

**WAIM****Windham Area Interfaith Ministry**

Partners in Independence Adult Mentoring Program.

Do you have a desire to give back and pay it forward? Do you have life experience to share? Do you enjoy coaching, supporting, and teaching others?

Partners in Independence (PIP) is an Adult Mentor & Learning Partner Program offered through Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) and supported by the WAIM community. The only adult mentoring program of its kind in Eastern Connecticut, PIP provides support and guidance to community members who are seeking to identify and reach financial, housing, educational, personal, and/or employment goals. PIP's trained Mentors are matched with Learning Partners who are clients of WAIM or referred by other community partners. Mentors receive comprehensive training, and, once matched, have the opportunity to participate in monthly meetings for support and the exchange of information and ideas from other mentors and WAIM to best support their learning partner.

The Partners in Independence Program is thriving and needs more volunteer adult mentors – both male and female. “Because of the rapid growth, we put potential learning partners on a waiting list for the next appropriate mentor,” says Program Coordinator, Julie Menard. “This is not ideal, because it’s critical to support people when they are ready to move forward in their life.”

The program has been very successful in preparing some participants to look for, land and sustain jobs, complete education degrees, as well as helping others acquire the training and life skills they needed to become job ready. Mentors also provide support, coaching and encouragement. One learning partner said, *“I will always be thankful to my mentor for helping me when I was broken.”*

If you are interested in joining a team of adult Mentors who are fostering personal growth and positive change in the lives of their Learning Partners, or if you have questions, please contact: Julie Menard - Partners in Independence Program Coordinator; PIPManager@waimct.org, PHONE – 860-456-7270 EXT. 15.

The Windham Area Interfaith Ministry's (WAIM) mission is to uplift and unite our community by providing caring services and resources to meet our neighbors' needs with dignity and respect. WAIM offers services that address basic needs and stability. Services include the distribution of donated clothing, furniture, appliances, linens, and other material goods to under-resourced individuals and families; adult mentoring; emergency financial assistance for heat, electricity and other basic needs; seasonal programs and a community garden.

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