

# PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

## Mentoring Programs Have Positive and Lasting Impacts on Youth

- Reduce School Absences
  - Increase College Participation
  - Reduces Drug and Alcohol Use
- Increased Self Worth
  - Improves Academic Performance

## San Francisco Unified School District has expanded it's Mentoring for Success program to mentor foster youth.

*Esther Honda, the School Librarian and Computer Teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary School, shares her story of being a mentor to a foster youth.*

### What would you like to get out of mentoring?

The feeling like I've sent someone on their way to a fulfilling adulthood. I'm hoping I can keep mentoring him next year when he leaves for middle school.

### How have you spent your time together?

We usually go for a walk to Japantown for sushi. He loves sushi. I got him to try the pickled ginger. He wouldn't try it the first time we went. But the second time he tried it. He said, "Is it spicy?" Then he tried it and said "Whoa, it sneaks up on you." We go for walks and sit around and talk--he asks me a ton of questions. And sometimes we hook up with another mentoring match to do an activity. I love that this program is looking out for foster youth to make sure everything's ok, and he is.



*Esther Honda, Rosa Parks Elementary School Librarian and Computer Teacher*

### What do you have planned for the future?

I'm going to ask him where he'd like to go. I'm not always surprised when kids I meet have not really been anywhere—even within the city limits, like to the beach. But I think he's been places. We might plant stuff outside next time — there's a garden here, or go to the computer lab and see what he likes and if he has email.

### How would you like the relationship to impact him?

I don't know the history of why he's in foster care. Having adults who care makes anyone feel special. I've seen that with my own daughter. I'm thinking about his academic success--I hope I can help. I hope I can be that person that takes an interest and makes him feel special.

### How do you envision your relationship in the future?

Hopefully we'll still be friends as he gets older. One nice thing about electronic media is that it can be comfortable. You can keep tabs on people without being intrusive. I have many former students (some now in their 30s) that I've kept up with electronically. I hope that'll be the case. I'm sure he'll be doing something good.



**BE THE ONE, OR FIND THE ONE!**



Foster Youth Services  
Student Support Services Department SFUSD

If you or someone you know is interested in being a mentor, please check out our website [www.healthiersf.org/fys](http://www.healthiersf.org/fys) or contact Erin Farrell at **415-242-2615** for more information