



PARTNERS
FOR YOUTH

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2021 - June 2022



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



Dear Friends,

The 2021-2022 fiscal year was an amazing and eventful one for Partners, the most significant event being our acquisition of Grand Futures Prevention Coalition. Thanks to many individuals dedicated to providing the best possible services to youth, Partners and Grand Futures effectively merged, with Grand Futures dissolving as a separate organization. The end result is that Partners has grown immensely in the last year, adding programs while maintaining our strong mentoring services in Routt County. This undertaking is a testament to what we are all here for: to invest in local youth so that they can thrive. Our team has since worked together to update our vision, mission, and name to more accurately reflect our expanded services and service area. Partners in Routt County is now Partners for Youth. 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 as follows: “We support youth through mentorship, empowerment, and trusted adult engagement so that they can face life’s challenges and thrive.” I could list all of our amazing programs for you, but I think the stories, photos, and information contained in this annual report speak for themselves. We are honored to be a part of young people’s lives, and we are so grateful for your ongoing support of local youth.

Warmly,

Lindsay Kohler (she/her)

Executive Director



STAFF MEMBERS

LINDSAY KOHLER
Executive Director

ERIN MILLER
Program Director

HEIDI BROWN
Prevention Director

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School Based Mentoring
Program Manager

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Community Based Mentoring
Spanish Speaking Case Manager

ALEXA DUNAHOE
Community Based Mentoring
Case Manager

MACKENZIE MIXON
Moffat County
Youth Development Coordinator

MERRILY WALDRON
Coordinator
Strengthening Families 10-14 Program

LURIE KEOGH
Administrative Assistant

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Spanish Speaking Case Manager

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YOUTH ACTION COUNCILS

- The purpose of Youth Action Councils is to give youth a voice in our communities. We take an approach
- that focuses on the strengths of individual young people. We seek to create a healthy foundation for
- our youth advocates to use their potential and empower them to develop skills by providing a safe
- space for youth voice. Youth Action Councils are active in Routt, Moffat and Grand Counties.



60 youth served - 15 Grand, 11 Moffat, and 34 Routt

10% identified as a minority race, which is an increase over past years
23% identify as LGBTQ+, which is a dramatic increase over past years

.....



Estimate based on feedback:

At least 50% of members experience mental health struggles

(especially anxiety and depression) and about 50% for low-income as well

.....



In addition to committed Youth Action Council members

438 youth we reached through implementation projects such as prosocial and educational events that were identified, planned, and carried out by the Youth Action Councils

Grand - 168 // Moffat (estimate) - 110 // Routt (estimate) - 160

IMPACT STORIES.....

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS TEEN COUNCIL “Maya” joined the Steamboat Springs Teen Council as a motivated 8th grader, with a desire to address issues her peers and community were facing. She recently completed 9th grade and through her involvement with the Steamboat Springs Teen Council, joined a statewide coalition of youth and has represented Northwest Colorado for the past year. Maya's confidence and public speaking skills have soared, and she has joined the Executive Committee as a youth leader after helping the Teen Council develop committees to more effectively focus on planning prosocial events and community engagement. She also worked with program staff to write multiple articles for the Steamboat Pilot, helping increase community awareness and recognition of the Steamboat Springs Teen Council.



HAYDEN "NO NAME" COUNCIL The Hayden Youth Council emerged following a mural project that Hayden students worked alongside Rise Above Colorado to design and paint at the new Hayden Center. The group of highschool youth shared their desire to advocate for social change in their school and community, and began meeting as a Youth Council on a weekly basis. An 11th grade student who identifies as LGBTQ+ shared, "You've given us a space to feel safe and be ourselves. I initially joined this group because I wanted to address social issues in my community, but I come back each week because this is where I feel my very best and am supported by friends and adults."



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

Strengthening Families Program 10-14 is an evidence-based prevention program for parents and/or guardians and their children (ages 10-14) that focuses on family bonding and increasing healthy communication within the family. Families learn to manage emotions, set goals, avoid peer pressure, make better decisions and create better relationships. The program supports healthy, positive lifestyle choices as alternatives to substance abuse and other behavioral issues.

- ★ 2 program sessions completed
- ★ 4 families (5 adults, 5 youth) graduated, 6 families attended total
- ★ 100% Routt
- ★ 75% of families were low income
- ★ 2 facilitators trainings trained a total of 9 facilitators in Routt, 2 in Grand, 4 in Moffat



Here is what participants had to say about the program:

"At first I didn't want to go, it was my wife's idea. However, after the first session me and the kids looked forward to going back every week. We loved it and had so much fun!"

"SFP changed our family's life. We got so much from the class and want to do it again."



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

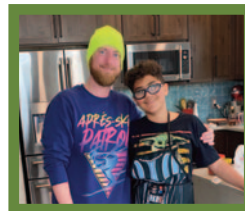
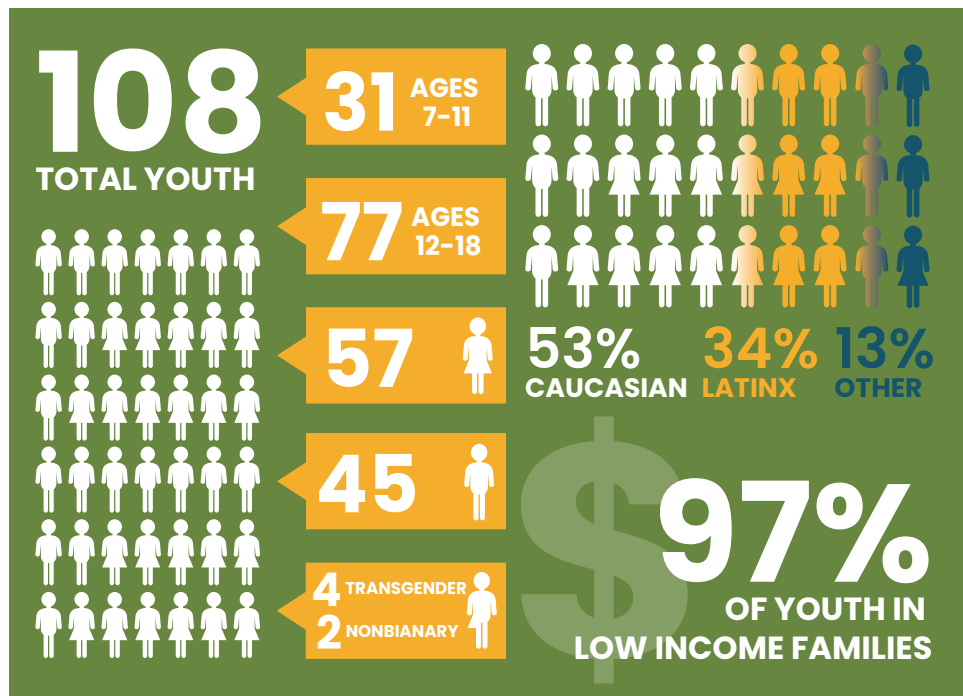
Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/ADHD), and eating disorders.

165 adults trained throughout Routt, Moffat, Grand, and Rio Blanco:

Grand - 10 // Moffat - 6 // Routt - 84 Trained 34 at Hayden School District

Meeker/Rio Blanco - 63 a special project with the Meeker School District and trained their district staff

YOUTH SERVED BY COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING.....

One-to-one mentoring program serves youth, ages six to 17 who benefit from having another trusted adult in their life. Youth are referred to the program by community agencies and individuals such as school counselors, Department of Human Services, Integrated Community, and others. Each youth mentee is carefully matched with an adult volunteer mentor that is recruited, screened, trained, and supervised by a Partners Case Manager. The Mentor serves as a friend, advocate, and role model to the Mentee. Additionally, Mentees waiting to be matched receive services through our Nexus waitlist program, where case managers take just waiting youth on group recreational activities.

COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING VOLUNTEERS

- Albert Deepe
 - Alexandra Shannon
 - Andy Dumke
 - Ashley McNichols
 - Baili Foster
 - Barry Johnson
 - Cait Bambenek
 - Carlyn Lawatsch
 - Carolyn Gibson
 - Carrie Sabin
 - Chelsie Holmes
 - Cheryl Fullerton
 - Chris Imbler
 - Cindy Kinnear
 - Cindy Wither
 - David Lundeen
- Emma Friedland
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 - Tatiana Achcar-Szyba
 - Tim Redmond
 - Tracie Detwiler
 - Whitney Catizone
 - Willa Seybolt

IMPACT STORIES

- My mentee and I have met a couple times at a local coffee shop. At first, I could tell she was really
- nervous, but, as we got to talking, we realized we had a lot in common! We both work at restaurants
- in town, we like the same type of music, we both have a fascination with sociology and psychology,
- we have read many of the same books and we watch the same TV shows! Soon after we discovered
- all these similarities between us, the conversation started flowing. We had endless topics to discuss!
- I could tell she was feeling more relaxed and comfortable around me, as we discussed our love
- for the TV show The Office and as we also talked about more serious topics, such as Behavioral
- Psychology. I feel that our relationship is growing and that she is feeling more relaxed around me,
- and I think that in the future, as our relationship continues to grow, I will be someone that she
- can turn to when times get tough.







“MY MENTOR TAUGHT ME
IT'S OKAY
 TO HAVE A FRIEND
 & TRUST PEOPLE”

“One of the biggest gifts we can give each other is our time. Spending time with my mentee and inspiring him to make the world better feels like winning the lotto.”



“Having been a mentor gave me the experience to be a better parent to my own kids. It opened my eyes to being a role model, even when I didn’t realize I was being one.”

 <p>69 YOUTH SERVED</p>	 <p>64 PARTNERSHIPS 17 NEW PARTNERSHIPS</p>	 <p>34 WAITING YOUTH SERVED THROUGH NEXUS</p>	 <p>64 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED 7,500+ HRS OF ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING</p>
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IMPACT STORIES

A parent noticed a change in behavior in their 13 year old son. He was partnered with a mentor in the Volunteer School Based Mentoring program last school year, and once it was over they decided to become matched in the CBM program.

Together, both [mentee's] parent and mentor were able to figure out that he had started smoking marijuana. Although talks from his father didn't seem to go anywhere or make a difference, [mentor] was able to make him think harder about the choices he was making. He knew how special his relationship was with [mentee] and by talking to him honestly about his own experiences, he was able to get through to him and make a positive influence on his life. 'I told him, if you're lying to people and stealing weed to be able to smoke it, what kind of person does that make you? How have you felt when people have lied to you before?' By asking very honest and open questions about the situation, [mentor] was able to get through to [mentee]. Because of the trust established in this mentor relationship, and because of how much they mean to each other, [mentor] was able to positively impact the situation and make a difference for [mentee] and family. This is a great example of why having another meaningful and non-parent adult in a child's life can make a difference.



SOME OF THE WAYS MENTORS AND MENTEES SPEND TIME TOGETHER

- Art & Crafts
- Homework // School Projects
- Biking // Hiking // Fishing
- Swimming // Horseback Riding
- Community Events // Snowmobiling
- Attending Dance Performances
- Sporting Events // School Presentations
- Holiday Dinners // Birthday Dinners & Parties
- Movie Nights // Museum Trips
- Camping // Bowling // Rock Climbing
- Running Errands Together
- Facetime // Calls // Text
- Skiing // Snowshoeing
- Going To The Rodeo
- Baking And Cooking

“His mentor was an absolute perfect match for him and made a positive impact on him that is definitely a lifelong gift. I am super grateful that the kids got this opportunity with Partners, so thank you for that.”

“IT HAS MADE ME SO MUCH MORE
CONFIDENT,
 OUTSPOKEN, I'VE LEARNED ENGLISH
 BETTER AND WORKED ON MY
 COMMUNICATION SKILLS
 JUST BY TALKING WITH
 MY PARTNER (MENTOR)”

IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, PARTNERS HAD TWO SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS

The InSPIRE (In School Prevention, Intervention, Relationships and Engagement) Program places part time, paid mentors in the schools. InSPIRE Mentors provide guidance, support and tutoring to 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 spent one hour each week with their mentees. Mentors and mentees met in person or virtually and spend their time focused on school-related topics.

IMPACT STORIES

My mentee doesn't really talk at all in class, to friends or when called on, and will often not do his assignments. This year I just started sitting next to him for chunks of time during class and trying to help him stay on task with his assignments, while assisting and joking with him. I would ask him questions at recess or lunch about his skiing and biking and interest in cars. He would respond, but often not with a ton of information, but as the weeks went on, he started to share more and more when I asked questions!

One day in the last couple weeks of school, I was asking him about his weekend when he then asked me a direct question about how my weekend was, and asked me some questions about a car I told him I was buying! I was shocked and so happy, since that was the first time he had ever worked to engage in conversation!

That week I also filmed his three minute science video speech as his class final, which he said was so not fun for him, but he did it! His teacher was so excited too because she had never heard him talk for that long either! It was a huge success that he completed the assignment as well. Working with my mentee has been so valuable, just so he knows there's a person in school who really cares about him and cares to know him.



InSPIRE Mentors

- ANITA HOFFMAN - South Routt County Schools
- MEGHAN HOWARD - Steamboat Springs High School
- DAVID LONG - Steamboat Springs Middle school
- CASSIE ROESSETT - North Routt Charter
- LEONA THURSTON - Steamboat Montessori

School Based Mentor Volunteers

- TRACI TAKAKI
- ANNA ATWATER
- HAZEN KREIS

"OUR "PARTNER" HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THOSE
STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK
AND AT THE EDGE OF DISCONNECTING FROM SCHOOL."

IMPACT STORIES.....

I've been working with my mentee for a few months, and during that time he has expressed interest in a variety of activities and hobbies. However, he often lacks the motivation to pursue these activities and hobbies to any greater degree due to low self-esteem and his characterization by others as a "trouble maker".



Recently, he mentioned that he might try out for the middle school basketball team next year. As I am an avid fan of basketball, I quickly took steps to cultivate this interest by helping him practice his basketball skills during our weekly meetings. Now, every time I see my mentee at the school, he is eager to talk to me about his progression on the basketball court, and his general attitude has improved greatly because of this.

This has had a positive impact on my mentee as it has proven to him that consistency and dedication can lead to success, whether that be in a sport, in a friendship, or in the classroom.

Since the conclusion of last school year, we've heard from this student's counselor that the school-based mentoring program changed his life.



41 STUDENTS RECEIVED WEEKLY ONE-TO-ONE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND MENTORING IN 5 SCHOOLS ACROSS ROUTT COUNTY.



"EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US NEEDS
EXTRA HELP & SUPPORT
RIGHT NOW.
THIS WAS SUCH A GREAT PROGRAM TO BRING IN.
THANK YOU."

" 'School Based Mentor' has created lifetime bonds with a group of fragile young students. Her presence in the school is responsible for their success. They know that she sincerely cares and notices when they are absent or not functioning."

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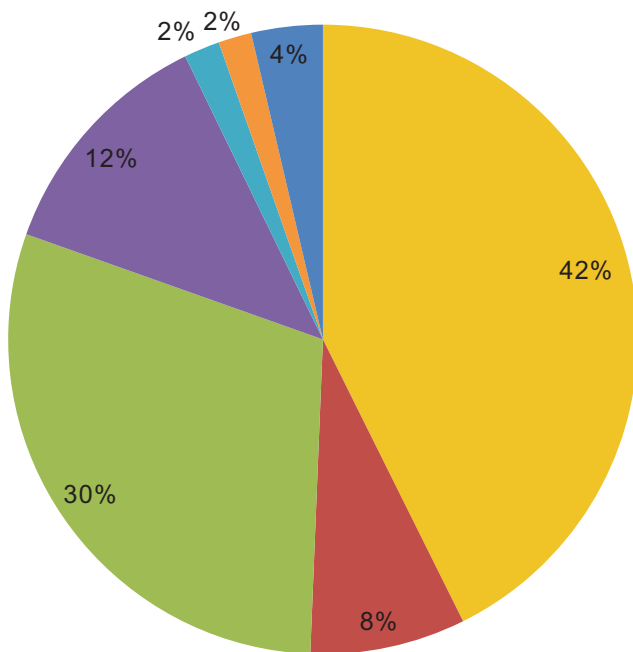


Thank you to the generous donors who wish to remain anonymous. We truly appreciate every contribution and sincerely apologize to anyone we may have missed. Special thanks to the large number of individuals and businesses that donate goods and services to our programs. Your support is truly valued and contributes greatly to the success of our events.

- Backdoor Grill
- Backdoor Sports
- Christy Sports
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- Dusky grouse Coffee & Records
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- Computer Support Gal
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- Steamboat Tennis & Pickleball Center
- Steamboat Touring Center
- Wheels Bike Shop
- World Footbag
- Yampa Valley Gives
- Yoga Center of Steamboat

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2021-2022 REVENUE



REVENUE

Government	\$277,676
Special Events	\$51,988
Foundations	\$193,906
Individuals	\$80,512
PAC Rent Income	\$11,977
Corporate	\$11,605
United Way	\$23,875
Total Revenue & Support	\$650,999

EXPENSES

Programs Services	\$576,000
Administrative	\$70,968
Fundraising	\$26,697
Total Expenses	\$673,665

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

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