



# FINANCIAL RESOURCE GUIDE

## How can I find clothing for my mentee?

### Free:

Harvest Compassion Center (see below)

Helen's Hope Chest (see below)

[Clothing events on FB](#)

### Low cost:

Goodwill

Savers

Other Mothers

Kid to Kid

Once Upon a Child

Over the Rainbow Children's Store

Perennials

AZ Kidz 'n More

[Click here for more](#)

**Helen's Hope Chest:** Children can "shop" at this organization every three months. The mentor will coordinate with the caregiver to schedule this. If the caregiver/placement is already utilizing this resource, you will want to ensure you are not doubling up. The mentor will need to schedule an appointment and will be required to bring a short letter from the caregiver stating that they have permission to shop with the child. [Visit the website here.](#)

**Harvest Compassion Center:** Mentees can use this organization for their hygiene and clothing needs. There are no pre-qualification or appointments needed. Mentors can take their mentees once every 30 days. Clothing donations will vary, but you may call ahead to see what is available. Food and hygiene items are always fully stocked. [Visit the website here.](#)

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## Who will pay for the activities for the mentor and youth?

Mentors always pay their own expenses and are allowed to pay for the child's expenses. Mentors are not required to pay the child's expenses and may ask the child to use his/her allowance for some things. Mentors may ask the caregiver to cover the mentee's fees, as well, but this will vary from home to home. We encourage mentors to plan free or low cost visits as much as possible and provide ideas regularly. The most important part of the mentoring program is the relationship between the mentor and the youth, not a lot of costly activities.

However, because activities help build competence, we hope all mentor/youth pairs can do special things occasionally. The youth should not expect the mentor to buy things for him/her. As with any friend, gifts should be appreciated when and if they are given, not expected on a regular basis.

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### **Can I give my mentee money or gifts?**

Giving your mentee money is not recommended. If your mentee needs something and you are comfortable providing the money for it, it is better to buy it yourself.

Gifts are allowed but should be saved for special occasions. It is important that your mentee does not expect you to buy things for him/her. It is not recommended for mentors to buy high value items for their mentees, like electronics. If you really want to provide your mentee with a high value item, you should consult their caregiver or case manager first. Mentors should also be considerate of other children in the house when purchasing gifts. Those children may not have their own mentor or may have mentors who cannot provide gifts and it is important to avoid creating any additional tension.

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### **How can I find free or low cost events?**

You should always check your newsletters for events, activity ideas, and ticket opportunities. Arizonans for Children has an [event page](#) on Facebook that anyone can view which shares free and low cost events around the valley. You can also check out all [events on Facebook](#). There are other websites mentors can use like [Macaroni Kid](#), [EventBrite](#) and [VisitPhoenix](#). Your mentee's caregiver can help provide you with ideas of what the child enjoys doing and can tell you more about what is available around their placement. You can talk to other mentors on our [Facebook group](#) to get more advice and your coordinator can help come up with individual ideas if you are struggling to find things that will work for you and your mentee.

Arizonans for Children will sometimes get donated tickets available to mentors/mentees. These opportunities will be shared via email. Mentors may reach out to organizations to request donations. If there is a place you and your mentee enjoy or want to try, you can ask for

tickets/passes. If the company needs further details or confirmation, you can connect them with your coordinator.

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### **How can I direct my mentee away from costly activities?**

It can be helpful to plan different activity ideas ahead of time and allow your mentee to choose from them. This will help ensure they have a say in what you are doing together but allow you better control over what types of activities are being selected. Keep in mind that kids will naturally like things that cost money. Some children in care have not experienced a variety of activities and may not be able to think of the things that you can.

Creating a reward system is helpful. If your mentee would like to do a more costly activity, you should both come up with a goal for them to complete in order to earn it. You can also consider alternating visit types. You can allot one week to be free activities only while the next can be something that costs money.

You can also teach your mentee about budgeting. You can determine an amount that you are comfortable spending per month. Whenever your mentee asks to do something, show them how much that will take from the monthly total and how much will remain from there. It will help them analyze how much they really want to do certain activities and will help teach them a great life skill! Check out our “Activities Resource Guide” for more information

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***Please be sure to always contact your coordinator if you are struggling at all. This information helps with a lot of scenarios but your coordinator can always offer specific advice to your unique situation.***