



A Note from the Executive Director

By: Allison McJunkin

This January marked 15 years from the first student-Elevator meeting at Piedmont. We have grown considerably since then and continue to gather steam. ZMM is the latest business to join Education Elevators by launching a partnership with Edgewood Elementary this winter. We now have 7 school partners and 12 business partners in Kanawha County as well as a partnership with the Air National Guard in Berkeley County.

We celebrated our anniversary by hosting an event between Elevators and students at the Clay Center. The event enabled students and Elevators to deepen their connection with each other, piqued student curiosity, and exposed kids to future careers. Our theme was "Shoot for the Stars" and we kicked off the event with students and Elevators getting their picture taken on the blue carpet and signing a star.

It was an honor for me to see the number of people that are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of students. Seeing the faces of the students and Elevators while just enjoying each other's company was magical.

All students in our program received a letter from WVU President, Gordon Gee where he reminded students to "be kind" and "remain curious." He also encouraged students to aim high and said that he hoped they would consider WVU in the future. Many of the students in our program would be the first to graduate high school, let alone college, but we believe that with the support of their Elevators (and encouragement from a university President) that they can do anything they set their mind to.

Thank you to all the sponsors who made this event and these relationships possible! We still need more funds to support our existing programs and to expand to other schools. I hope you will support us in that endeavor and enable these amazing students to "Take Flight!"

With Gratitude and Appreciation,

Allison McJunkin



[CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE>>>](#)

A special thank you to Chick-fil-A and AP Branding for their in kind support for our Anniversary Event!

We are so very grateful that so many community members have chosen KCS as a place to volunteer and positively impact the lives of so many students. Each moment that the Elevators have devoted to a student provides "hope" for that student. The students that now have "hope," will do better in school and in life. KCS can not thank Education Elevators enough.

-Paula Potter, Deputy Superintendent, Kanawha County Schools

New Elevator and Student Pairs!

This year we welcomed new Elevators from ZMM, Boyd Cat, First Choice Services & Rotary! Here are some of our new matches!



Elevator Spotlight

How would you describe Breanna? Breanna is a Blessing! Smart, beautiful, caring, well-mannered and she can light up a room with her smile!

What do you enjoy most about your time with Breanna? I enjoy everything that Breanna and I do during our visits. We talk, laugh, paint, swing and make crafts. She writes in a journal during our visits and we have decided to put it in a safe place and read it when she graduates!!

Have you noticed any changes in Breanna since you have started meeting with her? Breanna was a bit shy when we first met. She is building self-confidence and is more comfortable around others.

What do you like best about being an Elevator? Knowing that I am making a difference in a kid's life!



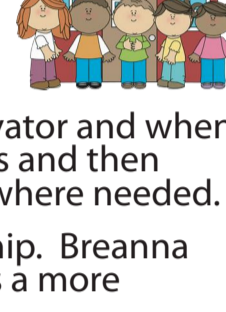
Tara Faceyner, Elevator from Amherst

School Perspective

The students at Malden love having Education Elevators and are so excited to see their Elevators each week.

The program has benefited our students by giving them someone to depend on. The relationships they build are deep and the students are always asking about their Elevator and when they will be here. The Elevators check in on their students and then reinforce the positives and encourage them to improve where needed.

Breanna and Tara have developed a wonderful relationship. Breanna loves seeing her Elevator and confiding in her. Breanna is a more confident child since working with Tara.



Julie Spire, Principal, Malden Elementary School

PARTNER FILES

Why We Partner: Amherst Madison partnered with Education Elevators to help some of the local elementary students at Malden. We wanted to be a part of helping the next generation of kids in our community. There are a lot of kids out there that really love life. Amherst Madison has been a part of this community for many years, and we hope to help it become a better place for everyone.

The impact of Amherst Madison's partnership with Education Elevators and Malden Elementary has been wonderful. Myself and the other Elevators here have had the chance to see our kids grow and mature over the past two years. Everyone involved in the program is very kind and supportive, and we've all made a lot of new friends along the way. Our employees have been great at getting involved and making sure they are showing up each and every week for the kids.

Elevator's Perspective: Being an Elevator has been very rewarding for me. My wife and I have done some fostering in the past, and this is just a different way to help have a positive impact on kids in our local area. Going to the school and hanging out with my Elevator is one of the best parts of my week. He's a great kid, and it's been wonderful seeing him grow up over these past two years. I hope to be involved in the program for many years to come.

-Jeremy Hodges, CFO/Treasurer & Elevator

Amherst Madison Field Trip

Amherst hosted students from Malden Elementary for the second year in a row. Students had the "best day ever" with their Elevators and learned a lot!



LASTING IMPACT

Lisa & Mason

How long have you been seeing Mason? 8 years

How would you describe Mason? Kind, energetic, fun, smart

How has he changed over the years? He has a really great personality and it has blossomed over the years. He is no longer a shy little boy, he's now an outgoing teenager who is a friend to everyone.

What have you liked best about the time you've spent with Mason? I like that Mason enjoys spending time with me as much as I enjoy spending time with him. I think we both value our friendship tremendously. I worried as he has gotten older that he would be too cool to hang out with me but he lights up and hugs me every time I visit him. During COVID we met via conferences on schoology but after not seeing



"I used to have serious depression but since I met Lisa it's been a lot different. I have someone to talk to now. I felt alone until she began mentoring me. Lisa has always checked in with me, I now focus more and have something to look forward to. Lisa has given me the confidence to make more friends. I used to have social anxiety but that has stopped."

-Mason

each other in person for awhile, when I showed up at his school he was so excited to see me! I will never forget the look on his face and the huge hug he gave me!

How has the relationship with Mason impacted you? I hope I'm making as much of a difference in his life as he has made in mine. Many days I have hurried to visit Mason from a stressful morning at work only to have my day turned completely around after visiting with him. Mason is one of the happiest people I have ever met. He is fun to be around and you would never know what he has been through in his young life because he is genuinely kind to everyone. His attitude and personality are truly infectious and I'm lucky to know him.

Andrew & Christian

How long have you been seeing Christian? Since he was in kindergarten.

How would you describe Christian? Christian is very friendly. He can be quiet sometimes but he is always confident and kind.

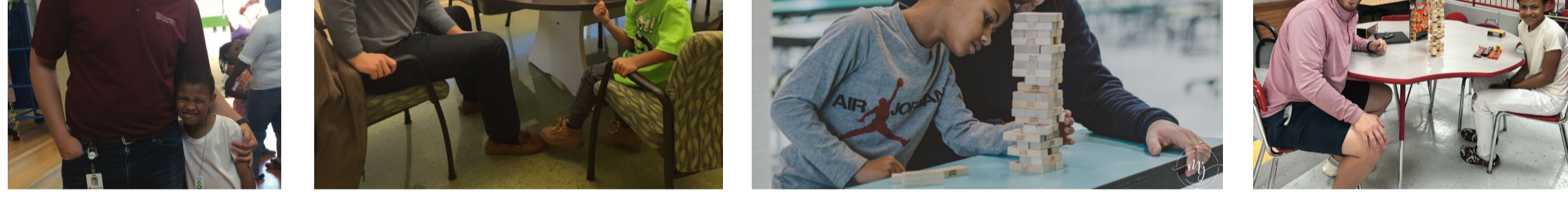
How has he changed over the years? It's been really cool to be able to see him mature over the years and he has definitely gotten a lot taller!

What have you liked best about the time you've spent with Christian? I have loved getting to know Christian (and his mom and sisters!) over the years. We have always enjoyed playing board games together, especially Guess Who and Jenga!

How has the relationship with Christian impacted you? My relationship with Christian has had a tremendous impact on my life. I've always tried to be a constant in his life as he has navigated transferring to new schools and transitioning from elementary to middle school and now



on to high school. But he has also been a constant in my life for the last 9+ years as I have experienced many life milestones during that time. I'm very proud of Christian and plan to keep in touch with him in the future so I can follow along with his progress in high school and beyond!



Please check out our new program video! It features some of our school partner and most importantly shows the strength of the student and Elevator pairs!

[Click here to see the video!](#)



15th Anniversary Sponsors

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