



Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries  
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## Be the Change You Want to See in the World!

**Overview:** The GoodGuides Youth Mentoring Program of Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries is part of a national initiative by Goodwill Industries International and funded by a grant from the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The program is designed to promote opportunity and positive choices for youth who are at risk for delinquency and contact with the juvenile justice system.

**Purpose:** By engaging youth in positive activities with adults who are strong role models, youth receive the encouragement and support they need to maximize their potential. GoodGuides engages adult volunteers who are expected to commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about youth in the community, the mentor can help youth develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals.

**Characteristics of a GoodGuides Mentor:** GoodGuides mentors are of strong moral character, dependable, believe in opportunities for youth, and are willing to commit at least one year to helping a young person or group of young people uncover and develop similar characteristics. GoodGuides mentors are good listeners, encouraging, supportive, flexible, patient, tolerant, and respectful of individual differences. They are people who want to be a part of the solution and be the change they want to see in the world.

**Targeted Youth:** The youth targeted for this program ages range from 12 through 17. They have committed delinquent acts or are at risk for delinquent behavior. They are young people who may be struggling in school, experimenting with drugs, hanging around negative peers, and/or prime candidates for gang involvement. Their backgrounds are varied, but many live in unstable homes or in homes where adult supervision is not available during large portions of the day. They may have a parent in prison, and/or have a history of serious family problems. They are looking for guidance, support, and a positive way to be a part of the community.

**Types of Mentoring:** GoodGuides mentors can mentor youth in a one-on-one relationship, or engage in group mentoring with small groups of young people (five or less). Young mentors may serve as peer mentors who can demonstrate how positive choices result in opportunities and the realization of dreams.

### Volunteer Mentor Role

- Serve as a positive role model and friend.
- Build the relationship by planning and participating in activities together.
- Be willing to share information about your career and career path and explore career options with your mentee(s).
- Strive for mutual respect.
- Help your mentee build self-esteem and motivation.
- Promote and exhibit personal and social responsibility.
- Help set goals and support youth as they work toward accomplishing them.
- Be respectful of the mentee's time, opinions, and decision-making.

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- Serve as a positive role model by modeling desirable behaviors e.g. patience, tolerance, and reflective listening.
  - Be comfortable and able to establish appropriate boundaries with the mentee and his or her family.

### **Pre-Service**

- Complete a written application.
- Agree to have Goodwill conduct a criminal history check, drug testing, and DOJ National Sex Offender Public Registry check. Felony convictions within five years of application or a record on the DOJ National Sex Offender Public Registry will eliminate you from the program.
- Participate in a personal interview with GoodGuides staff.
- Provide three personal references.
- **Complete six** hours of orientation and training.

### **Service Requirements**

- Make a one-year commitment.
- Spend a minimum of four hours per month with your mentee.
- Communicate with your mentee weekly.
- Keep track of and report time spent with your mentee.
- Communicate with the Program Manager or Master Mentor at least monthly.
- Attend ongoing training and mentor group meetings.
- Adhere to all program policies and procedures.
- Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments.
- Attend special events and recognition events that are available.
- Complete surveys as asked and ensure youth complete surveys as asked.

### **What You can Expect from the GoodGuides Program**

- Pre-service and ongoing training to prepare and support your mentoring activities.
- Assistance in matching you with a youth who shares your interests or personal characteristics.
- Ongoing support from the Program Manager and Master Mentor.
- Assistance in troubleshooting problems as they arise.
- A safe place to meet your mentees with staff available to help.
- Help in developing projects and activities to do with your mentee.
- Staff support in completing all reports for the program.
- Monthly contact from the Program Manager or Master Mentor.
- Recognition for your service through formal and informal means.

### **Benefits**

- Personal fulfillment by making a difference for a youth in need.
- Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress, and achieve goals.
- Personal growth through training sessions and group activities.
- Personal ongoing support and supervision to help the match succeed.
- Mentee/mentor activities, complimentary tickets to community events, and recognition events.
- Access to the services and resources of the Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries.

For more information, contact the Program Director, Ikenna Martin or Coordinator Luvenia Sims @ (217) 789-0400

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