**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **CONTACT**August 30, 2018 Jo-Ann Schofield

 President & CEO
 Phone: 401-732-7700
 Cell: 401-378-8399

**Warwick Mentor Program to Launch On-Schedule
Emergency Gap Funding Campaign will support the program
until school budget issues are resolved**

**WARWICK, R.I.** – MENTOR Rhode Island refuses to tell the 160 students in the Warwick Mentor Program they are not a priority. The organization announced today that the Warwick Mentor Program will begin on its normal schedule with mentors and mentees resuming their meetings a few weeks after the students return to school. The organization is also launching an emergency gap funding campaign to offset costs until there is a solution to the school budget impasse.

“One thing that The Mayor, Warwick City Council, Warwick School Committee and Superintendent all agree on … The Warwick Mentor Program is too valuable to lose,” said Jo-Ann Schofield, President & CEO of MENTOR Rhode Island. “What we don’t have is a financial commitment as the parties continue to negotiate their budget woes. And depending on the track taken, we may not know anything until December or January. I will not let our kids be casualties of adults not being able to come to an agreement.”

For existing mentoring pairs the program will operate as it always has, but given the uncertainty of the budget, the Warwick Mentor Program will not accept new mentors or mentees until program funding is restored. Exceptions will be made only in the cases of veteran mentors who lose their mentees to the normal attrition the program experiences and are seeking to be re-matched.

Those wishing to support the emergency gap funding campaign can visit the campaign webpage at: [www.MentorRI.org/save-warwick](http://www.MentorRI.org/save-warwick)

Or send a check to:
 MENTOR Rhode Island
 2065 Warwick Avenue, Unit 1
 Warwick, RI 02889

 Please put “Warwick Funding” in the memo line.

###