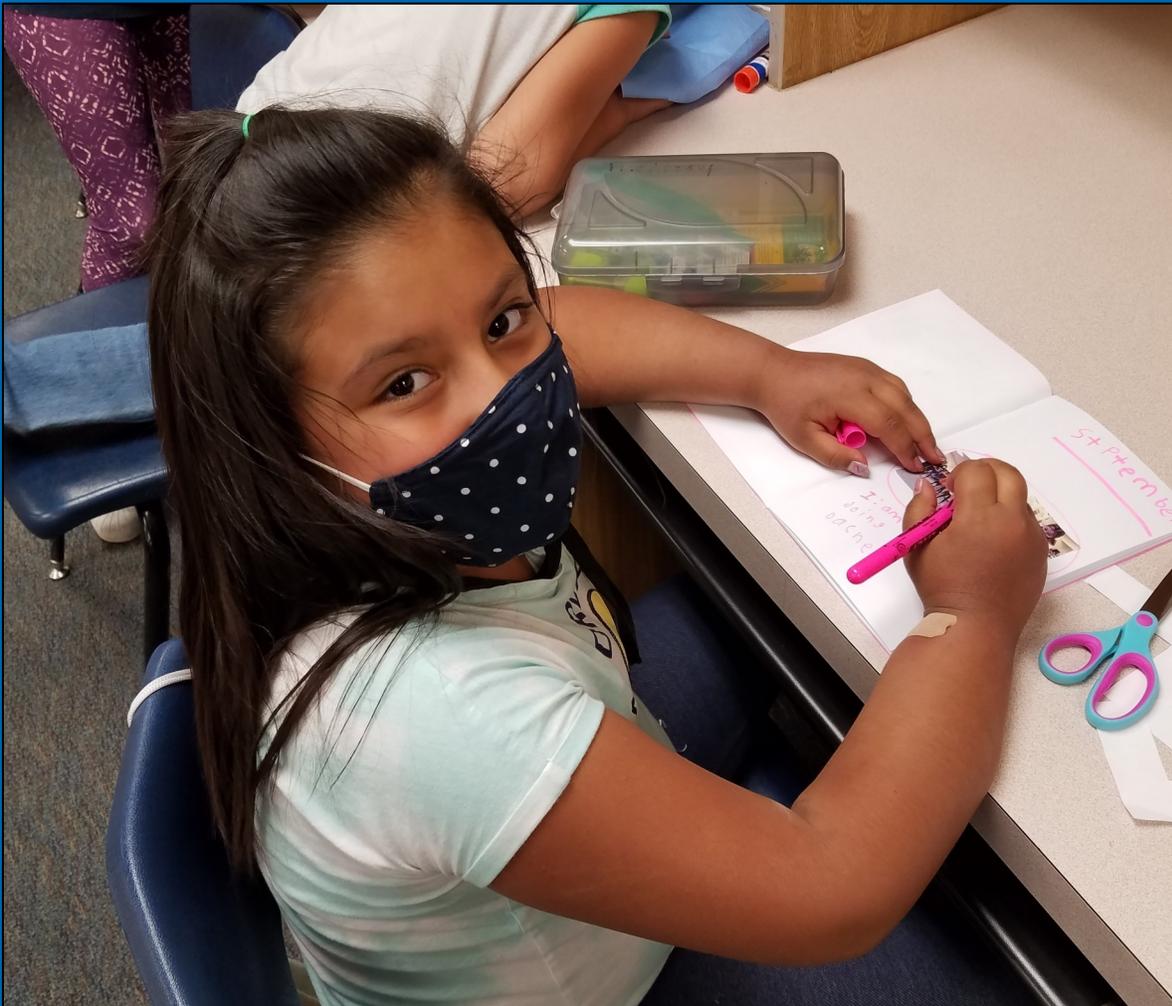




Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of REC,

Challenging. As I reflect upon the past year at Riverside Educational Center, that's the word that comes to mind. Challenges force us as individuals and organizations to reach new heights and to exceed our expectations.

As we began the 2021 fiscal year on July 1, 2020, REC was getting back into the swing of offering in-person programming. While academic support and educational enrichment had largely been virtual from mid-March through the end of June 2020, July brought new hope that we could get outdoors with our students and engage with them, albeit in a safe, socially distanced manner.

By the time the fall semester began, REC was in an enviable position, having received strong support from School District 51 and the go-ahead to offer in-person after-school programming at 10 schools.

The benefits of being in-person are many. Students learn best when they are face to face with caring adults and mentors who offer support. This has always been a REC strength and no more so than during this tumultuous year.

In addition to thanking School District 51 for their support, I must thank the entire REC staff, especially the Site Managers and Tutors who unhesitatingly went into schools while COVID-19 was spreading in our community, months before a vaccine was available. The staff never hesitated, always putting the wellbeing of REC students and families first.

As for REC itself, we saw a lot of changes due to the pandemic. Most significantly, REC was displaced from our long-time home at Riverside School when the District restricted access to that building beginning in March 2020.

A significant REC donor and supporter provided both a solution and a challenging opportunity when he offered office and warehouse space to REC on a temporary basis.

What started as temporary, quickly became essential in ways I wouldn't have imagined. The warehouse became home to our fleet of bicycles and other outdoor equipment. Individual snacks were prepared and packaged each day for nearly 500 REC students in this space. Buses and trailers were parked safely indoors. And most significantly, the expanded office space has allowed REC to grow.

The coming year will bring exciting new challenges. REC is poised to expand, bringing our proven after-school services to a total of 15 local schools. This 30% growth is reflected in expanded staffing for these sites and enhanced administrative capacity. All of which requires additional space for employees. Significantly, it is time for REC to take steps to make our temporary home at 1101 Winters Avenue permanent.

It's an exciting time at REC. Stay tuned!



REC Board of Directors

Kelly Reuss, <i>President</i>	Dennis Berry
Gordon Gallagher, <i>Vice President</i>	Brian Hill
Kristine Kampf, <i>Secretary</i>	Sue Gormley
Bill Raimer, <i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Smith
Sally Gaglione	Diana Williams
Angela Hegstrom	Steve Bennett
Kyle Hunke	Alicia Ramirez
Louise Goodman	Estrella Ruiz

REC Legacy Board

Mary Beth Buescher	Tim Pollard
Jen Christ	Blanca Saenz
Kathy Hall	Angelina Salazar
Becky Hobart	Jay Seaton
Fred Jones	Brigitte Sündermann
Jon Labrum	Jeff Taets
Karen Madsen	Jill Waugh
Dave Patterson	



Mission

Riverside Educational Center believes that every student, regardless of race, disability, socioeconomic status, or other barriers, deserves an equal opportunity in life. To this end, REC provides after-school tutoring and extracurricular activities for qualifying Mesa County students to improve academic achievement and foster positive social and emotional development.

Inclusivity is, and always has been, a part of REC's culture. All who are involved with REC, from students, to staff, families, board members, volunteers, partner organizations, and the community at large, have always worked for the good of all towards the defined objectives included in REC's mission. We developed this Inclusivity statement in the interest of clarification for those who are not familiar with REC and our mission.

Inclusivity Statement

Riverside Educational Center believes in societal equity and takes action to achieve equity within our programming. REC supports actions that promote and achieve equity for all students and families and actively works to break down systemic barriers that hold students back. REC advocates for equity and inclusivity and the elimination of prejudice within schools and our community.

REC programming is grounded upon mutual respect, open communication, and respectful collaboration with REC students and their families. We recognize that we do not have all of the answers to combat prejudices, but we have the capacity to drive change within our community and commit, as an organization and as individuals, to listening, learning and implementing actions to fight prejudice.

REC commits to the hard work of identifying our implicit biases and addressing them as an organization and within our programming. We pledge to invest in implicit bias training for our staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors. We resolve to provide age-appropriate inclusivity education for our students. REC is dedicated to valuing and respecting one another's differences.

Our work is collaborative and we acknowledge that REC cannot take actions alone or in a vacuum. Ongoing discussions and actions, at all levels of society, advance our mission of inclusivity and educational and societal equity.

Numbers to Know

517 Total number of students served

100% REC students who have qualifying risk factors such as low income, single parent, homeless, minority, or not proficient at grade level.

99% REC parents who feel their child has shown personal growth because they attend REC.

After-School Tutoring

All REC students receive homework support from REC staff in a small group or one-on-one format.

Elementary student tutoring is guided by individual lesson plans. Additional activities build reading, math, and writing skills at all levels.

Specialty content tutors assist middle and high school students with homework and skills within all academic areas during structured tutoring time.

Student progress is monitored through communication directly with teachers or through School District 51 student/teacher online portals.

Online learning options were available to students who were under quarantine or not able to attend programming in-person during the 2020-21 school year.



I appreciate that REC provides a safe and structured space for my son. He would not do as well if he was sitting at home alone after school each day. His willingness to try something different has improved, his grades are good, and some of his anxiety has decreased. He is doing so good this school year! I am so grateful this program goes all the way through middle school and high school!

REC Parent

Numbers to Know

211

Elementary school students participated in REC at **5 Sites**

194

Middle school students participated in REC at **4 Sites**

112

High school students participated in REC at **2 Sites**



On-Site Enrichment

In addition to academic tutoring, on-site programming includes enrichment activities at all grade levels. These activities focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math), and physical activities such as dance and yoga. These activities are designed to expose our students to new experiences and to help them gain new skills.

REC also engages students in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) projects to develop community and support their personal growth.

I love how excited my kids are about REC. They are always coming home talking about the fun projects and science experiments. I also love that they get to try things that they otherwise probably never would.

REC Parent

How REC helps me is with my social skills. The best part of REC is seeing the people I enjoy talking with.

REC Middle School Student

Numbers to Know

83% Elementary students who felt they learned a new skill in enrichment.

Off-Site Programming

REC collaborates with multiple community partners to provide off-site and outdoor programming for our students.

REC kids have the opportunity to experience a variety of activities such as cycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, rafting, gardening, and visiting community museums. REC's high school students also engage in conservation and community service efforts.

Often these experiences are new to our students and contribute to their personal growth beyond what can be provided in a classroom.

The best part of REC is the fun activities we do due to the fact that it encourages us to do our best to get a reward. And the activities help me by getting me through problems I struggle with.

REC Middle School Student

The field trips are my favorite! REC helps my brain grow!

REC Elementary School Student





Impacting Kids Who Need It Most

Numbers to Know

REC has been providing after-school support to qualifying students in the Grand Valley since 2006.

97%

Middle school students who plan to graduate from High School.

89%

Elementary school students who showed growth in math skills.

100%

High school seniors attending REC who graduated.

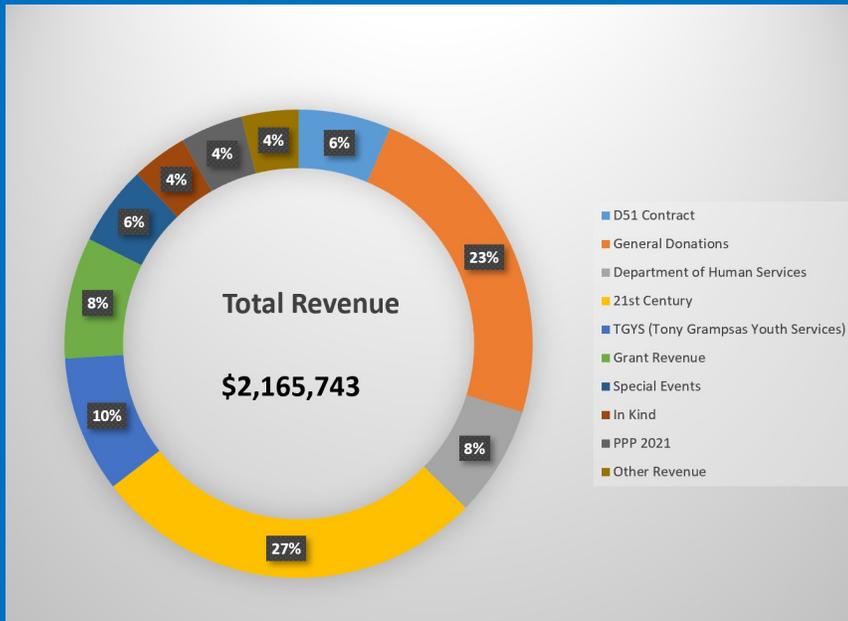
90%

Middle and high school students who felt their grades were better because of REC.

95%

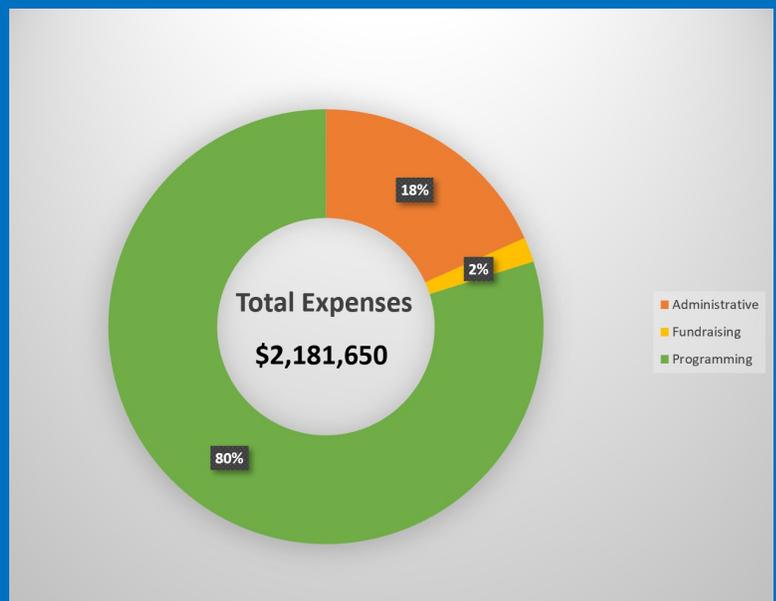
Parents who felt they gained skills from attending REC Parent Nights

Financials



*I've enjoyed working here at REC!
And I think it's such an important
program for those students in
need. I've seen so many students
grow mentally and physically and
develop into young adults. Such a
rewarding job!*

REC Staff Member



*REC helps me by giving me
confidence in my work and inspires
me to work harder and gives me
things I can use in my future.*

REC High School Student



Building Community

REC strives to create a safe and supportive community for our students where they can feel comfortable learning and growing in self-confidence.

Family events and parent trainings allow parents and siblings to participate in our students' growth.

Service-learning opportunities give our students a chance to learn about, and connect with, the broader Grand Valley community so they can move forward into adulthood with a sense of place.



I love the sense of belonging that my child feels with REC. The sense of community that it provides to the kids. There is a camaraderie among these kids. You can tell that the teachers really care and love these kids.

REC Parent



Community Collaborations



Partners

REC's partnerships with organizations in the Grand Valley allow us to provide high-quality and engaging programming for all our students.

REC kids gain self-confidence, build relationships, and learn the value of community through the activities our partners provide.

Community partnerships also further our goals to provide a healthy and supportive community for our students by assisting with trainings for REC staff and providing support services for students and families.

Support

Mesa County Department of Human Services

Mesa County Public Health

Grand Junction Community Food Bank

Kids Aid

School District 51

Partners with REC for 21st Century Grant funding and supports REC with no-cost tutoring space.

Colorado Mesa University

Career and College Readiness (CCR) assistance, pipeline for REC tutors.

Colorado West Land Trust

Land health and rehabilitation projects, hiking.

Grand Junction Parks and Recreation

Swim lessons.

Colorado Canyons Association

Youth Leader training, raft trips, climbing.

Museum of the West

Fossil hikes, Grand Valley history, museum visits.

EUREKA! Math and Science Museum

Math and science enrichment activities.

Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief (The Farm)

Community gardening techniques and Farmer's Market for REC families.

Summer Program

Academics, enrichment, and field trips are provided for all grade levels during the month of June.

Programming focuses on developing our students self-confidence through engagement in new activities and exploration of the Grand Valley community.

On-site activities include reading, art and dance. Off-site, outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, gardening, swimming, paddle boarding, camping, and museum visits, help them learn about their community and introduce the kids to new experiences.

This program is phenomenal! The positive impact upon students is tangible. I feel privileged to come to work every day knowing the difference we are making in students' lives.

REC Staff Member



REC During the Pandemic



Safe health practices for in-person tutoring included daily health checks, mask wearing and distancing, careful disinfecting of high-contact surfaces, and providing individual packets of school



Individual meal-sized snacks were prepared and packed for delivery to over 450 REC students every day.



When schools were closed due to periodic quarantines, REC staff provided virtual programming to maintain connections with students.

The Covid-19 Pandemic brought unique challenges to REC during 2020-21.

The School District 51 Board requested we continue in-person programming at each of our 10 sites. REC was grateful to be able to work directly with our students at their schools!

In-person tutoring, however, brought a variety of extra protocols for safe health practices in accordance with Mesa County and public health guidelines. REC staff jumped right in, despite the extra work, because they realized many of our kids and families were dependent on REC more than ever for academic help and social and emotional support.

The kids and their families were wonderful about following rules to help keep REC open. REC staff met caretakers outdoors every day to discuss student progress and provide updates, as well as listen to their thoughts, answer questions, and address concerns.

Enrichment activities were reduced to those that could be directly led by staff rather than enhancing enrichment through the involvement of outside experts.

When schools were closed for periodic quarantines, REC staff maintained connections to students and families through virtual programming.

REC has strong collaborative partnerships within our community and was able to act as a conduit, providing emergency assistance to families struggling with needs ranging from hunger and nutrition to housing, as well as referrals to additional wraparound services.

Additionally, REC received emergency funding in December allowing us to assist families in need at Christmas.

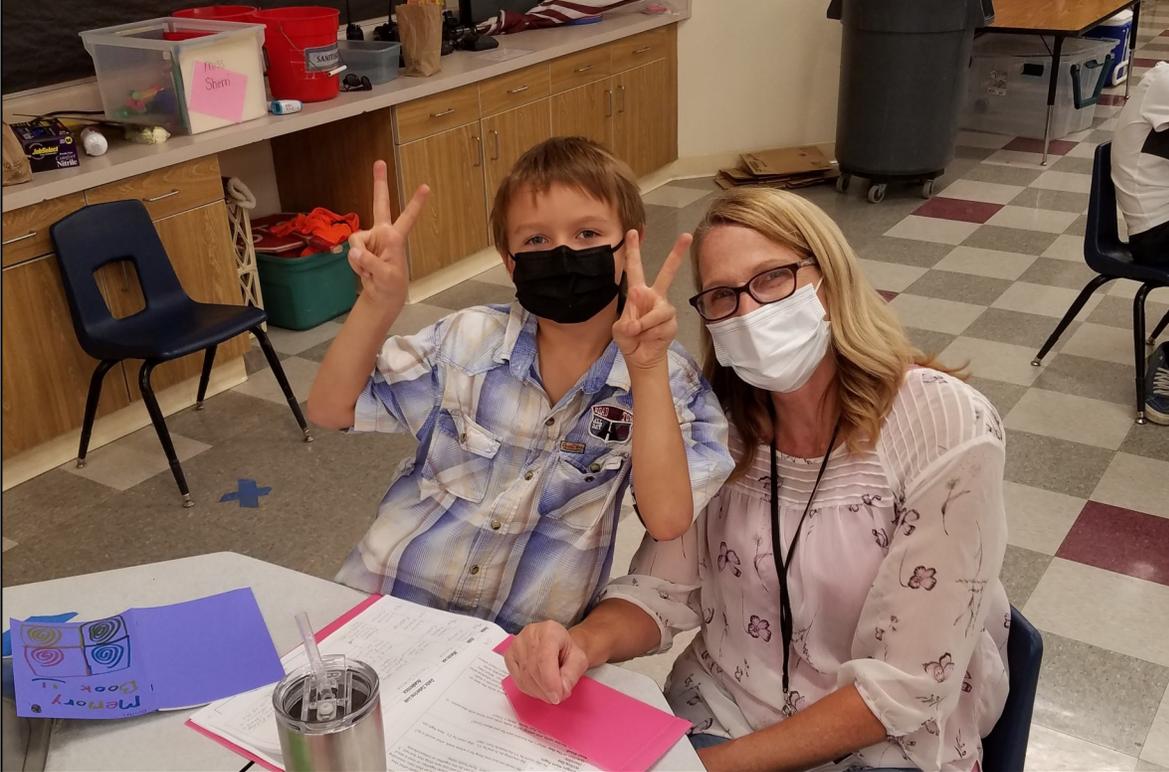
COVID-19 brought many challenges to REC but those challenges helped us find our strengths!



Those tutor/student connections included delivering bags to quarantined students' homes with enrichment projects and healthy, meal-sized snacks.



REC staff was no longer able to use our office space in the Riverside School. Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to move to a different location. This location included warehouse space allowing us to store equipment safely, provide office space for staff, and giving us room to make snack for all of our students.



2020-2021 Staff

Administrative Staff

Joy Hudak
Jack Curry
Greg Bolotin
Robbi Grimm

Executive Director
Program Director
Program Manager
Enrichment Manager

Cindy Haerle
Susette Montoya
Kristen Lummis
Alan Anderson

Family Resources Coordinator
Operations Director
Development Director
Snack Manager

Site Managers

Clifton Elementary School
New site

Bookcliff Middle School
Deanna Swetnam

Grand Junction High School
Edgar Corona

Dual Immersion Academy
Dixie Wilkinson

Grand Mesa Middle School
Rachel McCarthy

Dos Rios Elementary School
Jan Meister

Mount Garfield Middle School
Vivian LyBarger

Fruitvale Elementary School
Alex Fuentes

Orchard Mesa Middle School
Andrea Stanton

Rocky Mountain Elementary School
Elizabeth Christensen

Central High School
Brant McConnell



Thank You to Our Donors!

Donors \$25,000 and above

Individual

Anonymous
JRM Charitable Fund

Grants and Business Partners

21st Century Community Learning Centers
The City of Grand Junction (WCCF)
The Colorado Health Foundation
Fischer Family Fund
Mesa County Department of Human Services
Mesa County Public Health
Tony Grampsas Youth Services

Donors \$5000 to \$24,999

Individual

Mary Beth & Bernie Buescher Charitable Giving Fund
Jen Christ
Michele & David Choka
Jim & Donna Gardner
Fred & Shirley Powell
Karen Combs & Lynn Wegener

Grants and Business Partners

A.V. Hunter Trust
Bacon Family Foundation
Caring for Colorado
The Colorado Trust Directed Contributions Program
El Pomar Foundation
JG Management Systems
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
School District #51
St. Mary's Medical Center
Timberline Bank
United Way of Mesa County
Xcel Energy

Donors \$1000 -\$4999

Individual

Douglas Aden & Lorraine Jensen
Brownson Memorial Fund
Mary Beth & Bernie Buescher
Nina & Rod Christ
Gary & Collette Cranston Family Foundation

Lee & Sally Gaglione
Jerome Gonzales
Tony & Louise Goodman
Justin & Jamie Harris
Angela & Todd Hegstrom
Robin and Steve Heil
Penny and John Hopkins
Kyle & Gabriele Hunke
Gregg & Kristine Kampf
Knute & Sandy Knudson
Karen Madsen
Madsen Family Fund
Scott & Mandie Mercier
Bill & Margo Raimer
Chuck & Patti Shear
Mary Thom
Dan & Cheryl Wenzinger
Cindy & Robert Willms

Grants and Business Partners

Alpine Bank
Baker's Boutique
Bank of the San Juans
Caerus Oil & Gas
CAPCO
The Church of the Nativity
Code Ninjas GJ
Community Hospital
Diagnostic Radiologists Assoc. of Community Hospital
Enstrom Toffee & Confectionary
Hilltop
Horizon Sunrise Rotary Club
Hoskin, Farina & Kampf
The Kimbrough Team
ProVelocity
Redlands Mesa Golf
Shaw Construction
Shear, Inc.
US Bank
US Bank Foundation Grants Program
Whitewater Building Materials
Wilson Family Foundation



2020-2021 Donors

Donors \$500 - \$999

Individual

Anonymous
Jennifer & Jake Aubert
Steve Bennett & Martha Wright
David & Darlene Chinn
Kirk & Tara Clifford
WCCF/Bob and Kate Denning Fund
Kate Denning
Frank & Sue DeSantis
Richard Edwards & Martie Wisdom
Edwards
Stephen & Lysa Erkenbrack
Mark Gardner & Tracy Hansen
Sue & John Gormley
Ruth Gormley
Kathy Hall
Rick & Joy Hudak
Andy Kelly & Judy Vanderleest
Terry & Ruth Leever
Peggy & Tony Link
Dr. Betsy Longenecker
Jamie & Kristen Lummis
Ellen Miller
Anne Nederveld
Karen O'Connor
Wanda Wray Putnam
Forrest & Dee Ramsel
Kelly Reuss
Angelina Salazar
Michael Santo
Andy Smith
Bob Sullivan
Brigitte Sündermann
Pat & Gerry Tucker
Bob & Sarah Walsh

Grants and Business Partners

Appleton Dental
Ariel Clinical Services
Bechtel, Santo & Severn
Colorado Mesa University
The Daily Sentinel
Daniels Law Group, LLC

FCI Constructors
High Country Beverage
Laramie Energy
Mesa County Small Grants Foundation
The Christi Reece Group
Rocky Mounts

Donors \$100 - \$499

Individual

Anonymous
Scott Aker & Amy Charmichael
Connie M. Badini
Torrey Bell
Rob Bleiberg
Walid Bou-matar
Clay & Harriet Carpenter
Kimberlee Castleton
Dan Cherry & Betty Woods
Libby Collins & Chris Herrman
Jim & Janet Comerford
Danielle Cooper
Leanne & Thane DePuey
Steve & Sibylle Doyle
Julie Elliott
Zach Eycler
Tadd & Gisela Ferguson
Keith Fife & Katherine Portner
Bill & Jane Findlay
Gary & Sandra Fitzsimmons
Rebecca Fulmer
Christine & Gordon Gallagher
Cathy & Mark Green
Paul & Joyce Hackbert
Kristie Hanks
Rob & Ann Hanson
Will & Shawn Hays
Jessica Herrick
Bill & Jill Hilty
Penny & John Hopper
Kevin Hoskin
Craig & Karen Lee Hughes
Larry & Erna Ingram
Angela Johnson
Fred Jones

John & Cathy Kelleher
Deb Kennard & Josh McDaniel
Scott & Mary Leach
Stephanie Long
Jay & Rebecca Mashburn
Chris Mueller & Elizabeth Inskeep
Dave Orton & Chris Ivie
The Ousley Family
David Patterson
Peachfork Vineyard Pickers
Daniel Prinster
Dana & Brent Prosser
Susan Rawlins
Nathan & Kayleigh Rhodes
Paul Rolland
Kari & Joel Sholtes
Sveta & Steve Sinclair
Mike & Diana Sirko
Linda Skinner
Jennifer Smyth
Mary Spirio
Dick & Gaylene Thompson
Tim & Jill Waugh
Jane White
Shannon Wytulka

Grants and Business Partners

Dufford, Waldeck Law, LLP
Monumental Beer Works
Network for Good
Porter Homes
Timberline Welding



2020-2021 Donors (continued)

Donors \$1 - \$99

Anonymous
Amy & Dave Agapito
Darrel Allen
Ben & Lindsay Anderson
Susie Attaway
Rachel Brown
Cheryl & Dennis Brungardt
Ann Chaffee
Kelianne & Judd Chamberlain
Mary Cornforth
Randall Cupp
Mary Dexter
Becky Dickey
Greg & Jean Dillon
Steven Enos-Martinez
Kathan Hartle
Janet Hollingsworth
John & Chris Hostetter
Katie Krieger
Jane Lake
Kate Luker

Mark & Tammy Mancuso
Nick Massaro
Amanda Mayle
VaDonna McKim
Megan Meixueiro
Jenn Moore
Emily Orbanek
Claudia Pacheco Gonzalez
D Plunkett
Aric & Ashley Rastrelli
Killian Rush
Sherry Schenk
David Scott & Jody Valente
Kari Sewell
Raymond & Marsha Sinclair
Bronwyn Smith
William & Janine Smith
Thomas & Candyce Stuckenschneider
Deanna & Rick Taggart
Nancy Terrill
Robert Thomas
Sally White

In-Kind

Alpine Bank
Alan Anderson
Melanie Berk
CAPCO
Jen Christ
Nina Christ
The Daily Sentinel
Desert Canyon Riders
Discovery Auto Group
Las Marias
The Madsen-Swanson Group@ Merrill Lynch
Redlands Liquor
San Jose Bakery
Michael Santo
School District 51
Soronen, Donley & Patterson CPA's
Timberline Bank
US Bank

Please excuse any misspellings or omissions. Feel free to contact us with updates.



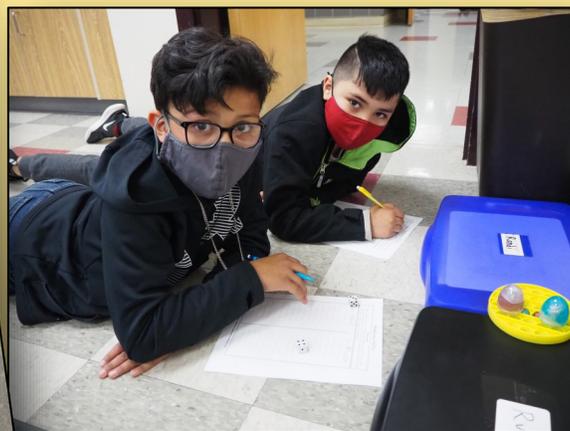


REC Is Growing!

We are excited to announce Riverside Educational Center will be opening up four new sites in the 2021-22 school year! Nisley Elementary, Pear Park Elementary, Chatfield Elementary, and Chipeta Elementary will be joining the REC family when school is back in session.

What does this mean? ***REC is hiring!***

REC is constantly striving to bring academic support and enrichment opportunities to more students, but we can't do it without your help. Please spread the word REC is looking for anyone 16 or older who is looking for meaningful work where they can make a positive change in student's lives. Part-time paid tutoring positions are available at all 15 REC sites in Mesa County.





Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

PO Box 4367
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Contact Us

To learn more, request a site visit, or make a contribution, contact us at:

Riverside Educational Center
PO Box 4367
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(970) 462-2901

Joy Hudak, Executive Director
(970) 589-5039
Joy@REC4kids.com

Jack Curry, Program Director
(609) 819-6429
Jack @ REC4kids.com

Please visit our website at:
www.REC4kids.com



2021-2022 Programming Sites

Chatfield Elementary School
3188 D 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Chipeta Elementary School
950 Chipeta Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Clifton Elementary School
3276 F Road
Clifton, CO 81520

Dual Immersion Academy
552 West Main St.
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dos Rios Elementary School
265 Linden Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Fruitvale Elementary School
585 30 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Nisley Elementary School
543 28 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Pear Park Elementary School
432 30 1/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Rocky Mountain Elementary School
3260 D 1/2 Road
Clifton, CO 81520

Bookcliff Middle School
2935 Orchard Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Grand Mesa Middle School
585 31 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mount Garfield Middle School
3475 Front St.
Clifton, CO 81520

Orchard Mesa Middle School
2736 C Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Grand Junction High School
1400 N. 5th St.
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Central High School
550 Warrior Way
Grand Junction, CO 81504