

## Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County



Mission of Family Pathfinders: Strengthen the community by empowering individuals and families to attain self-sufficiency.

We fulfill this idealistic mission with two programs that are unique in Tarrant County.

Our award-winning Career Steps program provides paid and unpaid work experience for Workforce customers. Through our established collaborations with businesses and non-profits in the county, we develop work sites in which participants acquire job training, skills and references. We have provided positions for both adults and youth who are served by Workforce through TANF, SNAP E\&T, WIA, and Project WISH (Workforce Innovative Solutions to Homelessness). Our program has been identified as a Workforce Best Practice and has served as a model for similar endeavors in other parts of the country.

The Mentoring program matches trained volunteer mentoring teams with families struggling to overcome the bonds of poverty. Team members join hands with the family for one year, helping them make the very difficult transition from poverty to financial stability. Each team provides a broad range of support including budgeting, job preparation and problem solving. Our $76 \%$ rate of retained employment confirms that this unique program makes a difference in people's lives when they learn life skills from a team of caring, committed volunteers. Due to our success, the Mentoring program has been recognized for Best Practices by Urban Partnership Initiatives of the Department of Health and Human Services. The strength of the program is the three-way relationship among the client, the Mentoring team, and the staff, all focused on helping the family become self-sufficient.


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