



OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Teresa Parson

Dear State Workforce,

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

These timeless words have become a source of inspiration for those who are involved in mentoring. Every day, mentors enable young people to chart journeys for their lives that may otherwise have never been explored. Many of these kids become adults who share what they have learned with the next generation of young people needing mentoring.

For 114 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping change kids' perspectives, giving them the opportunity to reach their potential through the mentoring process. Recently, this organization reached out to us, expressing an interest in reviving the **Missouri Mentor Initiative (MMI)**, a program that allows up to 300 Missouri state employees in targeted locations to serve as mentors for **one hour per week during the workweek**.

Fortunately, the administrative process to verify employee participation at mentoring sessions is already in place, as well as relationships and communications between Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Human Resources professionals within our state departments.

January is National Mentoring Month—the perfect time to start making a difference in a young person's life. If you are not already involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters, please take time to consider investing just one hour a week in MMI. Contact your human resources department/supervisor to take the first steps to become a mentor (all participants must receive permission in order to participate).

Your life, as well as the life of a Missouri child, will be enriched because of your involvement.

Sincerely,

Teresa Parson

Teresa Parson
First Lady

Claudia Kehoe

Claudia Kehoe
Second Lady