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**For Immediate Release:**

**MENTOR RHODE ISLAND CELEBRATES NATIoNAL MENToRING MoNTH!!!**

Warwick,RI – January is National Mentoring Month, and this year MENTOR Rhode Island is celebrating the annual campaign aimed at expanding quality mentoring opportunities to connect more of our community’s young people with caring adults by hosting a series of celebrations and events.

“National Mentoring Month is an amazing opportunity to celebrate the good work mentors are doing in our community and encourage more people to get involved. Mentoring works. Resolve to be a mentor this year and make a difference for more young people in RI.” said Jo-Ann Schofield, President & CEO of MENTOR Rhode Island.

[Research](https://www.mentoring.org/program-resources/mentor-resources-and-publications/the-mentoring-effect/) shows that mentors play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to strive and thrive, to attend and engage in school, and to reduce or avoid risky behavior like drug use. In turn, these young people are:

55% more likely to be enrolled in college

81% more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities

78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.

More than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team.

Yet, the same research shows that one in three young people in our country will grow up without a mentor. Today, in our community there are almost 900 young people on waiting lists for mentors at various mentoring programs and thousands more who could benefit from having a mentor outside their family.

At the same time, research shows that 44% of adults are not yet mentoring but are willing to consider it and mentoring is poised for growth.18- to 29-year-olds are more than twice as likely to cite having had a mentor in their childhood than those over 50. Almost half of today’s young adults report having a mentor in their youth and those rates appear to have been rising steadily over the past several decades.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year where engagement from community members interested in becoming a mentor is highest. With the support of the mentoring community, we are encouraging the public to go beyond just digital engagement – and become involved in real life.

\*more\*

In our community, people can participate in a number of digital and real-life events designed to celebrate and support mentoring:

**January 1, 2020 -The Frozen Clam Dip & Obstaplunge**A fundraising event on New Year’s Day at noon that features a Ninja Warrior-style obstacle course that ends with a dip in Narragansett Bay.

**January 8, 2020  - I Am a Mentor Day**
A day for volunteer mentors to celebrate their role and reflect on the ways mentees have enhanced their world.

**January 15, 2020 – Special Thank You Event for Mentors & Supporters**

MENTOR Rhode Island will host a select number of mentors, supporters, and mentor program staff at the GAMM Theatre in Warwick for a dress rehearsal of the play “Admissions”

**January 17, 2020 - International Mentoring Day**
A day of international conversation on social media where photos, videos and messages of powerful mentoring stories are shared.

**January 20, 2020 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**
A day to share in the inspirational words of Dr. MLK, Jr. and elevate the spirit of service through volunteerism.

**January 22, 2020 – Free Workshop on Telling Your Mentoring Story**
MENTOR Rhode Island will host a free workshop for mentoring professionals and mentors interested in learning more about how they can help spread the word about mentoring and recruit new volunteer mentors by telling their own mentoring stories.

**January 30, 2020 - #ThankYourMentor Day**
A day to show gratitude for your mentor by posting on social media using hashtag **#ThankYourMentor**

Want to participate on social media during National Mentoring Month?

Be sure to utilize hashtags **#MentoringMonth** & **#MentorIRL** in your posts so the National Mentoring Partnership can amplify and share your posts across the country and the world!!!

To learn more about any of these events, the role mentoring plays in our community, and how to find volunteer mentoring opportunities visit [www.MentorRI.org](http://www.MentorRI.org)

National Mentoring Month is led by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, the national organization working to expand the quality and quantity of youth mentoring relationships nationwide. Each year since its launch in 2002, National Mentoring Month has enjoyed the strong support of the President and the United States Congress.

***About MENTOR Rhode Island: The RI Mentoring Partnership, Inc.***Our mission is to ensure youth have access to the motivational and supportive relationships they need to grow into confident, successful adults. We envision a Rhode Island where all youth are connected to relationships with adults who inspire and support them. All youth will have role models who provide a road map for lifelong success and achievement. We serve as an umbrella organization for dozens of mentoring programs around Rhode Island offering help with recruitment, training, and technical assistance. We are also directly responsible for the coordination of the school-based mentoring programs in Warwick, Woonsocket, Newport, Middletown, Pawtucket, Providence, Warren, & Cranston.

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