



*Your Information Source for what's going on  
with Partners of Delta, Montrose & Ouray*

## Be Someone Who Matters to Someone Who Matters!

*Upcoming Events and Exciting News from Partners of Delta, Montrose & Ouray*  
**Partners Mentoring March Newsletter – Delta, Montrose & Ouray**



### Snowmobiling/Sledding Returns

**Grand Mesa – March 28<sup>th</sup> – 11 – 1pm**

For a while, plans for the March Activity were still up in the snow clouds but we have recently confirmed a crowd pleaser: Sledding, Snowmobiling, BBQ at the Ward Lake Parking Area on the Grand Mesa. We want to thank the Cedaredge Snowmobile Club for the continued support on this great event and, maybe, we can get ice fishing back into the activity as well. Look for more information next month regarding this fan favorite.

CELEBRATE THE RETIREMENT

*of*

**BETSY SHEPHERD**

*with hor d'oeuvres & cake reception*

FRIDAY | MARCH 27 | 3 PM



| 520 Main St.,  
Delta, CO

Event Sponsored by



*Please drop in at your convenience to wish Betsy well and  
hear about exciting future plans for the Partner's organization*

## Betsy Shepherd – 24 years with Partners’



### Things to know about the career of a mentoring champion of Delta County.

It is the end of a long era for Partners Mentoring in Delta County. Betsy Shepherd’s last day with Partners is March 31<sup>st</sup> (although we already convinced her to stay a couple more days to help train a replacement). Her commitment to the youth, the organization and the communities she served is remarkable and the impact is immense. We hope you can join us and celebrating her incredible career and well-deserved retirement at the event mentioned above.

- Betsy began as the Delta County Case Manager in 1996.
- It’s estimated that she matched more than 200 youth with mentors.
- Betsy has mentored 10 youth. She intends to take on another in retirement.
- She has logged an estimated 265 river miles on Partners raft trips.
- More than once she declined offers with the organization to leave Delta.
- Betsy is on her fourth vehicle since serving the vast Delta County.
- About 95% of Betsy’s matches have lasted an entire calendar year or more.



(Photos – 1996)

“I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement through the years. I look forward to seeing and visiting with you at activities as we mentor our local youth.” – Betsy

# Mentoring Through a Pandemic

Curtis Hearst, Exec. Director

Clearly we are in the midst of an event that will change the plans and even daily activities for many. I know the reality is that the Partners' program will be impacted in the weeks, perhaps months to come. Currently the Board of Directors has adopted a relatively standard policy on mentoring and Partners' group events which we will adhere to until more information is known:

***March 9, 2020 -All employees are required to stay home if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees or are experiencing flu-like symptoms or coughing. Refraining from interpersonal contact should continue until symptoms have subsided for 24-hours. This policy extends to all program volunteers, youth participants and members of the board of directors for mentoring sessions and group activities. Be well.***

Partners mentoring, and much of Partners' programming, is based in interpersonal participation – we will all need to be prepared to do things a little differently. Here are some tips:

- ***Be Outside*** – If circumstances don't get to a point where you aren't comfortable meeting, take advantage of Spring and longer days. Partners has mountain bikes to borrow and there are many low-elevation hiking options – ask your case manager for suggestions if you need some exact locations.
- ***Stay Home*** – Have your mentee over to cook a meal, play a game or watch a movie.
- ***Ask*** – Don't be afraid to ask if anyone in your mentees' home is under the weather.
- ***Make a call*** – If you get to a point you wish to remain isolated, let them know and tell them why. Maybe you live with someone with a weakened immune system or have a role in the medical community. Then spend some time talking about them. Learn about their day at school, what they have been doing with friends or their thoughts on anything else. Remember, mentoring is about them – they still need some attention and some good conversation builds a strong relationship.

In the meantime, Partners will continue to evaluate the situation and the appropriateness of activities. As the weather improves we do have more outdoor activities planned. We sure hope to provide them as planned, but we will make adjustments or post-postpone as necessary. On behalf of the staff and Board, we wish you the best in health during these unprecedented times.



The **2020 Partners Auction** will begin Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and go until Friday. The event is fully online! To reach the auction site go to **partners-west.org** and click the auction link! The event will feature sporting goods, hotel stays, services, gift cards, tickets to parks and events, tools, gravel, propane and much more!

## **The 2020 United States Census is Coming!**

The US Constitution mandates the federal government to conduct a census every ten years in order to generate an accurate count of all persons living in the United States, Puerto Rico, and all other US territories.

**The census data is used to:** Reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives  
Redraw congressional, state, and local district boundaries. Determine the need for new roads, hospitals, schools, and other public sector investments. Distribute more \$675 billion in federal funds for states and local communities. Inform businesses about the changing needs of the U.S. population.

**What's new in 2020?** The 2020 Census will be the first to be completed largely online ---to help save taxpayers money---but there are four ways to respond: Internet, Phone, Paper, and In-Person. Households will begin to receive their census invitations in mid-March. Basically, what the census form wants to know is who is living in your household as of April 1, 2020, the official census date. The Census Bureau does not ask for a Social Security number, bank account information, or information about political party affiliation. The census form will not include any questions about a person's religion or citizenship status.

Taking part in the census is our civic duty. It is a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!" **For more information, go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)**

## Partnership of the Month –

*Michelle Morgan &*

*Lillian*

Why did you decide to become a mentor?

**I love the idea of building into someone's life that could use some extra encouragement. And support, especially a child.**

How did you hear about the Partners program?

**A customer of ours told me about the program. She is a Partner. (Judy Anderson)**

Did you have a mentor growing up? Do you have a mentor of your own now?

**No, but my grandparents were a huge support in my life as a child.**

Why do you think mentoring is important?

**It makes you feel valuable, that your worth something because someone wants to spend time with you.**

What's been your favorite Partners Activity?

**We had a lot of fun playing board games with Partners.**

What have you learned about yourself thru mentoring?

**How much I miss being able to see the world through the eyes of a child.**

What's the biggest result from mentoring you've seen in your mentee?

**Her self-confidence and ability to communicate with others has improved.**

What are you able to give your mentee that they aren't already getting?

**Individual time. Fun. Ways to express her creativity.**

What's your best memory of being a mentor this far?

**Belly laughs!! I'm amazed at how funny Lillian can be. She has a great sense of humor.**

What would you tell someone who's thinking of becoming a mentor? **DO IT!**



## Partners 2020 Activity Lineup

March 28 <sup>th</sup> :	Snowmobiling/sledding – Grand Mesa
April 18 <sup>th</sup> :	Ridgway Dam
April 20- 24 <sup>th</sup> :	Partners Auction (Fundraiser)
May TBD:	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Montrose
May 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Partnership Scavenger Hunt
June TBD:	Farm Tour
July TBD:	Nexus Rafting Trip
July TBD:	Backyard Concert
August 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Partnership Rafting trip
Sept. TBD:	Jeep Tour
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Partners Golf Classic (Fundraiser)
October 10 <sup>th</sup> :	Ropes Course – Partnerships – Time and Location TBD
October TBD:	Nexus Rock Climbing – Montrose Rec Center
November 14 <sup>th</sup> :	Silly Lunch
November 30 <sup>th</sup> :	Art Partners Chili Bowl – 11:30 – 1pm – Montrose.
December 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Christmas Craft Fair in Delta

Boy Banter and Girl Talk will continue to be offered every other month until June. Beginning in June Partners will offer group mentoring and life skill sessions to all youth simultaneously.

## **New Partnerships – Welcome!**

Nolan Thornberry & Tristian  
Barbara Silverman & Jocelyn

Kathy Svenson & Pierce

# *Thank You!*

Partners wants to extend a special “Thank You” to everyone who donated to us this past month or gave of their time and energy. We can’t do it without you. We really appreciate the hundreds of businesses that donated to the Partners Auction and the sponsors listed below.

Mentor Colorado	PMA	The Bacon Family Foundation
Alpine Bank	Rib City Grill	Office of Behavioral Health
David & Gaynelle Mize	Creamery Arts	Ouray County Community
Chris Lehman	Ranger Mike	Foundation
Dalby, Wendland & Co.	Ona Crow	Telluride Foundation
Matt Calhoun	Community Shares	The Colorado Health
Sara Provino	Delta Co. School Dist.	Foundation
Montrose Memorial Hospital	Telluride Foundation	Montrose Rotary Club
The Atha Team	Mentor Colorado	Sheila Fortune Foundation
Montrose Printing	Alpine Bank	Western Colorado
Danielle Angotti	El Pomar Foundation	Community Foundation
Taco Time	Community Resource Center	U.S. Bank
Rocky Mnt. Health Plans	Coors Family Foundation	TGYS
Home Loan State Bank	Arts in Society/Redline	Anschutz Family Foundation
Cherry Ck. Radio	A.V. Hunter	
Jodi Lockhart	Montrose Giving Club	
970 Studio		

**Partners Staff:**

**Curtis Hearst**, Executive Director

**Betsy Shepherd**, Program Director, Delta County Case Manager

**Lisette Riviere**, Art Partners Case Manager

**Jordan Gruppuso**, Montrose Case Manager

**Jan Pauly**, Delta Art Partners Case Manager

**Bruce Van Buskirk**, Ouray County Case Manger

**Judy Hollingshead**, Bookkeeper

**Partners Board of Directors:**

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**Wendy Crank**, Ouray and San Miguel Juvenile Diversion Services, Co-Chair

**Sheena Yehling**, Community Banks of Colorado

**Steve Kelley**, KelliCo. Supply, Co-Chair

**Laura Byard**, The Center for Mental Health

**Ron Nichols**, Montrose Printing

**Danielle Angotti**, The Arc West Central Colorado

**Robert Burns**, Attorney at Law

**Chris Lehman**, MCSD Elementary Principal