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Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

Issue #20 March 2011 Editor: Alice Edwards

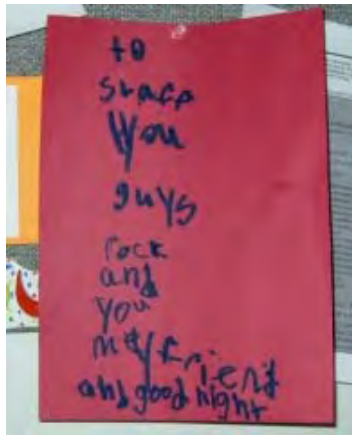
**Friday, April 15, 2011  
 Steppin' Out, Celebrating 25 Years!**

**Infinity Park Event Center  
 Tickets now available!**

Please join us for this "Silver Tie" affair as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of serving children and families in Colorado! The event will feature Ed Greene, of CBS4 and KYGO Radio as our Master of Ceremonies and jazz and swing entertainment by "The Hot Tomatoes." We'll also enjoy interactive food stations with a twist on the classics, a diamond raffle, plus fabulous silent and live auction items! Tickets are available starting at \$86.



Visit our website for more details or email [Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)



**"Like" Families First**

Have you visited Families First's Facebook Page recently? There are great daily postings including lots of parenting tips. It's fun to read comments from those visiting the site. Here's one from February 24 that will touch your heart..

*Just wanted to say thank you i know all the staff has changed but i lived there when i was 7(1998) with my brother who was 3, and have fond memories. i just thought id say thank you for all you did for both of us. you helped keep us together and build a better foundation to our life. we went from families first to a wonderful family who adopted us both. thanks for all u do! Cherina*

If you're on Facebook, [click here](#)\* to "Like" Families First! Spread the word about Families First to your network.

**1987 - A Look Back at our very first Fundraiser**

Over 300 people danced and dined at the first annual "Rags to Riches" fundraiser held at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center on September 19, 1987. This depression-era theme party featured a great silent auction, Linda Farrell from KCNC-TV as commentator and the Denver Public Schools Summer Theater cast from "Annie." Costumes, music and terrific food contributed to conversation and a relaxed atmosphere. "This is really a fun party!" was echoed throughout the evening. The party was also a major financial success raising \$75,000 for Families First. Event chairs were Cindy Anderson and Pat Long.



Karen Schmidt (middle) and friends.  
 Karen was the first President of Friends for Families First.

After this successful event put on by the Board, staff and volunteers in 1987, Friends for Families First was founded\* in 1988 and took over responsibility for putting [on our galas](#). The [subscription](#) is our email list

names have changed through the years from Rags to Riches to Diamonds and Spurs to Motown Downtown to Shake, Rattle and Roll to Steppin Out (since 2006).

*\*Friends of Families First was founded by Judy DeBord, Donna Miedema and Karen Schmidt.*



**Did You Know?** *The adult hugging the child pictured here is our very own Executive Director, Mary Henemann. Mary has been involved with Families First from the very beginning. She started her career with Families First in 1986 as an administrative assistant and a child care worker. At Steppin Out Mary will be honored as the 2011 Recipient of the Families First Leadership Award.*

### In-Kind Donations

February 2011

Deb Sturm  
Gail Doby  
Glory Weisberg  
Kim Schulz  
Marlynn Silver  
Molly Lemmers  
Cathrin Crampton  
Georgeann Becker  
Claire & Nora Poole

Thank you to the generous individuals and companies for your **In-Kind Donations** in February 2011.

The **Student Leadership Group** from **Highline Elementary** hosted a schoolwide **Piggy Bank Fundraiser** throughout the month of February.  
**THANK YOU!**

**Giving Partners** support Families First through donations, contributing resources and raising awareness of our mission. We would like to thank them for their support. In every eNews we recognize one of our partners with a "Logo & Link" so you can learn more about them.



The Crazy Merchant, Colorado Kids 1st, Concerts for Kids, Data USA, Dex One, Environmental Pest Control, Monkey Bizness, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, On Target Mailing, Primrose School of Lone Tree and Castle Rock, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care.

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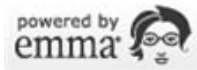
We are grateful to Troy and Mindy Fischer of **On Target Mailing** for donating the cost of addressing, preparing and sending all our mailing including our Steppin' Out invitations this week!

Families First, Inc. | 2163 South Yosemite St. | Denver, CO 80231  
303.745.0327 (phone) | 303.309.3931 (fax) | [www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org](http://www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

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