



Greetings!

A few years ago, I saw David Shapiro speak at a conference. David is the CEO of MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership. During his speech, David referenced that mentoring has moved from a "nice to have, to a need to have," in communities all over the U.S. That phrase has stuck with me ever since and I like to reference it as I believe it is powerfully accurate.

The Search Institute, a leading organization in studying what youth need to thrive, has found that relationships with caring adults and peers can increase student engagement and improve academic motivation. Furthermore, students with deep connections to adults get better grades, have higher aspirations for the future, and participate in college-prep activities more frequently.

At the Buddy Program we bear witness to these relationships on a daily basis and we know that oftentimes our mentors are that critical link to a youth and family and understanding and supporting the needs they have. As school is back in session, we will see a surge in the number of youth referred to the program in the next 2-3 months. We will get to know new youth through our Outdoor Leadership classes at Basalt High and Middle Schools, Roaring Fork High School and Carbondale Middle School. We will match youth from our wait-list with the Big Buddies we have recruited, screened and trained over the summer and we will reconnect with the youth we saw at Youth Camp and Dream Day Camp. We will train over 50 high school mentors to be leaders in their schools and connect them with youth at the elementary or middle schools from Aspen to Carbondale to mentor weekly.

The Buddy Program is necessary in this community. The relationships we build and cultivate change lives. September is a great time to get involved with us! Join us on Wednesday, September 13 at Koch Park from 5:30 to 7:30 to learn more about how you can become a mentor and be a part of our movement. Thank you, lululemon, for helping to host this event!

With gratitude,

Lindsay H. Lofaro
Executive Director



Join the Buddy Program and lululemon for a free BBQ, beach volleyball, lawn games, and giveaways from lululemon! Bring a friend and get outside to discover more about becoming a Big Buddy!

[Donate now!](#)

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



Elk Mountain Expeditions



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2011
Anne and Clarence Blackwell
& Samantha G.

When: Wednesday, September 13th from 5:30-7:30 PM
Where: Koch Park



MENTEE WAITLIST

Name: Tacha L. Age: 10 Lives in: Basalt

Tacha L. is a 10 year old 4th grade student at Aspen Country Day School. Tacha lives in Basalt with her mother, but before she moved to the valley at age 9, Tacha grew up in Kenya. Tacha is a unique and energetic girl who has traveled extensively, speaks 3 different languages, enjoys horseback riding, snowboarding, and soccer, plays violin and guitar, and enjoys drawing and pottery. Tacha is waiting for the right Mentor who can keep up with her vast sense of adventure and curiosity.



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

WELCOME, KELSEY!

LEAD Program Coordinator

Kelsey jumped feet first into Buddy Program life during the very busy month of July, as LEAD Program Coordinator. She has a vast background in all things outdoors, including experience teaching environmental education. We are excited to have you on the team, Kelsey! To learn more about Kelsey, click [here](#).



MENTEE TRAINING

21 mentees learn about the important role they play in their mentoring relationships

Ainhoa Bujan & Ximena G.

2014

Braulio Jerez & Abraham A.
Wheeler Clancy & Boden H.

2016

Bryan Baker & Nicolas F.
(Pictured)
Kimberly Kurr & Daniella R.



BUDDY PAIRS IN ACTION



Sky S. and Ben Sachdeva tackled Triangle Pass this summer!

STAY CONNECTED:

[#buddyprogramRFV](#)



Join our
mailing list



Visit our
website



Forward to
a Friend



On August 9th, 21 mentees in the Community Program were trained by the Case Managers' team to get the most out of their Mentoring relationship. Mentees often have little or none experience of mentoring and come to the relationship with unrealistic expectations. During this interactive training, mentees became more aware of the many benefits of having a mentor in their lives and the important role that they as a mentee, play in this relationship. The training provides them with the skills they need to drive the process, so they don't lack the confidence, they are more proactive in managing the relationship and engage in and sustain learning dialogue.

Plus, they joined us for a fun filled day with pizza, ice cream and swimming at the Carbondale pool with other mentee friends in the Buddy Program!

LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery)

20 kids from Aspen to Carbondale participated in Dream Day Camp this year



20 campers biked, hiked, rafted, slept in tents, used saws, pulaskis and McClouds while doing trail work, and decorated hats at Dream Day Camp this year! The kids formed strong friendships and it was great to see them come together from up and down the valley. The activities were a huge success and we couldn't have done it without the support of: Art Base, AVSC mountain biking, Elk Mountain Expeditions, and Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Buddy Pairs hit the bumps in Basalt



A small but powerful group of Buddy Pairs had a blast at the Basalt Pump Track led by Jason Cook of AVSC. The Pairs learned the basics of mountain biking and then progressed to the track where skills were put to practice on the roller coaster-like features. Everyone cheered and supported each other while getting a fun dose of adrenaline for the day. This inaugural event was an activity that Big and Little Buddies both enjoyed and we are excited to offer a biking activity again next year!

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

Big Buddy welcomes new baby



Carson Schmitz has been a mentor to Caleb S. with the Buddy Program since 2014. Carson and Caleb share a bond over sports and much of their time together is spent on the ski slopes or cheering each other on at their respective baseball and basketball games. Recently Carson and his wife had their first child, John Schmitz, born on 7/21/17. Carson never doubted for a minute that he would continue as Caleb's mentor despite the birth of his son and the increased demands of time and energy that come with starting a family of one's own. In fact, everyone is looking forward to Caleb, an only child, getting to have the experience of being a "big brother" to John. Thank you to Carson, and all of our Big Buddies with children of their own, who continue to nurture and make the time for their mentoring relationships.