

# 45<sup>th</sup> Buddy Program

Inspire. Empower. Mentor!

## Celebrating 45 years of mentoring

[\*\*\*CLICK HERE TO READ THE BUDDY PROGRAM'S 2017 ANNUAL REPORT!\*\*\*](#)

Greetings!

This month I would like to pause and reflect on my top 10 Reasons why I think the **Buddy Program is A-May-Zing**:

1. This year we celebrate **45** years of programs and services! That's a lot of mentoring!
2. We are one of six organizations in Colorado, **and the only organization in the Roaring Fork Valley**, to be recognized by Mentor, The National Mentoring Partnership and Mentor Colorado through the National Quality Mentoring System for our **excellence in programming**
3. Our matches in the Community Program stay together for 4.5 years on average (the National average is 23 months)
4. We serve youth in Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield Counties with our programming ranging from Aspen to Carbondale, including programming in **10 schools!**
5. 6 of our staff are **bilingual in Spanish**
6. In 2017 we worked with 134 Adult Big Buddies and 104 High School Big Buddies, we have 20 Board and Junior Board Members and over 100 volunteers help with the Race and Bash Events in the Summer! **We love our Volunteers!!!**
7. This summer we will send 4 students to study in **Uruguay, Spain, France and Morocco**, thanks to support from private donors and the Student Diplomacy Corps! Additionally, 6 students will spend the summer on **Outward Bound Courses** thanks to generous scholarships from Colorado Outward Bound School. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure these opportunities are realized!
8. 56 youth in our program will participate in **positive summer programming thanks to our Empowerment Scholarship Programming** that gives Buddy Program participants an opportunity for funding for extracurricular activities.
9. Between May and August our LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery) Program participants will spend **21 days in the field**, participating in backcountry experiences and exploration to develop critical life skills such as communication, team work and planning.
10. The Buddy Program can only make all this happen with individuals like YOU! **You are A-MAY-ZING** and we thank you for the role you play in our important work!

Donate now!

**CALLING ALL FORMER BIG AND LITTLE BUDDIES!**

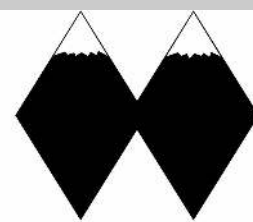
Fill out [this form](#) and tell us your mentoring story, to be entered to **win** a ticket to the Bash for the Buddies!

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Annual Buddy Picnic**  
**Tuesday, June 19th**  
**5:30-7:30 PM**  
**Arboney Park, Basalt**  
We would love to see former Big and Little Buddies there!  
Details to follow!

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT THIS MONTH!**

Sincerely,

Lindsay Lofaro  
Executive Director



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**Come One, Come All to the  
Big Top Bash for the Buddies on Friday, July 6!**



**A Special Thanks to our Host Committee:  
Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass and Gail Woven, Andrew Cader, David Chazen, Helen and Jim Fifield, Katie and Adam Goldsmith, Randy and Ken Kendrick, Kristen and David Lambert, Jennifer and Joe Mason, Mona Look-Mazza and Tony Mazza, Becky and Mike Murray, JoAnna and Stephen Myers, Amy Elias and Richie Pearlstone, Pat and Ed Peterson, Lexie and Robert Potamkin, Lynda and Stewart Resnick, Lorraine and Mark Schapiro, Angie and Gary Stewart, Jeanne and Ned Walker, and Cheryl Wyly and Joe Vernier**

**Click the image below to register for the Race and**

**MAY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**2013**  
Jack Mikaloff & Josue

**2015**  
Lara Xaiz & Stacy (Pictured)  
Tom Jones & Isaiah

**2016**  
Beth Arenella & Zuleika



**STAY CONNECTED:**

**#buddyprogramRFV**



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MICHAEL CONNOLLY

PRESENTS THE 32ND ANNUAL  
**BOOGIE'S  
BUDDY RACE**

5 MILE RACE AND 1 MILE FAMILY FUN WALK  
July 4, 2018 | 8am start  
Rio Grande Park, Aspen, CO

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## MENTEE WAITLIST

**Name: Javi    Age: 9    Lives in: Basalt**

Javi loves playing soccer, basketball, skiing and watching movies. He also plays the drums and likes to sing. He likes painting and coloring, and at school he especially likes P.E. He would like a Big Buddy who is "nice, cool and fun!" He would like to play basketball with his Buddy, ski and participate in the Buddy Program activities. Javi's older brother is leaving for college soon so having a Big Buddy would mean a lot to him right now. In his words, it would mean "having a big friend who cares about you and hangs out with you, doing things together, having someone to talk to and not being so bored."



Contact Recruitment Manager, Laura Seay, for more information on becoming a Big Buddy! [LauraS@buddyprogram.org](mailto:LauraS@buddyprogram.org)

## NEW PAIRS

Welcome Liz Iacullo & Antoinette and D'aun Hajdu & Jimena!



## LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery)

### McNamara Hut Trip



Roaring Fork High School had an amazing weekend watching the snow fall and working their way into the McNamara Hut! They hiked 5 miles in snowshoes up to the cabin with all the necessary gear for the weekend on their backs! It was a really awesome weekend of challenging themselves, working together as a team, and having a great time building snowmen and snow forts!

### Red Hill Hike



In April, 14 of our LEAD participants enjoyed a nice warm sunny afternoon hiking up Red Hill in Carbondale. They exercised, breathed fresh air, and had some great laughs along the way. At the top, they took in breathtaking views of Mount Sopris. Afterwards, they dined on delicious Peppino's pizza in Sopris Park.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### Love Your Community Day



The Buddy Program promotes community service among our Buddies and families, and we encourage our Mentees to participate in community service at least twice per year. The same way that our Mentors volunteer their time, encourage and guide so many kids in our community, Mentees can also participate through random acts of kindness or through formal projects with outside agencies. The Love Your Community initiative is the Buddy Program's way of teaching youth in our programs the importance of giving their time and effort for the sake of giving alone - the reward being the joy of living in a wonderful community! This past April, the Buddy Program participated in the Roaring Fork Conservancy's annual Frying Pan River Clean Up. We woke up with snow on a very wet, chilly morning but we still had some families and Buddies who joined us for this special event.

One of the parents who attended this activity relayed, "The Buddy Program is so big; you guys make such an impact in our lives. You make families stronger and more connected."

On behalf of everybody in the Buddy Program, we would like to THANK this community that continuously shows so much generosity and support. The Buddy Program is very grateful for this spirit of volunteerism in the Roaring Fork Valley, which allows us to continue the work we do for the youth and families in this valley.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### Kickball Isn't Just for the Kids



On 4/9/18 the skies cleared and the temperature warmed to the low 50's for 7 brave pairs to join in the 2nd Annual Buddy Program Kickball Game. The Grid Iron Gang pulled out to a significant early lead. After some creative involvement from the umpire, including making the leading team kick with their non-dominant leg, run with their hands on their head, and sing while running to first base, the Big Red Kicker People brought the

score closer. However, the Grid Iron Gang held onto their lead and claimed the title 22-21. After all the fun during the game, a hungry crew ended the activity with some well deserved dinner. Nothing like a big red rubber ball to bring out the child in Little Buddy and Big Buddy alike!

