

in this issue >>>

<i>Talbott Farms</i>	1
<i>New Executive Director</i>	3
<i>Summer Meals Kickoff</i>	4

Kids Aid

Only hungry to learn!



Spring 2018 >>>

A community solution to helping kids be kids

Hope NOT *Hunger*

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**This is the amount of bags you
help us provide EVERY WEEK!**

Over 2,100 bags!



Talbott Farms Helps Kids Aid Serve Fresh Apples!

While Kids Aid is an emergency food supplier, we value nutritional content and healthy eating habits. The combination of finding healthy food at a reasonable cost has proved to be a challenge. Last year, The Grand Junction Lions Club awarded Kids Aid a grant to purchase a cooler to store perishable items. Seeing the cooler sitting empty in our warehouse was a daily reminder of what we could be providing our kids. So, we got to work! The logistics of figuring out how to add a perishable item to the bags without disrupting the flow of the program was both a labor of love and excitement...with only a few minor hiccups. Once we were ready, Thom, a loyal Thursday crew volunteer, helped connect us with Bruce Talbott. Less than a week later, our cooler was filled with apples!

Deep Family Roots

The Talbotts are a fifth generation family in the growing industry. Their elaborate family tree started with the Yager and Talbott families joining forces in 1918. Throughout the years, they have been adapting to the ebbs and flows of the economy as well as supply and demand. As the business and family grows, each generation brings their own unique spin on the company. From their well known, juicy Palisade peaches, apples, pears, grapes, to their mouth watering apple cider, Talbotts never disappoints. Their newest endeavor of the next generation is hard apple cider.

Deep Family Roots Continued...

The Talbotts see it as gift to be able to share their love of growing together as a family. Like any family, there can be moments of stubbornness and disagreements. There is also a great deal of trust and respect. Bruce said that marrying his dad's entrepreneurship and his mom's ability to keep the peace have lead them to a successful business. At the end of the day, the strong family bonds remain tight. There is no denying the love and passion for what they do.

Extended Family; Employees

The Talbott family values extend to their employees as well. "We exist because of our workers. It's important to us that they are happy and healthy," said Bruce. During the summer, three meals are provided along with housing accommodations. They keep a food pantry as well as access to their family garden. Whatever food isn't used from the garden, they donate to Food and Migrant Services. Talbotts has always been sensitive to the needs of the public.

Fun Fact:

The Alberta peach came from Fort Valley, Georgia! While Georgia is known for their peaches, Palisade peaches have a reputation there.

The Growing Community

You can't drive through Palisade without acknowledging the vast amount of orchards and farms. What is even more beautiful than the blossoms in the spring is the mindset of our local farmers. "We're allies," Bruce shared. "When we all deliver good fruit, we all benefit." The local farming community's competition is not with each other, or other state-wide farmers. The comradery of our local growers is palpable. "There is a demand for good, quality fruit and we're all in that together," said Bruce. The product that each orchard produces is important to every grower in the area. It isn't uncommon for the orchards to share work crews throughout their peak season as well. When there is a need, everyone comes together to support each other.

Worldly Branches

If you've lived in the valley long enough, you know the Talbott name. That is also true across the world! They've not only traveled to over 50 countries, they've gotten their hands dirty helping growers across the globe. Through various opportunities whether it's harvesting grapefruit in Israel, apples in England, grapes in France, or oranges in Greece, the Talbott family has left little dirt unturned. As they are welcomed in other countries, the Talbotts also return the favor by bringing in foreign exchange students each year.

"At the end of the day, we want people to enjoy fruits and vegetables." -Bruce Talbott

Kids Aid is deeply grateful for Talbott Farms for providing us the opportunity to make healthy eating more accessible to our hungry children. Buying apples at cost has also provided significant savings! Thank you Talbott Farms for supporting our mission to feed hungry kids. We look forward to serving your delicious apples to our kids again next fall.

Meet Our New Executive Director >>>

Lindsay Anderson



Hello Kids Aid Family,

My name is Lindsay Anderson and I am the new Executive Director. While our previous director, Mary Beth, left big shoes to fill, she also left a well oiled machine that has helped make my transition a smooth one. I am happy to say that she didn't go far and is now an active member of the board. I am over the moon that I have found a home here at Kids Aid and am grateful to be welcomed with open arms. I am honored to be in a position to help play a bigger role in ending childhood hunger in our community and I don't take it lightly.

Before Kids Aid, I was an elementary school teacher. I got to see first-hand how vital The Backpack Program was for our kids. When the bags arrived each week, you could see the sense of relief they brought students. Hunger at this magnitude was not an issue that I was prepared to face. Like many teachers, I brought in extra snacks and shared my lunches. It was never enough; especially not enough to keep their bellies full over the weekend.

Topped with other issues out of my control, my heart grew heavy. No matter how engaging the lessons, or the amount of love and security I could give, it wasn't enough to fill the gaps in foundational needs. The decision to leave the classroom was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make. While I miss the students dearly, I know that I now have the opportunity to make an impact on our community on a much larger scale than I could in the classroom.

Through Kids Aid, I have had the opportunity to see our community in a new light. The sheer volume of people who have wrapped their hearts around helping our community's youth is incredible. We still have work to do, but I couldn't be more honored to fight hunger with you by my side. Kids Aid has given me a new sense of hope and turned my spark of wanting to make a difference into a flame.

If you haven't made it out to the new warehouse, give me call. I'd love to meet you and take you on a quick tour.

Love and Gratitude,

Lindsay

2018 Summer Schedule

- ♦ Visit our website to view our summer delivery schedule and locations.

www.kidsaidcolorado.org

Contact Kids Aid



Website

www.kidsaidcolorado.org



E-Mail

lindsay@kidsaidcolorado.org



By Phone

970-712-2847



Facebook

[Facebook.com/KidsAid](https://www.facebook.com/KidsAid)

Donations



Give online

www.kidsaidcolorado.org



Send a Check

2978 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81504



Food Donations

Contact Lindsay
By phone or e-mail above

You're invited to the first annual...

Summer Meals Kickoff!

June 1, 2018

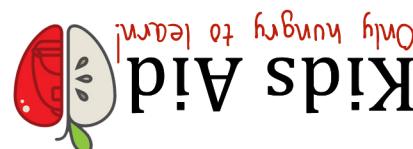
11:30-2:30

Lincoln Park

Join us at Lincoln Park for FREE activities, giveaways, and lunch from the Lunch Lizard! The Department of Agriculture has chosen Mesa County to launch their Summer Food Service Program! We're promoting summer meals, spreading awareness of childhood hunger in our community, and encouraging healthy lifestyles for our youth. Kids will travel through Lincoln Park with a passport as they participate in exciting activities put on by over 20 different local organizations. Meanwhile, families can learn more about the different services our community offers. Lunch Lizard is serving a free lunch for kids to wrap up the event. Adult meals are provided with a donation to Kids Aid. The City of Grand Junction is generously donating **FREE** admission to Lincoln Park Pool with a completed passport for the day of the event. What a great way to kickoff summer!

See you there!

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