

President Bush declares January "National Mentoring Month"

The TOVA mentoring program, which has provided mentors to children in all of the yeshivas and day schools of the Five towns and Far Rockaway since 1998, held a contest called "What my mentor means to me." Many of the mentored children and teens submitted essays describing the importance of having a mentor and how it has helped them in life. The following are the winning essays which try to convey to the community how beneficial a mentoring relationship can be for all children. Prizes were generously donated by Sterling Electronics, E-distributors, GYL Studios and VIP Distribution and the TOVA mentors. If you would like anymore information about the TOVA program or know a child who would benefit from having a mentor, please contact TOVA at 516-295-0550.

WHY I LOVE MY MENTOR

#1

I love my mentor. I am the only girl in my family; I have four brothers and no sisters. My brothers don't play girl games with me. I've always wanted an older sister. The TOVA program has fulfilled that wish. They have given me a nice, kind, and sweet mentor. We go out and talk, buy things, and projects. I've only had her for two weeks, yet I feel she is part of my family. She's the only person who does not tell anyone my name or secrets. I love her more than anything in the world. Of course I love my parent's more. If I wasn't able to look forward to the days I spend time with her, I don't know what I'd do. I wish more people would be like her.

Sincerely,

6TH GRADE GIRL

#2

Hi, my name is _____. I am in eighth grade. This school year is very busy and pressured. I have at least five tests a week (about one a day), plus long-term essays and regular homework. Then there's taking tests for high schools. You have to study for them and also keep up with regular work. I get about no free time and am always learning, working, eating or sleeping. TOVA is a great program. It is one of the few things that I actually look forward to. I get time every week to go out of school and wind down and chill out. TOVA allows me to continue my work without feeling overwhelmed. Thank you for your great work.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOY

#3

My mentor is one of the most important people in my life. The second I met her I saw how special she really was and how I'm the luckiest girl alive to have such a special person come into my life who really cares. She has a heart of gold. A mentor is someone that you can look up to whenever you need her like even at two in the morning, and can take you out to relax and talk everything out, you know, whatever's on your mind. My mentor told me whenever I'm in trouble she is there and to never give up in any situation. And at four in the morning if I needed a place to stay then she told me always call and you can always stay by me.

She is one of the only people in my life I look up to, because she is a really good person and a good influence on everyone and most important a good role model. I have also never seen her upset or mad; she is such a happy person and makes the world so bright. If you're upset or mad you always know who to call. If I've done something really wrong or a big mistake that I can never take back she will never call me a failure. She always tells me how special I am and how sweet I am. She never judges me no matter what or ever yells or screams so I always know that I can talk to her. She makes me see the difference between good and bad and if I did something she would explain why it was wrong and what you can do if you were in that situation again and how you can handle it without hurting anyone.

She teaches me how the Torah life is the best life possible and she gave me reasons to believe it. If I ever have questions about G-d or anything that has to do with religion she is very quick to answer them on my level of yiddishkeit. Her whole life depends on everybody else's. If someone's not happy she feels their pain. She teaches me how everyone should be happy with what you have and how life is beautiful and everyone should grow and there's always more to learn everyday and to never give up.