

# Elevations

The latest news and updates from Education Elevators  
Winter 2023, Vol. 15



## A Note from the Executive Director

By: Allison McJunkin

We celebrated our 15th anniversary last spring and continue to gather steam each year. Last fall, we launched a new partnership between Ruffner Elementary and First Choice Services. ZMM and Boyd Cat also launched

partnerships with two of our existing schools. This summer, Covestro launched a partnership with Montrose Elementary and United Bank joined us as a general partner. We matched 33 new Elevators with students this fall for a total of 116 pairs this year!

We have also officially expanded our program to middle school and have students and Elevators meeting at Horace Mann, Dupont and West Side Middle. With the addition of these schools and businesses, we now have 10 school partners and 14 business partners in Kanawha County. We also have a longstanding partnership with the Air National Guard in Berkeley County and will be expanding our reach there as well.

One teacher described the value of Elevators: "Our kids need adult support and benefit from one-on-one time. While I wish I was able to have this one-on-one time with my students, most of the time that doesn't work out. Having another trusted adult in their life helps to solidify to them that there are people out there, specifically adults, who are supporting them and rooting for them. Having an Elevator also helps to target each student's individual needs."

The resource coordinator at Mary C. Snow spoke to the benefits of the program, "Education Elevators has had a fantastic impact on the students at Mary C. Snow. Students show improved motivation to come to school, smile more, show an increased willingness to become involved in other activities such as volunteering to participate during class and free time, have less disciplinary infractions and have shown growth in their relationships with their peers and teachers."

Elevators assist with academics, cultivate confidence, help improve behavior and increase overall happiness in the students they are matched with.

Your donations are what make these incredible relationships possible. This holiday season, please consider making a donation to support our existing programs and help us reach even more students. Thank you for bringing joy to students in Kanawha County all year round!

Happy Holidays!

*Allison McJunkin*

## WHAT OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS SAY!

I love to see the bond the students form with their Elevators as well as the anticipation and joy they show before, during and after the visit. Many of our male students do not have a bond with an adult male, this is precious for those who lack a parent of the same sex in their home.

-JESSICA PINKERTON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, KANAWHA CITY ELEMENTARY

People often forget that kids just want your attention. You don't have to be anything special, just willing. I watch these Elevators play games, race cars and make crafts, and the kids are so excited to have someone there doing it WITH them. They don't need another person to watch them experience things, they need someone giving them attention and doing something WITH them.

-JULIE SAYRE, PRINCIPAL, MALDEN ELEMENTARY

The students who receive Elevators are getting a great role model in their life and you can tell it is having a positive impact on them.

-DEANNA MYERS, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY

The Elevators are a wonderful addition to our community helpers. They come to after school activities as well as show up to the school to meet the needs of our students. It's so incredible to see the relationships between the Elevators and their students and staff.

-STACEY BEANE, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, RUFFNER ELEMENTARY

Our students are always so excited to see their Elevators. This year the Clay Center trip was amazing for them to learn and interact. I would love to make that happen on a regular basis.

-CAITLIN LASTORIA, SOCIAL WORKER/ASSISTANT ATTENDANCE DIRECTOR, PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Seeing the growth our students experience from having another caring adult in their life is amazing. It's a simple idea, but has unmeasurable benefits.

-WHITNEY CANADA, PRINCIPAL, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

The single most important thing we get out of this program is seeing the kids interact with their Elevators. It is a great addition to Weberwood and refreshing to see some of these children have positive role models.

-ASHLEY THAXTON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, WEBERWOOD ELEMENTARY

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-Natalie Blevins, Family Support Worker

## HERE ARE SOME OF OUR INCREDIBLE NEW PAIRS!



## More 15TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS



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