

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Affinity Mentoring Opens New Site

July 31, 2019

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Affinity Mentoring is pleased to announce that it will be opening its fourth mentoring site at Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center, this fall. To help celebrate this milestone, there will be a ribbon cutting event at Godfrey-Lee ECC, located at 961 Joosten Street, S.W. Wyoming, MI 49509, on August 14, at 3:30pm. Attendees of this event are encouraged to bring one mentoring item to stock the new site such as, books, games or craft supplies. Representatives of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce will also participate in the event.

Kevin Polston, Superintendent of Godfrey-Lee Public Schools says, "Godfrey-Lee Public Schools believes in the impact mentoring can have on a child's education and their overall wellbeing. One of our core values is community, the belief that it takes a village to raise a child. We are honored to begin a partnership with Affinity Mentoring to provide mentoring services at the Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center to bring out the brilliance in each child."

"Schools, teachers, parents, and students from all over our community have been asking for Affinity Mentoring to be available in other schools," says Laura Ward, Executive Director of Affinity Mentoring. "We've been working hard to build the capacity needed to expand the program. We're thrilled to be able to add another site where students can receive additional academic, social and emotional support and encouragement to reach their full potential."

Since 2001 the GRPS based mentoring program has matched over 1,800 students. The new site will provide up to 40 students with a mentor to help them succeed. However, there is still a need for more.

Julie Ridenour, President of the Steelcase Foundation says, "The Steelcase Foundation is honored to support Affinity Mentoring in its measured response to its program expansion. The growing number of requests from families for the mentoring services of Affinity is evidence of the quality of the work done by Affinity's leadership and volunteers in three of the highest needs Kent County schools. The Steelcase Foundation is appreciative of Affinity's willingness to base its work on the best available research, rigorous analysis, and growing dedication to improving student literacy achievement."

The team is in the process of developing a robust fund development plan that includes grants, individual donations, corporate sponsorships, special events, and in-kind donations to ensure sustainability.

Become a mentor, apply at: <https://affinitymentoring.org/mentors/>.

Sponsor a Mentor Match, donate at: <https://affinitymentoring.org/sponsor/>

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About Affinity Mentoring

Affinity Mentoring is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to interrupting the cycle of poverty through mentoring relationships that help improve students' academics, social-emotional skills, and self-esteem. We partner with organizations, schools, corporations, and individuals to provide high quality, culturally responsive mentoring to school-age children. For more information, visit <https://affinitymentoring.org/>.