Mentor Program

**Purpose:** provide one-to-one support to a child/youth who is a Crown Ward (up to 21 years).

Volunteers will;
- Increase connections in the community
- Enhance social support to a young person
- Enhance social and personal opportunities available to a young person

**Position Summary:** volunteer establishes a positive, supportive, long-term relationship with a young person.

Activities may include;
- Establishing a positive and personal relationship with mentee
- Planning/participation of activities together
- Providing role-modeling guidance and assistance with goals
- Preparing for transition from care to independence
- Exposing mentee to different cultures, positive environments, and appropriate new experiences
- Building appropriate life skills with mentee such as social skills, building a resume, budgeting, etc.
- Assisting mentee in obtaining community information if appropriate
- Reviewing with the child/youth and their worker on the progress of the match
- Providing monthly progress reports to Volunteer Services Coordinator
- Forming goals with child/youth and worker, and work towards accomplishing them

Mentors enhance permanency and well-being of Crown Wards as well as ensuring a better transition to independence.

**Competencies:**
- Able to place the needs of the young person first in planning
- Understands attachment issues and impact of multiple moves on development
- Knowledge and experience of children in care, mental health, trauma-informed
- Is determined, responsible, supportive, respectful and patient
- Willing and able to travel around or outside of the GTA for visits
- Exceptional communication and listening skills
- Is productive with their time
- Maintains the relationship if the child/youth move to another residential location
- Positive outlook