



Lunch Pals Mentoring in Pinellas County Schools

Monday, April 4

Community Needs

In Pinellas County:

- More than 34,000 children live in poverty
- Nearly 66,000 live in single-parent households
- About 7,500 are being raised by their grandparents
- Increasing amounts of tax dollars being spent on law enforcement, courts and incarceration.

Community Needs

In Pinellas County Schools:

- District wide - 54% Free and Reduced Lunch
- 78.3% Graduation Rate - 64.6% African American
- Daily challenges in students' personal lives, resulting in burdens that make it difficult for them to succeed.

Lunch Pals = Part of the solution

- Provides each student with an additional presence of a **caring, consistent and committed adult** in their lives.
- School personnel identifies students, often facing social and academic challenges, who could benefit from a mentoring relationship.



Lunch Pals = Part of the solution

- Positively impacts academic achievement, behavior and attendance.
- A more vibrant community is created, attracting new employers, new jobs and a qualified work force.

What is Lunch Pals?

- Employers are paired with nearby elementary schools.
- Employees will receive training on mentoring strategies and ongoing resources.
- Each mentor will develop a mentoring relationship, a friendship, with the student they're matched with every week at lunch for a half hour. Meetings only occur at school when school is in session.



How does the City of Clearwater get involved?

It's easy to become a mentor!

- Offer a 90-minute on site Mentor Training for employees (provided by Pinellas County Schools)
- Each attendee completes a volunteer registration form and provides a copy of a government issued ID.

How does the City of Clearwater get involved?

- After application is processed and training is completed, school personnel matches the volunteer with a student at a nearby school.
- Mentors enjoy time with a student for 1/2 hour over their lunch time one day each week when school is in session.

Join Lunch Pals and help the children in our community, who need us the most, to reach their full potential.