



BE THE INSPIRATION. BECOME A MENTOR.

Process:

- 1) **Initiate contact:** Reach out to one of the Pals Program Coordinator(s) with any questions you may have.
 - a. Jenna Durkee: Jenna.Durkee@browncountywi.gov OR (920)448-6023
 - b. Courtney Thorne: Courtney.Thorne@browncountywi.gov OR (920)448-6042

- 2) **Complete an Application:** The application can be emailed or mailed to a volunteer, whichever method is preferred. Applications include consent to a background check and three references. Once Pals Coordinators receive your application, they are typically able to process them within two days. Responses from references often tend to slow down the process. Ensure your references know in advance that they will be contacted.

- 3) **Volunteer Interview & Orientation:** Once the application is processed, a Pals Coordinator will set up a time to meet with you in your home. The initial meeting takes approximately one hour and includes:
 - a. Orientation to the Pals Program
 - b. An opportunity for the Pals Coordinator to learn more about your interests and your hopes for your match.
 - c. A tour of your home so the Pals Coordinator knows where a child will spend time
 - d. Additional paperwork will be reviewed at this time if needed (ex. verification of auto insurance)

- 4) **Meet to discuss potential matches:** After the initial meeting, the Pals Coordinator will review children on the waitlist that may be compatible. The Coordinator will identify 2-3 children from the waitlist to present to a volunteer. This typically occurs within one week of the volunteer interview. This meeting typically takes 30 minutes. Volunteers can take time to think about the options presented, make a decision that day or request additional profiles to be shared.

- 5) **Meet your Pal!** When the volunteer has made a selection, the Pals Coordinator will contact the caregiver for selected child. A meet and greet is then scheduled at the child's home along with the Coordinator. If all goes well, the match is made official!

Details:

The assigned mentor(s) spend time in recreational or learning activities with a child age 3 or older from a family that has been or is currently involved with Brown County Child Protective Services. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to the separation or loss of a parent, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills. Volunteers can also assist the youth by teaching necessary life skills and tools so they can be successful, independent adults. Matches are based on compatibility, are reviewed annually and can continue for as long as both partners are interested until the youth is eighteen. On-going support is provided by the Pals Program Coordinators.

Responsibilities:

- Commit to the program for a minimum of one year.
- To meet with the child two or three times per month or as otherwise agreed upon in advance.
- Observe agency rules of confidentiality; report any concerns regarding possible abuse/neglect.
- Provide a brief monthly report to the Pals Coordinator

Activities Might Include:

- Visits or tours to points of interest, sporting events, fishing, exploring nature, bike riding, library, museums, and in general, broadening the child's range of interests and knowledge. Activities around volunteer's home are encouraged as well.
- Assisting/encouraging/acknowledging the child's performance in school and extracurricular activities.
- Working with the youth on specific goals to help build their independence such as budgeting, finding employment, planning for after high school, etc.
- Attending (optional) group activities.

Qualifications:

- Be at least age 18
- Consent to a police background check in each state that you've resided in and provide three favorable references.

Note: Ongoing training opportunities and match support will be provided throughout the duration of a volunteer's involvement in the program.