

Grand Area Mentoring 2024/2025 Annual Report



Grand Area Mentoring
Moab's Hero Headquarters
Est. 2005

Inputs and outcomes of
youth mentoring in
Moab, UT



Director's Summary

And meet our staff



The 2024/2025 school year saw mentored youth flourish in Grand County and northern San Juan County, UT. They got along better with others, attended school more often, and earned higher grades.

Impartial statistics like attendance, grades, and behavior referral rates can illustrate impact. The outcomes are golden. However, qualitative measures like student comments, parent feedback, and teacher observations deserve a spotlight too. This report will touch on a broad scope of mentoring's effects, from baseline stats to personal observations. In a world short on belonging, mentoring delivers.

Daniel McNeil

Program director

Daniel McNeil is responsible for training, grant writing, evaluation, marketing and recruitment, volunteer screening, continuous improvement, & communications.

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Megan McGee is the mentor coordinator. She schedules meetings, troubleshoots match challenges, and supports relationships. She works across Moab, making sure each match is healthy and has the resources they need to thrive.
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Kris Marsh serves in the role of development officer. She creates relationships with stakeholders and helps solicit donors in alignment with the program's values.
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Christopher Cleveland is Grand Area Mentoring's professional mentor. Chris mentors a select cohort of up to five youth.
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Teresa Munisteri, outreach specialist, coordinates with businesses and agencies to offer new outings & resources for community-based mentors and mentees.
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Who are the mentees?

Number of Students

77 youth, each matched one-on-one with a mentor

Ethnicity

39% are minority

Gender

69% are male, 31% are female

Average Age

12 years

Socio-economic Status

88% qualify for free or reduced lunch

How are mentee selected?

95% of student referrals come from teachers and therapists

Who are the mentors?

THANK YOU MENTORS OF 2024/2025!

Beth McLoy	Lauralee Green
Bradia Holmes	Maggie Gruszka
Xandra Odland	Erin Vick
Miriam Graham	Eric Jones
Melissa McKimmey	George Johnson
Jeremy Spaulding	Karen Downey
Johanna Blanco	Jean Eardley
Daniel McNeil	Patty Weicht
Christopher Cleveland	Linda Kunze
Angela Houghton	Ryan Huels
Liz Ballenger	Michele Widera
Jane Broadwell	Duncan Clark
Mimi Trudeau	Cheree Geiser
Alexander Hulme	Megan McGee
Jim McGann	Natalie Grout
Melissa Roy	Susan Carter
Steven Rouzer	Karen Schlom
Debbie Willet	Abi Taylor
Kelley McInerney	Beth Roberts
Kris Marsh	Joyce Marienfeld
Joan Gough	Abigail Lawrence
Sue Shrewsbury	Seth Davis
Rowan List	Karen Downey
Alyssa Sherman	Molly Briesath
Sandy Hinck	Diane Greene
Darby Teander	Karson Leonard
Mary Langworthy	Jerry Shue
Candice Gary	DeForrest McCleary
	Joanna Onarato



MENTEE TO MENTOR:

I enjoyed my time with you a lot. Thank you for helping me with college stuff and for being a person I can talk to. You're so understanding and kind.



Primary Findings

*Experts in the field of youth mentoring set these objectives for school-based mentoring. At-risk youth face hurdles of all kinds – grief, learning disabilities, poverty, or bullying.

- **80% got in less trouble at school**, compared to an objective of 40%*
- **50% skipped less school**, compared to an objective of 35%*

Mentors focus on forging developmental relationships built on safety, trust, and respect. Mentors meet the mentees where they are and strive to support their unique journeys.

- **61% earned higher grades**, compared to an objective of 35%*
- **79% of matches last for more than one year**, compared to an objective of 55%*

What is mentoring?

Some real Moab examples...

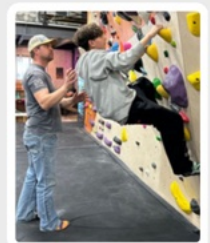
Empowering:

- Asking: “What should we do?”
- Asking: “How will you most effectively spend this voucher at the bookstore?”
- Respecting the young person’s vision and choice



Connecting:

- Helping apply for a summer camp scholarship
- Bringing a mentee to the zip line or Climb Moab gym
- Going on a 4x4 tour
- Visiting a new restaurant



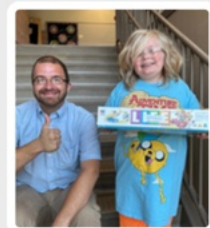
Cheering:

- Celebrating unique strengths
- Texting parents about successes and achievements
- Throwing a birthday party
- Attending sporting events
- Providing comfort when hard things happen



Leveling Up:

- Assisting with schoolwork
- Setting attendance goals
- Talking about personal development
- Helping apply for college
- Discussing good friendship etiquette



Adult Feedback



Grand Area Mentoring provides faculty and parents opportunities to assess the efficacy of programming and emotional & social impacts.

100% of parents agree that since being matched, their children are happier.

100% of parents agree that since being matched, their children have a better attitude about school.

100% of teachers agree that mentoring fits well with the school district's aim of **preparing youth for life after school.**

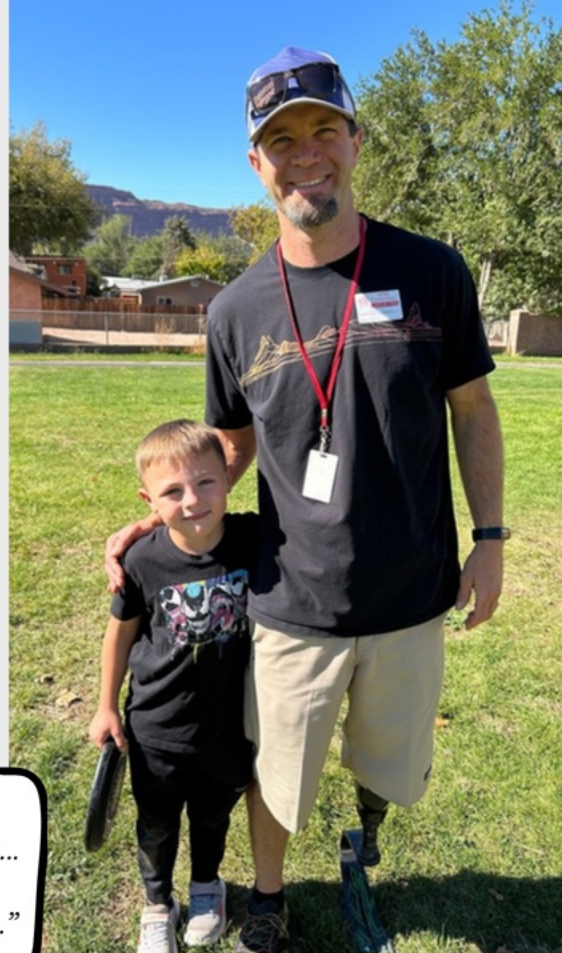
"My child is happier, more outgoing. I see a big difference... After a tough year, he looks on the bright side since mentoring."

100% of parents agree that since being matched with a mentor, their children get along better with others.

"There is so much value in the mentoring program... I have seen amazing growth in students who are mentored."

—GCSD Educator

"Mentoring exposes my son to things he doesn't get elsewhere. Mentoring allows him to explore and grow with a trusted adult."



Program Quality

Match Duration

A key measure of program quality is how long an average match lasts. In the U.S., according to a Department of Education finding, school-based matches last about 6 months.

The average match in Moab endures for over three years, or 500% longer than most in America.

Mentee Interview Findings

- 100% of mentees agree with the statement: *I have a sense of belonging when I'm at mentoring.*
- 97% of mentees agree that mentoring helps them feel like there are people who care about them in life.
- 100% of mentees agree that their mentor treats them with respect.



"You've always been a heart-warming, truthful person I can tell anything to and you won't judge me."

—6th grade mentee card

"Thank you for being my friend for two years. Now I have more friends because of you... It makes me happy."

—4th grade mentee card

"Thank you for giving me fun times at mentoring and for helping me when I'm stressed."

—2nd grade mentee card



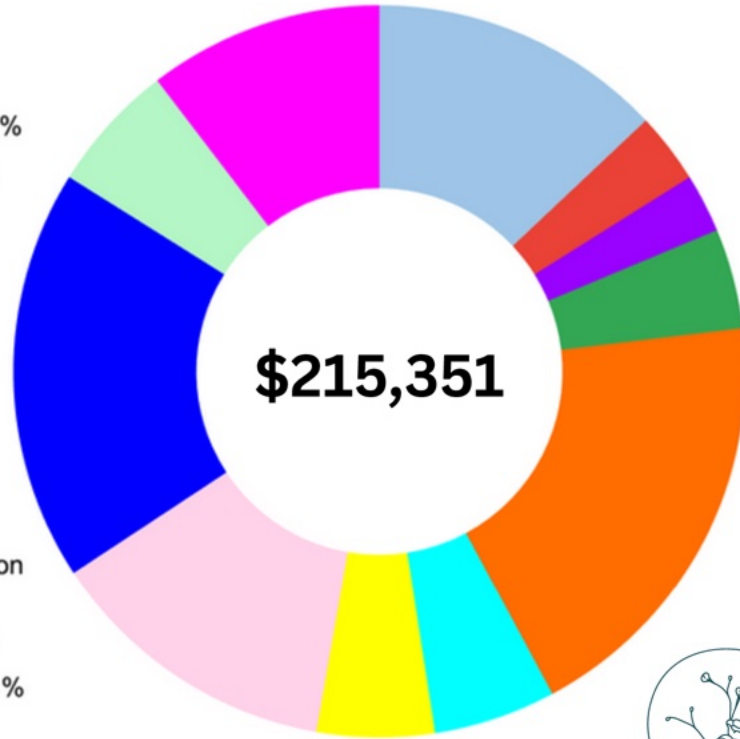


Turning Money into Mentoring

Compared to other interventions (like juvenile detention at \$200,000 *per youth*), mentoring costs far less and endures for years. Mentoring is preventative. Relationships created in 2005 are still in contact!

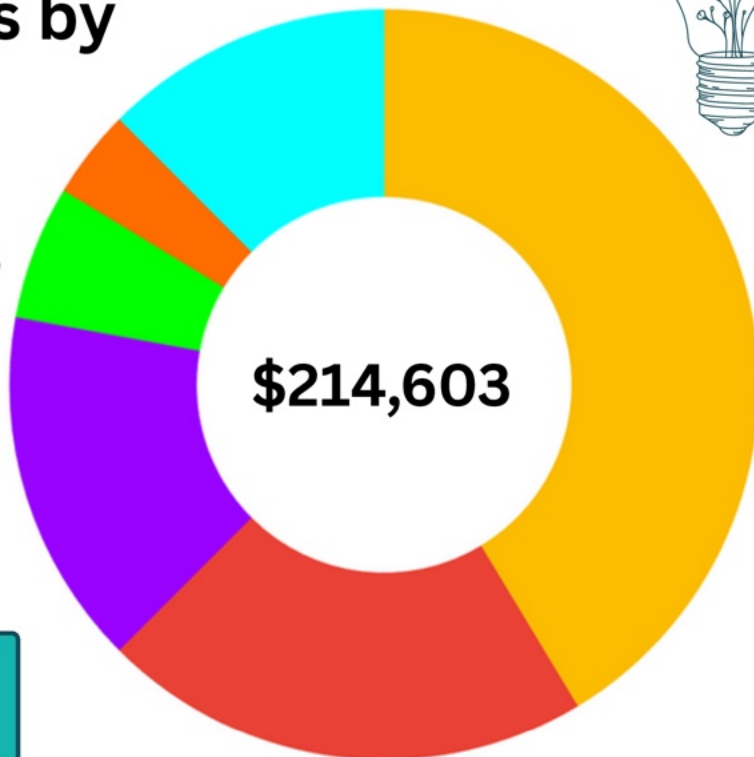
Revenues

- Grand County School District 13%
- School Community Councils 3%
- Grand County Education Foundation 3%
- Local Businesses 4%
- Private Individuals 19%
- State TANF Grant 5%
- Colin Fryer Foundation 5%
- George & Dolores Eccles Foundation 13%
- Carl George Bjorkman Foundation 18%
- Other Regional Foundations 6%
- Sorenson Legacy Foundation 11%



Expenditures by category

- Match support, recognition, events, & enrichment 43%
- Mentor recruitment, screening, matching, training 22%
- Family outreach, specialized mentoring, advanced training, prof. dev. 16%
- Curriculum & office materials, IT, communications 6%
- Records, reporting, clerical, maintenance 4%
- Sustainability 13%



A DWS TANF grant promoted teen participation in events across the community

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROGRESS



July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

\$20,000+

- George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
- Jennifer Speers
- Grand County School District
- Carl George Bjorkman Foundation
- Sorenson Legacy Foundation

\$10,000–\$19,999

- Utah Dept of Workforce Services (TANF grant)
- Colin Fryer Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

- Linda Bynum
- The Synergy Company
- Grand County Education Foundation
- Marriner S. Eccles Foundation
- Enbridge Gas Fueling Futures

\$1,000–\$4,999

- Krandella Fund
- Sam & Liz Lightner
- Sandy Hinck
- Terry & John Marsh
- Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
- HMK School Community Council
- MLHMS School Community Council
- GCHS Community Council
- Moab Gear Trader* 🧡
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

\$400–\$999

- Kelly & Thatcher Vagts
- Tandem BASE Moab
- Desert Rivers Credit Union
- Andrew Mirrington
- Rob Walker* 🧡
- Susan Roche & Bill Rau
- NAVTEC Expeditions
- Eastern Utah Community Credit Union
- Sarah Perez-Sanz & Catherine Bosher
- Kris Marsh* 🧡
- Moab BASE Association
- NaaNue Gowan
- Alison Ling* 🧡
- Alpha Rho Sorority
- Anonymous

Kudos to In-Kind Supporters & Business Partners of 2024/2025!

AWebStudio, Back of Beyond Books, BEACON Afterschool, Best Western Plus Canyonlands Inn, Big Horn Mountain Biking, Big Iron Tours, Climb Moab Gym, Department of Workforce Services, Desert Highlights, Dr. Julia Pryce, Four Corners, Friends of Arches and Canyonlands, Grand County Public Library, Gravel Pit Lanes, Karen Henker, Kelly Vagts, KZMU, Linda Kunze, Love Muffin, Magician Rick Boretti, Matt LaJeunesse, Moab Ad-Vertiser, Moab Area Real Estate Magazine, Moab Arts & Recreation Center, Moab Coffee Roasters, Moab Golf Course, Moab Happenings, Moab Museum, Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center, Moab Regional Hospital, Moab Solutions, Moab Sun News, Moab Teen Center, Moab Times-Independent, Moab Valley Multicultural Center, Moonflower, Nan Marquardt, NAVTEC, OARS Moab, Our Village Community Center, Paddle Moab, Raven's Rim, Sand and Stars Touring, Sand Flats, Seekhaven, Sweet Cravings, Tandem BASE Moab, Bureau of Land Management, The Spoke, Tom Till, WabiSabi, Wellness Collective, Whole Enchilada Shuttle, Youth Garden Project



* Special thanks to the Mentoring Heroes team whose monthly contributions provide consistent, reliable support over the course of a year!

LEARN MORE > grandmentoring.org/support

\$10–\$399

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| • Amos Van Horn | • Lisa Carter* 🧡 |
| • Andrew & Rosmarie Hall | • Laurence and Tobi Keefe |
| • Audrey & Tim Graham* 🧡 | • Liz Ballenger |
| • Bill Winfield | • Marcia & Jim Tendick |
| • Cassie Paup | • Martha Lamb |
| • Charlie Appelstein | • Mary McGann |
| • Dale Krantz | • Mary Moran |
| • Dale Weiss | • Marcy Till* 🧡 |
| • Danette Johnson | • Michele Widera |
| • Debby Barton | • Mimi Trudeau* 🧡 |
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