mountain YOUTH

2025 annual report

MOUNTAIN YOUTH
STRONGER TOGETHER

MISSION

To continuously and collaboratively improve the lives of youth in the most powerful ways possible.

VISION

All youth in our community thrive.

VALUES

- ***Trusted Leadership***
- ***Inclusivity***
- ***Bridging Community***
- ***Positive Youth Development***

CULTURE STATEMENT

We are a united team who commits to honest connections, humor and growth to enhance collective impact.

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Michelle Hartel

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Stevi Bratschie

COMMUNITY MOBILIZER
Hannah Conoley

YOUNG ADULT OUTREACH SPECIALIST
Vanessa Contreras

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC IMPACT
Mikayla Curtis

SENIOR MANAGER OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
Cameron Dole

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Maria Elizalde

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Rachel Glowacki

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Laura Herrera

MARKETING AND EVENTS MANAGER
Nick Krishnan

TU GUÍA COORDINATOR
Diana Loera

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Ana Mendoza

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS MANAGER
Jo Pennock

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Courtney Rawson

PROGRAM FACILITATOR
Erika Rodriquez Juarez

YOUTH EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT COORDINATOR
Brenda Saucedo

COMMUNITY CONSULTANT AND COACH
Samantha Sorensen

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST
Monica Torres

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Michele Zoller

As we close 2025, we feel both pride and urgency. Pride in what Mountain Youth and this community have accomplished together — and urgency because the needs of our youth and families continue to grow.

This year, Mountain Youth strengthened its commitment to building a safer, healthier community where every young person feels connected and supported. That progress is possible because of our dedicated staff, engaged board, committed partners, and generous supporters who believe in youth.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

- Expanded Safe Driving Efforts — We removed barriers by offering scholarships for Driver's Education classes and grew the S.H.I.F.T. safety event to promote responsible driving and injury prevention in engaging, youth-centered ways.
- Comprehensive Family Engagement — We implemented a flexible model that meets families where they are — tailoring opportunities to language, culture, and schedules. This year, we added an emphasis on violence prevention, and supported families through expanded intervention programs, reflecting both rising need and community trust.
- Focused Youth Engagement — Valley's Voice middle and high school programs adopted a new leadership curriculum and enhanced peer to peer facilitation. Expanded efforts to engage 18–25 year olds through more targeted connection opportunities support the high rates of mental health challenges and financial instability facing this vulnerable population.

WHAT WE KNOW

Connection changes outcomes. When young people feel belonging at home, at school, and in the community, stress decreases and positive mental health grows. The demand for support is increasing, but so is our resolve. We remain committed to ensuring no young person or family faces challenges alone. Thank you for standing with us and investing in the well-being of youth across our community.

With gratitude,

Kevin Armitage
Board President

Michelle Hartel
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Armitage
Paige Asbury
Joel Barndt
Alex Bratschie
Caspian Covarrubias-Walker
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Abby Wiens

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE

The Communities That Care (CTC) Coalition continues to strengthen its impact through steady collaboration, data-informed planning, and a strong focus on youth engagement and substance use prevention. The coalition expanded its Positive Youth Development trainings across partner organizations, delivering six sessions that reached 167 adults who work directly with young people. On the substance use prevention side, the coalition enhanced its community education efforts by completing an environmental scan on youth access to alcohol. This work includes interviews, focus groups, and a review of local and state laws to better understand how youth obtain alcohol, recognize parent perceptions on the topic and identify opportunities for stronger community protections.

"CTC has helped me identify real needs and connect me to the right people and resources at the right time, whether that's education, prevention services, or growth opportunities. I can confidently say that being an active CTC member has empowered me, instilled hope, and placed me on a brighter path forward."

- BRENDA CHAVEZ, COALITION MEMBER

SAFE DRIVING

Safe Driving programming continues to make significant strides in strengthening youth safety, expanding community partnerships, and advancing education around responsible road behaviors. The Safe Driving Steering Committee led the planning and successful launch of the first-ever S.H.I.F.T. youth safey event, shaped directly by youth feedback, featuring hands-on learning, a law-enforcement seminar, an impact panel, interactive booths, and games that brought more than 50 teens together for a day of connection and skill-building. Throughout the year, our Driver's Education Scholarships were awarded to 45 recipients. The committee is also launching a comprehensive e-bike safety initiative, gathering community survey data, collaborating with county and municipal partners, and beginning development of a unified education campaign focused on helmet use, rules of the road, and multi-use path safety. Across all efforts, the committee continues to elevate youth voice, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and build a safer, more informed community for young drivers and riders.

"Mountain Youth has been a remarkable partner in expanding access to driver's education for teens in our valley. At Vail Health, our trauma team sees firsthand how education can prevent tragedy, and this scholarship program helps ensure every young person has the tools to make safe decisions behind the wheel."

– ELIZABETH KRUGER MSN, RN, VAIL HEALTH TRAUMA PROGRAM MANAGER

HEALTHY KIDS COLORADO SURVEY

AND DATA COLLECTION/ DISSEMINATION

Mountain Youth focuses efforts on sharing data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Parent/Caregiver Survey and Young Adult Survey. Data from over 3,000 individuals each cycle steers programs and policies, supports agencies in decision-making and helps secure millions of dollars to support local youth and family services.

SPECIFIC 2025 EFFORTS INCLUDED:

- Revising the Mountain Youth Strategic Plan to prioritize youth and family health needs
- Engaging community members in identifying needs and strengths highlighted in data through gallery walk presentations
- Conducting a Community Readiness Assessment, including environmental scans on alcohol access

WE HEAR U

SUPPORTING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

We Hear U is a program designed to help families build the skills needed to parent adolescents. This program empowers parents and their teens with tools to enhance communication, set age-appropriate boundaries, and foster mutual respect and connection. Families referred to We Hear U spend up to 6 hours meeting with a trained facilitator who tailors the program to the needs of each family.

"This program helps us improve, and gives us practice to listen calmly so we can do that at home."

- WE HEAR U PARENT

IMPACT IN 2025

53 *individuals*

21 *families*

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Mountain Youth offers a robust community education series in English and Spanish, equipping Eagle County youth and families with practical tools, trusted resources, and expert insight on the topics that matter most to them.

In partnership with local organizations and professionals, Mountain Youth delivers engaging sessions focused on youth mental health, substance use prevention, safe driving, healthy relationships, technology use, and more. Presentations are offered in English and Spanish, with interpretation, childcare, and dinner provided to ensure meaningful access for all families.

In addition to the education series, Mountain Youth hosts free events centered on movement, healthy activities, and whole-body wellness. These gatherings create opportunities for youth and families to be active together, strengthen connections and celebrate healthy living.

> ***"These events create a safe learning environment where families can build relationships, feel connected, and strengthen their support networks. I personally enjoy participating because I learn something new each time, and through my work with families, I'm able to extend that knowledge and impact even further within our community."***
>
> ***- COMMUNITY EDUCATION PARTICIPANT***

TU GUÍA (YOUR GUIDE)

Tu Guía is a tutoring program that was initially developed by local high school students during COVID. In this program, local high school and college students serve as tutors, mentoring elementary students needing academic assistance in the community. Tutors meet weekly with students and create academic lessons based on the students' needs with a strong social-emotional foundation. The goal is to increase academic levels while building critical life skills.

> ***"The Tu Guía program is on the front lines of bringing educational equity to the valley. Watching my students' eyes light up when a confusing concept becomes clear, and witnessing their academic and social-emotional confidence blossom, is a powerful gift. Just as importantly, the program fosters the growth of each of its tutors, providing me with ample opportunities to grow in my leadership and time management skills."***
>
> ***- EVA ISAACS, TU GUÍA TUTOR***

IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Mountain Youth offers a comprehensive life skills and substance use prevention curriculum to elementary through high school students in the majority of schools in the Eagle River Valley. These programs address issues facing local youth, such as substance abuse and misuse, healthy relationship building, coping with adversity, and improving communication. Beginning in 2025, Mountain Youth was able to provide these classes in Spanish to local elementary schools thanks to bilingual program personnel.

GUIDING GOOD CHOICES®

Guiding Good Choices® is a five week parenting course where parents and caregivers learn specific actions that promote healthy development and reduce high risk behavior in the teen years. Home practice and weekly family meetings build family connections and help families apply skills in real life. Guiding Good Choices® emphasizes strong family bonds as the key that motivates preteens to follow family guidelines and stay on a course toward better health and educational outcomes as teenagers.

VALLEY'S VOICE

Valley's Voice serves as a major platform for youth advocacy and leadership and is constantly evolving to best serve local middle and high school students. Youth advisors steer the direction of the program by identifying a series of topics and skills to build with peers. Data from local, state, and national surveys urge youth to dig deeper and visualize the story that the numbers are telling, resulting in evidence-based solutions to local issues. Valley's Voice conversations lead to identifying inequities and barriers that young people face, and students ultimately address these challenges to create youth-led solutions. Valley's Voice students also plan Youthapalooza, Eagle County's largest youth resource fair. Youthapalooza welcomes hundreds of students annually to enjoy a plethora of free activities while increasing youth knowledge of local resources, careers, and supports available to them.

Young adult interaction is growing at Mountain Youth, as a total of 5 young adult ambassadors are engaged to lead the MOYA (Mountain Youth Young Adults) team with community interaction and events. Ambassadors plan 1-3 events monthly, aiming to increase connection between local young adults.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Difference Maker
$1,000 +

Sandy and Larry Agneberg
The Bratschie Family
Sara and Travis Fahrney
The Gerdes Family
Elizabeth and Michael Hartel
Eileen and Mark Kleiman and Family
Merv and Laine Lapin
The Resnick Family
The Bratschie-Staten Family
Marc and Glenda Wentworth

Visionaries
$500 TO $999

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Ryan Fowler
The Glowacki Family
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Trudy and Bob Matarese
Toni and Steve Rozanski
Lula Sandoval
Jon Strickler

Champions
$250 TO $499

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Pathfinders
$100 TO $249

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Robert Shearon
Jodi Teague
Matt Teeters
The Westering Family
Monica White
The Zoller Family

Advocates
UP TO $99

Kelly Billingsley-Smith
Laurel Broy
Marcus Carter
Caspian Covarrubias-Walker
Lauren Cremonese
Ben and Natalie Dodd
Alla Dragomiretskaya
Brian Flynn
Elle Friedle
Rocio Garcia-Aguirre
Samantha Hodgkins
Erin Ivie
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Carol Krueger
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Wendy Rimel
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Shelby Spiegel
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Casey Family Programs
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Alliance Moving Systems
Alpine Acupuncture
Alpine Bliss Massage
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Coldwell Banker Distinctive Properties
Colorado Gives - Catchafire
Colorado Mountain College
Constant Contact
Copy Plus
Dewey Dabbles
Dvorak Marketing
Eagle Castle Management & Maintenance, Inc
Edwards Early Learning Center
Encore Electric
EPS Print Shop
The Faeder Collaborative
First Chair Designs
Gallegos Corporation
Gypsum Recreation Center
Kids Adventure Games
Kaleidoscope Productions
KNS Broadcasting/KZYR
Minturn Anglers
Mountain Recreation
Redstone Inn
Riverwalk Development Co
Survey Monkey
The Inn at Riverwalk
Town of Avon
Town of Eagle
Town of Eagle Broadband
Vail Alliance
Vail Daily
Vail Resorts - Epic Promise Foundation
Vail Valley Works
Zoom Communications, Inc

Government Partners

Central Mountains RETAC
Colorado Department of Law
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Colorado Department of Transportation
Colorado Office of Health Equity
Colorado Office of School Safety
Eagle County
Eagle County School District
Exploremos (via Walking Mountains Science Center)
Office of the District Attorney - 5th Judicial District
Substance Use & Mental Health Services Administration
Town of Avon
Town of Eagle
Town of Vail

Grants & Foundations

The Auto Club Group Foundation
Anschutz Family Foundation
Casey Family Foundation
Colorado Gives Foundation
Colorado Health Foundation
Colorado Mountain College Foundation
The Colorado Trust
Daniels Fund
Eagle River Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Freeport McMoRan Foundation
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
Slifer Smith and Frampton Foundation
Yampah Valley Community Foundation
Youth Power
Vail Health
Vail Valley Cares

INCOME BREAKDOWN

77% ***Government Grants***

14% ***Foundation Grants***

3% ***Individual Contributions***

4% ***In-Kind Contributions***

1% ***Special Events***

1% ***Corporate Donations***

IN-KIND DONATIONS

$59,806

2025 TOTAL INCOME

$1,441,187

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SCHOOL-BASED LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

551

PROSOCIAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

1,072

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ADVISING

86

DATA ASSESSMENT & DISSEMINATION

4,690

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1,416

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

111

SAFE DRIVING EDUCATION

1,640

2025 TOTAL IMPACT

9,566

MOUNTAIN YOUTH
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