

Like many new relationships, it took Elfido and Chris awhile to get to know each other after being introduced through the Denver Kids mentorship program. Elfido is a quiet and reserved person, so it takes him awhile to open up to new people, but their relationship has always been easy and they have been able to enjoy new experiences together.

While Chris and Elfido have shared many great times such as attending all kinds of sporting events, driving to the Continental Divide, and exploring libraries, museums, book stores, and natural areas around Denver, their ritual is to try to go to every pizza restaurant in the Denver metro area and they have been to about 30 different places so far. While this might seem like a simple pizza-lovers challenge at first, Chris says that this ritual is about so much more as it has provided them with a good foundation of getting to know each other especially on days when they do not have as much time to spend together. One of Chris's biggest goals as his mentor is to help Elfido get out of his shell more. Through Chris's constant support and encouragement, Elfido has "learned to be himself."

Chris is most interested in exposing Elfido to his own potential and career opportunities that he has an interest in. Elfido has so much potential and Chris wants to teach him how to utilize his skills and interests to find the best career path for him. Though Elfido is still in middle school, Chris looks forward to helping him through the college preparation and application process and wants to ensure he has as many options as possible.

Chris believes that Elfido has helped him to grow as a mentor and a partner to the strong family core he has. Chris is impressed by the quiet strength, persistence, and confidence Elfido has even when his family faces great challenges. Chris appreciates that Elfido is up for anything, so they enjoy sharing new experiences together. Elfido has expressed an interest in seeing more art, especially street art, so this will be the next adventure Chris and Elfido take on, together.