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# Families First

Family Support Line  
1-877-695-7996  
Consejos para Familias  
1-866-527-3264  
[www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org](http://www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

## Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

Issue #25 November 2011 Editor: Alice Edwards

**"We are judged by what we finish,  
not what we start."**

*-Anonymous*

The Family Center was built in 2006 fulfilling a 20 year dream - a building dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It's a warm, welcoming place where parents gain a sense of community as they strengthen their families through education and support. We've been given a wonderful opportunity. A private donor has offered us a matching \$25,000 challenge grant to pay off the mortgage on the Family Center and begin our 26th year debt free. *Pictured: Mary Henemann cutting the ribbon to the new Family Center with the children living at the Children's Treatment Center.*



Inspired by this generous gift, we are initiating a "Burn the Mortgage Campaign"! The freedom from our mortgage payment will mean a savings of real dollars that we'll use to serve even more families. To help us meet this challenge we are creating a "Pathway to Prevention Walkway" and offering commemorative 12 x 12 bricks for a minimum \$1000 donation. The newly landscaped area will begin at the Children's Treatment Center, cross the road and end at the Family Center. The symbolism is an unmistakable and powerful reminder of our mission.

You've been part of Families First past and present....help us build a path to its future.  
[Click Here learn more about how you can buy a brick.](#)



### One Parent's Story

This week Gloria, the mother of four year old twin girls and a two year old son called to find a "parenting through divorce" class. During the conversation Dee, our Support Line volunteer, learned that Gloria was a victim of domestic violence. With a broader view of the stress Gloria was under, Dee was able to offer her information about legal resources, domestic violence support, food and cash assistance - all available to her through various agencies in our community - in addition to the parenting class information she wanted. Gloria was so grateful for this help explaining how overwhelmed and alone she had been feeling. Dee encouraged her to call again ... anytime.

Help us spread the word! The Family Support Line touches lives!  
We're a great resource for all Colorado parents. **1.800.CHILDREN**

## New Support Line Coordinator - Sarah Senst

I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with families and to be associated with Families First! I'm a Denver native who graduated from both Denver Public Schools and CSU. I recently returned to Denver after 17 years in Arizona. I'm the mother of three with a background in business, parent coaching, volunteering and working with high needs kids. My mission is to touch the ever-growing number of Colorado families through our Family Support Line and to offer valuable experiences to our volunteers who help them.



*If you like to give of yourself and want to help parents find community resources, consider becoming a Support Line Volunteer. You don't need to be an expert! We will train you. To learn more, contact [Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)*



## We Appreciate our Volunteers

Congratulations to Daphne Reiff and Nancy Bernstein who were recognized at the September **Friends for Families First** Membership Luncheon. Daphne received the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award and Nancy received the President's Award.

Welcome 2011-12 Friends Co-Presidents RaeAnn Belknapp and Kristin Stonebarger. Many thanks to retiring President Carol Brewka.

On October 12 Families First staff and volunteers were treated to dinner and a round-table discussion on current topics impacting children, parents and families at the annual **Program Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Dinner**. Director of Volunteers and Special Events, Rachel Merkel, reported that volunteers donated 5,527 hours of service valued at \$115,237 (\$20.85 per hour) in FY 2010 that ended September, 2011. Rachel concluded, "I want to point out that it takes all of us to make Families First effective and to make our vision a reality. So thank you to everyone who believes in the important work we do."

We would like to thank our **Governing Board** for their hours of service as we welcome new board members, Kathryn DeBord, Sally Hallingstad and Debra Perry.

Save the Date! **Steppin Out at the Ritz with Glitz** March 16, 2012

## THANK YOU to our Community Partners

**Lowe's Heros** - September 17, 2011 Workday.  
Thank you for the new sandbox and benches at the Children's Treatment Center.

**National Charity League - Class of 2012**  
Thanks for donating and installing an organization system in the closet in the Children's Group Room and for the yard clean-up at the Children's Treatment Center.



*Does your family or business have a holiday tradition of extending a helping hand?*

*Do you have people on your holiday list that are difficult to shop for?*

Consider giving the ***Gift of Hope*** to a child or family in need this holiday season. It gives you an opportunity to make a direct impact on our programs by providing food, milk and clothing for our kids, adopting a family in need or contributing toys for our annual Holiday Shop. We are happy to acknowledge any gift you make 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' of a loved one with a card.

*This is gift giving that REALLY makes a difference!*

[Click here for your Gift of Hope Catalog](#)

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

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

Elly Baldwin, Sharon Bair, Norma Bettinger, Michelle Buchi, Betty Burgeron, Cathrin Crampton, Kimberly Douglas, Emma Eagen, Alice Edwards, Troy and Mindy Fischer, Kimberly Forrest, Amy Fowler-Funk, Shelly Goss, Michele Gutierrez, Jean Pryor, Ilene Rapozo, Dee Thornton, Glory Weisberg

## GIVING PARTNERS

Thank you for supporting Families First through donations and by raising awareness of our mission.

The Crazy Merchant, Inc, Colorado Kids 1st, Concert for Kids, Data USA, Dex One, Environmental Pest Control, Hablano Hoy, Monkey Bizness, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Primrose School Lone Tree & Castle Rock, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care

## SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

### **In Honor Of Sarah Hite:**

Ginny Ennis, Cathy Hollis, Bart and Katie Johnson, Lucy Kissinger, Karen Koop, Mary Lester, Betty Miller, Judy Otis, Gary and Barb Reece, Karen Robison, Susan Wagner-Ellis

*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 <http://www.familiesfirstcolorado.org> *FirstColorado.org*

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