

BRIGHT FUTURES

Bright Futures helps kids by creating meaningful mentoring relationships. We provide guidance and support, and create opportunities for kids to learn skills for a healthy, successful future. Programs and activities help them develop their character and sense of self-worth, as well as positive, enriching peer relationships. The key to Bright Futures is mentor support provided by several adults and a team of more than 20 high school mentors.

Every kid is different, and Bright Futures offers individual attention geared toward

extroverts and introverts, chess champions and cheerleaders, quiz kids and quarterbacks.

"These kids are so unique, and yet they all benefit from what we offer at Bright Futures," Program Director Diane Ballard said. "It's a joy to see each of them grow and respond to the program in different ways."

We are very grateful for the community support that allows us to play such a positive role in so many kids' lives."

William Taylor joined Bright Futures in the fall of 2021 as a fifth grader, the program's entry point for its 20 After School mentee participants. Thoughtful and quiet, William focuses carefully and methodically on the activities offered at Bright Futures gatherings, although he also enjoys engaging with the other kids.

"I love the program," William said during a late spring Bright Futures After School session at the Paul Stock Aquatic and Recreation Center. "I like how it gets kids together and I like how it's very interactive and fun." William said he enjoys interacting with other kids he knows from school, but in a setting focused more on fun activities and getting to know each other.

His least favorite part of Bright Futures is one that most other kids love: the pizza. "We have pizza a lot," William said of the afternoon snacks at Bright Futures sessions, which also include vegetables and other healthy options. "But I guess that's O.K."

William said he would recommend the program to other kids. "I would tell them that it's a great experience," he said, "and you should try it."



Jaelin Bigelow, also a 10-year-old fifth grader when she entered the program last fall, said she would recommend the program to friends "because the people are really nice and caring, and there's really fun activities, and there's pizza!"

A constantly bubbling fountain of energy and enthusiasm, Jaelin gravitates to kinetic activities and enthusiastic interactions with other kids in the program. "We did ice skating and that was like only my second time doing that, and I had such a fantastic time," Jaelin said. "I didn't really know how but it was still fun."

Jaelin also enjoyed doing yoga, planting spider plants for Earth Day and even picking up litter around the Park County Library in Cody, part of the program that helps kids focus on giving back to the community.

For Jaelin and many others participating in Bright Futures, the program has boosted their confidence and helped build their sense of identity. "It's a very good program if you have something like anxiety or depression," Jaelin said. "Every other week you just get to be yourself and do fun things and not worry about people judging you."

GOALS

MENTORING

Establish meaningful mentoring relationships where youth receive guidance, support, and friendship

TEACHING

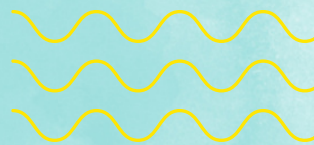
Create opportunities for youth to learn skills for a healthy, successful future

SOCIAL CONNECTION

Cultivate positive, enriching peer relationships

SELF-WORTH

Help youth develop their character and sense of self-worth



BRIGHT FUTURES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IMPACT

2021/2022 School Year

FIFTH GRADE MENTEES



100%

felt support from caring mentors



80%

learned new skills



85%

have a good sense of their self-worth



86%

made new friends



80%

got new tools to develop their character

HIGH SCHOOL MENTORS



100%

had a positive mentoring experience



89%

plan to continue mentoring in their future

PARENTS/GUARDIANS



100%

indicated their child came home happy after attending Bright Futures and would recommend Bright Futures to a friend

"I've been my best self here." -mentee

"I've gotten more out of Bright Futures than I have given back." -mentor

"She's enjoyed making new friends, learning about new topics and has grown confident in a new group outside her school." -parent

Mentoring is proven to give kids the best possible chance for a healthy, successful future. Bright Futures offers free programs for Cody youth to reach their highest potential.



INVEST IN A CODY CHILD'S FUTURE!

Bright Futures spends over \$1,000 on each After School mentee. We rely on local donors to sustain our important work. Please invest in the opportunities Bright Futures delivers to Cody's children by making a contribution.



Donate today!

Scan this QR code, visit our website or use the enclosed envelope.



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Diane Ballard, Program Director
brightfuturesmentoring@gmail.com
brightfuturesmentoring.com

P.O. Box 265
Cody, WY
527-6688

