

Peer Mentor Clients

Seniors who are home-bound, live alone, have recently suffered a personal loss - such as the death of a spouse - or those who show signs of anxiety or loneliness should be considered for the Peer Mentoring Program.

All persons aged sixty or older who reside in DeKalb County are eligible to be considered to receive this free-of-charge service of the Family Service Agency.

Mentors visit in person and by telephone, usually for a period of at least one year. Often the two remain friends and visiting continues much longer.

This program is funded through a grant from the Illinois Mental Health Board of DeKalb County.

Other Programs Available

The Family Service Agency operates the Senior Services Center - an activity Center that provides group socialization and services.

The Assisted Living Program provides non-medical, in-home assistance for those seniors who can benefit by homemaker services.

Call for information about
these programs or visit
www.RealSolutionsToday.org
815-758-8616



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center For Counseling
Child Life & Family Education
Children's Advocacy Center
Senior Services Center

Family Service Agency
14 Health Services Drive
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Family Service Agency is a United Way agency.

Senior Peer Mentoring

A program to provide
in-home support and
companionship for seniors
living in DeKalb County

Family Service Agency Senior Peer Mentor Program

The Program

The Senior Peer Mentor Program provides senior adults who are home-bound or lonely with the friendship, emotional support and companionship needed to adjust to current life circumstances.

Individuals are referred to the program through the Community Care Program, family, friends or other service professionals.

An initial assessment by a professional counselor is completed to determine if additional professional services are indicated.

Once the determination is made that the individual could benefit from visits and telephone contacts from a mature volunteer, he or she is invited to enroll in the mentoring program.

Initial contact is established and the program coordinator “matches” the individual and a volunteer with similar interests.

The focus of the program is socialization and activity based. Volunteers are not caregivers or homemakers and cannot provide any care or transportation but do share memories, laughs and much needed mental stimulation and empathy.

The Art of Peer Mentoring



Sharing Common Interests



Good Listening Skills



Good Communication

Peer Mentors

Mentors are DeKalb County residents, aged 55 or older, who volunteer their services as representatives of the Family Service Agency Senior Services.

Mentors provide companionship for those seniors who are home-bound, lonely or at-risk of becoming depressed due to personal loss or change in physical abilities.

These giving individuals receive the training and supervision needed to offer caring and supportive relationships to seniors who would otherwise be isolated.

The training course includes information on normal aging and dementias, signs of elder abuse, depression in the older adult and practical information regarding other available community resources for seniors. On-going in-service programs and frequent communication with the coordinator keep the mentor informed of any changes.

Peer Mentors receive background checks, provide references and must have valid Illinois drivers licenses and transportation.

Mentors are asked to provide information about favorite activities, talents, hobbies and availability so clients and volunteers with similar interests can be matched. Matches are gender specific.

Call 815-758-8616 to volunteer!