

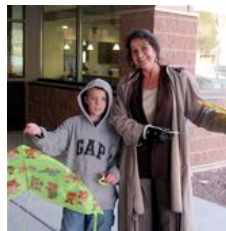
Spring 2011

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A mentor is someone that knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you
when you've forgotten the words.

Grand County School District



APPROACH to mentoring

Excerpts from an interview with Wendy



McDougald, the program's longest-serving mentor and a retired child therapist, touching on how she approaches mentoring with her four mentees; Wendy:

... You have to build self-esteem. The more positives you can give them, the better. I'll look for little things that my mentees do well: improvements that you see, things that you like about them. You might say, 'I like the way you were able to sit and work on that puzzle for ten minutes. That's really neat.' Or you might say, 'I really like the way you interacted with so-and-so. That was very kind.' Improved self-esteem will translate to improved overall functioning.

... You should start where the child is, remembering that they might not have had the advantages you did growing up. Don't pry. If a mentee seems vigilant, don't ask at all unless he has indicated there is something unsafe. If a mentee shares too much, he or she will probably distance themselves in the next meeting. This is normal. You want to represent yourself as a helping person. Just being consistently available goes a long way toward achieving this. I'll ask questions about how many kids are in their family, about pets, what they like to do. I don't push.

... A lot of our kids are hyperactive and may only have attention spans of about twenty minutes. They've been sitting in

(Continued on back page.)

MENTOR and mentee interview



Mentor Janie (left) and mentee Taylor at a GrandAM pool party.

Janie: We've been mentoring for two and a half years.

Taylor: Mentoring is where you can meet a really nice friend and have them when you get older.

Janie: It gives me a chance to recreate with

a younger person. It's energizing!

Taylor: Janie is nice, loving, playful, and awesome. And decorative! She can make really good stuff. She's really creative with her necklaces and earrings.

Janie: We play tetherball, board games, and we make Valentines together or play hangman on the white board.

Taylor: Sometimes we just sit together and talk.

(Continued on back page.)

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

Synergy Company

Staff to participant ratio as of March 1, 2011:

1/52

Financial Update:

GrandAM seeks funds to support the program for one full year following the close of a key federal appropriation. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help GrandAM serve Moab's youth after December 2011. To make a donation or grant award, contact Daniel McNeil, program director, at 435-260-9646 or by email at mcneild@grandschools.org

Facebook Launch:



GrandAM officially launched its Facebook page on Jan 1, 2011.



Please visit and like our page!

Grand Area Mentoring

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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 sixth 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.

APPROACH (continued)

(Continued from front.)

school all day and need to do something active. If something isn't working, be flexible. Suggest or let the mentee suggest other options. I find we have to play it by ear a lot. If you've played Four-Square for six sessions in a row, it's okay to tell your mentee you'd like to do something else. Or bargain twenty minutes of their activity for twenty minutes doing something else.

...Some of us are older and can't do all the physical stuff. Your mentee will understand.

... You have to build a relationship with these kids before they trust you. They have to see you as a significant adult in their life. That's why it's so important to show up every week, so they can see that somebody is going to consistently be in their lives.

INTERVIEW (continued)

Janie: It's just as rewarding for me as it is for Taylor.

Taylor: My favorite thing is just when we get to sit down and spend time together.

Janie: I like getting to see Taylor's smiling face every week.

Taylor: And you just made me smile!



"No matter how much money is spent, how many elaborate programs are initiated, or how many professionals are hired, the experiences of young people will not fundamentally change unless individuals – parents, neighbors, friends, grandparents – take personal responsibility to contribute to young people's healthy development."

–Dr. Peter Benson, Search Institute



Contribute. Be a mentor. www.grandschools.org/mentor