

Spring 2024

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

www.grandmentoring.org

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Friendship isn't a big thing –
it's a million little things.

Grand County School District



Teen Programming Soars

Teen mentoring in Moab won a big boost of support. In July 2023, the Utah Department of Workforce Services awarded a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) grant to fund a three-year position at Grand Area Mentoring. Teresa Munisteri joined the team as outreach specialist in September. The outreach specialist assists with community-based mentoring, meetups that take place off campus for 6th to 12th grade youth. These long-term relationships centered on one-on-one meetings at approved sites around town lead to better outcomes for mentored students. The program's teen mentee

count has continued to grow as adolescents opt to stay in the program.

The outreach specialist plans activities and forms community partnerships that broaden the possibilities of what mentors and mentees can do in their time together – offering restaurant outings or discounts/gift cards, group activities, free event suggestions, and more. Venturing beyond
(continued on reverse...)



Making cookies with GCS&D's Child Nutrition Director Cat Vasquez @ YGP!

Monthly Gifts = Gold

We invite you to join our family of monthly donors. These Mentoring Heroes build a financial foundation that empowers mentoring across Moab.

Why Give Monthly?

First, regular giving in affordable amounts eliminates the burdens of big philanthropy. You don't need to break the bank with one-time gifts, but over the course of a year, comfortable donations will add up to a major impact for the program. Win-win!

Second, reliable support enables Grand Area Mentoring to plan for the future, avoid the boom and bust of giving cycles,

and focus on mentoring impact.

Third, automated monthly giving makes routine your good deeds. Your beneficent acts will occur like clockwork, which makes everyone feel good.

How to Join the Team

1. Visit our website:
www.grandmentoring.org/support
2. Choose your amount. Click, "monthly."
3. That's it! You can cancel at any time.

Please become a member of our family of valued monthly donors. Thank you for seeing the promise of Moab's children.

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Grand County School District

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About GrandAM...

This is Grand Area Mentoring's 19th year of service. Adult mentors meet with promising students one-on-one to provide care, offer opportunities, and encourage growth. Their weekly sessions might include homework, basketball, and computers. Other matches pursue crafts, reading, and talking about life. Under Grand Area Mentoring's supervision, mentors and students build relationships that usually last for years, pointing youth toward promising futures.

Mentored young people earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, get along better with others, and report being happier.

Grand Area Mentoring is dedicated to expanding the reach of mentoring in Moab. The program's waiting list of students is still substantial. Donations of money, time, goods, and experiences make new matches possible. Please join us as we:

- Recruit and screen mentors
- Provide top-notch training and match support
- Focus on proven, data-driven mentoring strategies
- And work with mentors, youth, families, and teachers to get the most out of every session.

Match Highlight (1 of 79 pairs!)

Miriam and Jonathan are in their fourth year of mentoring. They share a love of adventure and the outdoors and aren't afraid to play in inclement weather. They run through sprinklers in September and play in snow in January. Jonathan carved his first Halloween pumpkin with Miriam, a tradition they have continued every year. Miriam taught Jonathan how to ride a bike. They get off campus too, where they explore the Moab Museum, visit the local book shop, and enjoy frozen yogurt. Another great match doing great things!



Soars (continued from front)



the confines of school is developmentally appropriate as mentees mature. With the guidance of Moab's responsible mentor corps, promising youth can become more active participants in their community and expand their horizons. And with the support of the Outreach Specialist, mentors spend less time and money planning new ways to engage their mentees and more time strengthening their relationships.

This school year has been filled with fun group activities, which build a stronger sense of community for teen participants. The groundwork for such events requires working with local businesses and agencies to provide activities, transportation, or gift certificates. The program also works with Moab's Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to achieve grant goals.

In November, mentors and mentees practiced their swings at the Moab Golf Course. In December, they went off-roading with Big Iron Tours and baked holiday cookies with Cat Vasquez. February found matches roasting s'mores around a campfire and visiting the Moab Museum. In March, matches were invited to hop on a tour (zip lining, via ferrata, hiking, etc.) with NAVTEC Expeditions or Raven's Rim Adventure tours; and mentors learned more about DWS programs for teens through an info session with specialist Jerry Pruitt.

Over the next two years, new and ongoing partnerships will continue to enhance mentoring opportunities for adolescent youth. Already in the works: Canyonlands Field Institute's mentoring-specific hike as part of their Mental Health Hike series, a dark skies program with Friends of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and rafting with OARS.

Based on a poll of community-based mentees at the beginning of the school year, mentees' relationship with mentors is strong (4.5 out of 5) while their comfort level interacting with new people is much lower (3 out of 5). The addition of an outreach specialist aims to raise both ratios and the overall ease in which mentees interact with their community. Mentors and mentees have offered positive feedback about these new program enhancements. We are excited to build upon these successes over the coming two years!