

**Harvey J. Reed, Director**  
**Ohio Department of Youth Services**

## Responsible Public Policy

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DHS facilities and those on parole, DHS funds and supports over 610 direct service programs throughout the state offering nearly 110,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change.



## Mentoring Program

I am excited to inform you that the mentoring program is up and running! The value of a committed mentor is immeasurable for youth when it comes to personal growth and development. Mentors also often help youth in becoming connected to those in the know and with hiring capabilities.

DYS was awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide mentoring services to 245 youth leaving DHS facilities and returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties. Mentoring begins three to six months prior to a youth's release and continues in the community for at least six months. Mentoring occurs in a variety of formats including one-on-one, group and peer.

Having a dedicated mentor supports a youth's reentry plan and assists with education, employment, housing, transportation, behavioral health treatment and other supportive services. Mentors work with DHS parole officers and social workers to ensure continuity of a youth's reentry plan. At the end of June, a total of 50 youth were matched with mentors. Many more youth are eager to participate in the mentoring program.

True North Ministry, Men of Standards and Community for New Direction are our partner organizations supporting this effort. These groups are already establishing partnerships with local companies to hire or assist mentees. Our mentoring staff and partners are enthusiastic about finding and establishing partnerships with local organizations, agencies and businesses that can help assist with the reentry challenges faced by youth.

Our partner organizations are recruiting mentors now and are especially looking for mentors from Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties. More information about the mentoring program is available on our webpage at [www.dys.ohio.gov](http://www.dys.ohio.gov). Click on "Reentry" and select "Mentoring Program." If you know of any individuals, groups or associations that may be interested in mentoring or partnering, please have them contact our Community Program Coordinator at (614) 466-9341 or email [Meredith.Basak@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Meredith.Basak@dys.ohio.gov).

