**Three Strands**

When we first heard of the need for mentors to be in the lives of our children that are in single parent homes it was honestly overwhelming and we saw many roadblocks. But as we prayed and began to take steps forward, God met us each step of the way! Four years later, we currently have over 40 matches and when we kick of the program we will have 60 matches. Potential mentors don't just sign up...they have to do background checks, fill out applications, be interviewed, tested, trained and be in good standing with the other church ministries along with their peers. They are living sacrificially and being a visual for our children of how godly men and women live out their faith...through the good times and the hard times!

Here are two mentor's perspective from this past year:

I just wanted to tell you a few of the reasons why I love being a mentor through the Single Parent Family Ministry! I have not only gotten to know a pretty special little girl, I have gotten to know a family and an entire new community. Through SPF I've gotten to know and see children month after month while getting to know my mentee and other mentors! It's been so fun watching Leslie grow over this last year and become more curious about what Christ has in store for her. I look forward to the years to come watching Leslie grow in her relationship with me, her families, and Christ!-Kelsi Vest

Being an SPF mentor this last year has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences I've gone through. She has taught me so much about loving others unconditionally. Whether it's getting the world's biggest hug every time I see her, seeing the tears as we part, learning that conquering fears is much more fun when done together, baking together, going to Dave and Busters way too many times that I can count, getting dragged by the hand through museums, or getting to see the joy on her face as she told me she wanted to get baptized -- she has added light to my life and has encouraged me that discipleship and mentoring matters.

-Joy Keuer

The program has seen many blessings along the way. There is strength in community and this is just an example of the body of Christ coming together. The program obviously did not make these blessings happen, the Lord did. But it is such a beautiful picture of the work of the church (us) coming together in the child's life...Sunday school teachers, praying parents, and others that intentionally cross their paths.

***A cord of three stands is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12***

If we have not met, I want you to know that I walked into this church 22 years ago with a 5 year old daughter and a 2 month old son in tow. This church embraced me but bigger than that the gospel and what God did in my life changed this common girl forever! And I know He will do the same for you! He will! Enjoy the SPF ministry and the newsletter and get excited about what God has in store for you and your children!

Blessings,
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