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Alexandra and her mentee, Michelle

For January, in honor of National Mentoring Month, we chose to feature our first nonprofit winner of the Snapple's "Best People in NYC" award, Girls Quest.

For 70 years, Girls Quest has provided out-of-school enrichment programming for over 300 disadvantaged teenage girls each year. Girls Quest's mission is to nurture girls from low-income families in New York to help them achieve their full potential and become active members of their communities by building academic and social competence. This is done through outdoor experiential education, year-round mentoring, and leadership training programs. The Mentor Program pairs girls, aged 12-17, with a supportive female role model who provides encouragement and direction to help facilitate healthy overall development during the challenging adolescent years. The girls are matched with professionals who volunteer their services, offering guidance, support, and friendship. For more information on Girls Quest and their volunteer needs, please visit: http://www.volunteernyc.org/org/1212236.html

Alexandra Mitchell, an adult volunteer, nominated Girls Quest for the Snapple's "Best People in NYC" award because of the enormously positive effect she has seen the organization have on both the teenage girls it serves as well as the adult volunteers who participate. Alex has been volunteering as a mentor to a fourteen-year-old girl, named Michelle, for the past few months and the two formed a real bond with each other almost immediately. "Alex, in a short time, has already had a huge impact on her mentee...Alex's unique combination of sensitivity, warmth, openness, and outgoingness is very helpful for a girl who has suffered a great deal of trauma in recent years, and had withdrawn quite a bit into herself as a result. Alex has made not only an impact, however—she has also made a friend," said Susan Koshy, Director of the Mentor Program at Girls Quest.

Congratulations to Alexandra and Girls Quest for being one of the "Best People in NYC"!

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