

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Christina Markrush, and in 1996, I entered the first grade as a shy, and nervous little girl with very low self-esteem. Fortunately, I was soon matched with my mentor, Elaine. (You may have recently seen our commercial for National Mentoring Month). We met for an hour a week from first grade until my junior year of high school. As years went by, Elaine and I formed a strong bond with one another, and I quickly became more confident, happy, and my everyday anxieties began to disappear. Just having a caring adult there for me every week to talk to and trust was enough to make a tremendous impact. Elaine opened up a whole new world of possibilities for me.

Years later, (eighteen to be exact), I am now a mentor for two wonderful students in the Warwick school system. I feel honored and grateful for being able to pay it forward and give them the same opportunities for success that Elaine gave me. I have found that the experience is equally beneficial for both mentees and their mentors. We both enter and leave our meetings with smiles from ear to ear. It is amazing to see first-hand how much of an impact an hour a week can make!

Mentoring doesn't just stop when a student finishes high school. Elaine and I have become lifelong friends and meet whenever we can to catch up. And who would have thought that we would both be mentoring in the same school where we first met?! She is still there for me even in adulthood and we both learn so much from each other.

Mentors give students a trustworthy, caring, and positive role model to help them succeed in life. I am a strong believer in the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." With your support, you can help a student get the amazing and crucial experience of having a mentor. You will not only be helping to create opportunities for our youth, but for our future society. I hope you can help more mentors like me to "Be someone who matters to someone who matters"! Thank you.

Yours in Mentoring,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina".

Christina Markrush  
Mentor & Mentee