



PARTNERS
Mentoring Youth

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

2017 Annual Report



Kevin Ward
Board Chair



Heather Vesgaard
Executive Director

Mary Rose McGeady
once said, *“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”*

Another year has come and gone and at Partners Mentoring Youth, we find ourselves truly wondering where time goes! Our wish is that 2017 treated you all well and we thank you for sharing another year with us. The year brought many celebrations for us as we spent many moments with the tremendous youth we serve and the community surrounding Partners that invests in those youth.

Our biggest accomplishment by far is that we were able to serve a record number of youth in our mentoring programs. To be exact, we served 507 youth – exceeding our goal of 500. Our organization utilized a team of professional and committed staff as well almost 600 volunteers in a variety of capacities, including Senior Partners (mentors), Activity Volunteers, event committee members, Board and

Advisory Council members, interns and general office volunteers to reach this milestone. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and age groups.

In 2017, volunteers contributed 14,887 hours to our organization! The financial commitment to achieve a record number of youth served and to maintain high-quality programming was made by the board of directors and staff leadership in 2017 despite special event revenue and foundation giving being under budget. In response to such funding shortfalls, expense adjustments were made in areas that would not impact program results and a strong commitment was made to the year-end Christmas for Kids campaign, which ultimately raised over \$141,000, a 40% increase over budget and from the previous year. It was truly amazing to see our community rally toward that goal. Strong financial reserves allowed us to absorb a financial loss for the year to benefit our program.

Now, we are underway in our 40th anniversary year with strong support of all types, and a renewed vigor for serving even more youth. Please enjoy the stories and pictorial highlights of 2017 that follow in this report, and join with us in celebrating 40 years of mentoring in Northern Colorado. Thanks for being part of Partners Mentoring Youth!

Heather Vesgaard
Executive Director
Partners Mentoring Youth

Kevin Ward
Board Chair, Partners Mentoring Youth
Associate Attorney, Wick and Trautwein, LLC

Activities Across Northern Colorado

As part of our vision of enriching lives and building community, we host activities for our partnerships and youth in our Nexus program. These activities allow our youth to spend time bonding with other participants in the program, while also learning life skills, giving back to the community, and having a fun time. 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 2017:

Healthy Connections

In the spring, we held an educational life skill activity that focused on building and maintaining healthy friendships. Youth learned about boundary setting, qualities of a good friend, refusal skills, what makes a bad secret, and how to deal with “sticky situations” that may occur in their various relationships.



Ride A Cart Estes Park

Youth from across northern Colorado got a chance to enjoy a purely fun afternoon riding Go-Karts, Bumper Boats & Crazy Cars, playing miniature golf, and using the batting cages at Ride a Cart in Estes Park. It was a new experience for many of the kids, and the perfect way to celebrate the start of the school year in the fall.

Pumpkin Carving and Mask Making

Our Greeley program celebrated Halloween with a pumpkin carving and mask-making party in October. Youth and their mentors got to work with a guest artist to design their jack-o-lantern, and they came up with a variety of creative designs together.



Giving Thanks

We held our annual Giving Thanks Dinner for the entire Partners community in November. Families, partnerships, volunteers, staff, and supporters enjoyed an evening with dinner, live music, a gratitude craft project, and a magic show. We are truly so grateful for everyone who makes our mentoring programs possible!

Enriching Lives Through Mentoring

Our Greeley school-based program is the newest addition to our mentoring programs, and in the two years since we established this program, we have served over 120 youth with mentors in Greeley schools. Each of these youth have a story of how their mentoring partnership has impacted their life. One of these stories comes from the incredible partnership between Senior Partner Paul and Junior Partner Freddy.

Paul and Freddy have formed a very tight bond over the past two years of spending time together at Brentwood Middle School in Greeley. As a partnership in our school-based program, Paul and Freddy spend at least an hour together every week at the school. They most enjoy playing basketball together, especially when the weather is nice outside. They also make sure to make time to focus on homework each week, usually in Brentwood's library. Freddy said that Paul has been a good mentor to him because he shares information and gives good advice. Paul enjoys being a mentor because he finds it rewarding to spend time with Freddy in the school setting.



In the fall, Paul coordinated an incredible surprise for Freddy. After Freddy's bike—his sole means of transportation—broke and he was unable to fix it, Paul stepped in. With the financial help of his employer, PDC Energy, Paul worked with Partners and a local bike shop to get Freddy a brand new bike. Together, they customized a bike that allows Freddy to safely get wherever he needs to go. It is amazing when our community comes together to generously meet the needs of local kids through mentoring!





2017 Program and Impact Statistics

507

Youth Served

In 2017, we served a record number of youth in northern Colorado! We surpassed our goal and served 507 youth in our community and school based mentoring programs.

After a year in the program, these kids:

70%

increase in self-esteem

55%

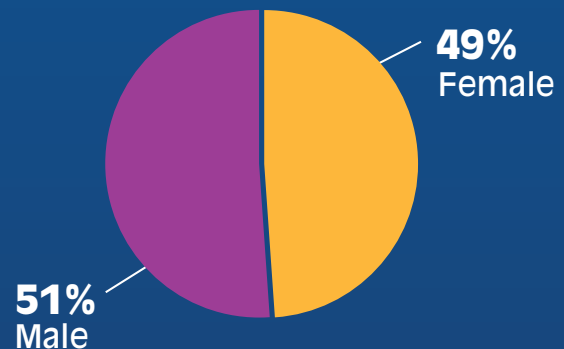
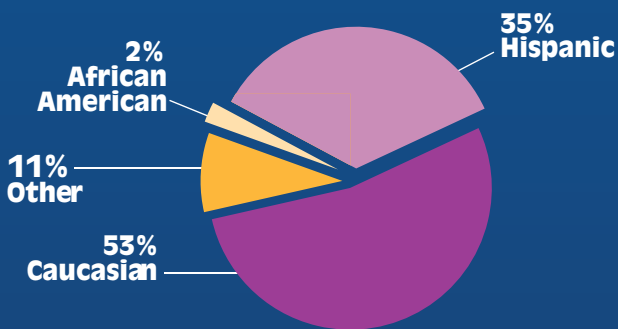
better bonding with adults

50%

improvement on social and communication skills

45%

improvement on decision-making skills



80% of our youth face mental health issues either themselves or within their immediate family

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

70% of our youth have been victims of some type of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence

65% of our youth struggle academically

40% of our youth were affected by substance abuse

53% 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

2017 Financial Information

Expenses:

Program Services

Youth Programs: \$686,154

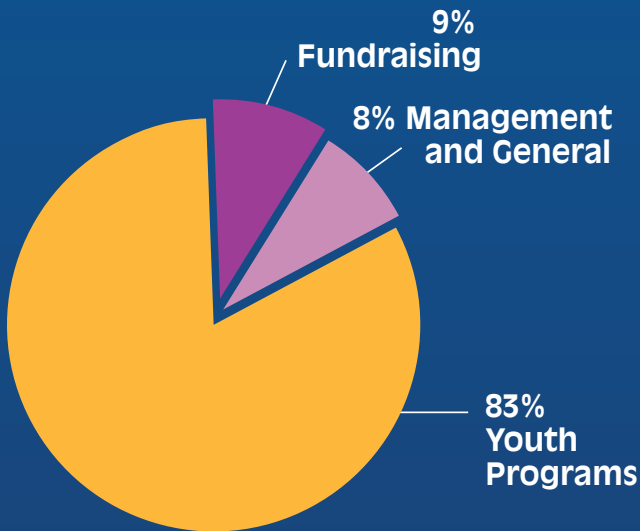
Support Services

Management and General: \$61,894

Fundraising: \$76,661

Total Expenses

(including Depreciation): **\$824,709**



Net Assets:

Net Assets – beginning of year: \$461,391

Net Assets – end of year: \$420,577

Change in Net Assets: -\$40,814

Revenue:

Grants and Contracts: \$368,728

Contributions: \$232,915

In Kind Donations: \$49,925

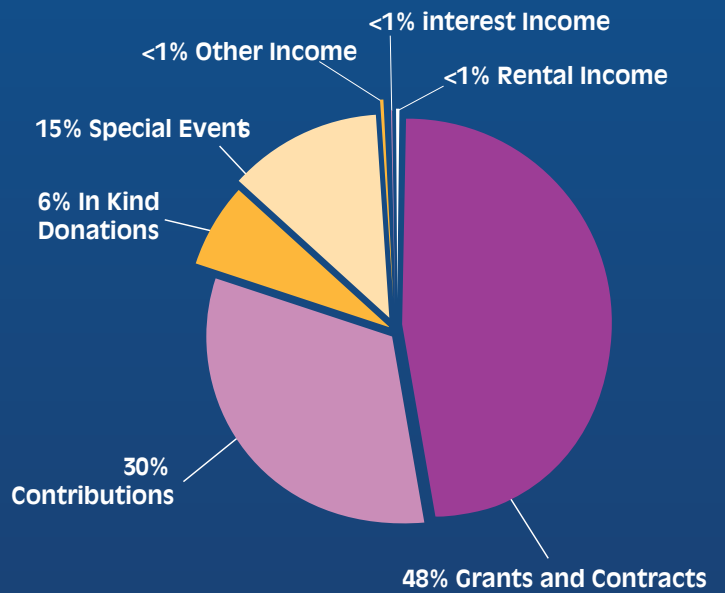
Special Events, net: \$120,233

Rental income, net: \$1,200

Other Income: \$2,149

Interest Income: \$127

Total Revenue: \$775,277



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 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



Every contribution makes an impact.

- \$1,500 supports one partnership for a full year and helps a youth develop self-esteem, improve their academic performance, and build on their future potential
- \$500 supports one youth in our Nexus Program and gives them 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

Part of our vision at Partners is building community in northern Colorado. Our annual community events give us the opportunity to connect with our supporters, volunteers, families, and those who want to learn more about our youth mentoring services. Join us at one of our events throughout the year!

Sharin' O' the Green — Fort Collins

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

Party for Partners — Fort Collins

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

Be the Difference — Greeley

Be the Difference is our annual giving event in Weld County. Local businesses and individuals gather to socialize, learn about our Greeley mentoring programs, and support our efforts in Weld County.

Christmas for Kids Campaign

Our annual year-end appeal is centered on giving 100 kids in northern Colorado the gift of mentoring by raising \$150,000 to support our programs. 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.

Stay in the know!

Subscribe to our newsletter at www.partnersmentoringyouth.org



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We deeply thank all donors who chose to remain anonymous.

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

"I mentor because being a supportive and loving part of a child's life is so rewarding. They blow you away with how much they are capable of and how truly unique they are."

- Senior Partner



"My daughter is doing well with her mentor – they appear to have formed a good bond and I can't tell you how wonderful it is. I am so grateful for her mentor and the role she has had in helping my daughter get back on track."

- Parent of Junior Partner



www.PartnersMentoringYouth.org

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