

Goodwill GoodGuides™ Youth Mentoring Program

The Goodwill GoodGuides™ youth mentoring program is a national initiative that will help youth prepare for school completion, develop work skills, identify career paths, and transition to post-secondary opportunities. This service is for youth ages 12-17 who are least likely to have trusting relationships with adults due to risk factors such as school failure, prior delinquency, family violence and other barriers.

GoodGuides will place youth with trained adult mentors, who serve for at least one year are required to spend a minimum of four hours per month with the young person.

Through individualized goals and plans, adult mentors are expected to provide youth with positive guidance and support as well as training in career development and job readiness through activities such as community service, job shadowing and other occupational-focused activities.

GoodGuides aims to ensure that the vast majority of young people coming through the program will meet specific goals, such as improved school attendance and behavior, the development of career choices, and the acquisition of job skills.

GoodGuides at Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana will serve more than 150 youth during 2010-2011 in central Indiana. GoodGuides also will be able to refer youth family members to the variety of services Goodwill provides as part of its mission.

Youth eligible for this program must submit an application and go through a screening process. Adult mentors also must submit an application and complete a comprehensive background check and at least six hours of mentor training.

The program is part of Goodwill Industries International's overall commitment to family strengthening and positive youth development. The program is being implemented in 56 Goodwill territories in 38 states. Funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, this program will serve more than 5,600 youth nationally over a 24-month period.

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