



2014 Annual Report





Brett Kemp
Board Chair



Heather Vesgaard
Executive Director

Fredrick Douglas said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"

At Partners, we feel fortunate to spend our days focused on helping to build strong youth in northern Colorado. We are continually impressed by their resilience, courage, accomplishments, and their potential to create positive change in our world. Further, we are inspired by the adults who volunteer their time, talent, and energy as mentors to these youth and we are grateful for their commitment to being a positive difference.

In 2014, volunteers invested over 14,000 hours of time being that positive difference for youth through mentoring. We believe this is a worthy investment. Our mentoring partnerships are out in the community learning, playing, and contributing together. They are in our schools, working together so that the youth can make positive gains in school and look toward their own future success.

In addition to building friendships with positive adults, Partners youth are improving in areas like self-esteem, healthy decision making, attitudes toward school, and attitudes toward substance

abuse. These attitudes that are changing and improving now, will impact their choices and behaviors in the future and we will all benefit from that change as individuals, families and society.

That is the power of mentoring, and it is what drives us to continue to do more.

As we reflect on 2014, we celebrate the successes of the year and work to learn from the areas in which we fell short. It perhaps goes without saying that raising funds to support our work is an ongoing challenge. Further, the need for more mentors is a primary focus for us as there are hundreds of youth in want and need of the critical support of a mentor in their lives.

We ended the year preparing for success in the coming year. We achieved success in securing some large grant revenue at the end of the year, with timing dictating that those dollars be credited to 2015. This set the stage for a solid financial position in the New Year. We also began implementation of a planned transition in leadership, with long time Executive Director Chris Imsland handing over the reins to then Associate Director Heather Vesgaard.

We welcome a new Board of Directors (BOD) Chair in Mike Ketterling, continuing our tradition of strong leadership at the BOD level.

Finally, we continue with the support of many passionate individuals, you all included, who support mentoring as a powerful force for our youth.

Thank you for being a part of our journey as we strive to enrich lives and build community as leaders in youth mentoring.

Heather Vesgaard
Executive Director, Partners Mentoring Youth

Brett Kemp
Board Chair, Partners Mentoring Youth
Executive Vice President, Flood and Peterson

Partners Activities Promote Learning, Life-Skills, and Laughter

Each year, the program staff at Partners plans numerous activities for our waiting youth (Nexus) and partnerships to enjoy. Our goal is to offer at least twelve recreational activities, six life-skill activities, and four trainings or continuing education opportunities (CEOs) for our Senior Partners. We also ask our partnerships to participate in one community service project during their first year together, so we offer some of those as well.

In 2014, we were able to offer a total of 44 activities, due largely to the generosity of people and/or organizations in our community, who partner with us on those activities. Some cover the complete cost of an activity, some give us discounted rates, and others offer their services as an in-kind donation.

Some of the highlights from 2014 include going to a Rockies game, generously donated by the Fast Freddy Foundation. It included all the tickets, a chartered bus, and Dinger Dollars so the kids could purchase snacks and souvenirs. This was a big day for our youth since many had never been to a Rockies game.

Another favorite was our archery activity, put on by the Big Thompson Bow Hunters. The kids loved this activity because with just a little instruction they were able to be successful, and the bow hunters did what they could to ensure that success. They had regular targets, animal targets and balloons with prizes inside for the kids to shoot at. It was a very fun day and the kids were thrilled to be part of it.

Our Estes Park office hosted a few activities throughout the year such as horseback riding at the YMCA camp, snowshoeing in Rocky Mountain National Park, and the annual Ride-a-Kart outing. Partnerships were very willing to travel up the canyon to attend these events. Our Greeley office came up with some of our most unique activities in 2014, including participating in the Great Greeley Chalk Art community event, attending a Hug a Horse activity, and a Vision Board activity where





kids were encouraged to focus on their goals and dreams for the future.

Our largest activity of the year was our annual Christmas for Kids activity. The purpose of this activity was for our youth to purchase Christmas gifts for their families, something many of them have never been able to do before.

The activity began very early on a Saturday morning with the youth and their partners or activity volunteers meeting at Walmart, armed with shopping lists, budgets and a (donated) \$50 gift card. Before the activity their partner or activity volunteer helped them create their lists and figure out how much they would be able to spend on each person.

It is always a challenge to see how close they can get to the \$50 without going over. It is amazing how many came within just a few cents. They were so proud of themselves! Once their shopping was complete, they headed over to Embassy Suites in Loveland to wrap their gifts and enjoy a breakfast buffet provided by Embassy.

Before they left the activity, each of the kids was given a backpack filled with surprises of their own.

Overall it was a wonderful activity, and the kids, as well as their families, appreciated the generosity of all those who made it possible. All in all, nearly 150 youth and a total of 300 people participated in this activity. A huge thank you goes out to all of our community partners for making our activities so fun and special for our youth! We couldn't do this without you!

Meet Our Partnerships

Senior Partner, Brittany and Junior Partner, Adina have been matched for two years in the School Based Program. Brittany has been a tremendous help for Adina with her schoolwork. They spend time doing homework together, setting academic goals, reading books, and talking about high school and college. They also enjoying eating lunch together, playing sports, and challenging each other in card games. They also grab lunch together and will play sports and board games at school. Outside of school, they like to do community service projects around town and work on their cooking skills.



Senior Partner Brett and Junior Partner Alex met at a Partners activity a little over three years ago. Alex was a youth waiting to be matched and Brett was there as a guest, not even a Partners volunteer yet. While at the activity, they kept getting in trouble for talking and we knew right away they would make a good match. After that meeting, Brett decided he wanted to be a Senior Partner and that he wanted Alex as his Junior Partner. They have now been matched for three years and do all kinds of things together. They go camping, watch movies, go bowling, fly together, as well as attend leadership retreats and are involved in boy scouts. Alex has been to a Rotary club meeting where he received the young RYLA scholarship and has volunteered with Greeley Young Professionals.

2014 Partners Staff

Maryann Fillingim – Development Manager
Sarah Helms – School Based Program Manager
Chris Imsland – Executive Director
Kristi Ehle – Estes Park Program Coordinator
Shayna Nashelsky – Program Coordinator
Tami Roskamp – Community Based Program Manager
Allie Hoensheid – School Based Mentoring Program Coordinator

Gayle Ruiter – Business Manager
Gail Shatz – Greeley Program Coordinator
Heather Vesgaard – Associate Director

2014 Board of Directors

Cathy Mathis, Past Chair
Pat McMeekin
Mike LaPlante
Brett Kemp, Chair
Scott Tally
Lauren Roesener
Kevin Ward
Stephanie Dohn-Augusto
Melissa Clary
Timiry Krieger
Katie Zwetzig
Eric Reisler
Peter Fardal
Celeste Smith, Secretary
Grace Taylor
Julia Crawmer, Treasurer
Mike Ketterling, Incoming Chair

2014 Program Stats

100%

of our youth have the potential to succeed in life

100%

of our youth deserve to have a Senior Partner who invests in that potential

Nearly 100% of our youth face mental health issues either themselves or within their immediate family

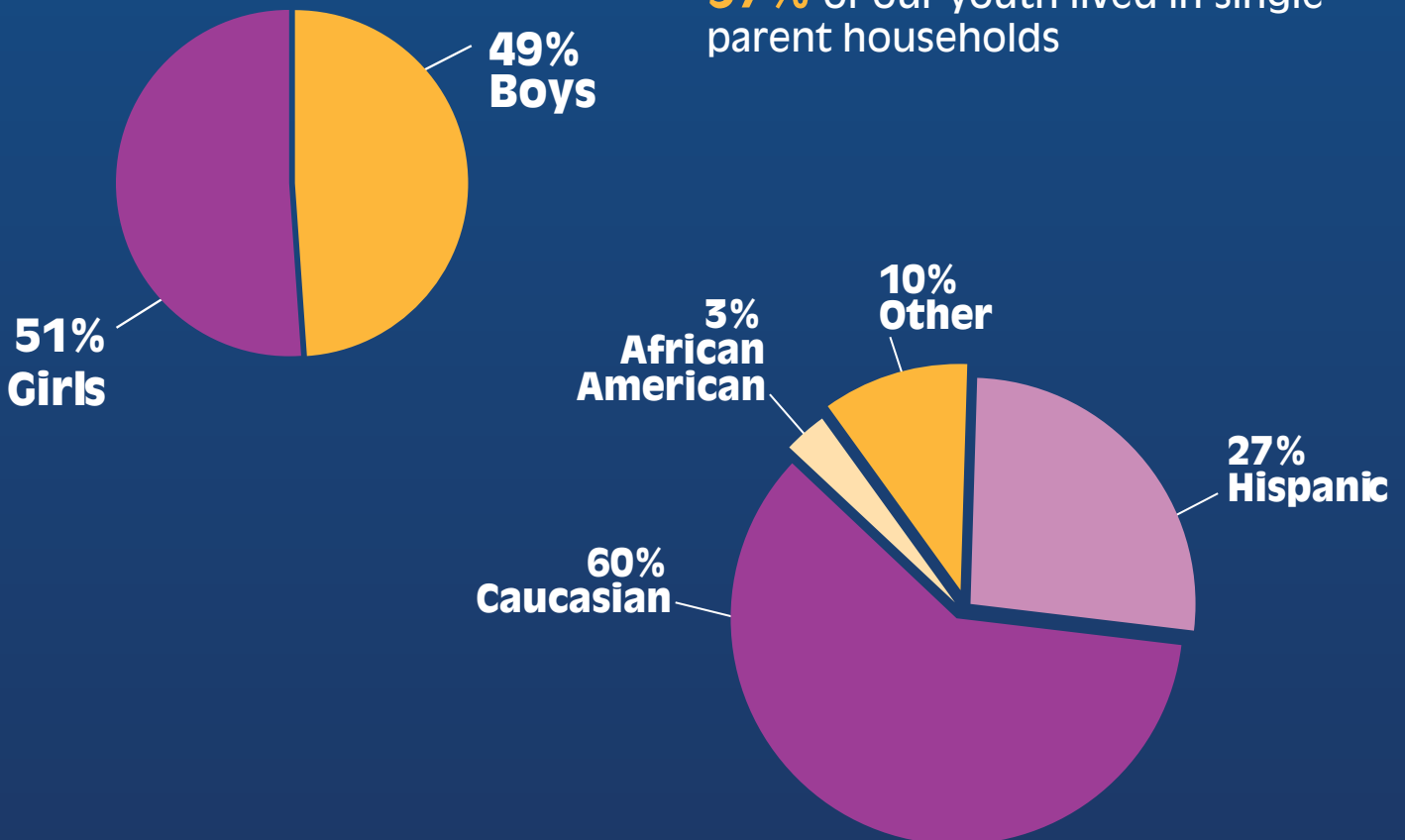
82% of our youth lived in low income or poverty level homes

74% of our youth have been victims of some type abuse, neglect, or domestic violence

67% of our youth struggled academically

46% of our youth were affected by substance abuse

57% of our youth lived in single parent households



2014 Program Stats

Expenses:

Program Services

Youth Programs: \$592,633

Support Services

Management and General: \$51,782

Fundraising: \$70,383

Total Support Services: \$122,165

Total Expenses 714,798

Revenue:

Grants and Contracts: \$97,941

Contributions: \$274,586

In Kind Donations: \$70,333

Special Events, net: \$187,761

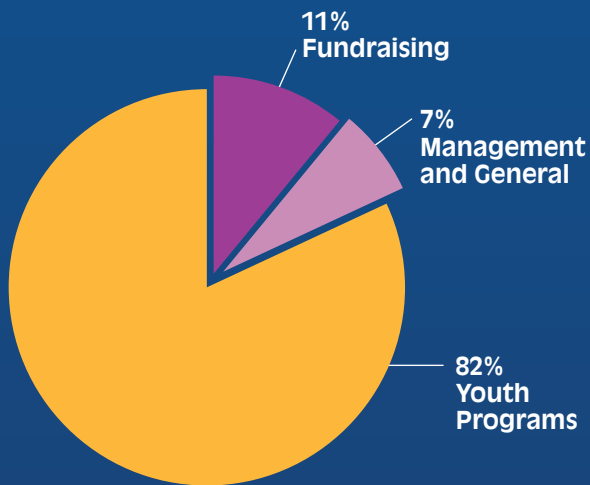
Rental income, net: \$1200

Other Income: \$2,635

Interest Income: \$122

Endowment net investment earnings: \$1671

Total Revenue: \$636,249



Net Assets – beginning of year: (\$446,472)

Net Assets – end of year: (\$367,923)

Change in Net Assets: (\$78,549)





Since 1978, Partners has provided mentoring services to over 5,000 youth in northern Colorado. Our program matches youth facing challenges with responsible adults, creating relationships that make a positive, lasting impact.

We are the most comprehensive one-to-one mentoring program in northern Colorado. We are exceptional at matching volunteer mentors with these youth, supporting their relationship, and providing activity programming, all based on mentoring best practices.

In 2014, Partners served 436 youth, between the ages of 7 and 17, in our Community Based Mentoring (CBM) and School Based Mentoring (SBM) and Nexus programs throughout Northern Colorado.

The youth in our program (Junior Partners) experience challenges in their academic, social and/or personal lives. Junior Partners are matched with a screened and trained adult volunteer based on similar interests, personality types and needs. These matches, called Partnerships, will spend an average of one to three hours a week together for one year or longer. During their Partnership, they are supported by Program Coordinators and have access to activities, life skill training, community

service opportunities and round the clock support. All mentoring services are free to our youth, thanks to generous donors and funders.

Volunteer Information

Volunteers are vital to our organization and they enhance our ability to fulfill our mission. In fact, without our volunteers, we could not run our program effectively.

Our organization utilizes over 500 volunteers per year in a variety of capacities including Senior Partners (mentors), Activity Volunteers, event committee members, interns and general event/office volunteers. They come from all walks of life and age groups.

In 2014, 495 volunteers contributed over 17,054 hours; valued at \$384,568 (value of 2014 volunteer time per indespector.org is \$22.55/hr.). Of that, 14,819 hours was volunteer time dedicated to supporting youth.

That's an amazing amount of support when you consider that the value of volunteer time is equivalent to over half our budget.

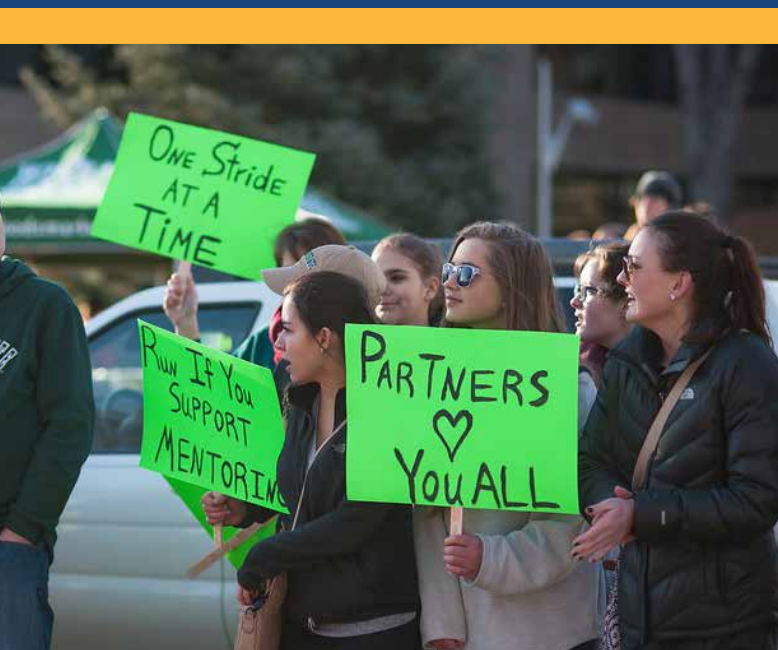
Support Partners Mentoring Youth

Partners Mentoring Youth has a number of fundraising opportunities. Through fundraising events that it hosts or events hosted by other organizations, private donations, corporate sponsorships and grants, Partners generates over \$700,000 in revenue, and as the organization grows and the number of youth served grows, that number grows, too.

Monetary support is important to the ongoing success of Partners, but even more so are the annual events. Events are an incredible marketing tool and generate more awareness of the youth who benefit from the services provided. Our events, in both Larimer and Weld Counties, are an opportunity to introduce new community members to the work of Partners.

Sharin' O' the Green

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, this run/walk in Old Town Fort Collins is a great way to start the running season, get your heart pumping and work the cricks out of your knees. The 2014 race rose over \$90,000 towards Partners Mentoring Youth programming with nearly 2,500 runners competing. Look for this race, coming to you on Saturday, March 12th, 2016!



Party for Partners

Party for Partners is the organization's premier leadership event that caters to a crowd exceeding 200 business professionals and community leaders. Party for Partners celebrated in June in the Agave Room above the Rio in Fort Collins, and featured music and inspirational testimonials from both Junior and Senior Partners. Combined, the silent auction and donations raised over \$55,000



SuperStars Sports Challenge

Partners Mentoring Youth's signature fundraiser of the year is the exciting SuperStars Sports Challenge. 2014 was the 32nd consecutive year and it just keeps getting better. SuperStars 2015 will be held on Saturday, September 12th at Rolland Moore Park in Fort Collins. Come out and run, jump and help raise money for Partners!

Running of the Bulls

It may not be Pamplona, and these bulls tend to bugle rather than bellow or moo. The Running of the Bulls is a beautiful run/walk around Lake Estes, and all proceeds benefit Partners Mentoring Youth. The unique 3.75 mile course at a high altitude of 7,500 feet starts and finishes at Lake Estes Marina. The lap offers stunning views of snow-capped peaks, fall

colors in and around Rocky Mountain National Park, and potential to see some elk! The event is dog friendly, stroller friendly, and offers a free one mile kids' fun run. Join us on Saturday, September 26th, 2015 for this incredible run!

Be the Difference

Our third annual Be the Difference luncheon in Greeley was a huge success in 2014, raising over \$20,000 for youth in Weld County. We expect to have an even better event this October 14th, 2015, as we continue to spread the word about mentoring and being the difference in the life of a child.

Christmas for Kids Campaign

This year-end appeal with a goal of raising \$100,000, enough to serve 70 Northern Colorado youth for a full year in the Partners program, is highlighted with a fun life-skill activity. More than 150 Northern Colorado youth, along with their adult mentors, are set loose in Wal-Mart. Armed with a gift card; Junior Partners helped through budgeting with their Senior Partner and experience the gift of giving for themselves.



2014 Year-Round Event Sponsors

Thank you to: University of Colorado Health, Chipper's Lanes, Pioneer Press, Kaiser Permanente, Vista Solutions, Verified Volunteers.

Partners is also a proud affiliate agency of Realities for Children.

Major Donors and In-Kind Contributors

Anne Smith
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Derek and Kendra Johnson
Dohn Construction
EKS&H
Embassy Suites
Episcopal Church-Women of St. Bartholomew
Estes Park Rotary Foundation Inc.
Estes Valley Sunrise Rotary Club
Eye Center of Northern Colorado PC
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Sage Benefit Advisors
Sage Marketing Group
Scott Gillan
Scott Webb
Shane and Tori Brown
SilverEdge
Subway.
TCBY
The Rio
Town of Estes Park
Unify CPA
University of Colorado Health
US Bank
Verified Volunteers
Whole Foods Market
WW Reynolds

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Anonymous
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Bohemian Foundation
City of Loveland-Human Services Grant
Colorado Office of Behavioral Health
Condon Family Foundation
Daniels Fund
Fast Freddy Foundation
Foundations Church
Helen K. and Arther E. Johnson Foundation
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The Denver Foundation
Trois Coeurs Foundation
United Way of Larimer County
United Way of Weld County
US Bancorp Foundation
Victim Assistance/Law Enforcement Fund
Wal-Mart Foundation
Woodward

We sincerely apologize if we inadvertently left anyone off this list.

