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Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

Issue #26 Dec 2011 Editor: Alice Edwards

Be part of Colorado's amazing day of giving
COLORADO GIVES DAY - DECEMBER 6
 Go to <http://www.GivingFirst.org/FamiliesFirstColorado>
for the 24 hours of December 6
or before to SCHEDULE your donation FOR Dec 6



In the past 25 years hundreds of young children have lived at our Children's Treatment Center. Every child is dear to us. Their histories of abuse and abandonment followed by months of struggle to cope and move forward touch our hearts. For each child there are often other and equally compelling stories of the Case Workers - who place them and oversee their care and progress - and the parents who adopt them. This holiday season we are happy to share some of the kind things they have to say highlighting the excellence of our staff.

*Our new son joined our family formally on National Adoption Day, November 18, 2011.
 Such excitement! **Christiana Fladen - adoptive parent***

*Working with Families First in the transition of our new son has been an unexpected joy.
 In a time that could have been very demanding and stressful, we were amazed at the personal time and interest the staff at Families First put into preparing our son to join the family and start his new life. We cannot thank them enough for the nonstop encouragement, care and support we have received both before and after placement.
Chuck and Kelly Anderson - adoptive parents*

Through a nurturing, therapeutic and supportive environment, Families First was able to successfully transition three children on my caseload into their permanent families within the last two months. While children reside at Families First they are given the tools necessary to heal from trauma and grow by leaps and bounds. The staff at Families First has the most difficult job of loving and caring for these children as though they are their own, yet helping prepare the children to move to adoptive families, return home or live with relatives.

*Denver Department of Human Services appreciates all they do for our children.
Meredith Halstead - Senior Social Caseworker*

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Give the **GIFT of HOPE**
to the children at our Children's Treatment
Center
or to a family in need this holiday season.
[Click here to learn how.](#)

Bring joy to a happy child and a grateful parent!

Flip through our Gift Catalog and find out what a \$25 gift can do!

Donations must be received **by December 19.**

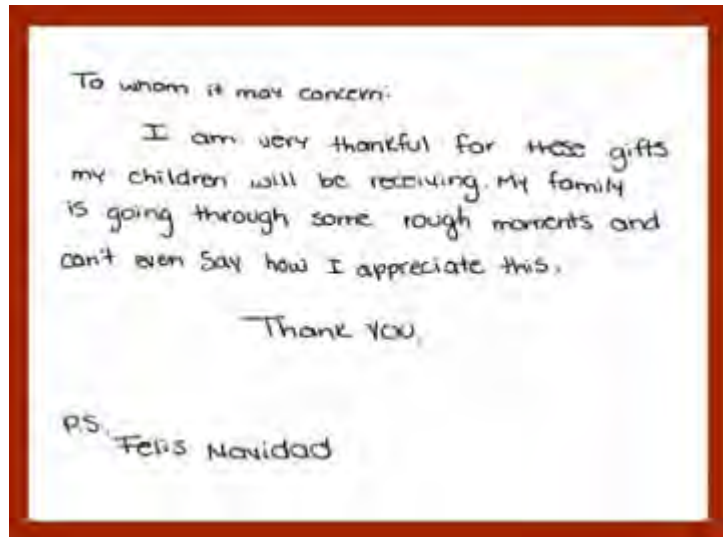
Items can be mailed or dropped off at our Family Center, Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm.

Families First, 2163 S. Yosemite St, Denver, CO 80231

Email Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org for more information!

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

One of our favorite days of the year is the December day we transform the whole lower level of our Family Center into a **Holiday Shop** with floor to ceiling toys!



Friends members join our staff in creating tempting displays of toys, books, games, clothing and other holiday delights on tables labeled by boy or girl and a child's age. Community volunteers arrive an hour before we open our doors with gift wrap, ribbons and bows ready to wrap each gift as parents fill out gift cards. It's our way of sharing the joy of the holidays with the families we've come to care so much about. Thanks for being a community that cares!

Every year Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care uses the Family Center as a training site for their Holiday Lighting and Décor Services. They always create a beautiful display....we

can't wait to turn on the lights! Swingle has been recognized as the nation's top company for residential Holiday decor and Holiday lighting. If you are in need of outdoor Holiday decor services, check out Swingle!



Al Schmidt believed in Families First and it is with heartfelt sadness that I say good-bye. He and his wife Karen have been involved with us since opening the Children's Center.

As many of you know, Karen was one of the founders of "Friends." In my different roles with Families First over the past 25 years I knew I could count on Al for a warm smile, a big hug and always words of wisdom and support. He was a great friend of Families First

and will be missed. Thank you for honoring his memory with your gift.
Regards, Mary Hencmann

Lucy Allen, Alan and Beverly Ambler, Gary and Donna Antonoff, Nancy Bakewell, Dennis and Barbara Baldwin, Phyllis Beattie, Richard and Judy Billings, Edward and Jean Bolle, Charles and Betty Brega, Nancy Brittain, Jerri Farris Brummond, Miles and Jan Cortez, Judy and Frank DeBord, Michael and Sara Dimanna, Phil and Corry Doty, Charles and Barbara Ferguson, Friends for Families First, Russel and Margaret Givens, Willard and Marjorie Guard, Alan and Janene Guzowski, John and Mary Hencmann, Sarah Hite, Robert and Elaine Holmes, Richard and Patricia Iannacito, Edward and Sharon Karnes, Roger and Sue Kinney, William and Nola Lazzeri, Ronald and Jeri Loser, Don and Patty Lujan, LCC Ladies League, Gerald and Barbara Moore, Arthur and Mary Otten, Robert and Shirley Pierce, Ruthanne Polidori, R.E. Puckett, John and Linda Roberts, Leo and Elizabeth Rostermundt, Thomas and Marcia Seawell, Richard and Aldona Seymour, Donald and Arlene Shwayder, Frank and Judith Spratlen, Robert and Janet Spurck, Bob and Melody Staffen, John and Wendy Trigg, George and Kay Wilson

We're finalizing our plans to burn the mortgage on the Family Center in January. Thanks to your support, we've almost reached our goal.

Want to help by adding your brick to our [Pathway to Prevention? Click here...](#)

Families First has earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal, demonstrating its commitment to transparency of programs and finances in support of its mission.

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

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

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