



**PARTNERS**  
Mentoring Youth

## 2016 Annual Report





**Grace Taylor**  
*Board Chair*



**Heather Vesgaard**  
*Executive Director*

**William James once said, “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”**

Please enjoy our 2016 annual report. As we are in the midst of a busy 2017, it’s fun to sit down and remember some of the highlights of the past year.

The year 2016 brought many positive moments in our programs, with 432 youth served through high quality mentoring support and group activities! Nearly 600 awesome volunteers invested 12,477 hours in supporting those youth. You’ll find pictures and highlights of the fun we had in 2016 throughout this report. While “fun” is a key component of what we do, there is some serious work happening as well. Our mentoring partnerships are out in the community learning, growing, 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. Through mentoring, youth in the Partners program are learning new skills and improving in areas like self-esteem, decision making, attitudes toward school, and attitudes about substance abuse.

It was also a solid year for Partners financially. Financial successes allowed us to regain an operating reserve of about four months. We have a broad foundation of support from a variety of community, corporate, and individual partners. Partners achieved many successes in grant and foundation work, as well as our special event fundraising. Additionally, 2016 brought our first realized bequest gift. The generosity of someone who wanted to leave a legacy to Partners beyond his own life is humbling to experience. His gift allowed us to make a significant contribution to our organizational endowment, which, as it grows, is a vehicle that will allow Partners to contribute to this community beyond my time here.

As we continue into 2017 we are focused on serving more youth, and continuing to provide quality services to our current youth with our best practice programming. We are grateful to be a part of such a supportive community with wonderful adults and youth alike, all who allow us to further our work. Thank you for continuing to be a part of that community and for helping us to “be the difference” in the lives of Northern Colorado youth.

Heather Vesgaard  
*Executive Director*  
*Partners Mentoring Youth*

Grace Taylor  
*Board Chair, Partners Mentoring Youth*  
*Senior Director, University of Colorado Health*

# Activities Across Northern Colorado

One of the highlights of every month is hosting the life-skill building, community service-oriented, and recreational activities that provide a fun opportunity to build community among Partners Mentoring Youth participants.

We host a wide variety of activities throughout the year for partnerships and youth on our waiting list. Thanks to all of the local businesses, organizations, and individual donors who provide funding and special access to our kids and volunteers. Here are some of our favorites from 2016:

## Car Care Clinic

Houska Automotive hosted several partnerships to demonstrate car maintenance skills, offer a tour, grill dinner, and answer questions about careers in the automotive industry. Youth got a chance to get their hands dirty while learning important life skills.



## Community Gardening

Kids in our Nexus program and Activity Volunteers gathered with NoCo Shares to help harvest a community garden. By the end of the day, we harvested 361 pounds of produce, including peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers to donate to the Food Bank. Plus, participants learned more about the importance of growing fresh food.

## Horseback Riding

We had a beautiful day horseback riding through Rocky Mountain National Park from Jackson Stables in Estes Park. Several partnerships and Nexus youth took part in the hour-long beginners ride, and learned how to interact and connect with the horses.



## Giving Thanks

Partners is grateful to all the youth, families, and volunteers in our programs across northern Colorado. We host our annual Giving Thanks events with delicious food and fun activities to celebrate with our community. In Greeley a large group met at Littler Campus Center, and in Fort Collins a crowd spent the evening at Lee Martinez Farm.



# Enriching Lives Through Mentoring

For every youth we serve, there is a great story of connection, perseverance, and hope. One of these stories comes from the incredible partnership between Ian and Jesse, who have been together for 2 years. Their time together has made a major impact on each of their lives, and has also made an impression on those close to them. Jesse's mother, Lisa, wanted to share about her experience with Partners:



"All three of my kids have had good experiences with Partners Mentoring Youth. Any single mom—as I am—realizes it takes a village, and I have been completely blessed with this program. The mentoring, as well as the group experiences that the organization offered to my kids while they waited to be matched with mentors has been priceless.

Jesse and his mentor, Ian—a firefighter—have been buddies from day one. Their activities have been superb for an 11 year old boy. Ian has been an excellent role model and a very good friend to Jesse. They have done fun activities including archery, working on Ian's truck, trips to Rollerland and Fly High trampoline park,

and many other exciting things. Ian has been there for Jesse like no other. The advice and example he has shown Jesse has been a dream come true for me. The bond between them is a brotherhood that will last a life time.

I am very passionate about Partners and what it has done for my family. The experience brings out a lot of emotions and brings tears to my

eyes in gratitude. I am so grateful as a single mom to have my sons have such superb male role models! This program has given my children opportunities and mentorship that have been life changing for them. I thank Partners for all that they have done and I highly encourage more people to step up. These children are our future and I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful program!"



Ian also has a lot to say about the importance of his partnership with Jesse. Ian attributes much of his success with Jesse to the Partners program and staff, who set him up to thrive as a mentor through training and support. He recently reflected on their two years together, and what they've taught each other by spending time together:

"I've taught Jesse a lot—I feel like I've taught him simple things, such as tying a fishing line and things like that. But what I really want to convey to him is my mannerisms—the way I interact with people, the way I live my life.

I live my life pretty simply: be polite, anything worth doing is worth overdoing, and if you're the smartest person in the room, you are in the wrong room. I'm really teaching him subliminal stuff—things that he just picks up on. But I've also learned a lot from Jesse...besides his sweet dance moves! If he likes you, and he respects you, he will shower you with compliments until you are red in the

face. And that really resonates with me—if you like someone, or love someone and appreciate them, let them know. He's taught me to take only what you need, and leave something behind through his persistent generosity at Partners activities.

Finally, don't be afraid to show off and get the attention you deserve. Jesse is the most amazing kid I've ever met in my entire life. He's had some circumstances that require a positive male influence, but we haven't run into any issues. We are friends—genuine friends who are just hanging out.

The impact I've had on Jesse has come full circle, and he now has such a huge effect on me."



# 2016 Community and Program Stats

In 2016, Partners Mentoring Youth served 432 youth in our mentoring programs

**89%** of our youth face mental health issues either themselves or within their immediate family

**78%** 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

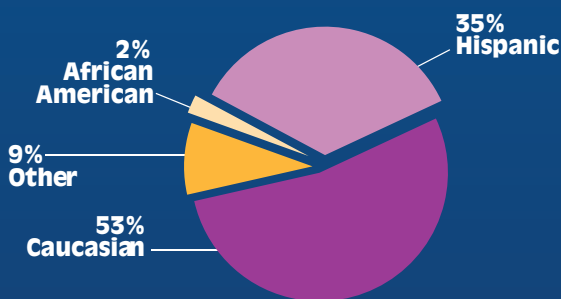
**68%** of our youth struggle academically

**46%** of our youth were affected by substance abuse

**57%** 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 Partner 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



# 2016 Financial Information

## Expenses:

### Program Services

Youth Programs: \$662,463

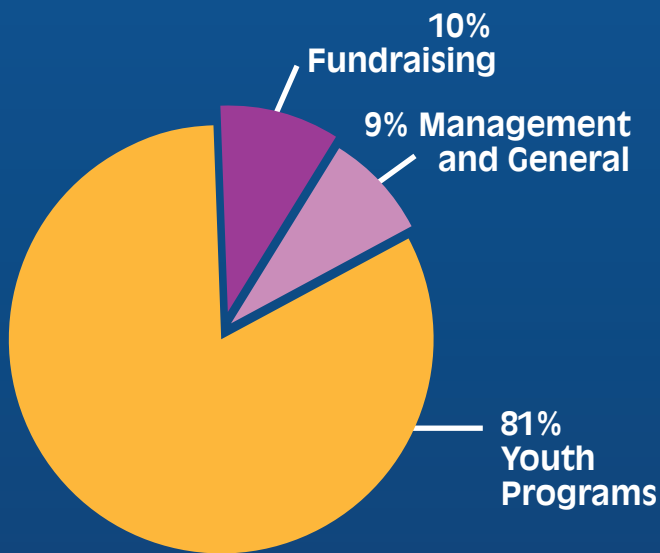
### Support Services

Management and General: \$62,319

Fundraising: \$84,107

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**Total Expenses \$808,889**



## Net Assets:

Net Assets – beginning of year: \$419,264

Net Assets – end of year: \$461,391

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**Change in Net Assets: \$42,127**

## Revenue:

Grants and Contracts: \$376,593

Contributions: \$305,934

In Kind Donations: \$56,063

Special Events, net: \$110,325

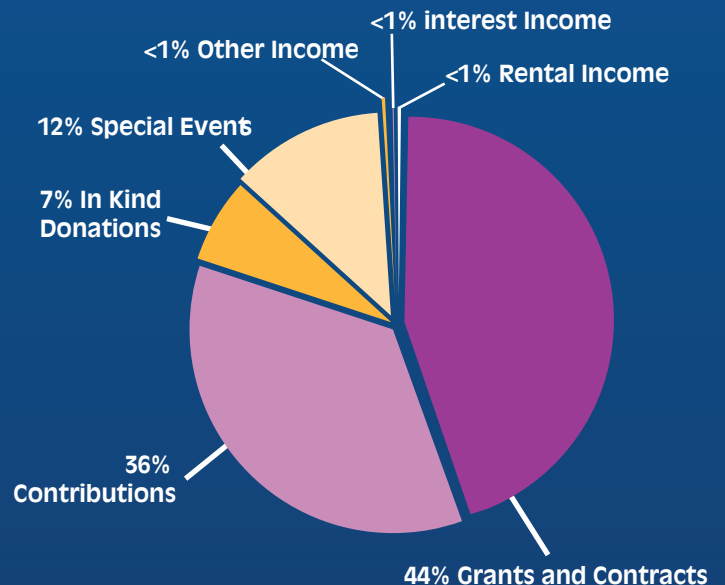
Rental income, net: \$1,200

Other Income: \$1,578

Interest Income: \$197

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**Total Revenue: \$851,890**



# Support Partners Mentoring Youth

Partners strives to serve more northern Colorado youth every year. As a social service nonprofit, our programming depends on support from local community. We are grateful for the generosity we have received from individuals, companies, and foundations that has allowed us to expand the reach of our mission to better serve local youth.

**You can become a donor.** There are several ways you can get more involved in making sure the next generation has the role models they need to succeed. By providing Partners Mentoring Youth with a financial gift, you sustain our program and make growth possible. Please consider if any of these channels are a good fit for you:

**Pivotal Partners:** Join our newest Giving Society and create a deeper relationship with Partners by contributing at least \$1,500 annually, which supports one youth in the program for one year.

**Legacy Partners:** Ensure your legacy makes an impact on future generations by listing Partners as a beneficiary in your estate.

**Supporting Partners:** Directly support our mentoring programs by giving a personally significant one-time or monthly gift.

Learn more and contribute at  
[www.partnersmentoringyouth.org](http://www.partnersmentoringyouth.org)



## Every contribution makes an impact.

- \$1,500 supports one partnership for a full year, giving a local youth the opportunity to develop self-esteem, improve their academic performance, and build on their potential future.
- \$500 supports one youth in our Nexus Program who is waiting for a Senior Partner, providing them with opportunities to attend fun activities, meet friends, try new experiences, and gain adult support.
- \$250 supports a monthly life-skill activity that prepares our program youth to handle real life situations, exposes them to future opportunities, and helps them develop new skills.
- \$100 supports a Senior Partner Training, which teaches mentors how to relate to their Junior Partner, address potential challenges, and thrive as mentors.
- \$50 pays for a Senior Partner Background Check and supports our process of finding positive, reliable, and safe mentors.
- \$25 provides snacks for our youth, helping to keep them focused on connecting and learning during our activities.





# 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 giving events.

## **Sharin' O' the Green — Fort Collins**

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, this 5K run/walk in Old Town Fort Collins kicks off the running season. It's our largest community event and a great way to promote the importance of mentoring.

## **Fiesta 5K — Greeley**

Fiesta 5K is our newest fun run that celebrates Cinco de Mayo in Greeley, and hosts hundreds of enthusiastic runners helping raise funds for our Greeley mentoring programs.

## **Party for Partners — Fort Collins**

Party for Partners is our premier leadership event in Fort Collins, featuring live music, an inspiring program, a live auction, photo booth, and many ways to give to our mission.

## **Running of the Bulls — Estes Park**

Every fall we enjoy the foliage in Estes Park during our 3.75 mile Running of the Bulls race. This event brings together the Estes Park community and benefits our partnerships there. Join us on September 16, 2017!

## **Be the Difference — Greeley**

Our Greeley luncheon, Be the Difference, is our annual giving event in Weld County. Local businesses and individuals who attend get an opportunity to learn more about our effort in Greeley.

## **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  
After the Fire  
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Vista Solutions Corporation  
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Payback Foundation  
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RJ Clark Family Foundation  
Town of Estes Park  
Trois Coeurs Foundation  
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United Way of Weld County  
US Bancorp Foundation  
Victim Assistance - Weld County  
Victim Assistance VALE - Larimer  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Woodward Charitable Trust

[We sincerely apologize if we inadvertently left any contributors off this list.](#)





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**Learn How You Can Become A Mentor:**  
**[www.PartnersMentoringYouth.com](http://www.PartnersMentoringYouth.com)**

"He is someone I can talk to when life does get really hard and I can't take it. I want my Senior Partner there backing me up and supporting me."

- Junior Partner



"I've learned to be strong and independent, to be more responsible, to be focused on school and not other things. And I've learned some cooking skills."

- Junior Partner



"I mentor youth because youth are our future. If I make a difference in the life of this one child, who knows how that will ripple out and spread?"

- Senior Partner



[www.PartnersMentoringYouth.org](http://www.PartnersMentoringYouth.org)

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**Greeley Office** | 710 11th Ave., Suite 106 | Greeley, CO 80631 | 970-378-6501