

Fall 2016

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."
-Ronald Reagan

Grand County School District



The Importance of One

Psychologists have long understood a child's emotional and economic prospects dramatically improve if there is one thing present in his life: a positive connection with an adult.

Some children simply do not enjoy a ready supply of natural mentors at home or in their neighborhood.

Parents may work two or three jobs. Sometimes a parent has passed away, a child lives far from other family members, or a home situation is uncertain. Children may face learning disabilities, have attendance problems, or struggle with poor social skills. Often, an unfair burden of bad luck weighs on them and their family.

It seems almost too simple to be true, but the relationship itself is the intervention.

A disproportionate number of children in Grand County lack the one-on-one attention needed to thrive. Grand Area Mentoring provides youth with carefully trained mentors who meet with them weekly. The results are unequivocal.

In her Moab Times-Independent column, Antje Rath, clinical mental health counselor at Moab Regional Hospital, wrote: "behavior problems decrease and

[mentored] children are more socially involved. Their self-esteem improves and their risk for long-term mental health and behavioral problems decreases."

It seems almost too simple to be true, but...

Continued on reverse.

Impacts of mentoring

Thanks to your support, we provided mentoring to a record 90 youth last year. Since July 2016, we've already served 65 matches, reaching full program capacity faster than ever. Please join us in 2017 as we strive to surpass our 2015/2016 results:



77% of mentored youth got in less trouble



70% of mentored youth got better grades



95% of teachers agreed that mentored youth missed less school

We ask that you renew your pledge to support Grand Area Mentoring in 2017. Every dollar will be used to change at-risk children's lives; specifically, your tax-deductible gift will supply mentoring materials to volunteers and students; provide presenters for advanced mentor trainings; compensate staff; cover field trip fees and transportation costs; perform national FBI background checks; and market for the recruitment of volunteers.

Send your gift to: Grand Area Mentoring,
264 South 400 East, Moab, UT 84532.

Top Partners:

George S. & Dolores Doré
Eccles Foundation

Grand County School
District

Laurie Michaels & David
Bonderman

Jennifer Speers

Grand County Education
Foundation

Four Corners Community
& Behavioral Health

Beacon Afterschool
Program

Red Cliffs Lodge

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Foundation of UT

Moab Points and Pebbles
Club

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www.AWebStudio.com

Grand Area Mentoring

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Next Mentor Orientation:

Please call for time and location. 435-260-9646

About GrandAM...

In May, Grand Area Mentoring will conclude its eleventh year of service. The program is generously funded by the Grand County School District, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Jennifer Speers, Laurie Michaels & David Bonderman, Four Corners, the Carl George Bjorkman Foundation, Grand Co. Education Foundation, Red Cliffs Lodge, and many other kind organizations, partners, and donors.

Adult mentors meet with students in one-on-one settings to encourage growth and bolster self-confidence. Their weekly sessions sometimes include board games, basketball, and computers. Other matches pursue crafts, reading, and talking about life. Under GrandAM's care, mentors and students seek activities that are mutually enjoyable and enriching.

Grand Area Mentoring creates lasting and fruitful relationships using an evidence-based approach. New volunteers are trained in mentoring best practices and always supported with regular staff contact. Volunteers offer one meeting per week and receive the satisfaction of positively impacting a life forever.

Importance (continued)

the relationship itself is the intervention. Positive social interaction reduces stress and shared experiences help the children learn new skills.

Rath writes: "Mentees frequently talk about the importance that the mentoring time and their mentor have in their lives. They are looking forward to going to school on their mentoring days. Children feel heard and understood, which is a crucial part of healthy development."

Indeed, it is next to impossible for a child to forge a fulfilling future without the guidance and support of responsible adults. The good news: Grand Area

Mentoring's volunteer team provides assistance to promising youth every week. The program supported 90 matches last year, a substantial number for a community of Moab's size. Grand Area Mentoring's average match length is more than 300% better than the national average, an indicator of program health.

For children who lack one-on-one attention, those likely to fail and carry on dysfunction, Grand Area Mentoring fills a void. It fills that void with a kind-hearted, responsible adult.

For more about the program: 435-260-9646 or grandareamentoring@gmail.com

The Promise of Professional Mentoring

In September 2015, Grand Area Mentoring started a pilot project in partnership with Four Corners Community & Behavioral Health, GE Capital Bank, the Community Foundation of Utah, and Fifth Ocean Consulting. The project aimed to expand mentoring service to children who would have otherwise languished on a waiting list due to anti-social behavior, disability, or age exceeding the normal range for new mentoring relationships. The program matched a superb paid

mentor with these students. By the end of year one, the Veteran Mentor Pilot Project had outperformed all objectives; seven of Grand County School District's highest risk students matched with the mentor improved in behavior or school performance. These findings suggest great potential in guidance from a professional mentor. With the help of supporters and visionaries, Grand Area Mentoring aims to expand this project over the coming years. To learn more, call: 435-260-9646.

Who needs a cape



when everything

you do already says... Hero?