



Greetings!

As an investor in the Buddy Program, we think it's important to communicate the impact of our work to you - how we help the youth who participate in our programs and make our community a better place to live. We do this by telling stories of our participants, but also by sharing the numbers. A number that crossed my desk last week makes me extremely proud and I have to share it here. Each year we review the average length of time our Big and Little Buddy matches stay together. For the last several years this number has hovered around 4 years on average - a number to be proud of as the National Average as reported by Big Brothers, Big Sisters has been 23 months. In 2017 this average match length has jumped to 5.2 years!

The credit goes to our Case Management team and our incredible volunteer Big Buddies. Our Case Managers work tirelessly on making the right match for the child and the volunteer and then go the distance to ensure this match stays together. Our Big Buddies show up when they say they are going to and build trusting and meaningful relationships with their Little Buddies. Research shows that the longer a youth is engaged in mentoring, the stronger their outcomes will be, including graduating from high school, attending secondary education and abstaining from drug and alcohol use. Making the right match for youth in our program is of the highest priority for us. We know if we do it right, the outcomes will be enormous.

We have had a tremendous summer of fundraising for our important and critical work. Thank you for those of you who have stood by us for countless years and for those of you who are just joining us as supporters. Because we offer all of our programs and services at not cost to all the youth we serve; we have no earned income. Your contribution helps to make our work possible.

We would like to give a special thanks to the founding members of our Leadership Circle who are making multi-year commitments to the Buddy Program that mirror the multi-year commitments we are making to our youth. Thank you Laurie Michaels and David Bonderman, Jessica and John Fullerton, Mona Look Mazza & Tony Mazza, Becky and Michael Murray, Amy and John Phelan, Karen and Nathan Sandler, and Angie and Gary Stewart.

For more information on how you get involved or to donate today, please call us at 970-920-2130.

With gratitude,

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

FOOD & WINE

GrassRoots
Community Network



the **WHITE HOUSE TAVERN**

ANNIVERSARIES

July 2013

Michelle McGrory & Kenia A.
(Pictured below in 2013 and 2015)

Lindsay H. Lofaro
Executive Director



Jaqueline Deam & Nayeli R.

July 2016

Emily Cackett & Vitoria S.

August 2010

Tricia Louthis & Emma E.

August 2012

Patrick Henry & Oscar C.

August 2014

Katie Powell & Morgan M.
Darcy Hill & Olivia P.

August 2015

Megan Vrono & Jocelyn G.

August 2016

Meredith Kasper & Iovanna M.

The Buddy Program would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of the 2017 Bash for the Buddies and Boogie's Buddy Race donors, sponsors, patrons, racers and volunteers!

YOU are our ROCKSTARS!



[Click here to view more photos from the Bash!](#)



BUDDY PAIRS IN ACTION



Jeff Clark and Dylan R. enjoyed ice cream and people watching in Aspen on a hot summer day!



Anne Blackwell and Samantha G. were interviewed about the Buddy Program at KSPN recently. Anne and Samantha have been together for 7 years in September!

MENTEE WAITLIST

Name: Lilly W. Age: 8 Lives in: Carbondale

Lilly loves swimming, riding her bike, playing four square and kickball, making things out of clay, being read to, baking brownies, and animals. She also enjoys shopping at thrift stores, playing with makeup and going to the movies. Lilly is in-need of and yearning for a wonderful Big Buddy, just like her big sister's. She would greatly benefit from a kind, motivated, consistent female Big Buddy in her life!



Contact Recruitment Manager, Laura Seay, for more information on becoming a Big Buddy! LauraS@buddyprogram.org

NEW PAIRS

We've matched 5 new Pairs since mid-June!

Please welcome our newest Pairs! Left to right: Anna Walters & Arlet C., Hannah Shaw & Nayeli N., Jessica Gurrentz & Chloe F., John Gillies & Collin L., Kimberly Simon & Susette C., and Jess Jacobi & Nereida R.



Lane Johnson and Jesus M. caught some R&R while floating Stillwater this summer!

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[#buddyprogramRFV](#)



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LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery)

Youth Camp took 27 High School students for a week of camping adventures in the wilderness of Moab, UT!



This year at Youth Camp, 27 campers biked, hiked, rafted, rock climbed, canyoneered, rappelled, Supermanned, slept in tents and outside around the campfire, cooked meals, danced off, and laughed a lot. We welcomed four Peer Counselors who led many activities throughout the five days, and we honored three campers who have attended camp for 5+ years with a tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad, encouraging them to "keep camping". The LEAD Program staff continues to be amazed every year at the depth of community that can be built in just five days' time.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

Carbondale Community-based Pair create a strong bond through their shared love of outdoor activities!

Bartlett and Valeria are a Community-based Pair in Carbondale who have been together since March. They have already developed a strong bond through their shared love of outdoor activities and their vivacious personalities! Bartlett has created a nurturing mentor relationship through open communication skills. She and Valeria have gone bike riding, bowling, and Bartlett even accompanied Valeria to her first swimming lesson. They have since gone to several more swimming classes together. Bartlett and Valeria are currently planning an adventurous day with a gondola ride to the top of Ajax!



COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

130 Big and Little Buddies and their families attended our Annual Buddy & Family Picnic in June!

The Buddy Program hosted our annual Buddy & Family Picnic on June 22nd. With over 130 people in attendance, it was a HUGE success. Buddies and their families enjoyed a beautiful summer evening in the park playing frisbee, football, badminton, and hula-hooping. After a magic show featuring Ryan Eason, guests feasted on a BBQ dinner along with a wide variety of specialties made by the families of our Little Buddies. Our picnic has become one of the best events of the year as it brings Buddy Program kids, their families and their mentors all together to celebrate their special relationships.

