



**RHONDA RICHMOND, PHD**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM,  
ELEVATE USA

“MY MENTORS  
SUPPORTED ME,  
TAUGHT ME  
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AND GAVE ME  
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I NEEDED TO  
PERSEVERE.”

I was raised by my grandmother who was a maid and a foster mother. She had anywhere from 15-18 people (mostly children and teens) in the home at one time. We were the epitome of what society called “at-risk”. All of us had parents who were so broken they were unable to care for us (from drugs/alcohol to other issues that kept them from being full-time parents).

My grandmother (single with only a 4th-grade education) had known poverty her entire life. She did not have the means to provide the children in her home with the motivation we needed to push past the situation we were born into.

That is where Colorado UpLift (Elevates founding model) came in. Their Teacher Mentors, like Mike Riley, put me in a position to learn, coach, and teach others the specific life skills that changed my life. Mike and other mentors supported me, taught me to look introspectively, and gave me the hope and inspiration I needed to persevere.

With more than 25-years of experience, committed to increasing the life experience and academic performance of all individuals, I have joined Elevate USA as the Director of National Programs. The Elevate model changed the trajectory of my life, and I am thrilled to play a role in impacting students nationwide.

**DR. RHONDA RICHMOND**

Doctorate in Education

Master's degrees in Curriculum  
and Instruction and Liberal Studies

Educator of the Year

Robin Morgan Outstanding Woman Award

Wife and Mother of 5

**ELEVATE**

**ELEVATE**

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TO LEARN MORE:**

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**ELEVATE**  
IMPACT REPORT 2021

**NO ONE  
GETS THERE  
ALONE**



# TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

**ELEVATE USA** was created in 2014 to accelerate the expansion of the proven Colorado UpLift model, introducing urban youth to one responsible, caring adult. This positive relationship creates a long-term bond that is transformational – changing their life forever. As a national organization, we exist to launch and support Elevate affiliates around the country.

## Mission Statement

Building long-term, life-changing relationships with urban youth, equipping them to thrive and contribute to their community.

## Elevate Reach

- >> 15 affiliates
- >> 15 cities
- >> 86 schools
- >> Over 10,000 students



## THE NEED

**40%** OF KIDS  
IN AMERICA

feel completely alone and have no one to talk to

## STRONG RELATIONSHIPS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

“In order to have a chance at a productive life, a child must have at least one adult relationship that is positive, caring and long-term.”

— Dr. Del Elliot, Surgeon General  
Report on Youth Violence

## ELEVATE'S IMPACT

**67%** OF ELEVATE KIDS  
feel deeply connected to their Teacher Mentor.

**75%** OF ELEVATE KIDS  
SHARE THEIR LIFE PROBLEMS  
with their Teacher Mentor.

**78%** EXPECT TO HAVE  
A GREAT FUTURE

ELEVATE  
STUDENTS ARE  
THRIVING.

**88%**  
OF ELEVATE  
STUDENTS FEEL  
THAT THEIR  
TEACHER MENTOR  
LOVES THEM.



“My Teacher-Mentors at Elevate truly want me to become a better person. They push me constantly, and they show up whenever I need them. Elevate is more than just a program I go to — they are family to me.”



## ELEVATE STUDENTS ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE

Elevate impacts the educational success of students



**65%** of Elevate kids  
attribute their **SUCCESS** in  
school (passing classes) to  
their Teacher Mentor.



**91%** of Elevate  
students are on track  
to graduate.



Student Grade Point  
Averages increased  
**8%** after joining the  
Elevate program.

On-track to graduate rates are higher for those who participate in one-on-one mentoring, small group and large group, adventure, and who have led Little Elevate classes the past year — compared to those who do not participate.

## ELEVATE STUDENTS GRADUATE AND JOIN THEIR COMMUNITIES AS THRIVING CONTRIBUTORS

**71%** of Elevate alumni had either  
acquired a college degree or are  
currently pursuing their degree.



IN COMPARISON TO  
of their peers. **55%**



## WHY INVEST IN ELEVATE USA

An investment in Elevate USA is an investment in the future of urban youth and the communities in which they live. And through our continued growth nationwide, the impact of your gift is multiplied to Elevate affiliates across the country. As Elevate youth go on to lead productive lives, your gift becomes a powerful and sustainable investment in the future.

*We're changing the lives of urban youth  
one city and one child at a time.*

