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David E. Hougy, Jr.

4/19/16

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### Buddy Program Awards \$35,000 in Continuing Education Scholarships

**Aspen, CO** – The Buddy Program awarded 18 scholarships for higher education to well-deserving high school students from Aspen to Carbondale, CO.

The Buddy Program's mission is to empower youth through mentoring experiences in order to achieve their full potential.

"Our donors support our continuing education scholarship fund so that we can reward youth who have been involved as high school Big Buddies, Little Buddies or with our LEAD Programs. It is these donors who make these awards happen, and this year we are especially grateful to John and Amy Phelan and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation for making these scholarships possible. Additionally, our scholarship committee ensures that our dollars are invested in youth who have made a difference in our own community and will continue to make a difference throughout their lives" states David Hougy, Executive Director of the Buddy Program. "I would like to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee, headed by Assistant Director Lindsay Lofaro: Alex Kendrick, Chris Bryan and Ruth Herrera."

This year, the Buddy Program awarded \$35,000 to 18 high school seniors who have volunteered as Big Buddies through the Peer-to-Peer program, been involved as a Little Buddy or as a LEAD youth participant. Eleven of these individuals are the first generation in their family to attend college. Since 2010, the Buddy Program has awarded \$306,800 in continuing education scholarships to 150 youth, 70 of whom have been first generation to attend college.

For over 40 years, the Buddy Program has been serving youth in the Roaring Fork Valley community. The Buddy Program runs four programs throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, including one-on-one mentoring and group/experiential mentoring. In addition to mentoring experiences, the organization provides professional case management, extracurricular activity scholarships, continuing education scholarships, therapeutic counseling and other benefits. Pairs in our Community Program stay together for an average of 4 years, compared to the national average of 23 months. Program evaluations demonstrate that the Buddy Program has helped our Little Buddies in areas of self-esteem, decision making, academics and relationships with friends and family. The Buddy Program worked with nearly 1,000 youth and their families in 2015, and continues to grow to meet the large need in the Roaring Fork Valley. The Buddy Program is a registered 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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