



SHANE: MORE THAN JUST A FRIEND

Born and raised in the Mattapan neighborhood of Boston, Professional Mentor, Shane, understands the struggles our Achievers face daily. After graduating college in 2014, she joined Friends of the Children-Boston as one of the adolescent Friends. Recently, she shared with us what it means to be a Friend!

How did you become a Friends of the Children-Boston professional mentor?

Shane: I got into a lot of trouble when I was young. My family worried I would go down the wrong path. Fortunately I had mentors who made sure I stayed on the right track. I wanted to do the same, especially for those who have the hardest time. Friends of the Children-Boston is exactly where I belong.

You're a professional mentor ("Friend") to 12 girls. What is their biggest obstacle?

Shane: It's very hard for me to see my girls not believing in themselves. They are all so amazing, and yet, they have been told they're not good enough. So when I work with them, I design projects that help them build confidence.

What's most rewarding?

Shane: The "aha" moments! One girl was scared to try new things. I took her out on a boat—totally out of her comfort zone. The smile on her face was priceless! I knew that her perception of herself changed that day!

What's your best advice to your Achievers?

Shane: Love yourself. Others will never be able to take that away.

Every day, professional mentors like Shane relentlessly help our Achievers overcome challenges and believe in themselves. Thank you!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FRIEND:

We call our professional mentors "Friends" because it isn't just a job. They form meaningful relationships with our youth that last for years.

FRIENDS DO A LOT, THEY:

- Help an Achiever's math skills by counting successful free throws.
- Help an Achiever find constructive outlets for stress and frustration.
- Advocate for a special education service at an Achiever's middle school.
- Are the consistent adult in an Achiever's life as they move from placement to placement in the foster care system.

Often, the Friend is the ONLY person the Achievers or their families call when a crisis occurs.

"Shane talks to me and helps me manage my anger issues. I have changed because she taught me to not act on my emotions. I wouldn't be as thoughtful if she wasn't my Friend"

– Sasha*, one of Shane's Achievers

Last year:

126 Achievers received one on one professional mentoring



24,000 hours of direct professional mentoring services were provided to Achievers

*name changed