



PARTNERS
FOR YOUTH

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2023 - June 2024



MENTORING • YOUTH EMPOWERMENT • TRUSTED ADULT ENGAGEMENT

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.



EMPOWERMENT

Youth Action Councils empower youth in the Yampa Valley to take an active role in their communities. By providing a supportive environment, Youth Action Councils help youth build on their strengths, develop leadership skills, and lead initiatives that create positive change locally.

Our Trusted Adult Engagement includes educational trainings such as Youth Mental Health First Aid and Positive Youth Development. These are for adults in our community, to provide them additional knowledge and skills to better support youth.

MENTORING

Community Based Mentoring provides one-to-one mentoring to youth, ages 7-17 who benefit from having another trusted adult in their life. The mentor serves as a friend, advocate, and a role model. Each youth mentee is carefully matched with an adult volunteer that is recruited, screened, trained, and supervised by a Partners Case Manager.

School Based Mentoring places part time, paid mentors in the schools. These mentors provide one on one mentoring to 10+ students for the duration of the school year. Mentors provide academic, emotional and social support in the school environment.

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

ERICA GROSS (she, her)
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

LAURIE KEOGH (she, her)
Administrative Assistant

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

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Community Based Mentoring
Lead Case Manager

TOM KRABACHER
Board President

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Board Member

STEVE HOFMAN
Board Member





Dear Friends,

It has been a wonderful year of continued investment in the youth of the Yampa Valley. Between July 2023 and June 2024, we successfully expanded School-Based Mentoring into Craig, added the paid Youth Intern Role to our Youth Action Councils, and supported over 80 youth with Community Based Mentoring Services. Youth Action Councils across the Yampa Valley effectively implemented projects around Opioid Overdose response, and created safe spaces for youth through free events. Mentors, both paid and volunteer, connected with youth on everything from peer challenges to significant mental health supports, and effectively held space for youth to feel supported and cared for by the adults in their community.

Our staff also rolled up our sleeves and spent some time digging into discussions about the impact of our work. We successfully honed in on four overarching outcomes of our mentoring and empowerment programs that you can see in the graph below.



You will notice these themes as you read the following pages; connection, value, belonging, and power often emerge organically in the stories we hear from youth, mentors, guardians, and our community partners who have been involved in our programs.

We continue to be amazed at and inspired by the strength, resilience, leadership, and joy that youth display, and look forward to another incredible year of this important and impactful work.

Warmly,
Lindsay Kohler (she/her)
Executive Director

YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS

The purpose of Youth Action Councils is to give youth a voice in their communities. We take an approach that focuses on the strengths of young people.

- ★ Open to any high school aged youth (6th-12th grade in Moffat County)
- ★ Weekly youth-led meetings
 - ★ Plan free prosocial events for youth
 - ★ Youth identify community issues & implement community projects.
 - ★ Leadership & skill building opportunities

3 YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS

81 PARTICIPANTS

45 ROUTT COUNTY/ 36 MOFFAT COUNTY

16% LGBTQIA+

5% NEURODIVERGENT

12% BIPOC WITH 9% IDENTIFYING AS LATINO/A

25% OF PARTICIPATING YOUTH REPORT STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



Youth Join Because

- ★ Make a Difference
- ★ Community Involvement
- ★ Sense of Belonging
- ★ Personal Growth
- ★ Fun and Enjoyment

“So I can help make a change in others life's to make them feel safe and help have a positive community”

“Create positive change within our community and so the youth perspective is heard.”

“Bring the stoke for making change!”

FINDING BELONGING AT THE HAYDEN YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

In February, a new member first learned about the Hayden Youth Action Council at a meet-and-greet pizza party. Although intrigued, they did not return until April, when they attended a meeting with a friend. During this meeting, the group reflected on their sense of belonging in the community and its impact on their well-being.

As the conversation deepened, members participated in a visualization exercise, reflecting on words like "self-esteem," "fitting in," "peer pressure," and "belonging." When it was the new member's turn to share, they hesitated but then said, "I do like talking about myself and my feelings. It's just that nobody ever asks me." This moment of vulnerability opened the door for a deeper connection with the group, and another member expressed similar feelings.

Since that meeting, the new member has attended every session, finding a safe space where their voice is heard and respected. Our commitment to creating an environment of acceptance and empowerment has made a lasting impact on this young person, helping them to feel a sense of belonging and inspiring them to actively participate in making their community a better place.

DISCOVERING MY POWER THROUGH STEAMBOAT SPRINGS TEEN COUNCIL

"Over the past four years, my involvement with the Steamboat Springs Teen Council has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I heard about the group from my older skiing teammates and quickly realized that it was an incredible opportunity to make a difference in my community. Our weekly meetings became a place where I could collaborate with friends and peers, working on projects that truly mattered.

Throughout my time with Teen Council, I have been part of numerous impactful initiatives. One of the highlights was our Bowling Night during my sophomore year, a well-planned event that provided a safe and fun space for youth in Routt County. But the most significant work we've done includes the Opioid Overdose Prevention training for the school district and our ongoing efforts to expand mental health resources for youth.

These experiences have taught me invaluable lessons about leadership, teamwork, and the power of youth voices in addressing community issues. As I move on to the next chapter of my life, I am confident that the skills and values I have gained from Teen Council will guide me to continue making a difference, whether in college or beyond."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACT

OUR YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS **TRAINED 275 YOUTH** IN OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND ADMINISTERING NALOXONE

YOUTH COLLABORATED WITH **33 COMMUNITY PARTNERS** TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROJECTS AND EVENTS

1152 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN ALL 19 PROSOCIAL EVENTS

OUR YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS, PROSOCIAL EVENTS, AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAININGS **REACHED OVER 631 YOUTH**

TRUSTED ADULT ENGAGEMENT

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach adults who regularly interact with young people how to help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.

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.

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Naloxone Administration

In response to the fentanyl crisis in Northwest Colorado, youth in the Moffat County Youth Action Council and Steamboat Springs Teen Council members became certified trainers in Naloxone administration to combat opioid overdoses. They continue to partner with community organizations and provide Youth-Led Opioid Overdose Prevention & Naloxone training in their communities.



TOTAL TRAINED

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID – 59 ADULTS

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – 10 ADULTS

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION – 26 ADULTS

ONE TO ONE MENTORING

All youth recommended for our mentoring services have been identified as needing the extra support of a trusted adult. Some are recommended due to being part of a single-parent household, while others have experienced abuse, neglect, or substance abuse within their family. The most significant common factor is that all have faced harm or hardship, either from adults or peers.

COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

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

YOUTH SERVED BY COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

85
TOTAL YOUTH

35% AGES 7-11

65% AGES 12-17

40% FEMALE

64 TOTAL PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTED

9% LGBTQIA+

5% TRANSGENDER

2% NONBIANARY

56% MALE

45 WAITING YOUTH SERVED THROUGH NEXUS

Mentors Are Saying...

"I ENJOY OUR TIME TOGETHER. MY MENTEE IS FUNNY, SMART, AND INSIGHTFUL. I AM CONSTANTLY LEARNING NEW THINGS AND PERSPECTIVES. I FEEL EVEN MORE CONNECTED TO MY COMMUNITY."

"I'VE ENJOYED MY TIME, IT HAS HUMBLLED ME AND REMINDED ME OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF HUMAN EXISTENCE"

"ENRICHED MY LIFE PROBABLY MUCH MORE THAN THAT OF MY MENTEE.."

Parent/Gaurdians Are Saying....

"HAVING A [MENTOR] PROVIDES MY TEEN SON WITH CRITICAL SUPPORT AND ANOTHER "GO TO" PERSON. IT HELPS HIM IMMENSELY."

"SHE FEELS SHE IS A PART OF SOMETHING AND HAS A MENTOR THAT LOVES HER, SUPPORTS HER, AND ENCOURAGES HER. SHE IS BECOMING MORE CONFIDENT."



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING VOLUNTEERS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Albert Deepe | • Chris Imbler | • Jorge Quirch | • Pete Surgent |
| • Amy Markovich | • Cindy Wither | • Julio Sandoval | • Sarah Everett |
| • Ana Gomez | • Cinthy Carson | • Juston James | • Scott Fohrman |
| • Anabel Casey | • David Guglielmo | • Kelsey Karkos | • Sheryl Horton |
| • Andy Dumke | • Erin Kissane | • Leah Wolf Martin | • Stacia Stalnaker |
| • Annaleigh Bonds | • George Detwiler | • Lisa Nelson | • Steve Hefferan |
| • Baili Foster | • Heidi Brown | • Lorretta Ellsworth | • Susan Wilkinson |
| • Barry Johnson | • Izzy Mumm | • Marissa Holmes | • Syliva Wappes |
| • Beau McGroan | • Jake Berman | • Mark Rosenberg | • Tatiana Achcar-Szyba |
| • Beth Hagney | • Jason Regan | • Matt Caron | • Tim Redmond |
| • Brook Bumgarner | • Jeff Grove | • Matt Hammett | • Tracie Detwiler |
| • Cait Bambenek | • Jen Vlosky | • Michelle Petix | • Valerie Lawton |
| • Carolyn Gibson | • Jennifer Berdine | • Mike Stoltz | • Willa Seybolt |
| • Carrie Sabin | • Jerrod Skywalker | • Mitch McCannon | • Willy Wallace |
| • Chelsie Holmes | • Joe Tecce | • Paul Lundy | • Zach Goldner |
| • Chloe Wildering | • John Chevalier | • Paul Nebel | |

>>THESE INCREDIBLE INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERED OVER 10,000 HOURS OF ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING

CONNECTION AND CONFIDENCE THROUGH MENTORING

We have a very sweet, fun and spunky mentee in our program. She was referred to our program after she experienced instances of substance abuse and neglect in her home. Her mother wanted her to have some extra support, because of the emotional distress these instances had caused. Upon meeting Mentee in person, it's clear she is a sweet and energetic kid full of love to give. She was matched with a Mentor, an equally energetic and kind woman with just as much love to give. Since being matched, they have been ice skating, ridden bumper cars, and the Mentor went to the Mentee's dance recital to support her. When they can't find the time to meet in person, they Facetime each other instead which gives them an opportunity to just talk, connect, and get to know each other better. Mentee has told her mom she thinks Mentor is a great match for her, and has started to open up to Mentor more as they continue to bond. Although the match is new, the Mentor already sees a boost in the Mentee's confidence and hopes to continue to foster the resilience she has within her.



Group Recreational Activities

Our program staff organize monthly group activities for all mentors and mentees. We are able to do this thanks to the generosity of local businesses. Please see the Friends and In-Kind Supporters list.

Nexus

Throughout the year, Activity Volunteers and Partners program staff provide activities for youth who are "next in line" while they wait for a mentor.



19

MENTEE
Referrals

22

MENTOR
Applications

23

ACTIVITIES
Offered

7

MENTOR
Trainings

SCHOOL BASED MENTORING

The School Based Mentoring program provides 1-1 mentoring services to students throughout the school year. Each School-Based Mentor provides weekly one on one mentoring to ten students ("target students") for the duration of the school year. Our School Based Mentors function as a trusted adult in the school setting, and through their connection with many students throughout the school, have an immense reach beyond the ten target students they work with.

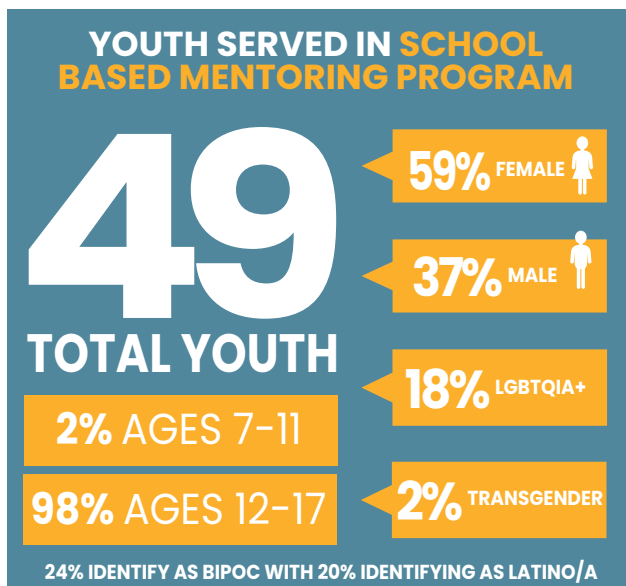
SCHOOL BASED MENTORS

CHERYL BELL - Sleeping Giant

WENDY FERGUSON - Steamboat Springs Middle School

SUZY STONE - Steamboat Springs High School

JENNY JONQUIST - Craig Middle School



"IT IS SO HELPFUL AND REASSURING TO HAVE SOMEONE THAT A CHILD CAN FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH OUTSIDE OF THE TEACHERS IN SCHOOL. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS PROGRAM FOR ANY AND ALL STUDENTS."

"OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LOVE HER. THEY SEEK HER OUT, AND REALLY **FEEL CONNECTED TO HER. SHE HAS BEEN NAMED AS A TRUSTED ADULT FOR MOST OF THEM. SHE HOLDS STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE, CHALLENGES THEM, AND RESPONDS KINDLY TO THEIR NEEDS."**

SUPPORTING LASTING CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH

A middle school student was referred to School-Based Mentoring due to being quiet, shy, avoidant, and distant. Every day they sat at lunch by themselves and stared at their lap without eating. The School-Based Mentor went to lunch every day and tried to talk with them. It took a few weeks but eventually the student started to approach the School-Based Mentor on their own.

Over time, and with consistent meetings, the student began to open up to the mentor. They started socializing with peers in and out of the school. Teachers shared that the student began to participate in class and turn in work on time. One day the student came to chat with the mentor but didn't seem to want to talk about anything. They eventually lashed out, yelling about their frustrations with the school and the world.

The mentor was of course confused, but stayed consistent and steady for the student. Over the next couple of weeks, the mentor checked in without obligating the student to check in and talk. Eventually, the student came in on their own and talked about everything from friend drama, to school, to a new cousin in the family. The student apologized to the mentor for their behavior a couple of weeks ago, and thanked the mentor for not being mad and continuing to check in. The student still has their struggles, but when the school brought up some concerns to their parents the school was told that it was amazing the student was showing up to classes at all. The parents shared that the student has been seeing friends outside of school and are excited to go snowboard on the weekends. The student's parents commented that they have never seen their child so engaged in life.



IN TOTAL, WE SERVED 210 YOUTH IN ROUTT AND MOFFAT COUNTIES FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024 THROUGH ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING SERVICES AND YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL MEETINGS.



OUR PROGRAMS REACHED AN ADDITIONAL 660 YOUTH THROUGH MENTORS' PRESENCE IN LOCAL SCHOOLS AND EVENTS & TRAINING PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED BY YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL MEMBERS.

MAJOR FUNDERS & DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS



JAMES & KATHERINE BOYLE CHARITABLE TRUST
LUFKIN FAMILY ENDOWMENT*
MCGINNIS FAMILY*

MOFFAT COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCE COALITION
MYRTLE L. ATKINSON FOUNDATION
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\$5000-\$9999

Mike & Fran Stoltz Rocky Mountain Health Foundation 14th Judicial District VALE Sean Heskett SBNY

\$1000-\$4999

| | | | | |
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|--|---|---|---|--|

\$500-\$999

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- Anonymous (2)
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Scott Erickson
Sherrie Ford
Stacy Strayer in honor of Suzy & Ryan Stone
Thomas Krabacher

\$1-\$99

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Angela Robinson
Annabelle Fisher
Anonymous (3)
Carolyn Davis
Dan and Cheryl Dooley
David Rehak Suma
Debra Proper
Devon Dalzell
Diane Lane in honor of Shemi Dixon
Donald & Kathy Savory

Elizabeth Diamond
Jane Toothaker
Jennifer Hamann
Jennifer Sherman
Jessica Koltcamp
Joan & Paul Heimbach
Joan Boglioli
Joe Laliberte
Josh Miller
Kim Hornsby, Singletrack Gives Back,
in honor of Angie Robinson

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Terry Sherrill
Wayne & Lisa Adamo
Willia Seybolt

* Yampa Valley Community Foundation

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.

FRIENDS
& IN-KIND
SUPPORTERS



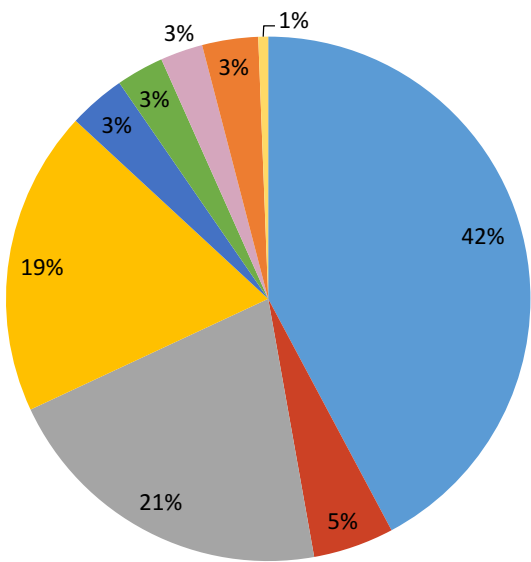
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Backdoor Sports
Bargain Barn
Christy Sports
Court Sports 4 Life (Tennis and Pickleball Center)
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Dusky Grouse Coffee & Records
Howelsen Ice arena

Johnny B Goods
Kester Jewelry
Moffat County Ice Skating
Ohana
Old Town Hot Springs
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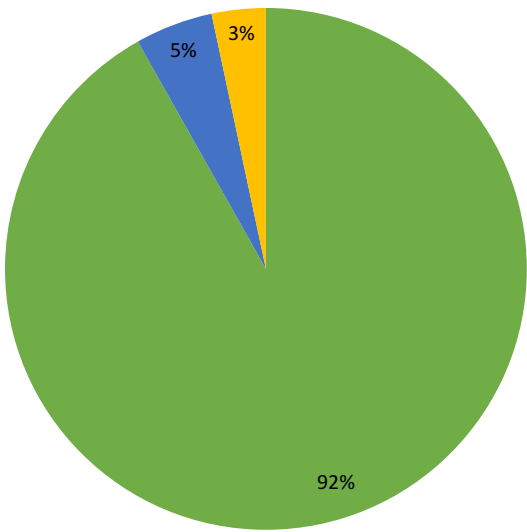
Steamboat Snowmobiling
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The Corner Slice
Thunder Rolls
Tri State
Twin Cinemas Movie Theater
West Twin Cinemas
Wild West Balloon Adventures

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2023-2024



TOTAL REVENUE \$823,353



TOTAL EXPENSES \$784,725

- Government

■ Individuals

■ Corporate
- Special Events

■ Contributed facilities & services

■ Investment return, net
- Foundations

■ United Way

■ Other
- Programs Services

■ Management and general

■ Fundraising



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