



Issue #8 Oct 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards

To learn more about Families First visit our **new website www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org**



**FROM the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mary Hencmann**

After much anticipation and hard work, we are pleased to announce the arrival of our new website! We hope you'll enjoy the easy navigation, updated information and welcoming images and stories. As you can imagine many hours went into the planning and execution of our new site. We want to thank everyone who gave us ideas and insights, including our marketing consultant, Lida Citroen of Lida360. Thanks also to Creative Concepts & Design for donating all their web design services. Visit www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org and let us know what you think! Are you on Facebook? We are too! Check out our Facebook page and become a Fan of Families First.

October marks the beginning of our fiscal year and the new term for our Governing Board. We are delighted to welcome Barbara Reece as our incoming Board President. For the past 2 years, it has been my pleasure to work closely with retiring Board President, Sally Newcomb. Sally, thank you for your support and unwavering enthusiasm for making life better for Colorado children. I also want to thank retiring Board members, Jeff Modesitt and Mary Margaret Palms for their commitment as board members. We'll miss you.



**One Child's Story
Dreams Really Do Come True**

When Thomas first arrived at the Children's Treatment Center, he did a lot of screaming, running around the house, hitting, scratching and spitting. Although he was five, he had very little language...about a dozen understandable words. He had trouble sharing with or being around other children, but eventually got comfortable with another child, Tessa, who was a year older.

Last April, Tessa moved to live with an adoptive family. Before she moved, her adoptive parents spent many hours at Families First getting to know about Tessa and the children she lived with. When she moved, Tessa instantly gained five siblings, a set of parents and a farm

full of animals. She did remarkably well with her new family and still mentioned Thomas frequently. Thomas missed Tessa as well.

Months after Tessa's departure Thomas was surprised when her adoptive parents came back to visit and spend more time at the Children's Treatment Center. He was even more surprised and thrilled to learn that they had come back to take him into their family! Thomas moved to the farm last week. We know that both children now have a loving, accepting family and will have good and wholesome childhoods as brother and sister.

For the past 2 1/2 years, 100% of the children who have been discharged from the CTC have gone to forever families either by returning to biological family or relatives or by being adopted.

More than 45% of abused children are under the age of 6.

[Click Here](#) to learn how you can **Give the Gift of Hope** to children and parents in our community this holiday season.

Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Dinner

Last year Families First volunteers contributed **4000 volunteer hours** - the equivalent of \$80,000 in donated labor! On October 8 at the Families First Annual Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Dinner, we honored and thanked Children Treatment Center Staff Aides, Parent Educators, Children's Group Leaders, Support Line volunteers and Families First staff members. Our speaker was Jade Thomas, Executive Director of Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, who detailed the importance of community collaboration in making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. She concluded her remarks by saying, "Children deserve healthy, safe, happy families." At Families First, we couldn't agree more! We work together every day to make it happen! Would you like to join us? Volunteer opportunities are available. To learn more, please contact Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.



Support Line volunteers pictured: Patty Michalek, Ginny Ennis, Karen Koop, Bev McAdam, Mary Lester, Sarah Bergman, Norma Kovacs



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

Unseasonal Colorado weather didn't spoil the fun



for the golfers supporting Families First at "FORE!" Our annual golf tournament was held on October 5th in memory of Sugar Chalus. This year's event had a Hawaiian theme since Hawaii was one of Sugar's favorite places. Guests loved their colorful leis and the signature drink created for our event.

The Ridge at Castle Pines North provided a gorgeous setting and a memorable course. Everyone enjoyed relaxing together in the intimate clubhouse for the live and silent auction, dinner and awards party. Many thanks to our tournament chairs, Barb and Gary Reece, our honorary chair, Denny Chalus and our golf committee, Sally Newcomb, Daphyne Reiff, Nancy Bernstein, Deb Sturm, Cheryl Paxton, Jennifer Atkinson, Janet Spurck and Martha Donovan.

With the help of **our sponsors**, we raised over \$42,000 to support Families First's efforts to prevent child abuse and treat young abused children. THANK YOU!

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Barbara and Gerry Moore
Phyllis and Bill Madden
Mary Margaret and Ed Palms
Tony's Market

*Pictured: Back Row - Rachel Merkel, Debbie Korbelik, Nancy Bernstein, Sally Newcomb, Jo Blum, Daphyne Reiff, Barb Reece, Gary Reece, Alice Edwards, Cheryl Paxton, Aldona Seymour
Front Row/Seated: Harriet Beago, Janet Spurck, Martha Donovan, Melissa Jacob*

SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

Who supports Families First? OUR COMMUNITY! Businesses, Schools, Community Groups, Individuals. TOGETHER we make a difference!

Administaff is committed to community involvement. Staff members are encouraged to recommend the groups they want to support and then a calendar of monthly giving opportunities is created. Families First is the only nonprofit to be on the Administaff calendar every quarter! Feeding "Admini-pig" (pictured) is part of their quarterly Sales & Service Meeting/Potluck. At the August 20th luncheon Sandy Johnson (pictured) and Bryanna Gartner presented Families First with a \$500 check – in addition to the "Admini-pig" donation.



The campaign benefits of the September 2009 matching campaign by **Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage** go beyond the money raised for Families First. Together we raise awareness about Families First throughout Colorado. Here are some of the examples: A teacher in Colorado Springs requested a supply of Family Support Line magnets to distribute at her school. A business owner in Parker contacted us because she's been looking for a charity to partner with. A divorced Dad from Aspen called the Support Line for some guidance about his 15 year old daughter who had been caught shoplifting. Thank you to the Isely family, owners of Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Nancy Flynn, Director of Marketing and every store manager and cashier throughout Colorado for helping us achieve our vision of a community that nurtures children, empowers parents and strengthens families.

Long time supporter, **Toni Tucker**, recently hosted a sponsored fundraiser for Families First at Sansone's Bistro to celebrate her birthday. Toni asked guests to donate to Families First in lieu of gifts. The fun-filled event raised \$600. Thank You, Toni!

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

Individuals Lonn Leone, Mark and Lexina Cose, Bill and Phyllis Madden, Lee Moench, Regina Smith, Susan Holloran, Mary Margaret Palms, Nancy Ducey, Janice Halstead, Debbie Owen, Kathleen Larsen, Karen Fisher, Merrill Linton, Lee Phillips, Jeannette Richardson, Mary Rogers, Amanda Waleski, Kim Edgerton, Danny and Tanya Dorrin, Mike Neisen, Cecilia Moore, Mary Thompson, Girdy Jones, Charmaine Ellison

Community Partners Swingle, Dex Media, On Target Mailing, Data USA, ESCO Mechanical Services, Environmental Pest Control

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

Chuck Clement by PBJ Reece Charitable Fund
 Tayo Fichtl by PBJ Reece Charitable Fund
 Stanley Gardenswartz by Sarah Hite
 Stanley Gardenswartz by Larry and Martha Donovan

IN HONOR OF:

Carol Haycock by Sean and Amy Erickson

**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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