

MEMBERSHIP MONDAY:

Silver Lining Mentoring

Highlighting Silver Lining Mentoring's Impact on the Community

This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Silver Lining Mentoring, a Boston-based organization dedicated to empowering youth impacted by foster care through long-term mentoring relationships and life skills development. Through its mentoring programs, volunteer opportunities and partnerships with youth-serving organizations, Silver Lining Mentoring helps young people build meaningful connections, strengthen their support networks and work toward their goals.

Who is Silver Lining Mentoring and What do They do?

Founded in 2001 by former foster youth Justin Pasquariello, Silver Lining Mentoring (SLM) empowers young people impacted by foster care through long-term mentoring relationships and programs that prepare them for success in adulthood. What began as a mentoring initiative Justin developed during his senior year of high school has grown into a nonprofit dedicated exclusively to supporting youth impacted by foster care.

For many young people, entering foster care means leaving behind familiar homes, schools and support systems. Frequent moves can disrupt their education, relationships and sense of stability, making it difficult to build lasting connections with trusted adults. Silver Lining Mentoring was created to help fill that gap by providing consistent, caring relationships that empower youth to build confidence, develop life skills and create brighter futures.

At the heart of Silver Lining Mentoring's work is the belief that one supportive adult can make a lasting difference in a young person's life. Alongside mentoring, the organization offers individualized support, clinically informed guidance and opportunities that help youth strengthen social connections, prepare for employment, pursue educational goals and successfully transition into adulthood.

SLM's programs include:

- Community-Based Mentoring – Connects youth ages 7 and older with trained volunteer mentors who commit to spending at least eight hours each month together for a minimum of one year, building trusted relationships through shared experiences and everyday activities.
- Learn & Earn – Combines career readiness, financial literacy and independent living skills with paid participation, giving young people practical experience while preparing for life after foster care.

- Young Adult Services – Provides ongoing support for young adults transitioning out of foster care through individualized guidance, resource referrals, financial assistance, leadership opportunities and life skills programming.
- E-Mentoring – Introduced in 2025, this virtual mentoring program helps mentors and mentees stay connected through a secure platform using video, messaging and goal-based activities.
- Silver Lining Institute – Extends SLM's impact by partnering with organizations across the country to provide consulting, mentor training, staff development and best practices for serving youth impacted by foster care.



When did Silver Lining Mentoring join the Providers' Council and why?

Silver Lining Mentoring became a Providers' Council member in 2025. As an organization that values collaboration, SLM is committed to building partnerships that expand opportunities for youth impacted by foster care. Through the Council's network, the organization looks forward to connecting with fellow human service providers, sharing resources and strengthening support for the communities they serve.



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A Voice From Silver Lining Mentoring

Building supportive long-term relationships for youth in foster care is at the heart of what we do at Silver Lining Mentoring. Because being in the foster care system often means frequent moves to different schools, communities and caregivers, youth rarely have access to consistent connections with adults. Our young people benefit from being matched with a caring volunteer mentor who commits to spending time 1:1 with their mentee and supporting them through the inevitable challenges of growing up. Part of that process for our teens is preparing for adulthood—we give mentor-mentee matches the opportunity to participate in our Learn & Earn program where young adults earn money while learning life skills like financial literacy and employment skills in anticipation of aging out of foster care.

Colby Swettberg – CEO, Silver Lining Mentoring

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Looking Ahead: Silver Lining Mentoring's Continued Support to Families and Communities

Whether you're looking to make a difference as an individual or connect your organization with meaningful opportunities, there are many ways to get involved with Silver Lining Mentoring.

- **Become a Mentor:** Volunteer mentors commit approximately 8 hours per month for at least one year, providing consistent support to a young person impacted by foster care.
- **Volunteer:** Support Silver Lining Mentoring through one-time volunteer opportunities and special events.
- **Partner with Silver Lining Mentoring:** Learn how your organization can collaborate with SLM through referrals, team engagement, or other partnership opportunities.

Silver Lining Mentoring is always eager to connect with youth-serving organizations interested in referring young people impacted by foster care to its mentorship programs. The organization also welcomes conversations with partners interested in bringing a Learn & Earn life skills cohort to the youth they serve.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Silver Lining Mentoring, their programs and services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers' Council.

[Providers' Council](#)

[Silver Lining Mentoring](#)