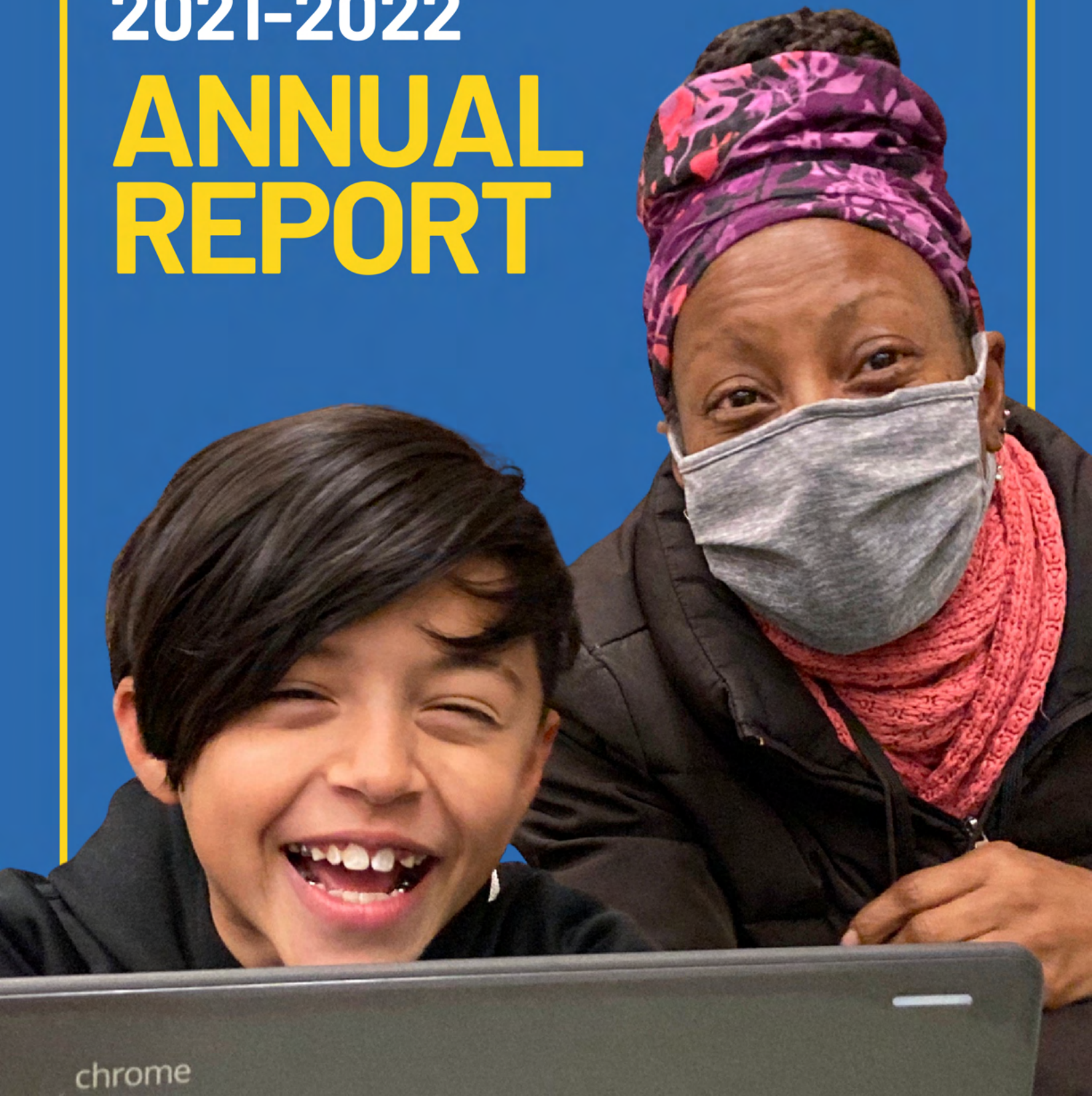


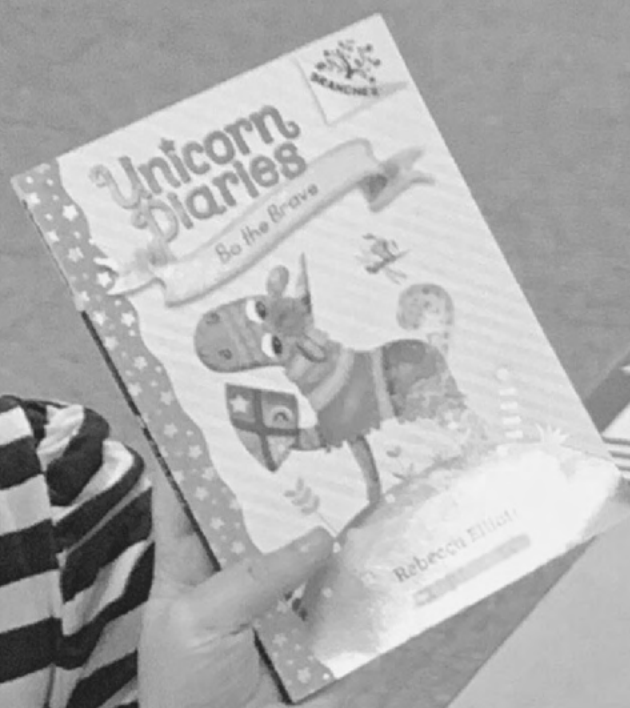


Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



chrome



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear REC friends and families,

When I look back at the 2022 fiscal year, whether right now or from the vantage point of many years into the future, I can confidently say that it was a transformative time for Riverside Educational Center.

In 2022, REC enrollment reached an all-time high, with nearly 1000 students registered at 15 schools and over 700 students consistently participating in REC's life-changing programming. And our efforts didn't stop with students. The year also saw record participation in family and caregiver events hosted by REC.

On the organizational side, 2022 was transformative in the following ways:

- REC expanded to an additional four schools, bringing REC programming to a total of nine elementary schools, four middle schools, and two high schools. This expansion occurred with the support of School District 51, an essential partner providing programming space each day after school.
- REC relocated to 1101 Winters Avenue, a move that was forced upon us by Covid-19 restrictions. And while we hated to say goodbye to the Riverside School, our new home – with increased office, storage, meeting, event, and work space – has proven indispensable. We couldn't have grown without it.
- REC staff expanded to meet the demands of serving more students. All site managers moved to full-time positions, and we added a full-time human resources director and a development specialist focused on grant writing and fundraising. Best news of all? We were able to increase the pay for all site staff, the wonderful frontline workers who do their very best for REC students each day.

Through all of these changes, I am proud to say that REC remains focused on one thing: meeting every student, every day, with exactly what that student needs at that moment.

We aim to help impact REC students in the best ways possible. With your support, REC makes a positive difference and transforms lives, every day.

Sincerely,
Joy Hudak



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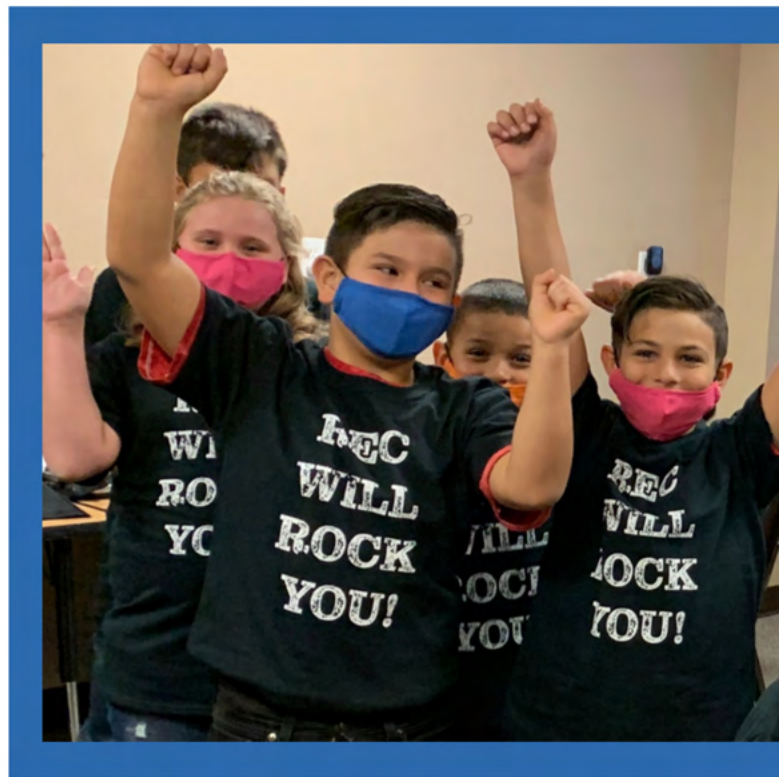
History and Impact

MISSION

Riverside Educational Center provides Mesa County students with high-quality academic and extracurricular experiences during out-of-school time to foster individual growth and to create community within a safe, diverse, equitable, inclusive environment.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

- 998 students enrolled in 2021-2022, with more than 700 participating regularly.
- REC serves 15 school sites: 9 elementary, 4 middle school, and 2 high school.
- 95% of parents, 89% of teachers, and 99% of staff believe students showed growth and benefited academically from being involved in REC.
- 394 elementary students, 231 middle school students, and 77 high school students attended REC on a regular basis.



"My child absolutely loves attending REC. She tells me daily that it was the bright spot of her day. Her REC tutors are wonderful role models. She feels completely loved and accepted. I couldn't be happier with her experience."

-REC Parent



WHAT REC PROVIDES

- After-school tutoring
- On-site educational enrichment
- Off-site educational enrichment
- Career and college readiness
- Support with transitions between grades and after graduation
- Summer programming
- Family engagement and support
- Social and emotional learning and mental health strategies
- Community connection
- Outdoor education

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

2006-2007

In the 2006-2007 school year, REC moves into the completed Riverside School. With a budget of **\$14,000** it serves **50 students**.



2009-2010

Enrollment reaches **100 students**, filling REC's available space. Grant writer Joy Hudak joins founder Mary Spirio in sharing REC's executive director position. REC's budget grows to **\$211,000**.

2014-2105

REC **expands programming** to Grand Junction High School. Joy Hudak assumes the full role of executive director. The REC community now includes **130 students**, 3 full-time staff, 10 part-time staff, 6 CMU work study participants, and 90 volunteer tutors. Its budget is **\$442,000**.

2019-2020

During the Covid-19 shutdown, REC is displaced from its Riverside location and moves to virtual programming. REC staff support families through connection to local services, as well as deliveries of food and enrichment projects to homes. Enrollment grows to **450 students**. REC's budget is **\$1,626,800**.



2021-2022

Programming expands to a total of **15 sites** and **998 students**. Taste of Riverside, held in REC's new warehouse, is its most successful fundraiser ever, **raising \$140,000**. REC's budget is **\$3,616,000**.

January 2006

REC is founded in January 2006, offering homework help and enrichment activities to **22 students** in elementary and middle school from Grand Junction's Riverside neighborhood. REC operates from modular units while the Riverside School building is renovated.



2010-2011

The first **Taste of Riverside** features a delicious tamale dinner prepared with the help of REC moms. This fundraiser, which will become REC's signature annual event, **raises \$15,000**.



2018-2019

Having received a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, REC expands to **9 sites in total** (4 elementary, 4 middle school, 1 high school), serving **422 students**. Its budget is **\$1,332,600**.

2020-2021

Fall 2020 brings a spacious new location for REC (thanks to a generous benefactor), **two new sites**, and a return to in-person programming. REC's budget grows to **\$2,315,000** and enrollment expands to **513 students**.



Your program is a LIFESAVER. My son started REC in 6th grade, and many times this program is the reason he goes to school. He has come out of his comfort zone in trying new things, and he gets the homework help he needs. At the end of the day when I pick him up, we get to have conversations and a peaceful dinner and no fights over homework!

I cannot express how much this program means to me as a mother who has had such a burden lifted, and to my kiddo – who already struggles so much – to get to be in such a positive and encouraging environment.

–REC Parent

Mario Bravo-Fuentes is a REC graduate who earned his degree from CMU this year and is now working as a software engineer for Apple. Mario recently recalled with gratitude REC's role in his youth – from staff who helped him apply to a competitive high school program that led to a full college scholarship, to enrichment programming that introduced him to drumming, a passion he pursues to this day.



After-School Tutoring

At Riverside Educational Center, students in grades 1 through 12 receive homework support in small groups or one on one. REC staff work in partnership with School District 51 staff to coordinate curricula and track student progress.

Elementary school tutoring is guided by individual lesson plans, along with additional activities to develop math, reading, and writing skills. In middle and high school, specialty content tutors ensure all academic needs are met, with the goal of keeping students on track for graduation. High school students also receive guidance with career and college readiness to help them plan for and achieve their goals after graduation.

At all levels, REC programming includes social time and a safe, supportive space to connect with friends and tutors, building relationships and a caring community. Kids often mention this as one of the things they love about coming to REC. A healthy, meal-sized snack is provided every day, and transportation home is available from some sites.



“My son does so much better because of REC. He looks forward to going to school now.”

-REC Parent

“REC improves my grades, and it’s a safe space to work. REC helps me actually do my work instead of putting it off, and it also helps me with my most difficult subjects.”

-REC High School Student

NUMBERS TO KNOW

- Of the REC students who attended at least 75 hours of programming, 90% showed growth on NWEA Math and 77% showed growth on NWEA Reading.
- REC expanded programming to four additional elementary school sites in the 2021-2022 school year.
- 100% of recent REC seniors achieved their goal of graduating high school.
- 64% of REC students who graduated high school in 2022 are headed on to higher education, most to CMU.
- To ensure quality, student-to-staff ratios were kept at 5:1 or lower.



"They don't just care about grades. They care about you." -REC Student



Upon graduating high school this year, a student who joined REC during the pandemic shared, "REC helped me get through high school when I felt school wasn't for me."

Educational Enrichment

Engaging educational enrichment is offered both on site and off. On-site enrichment occurs during the week as part of after-school programming. Topics include STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities as well as explorations in the arts, including music and dance.

Off-site offerings – often provided in cooperation with community partners – include swimming, rafting, hiking, gardening, cooking, visiting museums, and engaging in conservation efforts. Outdoor education is a major component of REC's off-site enrichment.

REC's social and emotional learning (SEL) programming supports students' personal growth, decision making, and healthy living. Activities such as art and outdoor excursions, including camping and mountain biking, build confidence and pair perfectly with SEL topics such as stress management and problem solving.



“I like that we get to do fun field trips, we get to learn extra stuff, and we get to do fun activities for math and enrichment.”

–REC Student

“I value how much REC has helped my brother become socially active and encouraged him to participate in fun activities! He used to be super quiet but is now very talkative and has gained lots of confidence! Thank you.”

–REC Caregiver

Enrichment offerings are popular among students, 86% of whom say they learned new skills because of REC. Families regularly express gratitude that their children have opportunities they could not provide otherwise.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Being invited to see a theatrical performance at CMU – an especially relevant treat for students who enjoy performing in REC's after-school Reader's Theater.
- Doing hands-on STEM projects at Colorado National Monument, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Park Service, and the National Environmental Education Foundation.
- Learning to sew, and then making mascot-themed aprons for delighted school lunch staff.



Career and College Readiness



Career and college readiness programming provides opportunities to consider options and envision life after graduation. All REC seniors graduate with a plan for their next steps and with strategies to help them achieve their dreams.

REC staff help those bound for higher education navigate the application and financial aid process. This is especially valuable for the many students who will be the first in their family to attend college. Students visit local campuses to increase their familiarity and comfort with the idea of attending college, and REC works closely with Colorado Mesa University and Western Colorado Community College on admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and more.

All students participate in job and career exploration, including presentations and information sessions. REC also facilitates job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships for those who are interested. REC connects career-bound students with the Mesa County Workforce Center for assistance with resumes and cover letters, applying for jobs, and mock interviewing.

Whichever path they take, students benefit from opportunities and assistance made possible through the community partnerships and collaboration for which REC is known.



Academic Transitions

The transitions into 6th and 9th grade are often intimidating and challenging. REC helps ease the stress through school tours, Q+A sessions, family support, and opportunities for kids to become familiar with new settings and experiences.

For REC students entering CMU, our staff coordinate with the university to ensure a strong start. Supports include early-start programming to give freshmen a better understanding of the college experience and an on-campus advocate to answer questions and offer encouragement.



REC's 8th grade celebration makes the leap to high school smoother. Staff provide tips and recognize students' accomplishments, building confidence.

Summer Programming

REC partners with District 51 to keep kids engaged while they are out of school. REC takes place in the afternoons following D51 summer school, ensuring a full day of safe and structured programming. Activities include outdoor education, swimming, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), and field trips made possible with support from community partners.

Not only does summer programming give kids the chance to experience new things in their community, it also helps working parents and caregivers by providing a place where their children are nourished, supervised, and nurtured during the day.



Elementary students explore Downtown Grand Junction during an art walk excursion. Field trips are very popular, and they give students a sense of pride and connection to where they live.



High schoolers participate in all-day outings, and some have the opportunity to be employed as youth leaders for summer programming.

Community Connection

REC strives to create a safe and supportive setting for kids and their families. Family events, trainings, and consistent communication allow caregivers and siblings the chance to participate in students' growth. REC helps connect families to support services to facilitate access to health care, food, and other necessities.

Through caring mentorship and participation in local offerings – including leadership, service-learning, and outdoor education opportunities – students learn that they are valued and have much to gain from and to offer their community.

Family engagement activities include social events and celebrations, as well as learning opportunities for parents and caregivers. Participation in these events reached an all-time high in the 2021-2022 school year.



“I value the support REC gives my daughter with her homework, and the workshops that help me with her growth. I appreciate the time and dedication that the staff gives my family!”

– REC Parent

Youth councils empower students and encourage participation in school and community. The Clifton Youth Council, made up of REC Mount Garfield Middle School students, planned and carried out a clean-up activity at the Clifton Nature Park with the help of REC staff and Clifton Community Leaders.



“REC is like family and offers a lot of support.”

–REC Caregiver

Taste of Riverside is an opportunity to celebrate REC's spirit of community with the Grand Valley. REC families play an integral role in this annual event, preparing an authentic Mexican meal and sharing their rich cultural heritage.



“I like REC because it is not just for homework. It also gets you out in your community and can allow you to help people with things. It helps me connect with people.”

– REC High School Student

Longtime partnerships with organizations throughout the Grand Valley allow REC to provide engaging, high-quality programming that helps students gain confidence and skills while forming relationships and learning the value of community. Collaboration also helps REC build a healthy, helpful safety net for students and families by providing essential support services and assisting with training for REC staff.

VALUED LOCAL PARTNERS

- **Bureau of Land Management:** Adopt-an-Area trail projects, environmental stewardship
- **Colorado Canyons Association:** Youth leader training, raft trips, climbing
- **Colorado Mesa University:** Career and college readiness assistance, pipeline for REC tutors, enrichment support from the Outdoor Program, on-campus support for REC graduates entering CMU
- **Colorado West Land Trust:** Land health and rehabilitation projects, hiking
- **The Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief:** Community gardening, cooking, farmer's market for REC families
- **Community Food Bank of Grand Junction:** Food resources for families
- **The Community Transformation Group:** Community advocacy, service learning
- **EUREKA! Math and Science Museum:** STEM enrichment activities, student scholarships
- **Grand Mesa Nordic Council:** Cross-country skiing
- **Mesa County Department of Human Services:** Wraparound services
- **Mesa County Public Health:** Wraparound services, Clifton Youth Council collaboration, Botvin LifeSkills support
- **School District 51:** No-cost tutoring space, academic resources and curriculum development support, staff training support
- **Western Colorado Community College:** Discounted summer camps for REC students, support for REC graduates entering WCCC

A HISTORY OF INCLUSIVITY

Equity and inclusion have been at the heart of REC's mission since its founding in 2006, when the organization served primarily Hispanic students. Now serving a diverse population of students and their families, REC is proud to have kept equity and inclusion at the forefront of its mission.

Please scan to
read REC's
Inclusivity
Statement:



River trips aren't only fun, they also build valuable skills. When Colorado Canyons Association, REC's partner in providing these excursions, learned that our GJHS site lacked funds for a summer trip, it helped coordinate support from Horizon Sunrise Rotary Club. Already a REC bus sponsor, Horizon Sunrise Rotary didn't hesitate to provide funding to ensure the trip could move forward. Their donation not only got students on the water, but more importantly demonstrated how their community shows up for them when needed. What a gift indeed!



The REC Team



REC staff bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from many fields, including science, business, social work, and (of course!) education.



"The caring staff always have the best interests of my child at heart. The way that they truly and honestly care, not only about the children, but the REC families as a whole, is an amazing feeling. Their support has been completely unexpected, yet so badly needed."

–REC Parent

NUMBERS TO KNOW

- REC employed 173 part-time staff (including two CMU work study participants) and 29 full-time staff in 2021-2022.
- REC hired its first human resources director in 2021.
- All 15 after-school site managers moved to full-time status, for improved programming and family support.
- Almost 30 volunteers, plus a 15-member board of directors, gave generously of their time and talent.
- In 2022, REC's board and staff adopted and began to implement a new 3-5 year strategic plan.
- 20,000 square feet of office, meeting, event, and storage space – made possible by a generous supporter – helped REC achieve amazing growth.

I love making the connections where students can come to me with anything and everything, and know that I am someone they can rely on. I'm so happy I can be there for them.

–REC Staff Member

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director: Joy Hudak
Senior Program Director: Jack Curry
Elementary Program Director: Jan Meister
Secondary Program Director: Mary Spirio
Enrichment Director: Hannah Clune
Operations Director: Susette Montoya
Financial Manager: Landen Fledderjohn
Human Resources Director: Megan Eckhart
Special Projects Director: Kristen Lummis
Development Specialist: Laura Satterly

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM MANAGERS

Chatfield Elementary School: Emily Hypnarowski
Chipeta Elementary School: MacKenzie Rash Ferguson
Clifton Elementary School: Sara Basulto Aguilar
Dos Rios Elementary School: Sherri Kauffman
Dual Immersion Academy: Dixie Wilkinson
Fruitvale Elementary School: Alex Herrera
Nisley Elementary School: Nickole Marroquin Kettle
Pear Park Elementary School: Connie Payton
Rocky Mountain Elementary School: Elizabeth Christensen

Bookcliff Middle School: Lena Peterson
Grand Mesa Middle School: Maeve Bowdish
Mount Garfield Middle School: Vivian LyBarger
Orchard Mesa Middle School: Andrea Stanton

Central High School: Brant McConnell
Grand Junction High School: Edgar Corona-Enriquez

“Anything we can do to help every child succeed in school benefits us all. That is exactly what REC does. I am thrilled to be a part of it.”

– Sally Gaglione
REC Board Member
2016–2022



“It’s great to be part of something so powerful. No matter which way you contribute, the benefit gets passed on to kids exponentially.”

–Richard Hypio
REC Volunteer

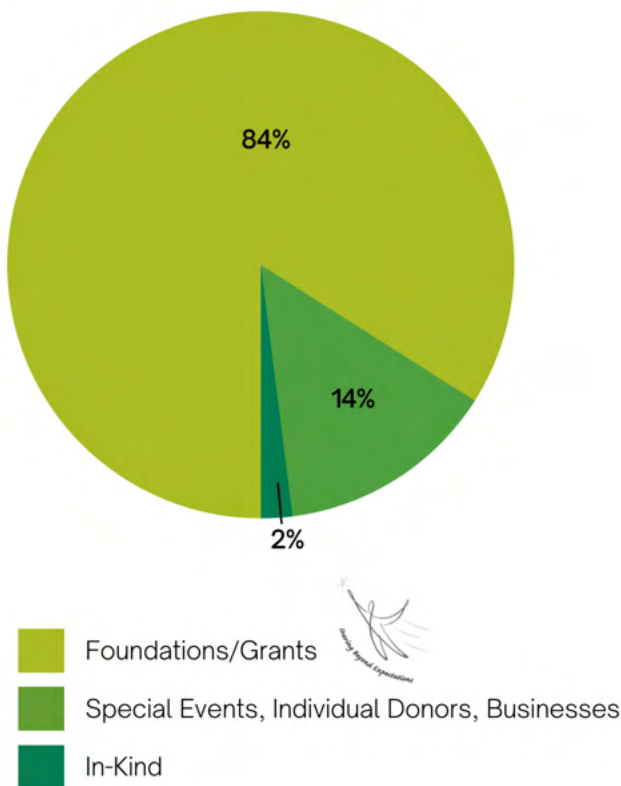


Financials

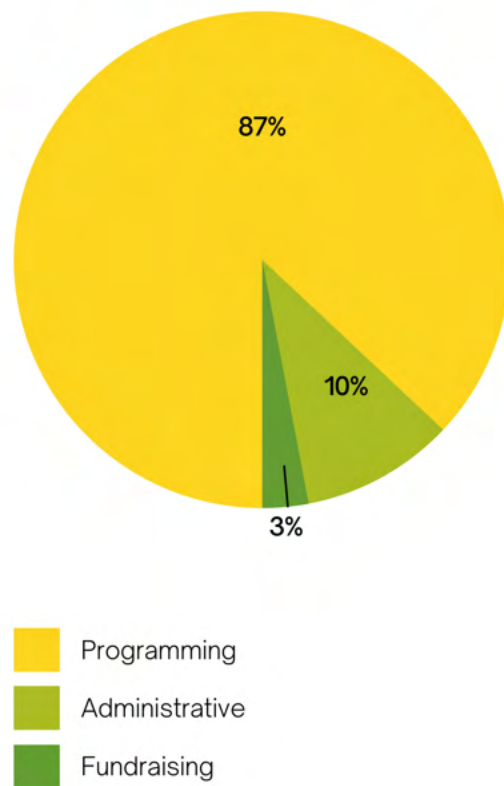
REC is the only Mesa County organization to offer bilingual after-school tutoring at no cost to families. Funding sources include foundations, corporations, businesses, service clubs, individuals, and fundraising events, with less than 1% of REC's budget coming from optional student fees.

REC is a careful steward of resources, maximizing every dollar to further serve the students and families who need it most. Your support through unrestricted donations is especially critical to help REC with sustainability.

FY 21-22 REVENUE



FY 21-22 EXPENSES



WANT MORE DETAIL?

Please scan here for
REC's current audit:



“I know REC will be good stewards of my donations. I have been donating to REC for most of their existence and have the utmost confidence in their leadership – and they do a great job with the kids.”

-Mary Beth Buescher, REC Supporter

WAYS TO SUPPORT REC

- **Make a Donation:** Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring monthly gift.
- **Leave a Legacy:** Donations from the proceeds of charitable IRAs, gifts of appreciated stock, and legacy gifts may have tax benefits for donors and can help change lives.
- **Sponsor a Bus:** REC buses travel thousands of miles every year taking students home each day and on field trips. Sponsor logos on buses have outstanding visibility.
- **Sponsor Taste of Riverside:** Sponsor a table at REC's annual fundraiser and enjoy the fun.
- **Shop with REC:** Designate REC to benefit from your City Market Rewards and AmazonSmile purchases at no cost to you.

“I appreciate everything about REC and am so thankful for everything that is offered for my kids.”

–Middle School Parent

NUMBERS TO KNOW WHAT YOUR DONATION PROVIDES

- \$5 provides an art enrichment activity for one student.
- \$10 buys one annual student subscription to Scholastic magazine.
- \$20 sends one student on an educational Friday Funday field trip.
- \$25 purchases an engaging math game to be used across REC sites.
- \$50 pays one tutor for a day.
- \$70 provides meal-sized snacks for 20 students.
- \$100 supplies one of our buses with gas for one week.
- \$250 sends one student on a three-day raft trip down Ruby Horsethief Canyon.
- \$500 pays for two weeks of service on REC's bike fleet.
- \$750-1,000 covers all costs of running one day of a school's REC programming.



Please scan to make your donation and impact children's lives.



Thank You to Our Donors!

REC values all of our financial supporters and contributors. Your investment in REC truly changes lives, helping students build a foundation for a lifetime of success, well-being, and connection.

We sincerely thank the following supporters, with apologies for any inadvertent omissions.



GRANTS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$25,000+

21st Century Community Learning Centers
Caring for Colorado Foundation
Chevron
City of Grand Junction
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
El Pomar Foundation

The Goodwin Foundation
Mesa County Department of Human Services
Mesa County Public Health
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
Tony Grampsas Youth Services
Wend II, Inc.

\$5,000 - 24,999

A.V. Hunter Trust
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Anschutz Family Foundation
Colorado National Monument Association
Gary Ventures, Inc.
Horizon Sunrise Rotary Club
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Mesa County Workforce Center
ProVelocity
Redlands Rotary Foundation

Thayer Family Charitable Fund
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United Way of Mesa County
WCCF/Anonymous Fund
WCCF/Colorado Health Foundation - Implementation Grant
WCCF/Community Grants Fund
WCCF/Ringstrand Family Fund
WealthSource
Xcel Energy



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Colorado Mesa University Foundation
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PEO
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WCCF/Elizabeth Fulton Gratitude Fund

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Boots N Lace
Colorado West Land Trust
Elite Events
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Mesa County Valley School District 51

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Redlands Liquor
Snob Productions
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Doug Simons, Jr.
Jim Simons
Mike & Diana Sirko
Andrew Slawninski
Andy Smith
Bronwyn A Smith
Melissa & Tomas Smith

Stephen Smith
Trea K Smith
Rick Spear
Carmelo Spirio
Mary Spirio
Jim Stover
Nancy Terrill
Brett Thompson
Andrew Tyler
Judy Vanderleest & Andy Kelley
Kevin VanGundy
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Jen Christ
Rod & Nina Christ
Juan Corona
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Josh McDaniel & Deb Kennard
Erin & Lyndon Minnerath

Miguel Molina
Martin O'Keeffe & Monique Morisseau
Austin Smith
Jeff & Londa Taets







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, Senior Program Director
609-819-6429
Jack@rec4kids.com

Please visit our website:
www.REC4kids.com



@RiversideEducationalCenter



@riverside_educational_center

2022-2023 PROGRAMMING SITES

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

Chipeta Elementary School
950 Chipeta Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Clifton Elementary School
3276 F Road
Clifton, CO 81520

Dual Immersion Academy
552 W. Main Street
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dos Rios Elementary School
265 Linden Avenue
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 Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81504

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

Mount Garfield Middle School
3475 Front Street
Clifton, CO 81520

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

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

Central High School
550 Warrior Way
Grand Junction, CO 81504