

Fall 2018

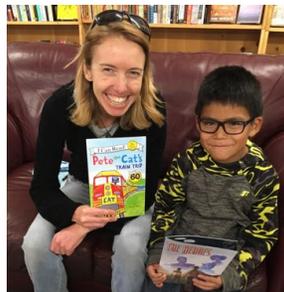
Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to
kneel and kiss the ground.” –Rumi

Grand County School District



The Best of Both Worlds

At first glance, school-based mentoring is the perfect design to support children in Moab. Young mentees thrive under the care of their mentors. Other students regularly approach program staff to ask, “Can I have a mentor?” They see their at-risk peers spend time with kind adults – shooting hoops, solving Rubik’s cubes, doing science fair projects, playing Life, reading, sewing, and cooking. Mentoring is cool, a coveted privilege. Youth engagement never stagnates at the elementary school, and that’s why many more children want to be mentored than the program can (or should) enroll.

Then adolescence arrives. With puberty, teens embark on a delicate journey toward autonomy. Naturally, they begin reaching for independence and a sense of identity that looks more adult-like. Hanging out with an

adult at school isn’t as comfortable as it once was. Students sense a shift in themselves and become more sensitive to the judgment of maturing classmates. The forces of social and emotional development often derail school-based mentoring because *place* matters a great deal.

Rather than cutting these vulnerable teens adrift in adolescence, Grand Area Mentoring seeks to sustain relationships through what often proves to be a difficult and defining period – middle school and high school. The support of mentors can be even more important than it was in early childhood.

To capitalize on the momentum created in elementary school, Grand Area Mentoring

(Continued on reverse)

The Art of Mentoring

Mentors and students will tap into their inner Picasso to produce art for Grand Area Mentoring’s online auction in January. From January 10th to the 31st, supporters can bid on creative masterpieces by Moab matches. All proceeds will help the program provide activity supplies, sports equipment, and match support. Traditional avenues to buoy mentoring in Moab still exist – in-kind, cash, or volunteering – but this is a unique way to own a piece of mentoring! Visit our website in January. :)



Major Partners:

George S. & Dolores Doré
Eccles Foundation

Grand County School
District

Laurie Michaels & David
Bonderman

Jennifer Speers

Grand County Education
Foundation

Red Cliffs Lodge

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www.AWebStudio.com

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Jeff Babik

Next Mentor Orientation:
Call **435-260-9646**.

About GrandAM...

This is Grand Area Mentoring's fourteenth year of service. The program is generously funded by Grand County School District, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Jennifer Speers, Laurie Michaels & David Bonderman, the Carl George Bjorkman Foundation, Grand Co. Education Foundation, Red Cliffs Lodge, The Synergy Company, 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.

Gratitude Is Good

This fall, Grand Area Mentoring introduced a program-wide project called the Gratitude & Kindness Checklist. With the help and encouragement of mentors, mentees will complete a number of tasks that cultivate habits of appreciation and generosity. They create thank you cards (like the one pictured at right), spontaneously help strangers, practice sharing with fellow mentees, thank their mentors without prompting, help their teachers, and reflect on the good things of life. Eckhart Tolle said, "Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance." Way to go Moab mentees!

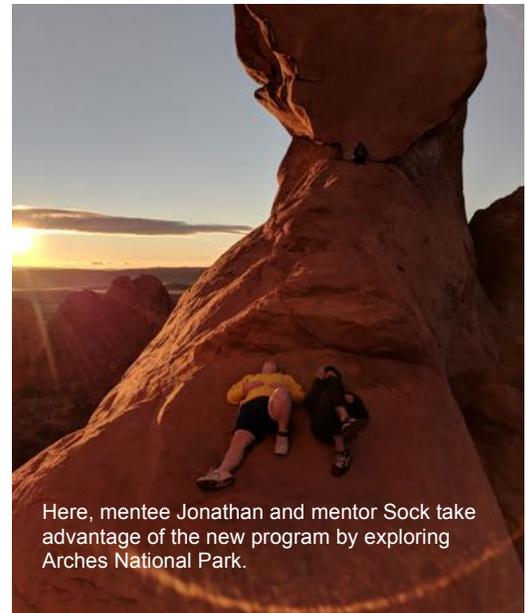


Best of Both *(continued from front)*

now allows veteran volunteers & adolescents to engage in one-on-one, community-based mentoring. In September, the program trained fourteen mentors to work with mentees at approved sites throughout Grand and San Juan Counties. Those sites include Grand County Public Library, KZMU, Moab Animal Shelter, Moab area businesses or educational institutions, restaurants, hiking trails, city parks, national parks, and more. It is developmentally appropriate to provide greater freedom and responsibility to these children. Community-based mentoring broadens horizons beyond campus.

This community-based mentoring project is based on Utah's Seventh District Court's mentoring program, *The Village Project*. Policies and procedures were carefully adapted and strengthened with the assistance of Principal Taryn Kay, retired supervisory ranger Karen Schлом, former superintendent Margaret Hopkin, Mark Shapiro, and Lynn Anderson. After thorough review, Superintendent JT Stroder gave it the green light.

Feedback from youth and mentors has been promising. Upon training, many middle and high school youth say they're excited about this enhancement. Mentors have universally appreciated the new online mentor logs made



Here, mentee Jonathan and mentor Sock take advantage of the new program by exploring Arches National Park.

possible by a grant from WabiSabi and the support of AWebStudio. Outings have already run the gamut from Sweet Cravings restaurant to the movie theater to the Fiery Furnace in Arches National Park and beyond.

If childhood is a great time to start new relationships and if adolescence an important period to sustain friendships, this design may provide the best of both worlds. Mentor on, friends!

