

Fall 2010

Call 435-260-9646
for more information

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“A mentor is someone who believes in you more than you do.” –Caroline Scott

Grand County School District



Mentoring Sites:

- HMK Elementary
- Grand Co. Middle School

Major Contributors:

- George & Dolores Eccles Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
- Energy Solutions
- Senator Robert Bennett
- U.S. Department of Education
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- May Family Foundation

EVIDENCE for mentoring

Grand Area Mentoring collects data at the close of each school year to examine the effects of mentoring in Moab. In 2009/2010 school year, GrandAM surpassed all its goals:

Measure	Goal	Performance
Increased academic score	30%	53%
Reduced problem behavior	30%	39%
Decreased school absences	30%	46%
Sustained relationships	50%	55%

Studies confirm matches that last longer have higher beneficial impacts on students. GrandAM data supports this notion. For example, 58% of students matched for more than one year increased their academic performance, while 53% of the general mentee population saw academic improvement. 46% of all mentees improved their attendance, but 62% of mentees matched for more than one year attended school more often.

94% of teachers agree that “since being matched with a mentor, the mentored students in my class



have seemed to like school better.” Furthermore, 78% of these same teachers believe mentored students have improved social competency as a result of mentoring. Perhaps the most important teacher response was this: 100% of teachers agreed that mentored students have higher self-confidence. Learning theory has long espoused the importance of self-efficacy, or confidence in

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In their words

Survey: What do the children say?

Mentor coordinator, Megan McGee, asks students a series of questions at the close of the school year to help gauge relationship quality and the effects of mentoring.

Q: Do you like to talk to your mentor? If so, what do you talk about?

“I talk with her because I feel like everything is safe with her.” (3rd grader)

“We talk about sports and if I’m doing okay since my grandma passed away.” (7th grader)

“We talk about how our week was, what we did, what we’re going through, how it was a rough week and how it was not.” (4th grader)

Q: Do you feel mentoring has changed how you feel about school? If so, how?

“It gives you a reason to get up and go to school, and it makes you feel better at the end of the day.” (6th grader)

“It made school more happy.” (5th grader)

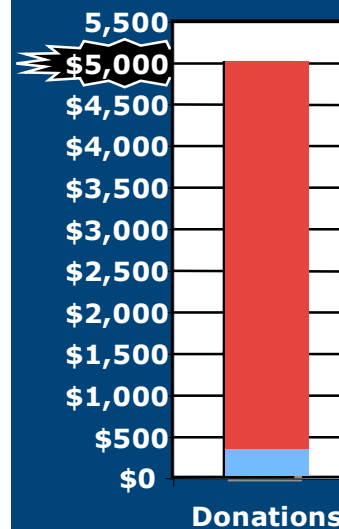
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Number of participants by Dec 1, 2010:

100

Financial Update:

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us reach our goal of \$5,000 for the 2010/2011 school year.



Donations

Grand Area Mentoring

Address:

Grand County School District
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Moab, UT 84532

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E-Mail:

grandareamentoring@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at...

www.grandschools.org/mentor

Coordinator:

Megan McGee

Program Director:

Daniel McNeil

Advisory Committee:

Moab Community Action Coalition

Next Mentor Orientation:

Please call for time and
location. 260-9646

About GrandAM...

Funded by the generous donations of local citizens, a two-year Department of Education appropriation award, and public organizations, Grand Area Mentoring is now in its fifth year of service to Grand County.

Mentors aged 24 through 83 years meet with students in one-on-one settings to encourage growth and bolster self-confidence. Their weekly hour-long sessions sometimes include board games, basketball, and computers. Other matches pursue crafts, reading, and talking about school. Mentors and students seek activities that are mutually enjoyable and enriching.

Grand Area Mentoring continuously strives to create lasting and fruitful relationships. New volunteers are trained in mentoring best practices and always supported with regular staff contact. Volunteers simply offer one hour per week and receive the satisfaction of positively impacting a life forever.

Call 435-260-9646 for more info.

EVIDENCE (continued)

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one's own ability, as a critical predictor of academic achievement.

100% of volunteers believe mentoring is worthwhile, and 81% of have noticed improvement in their mentee's communication skills.

Teachers and mentors also praised program administration, giving perfect tens in "mentor support," "response to questions and concerns," and "comfort with the program," among others.

With 100 participants by Dec 1, the current school year is set to duplicate or better last year's results.

In Their Words (continued)

"I like going to school and I'm excited on Wednesdays because I get to be with my mentor. She's awesome." (4th grader)

"Mentoring made me want to come to school more." (6th grader)

"Sometimes on Wednesdays we don't do anything fun stuff at school. It makes me feel happy that I get to do mentoring." (3rd grader)

Q: Do you feel that mentoring has changed how you feel about yourself? If so, how?

"Sometimes I feel like a bad person. When I do mentoring, it makes me feel a lot better." (3rd grader)

"Yes. Mentoring helps me express myself." (7th grader)

"Yeah. I used to think everybody hated me. I had no friends, no one to talk to, but then my mentor tells me my mom cares about me..." (5th grader)

"Yeah. I'm not down all the time." (6th grader)

"Yes. Since my mom's been away from me, it's hard without my mom. So my mentor is kind of like my mom in a way." (3rd grader)

"I guess when I'm feeling down on days I don't approve of what I do, she kind of lifts me up and makes me feel better." (4th grader)

"When you have a mentor, you feel happy." (3rd grader)

"I'm starting to be nicer with my brother and sister." (5th grader)

"Every time you come to mentoring, you have a lot of fun. You get lost in time, and it's over so fast." (4th grade boy)

"Yeah. People used to tease me, but now I feel better about myself. I don't get teased because people think mentoring is fun and cool. I'm more outgoing too." (4th grader)

THANK YOU

Senator Robert F. Bennett

George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation

Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation

Energy Solutions

May Family Foundation

for your support of

Grand Area Mentoring



Your contribution helped provide one-on-one friendship and guidance to the children of Grand County.

Find out more about the mentoring program and its impact by calling Dan at 260-9646 or visit:

www.grandschools.org/mentor