



The Second Largest Mentoring Organization in Colorado!

Dear Jamie:

What a month January was! Not only was it National Mentoring Month, a time when we make a big push to recruit new Big Buddies (and it's never too late for you to get involved!), but two very important people to the Buddy Program, Gregg Anderson, our founder, and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass, our largest supporter, were inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame. What follows is not just a tribute to them but some interesting Buddy Program and Aspen history!

Gregg has been a pillar of the community for decades, beginning with his work at Touchstone, a counseling service that was run by Helen Klanderud (who was ALSO inducted into the Hall of Fame in January). In 1972 Gregg moved to Open Door counseling, which later became the Aspen Counseling Center. While working at Open Door, Gregg, a former Big Brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters, quickly realized the need for mentoring the youth with which he was working. So he took it upon himself to start the "Aspen Big Brothers Big Sisters" program, and they matched the first pairs in 1973. A committee of a handful of people was formed to recruit the volunteers, do the matching and over see the program. It continued in this format for many years, with no formal budget or organization, ranging from a handful of pairs to maybe as many as 15 or 20. In 1989, the organization was formally incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the first Executive Director was hired, and the organization began to grow into what is now known as the Buddy Program.

Around 1999, Boogie, who had been sponsoring Boogie's Buddy Race on July 4th for a few years at that point, decided to get more involved. He joined the board, and hosted the first Bash for the Buddies in 1999. Over the years, Boogie has become synonymous with two things in Aspen: his eponymous diner and the Buddy Program. Although the Buddy Program was founded in 1973, well before Boogie was involved, he is responsible for putting the organization on the map in the late 1990s. As a direct result of his philanthropic leadership, the Buddy Program has raised millions of dollars to serve thousands of youth and families in this valley. Now with nearly 1,000 youth and families served in 2015, one in ten youth between Aspen and Carbondale participated in our programs last year. Boogie's leadership and the generosity of our community year in and year out make it possible for the Buddy Program to provide all of our programs and critical services at no cost to all of our participants. Because the Buddy Program works with the youth and families of those youth to improve their lives, the ripple effects from Boogie's efforts are greatly magnified beyond the generous support that he gives directly.

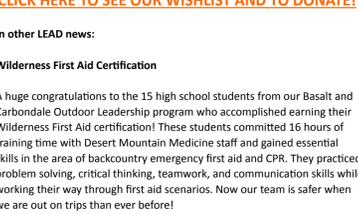
We are so pleased that Gregg and Boogie were honored for their many contributions to the Roaring Fork Valley. Please join us in congratulating them, and thanking them for all that they have done!

David Houggy
Executive Director

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON...
153 DAYS
UNTIL THE BASH FOR THE BUDDIES
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016
Boogie's Merry-Go Ranch



2016 ASPEN HALL OF FAME INDUCTION



Two of the Buddy Program's most instrumental supporters were inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame last month. Boogie Weinglass, pictured on the left with his son Bo, and Gregg Anderson pictured with his wife Carolyn Ethridge.

Click here to read about their contributions to the Buddy Program and the Aspen community.

Photos courtesy of Jeremy Wallace/The Aspen Times

LEAD (LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXPLORATION, ACTION AND DISCOVERY)

The Buddy Program Needs YOU to LEAD!



One of our fastest growing programs, LEAD, engages 11-18 year olds through outdoor and experiential opportunities to develop critical life skills such as goal setting, communication, teamwork and relationship building. As this program grows and expands we need new equipment for our activities- and ultimately a new VAN to get us there. We are looking for individuals who share our passion for learning and expanding skill sets in the great outdoors, and can contribute anything to help improve our program, safety and resources. If we can get 240 people to give us \$25 or 1,000 to give us \$6 (the price of one latte) we will reach our goal! Every donation helps! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of our program by supporting us.

CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR WISHLIST AND TO DONATE!

In other LEAD news:

Wilderness First Aid Certification

A huge congratulations to the 15 high school students from our Basalt and Carbondale Outdoor Leadership program who accomplished earning their Wilderness First Aid certification! These students committed 16 hours of training time with Desert Mountain Medicine staff and gained essential skills in the area of backcountry emergency first aid and CPR. They practiced problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills while working their way through first aid scenarios. Now our team is safer when we are out on trips than ever before!



LEAD class begins at Basalt High School

The new Outdoor Leadership class at Basalt High School has just finished its Leave No Trace outdoor ethics unit and the final class period culminated with the students prepping and cooking traditional Minestrone over an open LNT campfire on school grounds. It was delicious! We are now moving into our avalanche awareness and safe winter backcountry travel unit and will be heading out into the backcountry on 2/15 for a day of snowshoeing.



WAIT LIST LITTLE BUDDY

Name: Lily O.
Age: 9
Lives in: Basalt



DO YOU LOVE SCIENCE?
Lily is looking for a Big Buddy who shares her passion for science!

Lily: "I've been wanting someone to do science with me. Like mixing things together to make concoctions and explosion experiments but not dangerous ones. I want to be a scientist when I grow up and study how the world was made."

NEW PAIR

Names: Hana Maclean & Eliza M.
Community Program Buddies in: Aspen
Buddies since: January



Why we are excited about this Pair: Hana and Eliza met for lunch for their first outing together and had a great time. Eliza just got braces that are blue and orange because, "Broncos duh!" Next up: swimming at the Snowmass Club!

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF COLORADO HEALTH TIP



One of our corporate partners, Children's Hospital of Colorado, will be contributing a monthly health tip in order to continue to help create a healthy community in the Roaring Fork Valley!

TIP: The best way to promote healthy living is to reprogram daily activities and make healthy choices a part of the routine. Kids mirror the behavior of the adults around them, and getting kids to eat fruits and vegetables, drink water instead of soda and increase their physical activity is often as simple as making these choices as a parent - and it helps if the extended family does, too.

RECRUITMENT EVENTS

January, National Mentoring Month, was a success at the Buddy Program! Below, Carbondale Beer Works hosted the Buddy Program as the nonprofit beneficiary of its first bingo night, which proved to be a full and intense house of bingo players and a wonderful way of showcasing the Buddy Program as a fixture in the Carbondale community.



For our annual Mentors & Mingle event at BB's Kitchen, more than 40 community members came in support of the Buddy Program and enjoyed delicious appetizers and refreshments, learned about our continued need for volunteers throughout the entire valley and even heard from two Buddy Pairs in our program.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM BUDDY ACTIVITIES

X Games, January 27

28 Pairs enjoyed an exciting insiders-only night at the X Games touring the grounds, watching the athletes practice from the grandstand, and participating in a Q&A with athletes Christy Prior and McRae Williams.



Dinners at White House Tavern

Thanks to the generosity of the White House Tavern owners and management, one Buddy Pair per week is invited to dine together for free! The Buddies are given an allowance for dinner and the restaurant prepared a fun worksheet for them to complete which teaches about tax and tip.



Pictured clockwise: Camilla Cohen & Shelby G., Carson Schmitz & Caleb S., Liz Sinkinson & Maddi M.

STAY CONNECTED:

- Join our mailing list
Visit our website
Forward to a Friend
Facebook
Instagram
Twitter

#buddyprogramRFV

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

- BB's Kitchen
Carbondale Beer Works
The Quintess Collection
The White House Tavern
WHITE HOUSE TAVERN

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2011
Susan Schoeller & Jhoana A.

2014
Mimi Putnam & Alondra T.
Chad Roeber & Emigdio R.

2015
Keith Komar & Ben S.
Joseph McBride & Luis A.R.
Micah Davis & Tristan M. (pictured)



IN THE NEWS

Cross Currents Interview
David Houggy and Laura Crow discuss National Mentoring Month

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Article:
The Buddy Program keeps touching lives

.....

Guest Column:
Young people and the power of relationships

.....

Letters to the Editor:

- 1. Change a child's life
2. A month for mentoring

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