

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019-2020



Project Friendship matches youth with a trained college-age mentor to develop a caring and supportive friendship. **Youth are engaged through *intentional activities* that open opportunities for social and emotional learning** with emphasis on building confidence, inspiring character, and creating connections.

### Staff

**Holly Schoenbauer** — Executive Director

### Board of Directors

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**Deney Perkins** | **Linda Thornton**

**Katherine Mateos** — Carleton Student & Mentor

**Brendan Weed** — St. Olaf Student & Mentor

Though mentoring may look different this year, *the connections being made are more important than ever!*







## VIRTUAL MENTORING WORKS!

**When this school year started, no one knew what was just around the corner.** Due to COVID-19 our college mentors needed to leave campus early and return to their homes. Schools were closed, and kids needed to learn digitally at home. Project Friendship stood tough. **If we learned anything during this time of social distancing and distance learning, it is that relationships matter.**

**This is where Project Friendship stepped in.** Mentors and their mentees continued to meet via Zoom, became old fashioned pen pals, talked on the phone, texted, and kept in touch any way they could.

**Mentors and mentees found a new way to keep their connection alive.** Not only that, but Project Friendship was growing! New matches continued to be made. Over 150 mentoring pairs continued to meet. Instead of an hour on campus once a week, they had lunch together via Zoom, or played Scrabble online together, or FaceTime chatted, or made up their own games to connect. Mentoring may look different, but the impact on the youth stayed strong.



## 2019-2020 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

### Revenue

Individual Gifts	\$23,520
Foundations / Grants	\$23,267
Carleton College Garage Sale	\$13,400
Other	\$3,652
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,839</b>

### Expenses

Programs	\$51,633
General / Administration	\$13,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,153</b>

For details, please reference Project Friendship's EIN #41-1565496.



## From Match Coordinator to Executive Director

When former Executive Director Sarah VanSickle resigned, it was an easy decision for **Holly Schoenbauer** to step into the Executive Director role. Holly comes from an extensive background working with youth — as a former youth director, a teacher, and then the Help Me Grow Program Director, Holly is no stranger to community connections and program building. Schoenbauer brings new excitement and a commitment to the Project Friendship mission.



## MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

Project Friendship has a long history of empowering youth and is committed to ensuring all youth are connected with caring adults to be their best self — **whether in person or digitally, Project Friendship will be there!** Your support is critical for future programming as we anticipate another year of exceptional growth as parents seek out ways for their child to connect to others and youth reach out looking for those relationships that are critical to their development. **Your gift, no matter the size, will help ensure that Project Friendship is sustained in its efforts to serve youth.**

A donation can be mailed to:

Project Friendship  
1651 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield, MN 55057

Or you can donate online at:  
[projectfriendshipmentoring.org/donate](http://projectfriendshipmentoring.org/donate)

## MENTORS TELL US ...

"My mentee and I both have birthdays in late March, and we usually don't get to meet for them because it's right around Carleton's spring break. So this year, for my birthday, he (his mom) sent me a video (which was absolutely adorable) of him with a sign that said "Happy Birthday Zach!" For his birthday, I sent him a video of me playing an online piano and singing happy birthday. **We're making it all work!**"

"Just wanted to share a super fun game my mentee, Lucas, and I have been playing. It's called skribbl io. You can set up a private lobby and play just with your mentee. Doing it simultaneously with FaceTime is a really great activity. It's a lot like Pictionary when you read words and draw them, and the other person tries to guess. **It helps him work on his reading and drawing skills and is super fun for me as well.**"

## YOUTH TELL US ...

"I have someone to talk to — someone different than my family. And having a friend is really nice because sometimes I don't know what to do with my time."

"It's like having someone that I can talk to and she is a great friend. We were able to play fun games and to talk a lot more than if we were together. **I love meeting with my mentor, even if it's not in person.** I am even more excited to see her when we can be back together again!"

## PARENTS TELL US ...

"My daughter, Liz, 12, has been meeting regularly on Zoom at the same time that she used to meet with her mentor. Yesterday they played a word association game and there were lots of laughs. **I know that the contact with her mentor is helping her get through these tough days!**"

"Just a shout out to my daughter's mentor — **she's been phenomenal as a mentor, especially during our current times.** She's written twice via snail mail and they've messaged on Facebook's Messenger Kids a few times (video chats) — it's very helpful as it is indeed hard for a 10-year-old to grasp the situation."

"**My son and his mentor have been connecting each week.** They do Zoom meetings, FaceTime, write letters, etc. The other day I thought their meeting was going a little long as my son just kept on talking. I figured he should let his mentor be — but then I realized it was his mentor who kept asking more and kept the meeting going. They chatted for an hour and showed each other parts of their houses and talked about favorite Disney characters. It was so cute."

"**For the first time in weeks, I heard my daughter's real laugh.** I opened her bedroom door to find that she was playing a game with her mentor over Zoom. My heart was so happy!!"

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 (507) 301-7705



**PROJECT FRIENDSHIP'S  
 SUCCESSES  
 AT A GLANCE  
 2019-2020**



NUMBER OF YOUTH MENTEES BY GRADE

**41**

in grades K-3

**62**

in grades 4-5

**50**

in grades 6-8

**153** TOTAL MATCHES throughout the year,

*138 in the previous year.*



... our **6<sup>th</sup>** consecutive year of growth!



MATCHES MET for a total of

**2,576 HOURS**



... up by 831 hours, even during distance learning!