

Voyager Youth Program

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALEX DURHAM

Our mission moving into 2022 was making a deeper impact in the community. We started the year out with community surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder meetings to best determine what needs we can fill at Voyager. The data led us to expanding our enrichment programs. We launched our Ouray After School Program in October and changed our childcare license to begin accepting children 2.5 years and up in early 2023.

Reflecting back on this year, we have many things to celebrate. Our Board of Directors welcomed several new members and began implementing a new 3-year strategic plan. Our staff grew with new full time and seasonal members. We set up new policies and procedures, launched a new website and registration system, and released our new logo. I thank our board of directors, staff, schools, community, grantors, and donors for their support as we are setting our new path forward.

Here is to new beginnings! – Alex



Inspiring youth to lead
healthy lives since 1997.

*Growth
Connection
Compassion
Integrity
Resiliency
Fun*

ENRICHMENT

RIDGWAY AFTER SCHOOL

Ridgway Elementary students have been enjoying their new rooms at Voyager. We moved everything around to accommodate more space for play, learning, and quiet time. Our schedule this year is Melty Bead Monday, Take a Hike Tuesday, Watcha Cookin' Wednesdays, and Theatrical Thursday. We crafted, shared highs and lows, read and played outside. On full days, we have enjoyed swimming at the Ouray Pool, visiting pumpkin patches, doing seasonal craft projects, and building social emotional skills with Amy Rose - the Hedgehog.

OURAY AFTER SCHOOL

We launched the Ouray After School Program in October. It is a community-based program for children ages 5-11 that runs in partnership with the Ouray Public Library and the Ouray Hot Springs. The Ouray Voyagers participate in bi-weekly swim lessons, weekly library days, and spend one day a week at the Ouray School. During our time together, the children have a healthy snack, share highs & lows, do arts and crafts, build friendships, and play a lot outdoors. On professional development days and holiday periods, we also hold full-day care at Voyager's Ridgway campus and provide transportation if needed.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

We served a total of 83 children this summer. Highlights included planting seeds and gardening in our new garden beds, visiting alpacas, volunteering at Second Chance Humane Society, Rocket Week, swimming, climbing at Basecamp Ouray, science with Pinhead Institute, ranching for a day with the Ferguson Ranch, and meeting Amy Rose: the hedgehog. We ran a school bus shuttle for Ouray kids to and from Ridgway main campus to alleviate transportation barriers. We also began teaching Sources of Strength, our new evidence-based, social-emotional learning curriculum for elementary age children.

"I am super happy with the program and staff. My kids had a blast and looked forward to 'Voyager' days, sometimes even asking to go on days they weren't signed up! I really appreciated the bus from Ouray to Ridgway. I didn't think we would use it that much but we ended up using it a lot and it was just awesome! Thank you for a great summer!" - Parent



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

TEEN CENTER

We are excited to announce our Teen Center has transitioned out of Voyager and into the community! We felt it was being underutilized, recognized the same activities could function collaboratively with local organizations and thus, engage our broader collective in supporting local youth. We have joined forces with the Ridgway Library Teen Center to continue providing a drop-in space for teens after school. We continue to facilitate in-school Sources of Strength and lunch groups and in 2023 will host monthly pop up teen events in the community to provide fun events like the fall Jelly Ball extravaganza.

ADVENTURE WEDNESDAYS

When our teens reflect on Adventure Wednesdays, they think of "fun, adventure, and good times with friends!" We had a great summer adventuring: rafting, climbing, via ferrata(ing), SUPing, paintballing, and rip-roaring on the new Telluride Zipline course! In 2023, we will be implementing teens' feedback for new and exciting programs; new adventures and possibly multi-day trips.



COMMUNITIES THAT CARE

OURAY COUNTY

We simplified our mission statement: Communities That Care (CTC) of Ouray County engages the community to provide tools and opportunities for youth to build positive, healthy futures.

Ouray County CTC is a coalition comprised of youth, parents, schools, law enforcement, government, faith community, youth organizations, and media that build a community wide youth support systems grounded in prevention science. The community board met in October to re-group and re-orient the coalition as it enters its second round of the process. They then began evaluating and planning a collaborative process for positive youth development and local support systems. Based on input from youth and Ouray County Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data, the coalition articulated youth mental health, impact of youth substance use on the developing mind, and opportunities for prosocial involvement as priority risk and protective factors to address.



The CTC coalition is a wonderful opportunity for youth to gain leadership skills and receive community service hours.

PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

Bright Futures of the San Juan Region is a standout for our Partner of the Year. Bright Futures has been with us every step of the way on our Early Childhood journey. They have supported us by getting staff registered in Early Childhood college courses, helping us apply for a new childcare license, developing a new licensing handbook, getting trained in the Pyramid Model, building a business plan, and developing quality licensing standards. We want to especially thank Clea Willow, Tina Purcell, and Lindsay Dickinson. Your help and support gave us the confidence and tools to pursue the Early Childhood expansion!



Clea Willow



Lindsay Dickinson



Tina Purcell

UPCOMING IN 2023

Voyager is expanding into **Early Childhood**. We are pleased to announce that we will start accepting 3-4 year olds for our After School Program in Ridgway in early January 2023. We are also expanding our Summer Enrichment Program to serve children 2.5 years old and up. Our licensed capacity will increase from 40 to 55 children daily.

We are excited to grow **Outdoor Education** opportunities for our children and teens. We will be implementing the **Sources of Strength** program in schools and at Voyager for ages 5-18. We will continue to foster **Community Collaboration**, build partnerships through **Communities that Care** and recruit teens to join the coalition.

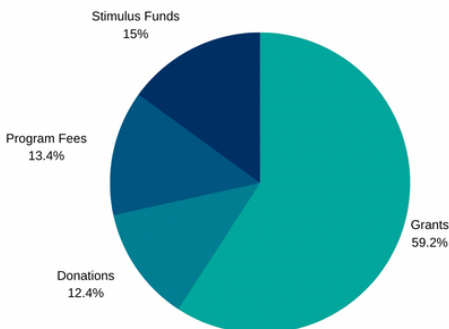
Finally we plan to expand **Programming for Parents**. We look forward to family friendly events where parents can connect and learn from each other.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

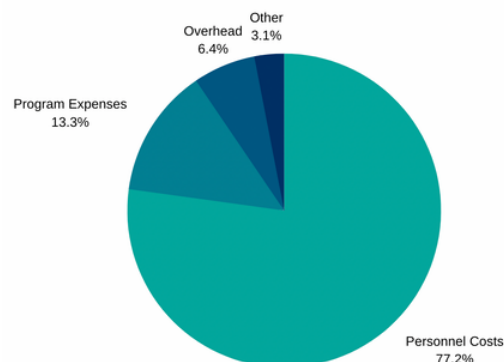
Shannon Robinson - Co-Chair
Rob McNutt - Co-Chair
Mike Waters - Treasurer
Addie Tesch - Secretary
Jill Hepp - Ridgway School Board
Tom Fedel- Ouray School Board
Mica Hart - Youth Member
Marissa Mathis - Member
Jenn Peterson - Member
Kara Jaramillo - Member

FINANCIALS Jan.2022-Nov.2022

Income \$376,115



Expense \$389,011



STAFF

Alex Durham
Executive Director

Agnieszka Przeszlowska
Development & Grants Manager

Madison Gustafson
Program Manager

Cat Geras
Community Mobilizer

Michelle Melendez
Program Coordinator

Sean Taplin
Program Assistant

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