



**From one youth to
a whole community**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**





From one youth to a whole community: 53 Years of mentorship in action

Dear Supporters,

With a tenure of 53 years in our community, the Buddy Program has now worked with generations of families, empowering them through mentoring experiences to help them reach their full potential. Several of our staff have been at the organization for over 15 years and have witnessed former participants returning to the organization to enroll their own youth because they know and appreciate the benefits mentoring played in their lives. Commonly, former and current Little Buddies choose to mentor as high school Big Buddies, paying their own experience forward. Young people return to the valley after completing their college education and return to the Buddy Program by becoming adult mentors. Siblings enroll after seeing the positive experience of their sibling.

Through the generations of youth and families we have served, the unique ways we show up for youth in our four mentoring programs, and the layers of support provided amongst and within families and schools over the years, mentoring has made a profound impact in our community, on both the youth participants and the adult mentors. Our work builds bridges culturally, generationally, and across socioeconomic divides. It builds bridges within and amongst our towns. We continue to be committed to our mission and vision both despite and because of the changing world around us. We know human connection is as important as ever and is the constant in our work that will never change.

What follows in this report is a nod to the deep and broad community impact we achieve and the MANY people and organizations who make it possible. It is a testament to how many lives are impacted by the Buddy Program. In addition to recognizing everyone in this report, we also want to express our sincere gratitude for their participation as volunteers, program participants, partners, and donors!

Cheers to mentoring!

Katie Goldsmith
President of the Board

Amanda Hirsh
Vice President of the Board

Lindsay Lofaro
Executive Director

Brooke Bockelman
Assistant Director



2025

In 2025, the Buddy Program worked with 511 youth, 108 adult Big Buddies, and 16 schools from Aspen to Glenwood Springs and Rifle through our 4 mentoring programs:

Community-based

A Little Buddy (youth aged 6-18) is matched with a Big Buddy (adult mentor) and they participate in activities of their choice 3-4 times per month.

School-based

A Little Buddy is matched with a Big Buddy and they meet once per week at school during the student's lunch and recess.

Peer-to-Peer

High school students mentor youth at elementary and middle schools.

Karen & Nathan Sandler LEAD (Leadership Through Exploration, Action, And Discovery) Program

A group, experiential mentoring program that supports youth in grades 6-12 to develop social-emotional learning skills through Outdoor Leadership classes at 4 high schools and 6 middle schools, two week-long summer camps, and monthly school-year activities.

More than Mentoring Services

In addition to our 4 mentoring programs, the Buddy Program funded these additional supports and connected youth to the following opportunities in 2025:

180 youth were awarded \$17,122 of funding for extracurricular activities via our Empowerment Scholarship fund

\$7,400 from our Counseling fund supported 10 youth with counseling services

35 families received Holiday Baskets via a partnership with St. Peter's Episcopal Church

3 high school youth received generous scholarships to travel to Mexico, British Columbia, and Italy for month-long study abroad programs with our partners at Student Diplomacy Corps

“This program brings the community closer together because you get to meet people you might not otherwise. It makes us feel more connected.” – Peer-to-Peer Big Buddy

Cultivating a sense of belonging for young people



MENTOR

We know that a sense of belonging is critical for youth to thrive just as much as, if not more than, a need they might be experiencing. Our own personal lived experience tells us we do better when we feel connection and belonging, we see firsthand how youth do better when they believe they belong, and our partners at MENTOR, a national organization that establishes research-based best practice and provides support for youth mentoring programs, encourages sense of belonging as the foundational outcome for all mentoring programs to strive for.

As we support our diverse community of young people to cultivate their sense of **belonging**, we know that providing mentors and staff that can personally relate to and represent the lived experiences and identities of our youth is **fundamental**.

To this end, the following are some of our core practices:

We hold a strengths-based view of our young people.

We see and celebrate their unique strengths, abilities, dreams, and lived experiences. We invite our mentors and community partners to do the same, and we actively remind ourselves and others to focus on a young persons' assets just as much, if not more, than a need they might be experiencing at any given moment.

Staff, board members, and mentors are trained to practice cultural humility.

Cultural humility involves an ongoing process of self-exploration and self-critique combined with a willingness to learn from others. It means entering a relationship with another person with the intention of honoring their beliefs, customs, and values as well as acknowledging differences and accepting that person for who they are.

We actively seek mentors whose skills, values, motivations, and backgrounds align with the characteristics and goals of the youth we serve.

Shared social identities like gender, race, and language are not the only determinants of a strong mentoring match: shared interests, hobbies, values, and personalities are demonstrated markers of strong matches. We know that having a diverse pool of mentors is ideal to increase the chances that we can match young people with a relevant role model and who they see as an example of their own adult future.

“One of the unfortunate realities about modern life is that people tend to be somewhat isolated from one another, for myriad reasons. Some youth in America experience far more marginalization than others, but it is true that all young people can experience periods where they feel like they don’t belong, don’t fit in, aren’t welcome, or are marginalized because of who they are, where they are from, or what they look like. Mentoring programs combat this marginalization

MENTOR, Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring, Fifth Edition

By increasing a youth’s sense of belonging, we create a more connected, caring, just, and equitable community. Mentoring programs like the Buddy Program cultivate human connections in ways that few other organizations do, allowing youth to believe in their own potential and their own bright future.

You belong here.

Community and School-based Programs

One way we measure connection is by understanding our Little Buddies' Social Capital, which represents the resources that arise from the web of relationships which young people can mobilize to help them improve their lives and achieve their goals.

“During these past 4 years as Buddies, my Big Buddy Amanda has always been checking on me and staying in touch. She is always open-minded, provides other perspectives, and gives me good advice.”
–Danna S., Little Buddy

In 2025, our Little Buddies expressed they have at least 3 adults that they believe:

81% Expect them to explore their interests

79% Pay attention to their lives

87% Believe they will succeed

We believe human connection can change lives.

91% Of Community-based Little Buddies said they'd recommend the program to a friend.

Participation Data

145 Little Buddies (youth mentees) participated in our Community and School-based programs.

- +** The average match length is **3.5** years compared to the national average of 23 months.
- +** **104** youth engaged in **40** unique activities, events,



Buddy Pair Manuel M. and Alex Tiernan, paired for 10 years, this friendship began when Little Buddy Manuel M. was in elementary school and continued through high school graduation. While our program serves youth ages 6–18, many Buddy Pairs maintain lasting connections well beyond their time in the program.



Buddy Pair Katrin Luyten and Salem at Celebration Dinner. A long-standing tradition, Celebration Dinner brings Buddy Pairs together to celebrate their match with a special meal, games, and time to connect.



In our Community-based Program, Buddy Pairs choose activities that reflect their interests — from paddleboarding to hiking and more. Each year, we also offer 30+ free group activities, expanding access to new experiences and shared connections. Buddy Pair, Kristin Heath Colon and Valeria during an afternoon paddleboard.

Meet our Community And School-based Big Buddies

A heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Big Buddy volunteers for their unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of young individuals. From shared adventures to deep connections, it's a friendship journey that transcends generations and leaves a lasting impact.

MATCHED FOR 12 YEARS

Camilla Cohen

MATCHED FOR 11 YEARS

Doug Peate
Ana Rodriguez

MATCHED FOR 10 YEARS

Alex Tiernan

MATCHED FOR 9 YEARS

Gus Fitzgerald

MATCHED FOR 8 YEARS

D'aun Hajdu
Austin Mably
Christie Potter

MATCHED FOR 7 YEARS

Nancy Cohen
Janice Forbes
Kristin Jensen
Peter Westcott

MATCHED FOR 5 YEARS

Alex Costa
Brenna Damerow
Raychelle Doane
Katie Goldsmith
Jill Gruenberg
Jeff Hansen
Jaila Jafarabadi
Lucy Marolt
Vangel Yurukov

MATCHED FOR 4 YEARS

Seth Beers
Zach Benevento-Zahner
Cam Daniel
Teresa Hall
Jared Kaplan
Lauren Kaufman
Katrin Luyten
Roger Marolt
Grayson Rutherford
Ashley Stahl
Brenda Stockdale
Karla Stukey

MATCHED FOR 3 YEARS

Michael Benge
Roberta Darcy
Margot Ellis
Kasey Furlong
Amanda Grimsted
Jaclyn Hoye
Kendall Kraus
Lindsay Lofaro
Jennifer Mason
Kaitlin Roos

MATCHED FOR 2 YEARS

Dan Andersen
Luis Arce
Deb Bauer
Lindsay Bischoff
Michael Fox

MATCHED FOR 2 YEARS CONT.

Marlin Gonzalez
Liz Heller
Mike Lewis
Mark Meschner
Lorna Petersen
Ana Quiceno
Edlin Rodriguez
Annie Uyehara
Carl Uyehara
Megan Verros
Mike Waters

MATCHED FOR 1 YEAR

Roger Berliner
Craig Burger
Luisa Canton
Michael Carlson
Sylvia Castorena
Samuel Demas
Grace Donner
Jennifer Ellsperman
Laurel Fox
Daniela Gonzalez
Mario Gutierrez
Veronica Lopez
Brittany Myers
Megan Nieslanik
Brenda Oliver
Bri Sanchez
Alysha Spear

MATCHED FOR 1 YEAR CONT.

Colin Wagoner
Megan Webber
Ginny West
June Yamaguchi

MATCHED IN 2025

Ron Acee
Elena Avila
Deena Bailey- Blair
Mike Barbee
Samantha Beinstein
Jeff Bradley
Simeon Britting
Jerry Butman
Baker Casagrande
Jesus Castro Gonzalez
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Maggi Merlos
Lisa Paige
Katia Palma
Beverly Patera
Betty Rivera
Andrew Rumph
Stephen Sander
Natasha Sandher

MATCHED IN 2025 CONT.

Ginny Sorrell
Mel Thulin
Myles Waterman
Claire Woodward
Jay Wright



Small but mighty, our School-based Mentoring Program grew in 2025. 13 Buddy Pairs showed up every week for connection and learning.

Peer-to-Peer Program

Caring and consistent high school Big Buddies from Aspen, Basalt, Roaring Fork (Carbondale), and Glenwood Springs High Schools developed leadership, accountability, and communication skills while mentoring Little Buddies at Aspen Elementary, Basalt Middle, Crystal River (Carbondale), and Sopris (Glenwood Springs) Elementary Schools in a structured space supervised by Buddy Program staff weekly throughout the school year.

Meet our Peer-to-Peer Big Buddies

Thank You to our 2024-2025 school year Big Buddy volunteers from Aspen, Basalt, Roaring Fork and Glenwood Springs high schools:

Aspen High School Big Buddies to youth at Aspen Elementary

Luke A.	Stella L.	Mykenzie R.
Oliver A.	Camilla M.	Lindsay W.
Jack B.	Watson M.	
Eleanor C.	Mia M.	
Josie C.	Alyson O.	
Sydney K.	Sophia P.	

Basalt High School Big Buddies to youth at Basalt Middle School

Oscar A.	Joel G.	Camila M.
Ana C.	Hayley H.	Luis M.
Jennifer C.	Madeline I.	Herberth R.
Laelia G.	Samantha J.	Lorenzo S.
Jack G.	Dominik K.	Katya S.
Dayana G.	Max L.	

Roaring Fork High School Big Buddies to youth at Crystal River Elementary School

Angie A.	Ellie K.	Maggie R.
Ramona B.	Bryan M.	Lexy S.
Noah B.	Yuli N.	Ella S.
Jackelyne H.	Maeve R.	Mariana T.
Sam J.		

Glenwood Springs High School Big Buddies to youth at Sopris Elementary School

Antoinette B.	Mariah G.	Luis O.
Karina C.	David G.	Ximena P.
Jennifer C.	Sofia H.	Dacil R.
Oswaldo C.	Noel M.	Kendall V.
Andry G.	William M.	Allison W.

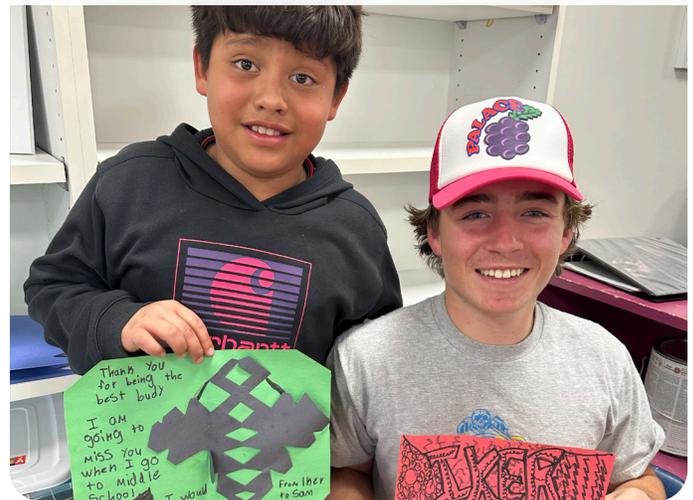
Participation Data for the 2024-2025 school year

8 Partner Schools
4 high schools
3 elementary
1 middle

61 Big Buddies

62 Little Buddies

In our Peer-to-Peer Program, Buddy Pairs spend time getting to know one another through shared activities.



Authentic Engagement

Engaging youth authentically is proven as one of the greatest ways to influence youth's positive social-emotional growth. When mentors build positive, authentic relationships with Little Buddies, they are more likely to boost academic motivation, gain a responsible attitude, and decrease engagement in risky behaviors.

- +** **95%** of Little Buddies reported that mentors in the program engaged authentically with them.
- +** **95%** of Peer-to-Peer Big and Little Buddies would recommend the Peer-to-Peer Program to a friend.

"I have learned how to use my empathy and channel it to support and care for my Little Buddy, as well as others around me". Eleanor C., Aspen High School Big Buddy

Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Program

(Leadership Through Exploration, Action, and Discovery)

Participation Data for the 2024-2025 school year

177

Youth served

19,416

combined hours spent in programming

47

nights under the stars

104

days spent outdoors (rain, shine or snow)



Outdoor Leadership (Middle School)

A year-long extracurricular opportunity for 7th and 8th grade participants who participate in 2, 3-day outdoor experiences and single-day outings and meet monthly at their schools. Offered at Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Rifle Middle Schools, and Riverview School.



100% increased their Teamwork skills



91% increased their Communication skills with their peers



Outdoor Leadership (High School)

A school-day class earning high school and Colorado Mountain College credit through participation in single-day and multi-day field trips and classroom lessons. Offered at Basalt, Roaring Fork (Carbondale), Glenwood Springs and Rifle High Schools.



Youth Camp (High School)

A 5-day summer camp that builds a respectful overnight camp environment and explores outdoor activities in Moab, Utah.



Dream Day Camp (Middle School)

A 5-day summer camp in the Roaring Fork Valley with hands-on activities including art projects, hiking, ropes course, rafting, and one overnight campout.

“There’s a lot more to leadership than just bossing people around, you have to understand the people you’re with and build trust. Being outside takes that to a whole new level.”

- Elliot, High School Outdoor Leadership Class of 2025

Donor Circle

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to offer all of our programs and services at no cost to all the youth, families, volunteers, and schools we work with.

\$100,000 +

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\$50,000 +

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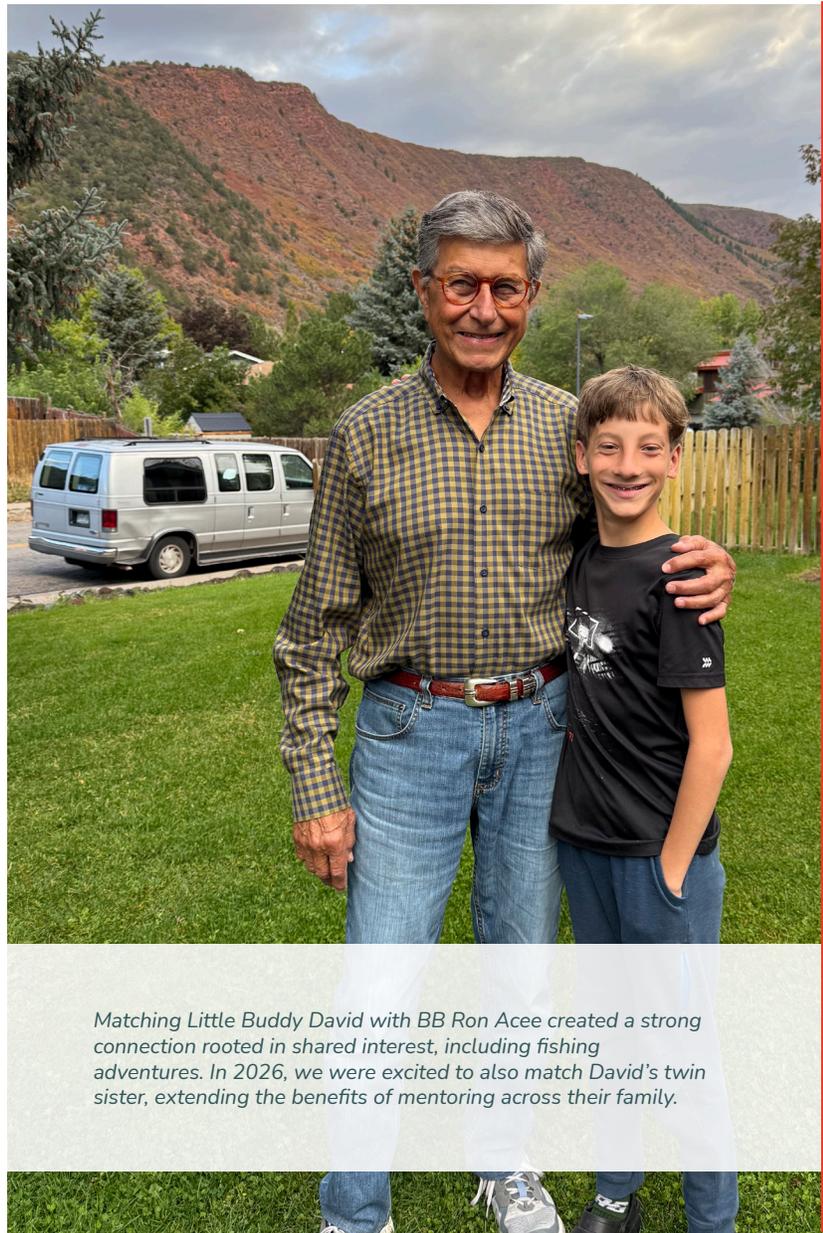
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Jill Gruenberg and Eric Vozick
Rachel and Reid Hansen
Wendy Herrera



Matching Little Buddy David with BB Ron Acee created a strong connection rooted in shared interest, including fishing adventures. In 2026, we were excited to also match David's twin sister, extending the benefits of mentoring across their family.

UP TO \$99 CONT.

Amy Hines
Caroline Hogue
Jessica Jacobs
Kevin Jebbitt
Matthew Kay
Amy Kimball
Alexandra Kovar
Stacy Kuhn
Christine Levine
Jennifer Liu
Chris Loftis
Geoffrey Lubin
Charles Lucarelli
Natasha Lucero-Conklyn
Katelyn Maley
Alicia Maria
Martin Mceyla
Michael McGregor
Alan McLean
Cathrine Meeder
Brad Milhauser
Robert Moyer

UP TO \$99 CONT.

Mike Nelson
Carol Noland
Graham Northrup
Irenie Poitras
Ana Quiceno
Mary Tarver Reid
Rachel Richards
Hanna Richheimer
Laura Rubenstein
Stephanie Schaffer
Kaitlyn Schappert
Kathie Schulman
Dawn Shepard and
Randy Gold
Trish Shepard
Susan Shufro
Sarah Simmonds
Lilly Snadon
Claire Stephenson
Amanda Stratton
Sara and Chris Striefel
John Stroud

UP TO \$99 CONT.

Edward Sullivan
Harry Susman
Barret Swatek
Blythe Sweeny
Philip Tanedo
Jairssinio Trelles
Brendan Wagner
Michael Weisser
Rick Winter
Maura Yates
Sasha Fruitticher Yodzis
Alejandra Prieto Zuazua

We have taken care to ensure all donor information is accurate. If any inaccuracies or omissions are identified, please notify our office so we may make the appropriate corrections.

From one youth to a whole community:

It started with Juan...

It all began in 2012 with Juan, the eldest. Quiet and shy at first, he joined our LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action, and Discovery) Program and quickly began to shine. Through new experiences, exciting adventures, and meaningful connections, Juan discovered confidence, curiosity, and a sense of belonging.

As Juan grew, his middle sibling, Michelle, stepped into the world of mentoring through both our Community-based and LEAD Programs. Paired with her Big Buddy for 10 amazing years, Michelle built a bond that has lasted well beyond her time in the Program.

“Buddy Program gave us tools to help us raise our children into confident individuals. We have memories that will last a lifetime with all of you.”

- Maria, parent

Currently, the youngest sibling, Cody, is embarking on his own journey through our LEAD Program, exploring, learning, and gaining independence while having the guidance and encouragement he needs to thrive.

“Thanks to these programs, we’re getting the support we need as a family. It has boosted their self-esteem knowing that they can get ahead on their own.”

- Juan Sr., parent



Big Brother Juan's first LEAD Program experience at Youth Camp, 2012.



Younger sister Michelle was paired with Big Buddy Stacy in the Community-based Program.



Cody at Youth Camp in Moab — the very same place his big brother stood 13 years ago. Same mountains, new adventures, and another youth discovering what they're capable of.

Group pic! Taking in the views after snowshoeing to the summit of Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen. LEAD Program participants have the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities beyond the school day.



Online Auction Donors and Gifts In-Kind

Andalusia Country Club
Andrew Turchin, DMD
Aspen Golf Club
Aspen Luxe Med Spa
Aspen Music Festival & School
Aspen Skiing Company
Auberge Resorts
Belly Up
Betula
Big Wrap
BOSQ Aspen
Bristlecone Mountain Sports
Cache Cache Bistro
Canyon Ranch
Caribou Club
Carrow Walker
Charles Hopton
CP Burger LLC
Eagle River Inn
EcoFlight
evevee Fine Clothing
Elliott Yeary Gallery
Entourage Rose
European Catering
Gail and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass

Gibson Guitars
Glow Aspen
Gorsuch Limited
Hoffmann Hotel
Hotel Jerome
Ironbridge Golf Club
Jay's Valet
Jazz Aspen Snowmass
Jenny Leshem
Karina Marconi
Katie and Adam Goldsmith
Kissing Tree Golf Club
Lakota Links
Lea Novgrad
Lindsey Thornburg
Lulubelle Clothing
Marble Distilling Company
Meridian Jewelers
Miller Sports
Miron Crosby
Mollie Aspen
Morgan Brown
Neurospa
Nuages
O2 Aspen

Paonia Food Movement
Paragon Systems Integration
PARC Aspen
Raven Gallery
River Valley Ranch
Roaring Fork Sleep and
Breathing Consultants
Robert Hurst
Sant Ambroeus
Sarah Graham Metalsmithing
Snow League
Sopris Fishing Outfitters, LLC
Stio
Strafe Outerwear
Summers Moore
Sway Restaurant
The Big Wrap
The Collective
The Gant
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Tony DiLucia, Jr.
Tuesday Foods
Viceroy Snowmass
Woody Creek Distillery

**"The LEAD Program has changed my perspective on the outdoors by making it more accessible, I would never have been able to access the outdoors like this without the LEAD Program."
- Samara, High School Outdoor Leadership Class of 2025**

Community Partners In 2025

10th Mountain Huts
5Point Film Festival
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
Aspen Elementary School
Aspen Family Connections
Aspen High School
Aspen Middle School
Aspen Recreation Center
Aspen School District
Aspen Science Center
Aspen Skiing Company
Aspen Valley Land Trust
Aspen Youth Center
Basalt Bike & Ski
Basalt Elementary School
Basalt High School
Basalt Middle School
Basalt Pool
Big Wrap
Blazing Adventures
Bowlski's
Bureau of Land Management, Moab, UT
Carbondale Clay Center
Carbondale Middle School
Carbondale Rodeo
Caribou Club
CC's Cafe
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado National Monument
Colorado Parks & Wildlife: Sylvan Lake State Park
Crystal River Elementary School
Daly Diner

Defiance Rafting
Desert Mountain Medicine
Dinosaur National Monument
Dos Gringos Burritos
EcoFlight
Family Resource Center of the
Roaring Fork Schools
Four Mountain Sports
Frida Authentic Mexican Restaurant
Garfield County Outdoors
Garfield School District RE-2
Glenwood Springs Elementary School
Glenwood Springs High School
Glenwood Springs Hot Springs Pool
Glenwood Springs Middle School
Glenwood Springs
Recreation/Community Center
Grateful Deli
Iron Mountain Hot Springs
Kaleidoscoops & The Chocolate Moose
Kidtoons Productions
Moab Canyon Pizza Company
Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center
Navtec
Paradise Bakery
Peppino's Pizza
Phat Thai
Rifle High School
Rifle Middle School
Riverview School
Roaring Fork High School
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers

Roaring Fork School District
Rocky Mountain Pizza
Ross Montessori School
Silver Circle Ice Rink & Mini Golf
Slow Groovin' BBQ
Snowmass Recreation Center
Snowmass Village Rodeo
Sol Theatre
Sopris Elementary School
Summit For Life
Sundae
Sunlight Ski Resort
Sure Thing Burger
Sweet Coloradough
TACAW
The Collective
The Hope Center
The Puoux
The Snow League
Theatre Aspen
Third Street Center
Tippy Trout
Town of Basalt Pool
Town of Carbondale Recreation & Pool
Two Rivers Community School
United States Forest Service, Manti La Sal
Village Smithy
Wheeler Opera House
White House Pizza
Wilderness Workshop
WindWalkers
X Games

From one youth to a whole community:

It started with Veronica...

When Veronica joined the Buddy Program in 2006, she was matched with her Big Buddy, Kristin, in our Community-based Program. Big Buddy Kristin offered guidance, celebrated milestones, connected with Veronica's mom through the ups and downs of adolescence, and even came over to join the family for pozole, gradually becoming part of the family.

As Veronica grew up and graduated from high school, Kristin got to know her younger sister Carolina and committed to becoming her Big Buddy too, continuing a cycle of guidance, support, and lasting friendship for both the girls.

Now, Carolina is a senior in high school, and she and Kristin still get together nearly every Wednesday after school. Through this journey, Kristin found an extended family, and the family gained someone they could always rely on.



“For us, the Buddy Program has become like another member of the family. And family shows up for each other. There are times when life or work feels overwhelming, and our Big Buddy will simply ask, ‘How can I help?’ Moments like that inspire us and make us feel supported.”

- Arcelia, parent

20 years of impact and connection
Not just moments, but years.
Not just one youth, but an entire family.

National Council Members

Donors who give \$5,000 or more are recognized as members of our National Council

Anonymous
Daniel Abrutyn
Nancy and Joseph Badia
Erin and Doug Becker
Gina Berko and David Fleisher
Jill and Josh Berman
Joseph Blumberg
Donna Brittingham and Brian Sears
Susan Capiel and Tom Cooper
Ruth Carver
Lauren and David Chazen
Mary and Adam Cherry
Sarah Clark and Mark Iola
Tom Clark
Ashley and Wes Cole
Mike Connolly
Tony DiLucia, Jr.
Double Diamond Moving & Storage
Amy Elias and Richard Pearlstone
Josh Elkes
Muriel and John Eulich
Darlynn and Tom Fellman
Barbara Fleck
Forum Phi
Karen and Jim Frank
Anna and Matt Freedman
Jessica and John Fullerton
Katie and Adam Goldsmith
Laurie and Dirk Gosda
Lindsay and Mark Gould, Jr.
Tracy and King Grant
Jeff Grinspoon and Jon Foley
Amanda and Bret Hirsh

Lisa and Michael Holthouse
Charles Hopton
Annie and Gerald Hosier
Soledad and Robert Hurst
Kiton Aspen, LLC
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MBS Associates
Denise Monteleone
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Alexandra and Gunnar Sachs
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Lorraine and Mark Schapiro
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Juliet Shield-Taylor
Yasmin and Jeffrey Simon
Erika and Karim Souki
Candice and Steven Stark
Angie and Gary Stewart
Cresta and Travis Stewart
Billy Stolz
Nicole and Lex Tarumianz
Leslie and Ray Tonsing
Gina and Andrew Turchin
Laura and Michael Umansky
Nicole and Jason VandeBoom
Linda Vitti Herbst

Jeanne and Ned Walker
Ginny and Will Weathers
Skye Weinglass and Garrett Creamer
Karen Wing
Woody Creek Distillery

“The Buddy Program’s success and commitment has led the way; teaching our Valley-wide community the power of mentoring.”

–Jennifer and Joe Mason, National Council Members since 2016



The Gingerbread House Workshops – Peer-to-Peer Edition. Buddy Pair Joel and Layton created their dream gingerbread house while enjoying time to connect and get to know each other.

National Council Members benefit from first-to-know event tickets, celebrations throughout the year and a dedicated, quarterly newsletter.



"This program has really opened my eyes to how important it is to meet people where they are, to listen, and to be someone they can trust."

**–Josie C.,
Peer-to-Peer Big Buddy**

Buddy Program's Annual National Council Reception – A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated annual supporters.

Every year we are thrilled to celebrate the support of our generous National Council Members. In 2025, the National Council Reception brought together many of our most impactful members, all dedicated to advancing the mission of the Buddy Program. Hosted at Gravity Haus by Erika and Karim Souki, the event featured the inspiring highlight of a high school Big Buddy speaker, Josie, along with Katie Garcia from our staff who coordinates the Peer-to-Peer Program at Aspen High School. They shared how the impact of mentoring young people goes both ways, ultimately benefiting both the Big and Little Buddies!

Signature Events

East Coast Asset Management, Mike Connolly, Aspen Presents the 39th Annual Boogie's Buddy Race, July 4, 2025

The 39th Annual Boogie's Buddy Race kicked off bright and early at Rio Grande Park, bringing together runners of all ages and abilities. Participants, who braved a damp and chilly morning, took on the classic 5-mile course, the 5K run, and the beloved 1-mile family fun run. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, this year's race raised over \$91,000 to benefit the Buddy Program!



Photo Credit: Nik House Media

The 26th Annual Bash for the Buddies, July 5, 2025

Generously hosted once again by Gail and Lenny "Boogie" Weinglass at their spectacular Merry-Go-Ranch, the Bash for the Buddies was the place to celebrate coastal elegance in the heart of the Rockies. The night was made even more special as the organization honored Erika and Karim Souki for their years of philanthropy and service! Over 280 guests donned their favorite coastal resort wear for a night of celebration, community, and making waves of change in support of youth mentoring.

The Buddy Classic Golf Tournament at Ironbridge Golf Course

The third annual "Buddy Classic" Golf Tournament held at Ironbridge Golf Course in Glenwood Springs welcomed guests to a stunning day of golfing, all in support of the Buddy Program. With 116 golfers participating, the course buzzed with camaraderie and competition and was our first ever sold out Buddy Classic. The day was marked not only by friendly competition, but also by the shared commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of youth in our community.

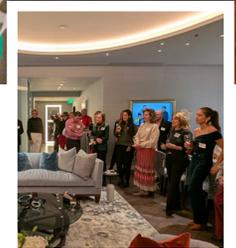


Signature Events

13th Annual Gingerbread House Workshop & Reception

Hosted by: Molly Gilmore, Amanda Hirsh, Jennifer Mason, and Dana Presutti

This beloved annual Workshop brought over 190 Buddy Program participants together to decorate their gingerbread houses. Additionally, we sold over 160 kits, assembled by a host of volunteer elves, to generous community members in support of this important fundraiser. Thanks to our sponsors and patrons, the Buddy Program raised \$131,000 through this effort.



ST REGIS

A special thank you to the St. Regis Hotel for hosting our Gingerbread House Workshop!

LUGANO
DIAMONDS

A special thank you to Lugano Diamonds for hosting our Sponsor Reception this year!

New in 2025: "Not your Childhood Gingerbread House Party At Woody Creek Distillery"

At an evening for adults who are kids at heart, attendees gathered at Woody Creek Distillery in Basalt to socialize with friends and enjoy custom cocktails and cheese fondue, all while decorating their one-of-a-kind gingerbread houses. They also got to eat all of the candy they wanted, no sharing required! Thanks to our sponsors, Woody Creek Distillers and "Aspen Chef," for bringing our candy land dreams to life.



"I've learned how to be a good listener, friend, role model, leader, and that everyone needs someone in their corner, no matter how old you get."

- Peer-to-Peer Big Buddy

Signature Events



Noche de Loteria

The second annual Noche de Loteria brought together over 100 people of all ages at the Glenwood Springs Community Center for a lively, family-friendly evening of fun, connection, and cultural appreciation. Guests enjoyed a free evening filled with Loteria, a delicious Latin-inspired dinner, refreshing drinks, and supervised children's area.



Pitkin County Dry Goods Annual Holiday Local's Sale

We were thrilled to partner again with Pitkin County Dry Goods with an in-store event in December where 10% of all proceeds supported the Buddy Program!



Aspen Smile Month

Thank you to Gina and Andrew Turchin, DMD for their continued support through the Aspen Smile Month initiative. During the month of September, Dr. Turchin donated 10% of proceeds to the Buddy Program.



ANDREW TURCHIN, D
Creating & Keeping Beautiful Smiles

From one youth to a whole community:

It started with middle sister Alejandra...

Back in 2015, Alejandra was matched with Big Buddy Ana in the Community-based Program.

Then, older sister Alondra joined!

Oldest sister Alondra joined the Buddy Program in 2016 and was matched with Big Buddy Sarah in the Community-based Program.

Youngest sister Melissa joined too!

In 2018, the youngest of the sisters was matched with Big Buddy Janelle in the Community-based Program.



Alejandra and Ana are still matched! Their 10 year anniversary was just celebrated!



Older Sister Alondra



Youngest sister Melissa

“When we started, we were going through a hard time. A family friend told me about the Buddy Program, and they told me that all my daughters could get involved.”
-Gloria, parent

Financial Highlights

The Buddy Program continues to provide all programs and services at no cost to our youth, families, and volunteers

All special event expenses were under budget

All program expenses came in under budget thanks to thoughtful and careful planning by staff and generous partnerships throughout the community

The Boogie's Buddy Race, Online Auction, and Buddy Classic Golf Tournament exceeded budgeted income by a combined \$15,255

Financials

In 2025, we had a slight deficit in actual income vs. expenses in our General Operating budget (which accounts for all income and expenses that are not associated with the 50th Anniversary Impact Campaign). We raised \$1,916,056, and we received \$99,225 from the Employee Retention Credit in 2025, a request we made through an application to the IRS in November 2023. This accounted for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020. Our application showed we also qualified for quarters 1 and 2 in 2021, but to date, we have not received funding for those quarters.

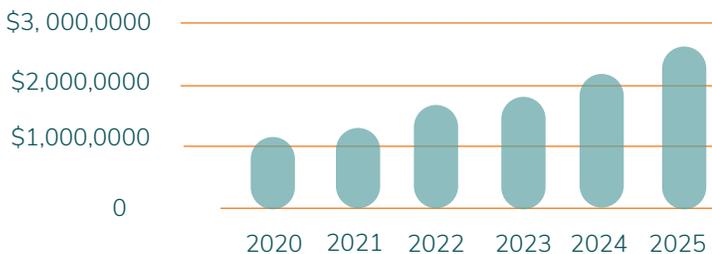
Expenses were \$2,044,059, leaving the organization with a shortfall of -\$38,197. We will use funds from the Reserve Fund to cover this shortfall.

Our 2025 income for our 50th Anniversary Impact Campaign was \$394,750, added to the balance in that account as of 12/31/24, which was \$263,075, covering the total expenses to provide programming in Glenwood Springs in 2025 of \$555,730. We anticipate the funds raised and pledged for Glenwood Springs expansion will be depleted by the end of 2026.

***Please note that these financials have not yet been audited. The Buddy Program works with Maggard & Hood, CPA, and will conduct an audit in June 2026. Please contact us should you want a copy of the 2025 audited financials.*

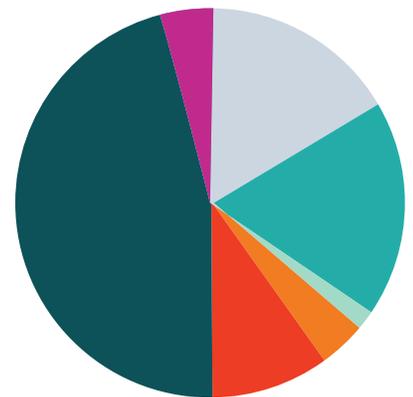
2025 Reserve Fund Balance

(As of December 31 of each year)



The Buddy Program's reserve fund is invested in mutual funds and as of December 31, 2025 had a balance of \$2,680,871, an increase of 17% over the balance at year-end 2024. The Board of Directors has approved a 5% draw from the Reserve Fund monthly average within a year to be used for annual budgeting purposes. In 2025 we budgeted to use \$96,619 to cover a budgeted shortfall. The actual that we will use from the Reserve Fund is \$38,197, the actual shortfall in 2025 as noted above.

2025 Organization Income



	16.4%	Contributions and Grants to 50th Anniversary Campaign
	18.3%	Individual Donations
	4%	Local Government Grants
	1.5%	General Sponsorship
	46.1%	Special Event Income
	9.6%	Other Grants
	4.1%	Employee Retention Credit

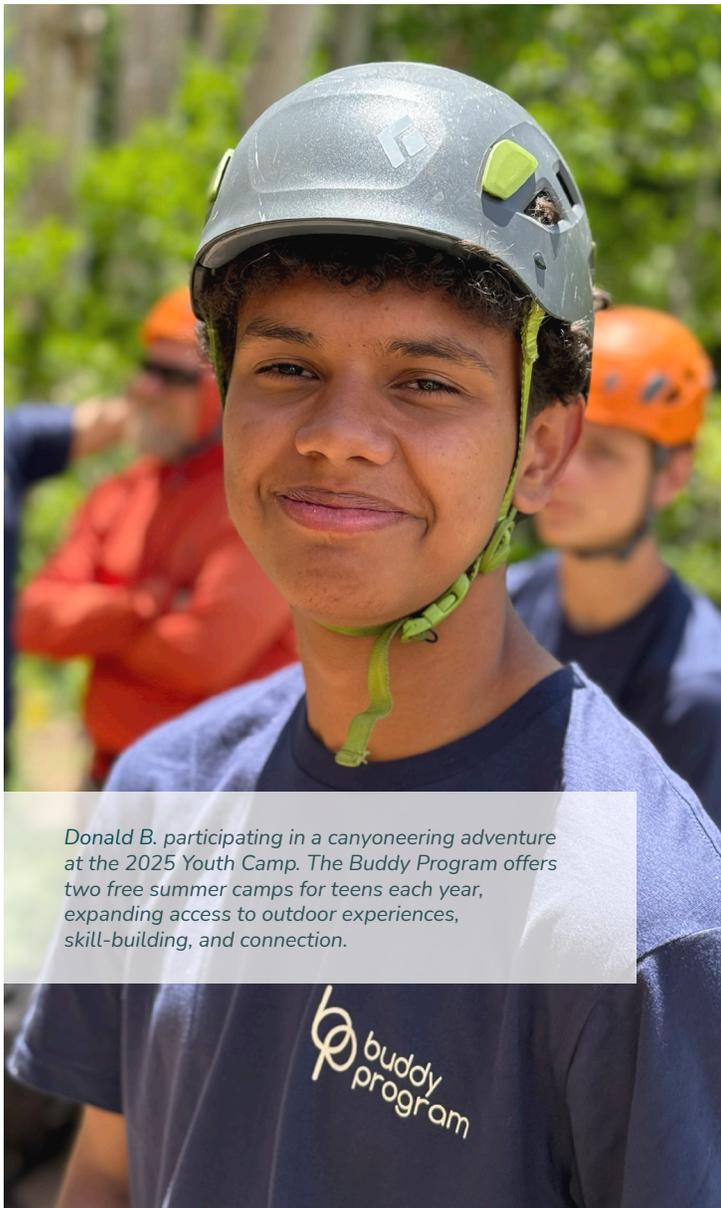
2025 Organizational Expenses



Community, School-based,
Peer-to-Peer and LEAD Programs

“The relationship between the Buddy Program and the Aspen School District has been instrumental. Students are really anxious and stressed right now, and a simple connection has opened the door for so many of them.”

- Aspen Elementary School counselor Shea Robinson



Donald B. participating in a canyoneering adventure at the 2025 Youth Camp. The Buddy Program offers two free summer camps for teens each year, expanding access to outdoor experiences, skill-building, and connection.

Staff and Board

2025 Program Staff

Lindsay Lofaro, Executive Director
Jennifer Balmes, Marketing and Communications Manager
Brooke Bockelman, Assistant Director
Alex Braiedy, LEAD Program Coordinator
John Brasier, LEAD Program Director
Ainhoa Buján, Mentoring Program Director
Mindi Cabe, Grants and Data Manager
Blanca De Leon, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Christina Flores, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Katie Garcia, Mentor Recruitment Manager
Judith Gonzalez, Program and Development Coordinator
Stacy Grimm, Mentor Support and Activities Manager
Teresa Hackbarth, Business Manager
Adam King, LEAD Program Coordinator
Wren Loyd, LEAD Program Coordinator
Hannah Racette, LEAD Program Coordinator
Bri Sanchez, Mentoring Program Coordinator
Emily Zeis, Events and Sponsorship Manager

Stella Guy Warren, Summer Intern
Lupita Ortiz, Summer Intern

2025 Board of Directors

Katie Goldsmith, President	Jennifer Mason
Mark Iola, Vice President	Agnes Moy
Roger Marolt, Treasurer	Becky Murray
Erin Becker	Dana Presutti
Wes Cole	Erika Souki
Mike Connolly	Michael Umansky
Jenny Elliot	Will Weathers
Bailey Everhart	
James Fosnaught	
Adam Goldsmith	
Amanda Hirsh	
Alexandra Hughes	

2025 Leadership Development Board

Bailey Everhart, President
Tyler Barletta
Wheeler Clancy
Kendall Dalton
Lane Johnson
Tony Mendez
Olivia Nobbs
Chris Striefel
Brenna Young

Our commitment

We value, celebrate, and consciously cultivate diversity as we strive to achieve equity through the power of mentoring.



Scan to learn more about Buddy Program's road map towards equity.



The Buddy Program empowers youth through mentoring experiences to achieve their full potential.

We envision a thriving community in which all members are supported and connected through meaningful relationships and experiences to achieve success.

