



Issue #9 Dec 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards
To learn more about Families First
visit our *new* website
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org



FROM the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Mary Hencmann

Our holiday eNews is filled with pictures and stories of people who are making a difference here at Families First. We appreciate the many people in our community who do so much throughout the year for the children, parents and families we serve.

Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season. *Mary*

ONE FAMILY's STORY Dreams Really Do Come True

A bright spot in each holiday season is catching up with old friends. At Families First we always enjoy it when we get an update on children who once lived at our Children's Treatment Center (CTC). Last year we heard from a family who adopted a brother and sister who lived at the CTC for 3 months in 1999 . Here's what their mother wrote in her holiday note. "Amy is graduating from high school this year and will be off to college next Fall to become a Special Education teacher. Ben is in middle school. He plays 4 instruments and marches with the high school marching band. Thank you for all you did for our children."

The Children's Treatment Center has been "home" for many children who needed a safe place to heal, learn to trust adults and understand that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. We are happy to report that 100% of the children who have been discharged from the CTC in recent years have gone on to a permanent placement.

You can save on your taxes by making a donation to Families First!
[Click here](#) to learn how.



Give the Gift of Hope Families First's Holiday Program

The Holidays are a time when HOPE is emphasized and expectation is heightened. It is often very difficult for families with low incomes, or for single mothers and fathers to feel that HOPE and fulfill the desires of their children. By participating in one of Families First's Holiday Programs you can Give the Gift of Hope to children and parents in our community and help alleviate some of the stress associated with the Holidays. The aim of our Holiday Program is to strengthen families while connecting them to the generous gifts of donors. Here's how you can help.

\$25 GIFT CARDS We give Gift Cards to parents from our classes and groups so they can shop themselves for the gifts on their children's wish lists!

GIVING TREE [Click here](#) for a list of specific needs of the children living at our Children's Treatment Center and the children who attend our Children's Groups.

Thank you for opening your heart and supporting children and families!

*Please mail or deliver all donations to The Family Center by **December 11**.*

Email Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org for more information!

Decorating the Children's Center FRIENDS have fun all year! Join Us!

Looking for a way to join with other people who are helping children and families in our community? **Become a FRIEND.**

[Click here](#) **2009 FRIENDS Photo Gallery**



*Decorating the Children's Treatment Center:
Amy Donovan, Nancy Bernstein, Martha Donovan*

FRIENDS was founded in 1988 and is committed to assisting Families First by recruiting volunteers, raising funds and promoting community awareness. This group of over 300 dedicated individuals works to improve the lives of children and families in our community by giving generously of their time and resources. Friends annually raise over \$200,000 for Families First through special events. It's easy to join Friends. Just go to our website or contact Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

Starting in 2010 we will be offering **TOURS of Families First** on the **first Wednesday** of every month at **11:30am** and **5:30pm**. We would like to invite you to come and see what we're all about. To make reservations, contact alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org



SWINGLE Decorating The Family Center Lights Brighten up the Holidays!

A special thank you to our neighbor, **Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care**, for decorating the outside of the Family Center for the holidays again this year! After many hours of labor stringing lights on the roof and around trees and windows, our Family Center is ready for the holiday season. In mid-December volunteers from Beacon Communications will decorate the outside of the Children's Treatment Center and members of FRIENDS will decorate the inside.

Why not drive by and let our holiday lights brighten your mood while we envision a world where all children feel safe and warm.

For more information on having Swingle, Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care brighten up your home or business for the holidays please visit their website at www.myswingle.com

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

THANKS to the dedicated individuals from our community who serve on our Boards.

2010 GOVERNING BOARD Kittie Arnold,
*James Bailey, Martha Bauer, Nancy Bernstein,
*Cathrin Crampton, Stephen Dietrich, Larry Donovan, Ashley Eller, Jodie Hohensee,
David Korn, Sally Newcomb, Bob Omer, *Cheryl Paxton, Toby Pippin, Loren Priest, Barb
Reece, Daphyne Reiff, Rick Seymour, Irma Smith, Melody Staffen, Pat Trujillo, *Karen
White
*new members



2010 FRIENDS BOARD Cheryl Paxton, Carol Brewka, Melissa Jacob, Denise McClard, Daphyne Reiff, Toni Tucker, Sharon Stuart, Martha Donovan, Sally Newcomb,

Nancy Bernstein

THANKS to the many groups of friends who have decided to make a donation to Families First in lieu of holiday or birthday gift-giving.

- *The Wonderful Walking Women of Heritage Eagle Bend
- *Friends of Kathy Luth who say "Happy Birthday, Kathy!"
- *Diana Love's monthly food, wine and fellowship group
- *The "Day Group" of Docents from the Denver Art Museum.

THANKS to the Lowe's employees from the Havana Store in Aurora - Clint, Kim, Donna, Krista, Ginger, Jay, Dan, Mike – and Don from Focus on Floors. We appreciate all your help pulling together estimates for the Lowe's grant!

THANKS for the Philoptochos Ladies Society for choosing Families First to receive the proceeds of the December 20 Holiday Bake Sale at the Greek Orthodox Church.

THANKS to Southwest Seratoma for supporting our parenting classes.

THANKS to Monkey Bizness for the Free Family Passes.

Lowe's (Havanna) for the Children's "Let's Build It Together" Craft Kits.

Sonoma Resort at Saddle Rock for the Children's Art Supplies.

THANKS to Smoky Hill teacher, Lorraine Cortese and the students from her Family and Consumer Sciences class for focusing your fundraising efforts on Families First again this holiday season.

THANKS to Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage – and all you shoppers! - for donating \$28,311 to Families First from its September Fundraiser. Congratulations to the Top Store – South Aurora, Hampden & Chambers, Manager: Heather Ruch. The Isely family, owners of the Natural Grocers chain, Corporate Marketing Director, Nancy Flynn, and all store managers and cashiers are to be commended for their outstanding efforts to help Families First support the families and children of Colorado!

IN-KIND DONATIONS *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in October and November 2009. After the new year, we will be mailing a printed newsletter acknowledging holiday giving.*

Individuals Elly Baldwin, Temple Bell, Joyce Lookingbill, Kris Hillman, Molly Lemmers, Goril Jones, Sharon Bair, Barbara Ferrell, Dorothy Fine, Patti Vondra, Cathrin Crampton, Pat Grace, Tracy Donovan, Melody Staffen Amyra Phillips and James Andersen, Barbara Reece, Ann Kuharski

Community Partners Swingle, Dex Media, On Target Mailing, Data USA, ESCO

Mechanical Services, Environmental Pest Control

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

Owen Miedema by Ron and Sheila Curlee

IN HONOR OF:

Kathy Luth by Dianne Hirsch, Kathleen Spenard, Patricia Hutchens
Liza Kirkpatrick, Michelle Olson

Toni Tucker by Robert & Barbara Sample, Jane Diamond, Sharon Stuart,
Russell & Catherine Jones, Leonard & Eileen Ingui,
David & Janet McGaw, James & Carol Hallstrom, Lynn Meyer,
Joleen Murray, Donna Fisher, Melanie Overley, Nancy Rasser,
Jerald & Bette Cox, Joan Biendorff, Lynnett Smith,
Warren & Dorothy Cramer, Kathleen Wallace, Jo Blum,
John & Mary Hencmann

**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/>*

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

