



# CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN (CYCP) REPORT CARD

ALEXANDRIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ENSURING EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS TODAY AND TOMORROW

## JANUARY WAS...

National Mentorship Month

## CYCP GOAL

All Children, Youth, and Families will have Positive Experiences

## MENTORING SPOTLIGHT

Every January, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership unites Alexandria's mentoring programs in celebration of National Mentoring Month. Together they use their collective voice to celebrate the positive effects that mentoring has on young people's lives and focus our attention on the need for more mentors to support relationships like those between Katrina Foelsche and Marina L.

Katrina met her mentee, Marina, in 2017 through the SOHO program. They bonded over working collaboratively on creative arts and carpentry projects. Since SOHO, Katrina and Marina continue to interact regularly through activities that build on their strengths and interests. Katrina "taught me how to cook brownies and make homemade lasagna!" describes Marina.

"She helped me be more creative and helped me express myself and myself and who I am." "Marina has such a caring and kind heart," shares Katrina. "She's smart and is always open to trying new things. I love hearing her express her opinions on current events." Marina enjoys engaging in service projects with her mentor, such as volunteering for Wright to Read, another mentoring program where Katrina serves as Director. Marina expressed that "It felt nice helping others in need."

One of Katrina's favorite things to do with Marina is go sightseeing. "I love exploring museums and all the culture DC has to offer together with Marina. We have seen exhibits at nearly every museum in DC." Mentoring relationships like this are powerful because they help create a world where youth feel valued and grow up to be healthy adults. One parent sums up the power of these relationships perfectly: "In the years since [my child] has been with Wright to Read, I have seen her vocabulary, reading skills and confidence levels grow. Her tutor has been very instrumental in her development."





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## RESULT

Alexandria's youth have three or more caring adults (besides parents or guardians) who support them

## WHY THIS MATTERS

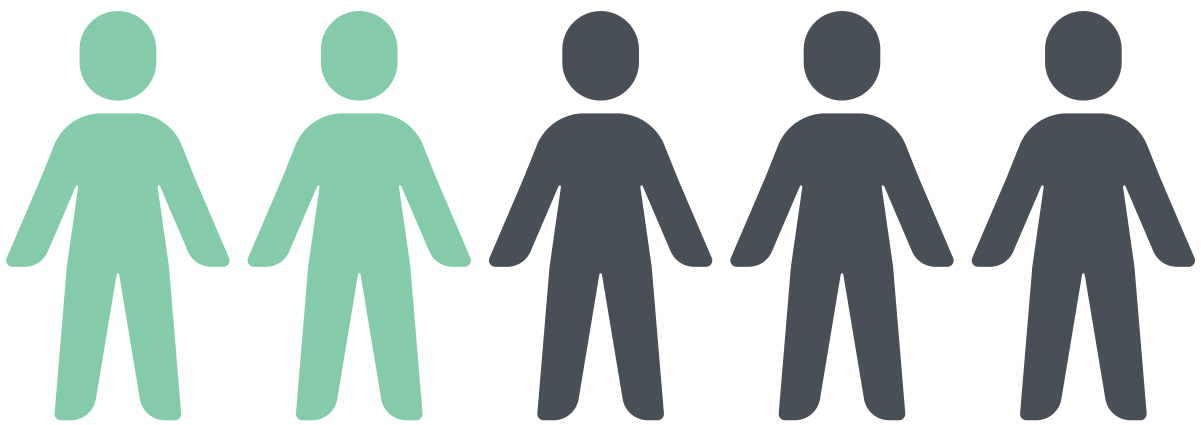
Young people who have three or more caring adults who support them feel happier and more hopeful, do better in school, and are less likely to rely on drinking, smoking, or drugs to feel good or fit in. That's why the Search Institute® identified this preventative measure as one of the 40 Developmental Assets®. Research has consistently shown that these 40 Assets, also known as protective factors, buffer youth from risk while helping them to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. Young people want adults besides their parents to count on. Caring adults are important to the development of young especially if those adults know how to listen without judging. So whether you're a neighbor, educator, coach, uncle, older cousin, or barista — you can be a good friend to a young person.



## HOW WE ARE DOING

2 in 5 young people in Alexandria have three or more caring adults in their life

Source: Search Institute Survey, Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors, 2019



## STRATEGY

Ensure that every young person is embedded in a web of positive relationships with trusted, caring adults

## CHAMPION

Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP)

## PARTNERS

- Alexandria Police Department
- Alexandria Seaport Foundation
- Casa Chirilagua
- Community Lodgings
- Decoded
- Higher Achievement
- SOHO - Space of Her Own
- The Untouchables
- Wright to Read



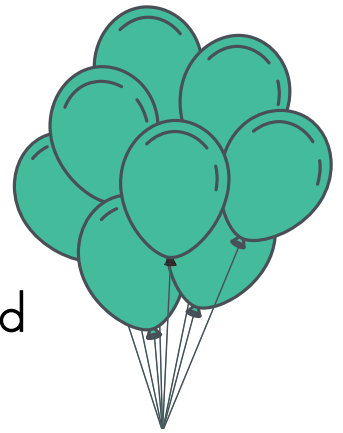
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## WHAT DID WE DO?



Created and filled a new position, AMP Coordinator, to support the alignment of high-quality mentoring programs and ongoing mentor development and retention within the AMP

Celebrated Alexandria's mentors and mentoring relationships with a Proclamation from City Council declaring January as Alexandria Mentoring Month, a social media campaign, a mentoring recruitment event, and participation in community service projects and National Mentoring Summit in DC



Raised awareness among City staff of the policy that incentivizes employees to dedicate work time towards mentoring one hour a week

## HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

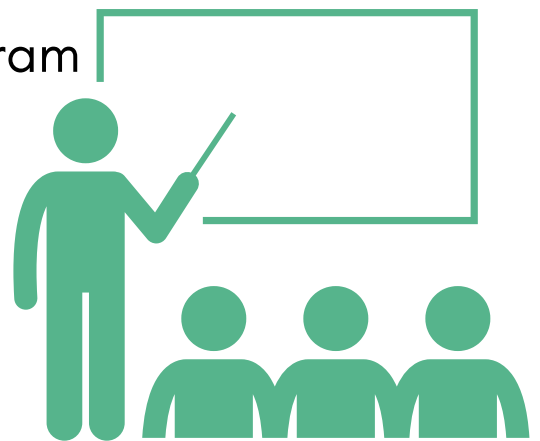


9 mentoring programs in Alexandria supported  
276 mentoring relationships in 2021

## HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

135 mentors and mentor program staff were trained in Developmental Assests

14,000+ hours of mentoring in 2021-22

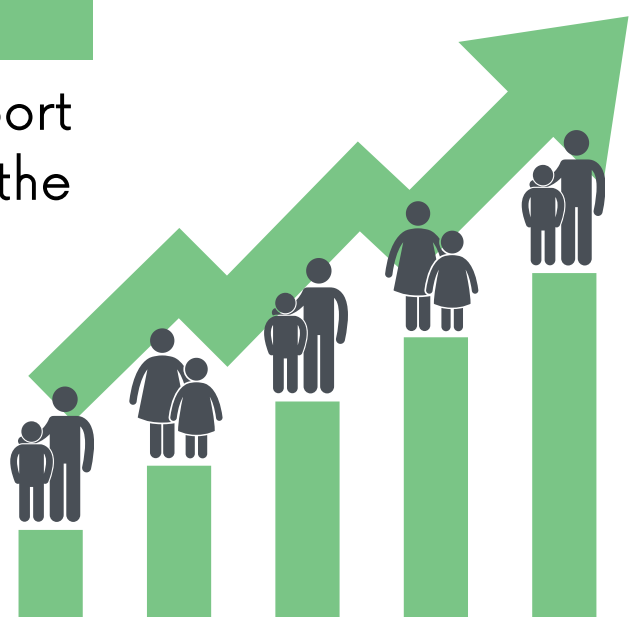


## IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

This time next year, the Report Card will be able to share the

%

of mentees who report having the ideal number of developmental assets





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## RESOURCES

- To learn more about Alexandria's mentoring programs or to join the Partnership, [visit the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership webpage](#)
- To find a collection of resources on best practices for mentoring programs, visit [MENTOR Virginia's webpage](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for at least one hour a week, submit a [Mentor Interest Form](#), or contact the AMP Coordinator at 703.746.4455 or [mentoring@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mentoring@alexandriava.gov)



**MENTOR ONE CHILD.  
CHANGE TWO LIVES.**  
ALEXANDRIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP