



VOLUNTEER: Be a Mentor!

The Business Side of Youth seeks business owners and other professionals to **volunteer as mentors** for Washtenaw County teens as they develop business plans and begin to establish their own businesses.

The B. Side: The Business Side of Youth was founded in 2007 as a project of EMU's Office of Academic Service-Learning. The vision of The B. Side is to establish a youth leadership and business culture through entrepreneurship programs and resources, which provide greater economic opportunities for youth in Washtenaw County.

Mentoring is a powerful way to give back to your community. Studies show that students who are mentored do better in school and are more likely to go on to become more successful in school and/or in the business world. Mentoring also helps prevent substance abuse, reduce negative behavior and promotes positive social attitudes among teens. Working side by side with a caring adult helps young people gain self-esteem, master the skills necessary for a successful career, and transform themselves into confident community members.

To be a mentor, you must be an individual with experience in developing or growing a business, or a person with specific business skills that will help our young entrepreneurs to establish their businesses. Mentors receive support and guidance throughout their three to six month commitment, which includes a weekly contact with a young entrepreneur and a monthly meeting with The B. Side staff.

To apply, please complete the application form and interest form, and return it with your resume. We will make every attempt to match you with a young entrepreneur whose interests most match yours.

All applicants will be invited to attend an orientation meeting to discuss the commitment in detail, including the time commitment, what is expected from our volunteers, and the kind of support that The B. Side provides. In order to protect both our volunteers and youth, mentors are required to undergo a criminal record check and a Child Abuse Registry check.

More information about The B. Side can be found at www.bsideofyouth.com

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The B. Side Mentor Program Description

WHO ARE THE YOUTH

The young people (ages 13 to 19) of The B. Side are from Washtenaw County. Youth have been screened and are selected on the basis of their energy and commitment to personal success. Each young entrepreneur has an interest in starting his or her own business or has already established a small business.

WHO ARE THE MENTORS

- Business Owners
- Business School students
- Marketing and Public relations specialists
- Accounting and Finance specialists
- Attorneys
- Insurance agents
- Other persons with specific business skills to assist young entrepreneurs

WHAT and HOW MUCH TIME

- Application and Interest Form submitted
- Initial orientation meeting
- Matching of youth and adult volunteer based upon mutual interests
- Weekly contact with young entrepreneur mentee (including telephone, email, face-to-face)
 - Minimum of three months
 - Maximum of six months
- Monthly assessment meeting with The B. Side staff
- Attendance at special events showcasing mentee achievements
- Purpose is to help the mentee refine and implement the business plan

WHERE

- Mentee/mentor meetings to be held in public places such as the mentor's place of business, The B. Side offices, library, coffee shop, etc.
- Orientation meetings, assessment meetings and special events to be held as arranged

WHEN

Mentors are assigned after youth have completed The B. Side Basics Program, an intensive 12-week entrepreneurial training program. Youth will be in the process of writing an initial business plan that will need to be refined with the assistance of the mentor, or the youth will have already started a small business and will need assistance in growing their business.

RESOURCES

The B. Side staff and Steering Committee will be available to provide support and counsel to Mentors. The B. Side staff has already established relationships with the youth through the B. Side Basics Program. Young entrepreneurs are eligible for micro loans based upon the quality and feasibility of their business plans and the support of their mentors.

MENTOR/MENTEE Agreement

To be completed with your mentor/mentee and submitted to The B. Side staff

We are voluntarily entering into a mentoring relationship, which we both expect to benefit. We want this to be a rich, rewarding experience with most of our time together spent in career development activities. To this end, we have mutually agreed upon the terms and conditions as outlined in this agreement.

PERIOD COVERED

From: _____ to _____
(Date) (Date)

OBJECTIVES

We hope to achieve:

We will accomplish this by:

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any sensitive issue that we discuss will be held in confidence as long as no one is in danger to themselves or others. Issues that are off-limits in this relationship will include:

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- We will attempt to meet at least _____ (fill in amount) of times each month. If we cannot attend a scheduled meeting, we agree to be responsible and notify our partner.
- We agree that we can make no more than _____ (fill in amount) of phone calls to each other each week during _____ (specify time limits).
- We agree that we can make no more than _____ (fill in amount) of emails/text messages to each other each week.

GRACEFUL EXIT CLAUSE

We have determined that our mentoring relationship will continue as long as we both feel comfortable. If one of us needs to terminate the relationship before the end of this agreement for any reason, we agree to abide by the decision of our partner.

Mentor Name (please print)

Mentee Name (please print)

Mentor Signature

Mentee Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____