



Somerset Masonic Charity and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (Match Funds) very kindly donated £5000 in August 2024 to support the costs of addressing the complex and significant need for youth mentoring and tutoring within North Somerset.

Please accept our warmest thanks again for your generous donation.

Thanks to you, we supported vulnerable and disadvantaged young people by matching them with experienced and passionate mentors and tutors. Through setting goals, bespoke sessions, unique learning opportunities and the support of consistent, positive role models, young people were empowered to thrive. Over the last year, with your support, we delivered:

- ♥ **Over 12,000 hours** of bespoke mentoring and tutoring for 297 local children and young people.
- ♥ **The majority had experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACE's)** which are stressful or traumatic events including neglect, violence, bereavement, poverty and abuse that demand immense emotional, psychological, and behavioural adaptation. These experiences change how they feel, how they behave, and how they relate to others. Our young people were also facing special educational needs and disabilities - 86%, social, emotional or mental health challenges – 61%, Neurodivergence (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia) – 57% and Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)- 24%
- ♥ **Our young people are referred to us because they have exhausted all other options.** Families and schools are doing all they can, but overstretched services and long waiting lists mean there's nowhere left to turn.
- ♥ **From the very first contact, we worked closely with the young people, referrers and families to create a supportive, personalised plan,** ensuring their unique needs and aspirations were central to their mentoring journey. Mentors and mentees met over anything from 12 weeks to over a year, mostly at their home or within the community and sometimes in school. Activities were as diverse as the young people – from exploring local attractions to arts and crafts, outdoor adventures, and sports - activities which helped the young person engage with their mentor and work towards their desired outcomes.
- ♥ **Despite the challenges they face, our young people did brilliantly** and their results included:
 - 83% improved their social interaction
 - 70% had improved behaviour for learning
 - 74% had increased management of impulsive and/or risk-taking behaviour
 - 81% improved their mental health and wellbeing
 - 85% of our Year 11 mentees went on to further education.

As ever – it is the difference we make to our young people and their families that makes us proud of the work we do. There are hundreds of wonderful stories – here is just one from a parent of one of our mentees:

“As a parent, I’ve seen firsthand the incredible impact of the JHF on my daughter. Thanks to this amazing charity, my daughter has not only built lasting friendships and newfound confidence but has undergone a remarkable transformation – emerging from her shell. They helped her transition from primary to secondary school and beyond into year 8. Their support ensures that more children like mine reach their full potential.”

At JHF Youth Charity, mentoring isn’t a programme—it’s a relationship. It’s about trust and empathy. It’s fluid, responsive, and deeply human. Every young person we support is different. Their needs, interests, and goals are unique. So, our mentoring adapts to them—not the other way around.

As our Programme Lead, Louisa puts it:

“It’s about walking alongside young people during the moments that matter—empowering them, supporting them through difficult circumstances. The small things are really the big things. The first smile. The first time they step outside the house. When they discover they love cooking. When they take the bus alone and feel independent. When they pass that exam. Or the moment they believe in themselves—that they’re capable of far more than they thought.”



“Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

- Rita F. Pierson

Thank you from all of us at the JHF Youth Charity!