

Does Mentoring Really Work?

The Partners Mentoring Youth program is designed to positively impact youth in five primary areas: self-esteem, future orientation, attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, attitudes toward interpersonal violence and delinquency, and bonding. One of the main measurements of success is the PMSEI (Partners Mentoring Services Effectiveness Index). Partners youth take a survey at the beginning of their Partnership and then again at their one-year anniversary. The confidential data in that survey is sent to OMNI research institute in Denver for analysis.

Our most recent PMSEI results show that

the Partners Mentoring Youth program positively impacts youth in all of the above areas by achieving statistical significance in the positive direction. Maintaining or improving them between the pre- and post-test demonstrates that the statistical significance is not due to chance, but is because of the mentoring relationship.

Mentoring relationships work through providing positive experiences to counter challenging circumstances. Partners works hard to follow best practices in mentoring and takes pride in supporting high-quality mentoring relationships to provide the greatest benefit to the awesome youth we serve!

Blending Life Experience



Impacting the lives of Larimer County youth can take on many forms. Jason Shaeffer, chef and sole proprietor of Chimney Park Restaurant and Bar, located at 406 Main Street in Windsor, has chosen to use his unique experience and talent in the world of fine dining to reach out and work with Partners

Mentoring Youth of Larimer County.

After catering Partners' Christmas party in December, Shaeffer was approached by the Party for Partners event planning committee to cater the fund-raising event, which was held on May 2nd at the Harmony Club in Timnath. Due in part to his work at the event, Partners was able to raise \$22,000 to help support the program.

Multiple Partnerships were also on hand at the event to help serve and create some of Shaeffer's cousine. Shaeffer not only had the chance to help them learn how to prepare the various items, but also took the opportunity to share with them his experience in the kitchen.

"To watch and teach the kids how to prepare the items, have them taste it and observe their reaction was very inspiring to me," he said. "I explained that there is an instant gratification with cooking and tasting your results.



Some of the kids wanted to know what it was like to be a chef and work in a restaurant, so I was able to share my experiences with them."

Those experiences are substantial. Shaeffer has trained under four recipients of *Food and Wine* Top American Chefs, and was an opening sous chef for Thomas Keller's *Per Se* from 2004-2005. He has also received national recognition from *San Diego Magazine*, *Bon Appetit* "Gnudi, Dish of the Year 2006" and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Seeing the need for more mentors in the community, Shaeffer decided to be an integral part of Partners' Refer-a-Mentor Campaign. The campaign is targeted toward Partners' current volunteers, who, for each mentor referred, get their names entered into a drawing. The grand prize? Shaeffer will head to the winner's house to prepare a customized meal for them and up to five friends.

It's yet another way that he has chosen to use his passion for cooking to further impact the community around him.

"I enjoy contributing to an organization dedicated to helping youth by impacting their lives with positive experiences and influences."



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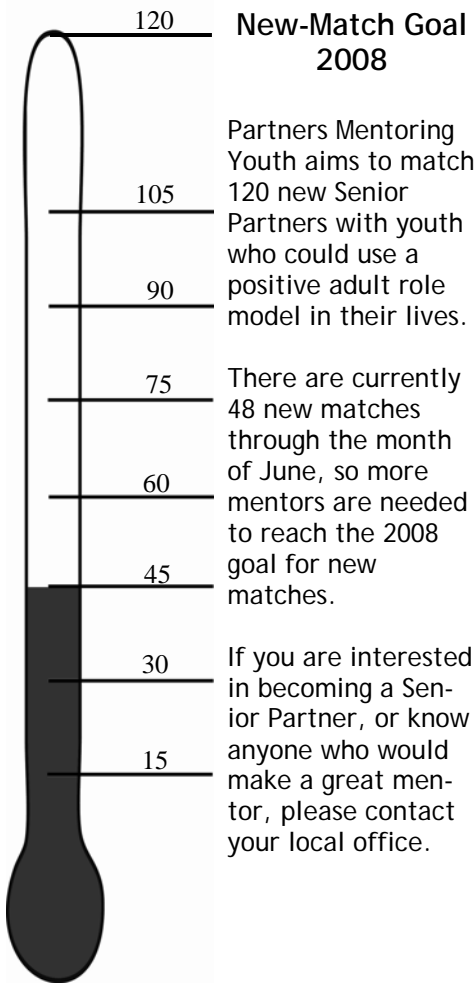
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"The time commitment isn't an issue once you make a friend."
Senior Partner, age 42



Partnership Profile (Cristi & Marisol)

I first became interested in the Partners Mentoring Youth program when I graduated from college. No longer driven by classes, exams, and deadlines, and thrown into the modern-day world of work and bills, I found myself unfulfilled for the first time in my life. I had heard of Partners Mentoring Youth during my senior year, and decided to contact them to learn more about the program.

In January of 2007 I met Marisol. I was nervous, but excited. We clicked right away. She is full of spunk and attitude (the GOOD kind), which had earned her the nickname "Sauce". And though young, she shows an optimism and maturity that continues to impress me. One of the best things about being a Senior Partner is the activities you do that you would have never done otherwise. It reminds you to enjoy the simple pleasures that you enjoyed as a kid. Some of our activities together have included simple things like going to the grocery store (where she runs the show at checkout), watching movies and playing video games, going for ice cream or making our own sundaes (I now have more sprinkles and ice cream toppings than I know what to do with) or cooking

meals at my house (she makes better pancakes than I do). This summer we also rode the go-carts at Fort Fun, which is the first time I have done that since I was about her age, and it was a blast.



Though it seems like a simple friendship, my relationship with Marisol has become one of the great joys in my life. It's hard to describe the fulfillment I have received, but it has filled the void and my life is enriched as a result. To anyone who is considering involvement with Partners Mentoring Youth, I say this: three hours per week is so easy to find when you are spending it with a true friend. And now, before I go to the store, I make sure I have an assortment of sprinkles at my house.

Warmly Submitted by Cristi Pinela

Senior Partner Donates More Than Time

Although Taylor and Alan come from very different backgrounds, they share a love for art and the outdoors, as well as their Latino heritage. Both Partners have unique perspectives to offer: Alan is fluent in Spanish and Taylor has travelled the world!

When asked why he wanted to be a Senior Partner, Taylor replied that he wanted to "be a good influence and help out, by giving a child a new perspective on the world, and life."



He saw becoming a Senior Partner as a great way to develop himself, while helping someone else and having fun! Taylor Gallegos is an up-and-coming artist

with a mission to make the world a better place. He recently combined his love for art with his concern for community by making a creative contribution to Partners Mentoring Youth.

Taylor has an art show running from now through June at Enzo's Italian Kitchen in Old Town Fort Collins. The main painting is for sale in an ongoing silent auction, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Partners.

Taylor and his Junior Partner Alan have been matched for about six months. Together they enjoy bike riding, outdoor activities, movies, hanging out and working on creative projects. Both partners share a contagious enthusiasm and energy for life; they continue to find new and fun activities to share and seem to really enjoy one another's friendship. By spending time together, this Partnership is learning patience, as well as perseverance.



Annual Sharin' O' the Green a Sound Success!

Thanks for getting out your gutties and going to Sharin' O' the Green, presented by Public Service Credit Union! This year's race was a HUGE success with over \$31,000 raised to support Partners Mentoring Youth. Despite the cool weather on the morning of March 15th, nearly 900 runners, walkers, plus lots of little leprechauns showed their gusto and ran in their green. The top overall male finisher was Mark Saunders with a time of 16:20. The top overall female finisher was Nikole Johns with a time of 18:37. Congratulations to Mark and Nikole! Special thanks to our event sponsors - Public Service Credit Union, Carl's Jr., First National Bank and My 97.9 and Kiss 96.1.

Party for Partners Reaches Harmony, Even with the Wind!

The Residential Mortgage Division of First National Bank presented the windiest but most lucrative Party for Partners in its four-year history. The 4th annual Party for Partners was held at Harmony Club in Timnath on Friday, May 4th with award-winning cuisine provided by Chimney Park Restaurant & Bar. Everyone who came to the event, including sponsors First National Bank, Realities for Children, Chrisland and Drahota helped raise over \$22,000 for the Partners Mentoring Youth program.



Loveland: City with HeArt Project.

Following the lead of other cities' sculpture projects - such as Chicago's Cows on Parade - Loveland is having artists decorate the symbol of the city and display pieces around town. Loveland Design is sponsoring a heart that the Loveland Partnerships are working on Connections of the Heart, which is a heart-shaped puzzle.

The unveiling of the hearts will take place July 11-13 during the SummerFest in the Rockies in downtown Loveland. They'll kick off the weekend with a wine tasting, where they will "unveil" all of the hearts and have an open house. Following the festival, the Partners Heart will be displayed at either the Civic Center Park or Towne Center through November or December.

The Donor Corner

According to a recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, most fund-raising experts say charities will struggle during our current economic situation. This is not too surprising to hear. In the article, they went on to mention that a bad economy affects different types of charities in different ways and discussed strategies which non-profits can implement to counter-act these concerns. Some ideas include broadening your reach in the community by enlisting the people you know to share your story; building your online giving platform and appeal; and opening yourself up to allowing donors to give in ways that are easy for them - take down barriers.

As I enter my 9th month on the job as Executive Director, I am encouraged by the amount of individuals and corporations that give to us throughout the year. I also believe that we are beginning to tap the online/web market and making strides implementing donor development and fund-raising strategies. It costs our organization approximately \$1500 (or \$125/month) to support a child in our program for a year through learning, activities and case management support. Partners will focus on messaging this cost to the community in the coming year through fund-raising events, donor discussions and marketing efforts. Whether you have a group of friends or business contacts split the cost of a Partnership for a year or you join a fund-raising event, we are encouraging everyone to find creative ways to continue supporting youth in our mentoring relationships.

I welcome your feedback on this topic. Call the office or email me at chris@partnersmentoringyouth.org. Thank you for your on-going involvement.

Chris Imsland, Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Gathering in the Garden

Thursday, July 17th • 5:30PM - 8:00PM • Chapungu Sculpture Park, Loveland • \$25 per ticket

Join us for an evening in the beautiful Chapungu Sculpture Park, sampling the cuisine of several local restaurants, wineries and breweries. There will be live music and friendly competition for local merchants' goods and services with a silent auction. To purchase tickets, please call 970.667.0911 or visit our website.

SuperStars Sports Challenge

Saturday, August 23rd • 8:00AM - 1:30PM • Fossil Creek Park, Fort Collins • \$500/team

Each year local professionals form company teams to participate in the SuperStars Sports Challenge and raise money to support the youth of Larimer County. Each team of 6-10 participants will compete in volleyball, bocce ball, basketball, dodge ball and a big wheels bike relay. Register your team now at active.com or by calling 970.484.7123.

Running of the Bulls

Saturday September 20th • 10AM
Estes Park, CO

The 3.75-mile race makes a complete lap around Lake Estes. Children can participate in the free 1 mile kids' run. Register before August 1 on active.com for an early-registration special of \$15. For more information, please contact Diana Laughlin at 970-577-9348 or Diana@partnersmentoringyouth.org

1st Annual Dohn Construction Golf Tournament

Friday, July 25th • 1:00PM
Pelican Lakes Golf & Country Club, Windsor • \$500/4-person team
To learn more, please contact Colleen Nelson at 970-490-1855

25th Annual Miramont Lifestyle Fitness Human Race

Saturday, August 8th • 8:00AM
Old Town Square, Fort Collins
www.humanracefortcollins.com

Fort Collins Club Triathlon/Duathlon

Sunday, September 14th • 7:00AM
EPIC 1801 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins
To learn more, please visit www.fortcollinsclub.net



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If you would like to be removed from the Partners Mentoring Youth mailing list or your address has changed, please call us at 970-484-7123 or email info@partnersmentoringyouth.org.

Our Mission
 "To create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships between positive adult role models and youth facing challenges in their personal, social and academic lives."

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 530 S. College Ave., Unit 1
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