

Non-Profit Happenings

Moab Community Childcare Center – what’s the buzz?

by Nancy Kurtz

The buzz started back in the spring of 2022. when the Moab Community Childcare nonprofit, MCC, caught the eye of Rob Walker. At the time, Walker, who had moved to Moab in 2019, was serving on the county’s Economic Development Advisory Board and searching for a “project that would make a tangible difference in people’s lives.”



Moabite Audrey Graham, who was the impetus behind MCC, had shifted her energy to the Moab Area Land Trust and didn’t have the time she felt was needed to develop the fledgling nonprofit. Walker spotted a golden opportunity: The linkage of the two, the Land Trust offering affordable housing for locals, and the other expanding affordable childcare opportunities, turned out to be a winning dual boost for Moab workers.

Talking to Graham about the potential of the childcare center, “I got excited,” Walker says. “I just ran with it.”

It was during the heart of the Covid pandemic. In the thick of those crisis years, childcare had surfaced as an ongoing problem for locals. “There’s absolutely a childcare crisis here,” a Moab Times-Independent headline stated in May of 2022.

The solution, in Walker’s eyes, was brilliantly simple and simply brilliant, as well as uniquely tailored for Walker, who has a strong background in investment and finance. “Childcare is economic development,” he famously said at the time. By linking child care to regional economic well-being, Walker was able to work with the County’s Economic Development director August Granath and others to obtain a \$100,000 grant that would immediately begin to serve the twin goals of stabilizing existing centers and encouraging new ones.

That initial grant was soon followed by a Covid-related government grant of \$200,000. By August of 2022, the doors of the Lutheran Church had opened to 20 infants, all under two years. Infant care is especially challenging, and at the time, Walker says, “there was nowhere else they could go.”

By the end of 2022 MCC had hired Nikki Wilson as Director of Childcare Operations; her experience in elementary education buffered the organization greatly. Walker credits Wilson with the daily work needed to keep

MCC viable and growing, including hiring and training staff.

The latest excitement for MCC is the addition of a new pre-school center in the Community Church of Moab (see photo), which is earmarked for children who are past infant age but not yet old enough for school. “Families wanted continuity and to stay with us,” Walker says of the new center, which opened in April of this year.



As we go to press, now two years in, MCC has blossomed into a central hub and support center for staffing and growing the several childcare centers of Moab and is receiving high marks for providing quality care. “We’re not about cutting corners,” Walker says, noting

childcare is expensive and often requires financial support like that which got the ball rolling two years ago.

To learn more about what MCC offers - or to participate as a staffer or donor – call Director Nikki Wilson at 435-355-0623 or email – info@moabchildcare.org.

MCC also has a website – moabchildcare.org - and a Facebook page. The organization employs 17 people and is clearly a team effort, with several dedicated Board members in addition to Walker.

And don’t forget to say you read about it in *Moab Happenings*

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 City Recreation (Patrick Trim) (435) 259-2255
Alcoholics Anonymous (435)-625-1342	Moab Community Dance Band (Miriam Graham) (516) 376-8003
For Emergencies (24/7) 888-333-9649	Moab Community Theater (Kaki Hunter) (435) 259-8378
Alpha Rho Sorority (Bobbie Long) (435) 259-6758	Moab Disk Golf Club (435) 259-2255
American Legion Post (Ronald Irvin) (435) 719-4095	Moab Family History Center (435) 259-5563
Arches Education Center (Trish Hedin) (435) 260-8764	Moab Folk Festival & Free Concert Series (Cassie Paup) (435) 260-1756
Arches New Hope Pregnancy Center (435) 259-LIFE (5433)	Moab Free Health Clinic (Kate Jagle) (435) 259-1113
BEACON (Xandra Odland) (435) 719-4801	Moab Friends For Wheelin' Jeep Club (Melissa Fischer) (435) 260-7208
Boy Scouts of America (Mingo Gritts) (435) 260-0871	Moab Garden Club (Tricia Scott) (303) 880-9158
Canyonlands Arts Council (435) 259-2742	Moab Golf Club (Rob Jones) (435) 259-6488
Canyonlands Back Country Horsemen (Steve Schultz) (435) 220-0860	Moab Healthcare Foundation (Kari McKay) (435) 210-0087
Canyonlands Field Institute (Michele Johnson) (435) 259-7750	Moab Masonic Lodge #30 (Gregory Klepzig) (435) 260-1823
Canyonlands Natural History Association (Sam Wainer) 435-260-6003	Moab Museum (Forrest Rodgers) www.moabmuseum.org • (435) 259-7985
Canyonlands Rodeo Club (Kirk Pearson + Krista Wilson) (435) 260-2222 + (435) 260-7942	Moab Music Festival (Amy Weiser) (435) 259-7003
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 (Mary Wakeley) (815) 712-6169	Moab Sportsmen’s Club (Frank Darcey) (435) 259-2222
Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks (Steve Evers) (435) 259-0108	Moab Taiko (Michele Blackburn) (435) 259-0816
Friends of Indian Creek info@friendsofindiancreek.org	Moab To Monument Valley Film Commission (Bega Metzner) (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	Order of the Eastern Star (Fran Townsend) (435) 259-6469
Grand Center (435) 259-6623	Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures (Tamsin McCormick) (435) 259-7733
Grand County Democratic Party (Bob Greenberg) (435) 260-9665	Red Rock Arts Festival (Moab Arts) (435) 259-6272
Grand County Extension & 4-H (435) 259-7558	Red Rock 4-Wheelers (Ron Brewer) (435) 259-7625
Grand County Education Foundation (Melodie McCandless) (435) 259-9797	Rotary Club (Melissa Stocks) (435) 220-1258
Grand County Food Bank (435) 259-6456	Seekhaven Crisis Center (Abigail Taylor) (435) 259-2229
Grand County Hospice (Margy Swenson) (435) 719-3772	Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (Neal Clark) (435) 259-7090
Grand County Library (Jessie Magleby) (435) 259-1111	Trail Mix Committee (Colin Topper) MoabTrailMix@gmail.com
Grand County Republican Party grandcogop@gmail.com	Underdog Animal Rescue & Rehab (Jackie) (435) 260-8033
Humane Society of Moab Valley (435) 259-4862	Uranium Watch (Sarah Fields) (435) 260-8384
KZMU Community Radio (435) 259-8824	Utah Avalanche Center (888) 999-4019 or (435) 259-SNOW
Ladies Golf Club (Chris Woodard) (435) 259-6488	Utah Conservation Corps (Sean Damitz) (435) 797-0964 ext 8
League of Women Voters (Carey Dabney) (801) 938-4038	Utah Friends of Paleontology – Gastonia Chapter (Lee Shenton) (435) 259-2179
Moab Arts Festival (Theresa King) (435) 259-2742	Valley Voices (Marian Eason) (435) 259-6447
Moab Arts Center (Kelley McNerney) (435) 259-6272	Veterans of Foreign Wars (Fred Every) (435) 260-1277
Moab Bird Club (Nick Eason) (435) 259-6447	WabiSabi www.wabisabimoab.org (435) 259-3313
Moab Chamber of Commerce (Cassie Oliver) (435) 259-7814	Youth Garden Project (Emily Roberson) 259-BEAN (2326)
Moab City Animal Control (435) 259-8938	Utah State University Moab (435) 259-7432

Assembly of God	435-259-7747
1202 South Boulder Avenue	
Bahá’í Faith	435-650-5778
Canyonlands Fellowship	435-260-2434
111 East 100 North	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	
First & Second Wards	435-259-5566
475 West 400 North	
Third, Fourth & Fifth Wards	435-259-5567
701 Locust Lane	

Moab Church Services Directory

Community Church	435-259-7319
544 MiVida Drive	
Episcopal Church of St. Francis	435-259-5831
250 South Kane Creek Blvd	
First Baptist Church SBC	435-259-7310
420 MiVida Drive	
Friends in Christ Free Lutheran Church	
1240 South Highway 191	435-259-4378

Grace Lutheran Church	435-259-5017
360 West 400 North	
Jewish Interfaith Beit Moabi	435-260-0241
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses	
25 Dogwood Ave	435-259-8166
Moab Baptist Church	435-259-8481
356 West Kane Creek Blvd.	

Quaker Meeting	775-442-1298
239 West Center St.	text only
River of Life Christian Fellowship	
2651 East Arroyo Rd.	435-259-8308
St. Pius X Catholic Church	435-259-5211
122 West 400 North	
Seventh Day Adventist	435-259-5545
4581 Spanish Valley Drive	
The Church of Christ	435-259-6690
456 Emma Boulevard	