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Make a big difference by becoming a child's mentor

Most of us will never be famous; we won't be rich; we won't have our names in the headlines. In a world of superlatives – bigger, brighter, better – how do we, as average individuals, make a difference?

Take an hour a week and share it with a child. Hundreds of schoolchildren across the state need you. They need your time and your attention. Help them with homework, lend an understanding ear, share your hobbies, share their interests – share yourself. Contact your neighborhood school, Creative Mentoring, or the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization; they will tell you how to get started. It probably won't make you famous or rich or get your name in lights. But you will be making a difference for today and for the future.

Shawn McCarren, mentor coordinator, Shue-Medill Middle School, Newark
