



**In This Issue**

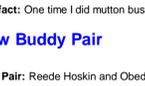
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The Buddy Program page has 1,130 "Likes" and counting!



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Dear Jamie,

Welcome to May and springtime in Aspen! We alternate between beautiful, sunny spring days in the 60's and winter storm warnings for a foot or more of snow -- like last weekend! It's been a great winter, with a great snow pack to see us through a great summer!

As the school year ends, our Peer-to-Peer and our School-based programs end as well- thanks to all of our high school and adult volunteers for a great year! We are getting ready for Youth Camp in Moab, Utah in June and are constantly matching new Buddy Pairs in our other programs. Lemonade Day on June 14th; if you will be in town, be sure to come out and support our kids!

With the summer comes our two biggest fundraisers of the year, Boogies Buddy Race on July 4th, and The Bash for the Buddies on July 10th. Between these two events we raise nearly two thirds of our annual operating budget. While these are large events, our expense ratio for these events of 33% is well below the industry benchmark of 50%. And did you know that net of fundraising costs, only 13% of our expenses go toward administration and overhead? So we are more efficient than most non-profits in raising and utilizing the funds that we need.

The Race is always a big hit -- last year we had over 1,200 participants for the 5 mile race and the 1 mile Family and Canine Fun Walk. With the Fourth falling on a Friday this year, we expect even bigger crowds. Online registration is open, so purchase your tickets now!

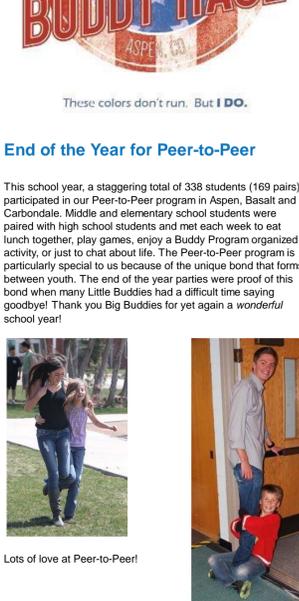
For the Bash this year we return to our roots -- a more casual, outdoor party under tents with a western theme of "A Honky-Tonkin Bash!" The event will be at Marot Open Space, the big field by the roundabout where the paragliders land in the shadow of Shadow Mountain. Break out your jeans, cowboy boots and hats, and other western wear as we go back in time to an Old West town. Bobby Yang, an Aspen-trained violinist, will create a high-energy festive environment with his synthesis of a live band and DJ spinning all of your favorite dance and party hits! And this year, all of the food including dinner will be provided buffet-style by the best restaurants in Aspen, ensuring that this is one of the best meals that you will eat this summer! Online registration for the Bash is also open now, so reserve your tables or seats before they sell out! See the rest of this newsletter for links to more information.

Wherever you are, I hope that you are enjoying the spring and getting ready for a great summer in Aspen!

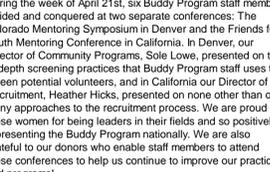
*Heather*

David Houggy  
Executive Director

**RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW!  
Thursday, July 10th**



Race registration is OPEN! Click [here](#) to register and/or make a donation today!



These colors don't run. But I DO.

**Become a Mentor**

To date since January 1, 2014, we have received **22** new Big Buddy applications from people who want to join our program as a mentor! In 2013, we received 54 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](#) to fill out an online inquiry form for more information.

**Wait List Little Buddy**

Little Buddy: Aidan S.

Age: 8

Lives in: Aspen

Favorite things: Soccer, cross country skiing, riding bikes, animals, computers, drawing and games, parades, and music!



Favorite food: Tacos, pizza and edamame

Fun fact: One time I did mutton busting!

**New Buddy Pair**

**New Pair:** Reede Hoskin and Obed M.

Lives in: Carbondale

Date paired: April 17, 2014

Favorite activity with his Big Buddy so far: Going fly fishing last weekend with the Buddy Program. I fished for 3 hours and got to keep the rod!



**May Buddy Anniversaries, Community Program**

**2005**  
Jan Panico & Johanna V.

**2006**  
Lucy Tremols & Ana Laura M.

**2007**  
Beth Meager & Aelwyn V.-G.  
Mary Anne Meyer & Ciara S.

**2010**  
William Cattaneo & Christian J.  
Laurie Michaels & Jordan B.

**2012**  
Lisa Mills & Mini Z.

**2013**  
Terriassa McGovern & Zuleika H.  
(pictured)  
Jack Mikaloff & Josue A.



**Become a School-based Mentor!**

Many School based pairs transition into the Community Program in May after successfully completing an academic year together. After building the foundation of a mentoring relationship with the support of the Buddy Program staff and school counselors, these pairs start seeing each other after school and on weekends to strengthen their friendship and take advantage of Buddy Program sponsored activities.

If you are interested in joining the School based Program for a Fall 2014 start date, please contact Director of Recruitment Heather Hicks TODAY! Heather@buddyprogram.org or 970-920-2130

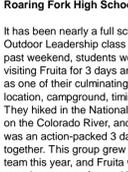
**Wish List**

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

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

**End of the Year for Peer-to-Peer**

This school year, a staggering total of 338 students (169 pairs) participated in our Peer-to-Peer program in Aspen, Basalt and Carbondale. Middle and elementary school students were paired with high school students and met each week to eat lunch together, play games, enjoy a Buddy Program organized activity, or just to chat about life. The Peer-to-Peer program is particularly special to us because of the unique bond that forms between youth. The end of the year parties were proof of this bond when many Little Buddies had a difficult time saying goodbye! Thank you Big Buddies for yet again a wonderful school year!



Lots of love at Peer-to-Peer!



**Staff Attends and Presents at Conferences**

During the week of April 21st, six Buddy Program staff members divided and conquered at two separate conferences: The Colorado Mentoring Symposium in Denver and the Friends for Youth Mentoring Conference in California. In Denver, our Director of Community Programs, Soile Lowe, presented on the in-depth screening practices the Buddy Program staff uses to screen potential volunteers, and in California our Director of Recruitment, Heather Hicks, presented on none other than our many approaches to the recruitment process. We are proud of these women for being leaders in their fields and so positively representing the Buddy Program nationally. We are also grateful to our donors who enable staff members to attend these conferences to help us continue to improve our practices and programs!

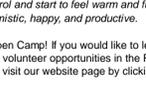
**Experiential Programs**

**Roaring Fork High School Outdoor Leadership Fruita Trip**

It has been nearly a full school year since launching our new Outdoor Leadership class at Roaring Fork High School! This past weekend, students went on their final trip of the year, visiting Fruita for 3 days and 2 nights. Students planned the trip in one of their culminating class projects, choosing the location, campground, timing of the trip, activities, and food. They hiked in the National Monument, rafted Ruby Horsethief on the Colorado River, and rock climbed in Unaweep Canyon. It was an action-packed 3 days that brought our group closer together. This group grew and evolved as individuals and as a team this year, and Fruita was a perfect opportunity to experience some fun and joy in the desert sun together before parting ways at the end of the school year! Thank you to the Schuss Foundation, Aspen Rotary Club and Aspen Skiing Company for supporting these programs.



**Lemonade Day Teaches Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship**



During the month of May, Lemonade Day Roaring Fork Valley City Director Heather Hicks is working with Aspen Elementary School and Crystal River Elementary School to teach Lemonade Day to 3rd and 4th grade students. The Lemonade Day curriculum is developed on par with state standards in elementary Social Studies and Economics, and its hands-on experiential approach to learning makes it a perfect complement to the classroom setting.

"It's really fun to work in the classroom setting and to bring the lessons of goal setting and entrepreneurship to life," said City Director Heather Hicks. "As mentors and teachers, our role is to provide suggestions and ask questions to stimulate deeper thinking. We show them the way, but ultimately each child does the work, uses their own creativity and makes important decisions. It's very empowering for the youth."

In addition to the classroom setting, Lemonade Day registration is also open and available for families. Children and parents can register for free at [RFV.LemonadeDay.org](http://RFV.LemonadeDay.org) or in-person when picking up the learning materials at Alpine Bank locations throughout the valley (Aspen, Snowmass, Basalt, El Jebel and Carbondale).

Art workshops are being offered for a fee at the Wylie Community Arts Center June 9 - 13 ([www.wyliearts.org](http://www.wyliearts.org) for more info) and at the Aspen Art Museum (this workshop is currently full) where children work with art teachers, City Director Heather Hicks and local carpenters to construct lemonade stands and start their own business.

After completing the 14 "Steps to Success" outlined in the learning materials, children open up for business on the June 14th valley-wide Lemonade Day where teachers they keep all of the proceeds they earn and are encouraged to "share a little, save a little and spend a little".

Watch the [Lemonade Day 2013 video!](#) For more information, contact Heather@BuddyProgram.org or 970-920-2130.



A 3rd grade class at Crystal River Elementary School is excited to learn the lessons of Lemonade Day!

**Love Your Community Initiative**



To kick off our new Love Your Community initiative, the Buddy Program held a Day of Service on April 19. THANK YOU to all of the Little Buddies, Big Buddies, and Parents who participated in the event!

Chad Cox & Rhys

Leslee Francis & Bogi Lindsey Palardy & Angelica Sue and Richard de Campo & Chris

Ainhua Bujan & Xenena

Heather Smith & Vanessa Michelle McGrory & Kenia Justin Hood & Carlos Logan Hood & Luis Palmer Hood & Willy Isabel Colunga & Christian



Buddy Program Senior Case Manager, Sarah Evans, stumbled upon this inspiring poster created by the Aspen Camp for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The small print says:

*Volunteering can help boost your happiness and reduce your stress. By paying attention to the needs of others, you gain a sense of control and start to feel warm and fuzzy inside. You'll be more optimistic, happy, and productive.*

Well said, Aspen Camp! If you would like to learn more about this and other volunteer opportunities in the Roaring Fork Valley, please visit our website page by clicking [here!](#)

**Service Story: Junk Walk with Chris!**

One of the Little Buddies who participated in our Love Your Community Day of Service, Chris, picked up litter along the riverside in town and has since gone what he and his mom call "junk walking" every day after school. One of his favorite parts of junk walking is looking for the weirdest or most intriguing pieces of trash-- maybe one that makes you wonder what its story is or you think is just simply bizarre. He's totally hooked and as his mom said, "if you notice that town is starting to look great, it's in a large part due to Chris." Chris, you are a hero to the city of Aspen and to the Roaring Fork River! We hope that you inspire other Buddies, Big and Little, to become excited about beautifying and taking care of the place that is home to us all. Thanks also to your mom, Sue. Great job supporting Chris and this important initiative- THANK YOU!!



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