

Spring 2020

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." –Henry Ford

Grand County School District



COVID-19
UPDATE

COVID-19 & Virtual Mentoring

COVID-19 has changed our world. Schools are closed. Public gatherings are no-nos. Stress and anxiety levels rise. In-person mentoring has been suspended almost everywhere. This leaves many youths across the country without crucial regular support. At-risk populations living in poverty and dysfunction find themselves particularly unstable at this time.

Grand Area Mentoring has responded by asking its dedicated corps to begin virtual mentoring. Mentors are now reaching out via email, text, telephone,

and video chat. As we are now learning, virtual meetings can provide many of the social benefits we need – practical assistance, joy, commiseration, humor, and camaraderie. One mentor kicked off an email conversation with:

*Hola A,
I am missing you and your warm,
beautiful smile, so I thought I
would check out some old photos I
have of you doing fun things
during mentoring [attached].
Warms my heart, but nothing*

(continued on reverse)

The future of Moab's Hero Headquarters

This is a tense time. Our loved ones are in danger, and we hope that our preparations and strategies will keep everyone safe. Some are at even greater risk. Grand Area Mentoring serves the community's most vulnerable families who are disproportionately affected by job loss and have few resources to fall back on when ill or out of work. What's more, philanthropy drops during recessions. Thus, organizations like Grand Area Mentoring and people like these families will shoulder a double burden – the health and social problems of the pandemic and the economic alarms of survival.

Your donations empower us to match kind mentors with at-risk youth. Please help Grand Area Mentoring through this by signing up to be a monthly Mentoring Hero. Sign up at:

www.grandmentoring.org

click the **donate** button to visit our PayPal platform

Whether it's \$5, \$25, or \$100, your regular contributions will allow Grand Area Mentoring to support relationships every step of the way, from start to graduation. Monthly giving empowers nonprofits to achieve their mission in a number of ways. First, it steadies the revenue stream so

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Major Partners:

George S. & Dolores Doré
Eccles Foundation
Grand County School District
Laurie Michaels & David
Bonderman
Jennifer Speers
Red Cliffs Lodge
Sorenson Legacy
Foundation
Carl George Bjorkman
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Moab Sun News
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Moab Regional Hospital
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Products
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Episcopal Church of St. Francis
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Stacey & Jerry Saville
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Moab Multicultural Center
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www.AWebStudio.com

Grand Area Mentoring

Address:

Grand Area Mentoring
264 South 400 East
Moab, UT 84532

Phone: **435-259-1516**

E-Mail:
grandareamentoring@gmail.com

www.grandmentoring.org

Coordinator:
Megan McGee
(435) 260-9645

Program Director:
Daniel McNeil
(435) 260-9646

Next Mentor Orientation:
Call 435-260-9646.

About GrandAM...

This is Grand Area Mentoring's 15th 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, Grand Co. Education 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.

Mentoring Heroes *(continued)*

staff can focus their already maxed-out hours on programming. Second, it creates a solid bond between supporters and those providing direct service, strengthening the entire enterprise. Third, monthly giving can, over time, raise overall revenue, which will help Grand Area Mentoring further its mission. Monthly giving helps donors too. As a Mentoring Hero, you can set it

and forget it – no more budget surprises not any need to mail checks or wait for a remittance envelope. Plus, you will be part of the amazing team each month making a difference in Moab! Finally, donors can opt to make small monthly donations, which may be more affordable than one-time contributions. Link to our new PayPal platform at our website:

www.grandmentoring.org

Thank you!



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*beats seeing you in person. Let me know how you are doing and how you have been spending your days. Take good care. Love & hugs
B*

Mentors are also connecting with mentees via Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime. Retired principal Mimi Trudeau helped Grand Area Mentoring create a video chat activity list, which includes: scattergories, twenty questions, memory challenges, alphabet games, reading books, sharing videos, writing stories, and tutoring. If electronic means aren't working, some mentors have sent cards, letters, and resources through the mail.

On her efforts to connect virtually with her three mentees, a mentor wrote:

Mentors keep mentees directed, walk them through problem solving (what are some things you can do if you run out of toilet paper or tissues?) and help alleviate panic. Mentors are experienced people who have weathered hardships in life. This isn't our first rodeo. We know how to buckle up and hang on

and are ready and willing to share that information with our mentees.

Utah schools are expected to stay closed until at least May 1st. Grand Area Mentoring will follow their lead and not return to in-person mentoring until safe.

We are offering support to mentors and mentees throughout this pandemic. Emails and calls have kept mentors up to date, and a virtual roundtable discussion on April 2nd will give all a chance to learn from each how best to mentor during this crisis. David Shapiro, CEO of the National Mentoring Partnership, recently wrote:

In confusing times, when we are enduring something for the first time, being there for each other (even if not in physical proximity), listening to individual and unique concerns, owning what we do and don't know, and showing up in whatever way makes sense is as powerful as ever. You know that and make that a reality ... The relationships you have created especially pay dividends in times like these when we need folks to lean on.

We're all in this together. Let's buckle up, hang on, and stick together.

❤️ *The Grand Area Mentoring Team*

