Hi {FIRST_NAME} Friend,

When I first met my 7-year-old Mentee, Darla, she was timid.

She and her three siblings were, and still are, being raised by a single mom in a modest home. It was obvious that Darla’s home was filled with love, but the holes in her shoes and the loneliness in her eyes told a slightly different story.

In the six years that we’ve been matched through Gorge Youth Mentoring, Darla has grown in so many ways. She’s sweet, creative, and confident. We have so much fun together doing art projects, cooking together, and just talking about life.

When schools closed and stay-at-home orders were put in place due to COVID-19, my mind immediately
The time to become a mentor is now!

25 children and teens in Wasco, Hood River, and Klickitat Counties are on the waitlist for mentors; some of them have been waiting longer than a year.

If you're 21 or older, be someone a local youth can talk to and count on - even if it's from afar.

Email gym@nextdoorinc.org or call 541-386-6665 to apply today.

went to Darla and her family. How would her mom manage four kids? Would Darla and I lose our connection now that we couldn't spend time together?

Now, after nearly two months of not seeing each other face-to-face, I’m happy to say that our mentoring relationship is stronger than ever. We talk on the phone or text almost every day, we mail notes and letters to each other, and I mail care packages with games, books, and healthy snacks for Darla and her family.

Mentoring might look a little different right now, but as many of us have learned during this pandemic, you don’t have to be right next to someone to be there for them. Amid the uncertainly that surrounds us, Darla knows she can still count on me.

Sincerely,

Kelly
Mentor for Gorge Youth Mentoring