



**Dear Potential Mentor,**

When President Obama launched the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative in 2014, he eloquently captured how systemic racism damages so many youths of color: “The stubborn fact is that the life chances of the average black or brown child in this country lag behind by almost every measure,” he said. If you’re African American, the president said, there’s about a one in two chance that you grow up without a father in your house. Black students are far less likely than their white peers to read proficiently by 4th grade. By high school, they’re more likely to have been suspended or expelled. And they’re far more likely to end up in the criminal justice system. These factors undermine their ability to gain an education, a career and a better life. To combat these entrenched societal problems, Obama highlighted the need for mentors -- people who can “reconnect” with the disconnected youths of color.

Unfortunately, many well-run mentoring programs struggle to find these needed mentors, which is why MentorPrize was founded. MentorPrize is a connector that identifies mentors and matches them with DC area mentoring programs that suit an individual’s interests, location preferences, and schedule.

Many of us possess the skills needed to empower, guide, and comfort others if we’re willing to take the time. When Daon met his mentee, Chase, it was apparent Chase was struggling (both pictured above.) Daon helped Chase find his way forward and unlock potential he never knew he had. With your commitment, we can create more stories like Chase and Daon’s.

**Please visit us at [www.mentorprize.org](http://www.mentorprize.org) to sign up to be a mentor. Are you ready to make a difference?**

Warmly,

*Jeanna Finamore*

Jeanna Finamore  
Executive Director