



# Families First

# Annual Report

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

## 2009 Board of Directors

Kittie Arnold  
Martha Bauer  
Nancy Bernstein  
Stephen Dietrich  
Larry Donovan  
Ashley Eller  
Ron English  
Jodie Hohensee  
Dave Korn  
Jeff Modesitt  
Sally Newcomb  
Robert Omer  
Mary Margaret Palms  
Toby Pippin  
Loren Priest  
Barbara Reece  
Daphyne Reiff  
Rick Seymour  
Irma Smith  
Melody Staffen  
Pat Trujillo

### Families First

2163 South Yosemite Street  
Denver, CO 80231

303 745-0327 office  
303 309-3931 fax

www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org



*"You can think of Families First as many things... you stay here for a while so you can learn to be safe and they take care of you. Then you go to your family."*  
Child at Children's Treatment Center

### Our Mission

*To end the cycle of abuse and neglect by providing resources to empower parents, nurture children and strengthen families. We respond to the needs of all families with an approach that is welcoming and collaborative.*

## From the President of the Board

Families First strives to meet its mission of ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect by providing resources to empower parents, nurture children and strengthen families. At a time when Colorado ranks high among states for child abuse, the programs of Families First are making a difference to children and their families. We are continuing to refine and improve our current programs plus develop additional programs. The organization has increased services to the Spanish speaking community through expansion of educational programs and support line services. Each year Families First joins with other organizations to collaborate and work toward a common goal of ending the cycle of abuse.

The Board of Directors of Families First are active participants who come from diverse backgrounds and bring their varied skills and experience to the Board. Board members lend their expertise to the organization to enhance, expand and support the programs and goals of Families First.

During this difficult economic time the staff, Board and the community have continued to recognize the need to protect and nurture children.

Sally Newcomb  
President, Board of Directors



Sally Newcomb  
Board President

## From the Executive Director

By most accounts, 2009 was a year that tested the nation's commitment to children and families. A declining US budget, diminishing resources, stressed communities and families in crisis made it a challenge for non-profits across the country to care for people in need.

At the same time, your faith – in our mission, our programs and our vision – kept Families First moving forward. As donors, volunteers, staff and community partners you responded to the gloomy headlines with an outpouring of support, both emotionally and financially. As a result, Families First met the needs of parents and children across Colorado without missing a beat.

Your financial support makes a difference in the lives of children and families, particularly in these challenging times. This year, we were able to:

- Provide a warm, welcoming environment at the Children's Treatment Center for young victims of abuse and neglect to begin the healing process. Their needs are very real and Families First is ready to respond with open arms and open hearts.
- Refine our agency message to better reflect our mission and services. We redesigned our web-site to be more informative, interactive and simple to use to better serve the needs of our parents, donors and staff.
- Expand our targeted parenting programs to focus on the unique needs of parents stressed by a national financial crisis, job loss, military relocation and day-to-day pressure. Our prevention programs and classes provide the resources parents need to make healthy choices in raising their children.

A parent completing an education class said, *"What was most helpful to me was learning how to use more positive discipline methods and learning how to spend time for myself so I can be a better parent."*

From all of us at Families First, thank you for your commitment to our mission and your faith in our programs.

Mary Hencmann  
Executive Director



Mary Hencmann  
Executive Director



Management Team

## Management Team

Mary Hencmann  
Executive Director

Joanne Blum  
Director of Major Gifts

Ann Afton  
Children's Treatment Center Director

Jennifer Richardson  
Family Support Services Director

Claire Poole  
Clinical Director

Rachel Merkel  
Director of Volunteers  
and Special Events

Emily Kasper  
Director of Operations

Alice Edwards  
Development Associate

Danielle Harm  
Executive Assistant

## A State-Wide Resource

The Family Support Line answers the statewide Father and Parenting help-line for the **Be There for Your Kids** program of the Colorado Department of Human Services as well as the parenting and school involvement help-line for the **Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center** (CPRIC).

The Family Support Line number is listed under three different headings (Child Abuse Services, Human Service Organizations and Parenting) in every **Dex One** phone book in Colorado and online at [www.dexknows.com](http://www.dexknows.com).

### Family Support Line

303-695-7996  
1-877-695-7996

Open daily  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

# The Family Support Line

Parents often need a listening ear to provide support, encouragement and resources when life is challenging. Our Family Support Line is the place Colorado parents can receive non-judgmental, supportive information and compassion to help them make good choices for their children and their families.

The Support Line is available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Our trained, caring volunteers offer assistance and education to any parent, caregiver or professional willing to ask for help, regardless of circumstance.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS: 4,155

### PRIMARY CALL CATEGORIES

Parenting Classes  
Emergency Assistance  
Divorce and Step-Parenting  
Behavior and Discipline  
Legal

### CALL COUNTIES

25% Denver  
22% Arapahoe  
12% Adams  
11% Jefferson  
30% (Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas, Other Counties)

### IN FOLLOW-UP CALLS

90% Found the Support Line Worker helpful  
87% Found the information helpful  
71% Found the referrals appropriate  
60% Reported a meaningful change in their situation



*"To be a warm non-judgmental voice is a pleasure and a way to spread my belief that children and families should be heard and valued." Cindy Geiger, Support Line Worker*

# Spanish Family Support Services

Our Spanish Family Support Services include a statewide Spanish Support Line, Consejos Para Familias, which provides child development information, answers parenting inquiries, offers understanding and emotional support, and connects Spanish-speaking parents with community resources. Also included in our Spanish Family Support Services are seminars and classes which seek to help Spanish-speaking parents learn how to enhance school participation and maintain academic readiness throughout the educational life of a child. Through firsthand learning of parenting skills in classes and workshops, parents learn how to create strong and healthy families. Many of our outreach efforts are targeted in early education centers, preschools and public schools.

### Consejos para Familias

**335** parents called for information, referrals or a listening ear

### Seminars

**8** Spanish Parent Education Seminars were provided for **54** parents and caretakers

### Circle of Parents Groups

**4** Circle of Parents® Groups were held in Spanish through the Fatherhood Grant and at collaborative agencies

### Consejos para Familias

1-866-Las Familias

Open weekdays  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



L to R: Jennifer Richardson, Pat Trujillo, Olga Salazar, Judy Jaramillo and Joe Archuleta, Spanish Advisory Council

*"What makes me enjoy working at Families First so much is the satisfaction I receive every time I help a parent who is seeking assistance in improving his/her parenting skills. It is very gratifying to realize that a few minutes on the phone or in person with a parent can instigate what I hope is a marked change in the life of a parent and consequently in the life of a child."*  
Po Higgins, Administrative Assistant

## Family Support Services Collaborations

### Denver-Metro Area

Clayton Early Learning  
Community Resources, Inc.  
Evanston United Methodist Church  
First Denver Friends Church  
Focus Points  
Friends First  
Littleton First Presbyterian Church  
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

### Fort Collins

Larimer County Responsible  
Fatherhood Project  
Lutheran Family Services

### State-wide

Colorado Department of Human  
Services, Fatherhood Initiative  
Colorado Parent and Child  
Foundation (CPCF)  
Colorado Parent Information and  
Resource Center (CPIRC)  
Colorado PTA  
Prevent Child Abuse Colorado

### National

Circle of Parents®

## Children's Groups

While their parents attended our groups and classes, **296** children attended our Children's Program. We offer a structured Children's Group which provides fun activities and creative projects for the children. Our trained staff and experienced volunteers provide children with an opportunity to learn appropriate skills for socializing and self control.



*"I am very encouraged when I see the growth in the families I work with! I enjoy hearing all the successes in parenting and know that we are preventing the cycle of child abuse and empowering parents in strengthening their family relationships." Rosa Huber, Family Support Services Program Specialist*

# CIRCLE of PARENTS®

Circle of Parents® is a national network of parent-led, self-help groups where parents can share ideas, celebrate successes and address the challenges of parenting.

We found that when groups of parents come together and share frustrations, and experiences, they don't feel alone in their struggles. Parents create a friendly, supportive environment led by parents with the help of a trained facilitator. During free group meetings, anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children.

### Circle of Parents® Groups

- **13** groups met regularly (9 English, 4 Spanish)
- **268** parents and caregivers attended Circle of Parents® Groups at Families First or a collaborative agency
- Specialized groups were held for single parents, parents of preschoolers, grandparents and men living at a Fort Collins half-way house

### Fatherhood Circle of Parents® Groups

- **3** groups met regularly
- **241** parents and caregivers attended home visitation Circle of Parents® Groups at Focus Points or in Larimer County
- Families First received a Partners for Kids: United Hands Make the Best Families Responsible Fatherhood sub-award grant from the national Circle of Parents® office, to provide training and technical assistance to these two sites. The project is funded by the U.S. DHHS, Office of Family Assistance.

*"As a member of the Circle of Parents® 'Single Parent' Support Group, I have seen a lot of women feel ashamed of needing support and would not return. Now, the number of regular attendees has doubled and our group connection has been established." Chandra DeSimone, Support Group Participant*

## Parent Education

Children are not born with an instruction manual and we've seen that many parents make good choices when given good information. Our Parenting Classes, Seminars, Massage Instruction and Conferences teach effective communication and disciplinary skills for parenting children from birth to adulthood.

### Classes

**33** Education Classes  
**463** Parents Attended  
**26** Scholarships Granted

Topics Covered:  
Adolescents, General Parenting,  
Pre-School and Teens

### Seminars

**17** Seminars (8 Spanish)  
**135** Parents Attended

Topics Covered:  
Teen Parenting, Self-Control for  
Children and Positive Discipline

### Infant Massage

**5** Infant Massage Classes  
**55** Parents Attended

### Conferences

Kinship Conference (Co-Sponsor)  
**55** Grandparents Attended

Topics Covered:  
Addiction, Adolescents, Custody,  
Practical Parenting and Stress  
Management

### Did you know?

We have a **92%**  
completion rate  
with all of our  
Parenting Classes.



Fred Buschhoff teaching  
*The Constructive Parent*  
Parenting Class

## Protective Factors for Healthy Families

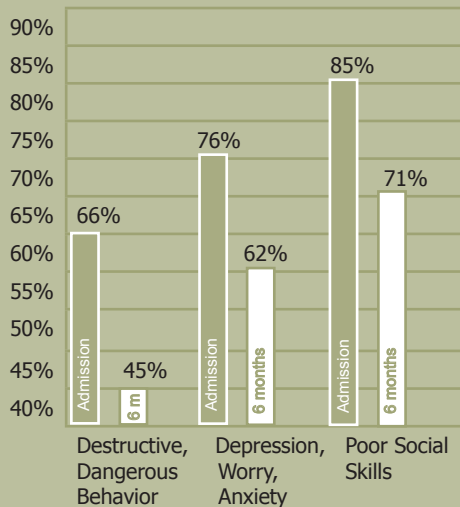
Families First adheres closely to an established set of protective factors which have been shown to increase the health and well-being of children and families. These attributes serve as tools and resources, helping parents and care-givers make healthy and safe parenting choices, particularly under stress.

Regardless of a child's age, ethnicity, economic status, religion or family status, research has demonstrated that these protective factors increase the parent's ability to raise healthy children and lower the incidence of abuse and neglect. We promote these factors in all of our work with families.

- Child/Parenting Nurturing and Attachment
- Parent's Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development
- Parental Resilience During Stress
- Social Connections to Family, Friends and Community
- Provision of Basic Necessities and Access to Community Resources

## Measure of Success

The Personality Inventory for Children is one of the tools we use to measure a child's progress and to help in organizing their treatment plan. It is considered a success when a child decreases their scores by 10-20 percent. As you can see in the graph below, in just 6 months the children living at our Children's Treatment Center made significant improvement in their destructive behaviors, level of depression and social skills.



A Shorter Bar Indicates Improvement



*"One of the children living at the Children's Treatment Center came to us when she was five years old. As her therapist, I worked with her for two years. She came with limited verbal ability (could hardly sound out words) and severe behavioral problems. She now can communicate clearly and has made great progress in terms of her behavior. It's been wonderful watching her grow and learn." Ous Badwan, Denver University PsyD Student Intern*

# Children's Treatment Center

The Children's Treatment Center provides a therapeutic community for young children struggling with the emotional trauma of abuse and neglect suffered in their homes. This community is modeled on healthy family living and provides a unique opportunity for children to recover from their trauma and for families to develop healthy interactions.

**Twelve** children were served at The Children's Treatment Center in 2008-2009.

These children received:

- **860** hours of individual therapy
- **147** hours of group therapy
- **3,133** individual days of care.

Of the 12 children we served:

- **1** child returned to their original home
- **4** children have been adopted
- **7** children are still in placement with us.

We are proud that none of the children discharged from the Children's Treatment Center have gone to another temporary placement or to an equal or higher level of care!

# Our Program Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of our organization. They provide direct care to abused and neglected children at the Children's Treatment Center, information and referral sources to callers through our Family Support Line and help plan and implement children's activities for our Children's Groups.

In 2008-2009, **62** program volunteers contributed over **4,038 hours**.

## Our Active Volunteers

### 15 + Years

Sharon Bair  
Karen Koop  
Carole O'Shea  
Virginia Salazar

### 10-14 Years

Norma Alder Kovacs  
Judy Coover  
Ginny Ennis  
Parrish Huber  
Lucy Kissinger  
Mary Lester  
Betty Miller  
Karen Robison  
Sharon Williams

### 5-9 Years

Brenda Baker  
Harry Baker  
Fred Buschhoff  
Toni Farquhar  
Diane Gallagher  
Cathy Murtha  
Beth Pfalmer  
Alison Sandler  
Susan Wagner-Ellis

### 1-4 Years

Nina Bailey  
Victoria Barry  
Sarah Bergman  
Allison Brannon  
Stephanie Campbell  
Amy Cobb  
Veronica Cole  
Luz Contreras-Quiroz  
Jan Cummins  
Chandra DeSimone  
Soueba Djibrilla  
Amy Donovan  
Meggen Edwards  
Hannah Engel  
Brian Firooz  
Ginette Fitzsimmons  
Sheryl Foreman  
Jane Harper  
Josie Hildebrand  
Lisa Hofmeister  
Cathy Hollis  
Paula Jeane  
Jennifer Klein  
Katie Lange  
Nicole Lightman

Jennifer Llyod  
Jody Louderback  
Judy Marturano  
Beverly McAdam  
Patty Michalek  
Ronnie Mitzner  
Srivatsan Muralidaran  
Sarah Oehler  
George Robinson  
Aimee Roland  
Codi Rosado  
Beth Rust  
Jennifer Stitt  
Lois Tilley  
Megan Touchton

## Volunteer of the Year



Family Support Line Volunteer  
Ginny Ennis was named the  
Program Volunteer of the Year.

*"I have gained a great deal of knowledge as to what resources are available to the community and it is very rewarding to be able to help a caller by passing on this information. I know everyone on the Support Line frequently makes a real difference!"*

*Ginny Ennis, Support Line Volunteer*



Children's Treatment Center Volunteers  
Judy Coover, Beth Rust, Luz Contreras-Quiroz and Sharon Williams.

## Friends' Awards

**Cindie LoSasso** received the 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award. This individual is chosen because of their unselfish gift of time and energy to Families First. Recognition is given for the length of time this person has been involved, and for exceptional commitment to accomplishing all volunteer responsibilities undertaken.

**Kristin Stonebarger** received the 2009 President's Award. This individual is chosen by the Friends Executive Committee. The President's Award is given to a member of Friends for Families First for outstanding contributions during the current year of volunteer work benefiting Families First.



Cindie LoSasso and Kristin Stonebarger

# Friends for Families First

Friends for Families First is a special group of supporters who embrace the vision of creating a community that welcomes the responsibility to nurture children and strengthen families. Our Friends help the Governing Board and staff accomplish our mission by recruiting volunteers, raising funds and promoting awareness in the community.

This year, Friends:

- recruited **282** members
- raised **\$260,112** through special events
- contributed over **1,476** hours of volunteer time
- provided birthday dinner, cake, gifts and monthly homemade cookies for the **12** children living at the Children's Treatment Center
- decorated the inside of the Children's Treatment Center and Family Center for the holidays.

*"The best time I had here was my birthday and everybody else's birthday!" Child at Children's Treatment Center*

## Friends for Families First Board of Directors 2008-2009

### Executive Committee

Nancy Bernstein	Co-President
Daphyne Reiff	Co-President
Cheryl Paxton	President Elect
Mary Thompson	VP of Administration
Jennifer Atkinson	VP of Development
Deb Sturm	VP of Development
Karen Fisher	VP of Membership
Sharon Stuart	VP of Program
Toni Tucker	VP of Program
Martha Donovan	Secretary
Natalie Johnson	Treasurer

### General Board

Valerie Blood	Brooke Parker
Carol Brewka	Barb and Gary Reece
Brenda Clement	Aldona Seymour
Jane Diamond	Yolanda Solis Rainold
Shelly Goss	Janet Spurck
Debbie Gray	Melody Staffen
Ashley Hashimoto	Kristin Stonebarger
Melissa Jacob	Cindy and Scott Storey
Rachel Kodanaz	Deb and Jerry Sturm
Phyllis Madden	Glory Weisberg
Sally Newcomb	Jane Wilson
Sheridan Newcomb	Silvia Young
Mary Margaret Palms	

# Friends' Fundraising Events

## Steppin' Out... Diamonds & Spurs Returns

**\$154,815**

Event Chairs: Deb and Jerry Sturm,  
Cindy and Scott Storey

## Drive for Community \$Change\$

**\$62,242**

Event Chairs: Carol Brewka and  
Kristin Stonebarger

## Fore Families First Golf Tournament

**\$43,161**

Event Chairs:  
Barb and Gary Reece

### GRAND CHAMPION

Tammy and Chris Marsico  
PBJ Reece Family

### STETSONS & STALLIONS

Summit Investment Management LLC

### BRONC & BULL RIDERS

Dex One  
Marsha and Emmett Duemke/  
David L. Tandy Foundation  
M.D.C. Holdings Inc./  
Richmond American Homes

### FILLYS & FRIENDS

Nancy and John Bernstein  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
The Crazy Merchant, Inc.  
DPEC Partners/Algodon Wine Estates  
Martha and Larry Donovan  
First American State Bank  
Julie Graebel  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
The JBR Group/Merrill Lynch  
Kaiser Permanente  
Sally and Gary Newcomb  
The Pippin Family  
Priest Engineering  
Saunders Construction, Inc.  
The South Restaurant/  
Deb and Jerry Sturm  
Melody and Bob Staffen  
The Sturm/Storey Family

### TITLE SPONSOR

The Crazy Merchant, Inc.

### EVENT SPONSORS

Jeff Baldwin, Debra Perry and the boys  
Kaiser Permanente

### PIGS ON PEDESTALS

Aaron Bell, International  
BCT Printing  
Champion Bank  
Del Frisco's Steakhouse  
Dex One  
Families First Governing Board  
First Bank of Cherry Creek  
Friends for Families First  
Great Northern  
Cammy MacMillan  
Kiki MacMillan  
Edie and Mort Marks Family  
Morton's, the Steakhouse DTC  
Newberry Brothers Greenhouse  
and Florist  
Occasions by Sandy  
PBJ Reece Family  
The Pippin Family  
The South Restaurant  
Wells Fargo

### TITLE SPONSOR

Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage

### EAGLE SPONSORS

Health One  
PBJ Reece Family

### BIRDIE SPONSOR

Wealth Strategy Partners

### PAR SPONSORS

Dex One  
Fransen Pittman General Contractors  
Sally and Gary Newcomb  
The South Restaurant  
Treece Alfrey, Musat and Bosworth PC  
Wells Fargo Advisors-James L. Smith Jr.

### HOLE SPONSORS

The Autrey Foundation  
Colorado Container  
Diversified Radiology  
Martha and Larry Donovan  
Friends of Sugar  
Phyllis Madden  
Barbara and Gerry Moore  
Mary Margaret and Ed Palms

## Friends Presidents



Nancy Bernstein and Daphyne Reiff  
Friends Co-Presidents

*"Being Presidents of Friends for Families First was so much fun that we decided to do it for two years! What a wonderful group of women to lead. It was a joy! We were so successful because of those who surrounded us. Special thanks to the Friends Board and the staff of Families First for providing such a rewarding experience for both of us."*

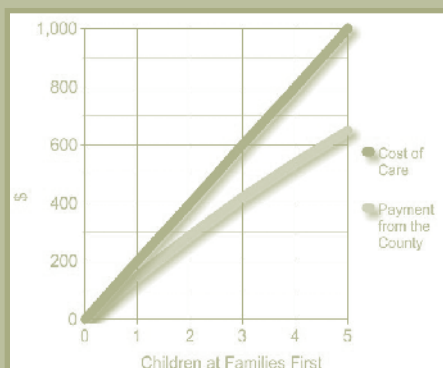
*Nancy Bernstein and Daphyne Reiff*



Jerry and Deb Sturm  
Co-Chairs of Steppin' Out...  
Diamonds & Spurs Returns

## Fill the Gap

As state and county agencies cut funding for programs across the board, Families First issued a plea to help meet the needs of children at the Children's Treatment Center. We asked supporters to make a huge difference in the life of a child through a small contribution of \$29.85 (the daily difference between the cost of having a child in residential treatment and the reimbursement from the counties.) Our donors and community rose to the occasion and helped us "Fill The Gap". The funds raised were matched to the first \$5,000 by a long-time supporter. Not only did the campaign meet the challenge, funds raised exceeded our goals and provided support throughout the year.



**Les Familles Donors** are individuals who have contributed \$500 or more during 2009.

### Les Familles Donors

Tanga Alexander  
Sue Anschutz-Rodgers  
Kittie Arnold\*  
James and Jennifer Atkinson  
Robert and Anne Baillio, Jr  
Jeff Baldwin and Debra Perry  
Penny Banks  
Robert and Raeann Belknap  
Jerry and Marty Berglund  
John and Nancy Bernstein\*  
Joanne R. Blum  
Edward and Jean Bolle  
Diane Brandon  
Betty and Charles Brega  
Bob and Carol Brewka  
Paulette Brody  
Eric Carlson and Celeste Siade  
David and Nicole Cecil  
Dennis Chalus  
Timothy and Noelle Chole  
Richard and Lesli Cohan  
Kathy Colleran  
Jim Banman and Judy Coover  
Del and Kristi Creps  
Leslie Doherty  
Larry and Martha Donovan\*  
Thomas and Barbara Dorsey  
Donald and Lois Eckhoff  
Tom and Alice Edwards  
Robert and Colleen Ekback  
William and Karen Fisher  
Richard and Margaret Garbe  
Dean and Shelly Goss  
Michael and Pat Grace

Rick Grisinger  
Richard and Lisa Gross  
Larry Hamilton  
Jim and Jane Harm  
Susan Hartfield  
Joe and Ramie Hencmann  
Steven and Lynn Hinkle  
Sarah Hite  
Gene and Jodie Hohensee\*  
Graham and Catherine Hollis  
Gregory and Barb Ingalls  
Stephen and Renee James  
Robert and Maria Jennett  
Scott and Martha Jentz  
Bart and Katie Johnson  
Craig Jonas  
Sheryl Jonas  
Robert and Rachel Jurkiewicz  
Daniel and Faye Kagan  
Andrew and Sherry Kenney  
James and Kareen Kimsey  
Steve and Gail Kinsky  
Rick and Lucy Kissinger  
Frank and Debby Konieczny  
Tate Lambeth  
Micah Lang  
Jennifer Lee  
Susan Lewis  
Bill and Deb MacMillan  
Cammy MacMillan  
Kiki MacMillan  
Darrell and Eileen Maddox  
Mort and Edie Marks  
Chris and Tammy Marsico  
Scott Mathis  
Peggy Milford

## Annual Giving

Ronnie Mitzner  
Shirley Mondragon  
Gerry and Barbara Moore  
Skip and Jane Netzorg  
Gary and Sally Newcomb\*  
Lance and Sheridan Newcomb  
Bob and Kirsten Omer\*  
Sandy and Terry Palmer  
Gary and Pam Pippin  
Marty Tingelhoff and Toby Pippin\*  
Loren Priest\*  
G.W. and Rose Protector  
Courtney Pugh  
Judy Quigley  
Emile Rainold and Yolanda Solis-Rainold  
Gary and Barbara Reece\*  
Rick and Daphne Reiff\*  
Frank Riccio  
Paul Singelstad and Jennifer Richardson  
Matthew and Sydney Richeda  
Tom and Alison Sandler  
Al and Karen Schmidt  
Randy Ship and Maureen O'Shea-Ship  
Brent and Linda Smith  
Maria Smith  
Mary Smith  
Scot Smith and Susan Blake-Smith  
Robert and Janet Spurck  
Bob and Melody Staffen\*  
Christina Staley  
Thomas and Diane Stortz  
Sharon Stuart  
Cindy Sturm

\* Board Member

## Annual Giving

Jerry and Deb Sturm  
Gregory and Corky Thompson  
Steve and Mary Thompson  
Toni Tucker  
Allen and Nancy Walters  
Raymond and Bernice Yost

### Grants - Foundations

The Anschutz Foundation  
The Arthur and Madeline Millman Family Foundation Inc  
The Autrey Foundation  
Bright Horizons Foundation  
Circle of Parents  
Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center  
CNA Foundation  
Cross H Foundation  
The David L. Tandy Foundation  
Denver Foundation  
ECA Foundation  
Galena Foundation  
GE Foundation  
George L. Shields Foundation  
Haynes Family Foundation  
Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation  
The Henry R. Schwier Charitable Fund  
Kaiser Permanente Foundation  
Mandelbaum Family Foundation  
McCormick Tribune Foundation  
The Melvin and Elaine Wolf Foundation  
PBJ Reece Charitable Fund

Penny Harvest-The Young Philanthropists Foundation  
The Philanthropic Collaborative  
Prestige Miracles Foundation  
R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Research and Prevention Institute  
Schlessman Family Foundation  
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation  
Tomkins Corporation Foundation  
Vodafone Americas Foundation  
The Way Trust  
Western Union Foundation  
Wilmac Foundation

### Individual Donors

Ann Afton  
Jean Afton  
Jana Akhavan  
David and Eileen Albert  
Anita Albrecht  
David Alexander  
Nicole Alters  
Barry and Anne Andersen  
Robert and Ruth Anderson  
Alan and Jamie Angelich  
Mary Anthony  
Daniel Arkin  
Trevor and Naomi Armstrong  
Rita Arthur  
Richard and Olga Ashworth  
Pat Austin  
Vicki Aycrigg  
James Bailey  
Sharon Bair

Harry and Brenda Baker  
Susan J. Baker  
Larry and Margaret Ballonoff  
Louis and Pam Bansbach  
David Barkow  
Glen and Barbara Barnard  
David Barnes  
John and Janet Bartus  
Joanne Baum  
Dominic and Judy Bazile  
Robert and Harriet Beago  
Joan Beindorff  
Timothy and Donna Belber  
Cindy Bell  
Elbert and Eleanor Bell  
Sandra Bell  
Deborah Benham  
Michael Bennet and Susan Daggett  
Bradley and Kia Benson  
Robert and Ann Benson  
Greg and Kelly Berger  
Debra Berthold  
Richard and Judy Billings  
Arnold Binion and Margaret Walker  
Curtis and Jane Birky  
Chuck and Valerie Blood  
John and Sandy Blue  
Jerald and Suzanne Blumberg  
Charlie and Denise Bouley  
Patrick and Annabel Bowlen  
Jack and Lois Bradbury  
Sharron Brandrup  
Jane Bresler  
Shelley Bresnick  
Jessica Starr Broerman  
Evelyn Brown

## Winter Story times

At our Winter Family Story Times, parents brought their young children and gathered around the fireplace in the Family Center lobby to hear stories read in both English and Spanish (highlighting Families First's bilingual support services). In January we learned about the Latino celebration of Three Kings Day. Debra Perry and her sons, Colton and Dalton, hosted in February as we heard about animals in winter. In March we celebrated everyone's birthday with a piñata!



*"As a teacher who has a love of literature, I am finding that keeping the history of Families First is like telling a story, and getting to be a part of the new 'Winter Story Times' for the community allows me to share that love with others."*  
Jane Diamond, Friends Historian

## Friend of the Children Awardees

We were honored to present the 2009 Friend of the Children Award to Barb and Gary Reece.



The Friend of the Children Award is given to an individual or couple who has made significant volunteer and financial contributions to Families First. Local sculptor and supporter, Rik Sargent (below), designed the bronze award depicting the child at the heart of the family, at the heart of the community and at the heart of the future.



### Individual Donors

Fred and Lois Brown  
 Stephen Brown and Kathy Kilmer  
 Robert and Irene Bryant  
 Don Budy  
 Lindsay Bullot  
 Peter and Sandra Burg  
 Sam and Teri Burget  
 Sue Burns  
 Brad and Lisa Busse  
 Shawn Bustamante  
 Lynn Cahen  
 Richard and Priscilla Calhoun  
 Robert and Barb Calkins  
 Marian Camden  
 Ivy Canady  
 Jack Capps  
 Miles and Connie Carson  
 Martha Cashette  
 Liane Cattelino  
 Monika Celado  
 Juanita Chacon  
 David and Joyce Charles  
 David and Libby Chernow  
 Steven and Cathy Chung  
 Cathryn Clark  
 Robert and Susan Clark  
 Vanessa Coats  
 Jim and Katie Cochran  
 Dana Cogan  
 Terry and Pat Colip  
 Jane Conrad  
 Jerald and Bette Cox  
 Kevin and Maurene Coyle  
 Warren and Dorothy Cramer

Cathrin Crampton  
 Jim and Dee Dee Creighton  
 Richard and Barbara Crow  
 Jon and Brooke Cuenin  
 Ron and Sheila Curlee  
 Jerry and Anne Curran  
 James and Cynthia Daum  
 Peggy Davis  
 Gladys De Vries  
 Lisa Dean  
 Ralph and Wendy DeBell  
 Frank and Judy DeBord  
 Bill and Adele DeLine  
 Timothy and Roberta Dennis  
 Russell DeWitt, Jr.  
 Jane Diamond  
 Sarah Dickson  
 Donna Dienstbach  
 Stephen and Libby Dietrich\*  
 Jonathan and Kristen Donahue  
 Amy Donovan  
 Michael and Tracy Donovan  
 Bailey and Marilou Dotson  
 Traci Dougherty  
 Victoria Dow  
 Marjean Drost  
 Steven Dunlap  
 Kendra Dunn  
 Darrell and Angie Eastwood  
 Kirsten Eastwood  
 Virginia Eiseman  
 Ashley Eller\*  
 Richard Eller  
 Christopher and Patricia Elliott  
 James and Sandra Emrick  
 Charles and Ginny Ennis

## Annual Giving

Sean and Amy Erickson  
 Mike and Nancy Fahndrich  
 Melissa Ferris  
 Lawrence and Nora Finicle  
 John and Alexis Fischer  
 Donna Fisher  
 Alvin Fishman  
 William Fleming  
 Christine Forbes  
 Sheldon and Jennifer Fortenberry  
 Leanne Franke  
 Patricia French  
 Russ and Sally Frerichs  
 Don and Jeanne Friedman  
 Jack and Adrienne Fitzgibbons  
 Barb Gallagher  
 Arthur Gallegos  
 Lannie Garrett  
 Connie Genova  
 Ted and Suzy Gill  
 Tom and Sharon Glatfelter  
 Michael and Maryann Golinvaux  
 Peter Goodwin  
 Richard and Juli Gordon  
 Debra Gray  
 Troy and Shelly Gray  
 Jerry and Debbie Green  
 Thomas Greer  
 Sandra Gress  
 Jonathan and Mary Beth Griffis  
 Alana Groom  
 Ed and Jody Gruben  
 Joseph and Barbara Gschwendtner  
 David and Darcy Haar  
 John Hagan  
 Dale and Kathie Hagge

\* Board Member

## Annual Giving

Donald and Nancy Haldi  
 Fred and Diane Hale  
 James and Carol Hallstrom  
 Mark and Jo Ann Hamling  
 Jerry and Mary Hampton  
 Randall and Mary Ann Hampton  
 Brad and Emeri Handler  
 Suzanne Handler  
 Richard and Pamela Hansen  
 Jack and Jane Harper  
 Karen Harrington  
 Peter and Stephanie Harris  
 Lois Harrison  
 Stuart and Katherine Haskins  
 Joe and Mary Hassing  
 Ron and Vicki Hattin  
 Kenneth and Elizabeth Haughey  
 Nancy Haven  
 Kraig and Nancy Haynes  
 Maralyn Heckman  
 Jerry and Tammie Hegge  
 Diane Heller  
 Gunnar Hencmann  
 John and Mary Hencmann  
 John and Margit Henderson  
 Kathleen Henken  
 Lola Hernandez  
 Michael and Kiffie Hester  
 Joy Hettich  
 McArthur Hill  
 Frank and Diana Hill  
 Roland and Dianne Hirsch  
 Ted and Marsha Hodges  
 Linda Holloway  
 Scott and Dawn Horn  
 Susie Hotz

Barbara Hoversten  
 Charles and Beverly Howard  
 Paxton Howard II  
 Parrish and Rosa Huber  
 Lynne Hufnagel  
 Laura Hullinger  
 David and Margie Hunter  
 Sherry Segrist Huntsinger  
 Michael and Kaye Hurtt  
 Patricia Hutchens  
 Leonard and Eileen Ingui  
 James and Beth Jackman  
 Jordan and Melissa Jacob  
 Mary Louise Jacobson  
 Bradley and Carol James  
 Ferol Jenkins  
 Roger and Kathi Jensen  
 John and Angela Johns  
 C. Howard and Dorsey Johnson  
 Domic and Sandra Johnson  
 George and Gail Johnson  
 Mark and Natalie Johnson  
 Steven and Kathy Johnson  
 Russell Johnston and Thad Robertson  
 David and Phyllis Johnstone  
 Elbert and Ivy Jones  
 Russell and Catherine Jones  
 Roseann Kaffer  
 Donald Kalstein  
 Eric and Emily Kasper  
 Teresa Katopodes  
 Jim and Cathy Kaufman  
 Aaron Eisen and Anne Kaye  
 Doug and Pam Kelsall  
 Michael and Kelly Kennedy

Randall and Heidi Keogh  
 Melly Kinnard  
 Richard and Suzanne Kintzele  
 Liza Kirkpatrick  
 Ashley Kissinger  
 Kim and Gail Koehn  
 Walter and Gene Koelbel  
 Karen Koop  
 Robert and Debra Korbelik  
 Dave Korn\* and Janna Allen  
 Karl and Elizabeth Krantz  
 Sarah Krause  
 John and Julie Kucera  
 Kevin and Heather Kucera  
 William and Sandra Kuhn  
 Robert and Jean LaCrosse  
 Lynelle Lahey  
 Kathleen Lambert  
 Patsy Lange  
 Stewart and Cynthia Larsen  
 Kelly Lassen  
 Kimberly Latzera  
 Edwin Lawlor  
 Dennis and Janice Lawson  
 Randy and Joan Lazzell  
 Blake and Terri Learned  
 Armand Lebovits  
 Kathy Lee  
 Patty Lee  
 Norman and Mary Lester  
 Stephanie Liane  
 Summer Liebold  
 Nicole Lightman  
 George and Sara Lind  
 Merrill Linton  
 Darral Freund and Laura Liska

## Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Campaign

For the 3rd year in a row, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage hosted a month-long customer donation campaign in support of Families First. Across the state, 27 stores collected over \$14,000 and corporate matched this amount for a grand total of \$28,311.

We are very grateful for this partnership and for the generosity of the Isely family, owners of Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, and their Director of Marketing, Nancy Flynn.



*"I was delighted by the warm reception I received, as a representative of Families First, from the managers and employees of each of the 27 Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage stores across the state. Clearly, they understood the importance of our mission and held our organization in high regard. The success of their donation campaign was a testament to their enthusiasm for our vital cause and made me feel proud to be a part of Families First."*  
 Karen Koop, Community Outreach Coordinator

## Corporate Partnerships Sponsored Fundraisers

### Partnerships:

Beacon Communications  
 Concerts For Kids  
 The Crazy Merchant, Inc.  
 Creative Concepts  
 DataUsa  
 Dex Media, Inc.  
 Environmental Pest Control  
 Haynes Mechanical Systems  
 Import Warehouse  
 On Target Mailing Services  
 Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care

### Fundraisers:

Administaff  
 Colorado Avid Golfer  
 Ella Bleu Boutique  
 SOBO 151 Bar and Grill  
 LaLa's Wine Bar and Pizzeria  
 Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary  
 Committee (MDIC)  
 Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage  
 Rocky Mountain Business Travel  
 Association (RMBTA)



Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care was presented with our Outstanding Corporate Support Award.

### Individual Donors

The Litchfield Family  
 Wills and Pat Long  
 Lenny and Cindie LoSasso  
 Richard and Diana Love  
 Marsha Lunnon  
 Dylan Luyten and Elizabeth Esty  
 Mary MacEntee  
 William and Phyliss Madden  
 Dennis Madison and Dale Morris  
 William and Kathryn Magaziner  
 Scott Maiwald and Lida Citroen  
 The Malone Family  
 Teri Marotta  
 Jon and Faith Marquardt  
 Jessica Martinez  
 Judy Marturano  
 Patti Maurer  
 David and Shellene McCagg  
 Dan and Denise McClard  
 James and Cathryn McCloskey  
 Martin and Kathleen McCracken  
 William and Nancy McDermott  
 Carolyn McFarland  
 David and Janet McGaw  
 Katie McKay  
 Lisa McKean  
 Carrie McNealy  
 Joan McWilliams  
 Thomas and Judy McWilliams  
 Rachel Merkel  
 Lynn Meyer  
 Judy Michael  
 Bernie and Patty Michalek  
 Jeri Michener

Richard Mondragon  
 William Money  
 Steve and Tara Montgomery  
 Linda Moore  
 TJ Morgan  
 Natalie Morris  
 Terry and Sharyl Mueller  
 Rodney and Janice Murphy  
 Dave and Pam Murray  
 Joleen Murray  
 Patricia Muscari  
 Monty and Kaye Music  
 Lynn Myers  
 Eric and Samia Nash  
 Mike Neisen  
 Gordon Neligh and Megan Combs  
 Virginia Nelligan  
 Betty Lee Nelson  
 Kurt Nelson  
 Bob and Pam Neufeld  
 Peter and Marilyn Neukirch  
 Robert and Judi Newman  
 Kathryn Nibler  
 Scott and Jodie Nicholls  
 Heather Nickols  
 David and Norma Nixon  
 Joni Noel  
 Damon Nuckolls  
 Catherine O'Brien  
 Kevin and Janet O'Brien  
 Jon and Kirsten O'Drobinak  
 David and Connie O'Neill  
 Kevin and Tammy O'Neill  
 Suzanne O'Rourke  
 Kevin and Carole O'Shea  
 Gina Offermann

## Annual Giving

Matthew Oliver  
 Michelle Olson  
 Catherine Ostrander  
 Melanie Overley  
 Robert Owen  
 Scott Owen  
 Judy Lee Paez  
 Ed and Mary Margaret Palms\*  
 Virginia Park  
 Dena Parker  
 Penny Parker  
 Kalpana Patel  
 Steven Paul  
 Rachel Paull  
 Cheryl Paxton  
 Sherry Pellicore  
 Gerry and Linda Peppard  
 Matthew Perkins  
 Judy Permut  
 Judith Perrill  
 Mark and Jennifer Peters  
 Lisa Peterson  
 Jack and Susan Pfeiffer  
 Dean and Nikki Phillips  
 Robb Pickard  
 Cari Pippin  
 Ty Pippin  
 Richard and Michelle Pond  
 Larry and Claudette Potthoff  
 Bob and Laura Purinton  
 Sid and Penni Raines  
 Russell and Paula Randall  
 Dan and Tanya Ranney  
 Nancy Rasser  
 Michael and Brenda Ratkiewicz  
 Gary and Gayle Ray

\* Board Member

## Annual Giving

James and Karen Ray  
 Ronald and Janet Redfern  
 Jeffrey Reece  
 Michelle Reeves  
 Kathleen Regan  
 Jane Reilly  
 Thomas and Jill Reiter  
 James Reynolds  
 Carey Rich  
 Mick and Florine Richardson  
 Glenda Richter  
 Kathy Rickersen  
 Hannelore Rimlinger  
 Thomas and Mary Rogers  
 Susie Roh  
 Aimee Roland  
 Todd and Joyce Rosen  
 Harold and Dorothy Rosenblatt  
 Brad and Cathy Rothhammer  
 Sharon Rouse  
 Greg and Jana Roush  
 Mike Ruether  
 Jack and Loretta Rule  
 Pam Russell  
 Paul and Shelly Russell  
 John Rymers  
 Barbara Saban  
 Stephen and Doreen Sanford  
 Rosemary Satterwhite  
 John Scanlan  
 Michael and Lyn Schaffer  
 Charles and Jo Ann Scharmman  
 Charles and Ruth Schenck  
 Daniel and Julie Schlager  
 Coral and Stephany Schmidt  
 Margaret Schmidt

Priscilla Schnell  
 Richard and Susan Schulte  
 David and Carrie Seiferth  
 Richard and Aldona Seymour\*  
 Jim and Tricia Shultz  
 Donald and Debbie Sicard  
 Carol Siegrist  
 Jim and Julie Simons  
 June Singer  
 Pat Skinner  
 Derrill and Sharyn Smith  
 Lynnett Smith  
 Steve and Irma Smith\*  
 Heidi Somer  
 Robert and Cindy Speaker  
 Kathleen Spenard  
 Patrice Spurck  
 Daniel Stannard  
 Bryan and Ann Stern  
 Tracey Stillman  
 Dorothy Stone  
 Dan and Kristin Stonebarger  
 Scott and Cindy Storey  
 Elaine Swallow  
 Dave and Sheila Swan  
 Dennis Swan  
 Arnold Swartz  
 James and Joan Swinehart  
 Jeannie Symons  
 Liane Talley  
 Aaron Taylor  
 Carla Taylor  
 Charles and Toni Theobold  
 Rodney and Ann Thomas  
 Brian and Robin Thorsen  
 Susan Thurgood

Elaine Tinter  
 Terry and Nancy Todd  
 Terry Traynor  
 John and Page Tredennick  
 Beverly Tuel  
 Jesse and Bobbie Ulibarri  
 Lindsay Unks  
 Marge Utne  
 Kevin and Regina Valis  
 Julie Van Heyningen  
 Mark and Dianne Van Nattan  
 James VanZandt and Pat Trujillo\*  
 Allen and Victoria Vega  
 Lauri Ver Schure  
 William and Dana Vernon  
 Frank and Lorraine Visciano  
 Dorothy Von Drehle  
 Marilyn Walker  
 Kathleen Wallace  
 Colleen Wallen  
 Susan Wallner  
 John and Shirley Warford  
 Sue Waters  
 Weston and Kelly Wedding  
 Richard and Judy Weill  
 Stuart and Pamela Weinroth  
 David and Glory Weisberg  
 April Wheeler  
 David and Diane Whisenhunt  
 Mark White  
 Ron and Karen White  
 Stephen Wilbur  
 Carl and Lisa Williams  
 David Williams  
 Kirk and Jan Williams  
 Walker and Dudley Williams

## Gift of Hope Holiday Program

The Holidays are a time when HOPE is emphasized and expectation is heightened. It is often very difficult for families with low incomes or for single parents to feel that HOPE and fulfill the desires of their children. Families First is dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to **Give the Gift of Hope** to children and parents in our community and help alleviate some of the stress and expectations associated with the Holidays.

Through the generous support of the community, we were able to bring joy during the holidays into the lives of:

- **48** families and
- over **114** children.



*"The holidays are my favorite time of year at Families First. The generosity of the community is truly amazing. From late November through December, children, families, businesses, school groups and even firefighters bring donations hoping to make the holidays a little brighter for others in need." Danielle Harm, Executive Assistant*

## Clubs, Schools and Organizations

Arapahoe Sertoma Club  
 Cherry Creek High School  
 Cory Elementary  
 Cunningham Fire Protection District  
 Denver Bridge Unit 361  
 Eastern Hills Community Church  
 Preschool  
 God's Grace Community Church  
 Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool  
 Greenwood Elementary  
 National Charity League Littleton  
 Chapter  
 Overland High School  
 PEO Chapter CQ  
 Philoptochos Ladies Society of the  
 Annunciation  
 Rocky Mountain Business Travel  
 Association (RMBTA)  
 Smoky Hill High School  
 Southwest Sertoma  
 St. Mark's Preschool and  
 Kindergarten  
 St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
 Temple Sinai Pre-School  
 Walking Women of Heritage  
 Eagle Bend  
 Woodmen of the World

In compiling these reports, every effort was made to ensure accuracy. If there are omissions, misspellings or other errors, please inform us at 303 745-0327 or info@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

### Individual Donors

Sarah Williamson  
 Robert and Jane Wilson  
 Dwayne and Lou Wingert  
 Mary Wollard  
 Steven and Margaret Wyman  
 James and Kay Yates  
 Walt and Sandy Yearick  
 Dennis and Joni Young  
 Kevin and Silvia Young  
 Tish Zadar  
 Bill and Nancy Ziweis  
 Aaron and Kerry Zieschang  
 Michael Zimmerman

### Corporate Donors

7th Avenue Partners Inc  
 Aaron Bell International, Inc  
 Administaff  
 Air Sprayers Inc.  
 Anadarko Petroleum Corp  
 Bank of Choice  
 Beacon Communications  
 Blackrock Financial Management Inc  
 Brownstein Hyatt Farber and  
 Schreck, LLP  
 Cars Helping Kids, Inc  
 Champion Bank  
 Colorado Avid Golfer  
 Colorado Business Bank  
 Colorado Capital Bank  
 Colorado Container Corp.  
 Colorado Expression  
 Colorado Family Center

Comcast  
 Cox and Baker, LLC  
 The Crazy Merchant, Inc.  
 DCP Midstream  
 Denver Broncos Football Club  
 Diversified Radiology  
 First American State Bank  
 Fransen-Pittman General Contractors  
 Glacier Publishing Services Inc  
 Global Impact  
 Great Northern  
 Greenberg Traurig  
 Greenfield Ethanol  
 Gutterman Griffiths PC  
 Halliburton  
 HealthONE  
 Holme Roberts and Owen LLP  
 Johnson & Johnson Matching  
 Gifts Program

Kazoo and CO  
 Lesaffre Yeast Corp  
 Macy's West G.I.F.T.  
 MDC/Richmond American Homes  
 Miller & Associates  
 Miller Weingarten Realty, LLC  
 Morton's of Chicago DTC  
 Mountain States Employers  
 Council Inc.  
 Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage  
 New Perspectives, Inc.  
 Nutrceutix Inc  
 Nuveen Investments  
 On Target Mailing Services  
 Parker Spirits and Wines  
 R.W. Beck, Inc.  
 Resources Global Professionals

## Annual Giving

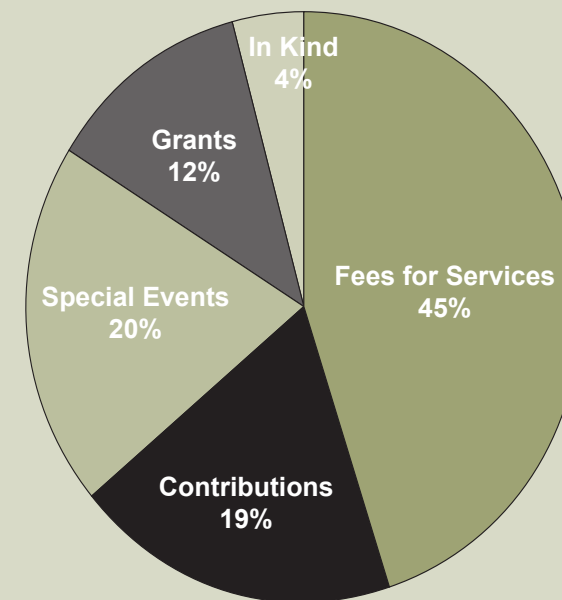
Romani Group Inc.  
 Saunders Construction  
 SMTC Holding Company Inc  
 SOBO 151 Bar & Grill  
 Sonoma Resort at Saddle Rock  
 The South Restaurant  
 Sterling Rice Group  
 Streich and Company, PC  
 Summit Investment Management, LLC  
 Sun Microsystems, Inc.  
 Susan Elkins, LLC  
 Tilley Resources Inc.  
 Treece Alfrey Musat & Bosworth  
 Wagner Equipment Co.  
 Wall Street on Demand  
 Wells Fargo Bank  
 Wenner, Silvestain & Co, LLC  
 WJFJ, Inc

### Gift Card Donations

Sharon Bair  
 The Crazy Merchant  
 Denver Art Museum Volunteers  
 Martha Donovan  
 Troy and Mindy Fischer  
 Shelly Goss  
 Jane Harper  
 Cindie LoSasso  
 Judy Marturano  
 Sally Newcomb\*  
 Robert Omer\*  
 Greg Sutton  
 Lexi Vean  
 Chris Wiley

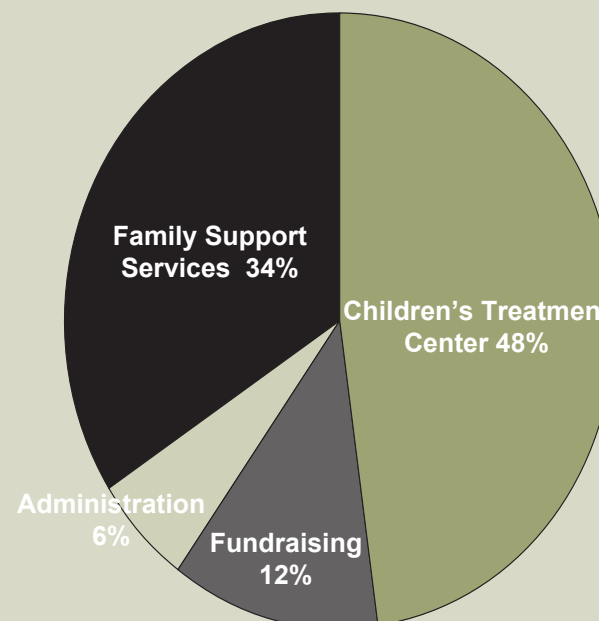
\* Board Member

## 2009 Financial Profile



### Revenue and Support

Fees for Services	\$590,192
Contributions	\$248,986
Special Events	\$260,112
Grants	\$153,000
In Kind	\$69,101
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,321,381</b>



### Expenses

Program Services	
Children's Treatment Center	\$612,809
Family Support Services	\$433,816
Support	
Administration	\$73,057
Fundraising	\$148,125
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,267,807</b>
Change in Net Assets	(\$53,574)
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Beginning of Year	\$2,434,269
End of Year	\$2,487,843

## Kids Helping Kids

- To celebrate her 10th birthday, Emma Nichols asked her birthday party guests to bring a donation to Families First in lieu of a birthday gift!
- Four fourth grade students from Cory Elementary School, Caity Henderson, Anna Learned, Monroe Roush and Christi Vick spearheaded an all-school "piggy bank fundraiser" for Families First. They raised \$1,455 in two weeks and rewarded the class that collected the most with an ice cream party that they paid for out of their own allowances!



Monroe Roush and Christi Vick  
 Cory Elementary Students

- In May we received this note from Temple Sinai Pre-School. "Our Pre-K class of 4 and 5 year olds have been collecting monies throughout the year to contribute to a charity. The kids collect money from doing chores and then bring in the money to donate to a worthy cause. This is our "Tzedakah" project to teach the joy of giving. Our class has collected \$105.25 and would love to donate it to Families First."



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
Paid  
Denver, CO  
Permit # 1719

2163 S. Yosemite St.  
Denver, CO 80231

Return Service Requested



*"This class was very supportive--it provided great information that I wish I would have had before I became a parent." Parent who attended a Parenting Class*



*"I like living at Families First because staff keep me safe here. They're helping my parents learn how to be safe too so I can go back home." Child at the Children's Treatment Center*



*"The group dynamic was great; I learned a lot from the comments and suggestions of others. The facilitator provided a great environment for open, non-judgmental conversation." Parent who attended a Circle of Parents® Support Group.*

*"The best thing about working at The Children's Treatment Center is the change I am able to see in the children from when they first arrive and are terribly frightened to when they begin to trust the staff and for the first time in their lives, begin to feel safe and worthy of adult care and love. Their faces change, their posture changes, their affect brightens...it is an amazing transformation."  
Ashley Sward, Child Treatment Counselor*

Families First is committed to working with parents, children, professionals and others to end the cycle of child abuse. We recognize that it takes all of us working together to achieve our vision of a happy, healthy life for our kids. The staff, volunteers, children and families thank you for your support!