



BROOKINGS COUNTY YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

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Stacy Steffensen
Brookings County Commission Department Director
520 3rd St., Suite 210
Brookings, SD 57006

22 February 2019

Dear Stacy,

Please express to the Brookings County Commissioners my sincere thank you for choosing the Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program as one of the recipients for 2019 funding. The more I work in the non-profit sector in Brookings, the more I am aware of the many opportunities we have to work towards the common good.

In 2018, BCYMP matched over 100 volunteer mentors with K-12 students in Brookings County and continues to monitor and support those relationships. As you may know, we work closely with the school counselors to identify students most in need of additional one-on-one support. I am especially pleased that we were able to renew our partnership with the Sioux Valley District and now have matched Mentoring Pairs there. In 2019, I anticipate also matching students in Elkton. We have also strengthened our partnership with the Department of Social Services.

This work is gratifying and could not be sustained without the County and other funders' support. Mentoring has many tangible economic and social benefits, and I am thankful that the Commissioners recognize that value. As you and they know, however, there's still more work to do. Thank you for helping BCYMP continue to make a difference in Brookings County!

Sincerely,

Darla Biel, BCYMP Executive Director