

 [send this to a friend](#)



Families First
Empowering parents. Nurturing children.

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

Issue #5 June 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards
To learn more about Families First
or to make a donation, visit our website
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

June 12 to July 6 Pigs on Pedestals
Drop by our display
at **Park Meadows Mall!**

July 19 Country Fair Roams Wild
Exclusive after-hours family fun
at **The Wildlife Experience!**



For more information, contact rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

From Families First Executive Director, Mary Hencmann

I am excited to announce that thanks to your support and to the matching dollars from the Reece Family, our **Fill the Gap** campaign for our Children's Treatment Center was very successful - raising over \$18,000! The money from the campaign goes directly to providing a safe, home-like environment to child victims of abuse or neglect.

Are You Ready for SUMMER? Join us for a FREE event for the whole family at **Park Meadows Mall, June 12 to July 6 - Pigs on Pedestals!** Stop by check out this year's PIGS and vote for your favorite! You could win four tickets to the July 19 **Country Fair at The Wildlife Experience** hosted by Friends for Families First. For details on joining FRIENDS and our summer events check out our website. Happy Father's Day to all you Dads!



One Parent's Story Family Support Services

Jennifer Richardson, Families First Program Director for Family Support Services, provides training and technical assistance statewide for Circle of Parents program coordinators and parent educators. The following story was shared by Julia Chenoweth, a parent educator for Lutheran Family Services in Fort Collins. For a full list of current groups and classes, go to www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

I always teach a session about the role of dads in parenting. We watch a great video and talk about the role our own dad (or father figure) played in our lives. Everyone shares a favorite memory of something we did with our dad. Then we spend time talking about "Things we want to Keep" and "Things we want to Change" from how we were parented to how we want to parent. It's a pretty moving class. I had one student tell me that he was so excited after that class that he decided to call his Dad even though they'd had a falling out and hadn't

been in touch in years. They were able to talk on the phone and had a great conversation. He realized that he has a different perspective now that he is a Dad. It gives him a way to better understand his own Dad and some of the decisions he made in the past.

2009 Colorado Fatherhood Rally - June 20, City Park

"We need them (fathers) to realize that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child - It's the courage to raise one." President Barack Obama, Father's Day 2008

Join the "Be There for Your Kids" campaign at the 2009 Colorado Fatherhood Rally on Saturday, June 20 from 10:30am-12:30pm at the Meadows at City Park. The Rally will feature local and national speakers, food, entertainment, and family friendly activities. It will be connected to the National Father's Day rally taking place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial via satellite. **For detailed information about the Fatherhood Rally, [click here](#).**

Be There for Your Kids is The Face of Fatherhood in Colorado.
For more information, go to www.coloradodads.com

FRIENDS Spring Volunteer Luncheon

FRIENDS for Families First's annual Spring Luncheon was held on May 13th at the beautiful Denver Country Club. The Luncheon, chaired by **Toni Tucker** and **Sharon Stuart**, celebrated the contributions FRIENDS members made to Families First this year.



The Luncheon featured speaker, Sofia Chavez-Frederick, is a Holistic Health Care provider who combines ancient Southwest traditions with the modern sciences of Integrative Modalities and Occupational Therapy philosophies. Sofia told us that she walks with one foot in "Both Worlds" characterized by what we call sensory integration issues in Western society.

The **Friends President's Award** was given to **Kristin Stonebarger** for her outstanding contributions this year. Kristin has chaired the Drive for Community \$Change\$ program for two years and has been innovative in getting the community involved with Pigs on Pedestals and the Country Fair. She always has a positive attitude and is passionate about helping families in our community. Congratulations Kristin!

The **Outstanding Volunteer Award** was presented to **Cindie LoSasso** for her long-standing involvement and exceptional commitment to Families First. Cindie, a member for 14 years, was described as "a volunteer who will take on any position and does so with a generous and caring heart." Thank you for all you have done, Cindie!

Program Volunteer Appreciation

Families First staff hosted a lovely dessert buffet for volunteers the evening of May 14 at The Family Center. Everyone was delighted to receive a Families First Cookbook featuring artwork from the children at The Children's Treatment Center created as a special thank you.

Support Line Worker, **Ginny Ennis** was recognized as our **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**. Ginny has volunteered on the Support Line for 13 years and was recognized for her commitment, dedication, empathy, knowledge of resources and eagerness to learn. She is an outstanding volunteer and we are grateful for her many years of service!

St. Gabriel's Church received the 2009 award for **Outstanding Community Support**. St. Gabriel's has donated space for our parenting classes and support groups since 1998. The church provides a welcoming, comfortable and accommodating space for the many families we serve through their facility. Thank you St. Gabriel's Church for your ongoing commitment to Families First!



SWINGLE
Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care
receives the 2009 Families First
Outstanding Corporate Support Award

At the Friends Spring Luncheon on May 13, Families First presented its 2009 **Outstanding Corporate Support Award** to **SWINGLE Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care**. Since 2007, SWINGLE has cared for the lawn, bushes, trees, drainage and irrigation systems at Families First. Each

holiday season SWINGLE uses The Family Center as a training site for their Christmas Decor by SWINGLE staff and decorates the exterior of our building with thousands of LED lights. These lights are beautiful and save 85% on energy costs supporting our efforts to GO GREEN. The award was accepted by SWINGLE CEO, Thomas R. Tolkacz who concluded his remarks by saying, "We at SWINGLE are truly honored and appreciative of this recognition of our partnership with Families First. We hope our annual holiday light display and the landscape care we provide throughout the year bring joy to those you serve as well as your staff, volunteers and the community."

DRIVE for COMMUNITY \$CHANGES
KIDS GIVING to KIDS

Many thanks to Cory Elementary School 4th Grader, **Caity Henderson**, who collected over \$200 in donations for Families First at her 10th Birthday Party in lieu of gifts for herself.



We are also grateful for the generous donation we received from the **Littleton Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL)** accompanied by this note: "After our visit to your facility on March 10th, our NCL group of Daughters and Moms was really impressed with all you do for children and families in need. We could feel the overwhelming support you provide to the community. Thanks to Jenny Peters and her daughter Samantha, a grant was requested and approved from NCL in the amount of \$500. Our group then emptied out our piggy banks and donated funds to match that grant. We are excited and pleased to present \$1202.43 to Families First."

The National Charity League Senior Daughters and Moms/Class of 2009

SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

We would like to thank **MDIC*** for raising \$2700 for Families First at their Spring Fundraiser. Everyone enjoyed the fun evening kicking up their heels with Lannie Garrett.

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

GRANTS and FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Families First was proud to be part of the 2009 Denver Post **SEASON to SHARE**, a McCormick Foundation Fund. We were awarded a \$30,000 grant to support the children in our Children's Treatment Center. A record-breaking \$2,341,500 was distributed to 74 Denver-area nonprofit agencies through this year's campaign. Funds are raised through

reader, community and corporate donations. Each dollar donated is matched at 50 cents by the McCormick Foundation.

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

Cheryl and Destanie Bloeser, Christiana Fladen, Deborah Coyle, Ann Afton, Daphyne Reiff, Linda Mallette, Bill and Sandi Kuhn, Phyllis Milway, Marlynn Silver, Cathy Cook, Margit and Caity Henderson

Daisy Girl Scout Troop #252, Lionheart Foundation

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

Bart Dean by Barbara Gallagher

IN HONOR OF:

George Koops Lord by Katrina Benes
Nancy Bernstein by Cathy and Jim Kaufman
Nancy Bernstein by Stuart and Pamela Weinroth
Martha Donovan by Wenner, Silvestain & CO, LLC
Our Godchildren* by Dean and Nicolette Phillips
*Secia, Nico, Kati, Ilona, Andrea, Photi, Alex, Jack

**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 www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org*

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

powered by
emma 