



Cricket eMentoring 2025–2026 Annual Report

Relationships that Change Futures



The Power of eMentoring Relationships

For 27 years, Together eMentoring has been guided by one simple belief: one caring adult can change how a young person sees their future. Through one-to-one eMentoring, students build confidence, discover new possibilities, and connect classroom learning to real-world experiences. Year after year, our results show that trusted mentoring relationships help students thrive academically and personally..



Expanding Reach

1,452 student-eMentor matches were created across **69** classrooms with the support of **24** corporate and community partners.



Building Relationships

26,865 letters were exchanged, averaging **18.5** exchanges per match and creating meaningful opportunities for students and eMentors to build trust, encouragement, and connection.



Growing Confidence

93% of students reported increased confidence, and **99%** said their eMentor listened to their ideas and cared about them..



Delivering Partner Value

100% of corporate partners agreed that their investment in Together eMentoring created meaningful value while advancing community engagement, employee, engagement, volunteerism, and education goals.



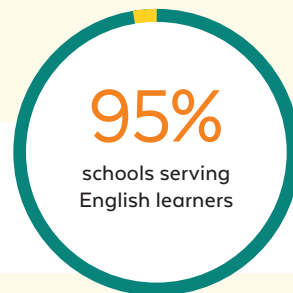
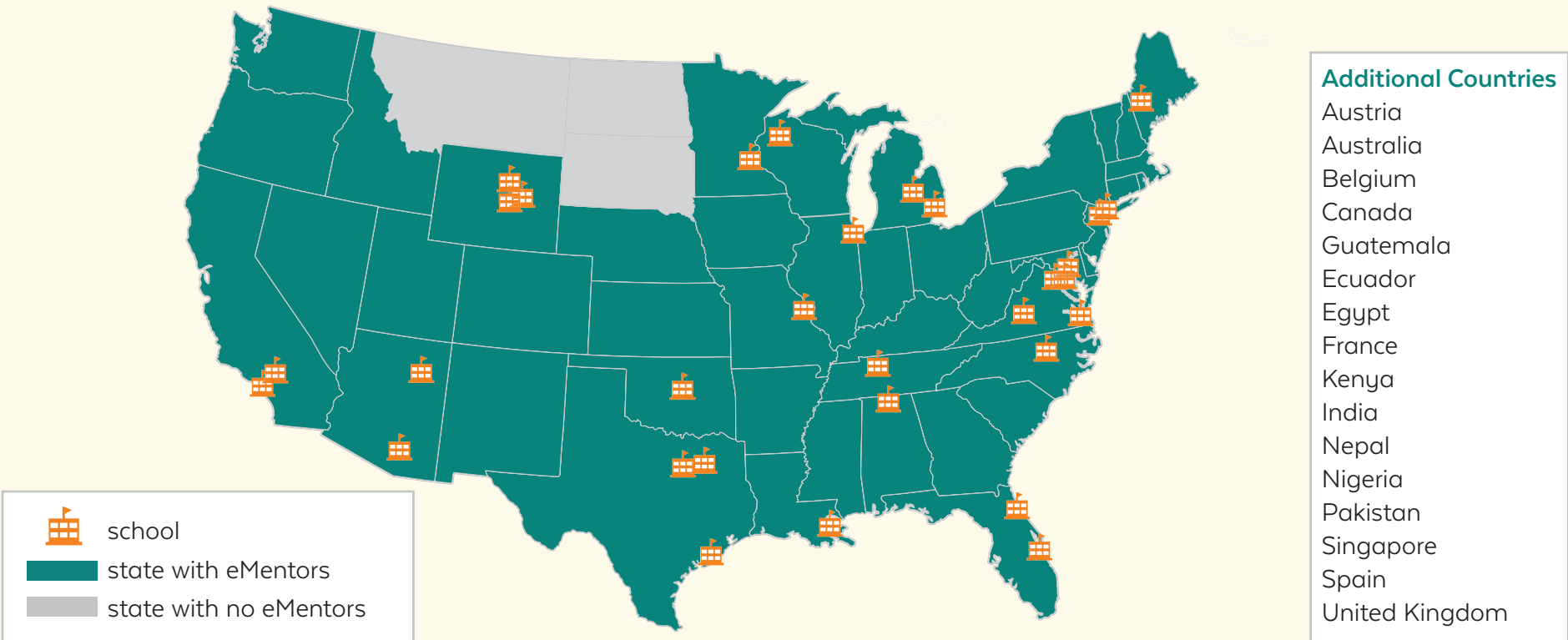
Expanding Opportunities

95% of students reported that learning about their eMentor's career journey expanded their awareness of careers, future pathways, and real-world opportunities.

Together, these results demonstrate the lasting impact of meaningful mentoring relationships on students, educators, volunteers, corporate and community partners, and the communities they serve.

Where We Serve

Together eMentoring expands access to caring adult mentors, career exploration, and literacy-rich learning experiences across communities regardless of where children live.



Our Mission

Connect, support, and sustain 1:1 eMentoring relationships that empower every child to unlock their full personal and academic potential.

Our Focus

We serve students in grades 3-8, a critical stage for building academic skills, self-confidence, and self-concept. By connecting young learners with dedicated eMentors, we strengthen literacy, spark curiosity, and foster resilience that lasts a lifetime.

The Ripple Effect of eMentoring Relationships



Confident Learners

Students build confidence, strengthen literacy and communication skills, explore careers, and discover new possibilities through supportive relationships with caring adult eMentors.



Empowered Educators

Teachers enrich classroom learning with standards-aligned curriculum, authentic career connections, and dedicated support that increases student engagement.



Inspired Volunteers

Volunteer eMentors share their expertise, encouragement, and career experiences to inspire students while creating lasting impact through service.



Engaged Partners

Corporate and community partners strengthen employee engagement, community investment, and workforce development through skills-based volunteerism.



Strong Communities

Together, these connections strengthen schools, expand opportunity, inspire future talent, and help build the workforce of tomorrow.

Why Mentoring Matters

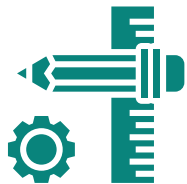
Today's students need more than academic instruction. They need trusted adults who inspire confidence, broaden their horizons, and help them see what's possible. Research continues to show that strong mentoring relationships improve academic success, career awareness, and long-term well-being. With eMentoring, we make it easier to increase the number of children who have access to caring adult mentors, regardless of where they live.



1 in 3
YOUNG PEOPLE GROW
UP WITHOUT THE
SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE
OF A MENTOR



only 31%
OF U.S. 4TH GRADERS
SCORE "PROFICIENT"
IN READING
(NAEP 2025)



8.1%
PROJECTED GROWTH
IN STEM OCCUPATIONS
THROUGH 2034—

NEARLY **3x**
FASTER THAN OVERALL
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH
(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)



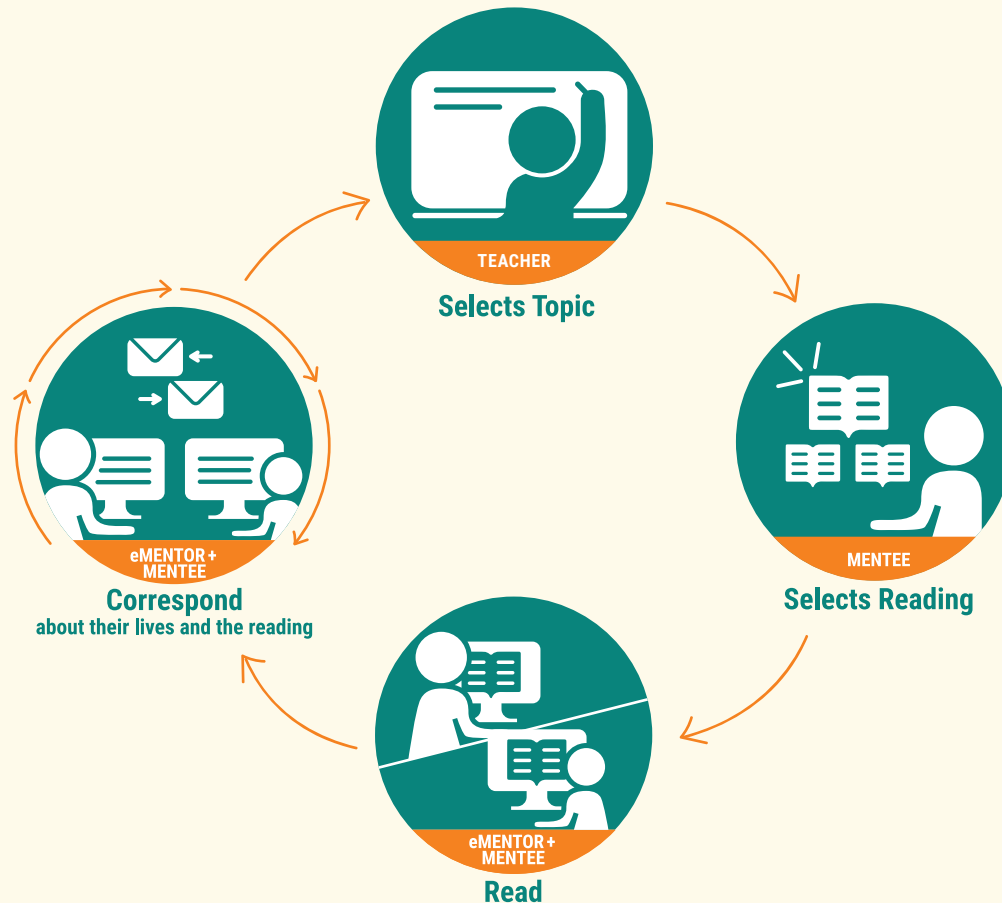
75%
OF ADULTS WHO HAD
A MENTOR SAID THE
RELATIONSHIP WAS A
MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO
THEIR SUCCESS IN LIFE
(MENTOR, Who Mentored You 2023)

"The eMentoring program transformed our students' learning. Our students did not just improve academically. They became more confident readers, stronger communicators, and more engaged learners because a caring professional believed in them."

—Teacher

Our Model. Multiple Pathways. Lasting Impact.

Every Together eMentoring program is built on one research-based engagement model. Through structured reading and written conversations, students and eMentors build lasting connections that strengthen literacy, communication, and career awareness.



Literacy-focused, cross-curricular virtual mentoring to spark a love of learning



Powered by IEEE & Cricket



STEM-focused virtual mentoring connecting professionals with students.



Online mentoring platform for nonprofit community and school-based organizations.

1. Confidence Through Connection

At Stonewall Public Schools' McLish Annex, two sixth-grade students grew from hesitant communicators into confident problem-solvers through TryEngineering Together. With support from STEM eMentors, they designed a battery-backed flood monitoring system for storm shelters, earned recognition at a regional university science competition, and strengthened their confidence, communication, and belief in themselves as future STEM innovators.



DESIGNED A REAL-WORLD
BATTERY-BACKED MONITORING
SYSTEM FOR STORM SHELTERS.

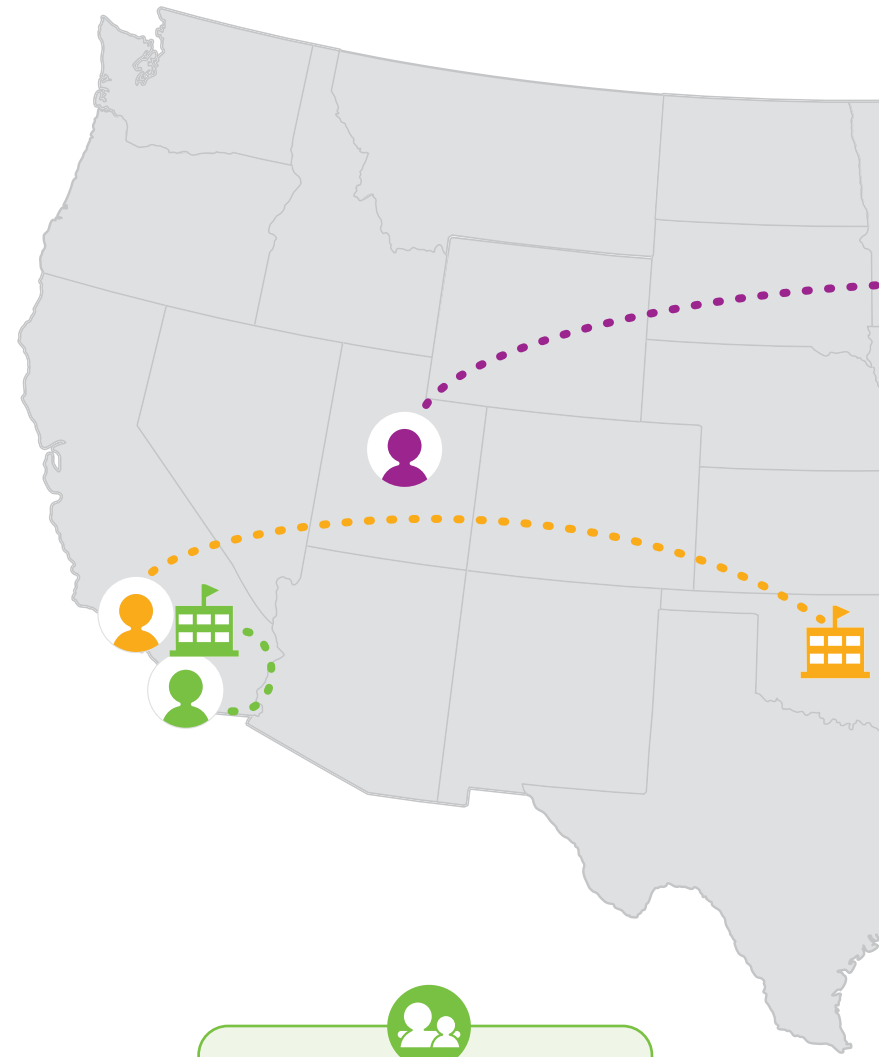
2. Finding His Own Path

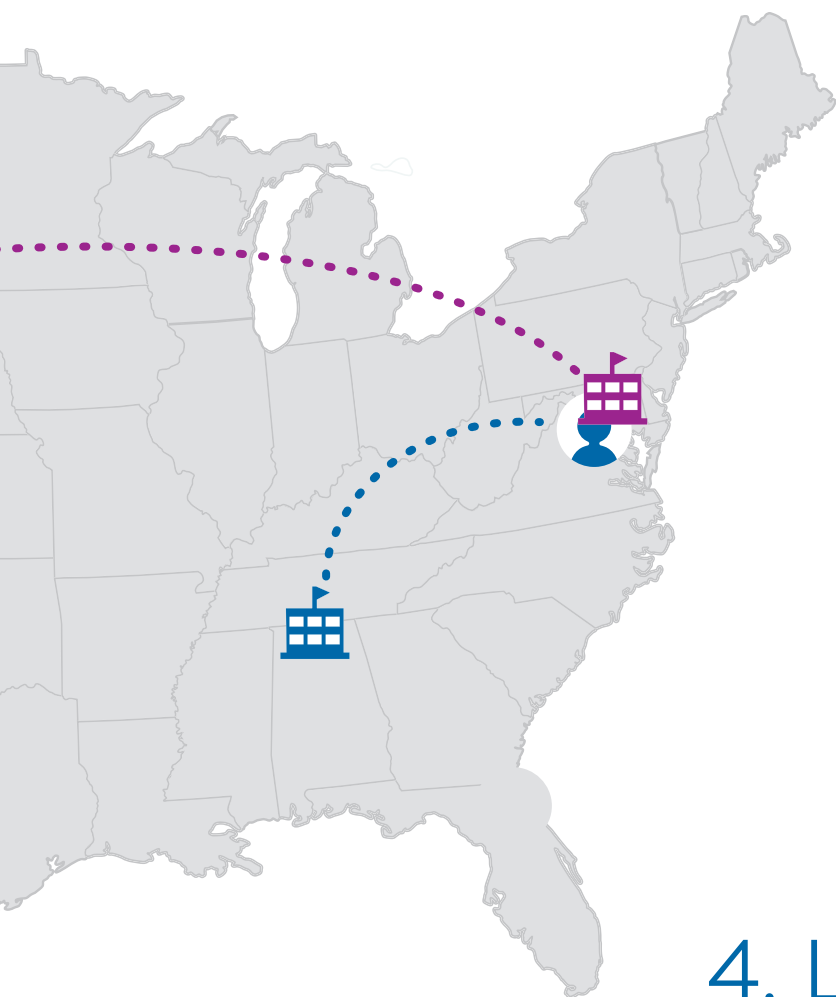
At SOAR Prep Academy in Lancaster, California, Ethan began the school year hesitant to move forward without reassurance. Through year-long mentorship with a TryEngineering Together eMentor, he learned to think independently, ask deeper questions, and approach challenges with the mindset of an engineer. His journey shows how meaningful mentorship can transform uncertainty into confidence and curiosity.



Learning

eMENTORSHIP TRANSFORMS
UNCERTAINTY INTO
CURIOSITY—AND CURIOSITY
INTO CONFIDENCE.



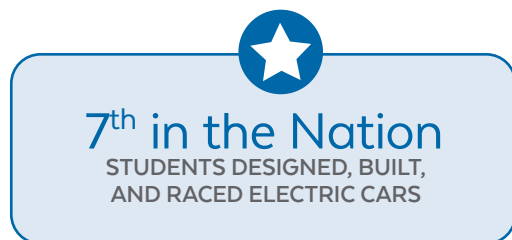


3. Building an Engineer's Mindset

At Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School #203 in Baltimore, Maryland, Ibraheem spent the year exchanging letters with a professional rocket engineer through TryEngineering Together, connecting classroom STEM to real-world engineering. Their conversations about rockets, renewable energy, bridge design, and Formula One cars helped him grow from a student who liked building things into a confident problem-solver who is beginning to see himself as a future engineer.

"You helped me with things that will be helpful for me in the future... This experience and all your help has truly meant something to me."

— IBRAHEEM, 6TH GRADE STUDENT
MAREE G. FARRING ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL



4. Learning Like an Engineer

At Whitesburg Middle School, engineering moved from the textbook to the racetrack. Through the Greenpower competition, students designed, built, and raced electric cars, earning a 7th-place national finish while discovering what it truly means to think like engineers. With support from TryEngineering Together eMentors, students gained confidence, reflected on their learning, and began imagining futures in STEM.



Scan the QR code to explore these full stories and see how mentorship inspires confidence, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

Why Corporate Partner Choose eMentoring

Mobilize your people. Strengthen community impact. Build the future.

Together eMentoring helps corporate partners create measurable community impact through flexible, skills-based volunteerism. Employees build meaningful connections with students while organizations strengthen employee engagement, support education, and invest in the future workforce. Partner survey results demonstrate high satisfaction, strong return on investment, and a lasting commitment to the program.



Simple to Implement

Just 30 minutes a month. Fully virtual. Flexible for busy employee schedules.



Engage Employees

Partners report high employee satisfaction, meaningful volunteer experiences, and a program they would confidently recommend to others.



Create Community Impact

100% agreed their investment delivered measurable value while advancing employee engagement, community investment, and education goals.

“The TryEngineering Together eMentor program enables employees across the U.S. to make a meaningful difference as positive role models while enjoying a rewarding volunteer experience.”

—Matt Gullet,
The Tenaris Corporation,
Senior Manager of
Community Relations (USA)

4.8/5

Overall partner
satisfaction

100%

Reported strong
return on investment
(ROI)

9.7/10

Would recommend
Together
eMentoring

100%

Reported positive
personal impact
on employees

Program Partners

We are proud to work with corporations, community organizations, and schools that believe in the power of mentorship. Their leadership helps make eMentoring possible, expanding access, strengthening classrooms, and delivering measurable impact for students, teachers, and eMentors.

The logo for Schneider Electric, featuring the word "Schneider" in green and "Electric" in a smaller green font below it.The logo for the Northrop Grumman Foundation, with "NORTHROP GRUMMAN" in blue and "FOUNDATION" in a smaller blue font below it.The logo for Aerospace, featuring a stylized blue and white circular emblem with a triangle inside, followed by the word "AEROSPACE" in blue.The logo for IEEE, featuring a blue diamond shape with a white circuit-like pattern inside, followed by the letters "IEEE" in blue.The logo for Newport News Shipbuilding, featuring a blue circular emblem with a yellow gear and the letters "NN" inside, followed by the text "Newport News Shipbuilding" in blue.The logo for The Great Courses, featuring a stylized orange flame or drop shape to the left of the text "THE GREAT COURSES" in blue.The logo for Heraeus, featuring the word "Heraeus" in a grey, sans-serif font.The logo for COTIVITI, featuring the word "COTIVITI" in a purple, sans-serif font.The logo for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, featuring a blue and white stylized handshake icon above the text "BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON" in blue.The logo for Cricket Media, featuring the word "cricket" in orange lowercase letters inside a circular orange frame, with "MEDIA" in smaller orange letters below it.The logo for MFCC, featuring a blue silhouette of a person running or jumping, with the letters "MFCC" in blue below it.The logo for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, featuring a blue and white stylized handshake icon above the text "BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON" in blue.The logo for ADP, featuring the letters "ADP" in a bold, red, stylized font, with the tagline "Always Designing for People" in a smaller blue font below it.The logo for Centene Corporation, featuring the word "CENTENE" in blue and "Corporation" in a smaller, grey, italicized font below it.The logo for Farmers Insurance, featuring a blue and red stylized sun or flower icon above the text "FARMERS INSURANCE" in blue.The logo for GEM Realty Capital, featuring a blue and white stylized diamond or gem icon to the left of the text "GEM Realty Capital" in blue.The logo for Western Digital, featuring the text "Western Digital" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for Epsilon, featuring the word "Epsilon" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Library Pass, featuring the word "LIBRARY" in blue and "PASS" in a smaller, teal, stylized font below it.The logo for Audible, featuring a stylized black and white icon of a sound wave or speaker above the word "audible" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for Hitachi, featuring the word "HITACHI" in a red, sans-serif font.The logo for IEEE Young Professionals, featuring the IEEE logo (a blue diamond with a white circuit pattern) to the left of the text "IEEE young professionals" in blue.The logo for Tenaris, featuring a stylized blue and green icon of a person or a plant to the left of the word "Tenaris" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Ansys, featuring a stylized yellow and black icon of a person or a plant to the left of the word "Ansys" in a black, sans-serif font.



Empowering Education and Engagement

Centene Corporation is committed to transforming the health of the communities it serves, one person at a time. Through investments in education, community engagement, and employee volunteerism, Centene extends its impact beyond healthcare by supporting initiatives that help children, families, and communities thrive.

One example of this commitment is Centene's four-year partnership with CricketTogether, an eMentoring program that connects students with caring adult volunteers through meaningful written correspondence and literacy-rich learning experiences. Since 2022, Centene employees have helped students build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and develop positive relationships with trusted adults.

Over the course of the partnership, 177 Centene team members have exchanged more than 4,708 letters with students across seven states—Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, and Washington—contributing more than 2,765 volunteer service hours. The partnership has supported classrooms in communities across the country, beginning in Topeka, Kansas, and continuing most recently at Bricolage Academy in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This year, Centene's support helped bring CricketTogether to Sarah Hill's fourth-grade classroom at Bricolage Academy. Her class included many students with IEPs and 504 plans, as well as students facing significant academic, behavioral, and social-emotional challenges. Frequent absences and student mobility throughout the year created additional barriers to learning and relationship-building.

"When employees are empowered to share their time, talents, and encouragement, the impact extends far beyond the classroom. Our partnership with CricketTogether demonstrates how meaningful relationships can help students build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and envision new possibilities for their future. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside CricketTogether to create connections that support brighter futures for young learners."

—Alishea Johnson,
Senior Director,
Inclusive Business Practices
Centene Corporation

Despite these challenges, CricketTogether became a powerful source of connection and engagement. Students who were initially hesitant quickly grew excited about their weekly interactions with their eMentors. Through consistent communication and encouragement, students formed meaningful relationships with adults who took an interest in their lives, celebrated their successes, and supported them through challenges.

As one student shared, “My eMentor helped me learn, grow, create, laugh, and so much more.”

Centene also expanded the program’s impact by sponsoring six magazine issues for every participating student to take home throughout the year. These high-quality reading materials extended learning beyond the classroom, encouraged independent reading, and provided students and their families with additional opportunities to engage with literacy at home. Reflecting on the experience, Sarah Hill shared:

“Students thrive when they feel connected, supported, and truly known. The most meaningful learning happens through relationships, consistency, creativity, and a classroom community that makes school feel safe, personal, and real. Programs like CricketTogether give students the opportunity to connect with one more trusted adult, and those relationships can have a powerful impact on student confidence, engagement, and overall success.”

Centene’s partnership with CricketTogether demonstrates the powerful intersection of corporate volunteerism, literacy support, and community investment. By empowering employees to serve as eMentors and providing students with meaningful educational resources, Centene is helping create stronger connections, brighter futures, and lasting opportunities for young learners.

As one eMentor reflected, “A highlight of the CricketTogether program was making a special connection with my mentee and helping them grow and enhance their love of learning. It was wonderful to witness their growth.”

The partnership serves as a powerful example of how businesses can make a meaningful difference—one student, one eMentor, and one letter at a time.

“Students thrive when they feel connected, supported, and truly known. The most meaningful learning happens through relationships, consistency, creativity, and a classroom community that makes school feel safe, personal, and real. CricketTogether connects students with a trusted adult, that can have a powerful impact on student confidence, engagement, and overall success.”

**—Sarah Hill,
Teacher, Bricolage Academy,
New Orleans, LA**



End-of-Year Survey Results: What Students, eMentors, and Teachers Told Us

At the end of the year, students, teachers, and eMentors reflected on their experience. Their feedback shows how mentoring relationships create lasting benefits. Students built confidence, strengthened literacy and communication skills, explored careers, and imagined new possibilities. Teachers saw greater engagement and growth in the classroom, while eMentors found purpose in encouraging and inspiring the next generation.



For Students:

Consistent support from an eMentor helps students build skills, confidence, and a stronger sense of what's possible.

- **99%** felt their eMentor listened to their ideas.
- **98%** believed their eMentors cared about them.
- **98%** recognized that their eMentors encouraged them.
- **95%** learned about different career pathways.

“One thing I learned is that I have much more confidence than I thought. I learned to take my time, ask questions, and really understand the process. I can solve problems and explain my thinking clearly.”

—Student

For eMentors:

A flexible and rewarding way to make a difference.

- **99%** enjoyed the eMentoring experience.
- **98%** found it to be rewarding.
- **98%** reported a positive element to their lives.
- **98%** valued the programs role in their company's community impact efforts.

“Connecting with students, sharing knowledge, and encouraging STEM curiosity was incredibly rewarding. My mentee’s enthusiasm made the experience truly meaningful.”

—eMentor



For Teachers:

eMentors bring encouragement, fresh perspectives, and real world connections into the classroom.

- **100%** reported students enjoyed eMentoring.
- **100%** saw students gain a positive role model.
- **98%** observed stronger student growth mindsets.
- **98%** confirmed growth in literacy and writing.

“My students loved this program... They truly connected with their eMentors, and those relationships strengthened their reading and writing skills.”

—Teacher



Our Advisory Board

Our eMentoring programs are strengthened by the insight and guidance of the Learning Together Project Fund Advisory Board. These leaders bring expertise across education, industry, technology, mentoring, and workforce development, helping us strengthen our programs, build meaningful partnerships, and expand opportunities for students in grades 3–8



Marta Heinrich
Advisory Board Chair

Business Partner-Industrial Automation
North America Operations
Schneider Electric



Brett Heinrich
Advisory Board Member

Executive Director
Salvation Army, Midland Division



Dr. Rossylyn Knight
Advisory Board Member

Executive Chief of Staff
Gutmund CC CUNY



David Lowenstein
Advisory Board Member

Co-Founder & CEO,
Lionstone Consulting Group



Jermaine Myrie
Advisory Board Member

CEO MENTOR



Stephanie Sharis
Advisory Board Member

Digital Inovator, Entrepreneur,
Storyteller, Empath, Co-CEO/President
Good News Network



Nina Zolt
Advisory Board Member

Co-Founder
Cricket Media, Inc.

“The real innovation isn’t the platform. It’s technology in service of something bigger—building human relationships that strengthen literacy, build confidence, and nurture social-emotional skills. A caring adult showing up for a child can change that child’s trajectory. CricketTogether makes that possible at scale, connecting classrooms with mentors who become an extension of the classroom. It’s technology, learning, authentic connection, mentorship, and corporate volunteerism working together.”

—Stephanie Sharis,
Learning Together Project Fund
Advisory Board Member

Be a Part of Our Story

One caring relationship can change the way a student sees themselves, their future, and the world around them.

Through CricketTogether's secure eMentoring platform, corporate partners can mobilize employees to bring encouragement, real-world experience, and career inspiration into classrooms where students are building confidence, strengthening literacy, and discovering new possibilities.

At the same time, employees gain a rewarding opportunity to give back, build meaningful connections, and see the difference their time and encouragement can make.

Together, we are using technology to strengthen human connection and change futures—one student, one eMentor, and one letter at a time.

Scan the QR code or email support@cricketmedia.com to learn more about how to get started with eMentoring!

