



Families First

Family Support Line
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1-866-527-3264
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

Issue #24 August 2011 Editor: Alice Edwards

TWO CHILDREN'S STORY!!

Sisters Sara and Stephe have been with us for the past two years. They had multiple problems when they first arrived including severe cognitive, physical and social delays and extreme behaviors – all the result of suffering through their early years in an environment of neglect, homelessness and abuse.



Sara and Stephe were so accustomed to living in a setting where hitting was acceptable that they hurt each other frequently at first. Our staff worked patiently with them separately and jointly to help them learn to value and care about themselves and about each other as sisters.

The girls had never lived in a stable, homelike environment so they had to learn daily skills like showering, cleaning their rooms, passing food at the dinner table and playing simple games. Their speech was so delayed that they had index cards with pictures on them to communicate their needs.

Not long after Sara and Stephe came, their parents' rights were permanently terminated. Part of our job was to help them grieve the loss of the only parents they knew and then to accept and prepare them for the idea of being part of a new family someday. It was a long haul for them. We are so proud of them and the extraordinary progress they have made - catching up at school, caring about each other and talking a mile a minute.

Help us celebrate! Stephe and Sara have just been matched with adoptive parents! Once a period of transition is complete, they will be living together as sisters in a family with other siblings and a host of animals....horses, dogs, cats, chickens and more! They are excited and anxious to be on their way...and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to help them get there!

Guests are welcome to attend the **FRIENDS for Families First Annual Membership Luncheon**. Tuesday, September 13 from 11am to 1pm. Contact Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org for details.

Spanish Circulo de Padres Support Group started on August 31.
Spread the word to the Spanish speaking parents and caregivers you know.
Aurora Community Connection (Colfax and Elmira St)
10-week series focusing on discipline, communication and healthy family relationships.
Call 303-617-2582. Registration is \$10 and includes childcare.

On a recent **parenting class scholarship request**, Susan, a single mom, indicated, "I need this scholarship because I am a college student, a single parent and I am not working at this time. I would love to take this class so I can learn how to be an effective and healthy parent. I want to learn how to be a better mom." We're glad we can support Susan in her desire to improve her parenting skills!

YOU can help parents like Susan too. **To donate:** Go to www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org or send your check to Families First, 2163 S. Yosemite St, Denver, CO 80231

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN and KINSHIP PROVIDERS CONFERENCE

October 15, 2011 9am to 3pm
Thornton, Colorado \$5 adult \$3 child
To register or for more information,
call Family Tree at 303-412-7855 ext 24

*This conference is held annually with the support of
Families First, Catholic Charities,
the City of Thornton and the State of Colorado.*



Nationwide more than six million children are not living in households headed by their parents. Instead they are living with grandparents or other relatives. Drugs, illness, death and abuse are the leading causes in this shift for families.



"FORE" Families First..... A very special Golf Tournament!

The 18th Annual "Fore" Families First Golf Tournament in Memory of Sugar Chalus was held on August 22nd at Valley Country Club. The 100 participants enjoyed the Hawaiian themed event (one of Sugar's favorite places). Many thanks to our tournament chairs, **Sally and Gary Newcomb**, our honorary chair, **Denny Chalus** and our golf committee, **Daphyne Reiff, Nancy Bernstein, Paulee Brody, Martha Donovan, Deb Sturm, Jane Wilson, Gene Hohensee, Barb and Gary Reece**. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped with tournament registration, monitored contest holes, took photographs and helped make this event a true success!

Pictured: Dave Korn in his Hawaiian shirt!

With the help of **our sponsors**, we raised over **\$40,000** to support Families First's efforts to prevent child abuse and treat young abused children. **THANK YOU!**

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Sandy and Gary Autrey, Barbara and Gerry Moore, Martha and Larry Donovan,
Phyllis and Bill Madden, Kaye and Mike Hurtt, Friends of Sugar

IN-KIND DONATIONS

We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies who provided us with in-kind donations in July and August 2011.

Molly Lemmers, Amy Ascencio and Girl Scout Troop #4327, Jennifer Richardson, Toni Tucker, Jane Diamond, Rebecca Aragon, Jim and Po Higgins, Margaret Roberts, Cristina Hank, Kelle Palka, Mike Neisen, Office Max

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Al Schmidt by Sue Burns
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In Memory Of:

JesAnee Bitter by an anonymous donor

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 and is a charitable tax donation. To make a donation, visit www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

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