

# January National Mentoring Month

## The Mentoring Program's Mentor

by Daniel McNeil

One year ago, in January of 2021, Moab's middle school was named in honor of Margaret Hopkin. What does it take to have a major educational institution's new building named after you? It takes wisdom to find solutions in difficult times. It takes trusting people's inherent goodness. It takes sharing compassion with everyone, even those who hold a different opinion. In effect, it takes being a quintessential mentor and role model to not just one, but rather to many.



In 2005, when Grand Area Mentoring opened its doors, Margaret Hopkin held the position of principal at HMK Intermediate School. She embraced the program, and she made a point of thanking every mentor she saw on campus. Eventually, Margaret became superintendent and expertly guided Grand County School District through a challenging period of financial hardship that her administration inherited. As superintendent and executive director of Grand Area Mentoring, she tirelessly fought on behalf of all students, educators, and volunteers. Margaret rallied support for school-based mentoring during her



promising young man. For years, the pair met regularly and pursued all kinds of activities – talking, jeeping, collecting coins, enjoying snacks and picnics, climbing, and celebrating birthdays. She sent letters from China. She taught him how to play taiko drums. She checked in with his family to see how they were getting along through the pandemic.

When chemotherapy treatments left Hopkin vulnerable to infection, she maintained the relationship with packages and emails. After that, they masked up to see each other. Hopkin died in December of 2020, just a few days after her mentee's last visit. Hopkin's loving relationship with him epitomized her relationship with the world. Now, after Hopkin has left us, her good will still pours forth – through a school district whose course she helped correct, by way of a powerful mentoring program, in the thousands of people's lives she personally touched – teachers, parents, friends, students, neighbors, colleagues, and family.



Naming the new middle school after Margaret Hopkin one year ago was a fitting tribute to a wonderful human and her legacy of love. The effects of her existence invite us to look beyond the self and understand how we can positively influence this world.

January is National Mentoring Month. This is a time when we celebrate the mentors of our lives, when we can

thank them and acknowledge the value they added to our existence. January 27th is National Thank Your Mentor Day. If you haven't told the mentors of your life thank you lately, do it on this day! If Hopkin were still with us, many of us would love to thank her.

After retiring, Hopkin joined the program as a mentor too, and she provided heartfelt support to a

thank them and acknowledge the value they added to our existence. January 27th is National Thank Your Mentor Day. If you haven't told the mentors of your life thank you lately, do it on this day! If Hopkin were still with us, many of us would love to thank her.

January is also a time when we can applaud the many mentoring relationships flourishing here in Moab. Grand Area Mentoring hosts over fifty one-on-one matches. These mentors and students meet weekly. They discuss challenges the youth might be facing. They play sports and go for hikes. They form healthy relationships that point these kids toward a better future through advocacy, role modeling, deep listening, and encouragement. Kudos to you, mentors and mentees of Moab!



**If you'd like to learn more about being a mentor, call or email to register for a no-obligation training on January 27th, at 5pm, in the building that carries Hopkin's name. 435-260-9646 • grandareamentoring@gmail.com**

In her obituary, Hopkin wrote: "The Moab community is a special place on this planet. We are full of generosity, support, compassion, adventure, fun, creativity (we make our own), tolerance, and caring... Build neighborhoods where people care about their neighbors. Bask in the beautiful environment you live in. It is one of the most beautiful places. Abide with the fluid energy of life. And finally, in the words of Pema Chodron, 'It can become a practice to humanize those we pass on the street.' Do this. Humanize each other. Seek to unite. Live in peace, beauty, love, and above all, joy."

We gratefully remember Hopkin's days with us in Moab. Let's look beyond ourselves in whatever ways make sense, whether it's through mentoring or doing environmental work or assisting the elderly or inventing new ways to help others grow. May we all live in peace and joy, just as Hopkin wished. Happy 2022.

# Moab Clubs & Organizations

**For a community to prosper and grow, its residents have to be INVOLVED. If you would like to participate in any club or organization, PLEASE CALL THEM. Many of these groups are always looking for a helping hand or two.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) Triangle House 84 W. 100 S. .... call or text (435) 220-0646 | Moab Community Garden (Becky Mann)..... mocomgardens@gmail.com                      |
| Alcoholics Anonymous ..... (435)-625-1342   | Moab Community Theater (Kaki Hunter)..... (435) 259-8378                            |
| For Emergencies (24/7) ..... 888-333-9649   | Moab Disk Golf Club ..... (435) 259-2255  |
| Alpha Rho Sorority (Bobbie Long)..... (435) 259-6758  | Moab Family History Center..... (435) 259-5563                                      |
| American Legion Post (Ronald Irvin) ..... (435) 719-4095  | Moab Free Health Clinic (Kate Jagle)..... (435) 259-1113                            |
| Arches Education Center (Trish Hedin)..... (435) 260-8764                                       | Moab Friends For Wheelin' Jeep Club (Melissa Fischer)..... (435) 260-7208           |
| Arches New Hope Pregnancy Center (Jeni Johnson)..... (435) 259-LIFE (5433)                      | Moab Garden Club (Tricia Scott)..... (303) 880-9158                                 |
| BEACON (Xandra Odland) ..... (435) 719-4801   | Moab Golf Club (Rob Jones)..... (435) 259-6488                                      |
| Bombtown Crawler..... (435) 260-0385  | Moab Healthcare Foundation (Beth Logan) ..... (435) 260-8889                        |
| Boy Scouts of America (Mingo Gritts)..... (435) 260-0871  | Moab International Film Festival (Denise Felaar)..... (407) 233-8290                |
| Canyonlands Back Country Horsemen (Steve Schultz) ..... (435) 220-0860                          | Moab Masonic Lodge #30 (Gregory Klepzig)..... (435) 260-1823                        |
| Canyonlands Field Institute (Jory Macomber) ..... (435) 259-7750                                | Moab Music Festival (Laura Brown) ..... (435) 259-7003                              |
| Canyonlands Rodeo Club (Kirk Pearson + Krista Wilson)..... (435) 260-2222 + (435) 260-7942      | Moab Rock Club (Jerry Hansen)..... moabrockclub@live.com                            |
| Colorado Outward Bound School – Moab Basecamp (Lance Plank)..... (719) 293-5371                 | Moab Rotary April Action Car Show ..... (435) 260-1948                              |
| Community Rebuilds (Rikki Epperson)..... (435) 260-0501   | Moab Solutions (Sara Melnicoff)..... www.moab-solutions.org ... (435) 401-4685      |
| Daughters of Utah Pioneers (Katheryn Jackson)..... (435) 259-5229                               | Moab Speaks (Daniel McNeil)..... (435) 260-9646                                     |
| Delicate Stitchers Quilt Guild (Crystal Day)..... (435) 260-8537                                | Moab Sportsmen's Club (Frank Darcey) ..... (435) 259-2222                           |
| Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks (Joette Langianese)..... (435) 259-0108                 | Moab Taiko (Michele Blackburn) ..... (435) 259-0816                                 |
| Friends of Indian Creek ..... info@friendsofindiancreek.org                                     | Moab To Monument Valley Film Commission (Bega Metzger) ..... 435-259-4341           |
| Friends of the Grand County Library (Jessie Magleby) ..... (435) 259-1111                       | Moab Trails Alliance (Kirstin Peterson) ..... (435) 259-5223                        |
| Girl Scouts of The U.S.A. (Melodie McCandless) ..... (435) 259-9797                             | Moab Valley Multicultural Center (Rhiana Medina) ..... (435) 259-5444               |
| Grand Area Mentoring (Dan McNeil) ..... (435) 260-9646  | Nursing Home Abuse Support (Nicole Peters) ..... www.nursinghomeabusesupport.com    |
| Grand County Democratic Party (Kevin Walker)..... (510) 333-1060                                | Order of the Eastern Star (Fran Townsend)..... (435) 259-6469                       |
| Grand County Extension & 4-H ..... (435) 259-7558   | Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures (Tamsin McCormick) ..... (435) 259-7733 |
| Grand County Education Foundation (Melodie McCandless) ..... (435) 259-9797                     | PleinAir Moab/Red Rock Arts Festival..... (435) 259-6272                            |
| Grand County Food Bank ..... (435) 259-6456   | Red Rock 4-Wheelers (Ron Brewer)..... (435) 259-7625                                |
| Grand County Hospice (Margy Swenson)..... (435) 719-3772  | Rotary Club (Britta Kingsley)..... (727) 656-3633                                   |
| Grand County Library (Jessie Magleby)..... (435) 259-1111                                       | Seekhaven Crisis Center (Abigail Taylor)..... (435) 259-2229                        |
| Grand County Republican Party ..... grandcogop@gmail.com  | Senior Center (Verleen Striblen)..... (435) 259-6623                                |
| Humane Society of Moab Valley ..... (435) 259-4862  | Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (Neal Clark) ..... (435) 259-7090                 |
| KZMU Community Radio (Serah Mead)..... (435) 259-8824   | Trail Mix Committee (Paul Spencer)..... (978) 688-7480                              |
| Ladies Golf Club (Chris Woodard)..... (435) 259-6488  | Underdog Animal Rescue & Rehab (Jackie) ..... (435) 260-8033                        |
| League of Women Voters (Barbara Lacey)..... (970) 261-3235                                      | Uranium Watch (Sarah Fields) ..... (435) 260-8384                                   |
| Moab Arts Council (Theresa King / Makeda Barkley) ..... (435) 259-2742                          | Utah Avalanche Center..... (888) 999-4019 or (435) 259-SNOW                         |
| Moab Arts Festival (Theresa King) ..... (435) 259-2742  | Utah Conservation Corps (Sean Damitz)..... (435) 797-0964 ext 8                     |
| Moab Arts & Recreation Center ..... (435) 259-6272  | Utah Friends of Paleontology – Gastonia Chapter (Lee Shenton) ..... (435)-259-2179  |
| Moab Bird Club (Nick Eason)..... (435) 259-6447   | Utah State University Moab..... (435)-259-7432                                      |
| Moab Chamber of Commerce (Laici Shumway) ..... (435) 259-7814                                   | Valley Voices (Marian Eason)..... (435) 259-6447                                    |
| Moab City Animal Control ..... (435) 259-8938   | Veterans of Foreign Wars (Fred Every) ..... (435) 260-1277                          |
| Moab City Recreation (Patrick Trim) ..... (435) 259-2255  | WabiSabi www.wabisabimoab.org ..... (435) 259-3313                                  |
| Moab Community Dance Band (Miriam Graham) ..... (516) 376-8003                                  | Youth Garden Project ..... 259-BEAN (2326)  |