Youth Mentoring Initiative has a goal to provide one on one support to approximately 600 students by way of school-based mentoring in grades 5-12 in the Hamilton Southeastern School System by 2020.

Each year 5% of students are identified as needing one on one support for various reasons ranging from failing multiple classes, delay in graduation, being disconnected, receiving multiple disciplinary referrals or going through a life crisis.

YMI can serve those students by inviting caring adults from the community to connect with students and be a listening ear, someone who will not judge them, and help them see their full potential as they continue to receive their education.

The YMI 2020 Initiative will empower a community to proactively engage and equip the next generation of youth to become productive members of society and keep Fishers a positive and thriving place for families and businesses.

Data Points:

Intermediate and Junior High Students outnumber counselors 537 to 1.
High School Students outnumber counselors 370 to 1.

The 2020 Initiative Budget

Since most of YMI’s operations take place on school campuses, YMI has low overhead expenses. With a small paid staff and stipend site coordinators, YMI is able to oversee more mentor/mentee matches with a smaller operating budget.

The average cost to provide a student with a mentor each year is $500*

*This covers the cost to recruit, train, and support each mentor and their mentee each year. It also covers YMI’s operating insurance, administrative costs, public relations, and mentor appreciation.
**Share Your Life to Change a Life**

Mentors are trained to use their life experiences - the good and the bad - to identify and model the valuable life skills and character traits young people need to be successful. We use the Search Institute’s Developmental Assets as a guide to mentor/mentee relationships. The more Assets a student attains, the more likely they are to thrive in healthy behaviors and avoid risky behaviors.

Mentoring can help students build and attain the critical assets they need.

- Boys have an average of 17 assets out of 40 and girls have an average of 19.
- 38% of boys are more likely to engage in violent activity. 21 or more assets, violence drops to 18%, over 31 assets, violence drops to 6%.
- 18% of teens with 20 Assets or less report using illicit drugs 3 or more times in a 12-month period. Only 6% of teens report using illicit drugs if they have more than 21 Assets.
- 26% of teens report using alcohol three or more times in a month or being drunk one or more times in a two-week period if they have less than 20 Assets. Only 11% of teens reported alcohol use if they have more than 21 Assets.

YMI’s goal is to help students attain more assets as they continue in a mentoring relationship each school year. Mentors and mentees discuss topics such as Positive Peer Influence, Community Service, Caring for others, Integrity and Honesty.

YMI, Fishers and the HSE School Corporation

YMI wants to do our part to keep Fishers a growing and thriving community by helping students who need extra support to stay in track for personal and academic success.

Gallup Student Survey Data for the Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation

8872 students from grades 7-12 were anonymously surveyed measuring hope for the future, engagement with school, and wellbeing:

- 35% are not engaged
- 37% feel stuck or hopeless
- 30% lack well-being

What YMI mentored students have to say about having a mentor while in school:

- “I don’t think I would be as focused on my future as I am now without having my mentor.”
- “I love having someone to talk to and someone who really listens to me. It has made a big difference in my life.”

How Will We Achieve the 2020 Initiative?

The key to the success of the 2020 Initiative is the development of the Community Engagement Strategy, or CES. The CES will require the cooperation of community organizations, businesses and faith-based organizations.

Primary purpose of the community engagement strategy is to promote:

1. YMI Information Meetings
2. Mentor Trainings
3. Mentor appreciation events

2020 Initiative funding is primarily through personal, local businesses and corporate donors. Funding will allow YMI to train 40-50 new volunteer mentors each semester. Fishers businesses or corporations will have the opportunity to support entire classes each year. For more information please see a YMI representative.