



PARTNERS
Mentoring Youth

2015 Annual Report



Mike Ketterling
Board Chair



Heather Vesgaard
Executive Director

youth through mentoring. Nearly 400 youth benefitted from those hours of service through high quality programming. 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 to their own future success. In addition to building friendships with positive adult role models, Partners youth are learning new skills and improving in areas like self-esteem, decision making, attitudes toward school, and attitudes about substance abuse. They are making positive strides, and we will all benefit as these youth grow to become contributing adults in our communities.

It was a good year for Partners financially and we ended the year on a strong financial position. Successes in this area allowed us to regain an operating reserve of about 5 months. We have a broad foundation of support from a variety of community, corporate and individual partners and achieved many successes in our special event fundraising, including a record \$95,000 in our annual Christmas for Kids Campaign. With these successes we were able to prepare for programmatic enhancements and growth in the coming year.

As we continue into 2016 our sights are set on serving more youth with our best practice programming. We move forward, continually inspired by the youth we serve, the volunteers who serve them, and the generosity of the communities in which we live and work to achieve our vision. 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*

Mike Ketterling Board Chair, *Partners Mentoring Youth Principal, KBN Engineers*

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

Each year following the completion and approval of our Annual Financial Audit, we go through the process of preparing an annual report for our communities and supporters. Completing this report for the preceding calendar year while actively involved with the activities of the current year is an exercise that allows for reflection; something many of us don't take enough time for in the fast paced world in which we live. At Partners, 2015 is a year that certainly warrants reflection. It brought new youth to serve, new volunteers to engage, and new staff to join our team with a new Executive Director to lead them. With change comes opportunity, and the year brought many realized opportunities to celebrate.

In 2015, volunteers invested over 14,000 hours of time being a positive force in the lives of

Activities Across Northern Colorado

The program staff at Partners plan and host activities throughout northern Colorado each year. The purpose of these activities is to provide fun learning opportunities for partnerships and youth on our waiting list, as well as to build community among all our participants.

We offer a wide range of activities in Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, and Estes Park. These activities are possible largely because of the generosity of people and organizations in our community, who partner with us to provide funding and special access for our participants. We focus on providing experiences that are life-skill building, community service-oriented and recreational—here are some highlights:

Giving Thanks

This event at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery was for our entire Partners community, including youth, families, volunteers, staff, and donors. It was a successful and fun time for all those in attendance! We served tasty appetizers and provided ample time for everyone to check out all the exhibits. The museum generously gave out extra passes to our kids so they could come back for more exploring, and bring their families to engage in the fun as well.



Lego Building

Our Lego activities in Fort Collins and Greeley were well attended and a great way to get creative. Participants got to listen to a presentation on all the fun and different ways to use Legos, and see examples of different structures our guest presenter has built over time. Our kids then got to play with the provided Legos and use their ingenuity to build their very own structures.

Archery

There was a tremendous turnout of participants at the Archery event provided by Big Thompson's Bow Hunter Society. Everyone sat in on an introduction to archery and an informative safety talk. BTBHS were amazing with our participants, providing lots of encouragement and helpful instruction. The youth were able to shoot for a full hour and a half, and we provided with snacks to keep up their energy! All of the youth had a great time and were very appreciative.



Cooking Class

Whole Foods helped us host a healthy cooking class for our partnerships, who enjoyed this activity a lot! Everyone was able to cook a menu of creative and appetizing meals while still being able to maintain a nutritious diet and cater to a variety of allergy and custom food needs. With teamwork among the partnerships, small groups each cooked a part of the menu and then combined their creations to come together and enjoy a full meal at the end.

Enriching Lives Through Mentoring

We love to share the stories of great partnerships who really made an impact on each other. One of our incredible partnerships is between Laura and Tyeisha, who have been together for 11 years. We recently asked them to reflect on their years together, and what made their relationship so meaningful and long-lasting:



You have both said that you recognized two important qualities that make the foundation of your partnership—respect & appreciation for each other. What has that looked like over the years?

L: In the past 11 years, our relationship has grown and changed a lot. We started out as strangers, grew into friends, became family, and created a unique bond that is hard to compare to other relationships in our lives. I believe the reason our bond is so strong is because we both have a great deal of respect and appreciation for each other. I was so lucky to be matched with Tyeisha as she always ended our time together by saying “thank you”...and still does. I have always felt that she has appreciated me and the time we spend together, which made it easy to feel that I was making a difference. I know that not all children are able to show such appreciation, so I feel grateful that she was able to show that to me.

T: I think we showed respect to each other by listening to each other’s opinions and trying new things for one another, even if it wouldn’t have been our top choice! Laura showed respect to me by listening to me and accepting me for who I was and I showed respect to her by accepting when she had to say “no” to things and by not asking for too much besides her time and company.

L: That appreciation and respect for each other eventually allowed for a deep sense of trust to be formed, which created safety and security within our relationship.



T: That trust was really important to me because it allowed me to share things with Laura that I wouldn’t usually share with other people. Being able to share helped with everything—my mind, my thoughts, my emotions; it helped me to be less stressed.

Laura, what were two of your personal goals for this experience?

L: One of my goals as a mentor was to provide Tyeisha with stability. As she grew up, there were periods when school, friends, and family were not very stable for her. No matter what was happening in her



life, I wanted to make sure that our time together was always predictable. I always wanted Tyeisha to know that she could count on a positive experience when she was with me.

The other thing that I really wanted to provide to her was new experiences. I think this is such an important piece of being a mentor. A lot of times our life experiences growing up are limited to the experiences and traditions within our families. It has been so fun to be able to give Tyeisha new experiences such as hiking, biking, trying new foods, and public speaking! And it has been fun for me to receive new experiences from her and her family as well.



Tyeisha, what was something you appreciated about your relationship with Laura?

T: I appreciated that I could trust her and that she respected me. She was someone I could look up to as a great role model because she gave me a more positive outlook on life.

Laura, as a mentor, what have you learned about yourself because of your relationship with Tyeisha?

L: I have learned that there is a lot of power in simply being present with another person and genuinely enjoying their company. I learned that I didn't always have to have the power to change the situation or have the magic answer to solve all of the problems to make a positive impact on her life.

I learned that creating such a deep and special bond with someone who I may have otherwise never met, brought so much fulfillment to my life. I am so grateful to have made the decision to become a mentor, and can't imagine my life without her in it!

Tyeisha, when you think about your future, would you see yourself mentoring someone else?

T: I definitely would because it made such an impact on my life and in hearing how it impacted Laura's life. And I would love to be able to do that for somebody else. No matter how hard life is, you can change someone else's—it helped me!



2015 Community and Program Stats

In 2015, Partners Mentoring Youth served 385 youth in our mentoring programs

93% of our youth face mental health issues either themselves or within their immediate family

81% of our youth live in low income or poverty level homes

75% of our youth have been victims of some type of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence

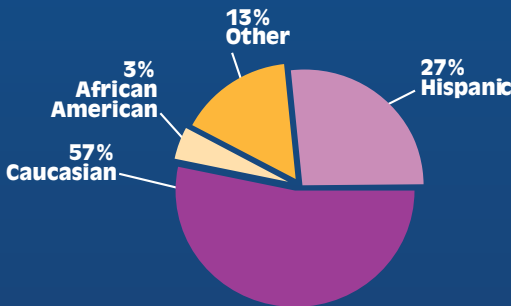
70% of our youth struggle academically

44% of our youth were affected by substance abuse

58% of our youth lived in single parent households

100% of our youth have the potential to succeed in life

100% of our youth deserve to have a Senior Partners who invests in that potential



Mentoring In Our Community: By the Numbers

139 Thousand Youth Living in Weld & Larimer counties

20,700

Live in Poverty

32,500

Live in a Single Parent Home

17% Engage in binge drinking

10% Chronically miss school

17% consider or attempt suicide

1 IN 3

WILL GROW UP WITHOUT AN ADULT MENTOR

The need is high. Our mission works.

After 1 year in the Partners Mentoring Youth program, youth experience:

- ✓ Increased self-esteem and confidence
- ✓ Improved academic performance
- ✓ Decreased delinquency and negative behaviors
- ✓ Better ability to plan for their future

2015 Financial Information

Expenses:

Program Services

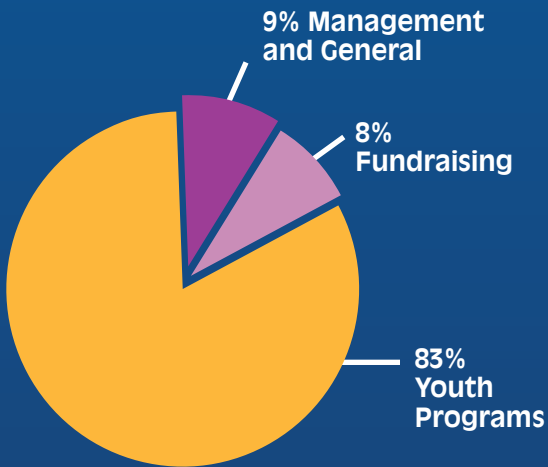
Youth Programs: \$551,287

Support Services

Management and General: \$62,281

Fundraising: \$54,785

Total Expenses \$668,353



Net Assets:

Net Assets – beginning of year: \$367,923

Net Assets – end of year: \$419,264

Change in Net Assets: \$51,341

Revenue:

Grants and Contracts: \$378,967

Contributions: \$135,328

In Kind Donations: \$51,036

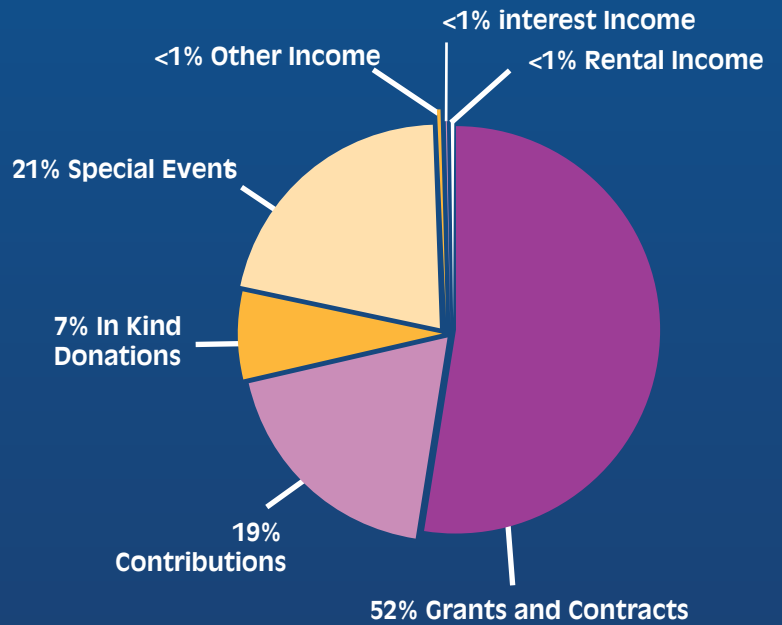
Special Events, net: \$151,773

Rental income, net: \$1,200

Other Income: \$1,232

Interest Income: \$258

Total Revenue: \$719,694



Support Partners Mentoring Youth

We aim to expand the reach of our mission to better serve our northern Colorado communities. The number of youth in need of extra support is growing, and we consistently have youth waiting for mentors.

You can help. By providing Partners Mentoring Youth with a financial gift or commitment to volunteer, you sustain our program and make growth possible. We depend on the support of generous, caring adults to continue providing meaningful and effective mentoring services to youth facing challenges.

Volunteer: We create partnerships based on shared interests, common values, and logistical preferences. If you have 1-3 hours per week to volunteer, you can be the difference in the life of a child.

Invest: Your gift to Partners Mentoring Youth directly supports our mentoring programs. You can give to Partners with a one time or monthly gift, through our fundraising events, and with planned gifts.

Get Involved and contribute at
www.partnersmentoringyouth.org



Community Events

We love connecting with our communities in Fort Collins, Greeley, and Estes Park. Join us by participating in one of our incredible fun runs or attending one of our annual celebration events. Look for updates on our website, www.partnersmentoringyouth.org

Sharin' O' the Green — March, Fort Collins

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, this 5K run/walk in Old Town Fort Collins is a great way to start the running season. The 2015 race had over 2,000 participants and Partners raised over \$90,000 for our programs. Good luck comes to those who mentor!

Fiesta 5K — May, Greeley

We hosted our first annual Fiesta 5K fun run in Greeley in 2015, and it was fun to expand our run series to include a race in Weld County. Hundreds of enthusiastic runners came out to participate and we raised funds for our Greeley mentoring programs.



Party for Partners — June, Fort Collins

Party for Partners is our premier leadership event in Fort Collins. In 2015, over 200 partners supporters attended for a fun evening in the Agave Room. Between the live music, live and silent auction, photo booth, and inspiring program, we really had quite the party! All combined, we raised nearly \$50,000 to support our youth.



Running of the Bulls — September, Estes Park

Every fall we enjoy the foliage in Estes Park during our 3.75 mile Running of the Bulls race. Race day was beautiful in 2015, and we even had elk near the course! This event brings together the Estes Park community and benefits our partnerships there. Join us on September 24, 2016!



Be the Difference — October, Greeley

Our 2015 fourth annual Be the Difference luncheon in Greeley was a huge success, raising over \$20,000 for youth in Weld County. We are looking forward to our next luncheon on October 18, 2016, as we expand our Greeley mentoring services to include a School Based program.



Christmas for Kids Campaign

Our annual year-end appeal is centered around giving kids the gift of mentoring. We aim to raise \$100,000 to support our programs, which is enough to support 70 northern Colorado kids in a mentoring relationship for a year. We pair this with our annual life-skill building activity, where youth and their mentors budget and shop for holiday gifts for their loved ones, so they can experience the gift of giving for themselves.



Major Donors and In-Kind Contributors

Advanced Medical Imaging
Anadarko Petroleum
Andy Hairgrove
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Art and Johnna Bavoso
Austins American Grill
Banner Health
BG Automotive
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Bob and Joyce Everitt
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Estes Park Lodging Association
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Estes Valley Sunrise Rotary Club
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Farmers Bank
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Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
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Grace and Jason Taylor
High Country Beverage
Home State Bank
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K-12
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Kendra and Derek Johnson
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Lamp, Rynearson, and Associates
Larry and Pat Kendall
LJ and Jennifer Houska
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Ress Investments
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Rick Callan
Robin Pelkey
Romeo Golf Club
Runlimited
Sage Benefit Advisors
Sage Marketing Group
Scott Gillan
Shane and Tori Brown
Sports Authority
Subway
The Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant
Tim Hebert
Town of Estes Park
Unify CPA

University of Colorado Health
Vaught Frye
Verified Volunteers
Vista Solutions
Whole Foods Market
Women of St Bartholomews'
Episcopal Church

Grants & Foundations

A.V. Hunter Trust
Adolph Coors Foundation
Anonymous
Anonymous
Bohemian Foundation
City of Loveland Human Services Grant
Colorado Office of Behavioral Health
Condon Family Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Estes Park Rotary Foundation
Excel Energy Foundation
Fast Freddy Foundation
Foundations Church
Helen K. and Arther E. Johnson
Foundation
New York Life Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
OtherCares Foundation
Peyback Foundation
RJ Clark Family Foundation
Smith Family Foundation
The Denver Foundation
Trois Coeurs Foundation
United Way of Larimer County
United Way of Weld County
US Bancorp Foundation
Victim Assistance/Law Enforcement
Fund of Larimer County
Victim Assistance/Law Enforcement
Fund of Weld County
Wal Mart Foundation
Woodward

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



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"My mentor has taught me that I am where I am supposed to be, and I am strong. She's taught me how I can be successful in the future."

- Junior Partner



"Senior Partners make real differences for their Junior Partners by being stable and reliable—just being there for them. It doesn't take a lot of time either, and it means so much to these kids."

- Board Director



"The youth need many things to help them be successful; strong extended families, good teachers, positive peer group, strong internal compass, motivation, etc. I think Partners is an important ingredient in this mix. Having a caring adult who is willing to listen and serve as a role model is important."

- Senior Partner

www.PartnersMentoringYouth.org

