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Restorative questions help deepen relationship with a child

By Mary Bess Bolling
Restorative Justice Coordinator

I was at work when I received the call from a school administrator that my daughter had bitten a boy on the playground. My kid bit someone!? I rocketed down the rabbit hole in my mind: Who was this boy? Was it self-defense? Will my daughter grow up to solve problems with violence and end up in prison?



OK - deep breath. Many wise people have taught me to pause when agitated. As the Restorative Justice Coordinator at YouthZone, I've had training and experience in restorative practices and Community Group Conferencing. Although I am early in my RJ practitioner career, surely there's something I've recently learned that I can use in this situation.

[Read More](#)



Happy New Year!

YouthZone is so grateful to all of our business sponsors, individual donors and the plethora of volunteers that give up their time and energy to our non-profit. Each of you are such a vital part of YouthZone and because you believe in what we do, the organization continues to be able to support youth and families throughout the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys.

A Year in Review at YouthZone

- After 30+ years with YouthZone, Executive Director, Lori Mueller resigns. Be sure and ask Lori about her 5,000-mile adventure to celebrate her retirement.
- Jami Hayes comes on as the new Executive Director. Jami brings 20 years as an educator and TONS of enthusiasm for the work YouthZone does.
- YouthZone holds its first golf tournament to raise funds for YZ programs. Look for details about the 2022 tournament coming soon.
- YouthZone presents the second annual Ascent Youth Film Festival, again virtual in 2021. However, a "Watch Party" was held to view the films and honor the hard work of our eight film makers.
- Glenwood resident Isa House wins a Peloton Bike raffled off by YouthZone! Congratulations! A big thank you to Diamond H Enterprises and Midland Fitness for their support.





Photo courtesy John Stroud, Post Independent

- [Attorney General Phil Weiser visits YouthZone in April!](#) Mr. Weiser understood the need for additional mental health advocacy and help secure \$300,000 allocated at \$100,000 over the next three years. This funding support is through United Health Care.



- Members of the Legacy Club meet to get reacquainted and discuss giving opportunities that help ensure YouthZone's sustainability. If you are interested in becoming a Legacy Club Member, please contact us at 970-945-9300.

- New Executive Director Jami Hayes works to increase [collaborations with school districts and law enforcement agencies](#) from Aspen to Parachute, allowing YouthZone to provide prevention services prior to formal engagement with the judicial system.
- YouthZone increases number of staff certified through formal certified addiction training, and welcomes two Youth Advocates, an Administrative Coordinator, a Mental Health Advocate, and a new Colorado Youth Detention Coordinator to the team in 2021.

YouthZone wishes all a safe, prosperous, and joyous 2022!



COVID-19 Update

YouthZone is open and working to provide safe, efficient programming. We're also monitoring the recommendations of health officials and the State of Colorado closely. In light of increased COVID cases and presence of the Omicron variant, we've implemented the following safety protocols:



- All YouthZone staff will wear N95 masks while working with clients and in common areas. Clients will be provided N95 masks free of charge.
- Each therapy, meeting, or conference room has been outfitted with an air filter to aid circulation.
- Each therapy, meeting, or conference room will be carefully cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Virtual visits are available as appropriate.

YouthZone is committed to the safety of staff, clients, and our community, and we will continue to review our COVID-19 protocols to ensure we're available to meet client needs.



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