

Fall 2020

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” –Arthur Ashe

Grand County School District



Major Partners:

George S. & Dolores Doré
Eccles Foundation

Grand County School District

Laurie Michaels & David
Bonderman

Jennifer Speers

Red Cliffs Lodge

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COVID-19
UPDATE

Heroes Don't Stop

The coronavirus pandemic has affected us all. Now remember that life was already hard for some. It has only gotten harder. Many families are struggling to stay healthy and hopeful.

For a child on the brink of success, a connection with a responsible adult might make the difference between failing and feeling safe. That's why Grand Area Mentoring instituted a Covid-safe mentoring plan for the 2020/2021 school year. Mentors and mentees are wearing masks & mainly meeting outside. They do symptom

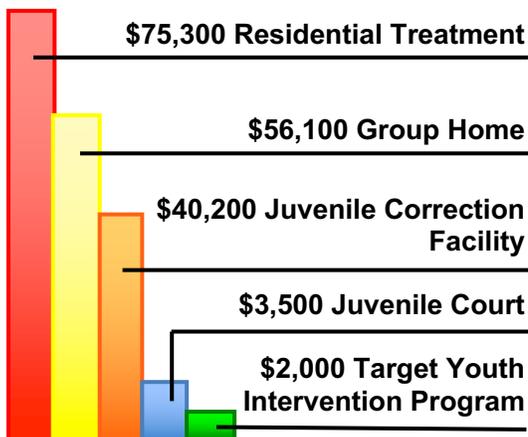
checks at the start of every session and keep physical distance as able.

The program has started the season with a solid 50 matches, and energy is focused on maintaining these relationships. A few matches may be created, but in order to avoid risk to new participants, this year will primarily be about maintenance.

Despite the pandemic, mentoring continues. For some, it may be virtual; for all, it will be vital! Children who most need support are getting it. Moab mentors & mentees don't stop for rona!

Your Donations Do Good

According to the University of Minnesota, the annual rate per child for common interventions to help vulnerable youth can be staggering. Grand Area Mentoring's per participant cost is only \$1,500. Every penny counts. The program uses your



gifts to supply mentoring materials to matches, provide presenters for advanced trainings, compensate staff, cover educational field trip fees and transportation costs, complete background checks on mentor candidates, and market for the recruitment of mentors. This year, the program has special needs for PPE, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, snacks & water (factory-sealed), & gift cards to local stores, restaurants, and guides. Thank you for your donations! www.grandmentoring.org

Grand Area Mentoring

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Next Mentor Orientation:
Call 435-260-9646.

About GrandAM...

This is Grand Area Mentoring's 16th 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, Red Cliffs Lodge, the Carl George Bjorkman Foundation, Sorenson Legacy Foundation, 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.

Outcomes of 2019/2020

2019/2020 was a powerful year at Grand Area Mentoring. Grades went up for 80% of participating youth. 84% got in less trouble. 100% of teachers agree that mentoring is an important strategy to support vulnerable students who exhibit antisocial behavior, have few friendships, demonstrate poor commitment to school, earn poor grades, and/or live in a troubled home or neighborhood.

When you hear even a little of what the children have to say, it's no surprise that this intervention works!

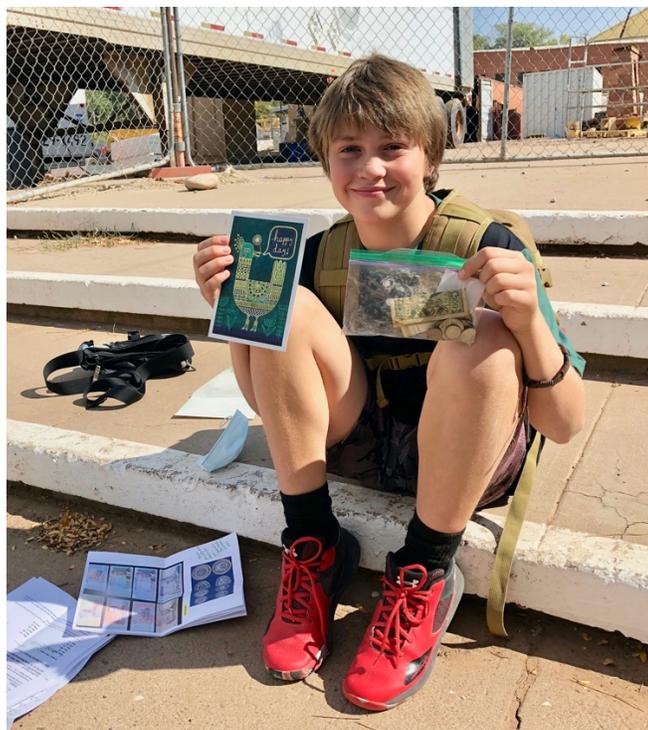
"I feel like I have someone to talk to." –mentee, 14

"My mentor is very professional. He helped me with my social cues and is very adaptable." –mentee, 13

"Mentoring is helping me with my confidence." –mentee, 8

Maintaining Connection

Mentors at high risk of Covid-19 complications due to health concerns are sustaining their special relationships by way of creative strategies.



Using a computer at Grand County High, Garion (upper left) meets virtually with his mentor John to talk about life and play chess online.

At HMK Elementary School, Billy (above) receives handwritten letters and holiday activities from his loving mentor Liz.

Athan (left) stays in touch with Hop through email, card writing, and a mutually agreed upon incentive program for Athan's grades at Grand County Middle School.