

ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020



PARTNERS
Mentoring Youth

IN ROUTT COUNTY

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

STAFF

MICHELLE PETIX
Executive Director

ERIN MILLER
Program Director

PAMELA SERNA
Community Based Mentoring
Spanish Speaking Case Manager

KIRRA DYER
Program Administrator

WILLA SEYBOLT
Communications
& Operations Manager

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*Thank You
for Your Service!*

ALEJANDRA SEGOVIA
Community Based Mentoring
Spanish Speaking Case Manager

JEANETTE SMITH
School Based Mentoring
Program Manager

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

Those who know me, know that I love a good inspirational quote. The one above has guided most of my adult life and my call to service to this amazing Yampa Valley. As Partners is nearing its 25 year anniversary in July 2021, I find myself thinking back to those early days, all the people who dedicated so much to make the organization successful. I remember what the youth and the community itself looked like. Of course it leads me to think of all that has changed too. The challenges of 2020 – the pandemic, wildfires, social injustice and more - certainly can make one nostalgic for last year, never mind 1996! This has been a time tough for everyone – especially our Partners’ youth. It has also highlighted the grit of our community and our limitless potential for love, kindness and grace.

Partners is proud to continue being operational EVERY SINGLE work day, and evenings and weekends as needed. We never closed our doors or services. We gave out grocery cards, helped youth stay connected to school, delivered meals and DIY activities, pivoted to online platforms and increased all family and volunteer outreach efforts. Most inspiring was the Mentors—long time and new volunteers stepping up when they were needed the most, to be a stable role model in times of such uncertainty AND the Mentees – willing to show up, take a risk on a new friend, finding joy in life itself and reminding us all that what really matters in this crazy world is being there for each other.

I hope this report honors all their stories and you find your inspiration to go change the world!

Michelle Petix

*Partners in Routt County
Executive Director*



SCHOOL BASED MENTORING

HERE IS WHAT SCHOOL STAFF & PARENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE SCHOOL BASED MENTORS



"I am very appreciative of this program, it went above and beyond my expectations. It changed my daughter's whole year. Thank you!" -Parent, North Routt Charter School

"The after school program really helped my student with his academic work and gave him additional opportunity to work in a small group for this. He definitely benefited from small group activities during school with his peers. It helped with conflict resolution and to help him appreciate points of view that differ from his." -Parent, North Routt Charter School

"Such a great support for those on the 'cusp' kids, invaluable to their overall academic and behavioral performance."-Teacher, South Routt School District

"School based mentors are a valuable asset to our school culture."- Teacher, Steamboat Springs Middle School

"The mentors at NRCCS are crucial in supporting students. They are key in assisting students who require added support to stay focused on work and maintain appropriate behavior in class."- Teacher, North Routt Charter School

THIS IS WHAT STUDENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR MENTORS

"I had someone to talk to and hang out with. I also liked how much she helped me."-Student, North Routt Charter School

"I was able to talk about my problems and get them off of my mind."-Student, South Routt School District

"She helped me when I was at my lowest point." - Student, South Routt School District

"She helped me out with my feelings when I felt sad and happy."- Student, Steamboat Springs Middle School

Mid-March 2019 marked the closure of schools statewide following a state mandate to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. School Based Mentors followed school protocol and switched from in person to virtual availability for target students until the end of the 2020 school year. We are incredibly proud of our mentors for continuing to connect with their students through this transition and beyond.



162	47	11
total students served at 6 schools across Routt County	students received weekly one-to-one social-emotional support and mentoring from 6 mentors	group activities and programs including: LADIES OF THE BOAT FOR THE LOVE OF ART AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB



SCHOOL BASED MENTORS

Claire Harris, Sara Duft, Taylor Payne, Layna Jansen, Cait Bambenek (Former SBM Program Manager), Maddie Ward, Jen Smith (SBM Program Manager), Chelsea Pappas

FOLLOWING YOUR DREAMS THROUGH COVID-19

-By Chelsea Pappas

School Based Mentor at SoRoCo Middle and High Schools

Some people know what they want to be when they grow up, and some don't. During the beginning of the school year, H- joined the SBM program and became one of my mentees. We discussed many passions and goals that she wanted to pursue throughout the year and how to achieve them. H- is very goal oriented, she loves animals and she enjoys taking care of them. Training horses is her ultimate dream job and hopes to pursue it when she graduates SoRoCo High School in two years. But why wait? As the year went on we discussed the possibility of getting her a position at a local ranch or horse facility. Even though the school year came to an abrupt end, we still wanted to make this happen. After some discussion with her and her mom, and multiple phone calls she chose a horse rescue in the area. They take volunteers and also do some continuing education. This seemed like the perfect fit.

At first she was a little hesitant, she wanted to know what her job duties would be. I explained to her that she would be feeding and cleaning to start but would have many opportunities. We discussed the possibility of future responsibilities and how you have to start somewhere to set the dream in motion. She agreed and has set up her training day. With her determination and drive this will just be the start of her lifelong dream to be a Horse Trainer. I am so excited for her and hope one day to visit her and see her in action.



DISCOVERING MY VOICE IN 7TH GRADE

-By Claire Harris

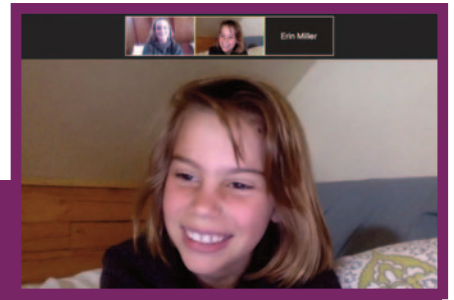
School Based Mentor at North Routt Community Charter School

This year, I had the opportunity to create and run a group for 7th-grade girls. In the seventh grade class, there are only four girls. They are a quiet group that mostly keep to themselves and would oftentimes be overpowered by the boys in their class. Because they were so quiet, it was also difficult to tell when there was inner group drama as well. After the winter break, I started a group for the girls that would address self-esteem and power, friendships, and dealing with stress. The girls immediately loved it. They said that Monday's, when we meet, were now their favorite days. They immediately open up when they come in the room and are so open and honest with each other and with me about different social dynamics in school. We have a great time together laughing and talking about various events in their lives. It has been a true



COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

WILLA & CORALIE



Last March, Coralie was waiting to be matched with a Mentor and Willa, our Communications and Operations Manager, was in the process of being screened to become one. Their Case Manager Erin already had in mind that they would be a good fit and was thrilled to match them. It was becoming more clear at the beginning of the pandemic that our work needed to move to a virtual platform. Partners had yet to explore the world of virtual mentoring for matches but we as an organization were dedicated to making sure the programs not only continued but thrived. Together, Erin, Willa, Coralie and her mother decided they were comfortable meeting for the first time over Zoom. They ended up becoming Partners' first ever virtual match! (Partners then went on to complete 3 additional virtual matches during the stay at home order). For the first couple months Will and Coralie got to know each other over Facetime and when summer arrived, Willa would go over to Coralie's house so they would go for walks and play games outside. Since then they have spent time together coloring by the river, eating ice cream, and hanging out at the pool. Some weeks they meet virtually, other weeks they meet in person, but they always make sure to stay connected.



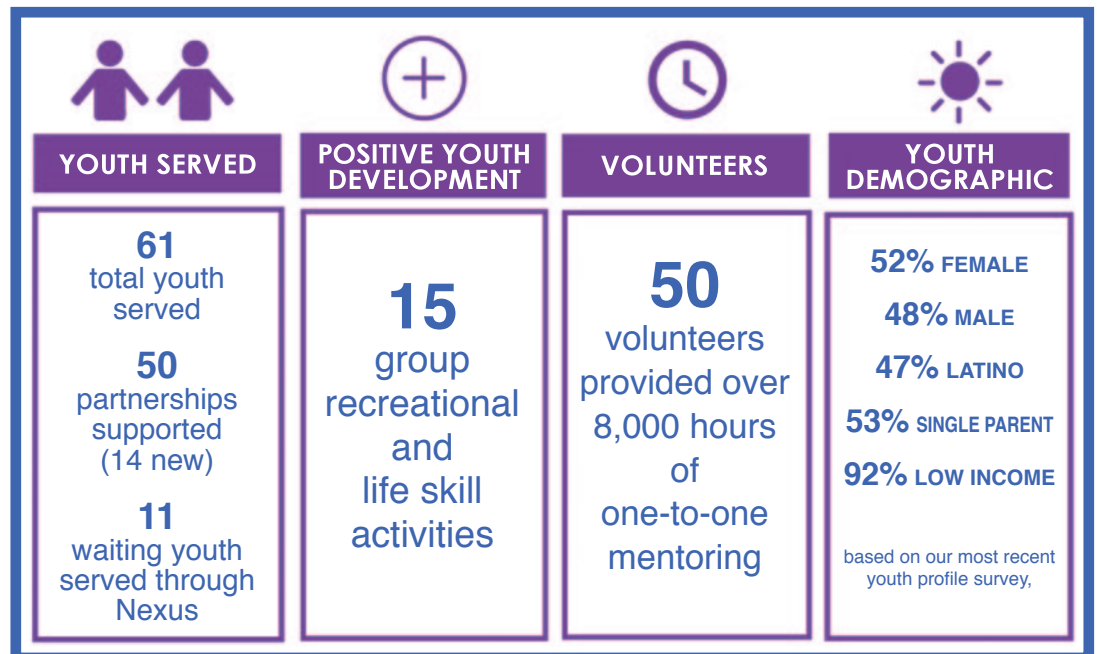
ERIN & GREYMI

Over the course of 9 months, Erin applied and was approved to be a mentor and matched with Greymi. They were matched for a total of 5 months before Greymi and her mother moved back to Nicaragua unexpectedly. In those short months they connected immediately - they spent time over skype, texting, went for walks, mini golf and hikes. They were able to communicate in Spanish and English. Though Erin was saddened by Greymi's move she was beyond grateful for the time she had with her.

Our reality sometimes means that partnerships cannot last for years - international moves, unexpected loss or new jobs can sometimes cut a match short; but we know that the impact someone can have on a young person's life is not measured in the length of their relationship. We were so honored to have both Greymi and Erin in our program. We were able to see them connect and bond with each other. We might not fully know the impact they had on each others' lives but we know their time together mattered and will continue to matter.

MIKE & AARON

Mike and Aaron were not necessarily what we would call a perfect match; truthfully they could not be more different. They were matched in August 2019 and had a tumultuous first year of their match - COVID, school and family hardships and changes. There was uncertainty and inconsistency in every aspect of life; except their partnership. Through it all they managed to stay connected - through texting, Facetime, outside hangouts, virtual spaces - they found a way to continue their relationship. At their year mark - they decided to continue their partnership for another year. We love seeing them continue to make time for each other.





COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING VOLUNTEERS

Albert Deepe
 Cait Bambenek
 Cameron Hawkins
 Carlyn Lawatsch
 Carolyn Gibson
 Carrie Sabin
 Christopher Lane
 Chuck VeDepo
 Cindy Kinnear
 David Lundeen
 David Pettigrew
 Erin Kissane
 Erin Swanson
 George Detwiler
 James Miller
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 Kristen Van Wieren
 Laura Soard
 Lauren Carpenter
 Lauren VandenHurk
 Leah Wolf Martin
 Lisa Nelson

Michelle House
 Mikayla Boehm
 Mike Stoltz
 Pamela Kinder
 Patricia McCubbins
 Pete Surgent
 Rachele Rothe
 Reall Regan
 Rebecca Nicholson
 Shannon Coxe
 Tatiana Anchcar
 Tracie Detwiler
 Vladan Chase
 Whitney Catizone
 Willa Seybolt

“Partners showed me what it is like to have a dad.”
 -Mentee who has recently aged out of the program
 when asked what the best part was about having a mentor.

OUTCOMES

Partners Mentoring Association - CBM First Year Youth
 2019-20 SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 44% of youth surveyed have an increase in self-esteem
- 51% of youth surveyed have an increased in commitment to school
- 60% of youth surveyed have an increased bonding to adults
- 49% of youth surveyed have an increased view of ATOD harm

COMMUNITY IMPACT

CONTINUING TO SUPPORT MEANINGFUL MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS AT HOME

Between March 1st and June 30th 2020 we had:

5 New Matches

5 Mentee Intakes

9 Mentor Inquires

3 DIY Activities Delivered to over 60 Youth

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

“I think both of us have been creative in keeping our connection, whether on facetime or our live get together in the park. It does look different than it did before, but I think we have found our vibe and have not lost much of a beat. When we finally did get to see each other at the end of the month, it was awesome!”

“When mentees were doing school virtually from home, one mentor stopped by to do a socially distanced walk: “She was sooooo excited to see me and go for a walk! I have never seen her more excited to spend time with someone.”

A MENTOR SHARES A FAVORITE MEMORY:

“so far one of my favorites was running through the sprinklers at the soccer fields next to the botanical gardens. We’ve also had a really good time painting together. And we both love to eat things we shouldn’t at Winonas”

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

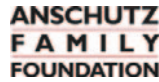
Virtual Cooking & Baking

Virtual Room Decorating

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IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: Wendy Roger in honor of Tariq Rogers

\$100 - \$999

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IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: Sean Heskett in memory of Uncle Bob

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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.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: Linda & Rich Danter in honor of Lee Cox

\$10 - \$99

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IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: Terry Sherrill in Honor of Becky Slamal

SUPPORT US
 ON YAMPA VALLEY GIVES DAY!



12.8.2020

LIVE TOGETHER • GIVE TOGETHER

YVGIVES.ORG

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

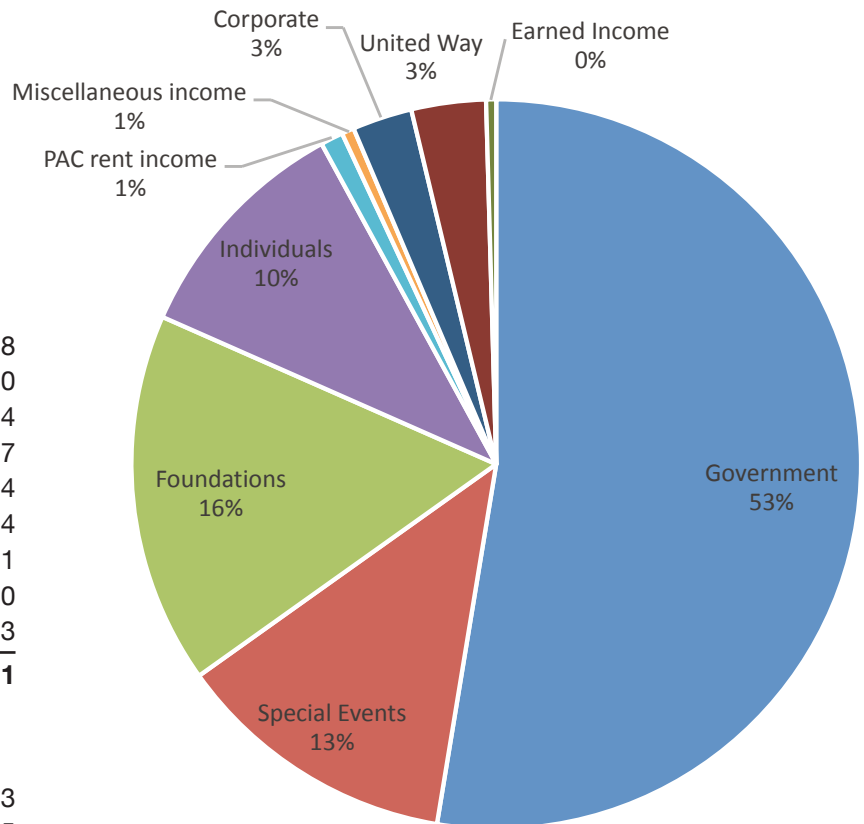
2019-2020 REVENUE

REVENUE

Grants and contributions	\$207,278
Special events	\$49,460
Foundations	\$64,864
Individuals	\$41,157
PAC Rent Income	\$3,944
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,154
Corporate	\$10,451
United Way	\$13,000
Earned Income	\$1,753
Total Revenue & Support	\$394,061

EXPENSES

Programs Services	\$308,403
Administrative	\$37,865
Fundraising	\$68,255
Total Expenses	\$414,523



* Draft Financials *Audit Pending



We are incredibly proud to say that we just got awarded The National Quality Mentoring System's (NQMS) gold badge for our mentoring programs. Mentoring works best when steps are taken to ensure program practices meet quality standards that are safe and effective. NQMS provides a structured, systematic process for assessing the quality of a mentoring program's practices in alignment with the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring. Our new rating is a testament to the dedication of our staff and mentors.

Partners in Routt County received a grant from the Partners Mentoring Association to attend the 2020 National Mentoring Summit in Washington, DC. Partners' staff got to interact with other mentoring organizations from across the country and attend presentations on topics from fundraising to creating sustainable partnerships. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to attend and we learned a lot.



STEAMBOAT *Unplugged*

Thank you to our hosts, Jessica and Dean Ludwick, and to the musicians, Scotty Stoughton, Tyler Grant, Andy Thorn, and Jon Stickley.



Thank you to the BAP, Big Agnes, and Honey Stinger employees for their generous support!



We are proud to announce the Emerald Mountain Epic, formerly known as Steamboat Stinger
SAVE THE DATE FOR AUGUST 7TH AND 8TH, 2020!



PARTNERS ALLIANCE CENTER

Last fall we moved into our new location, 2673 Jacob Circle. We are grateful for the generosity of a private donor who has stepped up to purchase the property and work with us on a long-term lease with the potential for purchasing in the future. One of the most appealing aspects of the building was the idea that we could invite other nonprofits to share the space, thus creating a central place for many nonprofit services in Routt County and maximizing the benefits to the entire community. Since moving into the building we have been joined by Grand Futures, Routt County Crisis Support, Opera Steamboat, and Book Trails (seasonally).

2021 is the 25th Anniversary of Partners in Routt County. We will be hosting a capital campaign to officially purchase the Partners Alliance Center.



 @partnersinrouttcounty

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