



Annual Report 2024

An impact that ripples across communities and generations.



Dear Supporters,

Mentoring is a concept that goes back thousands of years.

In Homer's *Odyssey*, Mentor was a friend of Odysseus and when he left for the Trojan War, Odysseus placed Mentor in charge of his son. Mentoring has taken many shapes and forms over the years and can be a way to impart wisdom on someone younger or with fewer life experiences in both a formal or informal setting. Many Fortune 500 CEO's point to mentors who helped them succeed by teaching them valuable lessons along their career journeys. Many of us can point to a teacher or a parent or grandparent or even a neighbor who just showed up and helped us along our life journey.

At the Buddy Program, we recognize that not every young person has access to a natural mentor and offer a way of connecting youth to a formal mentor through our 4 programs. Whether the Big Buddy is an adult in the community, a Buddy Program staff member in our LEAD Outdoor Leadership Programs, or a high school Big Buddy in our Peer-to-Peer Programs, **the Buddy Program develops relationships across generational, cultural, and geographic divides to empower youth!** Our programs have been built over 50 years. The Buddy Program received the Gold Badge for the quality of our mentoring through the National Quality Mentoring System in 2019 and has maintained that badge over the last 6 years.

Beyond the number of how many kids, how many mentors, and the number of communities, school partners, donors, and event volunteers, lies the quality of the impact the Buddy Program makes on lives. By formally supporting mentoring relationships we strive for quality day in and day out in our work and without your support, couldn't make the critical and life-changing impact that we do.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to do this work and thank you for being a part of it.



Mark Iola
President of the Board

Katie Goldsmith
Vice President of the Board

Lindsay Lofaro
Executive Director

Brooke Bockelman
Assistant Director

An impact that ripples across communities and generations.

Quick Glance

498 youth participants

111 Adult Big Buddies

16 schools from Aspen to Glenwood Springs

4 mentoring programs

Rifle

Glenwood Springs

Carbondale

El Jebel

Basalt

Snowmass

Aspen

In 2024,

The Buddy Program worked with 498 youth, 111 adult Big Buddies, and 16 schools from Aspen to Glenwood Springs and Rifle through our 4 mentoring programs:

Community-based

A Little Buddy (youth aged 6-18) is matched with a Big Buddy (adult mentor) and they participate in activities of their choice 3-4 times per month.

School-based

A Little Buddy is matched with a Big Buddy and they meet once per week at school during the student's lunch and recess.

Peer-to-Peer

High school students mentor youth at elementary and middle schools.

Karen & Nathan Sandler LEAD (Leadership Through Exploration, Action, And Discovery) Program

A group, experiential mentoring program that supports youth in grades 6-12 to develop social-emotional learning skills through Outdoor Leadership classes at 4 high schools and 6 middle schools, two week-long summer camps, and monthly school-year activities.

More than Mentoring Services

In addition to our 4 mentoring programs, the Buddy Program funded these additional supports and connected youth to the following opportunities in 2024:

172 youth were awarded \$16,730 of funding for extracurricular activities via our Empowerment Scholarship fund

\$5,520 from our Counseling fund supported 6 youth with counseling services

36 families received Holiday Baskets via a partnership with St. Peter's Episcopal Church

1 high school youth received a generous scholarship to travel to Massachusetts for a month-long summer college program with our partners at Student Diplomacy Corps



Sharing our commitment to DEIJ at the Mentor Colorado Summit

Ali Welch, Buddy Program Development Director (left) and Allison Alexander, Aspen Community Foundation (right) host “From Audit to Action: The Power of Asset-Based Language” at the 2024 Colorado Mentoring Summit.

The Colorado Mentoring Summit provides a dynamic forum for mentoring and youth-serving professionals, program leaders, stakeholders, and community members to co-create the future of mentoring for their programs, organizations, and for the statewide mentoring movement at large. The summit highlights best and innovative practices in the field, addressing emerging challenges, and explores how to authentically amplify youth voice.

The Buddy Program was proud to have staff facilitate both a workshop and a round table discussion at the summit.

Development Director Ali Welch, partnered with Aspen Community Foundation’s Director of Strategic Partnerships, Allison Alexander, to host the workshop ***From Audit to Action: The Power of Asset-Based Language***, where they shared insights about how and why language and the word choices we use impact systems and outcomes for communities. They shared the Buddy Program’s language audit process and helped attendees identify the use of deficit-based language within their own organizations and where there might be opportunities for a positive shift. In using asset-based language through a fundraising lens, the group discussed overcoming barriers when

communicating “the need” with donors and grantors, and the importance of carrying forth the organization’s values in everything we do.

Mentoring Program Coordinators, Bri Sanchez and Katie Garcia, facilitated a round table discussion on the importance of screening through the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice lens and strategies to screen and train volunteer mentors. The discussion was also focused on different processes that organizations could mirror to create more inclusive and culturally humble spaces for youth, volunteer mentors, and staff.

We are so grateful to our partners at Mentor Colorado and to all the professionals in the mentoring field who inspired and engaged with us!





Community and School-based Programs

In 2024, following the launch of our expansion to Glenwood Springs in 2023, Buddy Program increased the number of down valley Buddy Pairs, now serving **21** youth who currently live or attend schools in Glenwood Springs within the Community and School-based Programs.

148



Little Buddies (youth mentees) participated in our Community and School-based programs.

44



Opportunities

Combined, the Buddy Program offered 19 free group activities and 25 other free opportunities (such as event tickets) to Buddy Pairs.

Participation Data

Big Buddy Thor and Little Buddy Jaiden enjoying a hands-on moment at the Buddy Program Family Picnic this summer.



Our Big Buddies supported their Little Buddies in some powerful ways in 2024:

100%

of Little Buddies report that their Big Buddy **challenged them to grow**



77%

of Little Buddies report that their Big Buddy **expanded their possibilities:** by trying something new, or connecting them with people/places that broaden their world



96%

of Big Buddies **expressed care** for their Little Buddy by making them feel like they matter



76%

of Big Buddies **provided support** for their Little Buddy by talking about goals/plans for the future



100%

of Big Buddies shared power with their Little Buddy by giving a say in the relationship and making decisions together



Big Buddy Mario and Little Buddy James celebrate their mentoring journey at the Annual Buddy Pair Celebration Dinner held at the Caribou Club.

The Youth Experience...

"By having a Big Buddy, I discovered more of myself that I did not know in one year than in 11 years by myself....My Big Buddy taught me how to love myself just by loving what I do and embracing who I am, my culture, my roots and my values."
- Little Buddy

Since being matched in 2022, Big Buddy Kaitlin and Little Buddy Keyla have shared so many great moments—from ice cream stops to ice skating adventures. Here's to a friendship that keeps growing!



Meet our Community and School-based Big Buddies

A heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Big Buddy volunteers for their unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of young individuals. From shared adventures to deep connections, it's a friendship journey that transcends generations and leaves a lasting impact.

Matched for 10 years

Carson Schmitz
Camilla Cohen

Matched for 9 years

Doug Peate
Melissa Resutko
Ana Rodriguez
Megan Vrono

Matched for 8 years

Alex Tiernan

Matched for 7 years

Erica Borum
Gus Fitzgerald
John Gillies
Megan Ravenscraft

Matched for 6 years

Tucker Burton
Xan Demas
D'aun Hajdu
Kara Lindahl
Austin Mably
Christie Potter
Liz Rovira

Matched for 5 years

Nancy Cohen
Janice Forbes
Kristin Jensen
Peter Westcott

Matched for 4 years

Melanie Colvin
Alex Costa
Raychelle Doane
Katie Goldsmith
Jill Gruenberg
Jeff Hansen
Jaila Jafarabadi
Lucy Marolt
Brenna Young
Vangel Yurukov

Matched for 3 years

Quinn Donnelly
Cam Daniel
Roger Marolt
Holly Upper
Jared Kaplan
Lauren Kaufman
Kim McHale Baillargeon
Katrin Luyten
Teresa Hall
Seth Beers
Debbie Kadota
Shawna Todd
Brenda Stockdale
Ashley Stahl
Natalie Garrett
Karla Stukey
Meredith Berman
Zach Benevento-Zahner
Grayson Rutherford

Matched for 2 years

Michael Benge
Roberta Darcy
Margot Ellis
Kasey Furlong
Nate Gillette
Amanda Grimsted
Jaclyn Hoyer
Kendall Kraus
Lindsay Lofaro
Jennifer Mason
Engie Penalzo
Kaitlin Roos

Matched for 1 year

Dan Andersen
Luis Arce
Deb Bauer
Lindsay Bischoff
Taylor Comstock
Charley Fields
Mark Fisher
Michael Fox
Marlin Gonzalez
Harry Graham
Jami Hayes
Liz Heller
Elaina Jackson
Thor Knutson
Mike Lewis
Ashley McIntyre
Sam Merrill

Matched for 1 year cont.

Mark Meschner
Lorna Petersen
Ana Quiceno
Edlin Rodriguez
Wes Stokes
Haley Ann Turner
Carl Uyehara
Annie Uyehara
Megan Verros
Mike Waters

Matched in 2024

Roger Berliner
Craig Burger
Luisa Canton
Michael Carlson
Sylvia Castorena
Samuel Demas
Grace Donner
Jennifer Ellsperman
Laurel Fox
Daniela Gonzalez
Mario Gutierrez
Jared Kaplan
Veronica Lopez
Brittany Myers
Megan Nieslanik
Brenda Oliver
Briana Sanchez
Alysha Spear

Matched in 2024 cont.

Annie Uyehara
Colin Wagoner
Megan Webber
Ginny West
June Yamaguchi



Big Buddy Mike and Little Buddy Zani wasted no time diving into new adventures together! From outdoor adventures to exploring the community, this Buddy Pair is off to an amazing start.



Peer-to-Peer Program

During the 2023-2024 school year



Big Buddies

Little Buddies

8 partner schools (4 high schools, 3 elementary, 1 middle)



Caring and consistent High School Big Buddies developed leadership, accountability, and communication skills while mentoring Little Buddies in a structured space supervised by Buddy Program staff weekly throughout the school year.

New in 2024!

January of 2024 saw the launch of our first-ever Peer-to-Peer program in Glenwood Springs, with volunteers from Glenwood Springs High School mentoring youth at Sopris Elementary School.

Participation Data

Meet our Peer-to-Peer Big Buddies

Thank You to our 2023-2024 school year Big Buddy volunteers from Aspen, Basalt, Roaring Fork and Glenwood Springs high schools:

Aspen High School Big Buddies to youth at Aspen Elementary

Luke A.	Stella L.	Mykenzie R.
Oliver A.	Camilla M.	Lindsay W.
Jack B.	Watson M.	
Eleanor C.	Mia M.	
Josie C.	Alyson O.	
Sydney K.	Sophia P.	

Basalt High School Big Buddies to youth at Basalt Middle School

Oscar A.	Joel G.	Camila M.
Ana C.	Hayley H.	Luis M.
Jennifer C.	Madeline I.	Herberth R.
Laelia G.	Samantha J.	Lorenzo S.
Jack G.	Dominik K.	Katya S.
Dayana G.	Max L.	

Roaring Fork High School Big Buddies to youth at Crystal River Elementary School

Angie A.	Ellie K.	Maggie R.
Ramona B.	Bryan M.	Lexy S.
Noah B.	Yuli N.	Ella S.
Jackelyne H.	Maeve R.	Mariana T.
Sam J.		

Glenwood Springs High School Big Buddies to youth at Sopris Elementary School

Antoinette B.	Mariah G.	Luis O.
Karina C.	David G.	Ximena P.
Jennifer C.	Sofia H.	Dacil R.
Oswaldo C.	Noel M.	Kendall V.
Andry G.	William M.	Allison W.



The Peer-to-Peer Program empowers youth to build friendships and leadership skills by learning from and supporting one another.

Authentic Engagement

Engaging youth authentically is proven as one of the greatest ways to influence their positive social-emotional growth.

Our Big and Little Buddies reported the following about the authentic engagement they experienced during Peer-to-Peer in 2023-2024:

93% of Little Buddies felt mentors and adults in Peer-to-Peer took time to really understand them and their lives outside the program

95% of Big Buddies felt that when they shared their thoughts and opinions at Peer-to-Peer, their ideas were valued

The Youth Experience...

"Helping others gives me a sense of purpose, and it's exciting to be part of their journey. I love being a role model and being able to make that connection with a younger kid."

- Peer-to-Peer Big Buddy

Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Program (Leadership Through Exploration, Action, and Discovery)

Participation Data

171  youth served (school year 2023-2024 and summer of 2024)

 **19,022**
combined hours spent in programming

43 nights under the stars 

110  days spent outdoors (rain, shine or snow)



Outdoor Leadership (Middle School)

A year-long extracurricular opportunity for 7th and 8th grade participants who participate in 2, 3-day outdoor experiences and single-day outings and meet monthly at their schools. Offered at Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Riverview, and Rifle Middle Schools.



Outdoor Leadership (High School)

A school-day class earning high school and Colorado Mountain College credit through participation in single-day and multi-day field trips and classroom lessons. Offered at Basalt, Glenwood Springs, Roaring Fork, and Rifle High Schools.



Youth Camp (High School)

A 5-day summer camp that builds a respectful overnight camp environment and explores outdoor activities in Moab, Utah.



Dream Day Camp (Middle School)

A 5-day summer camp in the Roaring Fork Valley with hands-on activities including art projects, hiking, ropes course, rafting, and one overnight campout.

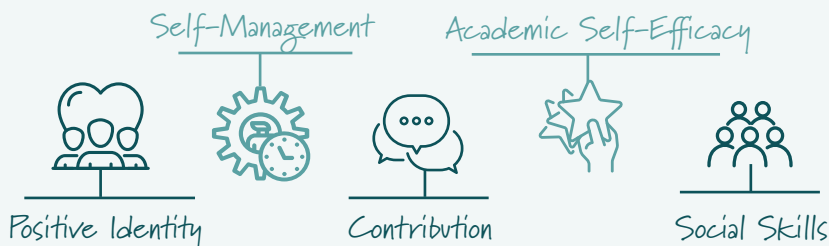
The Youth Experience...

"My favorite part of the Outdoor Leadership Program was that we all became a family. The leadership skill that I'm taking with me is not to tell people what to do but to always include others."

- LEAD Participant

Learning Successes

We measure youth participants' success in five Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) capacities:



96% of LEAD participants succeeded in 1 of these SEL capacities

85% succeeded in 2 of these SEL capacities

73% succeeded in 3 of these SEL capacities

Donor Circle

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to offer all of our programs and services at no cost to all the youth, families, volunteers, and schools we work with.

\$100,000 +

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Max Simon Charitable Foundation
Gail and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass

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Mentoring goes the distance

Discover how our Community-based Buddy Pairs make an impact that ripples across communities and generations.

Meet Mark and Jhostine, a Buddy Pair originally matched in Carbondale. When Jhostine's family moved to Snowmass, the distance didn't stop them—it gave them more opportunities to explore and continue in their mentoring journey.

"At first, I thought it would be challenging to stay connected with Jhostine after he moved further away. While it's taken a bit more coordination, it has opened up even more opportunities for us—so many new places to explore and ways to connect." - Big Buddy Mark



Mark and Jhostine live 27 miles apart now

Mark and Jhostine are 49 years apart!

"I like being paired with my Big Buddy Mark because he knows a lot about a lot of things. He has many stories to share with me and he knows everyone. It's always fun to hear his stories and meet new people when we are out together." - Little Buddy Jhostine

New in 2024

Making a lasting impact for communities and generations to come through planned giving

Planned giving is a powerful way to leave a lasting impact on the youth, families and volunteer mentors the Buddy Program works with. By including the Buddy Program in your estate plans, you ensure that future generations continue to benefit from meaningful mentorship, support and connection.

Whether through a bequest in your will, gifts of stock, real estate, life insurance, or charitable trusts, your generosity helps sustain and grow our programs for years to come.

With a planned gift, you can make a difference beyond your lifetime while also receiving potential tax benefits. It's a simple yet profound way to create a legacy of community strength through fostering meaningful connections and providing youth with access to unique opportunities.

We invite you to join our Legacy Buddies and be a part of shaping the future for generations to come!

To learn more about how you can leave a lasting impact, contact Ali Welch, Development Director, by email: ali@buddyprogram.org or phone: (970)658-8708.

A Gift That Ripples Across Communities and Generations

This year, we are honored to recognize Mona Look-Mazza and Tony Mazza as the Buddy Program's **first Legacy Buddies**.

As the Buddy Program continues to thrive, we're excited to share the story behind Mona and Tony's impactful decision to become our first donors for planned giving. Their thoughtful perspectives highlight how mentoring can create lasting change.

Mona Look-Mazza and Tony Mazza celebrating at the Bash for the Buddies. Their support for the Buddy Program spans 25 years, making a lasting impact in our community.



Behind the Donation - A Q&A with Mona Look-Mazza

Why do you choose to support the Buddy Program?

"There is no better program in this valley that helps to support mentorship and life-enriching experiences for local youth. The program enables kids to develop social skills with their peers, interaction with adults and ways to build their self confidence through fun experiences which they may not have otherwise.

The Buddy Program has a track record that has proven their successes!"

What legacy do you hope to leave through planned giving to the Buddy Program?

"In my heart, I have always known the importance of mentoring and nurturing children so that they may, one day, be active participants themselves in assisting the next generation to be loving, giving and responsible individuals. I suppose I want to leave a legacy on the importance of mentorship and positive transformation for generations of young people. I have been very fortunate in my life and want to pay it forward to the charity that, I believe, will benefit our communities for generations!"

What would you say to others considering planned giving?

"Planned giving is a critical way which enables us to leave a lasting impact on our valley's youth by ensuring that they will receive necessary mentorship, support and life changing experiences. Planned giving allows us the ability to inspire positive change and create a stronger community by empowering youth for future generations."

Taking a moment to relax by the creek after a day of snowshoeing at Sylvan Lake State Park. LEAD Program students gained new skills, made friends, and enjoyed the outdoors together.

Online Auction Donors and Gifts In-Kind

10th Mountain Division Hut Association
Andalusia Country Club
Anna Zuckerman Luxury, LLC
Aspen Babysitting and Nanny Company
Aspen Expeditions
Aspen Golf Club
Aspen Music Festival & School
Aspen Rent All
Aspen Skiing Company
Aspen Vida Medi Spa
ASPENX
Barton Perreira
Basalt Bike & Ski
BEACH+PINE
Belly Up
Belmont Clean
Betula
BOSQ Aspen
Brexii Brasserie
Bristlecone Mountain Sports
Cache Cache Bistro
Camp Smash Box
Canyon Ranch
Caribou Club
Catch Steak
Christopher Martin Gallery
Claggett Rey Gallery
Clark's Market
Gail and David Cohen
Consuela
Denis Organization
dirt. Service Center
EcoFlight
Element Hotel
Elk Mountain Expeditions
Elliott Yeary Gallery
Enstrom's Toffee
Entourage Rose

European Catering
Eye Pieces of Snowmass
French Alpine Bistro
Fusion Design & Catering, Inc.
Garden of the Gods Resort and Club
Gems of Aspen
Gibson Guitars
Glow Aspen
Gorsuch
Guadalupe Laiz
Hayes Silver
Henneberger
High Camp Flasks
Amanda and Bret Hirsh
Hoffmann Hotel
Hooch Craft Cocktail Bar
Hotel Jerome
Hotel Teatro
Inspirato
Ironbridge Golf Club
Jack Sutton Fine Jewelry
Jay's Valet
Jazz Aspen Snowmass
Jing
Kendra Scott
Kenichi
Kissing Tree Golf Club
Kuhl
La Pastaiola
Lakota Links
Leshem Loft
Lindsey Thornburg
Lugano
Lulubelle Clothing
Maroon Bell Outdoor
Meat & Cheese
Meridian Jewelers
Miron Crosby

Misstyx
Mollie Aspen
Morgan Brown
Nautilus Puzzles
Neurospa
Niyol Jewelry
Nuages
Paradise Bakery
Paragon Systems Integration
PARC Aspen
POC Sports
Quality Brands of the Rockies
Raven Gallery
Red Hill Animal Health Center
Revo
River Valley Ranch
Royal Oaks Country Club
Sant Ambroeus
Sherry Achi Skin Therapy Clinic
Sopris Fishing Outfitters, LLC
St. Regis Aspen Resort
Steakhouse No. 316
Stio
Strafe Outerwear
Susan and Bob Brown
Sway Restaurant
Tammie Lane
TaylorMade Golf Co
The Collective
The Gant
The Woods Fine Jewelry
Tindallskye Designs
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Tuesday Foods
Andrew Turchin, DMD
Viceroy Snowmass
Viewline Resort Snowmass
W Aspen

Community Partners In 2024

10th Mountain Huts
5point Film Festival
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
Aspen Elementary School
Aspen Family Connections
Aspen High School
Aspen Middle School
Aspen Recreation Center
Aspen School District
Aspen Science Center
Aspen Skiing Company
Aspen Valley Land Trust
Basalt Bike & Ski
Basalt Elementary School
Basalt High School
Basalt Middle School
Basalt Pool
Big Wrap
Blazing Adventures
Bureau of Land Management, Moab, UT
Carbondale Arts
Carbondale Clay Center
Carbondale Middle School
Carbondale Rodeo
Caribou Club
CC's Cafe
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado National Monument
Crystal River Elementary School
Daly Diner
Desert Mountain Medicine
Dinosaur National Monument
Dos Gringos Burritos
EcoFlight
El Bajon

Family Resource Center of
the Roaring Fork Schools
Four Mountain Sports
Frida Authentic Mexican Restaurant
Garfield County Outdoors
Garfield School District RE-2
Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
Glenwood Springs Elementary School
Glenwood Springs High School
Glenwood Springs Hot Springs Pool
Glenwood Springs Middle School
Glenwood Springs Recreation
Community Center
Grateful Deli
Honey Butter
Iron Mountain Hot Springs
Jazz Aspen Snowmass
Jimmy John's of Glenwood Springs
Kaleidoscoops & The Chocolate Moose
Kidtoons Productions
Live Loud Tshirt Company
Manaus
Moab Canyon Pizza Company
Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center
Navtec
Paradise Bakery
Peppino's Pizza
Phat Thai
Rifle High School
Rifle Middle School
Riverview School
Roaring Fork Conservancy
Roaring Fork High School
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
Roaring Fork School District

Silver Circle Ice Rink & Mini Golf
Slow Groovin' BBQ
Snowmass Recreation Center
Snowmass Village Rodeo
Sol Theatre
Sopris Elementary School
Summit For Life
Sundae
Sunlight Ski Resort
Sure Thing Burger
Sweet Coloradough
TACAW
The Art Base
The Collective
The Hope Center
The Painted Pig
The Puoux
Theatre Aspen
Third Street Center
Tippy Trout
Town of Carbondale
Town of Carbondale Recreation & Pool
Two Rivers Community School
United States Forest Service, Manti La Sal
Village Smithy
Wheeler Opera House
White House Pizza
White Water Rafting LLC
Wilderness Workshop
WindWalkers
Winter X Games

Mentoring happens in all kinds of places

Discover how our LEAD Program makes an impact that ripples across communities and generations.

Every summer, our LEAD Program brings youth together from every corner of the valley to create unforgettable outdoor experiences at Youth Camp and Dream Day Camp—bridging communities and generations while fostering a love for adventure and the outdoors.

Youth Camp brings together high school youth in grades 9-12 from across the Roaring Fork Valley—including Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, and Rifle for a week-long adventure in Moab, UT.

Dream Day Camp brings together middle school youth in grades 6-8 from across 80 miles, stretching from Aspen to Glenwood Springs and Rifle, for a local week-long adventure.

Rifle

"The Buddy Program has made me more outgoing and more comfortable within myself by offering these wonderful experiences where I can challenge myself and grow."
- Youth Camp Participant



"Thank you Buddy Program. Saxton was exhausted from amazing outdoor adventures each day and made some new friendships. Thank you for providing this camp to the RFV."
- Parent of a Dream Day Camp participant



National Council Members

Donors who give \$3,000 or more are recognized as members of our National Council

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Daniel Abrutyn
Dakota Badia
Connie and Buddy Bates
Erin and Doug Becker
Donna Brittingham and Brian Sears
Susan and Robert Brown
Susan Capiel and Tom Cooper
Ruth Carver
Amy and John Charters
Lauren and David Chazen
Mary and Adam Cherry
Tom Clark
Sarah Clark and Mark Iola
Clough Family Foundation
Ashley and Wes Cole
Mike Connolly
GeneAnne and Kurt Culbertson
Kendall and Garrett Dalton
Tony DiLucia Jr.
Double Diamond Moving and Storage
Amy Elias and Richard Pearlstone
Josh Elkes
Muriel and John Eulich
Idit and Moti Ferder
Barbara Fleck
Gina Berko and David Fleisher
Forum Phi
Anna Itenberg and James Fosnaught
Karen and Jim Frank
Anna and Matt Freedman

Ed Freedman
Golda and Shelly Friedstein
Jessica and John Fullerton
Molly and Will Gilmore
Katie and Adam Goldsmith
Laurie and Dirk Gosda
Lindsay and Mark Gould
Tracy and King Grant
Katie and Remington Green
Jeff Grinspoon and Jon Foley
Amanda and Bret Hirsh
Charlie Hopton
Annie and Gerald Hosier
Soledad and Bob Hurst
Mary and Tom James
Peggy and Eric Johnson
Laura and Mike Kaplan
Randy and Ken Kendrick
Melony and Adam Lewis
Warren Lichtenstein
Susan and Roger Marolt
Jennifer and Joe Mason
Mona Look-Mazza and Tony Mazza
Max Simon Foundation
MBS Associates
Susan and Lee McIntire
Becky and Mike Murray
Annie and Michael Murray
Kelli and Allen Questrom
Mary Rippy, Foundation for a Stable Childhood
Madelyn Rosenthal
Lisa Rothblum
Alex and Gunnar Sachs

Karen and Nathan Sandler
Clare and Marius Sanger
Agnes Sarns
Lorraine and Mark Schapiro
Kaye Scoggin and Lewis LeClair
Clare Evert-Shane and Steven Shane
Yasmin and Jeffrey Simon
Erika and Karim Souki
Angie and Gary Stewart
Cresta and Travis Stewart
Billy Stolz
Nicole and Lex Tarumianz
Nicole and Jason VandeBoom
Linda Vitti Herbst
Jeanne and Ned Walker
Soffia Wardy and Pepper Weinglass
Peter Kraus
Ginny and Will Weathers
Gail and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass
Karen Wing
Tamara and Frank Woods



Typical Peer-to-Peer activities include interactive sessions designed to build connections, playing games, and doing art projects. School counselors and school district staff report happier, more engaged, and better-focused students.



National Council Members benefit from first-to-know event tickets, celebrations throughout the year and a dedicated, quarterly newsletter.



Buddy Program's Annual National Council Reception - A thank you to our dedicated annual supporters.

Every year, we are thrilled to celebrate the support of our National Council Members. In 2024, the National Council Reception brought together some of the most generous and influential individuals dedicated to advancing the mission of the Buddy Program. Hosted at the home of Amanda and Brett Hirsh, the event featured an inspiring highlight—a special speaker who shared his journey from being a Little Buddy many years ago to now serving as a Big Buddy in our Community-based Program.

Signature Events

East Coast Asset Management, Mike Connolly, Aspen Presents the 38th Annual Boogie's Buddy Race, July 4, 2024

The 38th Annual Boogie's Buddy Race kicked off bright and early at Rio Grande Park, bringing together runners of all ages and abilities. Participants took on the classic 5-mile course, the 5K run, and the beloved 1-mile family fun run. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, this year's race raised over \$75,000 to benefit the Buddy Program!



The 25th Annual Bash for the Buddies, July 6, 2024

Generously hosted once again by Gail and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass at their spectacular Merry-Go-Ranch, the Bash for the Buddies embraced a Wild Wild West theme with Boots, Buckles, and Buddies.

Over 300 guests donned their western best for a night of celebration, community, and support for youth mentoring.



Photo Credit: Nik House Media

The Buddy Classic Golf Tournament at Ironbridge Golf Course

The second annual "Buddy Classic" Golf Tournament held at Ironbridge Golf Course in Glenwood Springs welcomed guests to a stunning day of golfing, all in support of the Buddy Program.

With over 80 golfers participating, the course buzzed with camaraderie and competition. A day marked not only by friendly competition but also by the shared commitment to making a positive impact on the lives youth in our community.



Signature Events

12th Annual Gingerbread House Workshop & Reception

Hosted by: Molly Gilmore, Amanda Hirsh, Jennifer Mason, Dana Presutti, Nicole VandeBoom and Karen Wing. With special thanks to Helen DeFrance for her 10 years of service, and the creation of this event!

This beloved annual Workshop brought over 160 Buddy Program participants together to decorate their gingerbread houses! We sold over 200 kits to generous community members to support this important fundraiser. Thanks to our sponsors and patrons, the Buddy Program raised over \$125,000 through this effort.



A special thank you to the St. Regis Hotel for hosting our Gingerbread House Workshop!



A special thank you to Lugano Diamonds for hosting our Sponsor Reception this year!



New in 2024! Buddy Program's Noche de Lotería

Noche de Lotería, a traditional Mexican board game similar to bingo, but more than just a game—it's a vibrant tradition that brings people together, celebrating the rich tapestry of Hispanic heritage. This lively, family-friendly event was a night of fun, connection, and cultural appreciation.

Around 100 guests of all ages enjoyed a free evening filled with Lotería, a delicious Latin-inspired dinner, refreshing drinks, and a supervised children's area.



The Parent Experience...

"The impact (of the Buddy Program) just can't be put into words what it's brought to my family. Because I can take a step back, and know that my kids are safe and with people who will take care of them, and give them these experiences. Just the social impact alone, meeting other people who are in a similar boat, has created a sense of community where I just felt very alone for a long time." - Parent of two youth in the Community-based Program

Signature Events



Leadership Development Board's Summer Celebrate + Connect

As a way to introduce more young professionals to the work of the Buddy Program, our Leadership Development Board hosted the Summer Celebrate + Connect. A big thanks to hosts Gail and David Cohen and the many food and drink vendors who donated their products!

Pitkin County Dry Goods Annual Holiday Local's Sale

We were thrilled to partner again with Pitkin County Dry Goods with an in-store event in December where 10% of all proceeds supported the Buddy Program!



Aspen Smile Month

Thank you to Gina and Andrew Turchin, DMD for their continued support through the Aspen Smile Month initiative. During the month of September, Dr. Turchin donated 10% of proceeds to the Buddy Program.



Aspen Institute's Society of Fellows

We partnered with the Aspen Institute's Society of Fellows to bring local leaders together for an inspiring conversation on philanthropy's role in community building. The evening honored Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass, celebrating his generosity and impact, while insightful discussions highlighted the power of connection in strengthening our communities.

Mentoring goes the distance

Discover how our Community-based Program makes an impact that ripples across communities and generations.

First paired in Aspen, Siersha's family relocated to Willits, but Lorna and Siersha's connection remains strong. As a mentor and friend, Lorna has become a trusted adult and a meaningful part of Siersha's family. Her story captures the heart of mentoring—a bond that builds confidence, brings joy, and makes a lasting impact.

"My Little Buddy brings me so much joy and happiness, and it truly goes both ways. Since she lives down valley, it takes a bit more planning, but we make it work to see each other once a week." - Big Buddy Lorna

Lorna and Siersha are 59 years apart!

Big Buddy Lorna

Little Buddy Siersha

Lorna and Siersha live 22 miles apart



Financials

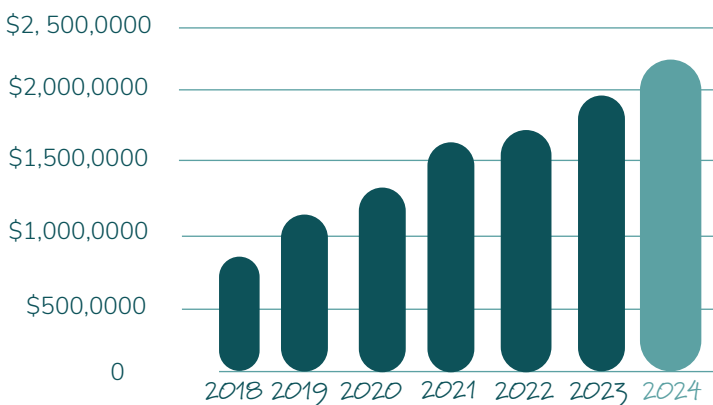
2024 marked the first full year of our program growth and expansion in Glenwood Springs. After successfully completing our 50th Anniversary Impact Campaign in 2023, pledges and collected revenues will allow us to work in Glenwood Springs through mid-2026. We made strides towards further fundraising and developing more donors in 2024 to support the sustainability of all of our work. We are continuing to actively fundraise specifically for Glenwood-based Programs in order to stretch these dollars as far as possible.

In 2024 the Buddy Program's income exceeded expenses by approximately \$45,000 in our general fund. This slight surplus was due to individual giving exceeding budget. All direct program expenses were lower than budgeted. The Buddy Program maintains a reserve fund in investment accounts and the Board of Directors directs staff to add any surplus funds at year-end to this fund. The numbers below have not been audited; audited financial statements can be requested or found at www.buddyprogram.org.

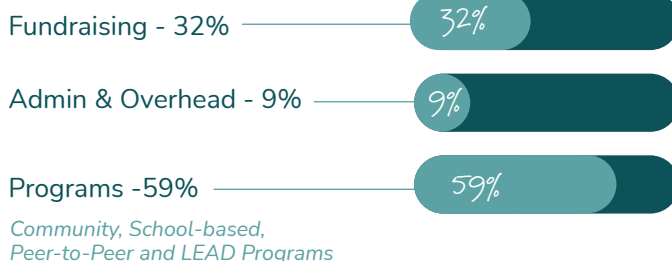
The Buddy Program's reserve fund is invested in mutual funds and as of December 31, 2024 had a balance of \$2,237,957, an increase of 14% over the balance at year-end 2023.

2024 Reserve Fund Balance

(As of December 31 of each year)



2024 Organizational Expenses



2024 Highlights



The Buddy Program continues to provide all programs and services at no cost to our youth, families and volunteers

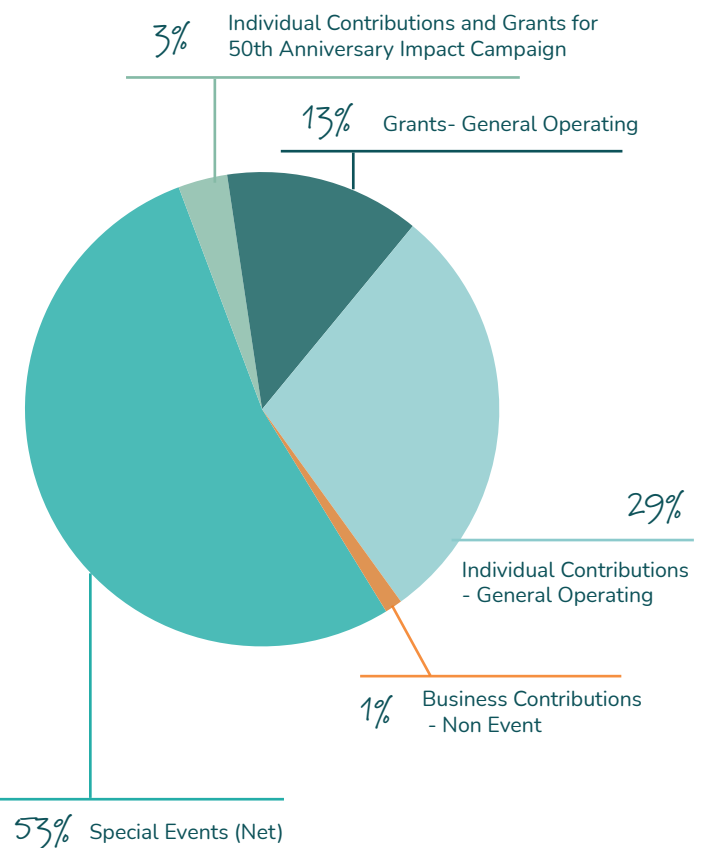
Individual giving through non-event revenue exceeded \$700,000 versus \$372,500 budgeted

All program areas came in under budget thanks to thoughtful and careful planning and partnerships throughout the community

Grants income exceeded budget

The organization held its first "Noche de Lotería" event based on the beloved Mexican Bingo game, inviting sponsors and community members to support and learn more about our work in the community

2024 Organization Income



Mentoring knows no age

Discover how our Peer-to-Peer Program makes an impact that ripples across communities and generations.



Meet Noah, a high school student, and his Little Buddy, Jesse, who both live in the same community. Despite being 8 years apart, Noah has been Jesse's Big Buddy for the past three years in our Peer-to-Peer Program.

Their strong, lasting connection shows that mentoring knows no age, and that even young mentors can make a huge impact in their community!

"What I like most about having a younger Buddy is that I get to see him growing up. We have very similar interests and I see my young self in him a lot."

At first I was able to tell that we were both nervous but now after 3 years it just feels like we are hanging out with a friend. Being part of the Buddy Program's Peer-to-Peer Program is something that I look forward to every week"

- Big Buddy Noah

Rifle

Staff and Board

2024 Program Staff

Lindsay Lofaro, Executive Director
Jennifer Balmes, Marketing and Communications Manager
Jared Berman, LEAD Program Coordinator
Brooke Bockelman, Assistant Director
Alex Braiedy, LEAD Program Coordinator
John Brasier, LEAD Program Director
Ainhoa Buján, Mentoring Program Director
Mindi Cabe, Grants and Data Manager
Sylvia Castorena, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Katie Garcia, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Stacy Grimm, Mentor Support and Activities Manager
Adam King, LEAD Program Coordinator
Blanca Lara, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Molly O'Leary, Events Manager
Hannah Racette, LEAD Program Coordinator
Andrea Ring, Recruitment & Mentoring Program Coordinator
Bri Sanchez, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Laura Seay, Community Relations Manager
Teresa Hackbarth, Business and Events Manager
Ali Welch, Development Director
Andrew Zakerski, Development Coordinator

Arabella Gutches, Summer Volunteer
Lupita Ortiz, Summer Intern

2024 Board of Directors

Mark Iola, President,
Katie Goldsmith, Vice President
Jenny Elliot Treasurer
Erin Becker, Secretary
Wes Cole
Mike Connolly
Jenny Elliot
Bailey Everhart
James Fosnaught
Adam Goldsmith
Amanda Hirsh
Alexandra Hughes

Roger Marolt
Jennifer Mason
Becky Murray
Dana Presutti
Erika Souki
Gail Weinglass
Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass,
Chairman

2024 Leadership Development Board

Bailey Everhart, President
Tyler Barletta
Wheeler Clancy
Kendall Dalton
Lane Johnson
Tony Mendez
Lauren Myatt
Chris Striefel
Brenna Young
Olivia Nobbs

Our commitment

We value, celebrate, and consciously cultivate diversity as we strive to achieve equity through the power of mentoring.



Scan to learn more about Buddy Program's road map towards equity



The Buddy Program empowers youth through mentoring experiences to achieve their full potential.

We envision a thriving community in which all members are supported and connected through meaningful relationships and experiences to achieve success.

