

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025



MENTORING • YOUTH EMPOWERMENT • TRUSTED ADULT ENGAGEMENT



Dear friends and community members,

I am pleased to share our 2024-2025 annual report with you. In it, you will find incredible stories of impact that have emerged from the last year of supporting, collaborating with, and uplifting youth throughout the Yampa Valley.

Thanks to your support, we reached over 500 youth through mentoring and empowerment programs in the last year. School-Based Mentoring supported 5 schools, Youth Action Councils expanded their reach and engaged in multiple youth-led projects, Community-Based Mentoring supported 83 youth, and we launched Peer Mentoring at Sleeping Giant School.

We also spent some time engaged in strategic planning. We are approaching our 30th anniversary as an organization, and in order to launch into the next thirty years of this work, we identified two priority areas to focus on for the next three years. The first is “Expanding impact through data-informed growth”, which contains goals and strategies to support our continued program expansion throughout the Yampa Valley. The second is “Driving growth through donor engagement”, which focuses on engaging with our community of supporters through donations, sponsorships, and special events in order to have the financial means necessary to increase our impact. Our entire strategic plan, which we’re calling “Partners for 30 More”, is centered around increasing our impact on youths’ sense of connection, value, belonging, and power.

Together, we are effectively increasing protective factors, building resiliency, and helping youth thrive. Thank you for being a part of our community, and we look forward to many more years of supporting youth together.

Warmly,
Lindsay Kohler (she/her)
 Executive Director

• OUR VISION

- Is that Northwest Colorado youth are living healthy and meaningful lives; contributing to their community, and successfully pursuing their dreams.

• OUR MISSION

- Is to support youth through mentorship, empowerment, and trusted adult engagement so that they can face life's challenges and thrive.

• VALUES

- **COLLABORATION** We take a holistic approach to supporting youth and collaborate with others to do the same.
- **INTEGRITY** We are authentic, honest, and transparent.
- **RESPECT** We honor diversity and inclusion, treat others with trust and respect, and express gratitude; we embrace alternative ways of thinking.
- **DIGNITY** We believe in the inherent value of each person's humanity.

STAFF MEMBERS

LINDSAY KOHLER (she, her)
 Executive Director

ERIN MILLER (she, her)
 Mentoring Program Director

HEIDI BROWN (she, her)
 Empowerment Program Director

GABRIELA “GABY” PIVA (she, her)
 Community Based Mentoring
 Bilingual Case Manager

FAITH CHRISTIANSEN (they/them, she)
 Community Based Mentoring
 Case Manager

KATE WENNOGLE (she, her)
 School Based Mentoring
 Program Manager

MACKENZIE MIXON (she, her)
 Moffat County
 Empowerment Program Coordinator

SARAH EVERETT (she, her)
 Routt County
 Empowerment Program Coordinator

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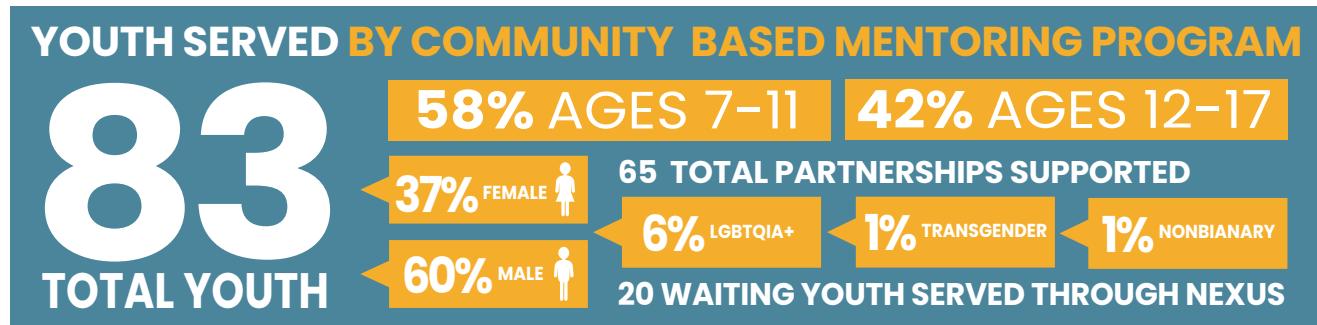
Community Based Mentoring Case Manager

ONE TO ONE MENTORING

While mentoring is beneficial to all youth, we use our resources to focus on youth who are facing significant personal, social, and academic challenges, and who are least likely to have additional positive adult role models in their lives. Evaluations show positive outcomes after youths' involvement with our mentoring programs, including an increase in adult bonding, improved attitudes against alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, increase in social and communication skills, greater self-esteem and improved decision making skills.

COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

This program serves youth, ages 7-17 who would benefit from having another trusted adult in their life. Mentors and mentees spend about three hours a week together for at least one year. The mentor serves as a trusted friend, role model, and advocate.



“Being a mentor has brought me a sense of meaning and purpose. I really feel that my time spent with my mentee is helping her to feel more seen and understood.”

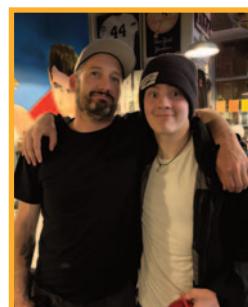


PARENT FEEDBACK

“My nephew is in the mentorship program and his mentor is so good. I do not know where my nephew would be without him. It is such a valuable service that Partners is providing. I only wish more people would sign up to mentor.”

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING VOLUNTEERS :

- Albert Deepe
- Andy Dumke
- Barry Johnson
- Brendan Doherty
- Chloe Wilwerding
- Elizabeth Dumke
- Jason Regan
- Jessica Mayberry
- Juston James
- Lisa Nelson
- Marissa Holmes
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- Paul Lundy
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- Amy Markovich
- Andy Owen
- Beau McGoran
- Callie Miller
- Cinthy Carson
- Erin Kissane
- Jen Vlosky
- Joe Tecce
- Kelsey Karkos
- Lorretta Ellsworth
- Mark Rosenberg
- Mike Burskens
- Paul Nebel
- Sarah Kostin
- Susan Wilkinson
- Wendy Ferguson
- Anabel Casey
- Annaleigh Bonds
- Beck Fischer
- Casey Ungs
- David Guglielmo
- Heidi Brown
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- Matt Hammett
- Mitch McCannon
- Ryan Bowman
- Sheryl Horton
- Tim Redmond
- Zach Goldner



These individuals generously volunteered over 10,000 hours of one-to-one mentoring

CONNECTION

MI'YAH & CINTHY

Mentee & Mentor interview

NAMES & PHOTO SHARED WITH PERMISSION

What words would you use to describe your match?

Mi'Yah (Mentee): Fun, chilling, really active.

Cinthy (Mentor): I have done things that I wouldn't have done, like alpine slide, bowling (that kind of hurt my body (laughs), and ziplining.

What was your first impression of your mentor, and how has that changed over time?

Mi'Yah: In the beginning, it was awkward and there was distance. Now, she's cool.

If you could go back to your first meeting with your mentee, what advice would you give yourself?

Cinthy: Just relax. I was worried about first impressions.

Can you describe a moment with your mentor that made you feel proud, excited, or just really happy?

Mi'Yah: Sometimes, when we go to her house. She tells me about these stories that happened a long time ago or recently, but even if they are awkward or weird, I think it's cool, like she's comfortable telling me these stories from nowhere.

Can you describe a moment with your mentee that made you feel especially proud or moved?

Cinthy: A lot of moments. She is very considerate and mature for her age. For example, when I picked her up, she went to the bus to let the driver know she wasn't riding the bus. She's very considerate of her family members, making sure they know where she is and keeping them informed.

What is a moment that stands out to you, recent or old, about your match?

Mi'Yah: When you pick me up from home to go to dance class. I try to hold my laugh, but I can't. I'm just so happy to see you. (Mentee telling her mentor)

Cinthy: It's fun when I pick her up from school, and I see her when she comes out with all her friends. Then, she smiles and says Hi to me. (Their Case Manager observed this once at the school; the mentee ran to her mentor, smiling and gave her a huge hug ❤️)



Nexus

Youth waiting to be matched receive services through our Nexus program, where case managers, with the help of activity volunteers, take only waiting youth on group recreational activities.



Thank you to our Activity Volunteers for supporting youth during this year's group activities!

- Andrew Czysz
- Devon Dalzel
- Wes Huang
- Liz Wald



SCHOOL BASED MENTORING

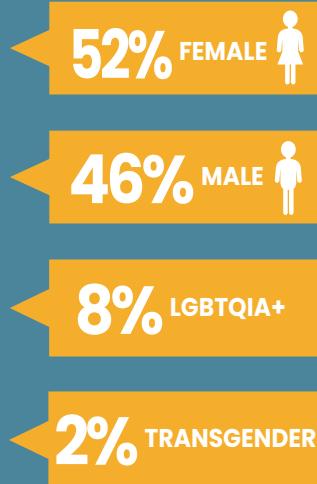
The School Based Mentoring program places paid mentors in Routt and Moffat County schools. Our School Based Mentors function as a trusted adult in the school setting, and through their connection, have an immense reach beyond the ten target students they work with.

YOUTH SERVED IN SCHOOL BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

50 TOTAL YOUTH
209 NON TARGET STUDENTS

22% AGES 7-11

78% AGES 12-17



46% identify as BIPOC
with **40% identifying as Latino/a**

“It is a great program and needed in the schools. As teachers, we are required to do so much and not all of us are equipped or trained to support the extensive mental health needs of our students. Not only does the school based mentor support the students but also supports the whole team working towards the goal of supporting students.”



SCHOOL BASED MENTORS

CHERYL BELL - Sleeping Giant

ARRON OULY - Steamboat Springs Middle School

RACHEL BERNHARDT - Steamboat Springs High School

KAYLA MEDRANO - Hayden Middle/High School

JENNY JONGQUIST - Craig Middle School

MELISSA DAVIS - Hayden Elementary School

IMPACT OF SCHOOL BASED MENTORING

- 100% OF CAREGIVERS support the program's continuation, reported improved peer relationships with their child, and observed better interactions with teachers and adults.
- SCHOOL STAFF rated student improvement as a 4 or 5 out 5 in areas such as self-esteem, relationships with peers, teachers, and school staff as well as improved classroom behavior, attendance, and academic performance.
- 100% OF TARGET STUDENT survey respondents indicated that they either agree or strongly agree that the program benefitted them academically and emotionally.

BUILDING TRUST, CONNECTION, AND A COMMUNITY THROUGH MENTORING

One of our School Based Mentors had a busy year with growing concerns among youth and school administrators around substance use, including alcohol and vaping. One afternoon during lunch, a group of students was gathered in her office when one of them accidentally dropped a vape pen. Since the incident occurred on school property, [SBM] was required to report it to the principal. This led to a series of individual discussions with the students about vaping, peer influence, and the potential consequences—particularly for those involved in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Rather than focusing solely on disciplinary action, [SBM] used the situation as a learning opportunity. She explained her responsibility as a School Based Mentor while also helping the students understand the risks of vaping and how it could impact their health and future opportunities. The students appreciated having a trusted adult to talk to, as many hadn't had an open conversation about these issues before.

The student that was caught confided in [SBM] that her high school boyfriend had given her the vape and that she felt pressured to use it. This opened the door for a deeper discussion about peer pressure, the influence of dating an older student, and how power dynamics in relationships can impact decision-making.

By guiding the conversation with care and understanding, [SBM] helped the student think about her relationship and personal boundaries. She encouraged her to make choices that felt right for her and aligned with her well-being and future goals.



PEER MENTORING

Partners recently launched a service that matches older students with younger students. This effort includes the development and implementation of a structured curriculum, comprehensive training, and customized evaluation tools to support meaningful peer-to-peer relationships. The school plays a vital role in the success of the Peer Mentoring Program. From supporting recruitment efforts to facilitating implementation and ongoing support. The program and curriculum is flexible and can work in different schools, with different ages with mentors choosing the topics and curriculum.

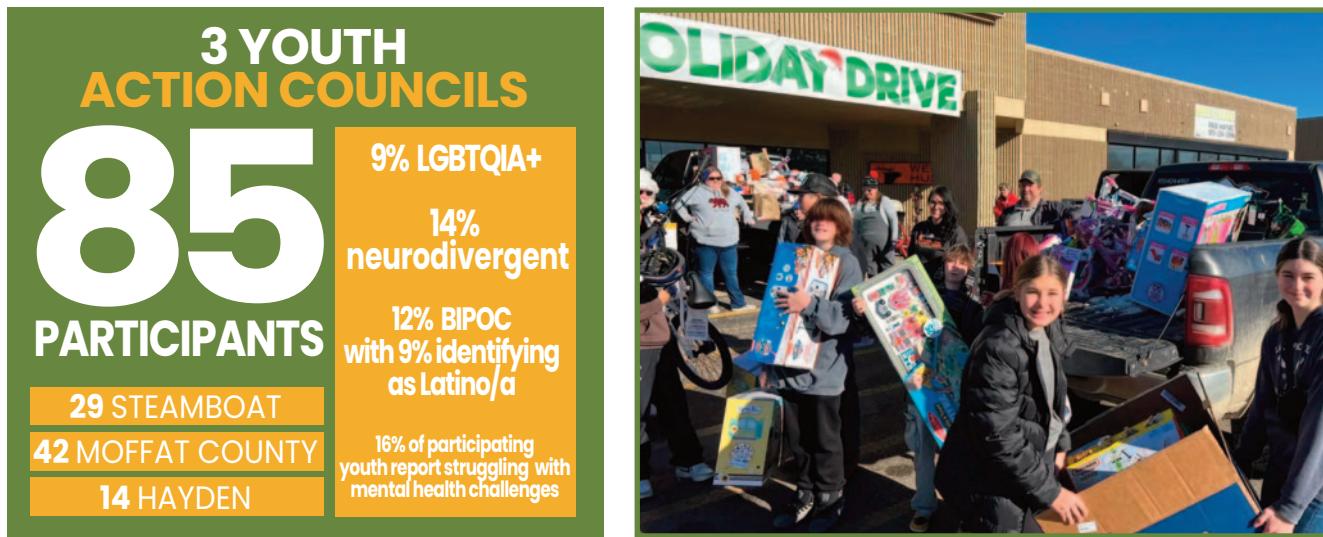
This past year the program paired 8th grade mentors with 4th grade mentees at Sleeping Giant School. These connections were supported through weekly sessions, intentional activities designed to deepen engagement and strengthen relationships, and regular mentor debriefs.



YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS

Youth Action Councils are youth-led groups in Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and Craig that empower middle and high school aged youth to take an active role in their communities. Through weekly meetings, youth build leadership skills, connect with peers and supportive adults, and lead projects addressing issues they care about, including mental health, substance use, and social isolation.

Recent projects have included a mental health campaign, sharing tobacco cessation resources, and hosting safe, fun events that give teens a positive place to belong. Many youth say it's the first place they have truly felt a sense of belonging, and for some it has also been a launchpad to bigger opportunities like joining statewide youth councils, starting school clubs, or even helping pass statewide legislation. More than a program, it creates spaces where young people feel valued, supported, and ready to lead.



“POWERFUL” “SUPPORTIVE” “INCLUSIVE” “DRIVEN”

BELONGING

Sunny Winn, 2024-25 Steamboat Springs Teen Council President

Being part of the Youth Action Council has allowed me to connect with incredible people and create real change. When I joined the Steamboat Springs Teen Council, I wasn't sure how much impact I could have, but I quickly learned that young voices matter—and with the right resources, we can take action.

One of the most impactful experiences I had was training Steamboat Schools faculty and staff about opioid overdoses and naloxone. Leading discussions on such a critical topic showed me the power of youth-led education. We weren't just talking—we were equipping adults with life-saving knowledge.

The Youth For Youth Campaign has been another defining experience. What started as a concern in Teen Council became a community-wide call to action. We highlighted the importance of youth mental health and provided resources that could make a real difference. This experience reinforced my belief that when young people see a problem, we don't just talk about it—we do something.

Today, I serve as the President of the Steamboat Springs Teen Council and Youth Intern at Partners for Youth. Over four years, I've grown in ways I never imagined—learning to lead, plan events, present tough topics, market campaigns, and communicate effectively. My time in this program has opened my eyes to policy and leadership, something I now hope to pursue in college.

I couldn't be more grateful for my experiences with the Youth Action Council. This program has shaped me into a confident leader, given me the skills to succeed, and shown me that young people can drive meaningful change. And this is only the beginning.

MOFFAT Youth Action Council has continued to grow in impact, participation, and community presence. The group has remained committed to creating safe, engaging, and youth-led events through the school year and summer.

They increased their involvement in vaping prevention and cessation efforts and shared concerns regarding vaping and mental health with the Superintendent. Youth created Vaping Cessation Resource Wallet Cards that were given out at events. The Police Department and Juvenile Diversion requested an additional 1000 resource cards to hand out. These cards have been approved by the middle school and high school for behavioral health staff to hand out as a resource.



HAYDEN Youth Action Council had a dynamic and creative year, marked by growth in membership, leadership development, and youth-led community impact.

In hopes of increasing youth's sense of belonging, the Youth Council held their first pro-social events in the community. The council selected a park beautification and safety project. They partnered with the Town of Hayden and others in the community to beautify the Town Park. They planted new trees and flowers throughout the park, added a bench, and added a Little Free Library.



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS Teen Council had a vibrant and productive year focused on youth mental health, leadership development, and community engagement. The group made strides in visibility, creative expression, and advocacy. They focused on a year long Youth 4 Youth campaign to support youth mental health, shared education, resources, inspiration on social media, and held events that corresponded with each topic related to mental health.

The Council wrapped up its Youth 4 Youth mental health campaign with a community mural reveal and celebration.



"This program has impacted my life in such a positive way. Not only have I gained knowledge and passions, but a sense of community. I've felt supported through every step, including my experience on the Teen Council. My perspective on a multitude of topics has shifted how I can best help my community."

FINDING POWER AND VALUE IN MOFFAT COUNTY YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

In September 2024, an 8th grader from Craig, joined our Moffat County Youth Action Council after telling us he'd been thinking about it for over a year. At first, he was motivated to join to earn community service hours, but he quickly found a sense of purpose within the council. Since joining, Brian has shown outstanding dedication, attending every meeting and event with enthusiasm and taking on responsibilities beyond what's expected.



Brian has helped plan, set up, run, and clean up five events in a row, always ready to jump in wherever he's needed. His excitement for leadership opportunities has shone through at each event, where he's been quick to organize, offer ideas, and support his peers. His hard work and positive attitude have made him a key member of the Youth Action Council, and he's grown from a curious new member into a leader who's making a real impact in Craig and Moffat County. * name changed for anonymity

"This program has allowed me many opportunities to grow as a leader. I've found my voice through MCYAC. Having been able to help other kids do the same has been rewarding more than anything."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Action Councils planned **19 prosocial events** with an estimated **534 unduplicated youth attending**. A total of **1,203 youth participated across all events**. **Prosocial events are free events that Youth Action Council members plan and implement to create safe spaces for youth.**



Youth collaborated with **39 Community Partners** to implement their projects and events including **19 free events for youth**, a presence at **3 summer concerts** providing education and Harm Reduction Kits (Naloxone) to 50 individuals, and launching a **Youth 4 Youth campaign** to support youth mental health.

TRUSTED ADULT ENGAGEMENT

Partners for Youth strengthens the network of supportive and trusted adults across the Yampa Valley by offering free, high-quality professional development for those who support and interact with young people every day. Our trainings equip educators, mentors, coaches, and community members with practical tools to foster youth wellbeing, resilience, and connection.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based certification course that teaches adults to recognize the signs or symptoms of mental health or substance-use challenges in adolescents, and respond with confidence, compassion, and effectiveness.

Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an approach that emphasizes building on the strengths and potential of young people, providing them with opportunities, skills, and meaningful engagement to support their healthy development and empowerment.

TOTAL TRAINED

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID – 2 TRAININGS DELIVERED, 20 ADULTS TRAINED

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – 2 TRAININGS DELIVERED, 13 ADULTS TRAINED

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\$10,000+

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We truly appreciate every contribution and sincerely apologize to anyone we may have missed.



* Via Yampa Valley Community Foundation

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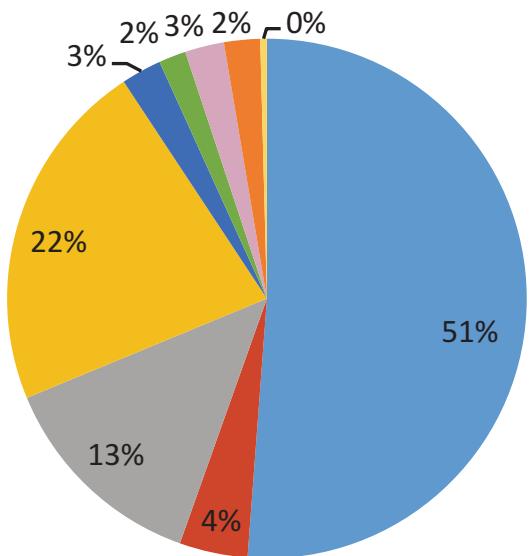
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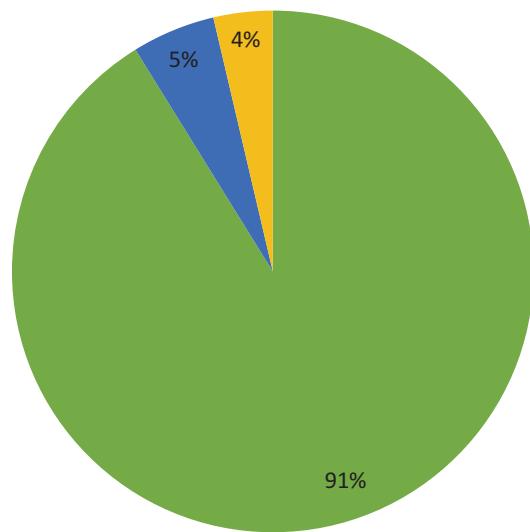
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2024-2025



TOTAL REVENUE \$1,143,797

■ Government
 ■ Foundations
 ■ Contributed facilities
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TOTAL EXPENSES \$971,571

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