

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

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"A really nice experience"

By Efrata Beshah,
senior, Irma Lerma
Rangel Young
Women's
Leadership School



By Carol Kesler,
project architect,
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Through an amazing mentoring program offered at my school, I have been able to be mentored by a great woman, Mrs. Kesler.

On the third Thursday of every month, Mrs. Kesler and I join the other mentors and mentees for a lunch that takes place in my school's library. There, Mrs. Kesler and I talk about a variety of things.

For example, once I was stressed about college applications and struggling with time management. At our lunch, Mrs. Kesler told me:

Many times, it's not about making things perfect but showing that you understood what you were asked to do and executing that.

I have kept these words in my mind for a while now and they have helped me greatly. And that is just one of the many great pieces of advice that she has passed onto me.

I really enjoy our little lunches because although they're short, talking with Mrs. Kesler is always fun and helpful. She listens to me with genuine interest and gives great advice. After talking with her, I always feel relieved and a little less stressed.

Additionally, Mrs. Kesler has given me her contact information, just so I can reach her whenever I need to talk.

Ultimately, I can truly say it has been a really nice experience to have a mentor. Thank you, Mrs. Kesler!

*Efrata Beshah is a senior at the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, which receives United Way support through a Community Impact Grant to the **Foundation for the Education of Young Women** for the school's College Readiness Initiative. Efrata submitted this story through the United Way website.*

I hesitate to share my mentoring story because I feel like mentoring should weigh more like a responsibility. I have mulled over and over what to say, and well, I guess honesty will just have to do. Here it is:

I am having way too much fun!

Getting to know Efrata has been an absolute delight. She is so smart and enthusiastic. I leave our lunches recharged.

I see her making choices with her whole life in front of her and I am reminded to view my own life in that same light.

I hope the perspective of years and experience I bring has made this exciting time for her a little less stressful, but I wonder if I am not getting more out of this experience than she is. I am truly honored to have gotten to know her.

Now, why did I think this was going to be more like work?

Carol Kesler, AIA, is a project architect at Brown Reynolds Watford Architects. She is a mother of two boys who attend Dallas ISD schools.

*story through the United Way website, where you can also **share your mentoring story**.*

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