impacts our entire community.

Starting a mentoring program in your organization involves just three basic steps:

- Step 1.** Selecting a mentor "coordinator" within your organization;
- Step 2.** Communicating with your employees - both about the "need" for mentoring in Alexandria, and the opportunities that exist; and
- Step 3.** Recruiting employees or members to become mentors.

Please know that the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, and the more than 13 affiliated mentoring City programs, will support you every step of the way. We'll handle the screening, the training and the matching. We ask only that you help us locate individuals within your organization that have both the time and inclination to "make a difference."

Beyond recruiting, there are a host of ways that organizations can promote mentoring, including:

- Changing personnel policies and practices to facilitate support for and involvement in mentoring;
- Encouraging managers and employees to become mentors; and
- Devoting your company's special expertise (training, marketing, advertising, finance, human resources, legal, program management, etc.) to help local mentoring programs operate more efficiently and cost effectively.

If you wish to explore starting a community mentoring program, please contact Mike Mackey, Alexandria's Gang Prevention Coordinator, at mentoring@alexandriava.gov or at 703-838-4180, Ext. 242.