



**Jackson**

**community foundation™**

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January is National Mentoring Month

*By Monica Moser, President & CEO*

men·tor *noun*

1. A wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
2. An influential senior sponsor or supporter.

Virtually anyone can benefit from having a mentor. From ancient history to modern times, political, civic and spiritual leaders around the world have acted as mentors and have had mentors. Mahatma Gandhi was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Socrates was a mentor to Plato and Ralph Waldo Emerson mentor to Henry David Thoreau just to name a few.

Anyone can benefit from being a mentor, too! Being a mentor is about taking someone under your wing, instilling hope that success can be attained; success in school, success in college, success in career, and ultimately success in life. Mentoring is such an important part of helping someone gain support and knowledge beyond their current situation. Whether a student mentors another student, an adult mentors a student or an adult mentors another adult, it is a win-win for both individuals.

Many of us remember the person in our lives who gave their time and talent to us and helped us grow in ways we couldn't from books or from the classroom. Some mentors are teachers, to be sure, but some mentors are every-day people who share their life or business experiences to help another simply because they care. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, call 211 and they will connect you to the many opportunities that exist in our community.