

Spring 2018

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?”

–Jean Jacques Rousseau

Grand County School District



Mentoring Enhanced!

Starting in the fall of 2018, Grand Area Mentoring will introduce a program enhancement for students in grades seven through twelve. Schoolwork and social forces mount as adulthood approaches. Adolescents embark on important developmental stages that change their needs; by the time children reach seventh grade, school-based mentoring is no longer an optimal design.

Community-Based Mentoring

This September, mentees enrolled in Grand Area Mentoring will have the option to graduate to a different style of mentoring at the middle school, one that reflects their elevated independence and burgeoning social awareness. Our new community-based mentoring component will allow

exemplary, veteran mentors to meet one-on-one with their middle school and high school mentees at approved sites in the community. Through this project, we have an opportunity to capitalize on the strong mentoring relationships established through grade six. *Place* matters a great deal to children becoming more self-conscious and wrestling with identity formation. Rather than embark on a period of awkward transition away from mentoring, participating mentees can celebrate their perseverance with new privileges in grade seven.

Only mentors who have successfully served the program for two or more years will be permitted to meet one-on-one with their mentees in the community, and

(Continued on reverse)

One Day in May

Last year, Grand Area Mentoring raised \$2,395 during Love Utah Give Utah, our state's day of online charitable giving. Donations came from as far afield as England, but most came from the Moab area. Gifts ranged in size from \$10 to \$1,000! Despite its success, Love UT Give UT was cancelled statewide for 2018.

Grand Area Mentoring will hold a single fundraiser in its place: *One Day in May*. On May 1st, Grand Area Mentoring will ask for believers of mentoring to make online

contributions small and large to support this powerful program. Gifts will be used to conduct background checks of mentor candidates and provide activity supplies. Grand Area Mentoring asks every friend of mentoring to help us raise \$5,000!

Please join us to make sure our mentors are well qualified and well supplied as they provide mentoring to the region's promising youth.



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

Carl George Bjorkman
Foundation

Moab Sun News

Best Western Plus
Canyonlands Inn

Rocky Mountain Power
Foundation

HMK Community Council

Moab Valley Multicultural
Center

The Synergy Company

Wells Fargo Bank

WabiSabi

Back of Beyond Books

OARS Moab

Moonflower Community
Cooperative

Moab Points and Pebbles
Club

Moab Regional Hospital

Moab Times-Independent

Stacey Savelle

Red Rock 4 Wheelers

Beacon Afterschool

www.AWebStudio.com

Grand Area Mentoring

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Next Mentor Orientation:

Please call [435-260-9646](tel:435-260-9646).

About GrandAM...

This is Grand Area Mentoring's thirteenth 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.

Taiko



A dedicated group of mentors and mentees has been meeting since September to learn Taiko. Led by Margaret Hopkin, a mentor with many years' drumming experience, mentors and mentees practice rhythm, performance art, and an advanced song called Raku. As mentors and students alike grow in confidence, they aim to perform for elementary school children on the playground at recess this spring. Ba-da-bing! This is the sound of mentoring!



Mentor Michele and mentee Trevor practicing Taiko!

Off-Campus *(continued from front)*

matches may meet only at approved sites in the community. Community-based mentor candidates must complete a second round of application requirements, including: written application, positive service evaluation, interview, training, reference check, and fingerprint background check.

- Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center
- The Museum of Moab
- National and State Parks
- Utah Department of Workforce Services

The Promise

These thirteen fruitful years of school-based mentoring have opened a door for Grand County School District. We identify at-risk students quickly, support them through their early years, and help them outperform goals set by experts in the field. Now, with a program enhancement, we can leverage this success to produce even more substantial gains.

Approved Sites

Approved community-based mentoring sites include, among others:

- Grand County Public Library
- Moab area businesses, educational institutions, and organizations for the purpose of job shadowing or exploring post-secondary opportunities
- Moab area restaurants
- Moab Arts and Recreation Center



Maureen and Kielyn read at Back of Beyond Books, where mentored youth can participate in Books for Mentees, a voucher program to support mentee literacy.