



IMPACT REPORT 2024-2026

Seattle Cares Mentoring Movement, a leader in mentor recruitment and training, develops innovative programs that change the lives of Black youth in Seattle and King County. Our programs also help improve the lives of parents and caregivers struggling to raise children and make ends meet.

The Rising At-A-Glance 2024-2026

- 175 Scholars** served through mentorship and programming
- 169 School Engagements**
- 75 Mentors** trained to deliver and sustain the program
- 5 Seattle Schools** Denny, Meany, Mercer, Tops and Lincoln

Students in the Rising

- 78%** Report high overall well-being
- 58%** Improve problem-solving & decision-making skills
- 88%** Believe they can achieve their goals

(Bethune Institute Education Corp)

Our Signature Program

The Rising is a school-based, culturally responsive mentoring program that empowers elementary, middle and high school students—both boys and girls—to succeed in school and in life. Research shows academic, social and emotional growth for Rising participants, with an increase in confidence and optimism. A key component: trained and caring mentors who provide guidance, support and encouragement. With a solid track record, The Rising is positioned for continued growth.



Our World Cup Story



Recognizing their school and community accomplishments, six Rising scholars were chosen to serve as FIFA World Cup 2026 flag bearers at the sold-out July 1 game. Months before stepping onto the field, the scholars completed Future Careers Academy modules and got an exclusive peek at the World Cup trophy. On game day, they practiced their moves, hoisted their flags and marched onto the pitch—a day for the record books!

Meet Three of Our Mentors



Jeff Forde has been a Rising mentor for eight years. A software engineer, he has also been a math teacher, counselor and summer camp director. In his

words, a mentor should be empathetic, authentic and humble. "It's satisfying to see the kids you work with achieve successes," he says, "however big or small."



Business owner **Chris Bailey** enjoys giving back to more than one student at a time. He helps them navigate real-life concerns, from

racism and police brutality to buying a home or running a business. "It's important for us in the Black community to help empower the future," he says.

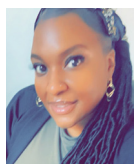


Rising facilitator and mentor **Charrita Tatum** focuses on serving children and families impacted by trauma. She helps scholars have

meaningful connections, whether through community service, educational outings, or shared meals. "Mentorship can change the trajectory of a person's life," she says.

Community Wellness Circles

A judgment-free space



"The group provides a safe place for vulnerabilities—I'm met with compassion instead of judgment. My favorite part is the resourcefulness; you're likely to leave feeling more spiritually and mentally stimulated." —**Trinisha Lumpkin**



"I joined the Wellness Circle for the support for my sons. It has really changed things for me. I like that it's women coming together to talk about things." —**Carmesha Moss**

Building Community

Community Wellness Circles are facilitated sessions that provide a safe place for parents, guardians and caregivers to share their dreams, work through problems, and find a supportive and caring community.

Working in tandem with Wellness Circles are **Voices of Change**, launched in 2022. These virtual presentations, led by top national and local speakers, explore such topics as building healthy relationships, resolving conflict, and coping in today's digital world.

Total Program Participation 2024-2026



**Community
Wellness Circles**
444 attendees



**Voices for
Change**
276 attendees



Changing the Future

A Future Without Gun Violence

In spring 2025, Seattle CARES held two powerful community dialogues exploring youth gun violence in Seattle and King County. Speakers included a King County Superior Court judge, UW social work researcher, school principals, parents and a youth panel. A post-event survey, completed by 276 attendees, provided valuable community insight, including how to protect the next generation: 36% put education at the top of the list, followed by freedom and family.

Partnership for Hope

In December 2025, Seattle CARES and other organizations launched a food distribution program called Partnership for Hope. The goal: To relieve some of the daily burden from Seattle's under-resourced families. The first event used Mercer International Middle School as a base; school officials invited feeder elementary schools to participate to extend the program's reach. The event was so successful that two more followed: Mercer in February 2026 and Denny International Middle School in March. In all, 446 participants received food and essential supplies, helping families and communities come together in southeast Seattle.



SeattleCaresMentoring.org



City of Seattle



Change a Life!

Seattle CARES is grateful for the generous support from City of Seattle and King County Best Starts for Kids. Additional support for our programs was provided by 4-C Coalition, United Way, UW American Ethnic Studies, Churchhome, and the faith community.

You can make a difference. Become a mentor or a donor today.