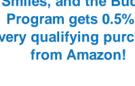




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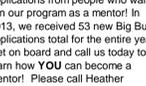
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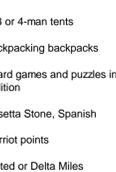
Donate while you shop!
Follow [this link](#) and register for Amazon Smiles, and the Buddy Program gets 0.5% of every qualifying purchase from Amazon!



Thank You Family Night Out Host-Smoke!

Each month, as a way of celebrating our families' involvement in the Buddy Program and giving them a chance to relax and enjoy themselves, the Buddy Program selects one family to enjoy an all-expenses-paid dinner at a fantastic local restaurant. This is an amazing opportunity for them to come together as a family and enjoy a quality meal out. *Thank you Smoke for hosting the November Family Night Out!*

If your restaurant would like to participate in Family Night Out, please email liz@buddyprogram.org



Become a Mentor

To date since January 1, 2014, we have received 9 new Big Buddy applications from people who want to join our program as a mentor! In 2013, we received 53 new Big Buddy applications total for the entire year! Get on board and call us today to learn how YOU can become a mentor! Please call Heather Hicks, Director of Recruitment, at 970-920-2130 or [click here](mailto:liz@buddyprogram.org) to fill out an online inquiry form for more information.

February Buddy Anniversaries, Community Program

2009
Philip Shalen & Lincoln K.

2010
Carole Kirschner & Yesenia C. (pictured)

2011
Ashley Gidley & Monica A. Michael Hutton & Estevan M. Sue Schoeller & Joana A. Leslie Threlkeld & America G.



Wish List

The Buddy Program is looking for some items to help us support our programs and defray expenses! Contact liz@buddyprogram.org if you would like to donate to our Wish List!

- 2, 3 or 4-man tents
- Backpacking backpacks
- Board games and puzzles in good condition
- Rosetta Stone, Spanish
- Marriott points
- United or Delta Miles

Buddy Program Blog

Give Back to Your Community in 2014!
By Ainhoa Bujan
Program Coordinator/Bilingual Case Manager

Another year has begun and is filled with the hope for a bright year of health and happiness. It is very common that at the beginning of a new year we all begin to think about resolutions; things that we want to change or improve in our lives, new goals and purposes.

If you are still trying to figure out what new goal you want to accomplish in the New Year, I have a wonderful suggestion for you: Become a Mentor for a child in your community.

Why a mentor? Because this way you will be contributing to your community, you will be helping those who one day will be the future: our kids.

What is being a mentor? A friend and a positive role model.

What would we do? Have Fun!! This valley is full of possibilities and fun things to do. The Buddy Program also offers free activities for you and your Little Buddy to enjoy together. Some of these activities coming this winter are Bowling, Ski Day and a Salsa party!

How do I do this? Call the Buddy Program: the Director of Recruitment or one of our Case Managers can give you the information you need to get started. Get ready to play, dance and laugh like a kid again and at the same time see your little buddy grow, flourish and become a positive member of our community. This is the pleasure of giving back and being a mentor. There are many children and youth waiting to have a mentor like you. Don't let another year pass you by without giving mentoring a try. You and your little buddy will have a great life experience together!

National Mentoring Month was this past month of January and I would like to thank all mentors in our community, for your consistency, time, love and dedication to all the Little Buddies along the Roaring Fork Valley. Thank you!

Dear Jamie,

It's the new year and we have exciting plans! We continue to expand our programming and reach more youth than ever before. As always, one of the constraints on our ability to grow is the number of new Buddies we are able to recruit. We have a goal of recruiting 60 new Big Buddies this year, and particularly need male volunteers, especially in the mid-valley. If you or someone you know would be willing to mentor a child, please contact us today!

Coming up in March, we have a new winter event - a **benefit concert with 10-time Grammy Winner Chaka Khan at Belly Up!** Chaka is donating her time, and all proceeds from this concert will be split between the Buddy Program and the Chaka Khan Foundation, which supports disadvantaged women and children. What better way to support the Buddy Program and have a GREAT time! See below for details on how to purchase tickets!

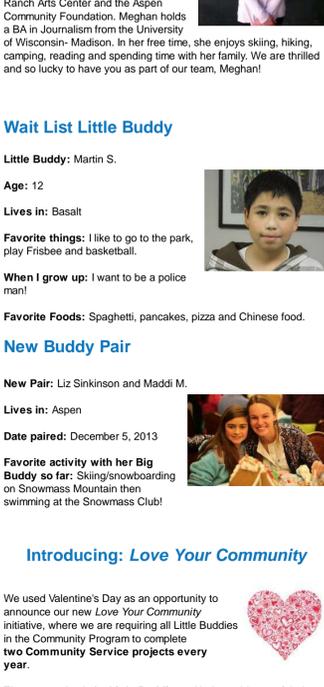
And in July we once again have **The Bash For the Buddies!** We're moving the date back a week this year, to **July 10th**, to avoid the crush of the July 4th holiday weekend. This year's theme is "A Honky-Tonkin Bash" and will take place outside under tents. We're going to have **great live music**, wild west circus acts, dunk booths, carnival games and other unique entertainment in what promises to be a very fun and less formal event than in recent years. So get out your jeans and cowboy boots and make plans to join us!

Looking forward to seeing many of you soon!

Liz

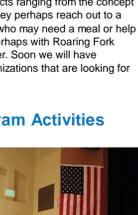
David Houguy
Executive Director

HELP SUPPORT OUR GROWTH!



Welcome, Meghan!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the Buddy Program Staff, Meghan Pearman, Development Manager. She joined the Buddy Program after eight years of development experience at Anderson Ranch Arts Center and the Aspen Community Foundation. Meghan holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. In her free time, she enjoys skiing, hiking, camping, reading and spending time with her family. We are thrilled and so lucky to have you as part of our team, Meghan!



Wait List Little Buddy

Little Buddy: Martin S.

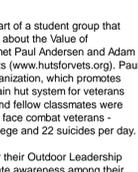
Age: 12

Lives in: Basalt

Favorite things: I like to go to the park, play Frisbee and basketball.

When I grow up: I want to be a police man!

Favorite Foods: Spaghetti, pancakes, pizza and Chinese food.



New Buddy Pair

New Pair: Liz Sankinson and Maddi M.

Lives in: Aspen

Date paired: December 5, 2013

Favorite activity with her Big Buddy so far: Skiing/snowboarding on Snowmass Mountain then swimming at the Snowmass Club!



Introducing: Love Your Community

We used Valentine's Day as an opportunity to announce our new *Love Your Community* initiative, where we are requiring all Little Buddies in the Community Program to complete **two Community Service projects every year**.



The expectation is for **Little Buddies**, with the *guidance of their parents or guardians, to give back to the community* that offers so much love and support to them by way of the Buddy Program. We are asking for community service projects ranging from the concept of *Random Acts of Kindness*, where they perhaps reach out to a neighbor or other community member who may need a meal or help with chores, to more formal projects perhaps with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers or an animal shelter. Soon we will have information on our website about organizations that are looking for volunteer work.

Experiential Program Activities

Students Raise Awareness for Huts for Vets

The Buddy Program is proud to congratulate Roaring Fork High School seniors Alyza C. and Miriam S. for inspiring accomplishments achieved via a service-learning project for their Outdoor Leadership class. Outdoor Leadership is a new class offered for credit at Roaring Fork High School through the Buddy Program for the first time this school year. It focuses on developing leadership and life skills through outdoor experiences and service-learning.



In the Fall of 2013 the two girls were part of a student group that attended a seminar put on by Ecoflight about the Value of Wilderness. There, Alyza and Miriam met Paul Andersen and Adam McCabe of local non-profit Huts for Vets (www.hutsforvets.org). Paul and Adam shared the work of their organization, which promotes wilderness healing via the 10th Mountain hut system for veterans returning from combat. Alyza, Miriam and fellow classmates were stunned by the horrifying statistics that face combat veterans - including a 94% drop-out rate from college and 22 suicides per day.

As part of a service-learning project for their Outdoor Leadership class Alyza and Miriam decided to create awareness among their peers about issues facing veterans and also set a goal to fundraise \$5,000 to help put 5 combat veterans through the Huts for Vets 2014 summer wilderness healing program. The girls wrote and submitted a grant to The World We Want Foundation, an organization that "promotes and supports young global citizens making positive social change in their communities and around the world." The impact they hope to make, as defined in their grant proposal, "is to give vets a new sense of purpose, hope, optimism, commitment, and ability to enjoy the freedoms that they fought for."

Their hard work paid off, and The World We Want Foundation kick-started Alyza and Miriam's financial goal with a \$750 grant to support their project. On Friday, February 21, the girls presented a giant check to Paul and Adam at an awareness assembly the four delivered to the entire Roaring Fork High School student body. Additional fundraising efforts spearheaded by the girls have brought in additional dollars, and their project is featured on The World We Want Foundation's crowd-funding website, where community members can visit, read the full grant proposal, see photos of the project, and make financial contributions (<http://theworldwewantfoundation.org/projects/serve-our-veterans>).

Alyza and Miriam have demonstrated "grit" by following through with a multi-faceted, project. They have shown "integrity" by rallying behind a cause they believe in. They have pursued their "curiosity" as they embarked on a grant-writing process that was a new, unknown effort for them. These are three values Roaring Fork High School students strive for in their community, and Alyza and Miriam represented them well through this project. They also demonstrated teamwork, professional communication and goal setting/actualization - some of the life skills focused on within The Buddy Programs Outdoor Leadership course. Congratulations to Alyza and Miriam for raising funds so that veterans may attend the powerful Huts for Vets program at no cost to them - as they have already paid through their service to this country.

For more information, please contact Brooke Tuveson, Experiential Programs Manager at 970-317-2836

Our Busy Outdoor Leadership Class

This past month in Outdoor Leadership at RFHS 10 students completed their 16-hour Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification! We also have been studying snowscience and safe back-country winter travel with Aspen Expeditions and went on a winter ecology and snow tour with the Winter Naturalists from ACES Toklat.



The Buddy Program Presents at National Mentoring Conference

Buddy Program staff members Lindsay Lofaro, Assistant Director, and Sarah Evans, Senior Case Manager, were selected from a nationwide call of mentoring experts and professionals to present at the prestigious 2014 National Mentoring Summit in Washington, DC. The annual conference is convened by MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership, and host committee members the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Harvard School of Public Health, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and United Way Worldwide. The annual conference is one of paramount significance in part because of the pedigree of the participants - senators, policy writers, law-makers, and social leaders along with mentoring professionals from around the country. Participants gather at this event to discuss a movement that has the President of the U.S. talking and is changing the lives of youth: Mentoring.



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