



Riverside Educational Center  
After School Tutoring and Enrichment



## REC Community News

Summer 2018

### Collaboration + Summer = Fun for REC Kids!

The Riverside Educational Center just finished a Summer Program to remember! Our students gardened, explored historical sites, went on nature walks on the Grand Mesa, and examined dinosaur bones and owl poop. The young kids went cycling, swimming, and hiking while the older kids camped, rock climbed and went on a 2-night raft trip.

REC students were treated to new learning experiences that were fun AND challenging. Experiences that REC could never afford to offer on its own. *That's the power of collaboration!*

REC's relationship with our partner organizations in the RIO Coalition is what allowed us to provide *high quality and engaging activities* for our summer students. These are experiences that empower our kids to grow!

Thank you to the other members of the RIO Coalition!

- Colorado Canyons Association
- Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief
- CMU Outdoor Program
- Eureka! McConnell Science Museum
- Grand Junction Parks and Rec
- Museum of the West
- Partners
- Western Colorado Land Trust

Not only do these organizations enrich our students' lives, they also help us teach our kids about the power of building relationships and developing community.

We look forward to many more opportunities for our kids to learn and grow with our RIO Coalition partners!



### From our Executive Director

Dear Friends of REC,

The past several months have been hectic but exciting at REC. From celebrating REC's Class of 2018 high school graduates, to a summer program jam-packed with new activities for our kids, to the prospect of expanding our services, we have had plenty to be excited about.

Much of what we do for our students is made possible through the partnerships REC has nurtured with other organizations in the Grand Junction community (see the article on this page).

These partnerships have allowed us to offer more— more new learning opportunities for our students, more social support for our families, and now REC programming for more students in the Grand Valley (see page 2).

Building community is what REC does well. We care about our students and families and we empower them all to be part of our programming decisions. These are actions that build relationships and trust.

Our collaborations allow us to transform and connect those relationships beyond REC into the larger Grand Junction community.

And all of you— our supporters, our partners, our families, our friends— are the community that empowers REC to make a difference in children's lives. We are grateful for all of you and the contribution you make to REC's mission.

With appreciation,

Joy Hudak  
Executive Director

ALONE  
WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER  
WE CAN DO  
SO MUCH  
- HELEN KELLER -

# What's Happening at REC

## Exciting News for REC

Great news! REC's mission to provide academic and social support to kids who need it most is about to expand beyond the Riverside neighborhood!

In partnership with MCV School District 51, the RIO Coalition and Hilltop, REC applied for and received a federal grant allowing us to establish 21st Century Community Learning Centers at 4 new locations in the Grand Valley. So now, in addition to our latest expansion to Orchard Mesa Middle School, REC's programming model will be implemented at Rocky Mountain Elementary, Dos Rios Elementary, Mount Garfield Middle and Bookcliff Middle Schools.

The prospect of getting those programs up and running by September is daunting but REC's staff is up to the task. It is just a matter of doing more of what we already do — tutoring kids and enriching their lives in a safe and supportive environment—and *hiring more staff to manage the new sites.*

**For information about job opportunities, please visit the "Employment" page on our website, [www.REC4kids.com](http://www.REC4kids.com).**

We are so grateful for all the support we get from the REC community of families, volunteers, partners and donors! With your continued support we can now bring quality programming to at-risk kids in the greater Grand Valley.



*We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future.*

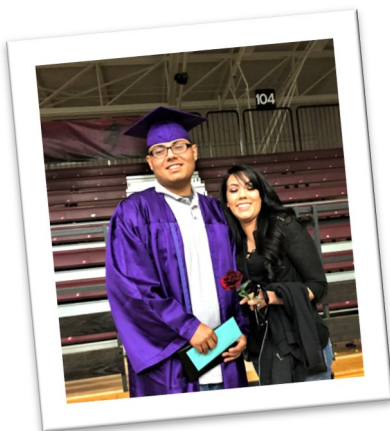
*Franklin Roosevelt*

## Congratulations Class of 2018!

Riverside Educational Center is proud to announce that we had 10 students graduate from High School this year! Almost double the number from last year—a trend we hope to continue.

Helping at-risk students achieve academic success is a big part of REC's mission. We believe an education is the foundation for all other success in life and, of course, graduating from high school is the milestone we want our students to reach.

We're looking forward to seeing where our graduates go from here. *So, congratulations to Edgar, Valeria, Alex, Marina, Mario, Naomi, Juan, Nelly, Itzel and Michael!* Remember your REC family will always be cheering you on!



## People of REC

### The JGMS Team Helps REC Succeed in More Ways Than One

JG Management Systems, Inc. has been a part of REC's family since we were founded in 2006. From generous donations to volunteer tutoring to enthusiastic participation in fundraising, the JGMS team has always been by our side.

So it was no surprise when Jerome Gonzales, JGMS Founder and CEO, offered JGMS' advisory support to REC when we were faced with the challenges of expanding our programming to four new locations. JGMS has had its own challenges with growth in the past. It made sense to Jerome that the JGMS team could share their diverse skills and expertise to, in Jerome's words, "...make sure REC is in a position to succeed."

Not only does JGMS care about REC succeeding as an organization, but they also care about the success of our students. In an effort to help our young adults experience the world outside of Riverside and to earn money for school, JGMS has offered a summer internship to REC high school students who show an interest in technical services. This summer Mario Bravo is the lucky intern learning from the JGMS team.

JGMS is a strong believer in stewardship. Giving back to the community is something they take pride in. REC is deeply thankful to the JGMS team for their belief in REC and their commitment to impacting the lives of kids who need it most. Thank you JGMS!



*We're a group of caring, like-minded people who believe in REC's mission to educate and enrich students' lives.*

Jerome Gonzales

### Connect to the REC Community

Does it warm your heart to see REC kids learning and experiencing new things? Do you wish you knew more about what's going on at REC? Or, do you just want an easy way to spread the word about REC to your friends?

We've got good news! Now you can connect to the REC community several ways.



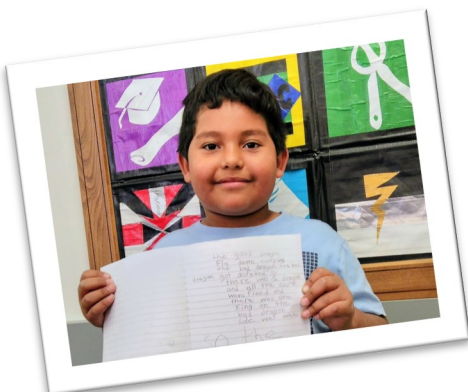
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Look for Riverside Educational Center on Facebook or Instagram. Be sure to "Like" us or "Follow" us to get our latest updates.



Or, if you're not a social media user, check out our new and improved website!

Go to [www.REC4kids.com](http://www.REC4kids.com) to find updated information, schedules, events and photos. Thanks to Bethany Rankin for all the work she has put into making us look good!





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

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

Leslie Eslava  
Program Coordinator  
(970) 462-2901  
Leslie@REC4kids.com

Please visit our website at:  
[www.REC4kids.com](http://www.REC4kids.com)



**Riverside Educational Center**  
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552 West Main Street  
PO Box 4367  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

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## ***Thank you from all of us at REC!***

***Our generous donors from February 15th to June 30th***

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***Our sincere apologies for any misspellings or omissions. Please contact us with corrections!***