



Dear Jamie,

What do you like to do for fun?

The Buddy Program often plays a transformative role in helping to shape the lives of those we serve. As mentors, our Big Buddies act as role models, teach life skills, and provide someone for their Little Buddies to lean on when they need help. But it is not all work! We all also like to have fun!

Play is a critical part of growing up (and of being a grown up!). So in addition to all of the services the Buddy Program provides, we also make sure to provide plenty of opportunities for healthy play, to help the youth we serve be able to participate in all aspects of childhood.

We do this in several ways:

- We provide over 20 free activities for Buddy Pairs each year, including things like cooking classes, fly fishing, art classes, hula hooping, rock climbing and other fun activities that also provide opportunities for building social and life skills and interacting with other Buddy Pairs.
- This past Sunday, we had one of our biggest events of the year, the Buddy Program Ski Day at Buttermilk. Over 50 Buddies participated in this free opportunity to enjoy one of the iconic activities in the valley -- one that many don't otherwise get the opportunity to do.
- We are participating in the Basalt Enrichment Wednesdays to bring our Lemonade Day curriculum to an eager group of budding entrepreneurs.
- We offer Empowerment Scholarships. Every Little Buddy is eligible for up to \$200 per year to participate in an activity of their own choosing, like AVSC, sports lessons or a class trip that they would otherwise not be able to afford. We are ever grateful to our local business partners who help make these activities possible.
- Students in our LEAD Programs participate in numerous activities that are FUN and they also teach valuable life skills, including teamwork, goal setting and communication:
 - Students in our Outdoor Leadership class at Roaring Fork High School spend over 150 hours OUTSIDE of the classroom participating in backpacking hut trips, rock climbing days, and overnight camping trips.
 - Students from Aspen, Basalt and Carbondale are invited to a 5-day camp in Moab, Utah for rising high school students
 - Students from Aspen, Basalt and Carbondale are invited to a 5-day camp in Basalt for rising 6th through 8th grade students with one overnight
- Staff from the Buddy Program provide creative and fun activities for High School Big and elementary or middle school Little Buddies in our Peer-to-Peer Program including paper airplane contests, field days, arts and crafts and more.

We talk a lot about the serious work that we do - mentoring, counseling, case management. But there is always room for fun!

Regards,

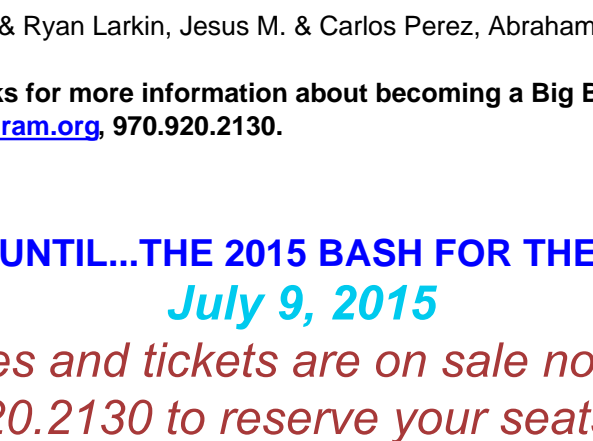
David Houggy
Executive Director

ANNOUNCING!

Take A New Look at the Buddy Program



We are very proud to present the Buddy Program's 2014 Annual Report. In the February Newsletter our Executive Director, David Houggy, shared the news that we passed a major milestone by serving 1,098 youth and their families in 2014. The Annual Report offers a wealth of information about how we arrived at this number, with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors. We hope that this report inspires you to join us in our mission of empowering youth through mentoring experiences in order to achieve their full potential!



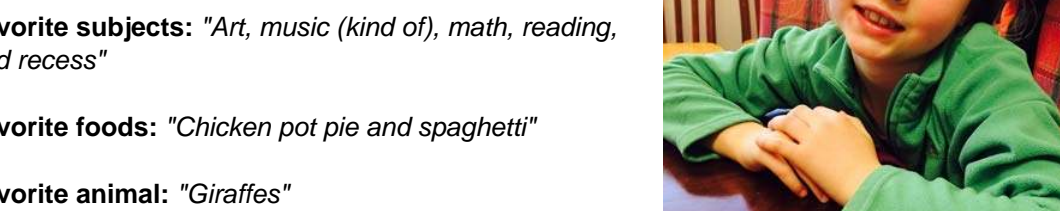
Men in Mentoring Photo Project

In most formalized mentoring organizations, the majority of mentors are female while the majority of youth waiting to be matched are male; this is very true for the Buddy Program. However, our male matches prove to be some of the strongest pairs and more often than not, have a big impact on both the Big and Little Buddy's life.

Guadalupe Laiz's talent, coupled with the palpable bond of her subjects, are evident when viewing these special images. The result is the Men in Mentoring photo project that will be on display throughout the Roaring Fork Valley at the galleries, cafes and businesses this year.

With a fresh set of eyes, take a glimpse into the heart and soul of this program. And - if you feel so moved - consider taking the risk to form such a bond yourself!

Visit our website to see more of Guadalupe Laiz's beautiful photos and the Big and Little Buddy interviews!



Left to right: Jacob M. & Ryan Larkin, Jesus M. & Carlos Perez, Abraham A. & Braulio Jerez

Contact Heather Hicks for more information about becoming a Big Buddy today:
Heather@buddyprogram.org, 970.920.2130.

119 DAYS UNTIL...THE 2015 BASH FOR THE BUDDIES!

July 9, 2015

*Tables and tickets are on sale now! Call 970.920.2130 to reserve your seats today!



WAIT LIST LITTLE BUDDY

Name: Kira H.

Age: 8

Lives in: El Jebel

Favorite subjects: "Art, music (kind of), math, reading, and recess"

Favorite foods: "Chicken pot pie and spaghetti"

Favorite animal: "Giraffes"

Things she would like to do with her Big Buddy: "Ice skating, movies, sledding, and writing cards"



NEW PAIR

Names: Gandhy L. and Stu Curry

Community Program Buddies in: Basalt

Buddies since: Gandhy and Stu were paired in the fall of 2009, when Gandhy was a 2nd grader. They recently transitioned from the School-based Program into the Community Program.

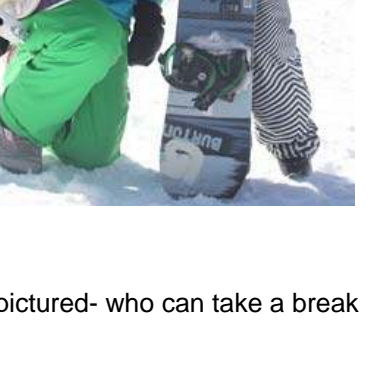
Favorite activities together: Arts and crafts, playing games, and simply catching up on things while having lunch together.



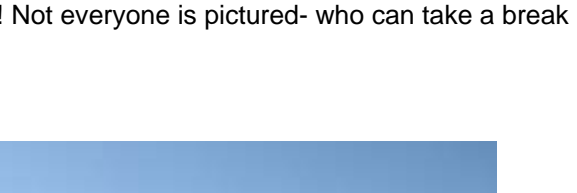
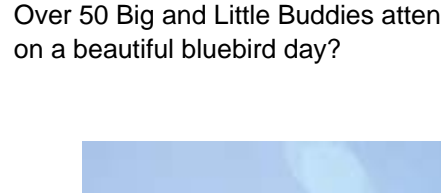
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

February 11, 2015: Chocolate Classic

Thank you, Response, for providing free tickets to all of our Pairs!



Left to right: Darcy Hill & Olivia P., Susan Bernard & Arlette G.

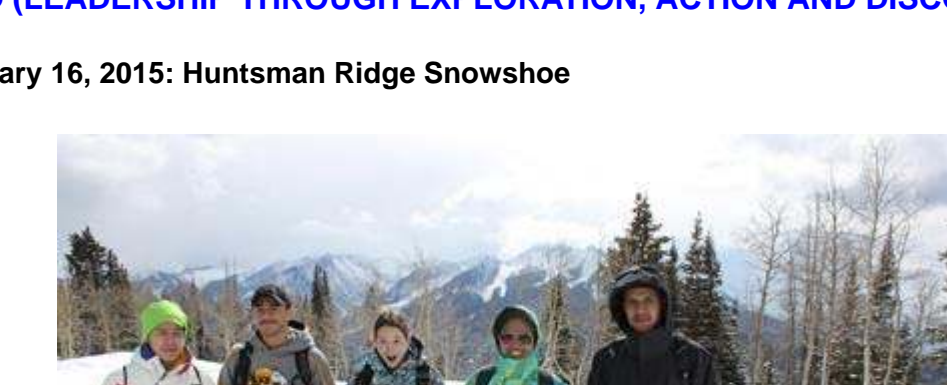


February 19, 2015: Aspen Youth Center Night

Thank you Keith Berglund and the Aspen Youth Center for hosting our Pairs!



Courtney Hollis & Kiara G.

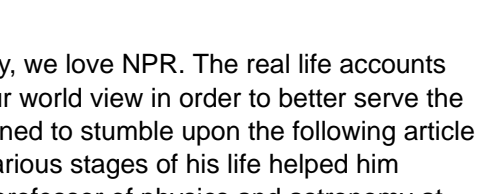
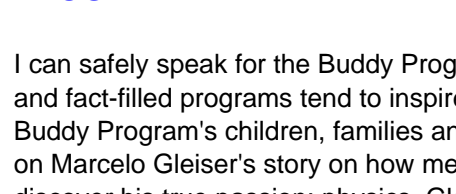


March 8, 2015: Annual Buddy Program Ski Day

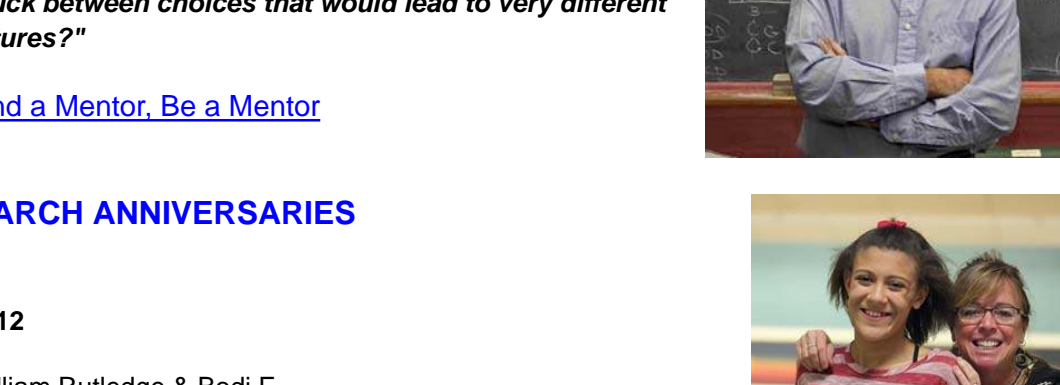
Thank you Aspen Skiing Company for providing lift tickets to Big and Little Buddies!



Left to right: Samuel Bernal & Christian G., Hailey Guglielmo & Ashley B.



Over 50 Big and Little Buddies attended Ski Day! Not everyone is pictured- who can take a break on a beautiful bluebird day?



LEAD (LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXPLORATION, ACTION AND DISCOVERY)

February 16, 2015: Huntsman Ridge Snowshoe



BLOG

I can safely speak for the Buddy Program staff when I say, we love NPR. The real life accounts and fact-filled programs tend to inspire us and expand our world view in order to better serve the Buddy Program's children, families and mentors. I happened to stumble upon the following article on Marcelo Gleiser's story on how mentors throughout various stages of his life helped him discover his true passion: physics. Gleiser is currently a professor of physics and astronomy at Dartmouth College. I strongly recommend this wonderful article, from start to finish.

Elizabeth Sinkinson, Development and Program Coordinator

Find a Mentor, Be a Mentor
By Marcelo Gleiser

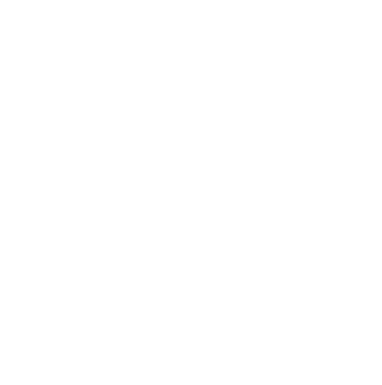
"Who hasn't been confused, unsure of which way to go, stuck between choices that would lead to very different futures?"
[Find a Mentor, Be a Mentor](#)



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

2012

William Rutledge & Bodí F.
Elizabeth Hargerty & Jasmin H. (pictured)



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