



The Second Largest Mentoring Organization in Colorado!

Dear Jamie:

The numbers for 2016 are in and we are so proud to announce that we served over 700 youth last year - 739 to be exact! What we are even more proud of is the in-depth approach we take to working with each of these youth. We hear this in phone calls from parents who tell us their child's mentor has made a tremendous difference in their lives, or the meeting at the school where the teacher can't believe the turnaround in the child just matched with their Big Buddy has made, or the remarks we hear from Big Buddies such as Rodney Hill who wrote to us this month:



"The reality, though, is that the rewards of mentoring a young person and the effect that your time has on that boy or girl's life, as well as your own, makes it worth every second."

These indications of impact go much further than the numbers on paper. And while the numbers speak for themselves and we continue to work hard to ensure the needs of hundreds of children are met in our community, the need for quality mentoring and supportive relationships is always in the forefront of our minds. In 2017, the Buddy Program has the opportunity to work with Mentor Colorado, an advocacy and support organization at the state level. We will be one of five mentoring agencies from Colorado to pilot the National Quality Mentoring System. We are submitting an application to be assessed on the quality of services we provide. This is an exciting opportunity for our organization to continue to grow and provide quality relationships for the youth in our community, as well as act as leader in the Mentoring movement!

We think quality is so important that we are spending valuable resources on this evaluation of our work. Thank you for your continued support and for being a friend of our program. We couldn't do it without you!

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Sincerely,



Lindsay H. Lofaro
Executive Director

**Are you looking for a
FUN, FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE job?
The Buddy Program is hiring a
Silent Auction Coordinator!
[Click here for more info.](#)**

CARBONDALE CHAMBER NON-PROFIT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



The Buddy Program was honored to receive the Carbondale Chamber Non-Profit Business of the Year Award in January! Lindsay Lofaro (second from left) is pictured here with Chamber Board President, Kristen Garwood, Mike Kennedy of the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo and Chamber Executive Director, Andrea Stewart.

MENTEE WAIT LIST

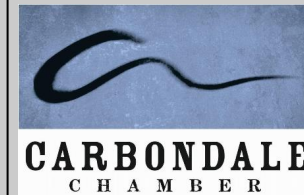
#buddyprogramRFV

**Support the Buddy
Program through
shopping at Amazon!**



Click the link above -
it's as easy as that!

Thank you to the
following organizations
for their support this
month:



Name: Devis M. Age: 16 Lives in: Aspen

Devis is a junior at Aspen High School. He is originally from Colombia, and likes skiing, being outdoors, and music. A mentor in his life would mean a positive male role mode that he can talk to and practice his English with, and someone who can show him around and help him feel more integrated in the community.



Contact LauraS@buddyprogram.org to learn about becoming a mentor TODAY!

MENTOR & MINGLE

Thank you to all of the Big Buddies who attended our Mentor & Mingle event at bb's Kitchen on January 19! It was a special night to thank our current Big Buddies and welcome potential new Buddies, as we celebrated National Mentoring Month. Stay tuned for another Buddy recruitment event in March...details coming soon!



Photo: Anna Stonehouse/The Aspen Times

NEW PAIRS

Eme Cole and Caitlin J.



Lorena Rojas and Kiara G.

LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery)

*Skiing
is my
Passion*

IN THE NEWS

Letter: [Living the dream with the Buddy Program](#)

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2011

Susan Schoeller & Jhoana A.
(Pictured below in 2011 and in 2016!)

2014

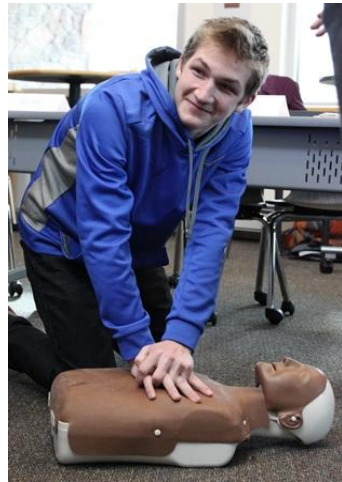
Chad Roeber & Emigdio R.

2015

Micah David & Tristan M.
Joseph McBride & Luis R.

2016

Alex Tiernan & Manuel M.
Sarah Armstrong & Alondra V.
Lindsay Dudycha & Camilla N.



Congratulations to our high school Outdoor Leadership students in our LEAD program! After investing 18 hours of time on a January weekend, this incredible group of teens from Basalt and Roaring Fork High Schools earned their Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications through Desert Mountain Medicine.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

X Games, January 25



Despite the cold, the Buddies were an enthusiastic group as always at this year's Winter X Games! ESPN treated the group to a special tour of the grounds. Afterwards, Buddies retreated to the warmth of the Viper Room VIP box where they watched the half-pipe practice, had a Q&A and

autographing session with athletes and enjoyed a hot pizza dinner. A huge thank you to ESPN for hosting our Buddy Pairs again this year! This is one of our most popular Buddy events.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT



Ryan Larkin and 12 year-old Jacob have been Buddies for nearly 4 years and enjoy doing a lot of things together...mountain biking, skiing and baking pies, but one of their pastimes is really extraordinary! They spend quite a bit of time in Ryan's woodshop building things. To date, they have made a birdhouse, a snowboard and more! Most recently, they built a beautiful desk for Jacob's room! What an incredible example of a mentor sharing his skills with his mentee!

The Buddy Program, 110 East Hallam Street, Suite 125, Aspen, CO 81611

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