

Friday, June 19th, 2008

Dear School Contact:

The Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth (AMFY) has some exciting news!

On April 18th, 2008, AMFY signed an agreement to merge our youth mentoring program with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area (BBBS)! By combining our knowledge and expertise in mentoring children and youth, we will be in a much stronger position to:

- Provide significantly more children and youth with mentoring support to achieve their potential;
- Be a strong voice and resource for growing mentoring in the community;
- Enhance the mentoring services and support we provide to each of our stakeholders – children and youth, volunteers, schools and communities, sector colleagues and service providers, and funders.

Some of the benefits to schools include additional staff to focus 100% on recruiting, and the potential for additional mentoring opportunities for youth through other programs available through BBBS. We want to assure all of our school contacts that this will be a positive move for everyone involved with AMFY.

What Does This Mean For The AMFY Mentoring Program?

No changes of consequence will be made to the AMFY program which will continue as an important part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization.

What Will Happen To The AMFY Program Name?

To better reflect our youth connection, AMFY's program is being renamed "mPower Youth Mentoring". This name change will become effective August 16th, 2008.

When Will This Happen?

Our goal is to have the organization fully integrated in mid August so everything will be operational for the start of the new school year. A media launch and celebration is being planned for September to coincide with back to school.

In the interim, it is business as usual, with all activities and support continuing as before.

Where Will The Merged Program Be Located?

On August 6th 2008, all Calgary-based AMFY staff are moving into the Big Brothers and Big Sisters' office at 5960 Centre Street SE. AMFY's Airdrie and Cochrane staff will continue to work out of those communities.

What Does This Mean For You?

Maintaining the stability of all existing matches and mentors between matches is of the utmost importance to us. As such, every effort is being made to ensure a smooth transition from AMFY to BBBS with minimal disruption to the matches. For legal and insurance purposes, we have asked the mentors, parents and protégés to complete some paperwork in order to transfer their AMFY files to the BBBS mPower Youth Mentoring program. We have attached the letters sent to each group to provide you with the details of what we have asked of them.

In the fall, for situations where we do not receive the paperwork from the mentors or parents we may seek your assistance. A Mentoring Coordinator will be in touch with you in the fall.

Will There Be Change To The Referral or Screening Process?

There will be no change to our current protégé referral process. The updated protégé referral forms, with the new name and contact information will be forwarded to you in mid August. The online form will continue to be available, after August 15th, on the mPower page of the BBBS website. For mentor screening, we will be maintaining our sequence of steps including the MMPI.

What Does This Mean For Mentors and Protégés?

For further details, please see the attached letters we have sent to the mentors, parents and protégés informing them of their role in the transition.

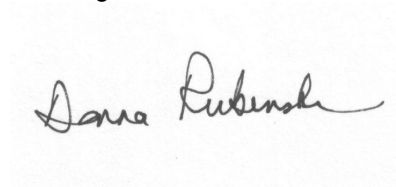
Who Can I Contact For More Information?

Your current Program Coordinator will continue to be your primary contact person through the transition to BBBS.

We appreciate your patience and assistance as we go through this process. If you have questions regarding the program merger please contact your Program Coordinator or myself at 270-3637. Please note that this number will remain the same after the move. More information will also be provided on our websites www.amfy.org or www.bbbscalgary.com as the details are worked out over the next few months. We will also be mailing these letters to you for your files. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making an important difference in the lives of our youth.

Have a great summer and we will be in touch in the fall.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Rubenstein". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular box.

Donna Rubenstein
Executive Director
Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth