“MENTEE offers a supportive and nourishing ecosystem where those who are marginalized in their own communities can connect with a network of global mentors, empowering everyone to shape their own lives and accelerate their personal and professional growth to make the world a better, healthier place.”
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“...the work I often do is invisible. I am okay with that because I do it by faith. That being said, to have someone see it, and feel it and tell me that they are marked and helped by it, it means A LOT. Thank you for what MENTEE is creating in the world. These are transformative connections.”

MENTOR CRISTINA GALLEGOS
LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

What a year this has been! We started in 2018 as a Chicago-based, face-to-face mentoring 501c3 nonprofit, and over the last year MENTEE has grown into an international organization, connecting mentors and mentees across the world through our virtual platform and forming a global network of NGOs. In the midst of a pandemic, we were inspired to extend MENTEE’s work across the globe, to give the opportunities mentorship, training and connection provide as the inequity of our systems worsened. Over the past year, MENTEE, with the help of the student lead Hack4impact organization at the University of Illinois and with funding from Focus for Health, built a virtual and global platform and developed nine global partnerships with non-governmental organizations around the world. MENTEE brought on several partners and solidified the components of our supportive and nurturing program all while addressing and adapting to the challenges created by COVID-19.

In the last five months since our launch, MENTEE has accelerated the personal and professional growth of mentors and mentees alike. From refugees building community on the border of Myanmar to our Palestinian mentees who call Lebanon home to those who face economic challenges across Africa to our mentees in the Americas, each one has gained the power to access a network of global mentor specialists who volunteer to teach skills, share know-how, and give support so our mentees have the power to shape their own lives.

MENTEE’s innovative mentoring program has captured the attention of global scholars. Drexel University and Glasgow Caledonian have partnered with MENTEE to evaluate trust building in diverse relationships based on the exchanges in MENTEE’s ecosystem. This work is made possible thanks to a 12,000 pound grant from the Global Challenges Research Fund.

MENTEE is looking forward to even more continued growth and building of innovative programming. Our Sharing and Development Space, where mentors, mentees, and partner NGOs can meet, offer opportunities, and build local and global projects related to the SDGs is being rolled out. Later this year, Fordham University has partnered with MENTEE to provide access to mutual learning accreditation opportunities for our mentees. You can expect many more wonderful and exciting developments in the coming months to be announced.

The MENTEE model is a unique, globally empowering mentorship program with enormous potential for growth with its very scalable and low-cost platform and supportive and internationally recognized program that has proven global impact. This report highlights only our first five months of operating globally, since our virtual launch on January 25th, 2021. Just imagine what MENTEE can achieve with more capacity and more funding. Together we can make this world a better, healthier place for everyone.

Letitia Zwickert
Founder & CEO
FIVE MONTH IMPACT STATISTICS

FIGURES BASED ON 75 ONE-ON-ONE CALLS SCHEDULED THROUGH MENTEE’S VIRTUAL PLATFORM

- 71% of mentees schedule a second mentoring session just after their first.*

- 88% of global mentors live outside of the United States.

- 33 Languages are spoken collectively by our global mentors.

- 12 Countries were reached through our global mentorship.

- 3.5 Each mentor & mentee participated in an average of ~3.5 one-on-one calls*

*This data does not include our group mentoring sessions.

In 2021, connections made through MENTEE’s global network helped mentees:
- Build Confidence
- Develop Public Speaking Skills
- Write Resumes
- Explore Entrepreneurship
- Pursue New Education & Career Paths

Our global impact was accomplished with:
- 0 paid employees and one volunteer leader
- $10,000 grant from Focus for Health
- $125 cost for our program per mentee
Of the 75 one-on-one calls and two group mentoring sessions scheduled through MENTEE’S virtual platform from January to May of 2021, mentees represented 12+ countries over 3 continents:

- 17 CALLS FROM THAILAND
- 17 CALLS FROM VIETNAM
- 14 CALLS FROM THE US
- 11 CALLS FROM LEBANON
- 7 CALLS FROM MYANMAR
- 7 CALLS FROM TANZANIA
- 1 CALL FROM INDIA
- 1 CALL FROM SINGAPORE

GROUP MENTORING SESSIONS INCLUDING MENTEES IN CAMEROON, MALAWI, KENYA, NIGERIA, AND TANZANIA
MENTEE 2021 IMPACT REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE
MENTEE accelerates personal and professional growth to make the world a better, healthier place. We’ve created an ecosystem to connect those who are marginalized in their own communities with a network of volunteer global mentor specialists to empower our mentees to shape their own lives.

HOW WE STARTED
In 2016, CEO & Founder Letitia Zwickert finished her research and policy work as a Fulbright Schuman Scholar in Europe during the Syrian Refugee Crisis. During her time in Europe, Zwickert recognized that the needs of the refugees she worked with aligned with the needs of marginalized communities in the Chicago area and beyond-- "these communities suffered from a lack of information sharing, a lack of support networks, a lack of resources, and a lack of guidance from those in the system." With that realization, Letitia built local and global programs that culminated in 2018 with the birth of MENTEE as a local face-to-face mentoring program. Since being registered as a 501(c)(3) in 2018, MENTEE has grown into a UN Sustainable Development partner and a worldwide provider of skills training, global mentorship, and an organization that challenges the inequities of our systems.

WHO WE SUPPORT
MENTEE helps empower those who are 18 and older who are marginalized in their own communities and living around the world. We train our mentees, who are refugees and immigrants, those who are economically challenged, and individuals who are disadvantaged in other ways, to select from a pool of trained global mentors. Our program is lifelong, so mentees can stay for support until the day they would like to become a global mentor themselves.
WHAT WE DO

One-on-One Mentorship Calls connect global mentors with mentees living around the world, fostering lifelong connections, offering rich global perspectives, and encouraging personal and professional growth through guidance and skills sharing. Global mentors volunteer their time, to teach and offer personal guidance for mentees who are marginalized in their own communities. Mentoring sessions empower mentors and mentees alike, giving them the insights and confidence to shape their own lives.

Mind & Body Healing Sessions are held monthly, with free daily mentee access offered through our partner CHILL Anywhere, giving all within the broader MENTEE ecosystem an opportunity to center themselves through exercises led by trained meditators and yoga professionals.

Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Discussions bring together entrepreneurs, policymakers, non-profit leaders, journalists, and global specialists to share expertise and experience with mentees on a variety of topics related to the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Topics covered include the future of learning and development, environmental policy solutions, and the relationship between art and social change. Each Global SDG Discussion is open to the public, making panelists available to respond to questions and broader audience contributions.

Group Mentoring Sessions offers our global mentorship to mentees across Africa who struggle with sustainable Wifi. Sessions center around personal and professional development skills; the first session, entitled “The Power of Your Language,” shared skills and insights on effective communication to mentees in Tanzania. The second session, entitled “Living Your Legacy,” empowered mentees residing in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria to prioritize personal wellness in their growth towards becoming future global leaders.
MENTEE is a UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Partner organization, educating global mentees and mentors on the importance of global SDGs, as well as sharing insights on the leading solutions to our world’s most challenging problems. MENTEE currently focuses on the following Sustainable Development Goals:

1. No Poverty
2. Good Health and Well-Being
3. Gender Equality
4. Quality Education
5. Decent Work and Economic Growth
6. Reduced Inequalities
7. Partnerships for the Goals

MENTEE has been a United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Partner since 2018, and addresses all of the SDGs through our programs and services.
MENTOR & MENTESEE TESTIMONIALS

Over the past five months, mentors and mentees alike have shared how the connections made through MENTESEE’s global network have contributed to their personal & professional development:

ZAYAR MIN was born in Yangon, Myanmar and grew up in the U mpiem Refugee Camp where his family and four siblings still live. Zayar is currently an international university student, and lives by the motto “success is never accidental.” Zayar sought mentorship with MENTESEE to aid his personal and professional development, particularly to help refine his public speaking and communication skills. According to Zayar, access to global mentors helps him “mentally and physically.” Advice from experienced mentors provided him with both guidance and next steps, allowing him to expand his public speaking skills and surmount the language barrier he cited as his main obstacle. “Due to having a global mentor, I could overcome my fear [and] gain more confidence,” Zayar said. “Now, I clearly understand that I do not have a language barrier.”

HEBA GABREEL is a Palestinian mentor who makes calls from her new home in Lebanon. Heba often gains inspiration and insights from her own mentees, which she applies to her own life. She was particularly touched by her conversation with Darrell, a mentee who shared the following advice: “now that you’ve felt your physical heart, try to feel the generous one…” Heba felt connected to her mentee, who taught her the importance of being generous to oneself, as “we are carrying many burdens. Heavy ones.” Heba’s conversation with Darrell gave her a new perspective on how to manage the burdens she faces, such as the “economic situation in Lebanon and the catastrophic events happening in [her] homeland of Palestine.”
NANT SMILE LIN HTUT spent her entire life living as a refugee. Inspired by her family’s experience as missionaries, Smile’s main motivation in life is helping others. Smile currently studies Business in university, but fears that she has sacrificed her aspirations by prioritizing future financial stability in her current career path. Mentor BEATRIZ GUILLEN helped reconcile Smile’s aspirations with her need to maintain a stable income, suggesting that she pursue a career in NGO work: “At some point I said, well, you can help people while making money. [Smile] really couldn’t believe that she could do those two things at the same time,” Guillon said. “It was amazing. In a very short conversation, I think I changed her perspective on life.” Guillon went on to share a list of potential employers with her mentee, providing examples of the kind of projects and impacts she can carry out in the development sector.

APRIL WAH aspires to be a social worker. Though her relationship with her mentor began with a simple request for help creating a resume and identifying potential employers, the stories shared between the two left mentor AYLEN RODRIGUEZ humbled and inspired. “April is a true example of resiliency; I am humbled by her strength, intelligence, and deep desire to improve the lives of others,” Rodriguez shared. “In only two sessions, I feel that I have so much to learn from her.”

DUCCIO MANETTI has found mentorship via MENTEE as a deeply rewarding experience, contributing both to his own personal growth and the development of his mentees. Manetti participated in a total of 13 calls over the past year, sharing from his home in Italy: “What a gift you have given me with MENTEE. I don’t want to say too much, but this has been an incredibly emotional experience that has really touched my heart. [Mentorship] is truly such an incredible thing. I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this.”
MENTEE'S Board of Directors and Board of Advisors are committed to supporting our work. We're fortunate to have them volunteer their time and expertise in order to best serve our MENTEES community.

FOUNDER & CEO

Letitia Zwickert is an experienced educator, an expert on the needs of marginalized youth and culturally responsive practices, a nationally and internationally recognized education policy advocate, and the Founder and CEO of MENTEES. She holds a BA in Political Science, an MA in International Relations and a MAED in Secondary Education, and is a current Fulbright Specialist in Education. Zwickert has served as a BMW Responsible Leader, a UNAOC's Global Forum Juror, and a Bosch Fellow.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We work with businesses, institutions, and nonprofits to form mentor and mentee partnerships on the global scale. MENTEE offers opportunities to fuel volunteerism and improve employee satisfaction and personal growth while giving our mentees access to top specialists. Partnerships with leading businesses and organizations have allowed mentees to engage in meaningful discussions, as well as build collaborative projects. MENTEE currently has formal partnerships with the following organizations:

BECOME A PARTNER

We’re grateful to the wonderful team of organizations that care about the dreams of our mentees. If you would like to become a MENTEE partner, please contact us: https://www.menteeglobal.org/contact