

Partners Link

www.partners-west.org

December 2009



January 2010

Welcome to the Partners Link Newsletter. If you are receiving this paper version you have opted out of receiving it via email. If you would like to help Partners keep costs down and get a little greener, please let us know your email address by calling 970-249-1116.

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Community Resource

Development

Heather Bussey Patterson

Partners and Art Partners

TAB Coordinator

Delta County 874-4661

Betsy Shepherd

Program Director for Partners

and Delta Case Manager

Julianne Johnson

Art Partners Case Manager

NEW MATCHES

One to One

9-6 Brian Kidnay & Cody B

9-23 Bertin Espinoza & Brandon R

9-23 Carol Benitez & Emmalee M

9-25 Juanita Sargent & Bodie F

9-26 Diana Kenney & Alysha K

9-12 Kathleen Ray & Kayla H

10-9 John York & Tyler C

10-14 Don Foster & Tony D

10-14 Don Foster & William D

11-4 George Valencia & Christopher Q

11-16 Kara King & Tava G

11-12 Randy White & Tyler W

11-16 Judy Snedeker & Katie S

Art Partners

10-15 Richard Durnan & Megan F

10-15 Hendrika Cegielski & Theo W

Why We Do It! by John St.George

Recently I had the experience of running into a student with whom I worked during my teaching career at Steamboat Springs High School. Brad was a very enthusiastic, bright, engaging, and popular kid who had great difficulty reading. As a Resource (Special Education) Teacher, I assumed the role in varying degrees of parent, mediator, cop, daily organizer, and cheerleader. In Brad's case, I assumed almost all of these roles daily. While I really liked him, he drove me crazy with his stubbornness and wild behavior, often to his own detriment. He continually straddled the line, both academically and behaviorally, between staying in school and dropping out or being asked to leave. For four years we did a dance that at times made me wonder if all the extra time and energy Brad required was all worth it. Brad did graduate and in the ensuing years, we both moved away.

A few years back I received an invitation to a party to celebrate his graduation from Western State College. To my surprise, he had graduated with a degree in Education. I was delighted to meet a thoughtful, earnest and appreciative young man. Among his many college friends attending were the Dean of the college's Special Resource Program, a former middle school teacher from Steamboat Springs, his college academic advisor and me. It was a testimony to his personality, intelligence and determination that educators from different stages of his life had come to celebrate his accomplishment. We shared Brad stories and all agreed that at times he had driven us all close to the point of giving up on him.

More recently, I was driving through a small town and remembered that this was the town in which he lived. Remembering his directions, I found his house and there he was. We shared a hug and spent two hours laughing and catching up, sharing stories and reminiscing. At present, he is working construction full time, renovating a house, is involved in a good relationship with a young woman, and is planning to enroll this fall in the graduate school of Education to get his Master's Degree. I was delighted. Brad had a gift for connecting with other students in high school and had often taken younger students aside to talk to them or help them with assignments. I feel that Brad will greatly affect the lives of the students with whom he plans to work.

Through the giving of your time and care, Senior Partners already offer a wonderful gift to their Junior Partners. As with Brad, the fruits of your support may take time to reveal themselves. My contribution was to assist him until he was able to make better decisions for himself. Your support for academic success at this time may also provide a foundation for success later in life. Please contact your Junior Partner's teachers regularly to monitor progress. To be an effective Senior Partner, you do not have to be a teacher or counselor. Making school success valuable and taking time to check progress may be all it takes to reinforce the idea that school is important. As we all do, your Junior Partner may respond to rewards for doing a good job. Discuss this with them in order to establish positive outcomes for raising and keeping their grades up. If you have questions, please contact your Case Manager. A brighter future for your Junior Partner may be a result of your efforts right now.

WELCOME New Art Partners Case Manager



Julianne Johnson is our newest addition to the Partners organization and the new Art Partners case manager in Delta. Please welcome her, as we are very excited to have her enthusiasm and joy for the arts as a part of our team. Here is a little bit about Julianne in her own words.

"I live with my husband and kids on the South facing slope of the Grand Mesa. My daughter is in Art school in Chicago and my son is a high school junior. We have a fluctuating number of animals; at this time a dog, Missy, cats, Atomic, Pedestrian and Chester and a horse, Tar Baby. Although my background is in Fine Arts and Art Therapy, I have taught swimming extensively and spent several enjoyable years as a Middle School Librarian.

But...working with Art Partners is a dream come true. This program blends many things I hold dear. It gives people with life experience and a background in the arts an opportunity to share their skills with youngsters who are just beginning to explore their own interests. There is a large and thriving art community on the Western Slope and more artist/ artisan/ craftspeople surface every day. It is a privilege to meet with them and talk about their personal vision and to see how many are willing to share and encourage the dreams of art interns in turn. I am a real believer in inter-generational relationships. I believe in the value of a well-rounded education and life-long learning. The Partners/Art Partners programs values and promotes all of those things and I am very happy to be a part of it."

Julianne Johnson julianne@partners-west.org



Calendar of Events

Remember to get involved, stay involved and keep opening doors to new learning opportunities for your Junior Partners by participating in the many Partners Activities!

Partnership & Nexus Activities

Saturday, January 30th

Tenth Annual SUPER BOWL

at Valley Lanes 7530 Highway 65 Delta
Don't miss the competition and fun, while you raise funds for your local Partners organization. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. for Partnerships and Nexus bowling. League Registration starts at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2nd, 7pm

Magic Circle Theater 420 S 12th St Montrose

You're a good man Charlie Brown

Magic Circle **free performance** for Partnerships, Nexus, family and friends.

Saturday, December 5th 1-4pm

Craft Fair in Montrose at the First Baptist Church

Get a head start on gifts! Make your favorite holiday gift with Partners Partnerships, Nexus and the BC.

Sunday, December 20th from 3-5 pm

FREE Montrose Community Band Holiday Concert at the Pavilion.

Happy Birthday December

12-1 Donna Jackson
12-2 Fisher P
12-2 Kathleen Ray
12-2 John York
12-3 Kassandra W
12-5 Jesse Long
12-7 Jenny Shine
12-12 Candy Sighting
12-16 Daniel N
12-17 Larry Kuepfler
12-18 Gayle Davidson
12-28 Tanner J
12-28 Florina Martinez
12-29 Dan-David L
12-30 Juan C
12-31 Laurie Dodd

January

1-2 Dakota S
1-3 Stormie S
1-4 Patrick Barton
1-4 Christina Biella
1-5 Tia C
1-6 Dakota H
1-8 Bert Espinoza
1-10 Amiessa Jutten
1-11 Jan Hammond
1-11 Daphna Russell
1-12 Alysha K
1-13 Jennifer Randolph
1-14 Logon W
1-16 Erik Hansen
1-17 Cristin Johnson
1-19 Janice Cooper
1-19 Lacy M
1-20 Jason Wey
1-21 Carol Benitz
1-21 Nathan E
1-24 Rich Durnan
1-24 Carol Mabry
1-25 Megan F
1-25 Tiana G
1-25 Justus S
1-30 Carter K



January is National Mentoring Month: Expand Your Universe.

Mentor A Child from Mentoring.org

National Mentoring Month (NMM) highlights mentoring and the positive impact it can have on young lives. Spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project, MENTOR, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the first ever NMM was held January 2002. This month-long outreach campaign focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors and assure brighter futures for our young people.

"Thank Your Mentor Day™" – January 22, 2010 marked the fifth annual "Thank Your Mentor Day™," which many mentoring programs selected as a day of volunteer recognition. An outreach of the Harvard Mentoring Project, the messages of this special day were:

- Many young people would benefit from having a caring mentor to provide additional encouragement and support;
- Mentoring programs can provide the link to this support; but

How Your Interest Creates Positive Change

We encourage you to think of the mentors in your life—a team coach, teacher, concerned neighbor, or another caring adult—and take a few minutes to thank them and then consider becoming a mentor yourself if you are not or talking with a friend out mentoring.

Being a Corporate Leader in Your Community

Organizations, too, can have a tremendous impact on young lives by sponsoring mentoring programs. For instance, your employer could donate one hour a week of paid time for employees to mentor a youth through the Partners program. A workplace-based mentoring program not only benefits the kids, but your co-workers as well. The benefit to the community is great and the benefit to your own people is just as great. Workplace-mentoring programs create employee loyalty, increase productivity, and build stronger ties between your organization and the community where you work.

Your organization can also support mentoring throughout 2010 by:

- Donating in-kind gifts (use of space for events, office equipment, high-lighting mentoring in employee newsletters);
- Using the double omega icon (the universal symbol for mentoring) in your corporate communications and on your Web site;
- Sponsoring a mentoring event; or
- Providing key leadership for the Partners programs board.

For more information about how you or your organization can make a positive impact in the lives of young people, contact Gayle Davidson of the Partners organization of Delta, Montrose and Ouray.

BIG O TIRES and PARTNERS in Team Effort Fundraiser

Partners and BIG O TIRES have established a fundraising relationship which allows Partners to receive a portion of purchases made for tires or services made at any BIG O TIRES store. The program, titled Team Effort, allows Partners to keep a portion of purchases made using a special card. This card, which designates PARTNERS as the recipient, may be picked up at either the Delta office at 423 Palmer (874-4661) or the Montrose office at 315 South Seventh Street (249-1116). The agreement will be honored at any of eight Western Slope stores. Under terms of the contract, checks for purchases will be made out to Partners and Partners will reimburse Big O Tires for the amount minus a percentage to be kept by Partners. Team Effort provides a win-win situation for all concerned and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this generous offer.

Missed this years Silly Supper??

Come check out the fun we had at <http://flickr.com/gp/partnersmentoring/007Z4o>



Hey Kids! Have a question you'd love to ask but want to stay anonymous??

Ask your favorite Mystery Cat in Delta. She has all the answers and would love to hear from you. Look for our new **Mystery Corner** in the next newsletter. Send your questions to your Partners office and Mystery might answer yours in the next newsletter!

Partners

of Delta Montrose and Ouray is proud to be sponsored in part by



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Partners of Delta, Montrose and Ouray is a non-profit organization working toward a future where every child receives positive guidance and encouragement. Within our communities, Partners provides many opportunities for you to share your talents and energy with our precious youth. Our program is a wonderful opportunity for you to make a difference in the life of a child. Get involved today by [contacting us](#) - you may be surprised what a difference it will make in your life too!

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