

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



Celebrating 25 Years!

Building resilient youth in Routt County
by creating and supporting meaningful mentoring relationships

STAFF

LINDSAY KOHLER
Executive Director

ERIN MILLER
Program Director

WILLA SEYBOLT
Community Based Mentoring
Lead Case Manager

ELIZABETH FLYNN
Community Based Mentoring
Spanish Speaking Case Manager

BRAD DOUGLASS
School-Based Mentoring
Program Manager

BOARD

TOM KRABACHER
President

JANE TOOTHAKER
Past President

SHELLY DERMODY
Treasurer

LEE COX
Secretary

JOHN VANDERBLOEMAN

STEVE HOFMAN

GRETCHEN DONNAN-DALEY

ROB MACCARTHY

JUDY KOMAROMI

STACY MOST

*Thank You
for Your Service!*

MICHELLE PETIX
Executive Director

PAMELA SERNA
Community Based Mentoring
Spanish Speaking Case Manager

KIRRA DYER
School Based Mentoring
Program Manager

EVAN HERMAN
MICHELLE NALDER
Board Members

To our friends and supporters,

As many of you know, Partners is celebrating the amazing milestone of 25 years of service. Part of our celebration includes taking time to reflect on our history as an organization and the impacts of mentoring. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Partners story, first as a mentor, then as a Program Manager, and now as the Executive Director. My experiences both personally and professionally have made me a firm believer in the power of mentoring, and I would be remiss if, in reflecting on Partners' history, I did not take a moment to acknowledge Michelle Petix. Michelle has had a lasting impact on Partners' history, our future, and on me personally. I got to know Michelle during her first two years as the Partners Executive Director. I immediately respected her positivity, passion, dedication, and seemingly endless supply of good ideas. Over the last nine years, she has been a person I could call any time I needed something. I often found comfort (and still do) in the fact that I knew I had Michelle to listen to me and support me, never pushing me to make a certain choice, but always helping me to figure it out for myself. This is exactly what mentoring is all about, and what Partners has supported in this community for twenty five years. Consider how a relationship like the one I just described can impact a young person struggling to find a sense of safety in the world, or what it can mean to a child's parent or guardian to have another safe adult connected to the family.

I highly recommend looking through this entire report to get a sense of the many people who make this possible by supporting our organization in so many ways, and to read a little more about Michelle's impact throughout her career. Finally, please think about someone who has been a mentor, friend, or advocate in your life and take a moment to thank them. Here's to the next twenty-five years!



*Warm Regards,
Lindsay Kohler, Executive Director*

SCHOOL BASED MENTORING

VOLUNTEER SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING & InSPIRE

Partners now has two school-based mentoring programs: InSPIRE and Volunteer School-Based Mentoring. The InSPIRE (In School Prevention, Intervention, Relationships and Engagement) Program places part time, paid mentors in the schools. InSPIRE Mentors spend a minimum of one hour each week with each of their 10 target students for the duration of the school year. InSPIRE mentors also plan and implement in school and after-school programming based on the school's needs.

Volunteer School-Based Mentors spend one hour each week with their mentees. Mentors and mentees can meet in person or virtually and spend their time focused on school-related topics.

InSPIRE

MENTORS

- SSHS - Meghan Howard
- SoRoCo - Anita Hoffman
- NRCCS - Layna Jansen

21 TOTAL YOUTH SERVED BY THESE MENTORS

- Sean Heskett • Erin Miller • Carly Kelly • Lori Livingston
- Lynn Ross-Bryant • Mac Stilec • Taylor Cross • Bennett Jones
- Jazzell Gardea • Liza Stout • Leona Thurston • Taylor Graham
- Presley Hofland • Kailash Nelson • Adia Clark Lay • Makena James
- Anna Atwater • Maci Silvers • Jayna Davis



HERE IS WHAT SCHOOL STAFF HAD TO SAY ABOUT OUR INSPIRE MENTORS

"Meghan's greatest strength is her ability to build connections with students, families, and colleagues. She has a calm steady demeanor, which will serve her well in her future interactions. She was incredibly persistent in engaging students, and thus, was able to build connections with some of our most disengaged students. She has been creative in the strategies she has used to engage each student, based on their needs. We are so lucky to have Meghan this year!!"



"Relating to students of all ages: (Anita) She is a wonderful active listener and shows empathy with kids of all ages. Her presence is positive and the students feel really comfortable talking with Anita. I have heard from staff and students that Anita has a natural ability to break down problems for kids, and help regulate students throughout the day. Her warmth and kindness is felt by everyone who speaks to her. She is a really positive role model for our students."

"Ms. Layna is amazing. She adds a sense of calm to my classroom that wasn't there before she started. Ms. Layna is able to support all students but has (a) knack for zeroing in on students that really need the support. She gives them a calm presence and a great deal of support. -- Students look up to Layna and know she is an adult that can be trusted."



39 students received weekly **ONE-TO-ONE** social-emotional support and mentoring from **3 MENTORS & 3 SCHOOLS** across *Routt County*

I CAN BE A SMALL PART OF HER SUCCESS

-By Layna Jansen
InSPIRE Mentor at North Routt Community Charter School

I have been working with my mentee, now a third grader, since last school year, and we've developed a strong mentee/mentor relationship. She moved to the area from abroad last school year, and her parents emailed me at the end of last year and said that their daughter mentioned how nice it was to have a familiar face in the school that she knew was her friend. She was having difficulty adjusting to a new school program both socially and academically.

It seems having some time consistently to sit with an adult and have a conversation has grown her confidence, and it's so nice to see how much more comfortable she is interacting with her classmates as the months go on. She loves drawing and art, and sometimes that distracts her from staying on task in math class. So, recently we started a system where if she doesn't get a certain amount of her math work done during class, we catch up on it on Wednesday break time, but if she does, then we get to spend that time drawing, coloring, or working on a fun project! Spending time with my mentee for a second year is so wonderful. Seeing her grow and communicate better, and get stronger in her academics and confidence has been amazing to watch, and I'm just happy I can be a small part of her success!

Also, this year I've started working with her fifth grade brother, and getting to be a support for him. He has a lot of energy in class, and having a mentor seems to be very valuable for him. He thrives off of getting to have a more candid conversation with me as his mentor about his school struggles more than he can with his teacher. Working with his teacher, we worked out a system where he asks if he can take five, and we go on a walk to get some fresh air, or sometimes go work on his assignment outside, which seems to allow him to calm back down and engage back in class in a more productive way. I've so enjoyed working with these two mentees and being available in school to support them however they need.



COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

KEVIN AND RIVER

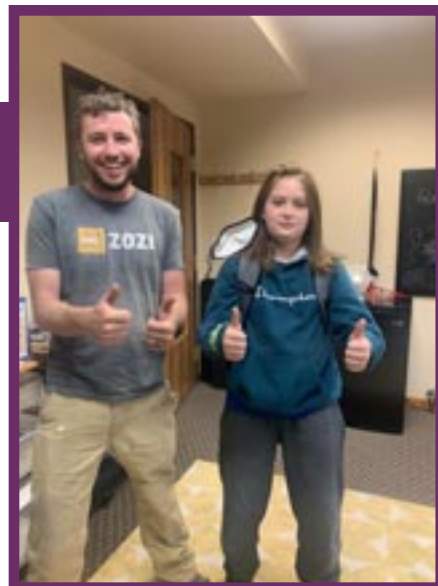
River is a precocious 12 year old who had been on our waitlist for the better part of a year. We knew he would be an amazing match for someone as curious and interested in discussing video games and Japanese language as he, but matching young teens is challenging.

Kevin was briefly matched earlier this year with a mentee who decided he was too old for the program and he graciously agreed to be rematched. His creative and adventurous attitude made us think he would be the perfect for River. Sure enough, during their match meeting they were so engrossed in their conversation it was hard to pull them away.

They enjoy playing chess together, both virtually and in person, putting together STEM kits, and learning from each other.

Recently Kevin and his wife had the opportunity to move out of the area, but he and River want to remain matched. Partners discovered during the pandemic that virtually mentoring can be effective, especially if a connection has already been established. It was a great learning opportunity as it enabled our matches to have more flexibility. We are thrilled they are able to continue their relationship, even at a distance.

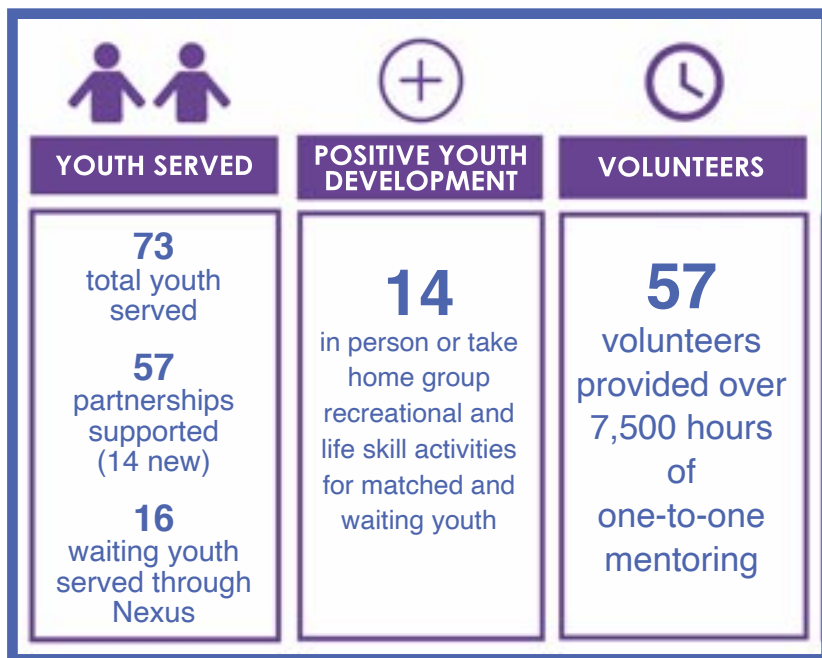
When they found out Kevin was moving, here is what River's mom had to say to their Case Manager: "Kevin was an absolutely perfect match for River and made a positive impact on him that is definitely a lifelong gift."



SOPHIA & JANE | SOPHIA & ASHLEY

Sophia is a spunky ten year old who is full of energy and curiosity. She and her former mentor, Jane, were matched in the summer of 2020 and were a positive part of each other's lives during a really tough year due to online schooling and uncertainty. As they were approaching their year mark, Jane's daughter got into a school in New Hampshire so they decided to move. Sophia, Jane, Jane's daughter and Sophia's parents were all at their closure meeting. They had lovely things to say about each other and agreed to stay in touch via facetime.

Sophia wanted to go back on our waitlist, but given that she lives in Hayden, we weren't sure how long it would take to find her a mentor. Then along came Ashlee, a young dental hygienist and photographer who was a perfect fit for her. Their match meeting took place about three months after the closure meeting with Jane, and Sophia was squealing with excitement. Since their match, they have gone to the pool, gotten their nails done, and watched movies at Ashley's house. Sophia is lucky to be supported by two dedicated mentors, and they are equally fortunate to have her as a mentee.



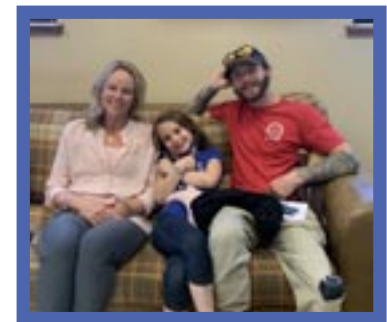


COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING VOLUNTEERS

Albert Deepe
 Alexandra Shannon
 Baili Foster
 Barry Johnson
 Cait Bambenek
 Carlyn Lawatsch
 Carolyn Gibson
 Carrie Sabin
 Cheryl Fullerton
 Chuck VeDepo
 Cindy Kinnear
 Cindy Wither
 David Lundeen
 Erin Kissane
 Erin Swanson
 George Detwiler
 Hannah Clune

Jane Davis
 Janne Siegel
 Jason Regan
 Jennifer Berdine
 Jessica Charpentier
 Jimmy VandenHurk
 John Chevalier
 Julia Luciano
 Katie Knezevich
 Kevin McKenzie
 Kristen Van Wieren
 Laura Soard
 Lauren Carpenter
 Lauren VandenHurk
 Leah Wolf Martin
 Lisa Nelson
 Lori Kimble

Matthew Caron
 Mia Thompson
 Michelle House
 Mike Famulare
 Mike Stoltz
 Pamela Nebel
 Pamela Kinder
 Pete Surgent
 Rachele Rothe
 Reall Regan
 Sean Heskett
 Tatiana Anchcar
 Tracie Detwiler
 Tim Redmond
 Whitney Catizone
 Willa Seybolt



OUTCOMES

Partners Mentoring Association - CBM First Year Youth
 2020-21 SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 48% of youth had an overall increase in communication and social skills
- 100% of parents said their child's involvement increased self-esteem
- 100% of parents said the program helped social & emotional skills
- 90% of parents surveyed said their child's school performance increased

COMMUNITY IMPACT

HERE IS WHAT MENTORS AND PARENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE THIS PAST YEAR

100% of parents said they would highly recommend the program to other families
100% said they feel safe with their child's mentor

"It has made a world of difference in having a supportive network and building trust within our family. We love you guys!"

"He really enjoys his mentor and it helps him see that everything is not always about what he wants but also needs to encompass others' needs and feelings."

"The Partners program has positively impacted my child. The partners program gives my child something to look forward to each week and is something she always comes back bright eyed and happy about how experience. I think this program is so good for kids."

MENTOR QUOTES

"I am incredibly honored to be a mentor. I have learned so much about creativity, caring, patience, and acceptance from my junior partner."

"It has been so rewarding to see my JP grow!! She has been through a lot in life and I'm so grateful to support her through it. It's been tough to connect weekly or sometimes even monthly, but we have a strong relationship of support."

"I get to do 'kid things' and I feel I have learned from my mentee."

"Developing a relationship with [my mentee] has been incredibly worthwhile. Yes, it has been somewhat difficult on occasion. Yes, she can yell and be overly enthusiastic and it is all really very charming. Her enthusiasm for life is infectious. I can tell that she needs my attention and the great part is, she appreciates it. From my perspective, her humor and joy in life makes me happy. I am honored to share time with her. Thank you Partners."

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

TWO DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...

Community Based Mentoring (CBM)- The CBM program serves youth, ages 6 to 17, who benefit from having another trusted adult in their life. Each Mentee is carefully matched with an adult volunteer Mentor who is recruited, screened, trained, and supervised by a Partners Case Manager. Each Senior Partner makes a commitment to spend three hours a week for a minimum of 12 months with his or her Mentee. The Mentor serves as a friend, advocate, and role model to the Junior Partner.

Volunteer School Based Mentoring-The first of its kind here in Routt County, Partners is offering an opportunity for adults and older youth (approx. 16yrs+) to mentor school students. This program differs from Community Based Mentoring in that it is only for the school year and there is more a focus on school-related support. Mentors spend 1 hour per week with their mentees, virtually or in-person, at a time that is convenient for both parties. This may be broken into shorter sessions or done all at once depending on the student mentee's needs and the mentor's availability.

 www.partnersrouttcounty.org to download a volunteer application!



SOME WAYS MENTORS & MENTEES SPEND TIME TOGETHER

Arts & Crafts

Homework

School Projects

Biking

Hiking

Fishing

Swimming

Horseback riding

Games

Community Events

Attending Dance Performances

Attending Sporting Events

Attending School Presentations

Holiday Dinners

Birthday Dinners & Parties

Movies Nights

Museum Trips

Camping

Bowling

Rock Climbing

Running Errands Together

Facetime / Calls / Texts

Socially Distanced Walks

Virtual Cooking & Baking

Virtual Room Decorating

MAJOR DONORS



\$1000+

Adrienne and Steven Southworth
Borden Endowment of the Yampa Valley
Community Foundation
Chapman and Chris Young
Craig Wasserman
Fair & Square Construction
Fran and Mike Stoltz
June & Ed MacArthur
Lee and Bryant Cox
RE/MAX Partners

Sean Heskett
Sleeping Giant Financial Services, LLC
Steamboat Ace Hardware
Terry Huffington
Wendy and Riq Rogers
Lunch Rotary
YVEA Caring Consumers (Operation Round up?)
Steamboat Sotheby's
VALE

\$100 - \$999

Alan-Bradley Windows And Doors, Inc.
Alysa And Chris Selby
Barry And Robin Crossan
Becky Slamal
Brad & Kathy Iversen
Brian & Ronni Fitzgerald
Bridget And Paul Ferguson
Carl Steidtmann And Kathy Cline
Carrie Sabin
Chris And Eileen Diamond
Clara Bradley
Cynthia Seybolt In Honor Of Willa Seybolt
Dana Morton
Dave & Cindy Kinnear
Dave Lambeth, Melissa Hampton
David Smith & Lindsay Rocks
Deja Vu Consignment In Memory Of Andy Roberge
Don Eden
Donna Garth
Edelman Family In Honor Of Kirra Dyer
Evan Herman
Glas Deffryn Ranch
Greg And Kate Friedman
Honey Stinger
Jack Dysart
Janet And Charlie Martin
Jason Regan
James And Erin Kissane
Jean Ray And Jim Chubriilo
Jessica Ludwick
John Mcshane
John Vanderbloemen And Paula Thomas
Judy And Tom Schwall

Judy Komaromi
Kathleen Emge
Karen And Charlie Pharris
Kimberley Kolb
Larry Williams
Laura Cusenbary
Lisa Owen
Livingston-Techarukpong Fund Of The Yvcf
Margaret Briggs-Casson
Mary Beth And Dave Johnson
Melanie & Norbert Turek
Melrose Kuusinen
Michelle Amico In Honor Judge Meissner-Cutler Retirement
Michelle Nalder
Mike And Toni Hennessy
Mountain Roots
Pamela And Dennis Kinder In Honor Of Libby
Peter & Gretchen Van De Carr
Roger Reynolds
Starkey Family
Stephanie And Brian Smith
Steven Hofman
Stuart Roberts
Sue And Ron Davies
Susan And Robert Mccarthy
Tatiana Land Achcar-Szyba
The Niedermeiers
Thomas Krabacher
Timothy Landusky
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Walter & Cristina Magill
Zirkel Wireless
Heart Of Steamboat Foundation



FRIENDS AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Backdoor Grill • Backdoor Sports • Christy Sports
 Circle R Gastropub • Community First Foundation
 Computer Support Gal • Crossfit Steamboat
 Element Print & Design • Howelsen Ice Arena
 Johnny B Goods • Karen Schneider
 Old Town Hot Springs • Snow Bowl
 Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
 Steamboat Snowmobile Tours
 Steamboat Tennis and Pickleball Center
 Steamboat Touring Center • Wheels Bike Shop
 Yampa Valley Gives • Zirkel Wireless

*Thank you to the generous donors
 who wish to remain anonymous.
 We truly appreciate every contribution
 and sincerely apologize to anyone
 we may have missed.*

*Special thanks to the large number
 of individuals and businesses that donate goods
 and services to our programs.
 Your support is truly valued and contributes
 greatly to the success of our events.*

\$10 - \$99

Andrew Wilkinson
In Memory Of 2014 Mentoring Crew
 Angie Robinson
 Bill & Carolyn Krueger
 Candice And Rob Bannister
 Ck Erikson
 Colorado Group Realty
 Dan And Cher Dooley
 Deb & Ken Proper
 Deborah Gooding
 Diane & Mike Lane *In Honor Of Shemi Dixon*
 Donald & Kathy Savory
 Eric And Mary Nilsson
 Erica Gallagher
 Flanigan Family
 Geoff & Lisel Petis
 Jack & Diane Carter
 Jan Levy
 Jane Toothaker

Jen, Tim, Lucy & Lizzy Travis
 Jimmy & Lauren Vandenhurk
 Joe And Alyssa Laiberte
 Jordan And Emily Osterman
 Karen & Dean Massey
 Kerry And Ron Contarino
 Kevin And Shannon Fonger
 Kristopher And Rebecca Hammond
 Leslie Morace
 Linda & Rich Danter *In Honor Of Lee Cox*
 Lindsey Simbeye
 Lori Thompson
 Lynn And Bill Davis
 Lynn Ross-Bryant
 Lynne Bier
 Mandy Maass
 Marilyn & Mike Koponen
 Matthew Kireker
 Maura Walsh

Megan Richard *In Honor Of Sean Heskett*
 Mike And Hope Cook
 Millie And Ben Beall
 Petix Family
 Reall & Jason Regan
 Sandra Moore
 Scott & Sherrie Ford
 Sentio Cycling
 Stacy Most
 Steamboat Pilates & Fitness
 Susan Petersen
 Tania And Chuck Coffey
 Terry & John Sherrill
 Ulrich & Janet Salzgeber
 Wayne And Lisa Adamo
 Willa Seybolt
 Yampa Valley Engineering

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2020-2021 REVENUE

REVENUE

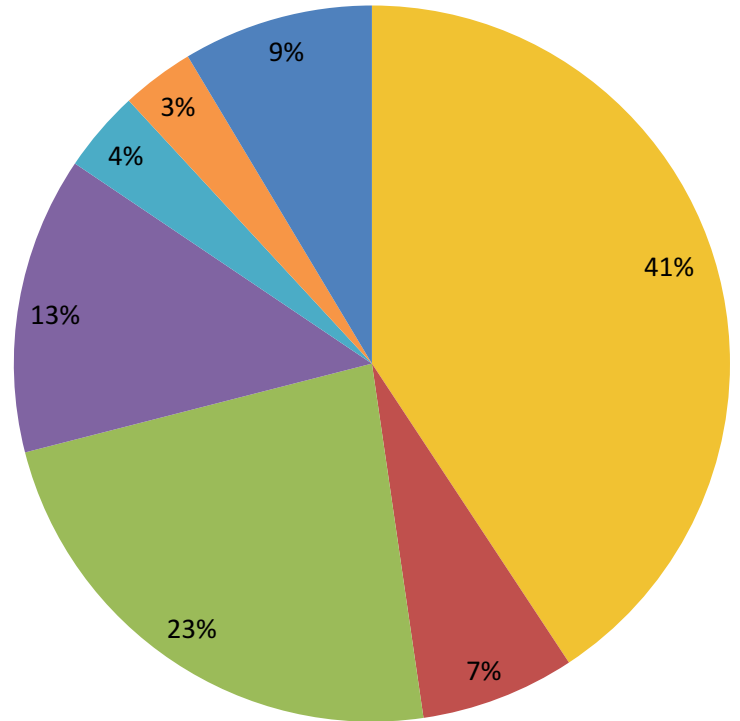
Grants and contributions	\$180,112
Special events	\$30,836
Foundations	\$103,092
Individuals	\$59,380
PAC Rent Income	\$16,312
Corporate	\$14,525
United Way	\$38,000

Total Revenue & Support \$442,257

EXPENSES

Programs Services	\$299,735
Administrative	\$49,621
Fundraising	\$38,982

Total Expenses \$388,338



■ Government
 ■ Special Events
 ■ Foundations
 ■ Individuals
 ■ PAC rent income
 ■ Corporate
 ■ United Way



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Tracie and George Detwiler

George and Tracie have each been a mentor with Partners twice; Tracie has been matched with Adi for five years, and George was matched with Adi's brother, Theo, until he turned 18 and aged out of the program last year.

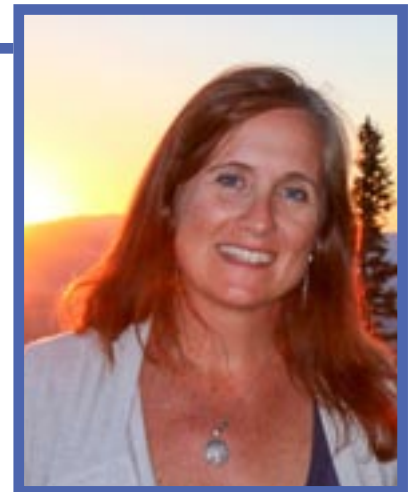
Lucky for us, George was ready for another mentoring partnership so we matched him with Chris, who he connected with at church. Little did we know, George was one of the nurses that helped deliver Chris at the hospital! The two of them have enjoyed hiking, playing chess, and sitting on Chris' front porch and talking.

When asked what they enjoyed about being a mentor, Tracie said 'I'm a testament to the fact the Partners changes many lives', and George said, 'it's like being part of a family.'

A LEGACY OF INCREDIBLE IMPACT

Michelle Petix

Michelle Petix has spent her entire adult life - personal and professional - increasing youth resiliency through mentoring. She was on the founding board of Partners in Routt County in 1996 and was the first secretary on the board. She was hired as Teen Center worker in 1993. Became Assistant Director in 1994, helping to launch Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Then, in 1998 Michelle became the Director of Teen Programs for the City of Steamboat Springs, overseeing all operations of the Teen Center, and of the Community Youth Corps. She spearheaded the move of The Dock Teen Center from the Old Junior High to a new location on 11th Street, and renamed it The Emerald City. Michelle was hired by the 14th Judicial District in 2009 as the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator. She oversaw the program which assisted juveniles in managing their diversion plans. She was recognized as "Employee of the Year" in 2011 for her role as the JD Coordinator. To bring it full circle, she then became the Executive Director of Partners in Routt County in 2012 until this past Fall, 2021. She was on the Board of the Partners Mentoring Association from 2012-2021 - her tenure with Partners.



Her key accomplishments (stated above) also include the following; Michelle was on the founding boards of the Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, Routt County Youth Services Coalition, and the 14th Judicial District's Community Evaluation Team (no longer operating). She also acted as a co-coordinator of the youth soccer program, and was very active with the PIC (Parent Information Committee) of her daughters' schools.

In 2020 she spearheaded & secured a 1.3 Million dollar grant for the Partners Mentoring Association from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention. She secured the Partners Alliance Center (PAC) - an office building to support multiple nonprofits in the Yampa Valley including Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, Opera Steamboat & the Routt County Crisis Response Team. The PAC is placed in a strategic location to best serve our families; includes a conference room, full kitchen, youth room & outside courtyard.

These are the main highlights of a committed career and yet we cannot even begin to scratch the surface of the lives Michelle has impacted. From mentees, to mentors, to Partners Staff, to committee & coalition members, Michelle has made a career out of building relationships and building others up. Thank you Michelle for everything you have done for Partners, for this community, and for countless youth and families.

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PARTNERS AND GRAND FUTURES PREVENTION COALITION

Partners in Routt County and Grand Futures Prevention Coalition are excited to be pursuing an organizational restructuring that will strengthen each organization's capacity to best serve its clients and communities. Grand Futures Prevention Coalition has been a leading substance abuse prevention organization for the Grand, Moffat and Routt county communities through education and youth advocacy programs since 1990.

Both organizations are strongly aligned around positive youth development, advocacy, and community collaborative initiatives.

Restructuring will allow for this alignment to strengthen mentoring and prevention programs and reduce administrative overhead, creating a sustainable framework for increased organizational capacity. To this end, Partners and Grand Futures have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the steps for Partners to acquire Grand Futures. Partners will absorb all programs, personnel, as well as associated responsibilities and funding. We are excited about what the future holds for our work in mentoring and prevention.



 @partnersinrouttcounty

@PartnersRouttCounty

2673 Jacob Circle, Unit 1 | Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487