




**Families First**  
Empowering parents. Nurturing children.

Family Support Line  
1-877-695-7996  
Consejos para Familias  
1-866-527-3264

Issue #4 March 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards

**Friday, May 1, 2009**  
**Steppin' Out ...Diamonds & Spurs Returns!**

**Mile High Station**

**Tickets Now AVAILABLE!**

This year's event will feature entertainment by Nashville songwriters Rob Crosby and Billy Montana, line dancing, bull riding and Wii Wild West Guns! It's a high energy party you won't want to miss! Tickets are available starting at \$150 each. For more information visit our website or email [rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)



**Steppin' Out...Diamond & Spurs Online Auction**

**We are excited to announce the launch of our Online Auction March 27-May 8.**

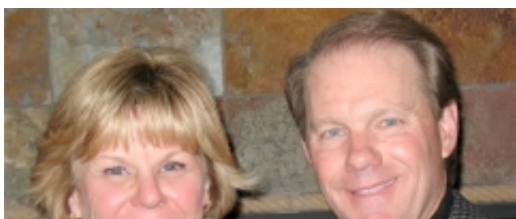
You won't want to miss the chance to bid on over 200 exciting auction items including:

- Out of Town Getaways to Florida, Hawaii and Keystone
- Gift Certificates to restaurants including Venice Ristorante & Wine Bar, Hapa Sushi, Pearl Street Grill and Rodney's
- Unique experiences including a Tasting Party for Eight at Earl's, an hour in an Airplane Simulator, a day at the Colorado State Capitol
- Opportunity to learn Spanish, to scuba dive, to golf in the Beaver Creek Women's Invitational
- Jewelry, art, wine, home furnishings, spa packages and more!
- Preview items that will be available at the May 1st event, including incredible live auction items like a once in a lifetime trip to Buenos Aires and the Argentine Wine country or a one-week stay at the luxury all-inclusive Palace Resort in Mexico.

Visit <http://www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org> to start your bidding!

**From Families First Executive Director, Mary Hencmann**

**ANNOUNCING the 2009 Friend of the Children Award**



Each year, Families First presents its most distinguished recognition - the "Friend of the Children" Award to an individual or couple who has made significant volunteer and financial contributions to our organization. We are pleased to announce that **Barb and Gary Reece** have been selected as our 2009 honorees! The Reece's



will be presented with their award at Steppin'...Out Diamond & Spurs Returns on May 1, 2009 at Mile High Station. We sincerely appreciate the Reece's ongoing commitment to Families First and congratulate them on their award!

Barb and Gary are devoted to ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect, in part, so that we don't have any more stories like Mia's (read below). This month, Families First begins its **"Fill the Gap!"** Campaign. The Reece's have generously offered to match up to \$5000 of the donations we receive in April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) through this campaign. They invite you to join them in making a difference in the life of a child.

*The "Friend of the Children" award is a bronze sculpture, specifically created for Families First by local sculptor Rik Sargent, which represents a child at the heart of the family, the heart of the community and the heart of the future.*

*Past award recipients: Liz and Charlie Steinbrueck, Barbara and Gerry Moore, Karen and Al Schmidt, Deb and Bill MacMillan, Marsha and Emmett Duemke, Jan Dudley, Sugar and Denny Chalus, Gail and Harry Doby, Barb and Greg Ingalls, John Warford, Jodie and Gene Hohensee, Toby and Larry Pippin, Sally Newcomb, Deb and Jerry Sturm.*

## One Child's Story Steppin' Out Helps Mia

One night Mia arrived on our doorstep with her caseworker. She was coming to live at the Children's Treatment Center and had just traveled from another state. All she had with her was a small backpack with a change of clothes. Due to horrible abuse and neglect, she had extreme emotional and behavioral problems. At four years old, she functioned as if she was one. She had very little language, couldn't follow simple directions, hoarded food and would tantrum for hours at a time.

Some of you will attend Steppin' Out this year and you will use this event to introduce your friends and business associates to Families First. I thought you might like to know how Mia benefitted from support we have received in the past. Shortly after she arrived, Mia received:

- new clothes, pajamas, shoes and a jacket
- a few toys and books
- a stuffed animal and her own blanket
- a bed in a room in a house that was safe
- food to eat
- people to take good care of her
- a therapist to help her
- other children to play with

Every year, children like Mia come to live at the Children's Treatment Center. Your support brings comfort and hope to a hurting child. Thank You So Much.



Fill The Gap



**You can help a child like Mia.  
\$29.85 Fills The Gap!**

We need your help to Fill The Gap in funding we need to provide crucial treatment services to children, ages 3-10, who are victims of child abuse. In response to the economy, county agencies are cutting funding and the children are paying the price as costs continue to rise. These children did not ask for the economy to go sour. They only ask that we provide the care, guidance and nurturing needed to return them to healthy families. A donation of just **\$29.85** Fills The Gap for one child for one day. Your small donation can make a huge difference in the life of a child. [To make an online donation. Click here](#)

**FRIENDS EDUCATIONAL LUNCHEON**

**February 11, 2009 Guest Speaker: Dr. Karen Fay, Licensed Clinical Psychologist**

Dr. Fay compared parenting to building a house. It's the child's job to build the house. It's the job of parents to set the foundation and the structure. It's the job of the community to support the parent. Prevention is kindness, empathy, involvement, advocacy, support, and education. April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Why not honor it by looking for a way to support someone you know who is parenting a child or, if you are a parent, by asking someone for the help you would love to have. Think of a time when you...

- Took a meal to a neighbor with a child in the hospital...
- Chatted with a frustrated Mom in the checkout line at Target...
- Told someone about the FREE Families First Support Line...

**These are the kinds of actions that PREVENT child abuse and neglect. THANKS!**

**Cory Elementary sponsors an All-School Fundraiser**

Governing Board member, Pat Trujillo, is a retired DPS Principal. She encouraged us to find out about a wonderful elementary school that includes community involvement as one of its core values - Cory Elementary School. Fourth grade teacher, Debbie Sticker and Principal, Julia Shepherd offered to set up an All-School Fundraiser for Families First January 14-28. Four students spearheaded the effort with passion and enthusiasm - Caity Henderson and Anna Learned, Monroe Roush and Christi Vick (pictured) . These girls demonstrated the sense of caring for others by taking action that makes us excited about our future leaders. We put one of our painted piggy banks in each classroom. Every day students brought in pennies, silver and bills to "feed" their pig. In two



weeks, Cory Elementary raised \$1454.58 for Families First. 100% of the classrooms participated. Wow! Thanks for being another shining example of "Kids Giving to Kids!"

Would you like information on doing a Piggy Bank Fundraiser at your school or business?  
Would you like a speaker to come to your meeting or club?  
Contact [Alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:Alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

## SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

We want to THANK **LaLa'sWine Bar and Pizzeria** for hosting our Partners' Event on Tuesday, March 3. Seventy five people came to enjoy the unseasonably warm weather and the excellent food, wine and company. This fun event proved to be an outstanding way to introduce new friends to Families First and to raise awareness and money for our efforts!

\* \* \* \* \*

On **Friday, May 1 MDIC is hosting a benefit for Families First** and The Boys&Girls Club giving you another great opportunity to have fun while you're supporting Families First!

### **MDIC Gala Spring Fundraiser with Denver's own LANNIE GARRETT**

Music, Dancing, Food, Drinks, FUN!!

**May 1** 6-10pm (Performance starting at 6:30pm)  
Sheraton Fourpoints Southeast (I-25 & Hampden)

**\$45 per ticket\*** By Friday, April 24, please send your check to:  
Harrington, Brester & Clein, PC  
MDIC Spring Fundraiser  
1623 Washington St  
Denver, CO 80203

*\*Make out the **check** for your ticket to **Families First**. The full amount will be donated to us!*

MDIC, the Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary Committee, is a nonprofit group of mental health professionals, lawyers and mediators who help families with custody and divorce issues.

## GRANTS and FOUNDATION SUPPORT

To help improve the lives of children is the goal of the **Prestige Miracles Foundation**. Their recent financial support will be used for therapy, supplies and activities for the children living at Families First. Special thanks to Leann Iacino, CEO of the Prestige Real Estate Group and the Prestige Miracles Foundation.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS** *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in January and February 2009.*

**Individuals** Ann Afton, Anne Casey (PEO), Meggen Edwards (Indie Six), Karen Fisher, Don Gardner, Natalie Johnson, Rita King (PEO), Toby Pippin, Annette Rothman, Jack Smith, Mary Thompson, Marty Tingelhoff, Tanya Vrana, Silvia Young

**Families First is excited to announce the 3rd year of partnering with Swingle Lawn Tree & Landscape Care! Our neighbor, Swingle, makes sure our property is welcoming for parents, children, visitors and staff. They provide routine lawn and tree care, fertilizer treatments, weed control and more making sure our properties are well cared for! Thank you Swingle for being one of our Community Partners.**

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## **SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION**

### **IN HONOR OF:**

Sarah Hite by Ronnie Mitzner  
Deb and Bill MacMillan by Susan Hotz  
Magi Trousdale by Sarah Hite

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Ann Bair by Cindy Bell  
Ann Bair by Kathy Lee  
Kris Franz by Toni Tucker  
Bob Hite by Ronnie Mitzner  
Tim Spurck by Deb and Jerry Sturm

*\*When you give a gift to Families First Special Giving, you honor special people in your life by passing on their spirit of giving. Your gift helps us strengthen families by empowering parents and nurturing children. Your gift is a charitable tax donation. To learn more about Families First or to make a donation, visit our website <http://www.familiesfirstcolorado.org/>.*

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