



Mentee Ely Delgado, Mentor and First Lady of New York State Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, and Governor Mario M. Cuomo at the Governor's Executive Mansion, Albany.

A Note From Ely Delgado

*Dear Mrs. Cuomo,
Thanks for everything. You have been like a mother to me. I wouldn't have a good report card or anything if it wasn't for you. My mom and I thank you for everything. So I'd just like to say, I love you like my second mom.*

*Your friend,
Ely*

P.S. You will always be in my heart.

The New York State Mentoring Program is a comprehensive Program matching students with screened and trained Mentors. These dedicated Mentors guide Mentees in developing self-esteem and healthy lifestyles, appreciating diversity, increasing financial literacy, and making positive life choices.



Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo and Mrs. Ely Delgado Reyes, Mentor and Mentee, and Ely's two sons (2013).

"When you join The New York State Mentoring Program, you help to make a real difference in a young person's life and give them hope for the future."

-Matilda Raffa Cuomo

Contact The New York State Mentoring Program at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services:

Phone: 1-844-337-6304

Email: NYSmentoringprogram@ny.gov

Website: www.ny.gov/mentoring



The New York State Mentoring Program

THE NEW YORK STATE MENTORING PROGRAM

The mission of The New York State Mentoring Program is to create positive and supportive Mentor relationships with a statewide, school-based, unique one-to-one Mentoring Program to prevent students from dropping out of school.

**BE A MENTOR.
CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD.**



The New York State Mentoring Program

**Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, Founder & Chair**



A Message from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo



As a father, I know how important it is for children to have role models in their own lives, a steadfast and unwavering presence to look to when they begin to find their purpose and their voice. For me, that was my own father, Governor Mario M. Cuomo, and it continues to be my mother, First Lady Matilda Raffa Cuomo. In January 2015, I knew I had to do more to honor my father and give New York's students the gift of love and leadership that was afforded to them under his administration. I reinstated The New York State Mentoring Program and put back at the helm the woman who established and Chaired the Program, the person who knew my father and understood his legacy more than anyone: my mother.

My father first put my mom - a teacher, a mother of five, and a grandmother - in charge of The New York State Mentoring Program in 1984 to further prevent school dropouts and to cut the high rate of incarceration among teenagers in New York State, and to give students the chance they deserve. Through great dedication and care, my mother as First Lady created and implemented our nation's first statewide, school-based, unique one-to-one Mentoring Program, not only showing students the importance of staying in school, but sending the message that there are people who are counting on them to succeed. From its inception until the end of 1994, The New York State Mentoring Program helped prevent at least 10,000 students from dropping out of school, giving them confidence and guidance to succeed in life.

Any one of us can be a Mentor and make a difference in the life of a child. I brought The New York State Mentoring Program back because I believe in New Yorkers, their values, and their understanding that when one does better, we all do better. Help a student reach their full potential and become a Mentor today. It will change their lives, and yours.

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State

BE A MENTOR. CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD.



Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo, former First Lady of New York State and the Founder and Chair of The New York State Mentoring Program, visiting Mentees in an Albany school (2015).

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A MENTOR

A "Public/Private Ventures" study shows:

- Mentees are 46 percent less likely to start using illegal drugs than their peers.
- Mentees are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37 percent less likely to skip class.
- As a result, Mentees are more trusting of their parents or guardians, are less likely to lie to them, and feel more supported and less criticized by peers.

* **Public/Private Ventures Study** - Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

HOW DO I BECOME A MENTOR?

1. Fill out the Mentoring Application by visiting The New York State Mentoring website (www.ny.gov/mentoring), or call The New York State Mentoring Program at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services at **1-844-337-6304** and we can mail you an application.
2. After your application has been received, an appointment will be made for you to interview with a New York State Mentoring Program Director.
3. After your interview and screening process are completed, you will sign up to be trained as a Mentor. During the Mentoring training, you will learn about your role as a Mentor to help prevent children at risk of dropping out of school.
4. A New York State Mentoring Program Director will match you with a Mentee at a nearby school and contact you about a start date.

