

With all our focus on the children we serve it can be easy to overlook the benefits mentoring provides to mentors. Yet research tells us that mentoring is such a satisfying experience that 96% of mentors would recommend it to others. We also know that while things like radio ads and direct marketing help attract volunteers, half of today's mentors got involved only after they were asked directly.

So Mobius is looking towards 2008 as a year for recruiting volunteers using our most powerful and persuasive resource: **our mentors**. We believe that when mentors talk about their actual experiences, fears and hesitations disappear. Stigma and stereotypes sometimes associated with mentees are broken down and addressed on a personal level, and the conversation becomes one about the rewards of mentoring. Mobius will keep doing the recruiting it's always done, we just want to add one more ingredient to the mix - mentors.

We're asking each program to join us by encouraging mentors to go out and talk to friends, family, and coworkers - to spread the word and ask others to become mentors. It's a great idea and it came from a mentor. I want to thank Bob Kesner, who mentors at King Street Youth Center, for suggesting it. Pat Leduc, who mentors at VSAC, took the idea a step further. He suggested that each program could set its own recruitment goal to generate team spirit and motivate people to get the word out to potential mentors. And here's a little more motivation: If every currently active mentor in Chittenden County recruits just ONE new mentor this year, by New Year's Eve there will be more than 1500 mentored children in our county. Now that would be something to celebrate.