



About *Friends of the Children*

Friends of the Children is an ambitious long-term mentoring program, kindergarten through high school graduation.

We select children who have accumulated the most heartache. Few see the potential of our children—but we do.

We start early. Children are identified in kindergarten by observing over a six-week period.

We pair each child with a “Friend,” a full-time salaried mentor. Friends spend at least four hours a week with each child.

We stay for the long-term. We stick with our children for 12 years, no matter what.

The evidence. National Institutes of Health funded study to determine the long-term impact of paid mentors. Preliminary findings (2011):

-The most aggressive children demonstrate significant improvement in their first year with *Friends of the Children*.

-The children who are the most anxious and sad are also showing the greatest improvement in their first year with *Friends*.

By the Numbers

90 Friends serving **720 children** in **265 schools** in Boston, New York, Seattle and Klamath Falls, Sisters and Portland, OR

85% graduated HS/received GED (grad rate about 75% for all students nationally, 56% for minority students)

90% of our adolescents avoided involvement with justice system (at least 60% of our youth have a parent who has been incarcerated)

95% avoided early parenting (60% of our youth were born to a teen parent)*

**FRIENDS
OF THE CHILDREN**

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*Percentages are from 2004-2011 data from Portland Chapter