

YOUTH MENTORING IN OELWEIN

A Community Partnership Opportunity

The goal: build a sustainable network of caring Oelwein adults who can provide consistent, positive relationships for local youth.

Why Oelwein?

Helping Services has expanded community-based youth mentoring into Oelwein because local youth and families have expressed a need for additional positive adult support. The program began recruiting in Oelwein in 2026, and there are currently three youth waiting for mentors – two girls and one boy.

The challenge is not a lack of youth who could benefit from mentoring; it is building a strong enough local mentor pool to meet that need. A partnership with the City of Oelwein could help make mentoring a visible, community-wide effort.

What does community-based mentoring look like?

- **One-to-one relationship:** A caring adult is matched with a youth based on interests, needs, and compatibility.
- **A manageable commitment:** Mentors spend a minimum of 4 hours per month with their mentee and commit to at least one year.
- **Real-life connection:** Matches can do ordinary activities together—walks, games, hobbies, community events, meals, or other shared interests.
- **Supported by Helping Services:** Program staff recruit and screen volunteers, make matches, provide ongoing support, and organize opportunities for mentors and mentees.



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How could the City of Oelwein help?

Potential partnership	What it could look like
Help recruit mentors	Share mentor opportunities through City communications, social media, newsletters, staff networks, and community contacts.
Connect us with local groups	Help introduce Helping Services to businesses, civic groups, first responders, churches, and other organizations that may have potential mentors.
Provide community visibility	Help make youth mentoring a visible part of Oelwein community events and activities.
Explore community spaces	Identify appropriate, safe public spaces or City-supported activities that could be useful for mentor/mentee interactions or group events.
Encourage civic involvement	Explore ways City leaders, employees, or community partners could serve as mentors or ambassadors for the program.

What we are hoping to accomplish together

Helping Services will continue to provide the program structure, volunteer screening, matching, training, and ongoing support. The City does not need to operate the mentoring program. Instead, we are looking for ways the City can help connect the program to the people, organizations, and resources already present in Oelwein.

The long-term goal is simple: when an Oelwein youth needs a positive adult relationship, there are enough local adults willing and prepared to step forward.

Madison Klosterman • Youth Mentoring Coordinator
mklosterman@helpingservices.org • (563) 379-3454
www.helpingservices.org/mentoring

