

# MENTORYork



A High Impact Service Plan for the City of York



CITY OF  
**York** yorkcity.org  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Community Report—Year 4**

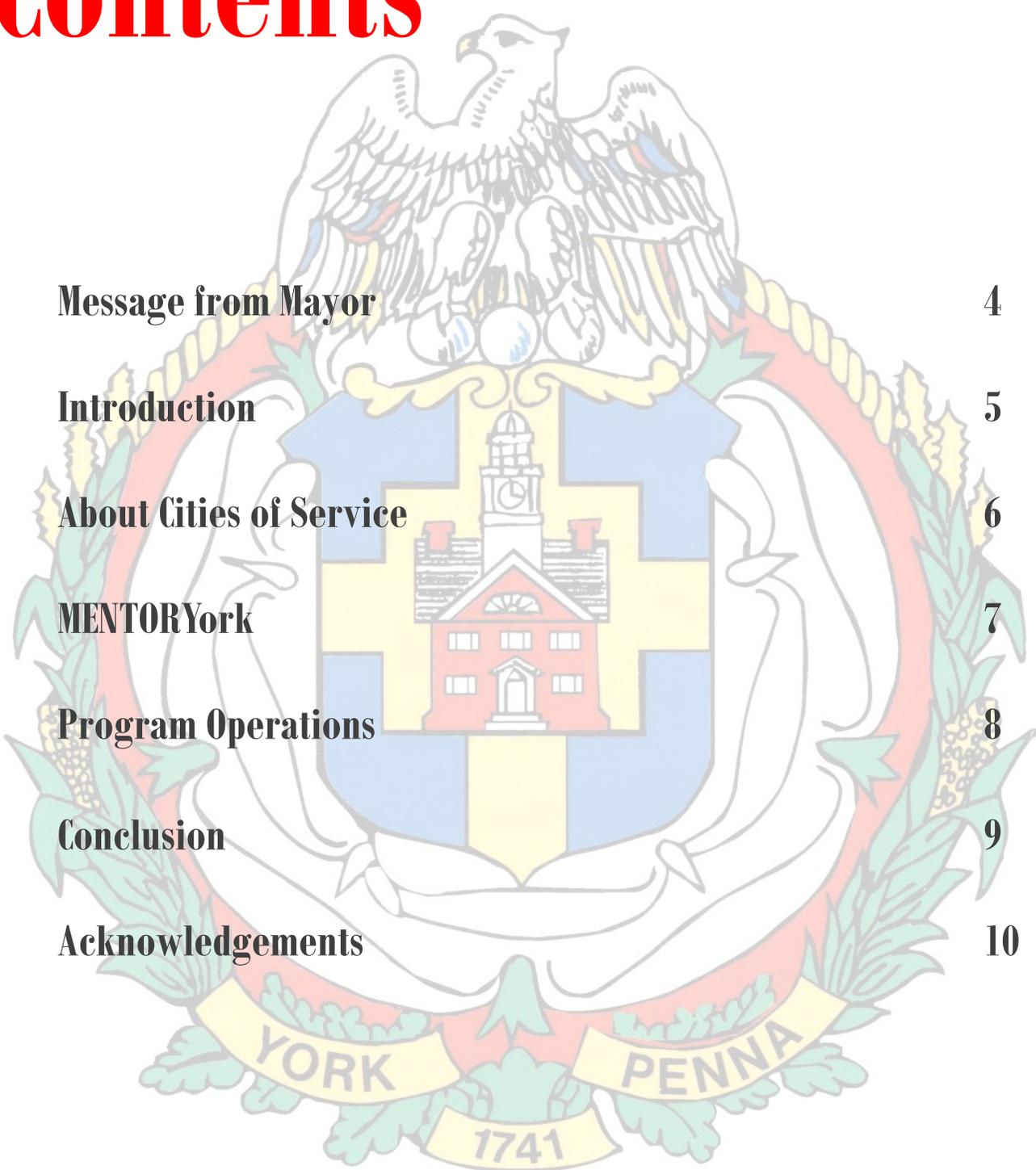


**Citizen Engagement**

**Community Collaboration**

**Impact Volunteerism**

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The seal of York, Pennsylvania, is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central shield with a red building and a white clock tower. Above the shield is a bald eagle with its wings spread, holding a scroll. The shield is surrounded by a wreath of green leaves and yellow corn. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text 'YORK PENNA 1741'.

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# *Message From The Mayor*



Dear Neighbors,

It is no secret that the key to a strong community involves collaboration, support and engagement. That is why I launched my MENTORYork Initiative in August 2011, designed to highlight impact volunteerism in our city by targeting service towards the enhancement of our city's most prized possessions, our youth.

This comprehensive report of MENTORYork provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge the great accomplishments that we have made as a City and to cast a vision of expansion and growth to the future ahead. MENTORYork has engaged volunteers committed to improving the lives of the youth in our community that need it most, by enlightening their views through the use of life changing experiences. Collaborative efforts gained through the School District of the City of York, City of York Human Relations Commission, Strengthening Families Program of York County, York County Human Services, and several other private public community partnerships are responsible for the depth of the impact that the initiative has had in our community.

I humbly thank everyone that has graciously been part of the MENTORYork initiative by continuing to give of their time, talents, and support. Thank you for increasing the importance of the culture of volunteerism and the outlook of success for our youth in our community.

Sincerely,

C. Kim Bracey  
Mayor



# Introduction

On February 25, 2011, the City of York officially joined the national Cities of Service coalition and made a strong commitment to engage and empower volunteers to address the urgent needs of our physical city and our people in need.

Since then, the City of York has worked to hone a pilot initiative partnering the City, The School District of the City of York, and private professionals to mentor our teenagers that are experiencing challenges enrolled in William Penn Senior High School, the City's only public high school, with the concrete goal of guiding them towards graduation and post secondary education.

York is proud to be one of over 200 cities in the nation that are Cities of Service coalition members, one of only nine Pennsylvania cities, and only one of six third class cities in Pennsylvania.

# About Cities of Service

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg convened 16 fellow mayors in September 2009 to form Cities of Service in response to the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The coalition began a national movement of city leaders focused on engaging citizens in addressing local problems through impact volunteering and public-private partnerships. Cities of Service was spun off from Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2014 as an independent, nonpartisan organization to meet the growing demand from mayors for new and improved ways to engage residents in solving civic challenges.

Cities of Service supports mayors and city chief executives to activate impact volunteering initiatives – city-led, citizen-powered programs that target specific needs and achieve measurable outcomes. Our coalition is comprised of more than 200 cities in the US and UK, representing more than 50 million people in 43 states, and more than 10 million in the UK. By prioritizing impact, creating capacity, and instilling a model that can be replicated, their approach works across multiple issues. Cities use proven tools and methods to engage community members in addressing multiple issues, from revitalizing neighborhoods to supporting youth and education. Residents are recast as co-producers of solutions and work side by side with municipal government to create real and lasting change.



# MENTORYork

August 2011—June 2015



Investing in the future of our youth, is the key to sustaining the livelihood of our community. Providing the opportunity for academic growth, relationship building, and life changing experiences has the ability to develop youth into well rounded productive citizens.

Master Mentors committed to becoming engaged in the lives of their Grads To Be for a period of 4 years (9th—12th grade), by devoting a minimum of one hour per week towards an enriching experience that will enhance their lives, while building upon lasting relationships. Grads To Be have participated in college campus tours, visited museums, attended college lectures, enhanced study skills, and shadowed professionals in their area of career interest.

Positive attendance, academics, parental relationships, and school behavior are all noted mentoring benefits cited by research.

*“I am so grateful to Mayor Bracey for creating the MENTORYork Program, that brought my Grad To Be and her family into my life.”*

*-Laura Kehrl  
Master Mentor*



## Metrics

Number of Master Mentors	3
Number of Grads To Be	3
Number of Grads To Be Accepted Into College	2

# Program Operations



The MENTORYork Program has six components that provide for the successful implementation of the program.

- Secure community professionals with the willingness to dedicate four years of becoming involved in the life of a youth selected by the School District of the City of York. Community professionals are required to secure their Pennsylvania State Police Background Check and Pennsylvania ChildLine and Abuse Registry clearances. Community professionals are interviewed and deemed appropriate for the program.
- School District of the City of York recommends students identified with having challenges (poor attendance, declining grades, and/or needed family support). School District of the City of York provides copies of the students' report card and attendance record to the City of York, to share with the Mentor of the Grad to Be.
- Mentors and Grads To Be are matched according to the Mentors career field and Grad To Be's career and/or other interests.
- Parents receive notice of the program and are required to complete paperwork registering their child in the program, while agreeing to the program guidelines.
- Provide programming for mentors such as: Cultural Diversity, Relationship Building, CPR/First Aid, High Risk Behaviors, and Conflict Resolution.
- Maintain contact with Mentors, Grad To Be's, and Parents 1-2 times per month, to ensure program needs are being met.
- Ensure that all parties (School District of the City of York, Parents, Grad To Be, and Mentor) are actively and holistically involved

# Conclusion



The MENTORYork Program provided the opportunity for community professionals to become immersed in the lives of our youth, equipping them with the skills necessary to successfully complete high school and pursue post-secondary education.

The value of commitment, unquestionable support, guidance, and persistence from all parties involved in the life of our youth, proved to be guiding principles that motivated and positioned them for achievement.



# Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the School District of the City of York, Board of Directors, Superintendent Dr. Eric Holmes, and staff members for their leadership, passion, and collaboration efforts in providing for the successfulness of MENTORYork.

We are also thankful to the Cities of Service for their support.

Lastly, thank you to our public - private community partners, Master Mentors, Grads To Be, and Parents for their unselfish giving and support of MENTORYork.

