



**Marion County**  
OREGON

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**Youth Impact Opens Mentor Center at the IKE Box**

Today, Youth Impact opened the Mentor Activity and Resource Center located at the IKE Box at 299 Cottage St. NE, Salem.

“We are very pleased to be able to extend the center as a resource to support our volunteers and promote a sense of community among our mentors and youth,” explained Sarah Spinks, Youth Impact Executive Director.

A mentor-youth match can come into the center and sit down for some focused time with an activity packet on a variety of topics from relationship building to career exploration. Or they can come hang out and play cards or board games, access art and craft supplies, or surf the web together. The goal is to provide a variety of options to fit each matches interests and needs, Spinks explained.

She added that with the help of donations the program is hoping to add a few gaming systems and additional recreational activities in the near future to support the “fun” aspect of the relationship.

The need for mentors is great. The hope is that the center will open the door for more individuals to become mentors by eliminating some of the main barriers to mentoring. College students often struggle with transportation, while the active retired have expressed concerns with safety and transporting youth in their vehicles. A common concern with all volunteers is how to find no-cost activities that interest the youth. The center will minimize these challenges by providing a central location where mentors and youth meet for their mentoring time in a safe, supervised setting along with the ability to utilize program resources and limit the volunteers’ out of pocket expenses. The center will have specified operating hours available to mentor-youth matches. As the need builds and more matches begin utilizing the service we will increase operating hours to provide more flexibility for volunteers.

To find a mentor or be a mentor, contact Melissa Wilson at 503-584-4865 or visit our website at [www.youthimpactmentors.com](http://www.youthimpactmentors.com).

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