



Greetings!

As we turn the calendar to 2018, I must stop and reflect on the amazing support we received in December and all of the gifts that were given to the youth, families and volunteers whom we serve in the community. Individuals and businesses were so generous to support our organization through shopping events, Colorado Gives Day, and year-end giving appeals. A sincere thank you from all of us at the Buddy Program!

2018 marks a significant year of celebration as the Buddy Program turns 45! What started as a very small, grassroots effort in Aspen in 1973 to match a handful of children with Big Buddies, has turned in to an organization serving close to 600 youth, through one-to-one and group mentoring programs, from Aspen to Carbondale with recognition as a quality mentoring program at the local, state and national level. We are the only youth organization in the Roaring Fork Valley solely devoted to youth mentoring!

Our growth, and this amazing landmark celebration, could not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who support their community by volunteering as a Big Buddy. Please join us on Wednesday, January 31st at Maker and Place (614 East Cooper Ave, next to Mezzaluna) for our annual Mentor & Mingle event. Meet our staff, current Big Buddies and learn more about becoming a Big Buddy. Invite a friend, or two, or three! We also are using this event to reconnect with former Big Buddies. If this is you, please stop by and share your mentoring story with us. It is an opportunity to reconnect with the Buddy Program. Click here to [RSVP!](#)

Although January is National Mentoring Month and we use the opportunity to recruit new volunteer Big Buddies to match with Little Buddies in need of companionship and support, this need exists throughout the year. Each year we match approximately 25-30 new youth with a Big Buddy and each year our wait-list remains at 35-40 youth. These numbers are indicative of the immense need in our community for mentoring. One child is matched and 1-2 children are waiting to take that child's place on the wait-list!

Now is the moment to get involved with your time. Share it with a young person in 2018! I can promise you, the rewards you receive will outweigh the time you give.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Lindsay H. Lofaro



Donate now!



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



MAISON ULLENS



LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery)

The Buddy Program joins Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Initiative

As part of a collaborative effort with Garfield County and other partners, the Buddy Program is



pleased to announce our involvement in a three-year grant from Great Outdoors Colorado that will expand our Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Outdoor Leadership program to Rifle High and Rifle Middle Schools in the fall of 2018. The Buddy Program understands the need in western Garfield County for youth to have outdoor and group mentoring experiences, and our LEAD Outdoor Leadership Program at the high school and middle school are designed to do just that. As these programs are embedded in the school day and taught by Buddy Program staff, we meet students where they are to meet this critical community need. Not only do our programs connect students with our valuable resources in Garfield County and throughout our state, but they give students leadership roles and teach about stewardship; two major components of the Great Outdoors Colorado Inspire Initiative through which this grant was received.

Tis' the season for community service projects



The Roaring Fork and Basalt High School Outdoor Leadership classes are immersed in student-driven Service-Learning Projects. Students partnered with Ragged Mountain Sports and Adopt-A-Highway to clean the section of road near Marble and Hayes Creek Falls, while other groups of students cleaned cages and took dogs for walks at CARE and the Aspen Animal Shelter.

MENTEE WAITLIST

Name: Garrett Age: 12 Lives in: Aspen

Outdoor Voices



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2009

Kim McHale Baillargeon & Lupita O.

2012

Melissa McPherron & Vanessa V.

2014

Jeremy Kay & Abraham H.

2016

Mary and George Russell & Sergio R.

Hana Maclean & Eliza M. (Pictured)

Erin Greenwood & Monica A.

2017

Emilia Cole & Caitlyn J. William Johnson & Jesus M.



STAY CONNECTED:

#buddyprogramRFV

Garrett is a 7th grade student who moved to Aspen from California in 2016. Garret is intelligent, has a wonderful and quirky sense of humor, and an ability to connect easily with adults. Garrett enjoys food, cross-country skiing, legos, Star Wars, playing video games, cooking, and interactive science. Garrett is looking for a mentor who is "slightly adventurous, creative, happy to chill, and a maverick".



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

NEW PAIR

Welcome to the Buddy Program family, Brendan Collins & Evan!



MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

Someone to look up to

Megan is an extraordinary mentor who always has her mentee in mind. She is constantly advocating for her Little Buddy by bringing her to activities, assisting her with our Extracurricular Scholarship applications, and seeking out ways to further support her overall wellbeing. Megan attended our Big Buddy Forum



seeking guidance on how to help develop her Little Buddy's self-esteem. Not only does she look for and plan fun activities for the two of them, but she constantly strives to strengthen their relationship through encouragement, and support her mentee's development as a person through inspiration and empowerment. Thank you, Megan, for being such a powerful advocate for your Little Buddy!

PITKIN COUNTY CARES AWARD

Congratulations to Terry Leitch Sr.



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Forward to a Friend





Terry Leitch Sr. is the heartbeat of the Buddy Program's Youth Camp, which serves Aspen to Carbondale teens for a week annually in Moab, Utah. Terry has volunteered a week of his time for Youth Camp every summer for 14 years, using vacation time from his day job with the Aspen Police Department to benefit our youth. At camp, he's affectionately known by campers as "Papa Bacon," and is a role model and calming voice that talks kids over the edge of a cliff and through a flood of emotions during our "Superman" challenge, rock climbing, and canyoneering.

Terry is kind, thoughtful, caring, considerate, reliable, inspirational, trustworthy, and filled with a joy for life and work with our amazing community of youth. One of our campers, Karen, says: "Papa bacon is a huge part of camp, he's basically what every returning camper comes back for....Not only does he create trust with all of the youth but he becomes a great friend who teaches us many useful lessons.... Papa bacon is now considered family."

In addition to 14 years of volunteering for the Buddy Program's Youth Camp, Terry consistently commits time volunteering within the Aspen Middle School 8th grade outdoor education program.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Masterpiece Mine



24 Buddies had a blast attending Masterpiece Mine at the Art Factory in the Red Brick Building!

