



Families First

Family Support Line
1-877-695-7996
Consejos para Familias
1-866-527-3264
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

Issue #11 February 2010 Editor: Alice Edwards

Become a Fan of Families First on Facebook!

Steppin'Out ... at the Kentucky Derby!
Save the Date! April 30, 2010

We are currently gathering
Silent Auction Items for Steppin'Out.
Gift Certificates from restaurants,
Event Tickets, Wine, Private Parties and
Weekend Getaway Packages are always popular.



Would you like to **Sponsor a Corporate Table?**

To make a donation or to request sponsorship information,
please contact Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org by March 12.

March 3 **FIRST WEDNESDAY TOURS** 11:30am & 5:30pm

March 6 **FAMILY STORY TIME** - Saturday 1-2pm
Free Family Fun! Stories, Crafts, Snacks!

To make reservations for these Family Center events,
please contact Alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

Families First Parenting Classes!

After taking one of our parenting classes, a young Dad thanked the instructor saying, "Most of us are not born knowing these ideas. If more people would take this class, there would be fewer frustrated children and parents. It made me understand I'm not alone."



On February ninth, **9News** contacted Families First. They wanted to run a story on a local agency doing something to prevent child abuse since they had recently reported on three local children who had died as a result of abuse. It was the lead story on the six o'clock news that night! Click here www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org News/Events..Press Releases.

Fred Buschhoff was teaching a Constructive Parenting class at the Family Center that day and is featured in the 9News story. Parents love the practical tips they

get in Fred's class.

- Be a friend....but remember that you are the parent.
- Help kids handle their own problems. If they don't succeed...they grow.
- No-No-No doesn't work. Incorporate Yes-Yes-Yes!
- Be involved with your children – especially during positive times.

Several of our parent educators, including Fred, have written parenting books. To get a book or sign up for one of our parenting classes, call 303.745.0327.

Due to increased demand, **Families First expanded its offerings of parenting classes in 2010!** We currently offer eight different parenting classes on topics ranging from Parenting PreSchoolers and Adolescents to General Parenting. Classes are open to anyone parenting a child and are presented at five locations throughout the Denver Metro Area. Children of parents attending a class are invited to attend a free Children's Group. We have a 92% completion rate on all of our Parenting Classes. *For a complete class list, please visit our website.*



We would like to thank the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, the Vodafone Americas Foundation and the ECA Foundation for their generous support of our parenting classes in our current fiscal year.



MONKEY BIZNESS, an exciting concept in children's amusement, is owned and operated by local Coloradoans Jason and Jennifer Paulo. "Kids never get bored of climbing, bouncing, swinging, sliding and basically...going bananas at Monkey Bizness! We believe in providing wholesome, activity-based play and party facilities to get kids off the couch and exercising their bodies and minds."

A cornerstone of the Paulo's business philosophy is the importance of giving back to the community. They generously support local schools, churches and community groups - donating free birthday parties and passes for Open Playtimes. In December, they invited the children from our Children's Treatment Center to come to Big Monkey Bizness for a "pizza and play" day. On March 2, parents from our classes and groups have been invited to bring their families for a free evening of family fun!

In 2009, Jennifer saw information about Families First when she was shopping at her local Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage store. She and Jason had been looking for a mid-sized charity in the Denver area to partner with. They thought Families First sounded just right since we share the common belief that every child deserves a safe, happy childhood and that all parents deserve support from the community in doing the most important job in the world - raising their children!

Monkey Bizness is committed to raising awareness about Families First services and to raising funds to support our mission through special events to be held throughout the year at Monkey Bizness locations. **In April, they are doing a month-long "Pinwheels for Prevention" fundraiser for us.** Please stop by!

Monkey Bizness is located in five states with four locations around the Denver Metro Area. Check their website to book children's birthday parties and for Open Play days/times. www.monkeybizness.com

Giving Partners are businesses that have named Families First as their Charity Partner for ongoing awareness and fundraising programs that they sponsor throughout the year. We encourage you to support their businesses in recognition of their commitment to Colorado families. Together we are a caring community. For a complete list of our **Giving Partners** visit our website .. *Get Involved.*

June 19 - Katelynn Stinnett Memorial Run

In June 2009, motorcycle riders hosted the first Katelynn Stinnett National Memorial Ride following two year old Katelynn's death at the hands of her babysitter. The ride is now an annual event to remember Katelynn and all children who have suffered from child abuse and neglect and to raise funds for local charities. We are proud to announce that Families First was chosen as the charity partner of the 2010 Central Colorado Katelynn Stinnett Memorial Run.



Michelle Sills is the tireless coordinator of this event. Her daughter and mother are featured in the 9News story gathering piggy banks to take to friends and businesses who are event sponsors. Between now and June they'll be promoting the run and encouraging people to donate to Families First with their loose change. As Michelle says "YOU can make a difference! TOGETHER we will make a HUGE difference!! THANK YOU for helping even the smallest voice be heard."

For more information, go to www.ksruncentralco.com.

To register, go to www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org. News/Events...Sponsored Events.

IN-KIND DONATIONS *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in January 2010.*

Sally Newcomb, Molly Lemmers, Kris Hillman, Patty Michalek, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care, Dex Media, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, On Target Mailing, Data USA, ESCO Mechanical Services, Environmental Pest Control, Comfort Suites Denver South, Monkey Bizness, Colorado Kids 1st

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

Helen and Ken Hufnagel by Lynne Hufnagel
Donna Miedema by Paula Meadows

IN HONOR OF:

Kathy Luth by Carolyn McFarland

**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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