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Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

When Families First opened its doors in 1986, we offered one parent support group, employed 12 staff and helped 100 families. Today, our organization proudly serves more than 5,000 families across Colorado, employs 40 staff, engages hundreds of volunteers, offers a Family of Services including a free Family Support Line, 41 Parent Education Classes, 11 Circle of Parents® support groups and support services for Spanish speaking families as well as a residential treatment facility for young abused children.



Providing services that
strengthen families
nurture children
empower parents
to end the cycle of
child abuse and neglect.

"We are unique in that we are focused on both the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. At Families First, it is our top priority to help healthy families as well as families that struggle. Throughout 2011 we will be celebrating 25 years of serving Colorado families and are looking forward to many more. Join us!" Executive Director, Mary Hencmann

Would you like to share a story or experience on our 25th Anniversary Commemorative Video? Opportunities to speak on the video include Mon, Feb 21st from 9-11 am and Mon, Feb 28th from 2-6 pm at the Family Center. For more information, please contact alice@familiesfirstcolorado.org.



Karen Schmidt
Aldona Seymour

25th Anniversary Kick Off

On January 20th, Deb and Bill MacMillan opened their Cherry Hills Village Pool House to Kick Off Families First's 25th Anniversary Celebrations. Guests enjoyed cocktails, a dinner buffet, silent and live auction, viewing past photos and reminiscing over the past 25 years. Guests were also asked to share their thoughts and well-wishes on a commemorative video that will be featured at events throughout the year. Amongst those in attendance were Lynne Hufnagel, who joined the Families First Board in 1986; Karen Schmidt, who co-founded Friends for Families First in 1988; Corry Doty, Families First's second Governing Board President; current Board President Barb Reece; past Governing Board Presidents Jodie Hohensee and Gerry Moore; former Friends for Families First Presidents Anne Curran, Lynn Hinkle, Aldona Seymour, Lucy Kissinger, Debbie Gray, Barb Ingalls, Deb Sturm and Cheryl Paxton and past Children's Center Director, Stephany Schmidt. Long-time supporter Connie Genova unveiled a commemorative bracelet that she designed in honor of Families First's Silver Anniversary. Bracelets were given to staff members who have been with Families First for five years or more. If you would enjoy having one, they are available for purchase for \$50 at the Family Center and 2011 Events while supplies last.

Many thanks to Deb and Bill MacMillan, Alberta Utech, Steppin' Out Co-Chairs Nancy Bernstein and Daphyne Reiff, Country Fair Co-Chairs Tracy Donovan and Sonya Peterson and Fore Families First Golf Tournament Co-Chairs Sally and Gary Newcomb for such a wonderful Kick Off event.

You won't want to miss our other 25 Year Celebrations:

April 15 Steppin' Out -- 25th Anniversary Gala

July 17 Country Fair--Families First's 25th Birthday Bash

August 22 Fore Families First Golf Tournament in Memory of Past President, Sugar Chalus.

For more information about all of our events, visit www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

Thank you to the generous individuals and companies for your **In-Kind Donations** in December 2010 and January 2011. *2010 Gift of Hope Donations were recognized in our Holiday Edition.*



Parent Leadership Award

By Jennifer Richardson, Director of Family Support Services

According to Brenda Baker, she was an insecure Mom when she joined a Circle of Parents® parent support group at Families First in 1992 but it wasn't long before she was making significant contributions to the group discussions. Brenda soon assumed a leadership role in her group and began speaking in the community to raise awareness about our services. Sometimes she brought her son Jacob with her and had him talk about the differences he saw in his Mom as she grew as a parent with the support of her Families First group. When Families First had a need for a new Children's Group leader, Brenda jumped right in.

In-Kind Donations

December 2010
January 2011

Lowe's of Aurora
Elly Baldwin
Hill Middle School PTA
Evan Henderson-
Eastridge Elementary
Tower Community
Fellowship -
5th & 6th Grade Class



Congratulations
Brenda Baker

Eventually I asked her to start training others. She became a trainer for new facilitators for Circle of Parents® groups. She led a session at a Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference. In the early 2000's, she was accepted to the Parents as Leaders Team for the National Circle of Parents® Organization and now serves as board chair on their Board of Directors.

As Families First celebrates its 25th year, we have created a new award. It recognizes parents who have used our services and have given back. There was only one choice we could make for this first award - **Brenda Baker**.

Brenda credits Families First for instilling confidence in her to succeed and to believe in herself. We credit her with being an inspiration.

Did You Know? Friends for Families First was founded in 1988 to recruit volunteers, raise funds and promote awareness of Families First's mission. In 2010, Friends contributed over 1,500 hours of volunteer time and raised over \$200,000 through special events.

Giving Partners support Families First through donations, contributing resources and raising awareness of our mission. We would like to thank them for their support. In every eNews we recognize one of our partners with a "Logo & Link" so you can learn more about them.

The Crazy Merchant, Colorado Kids 1st, Concerts for Kids, Data USA, Dex One, Environmental Pest Control, Monkey Bizness, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, On Target Mailing, Primrose School of Lone Tree, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care.



www.thecrazymerchant.com

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

In Honor Of:

The Shockley Family
Connie Watts

by Ken and Gina Burchenal
by Rick and Margie Canine

Kermit Gallagher by Diane and John Gallagher
Jeanne Pettengill by Margo and Gary Jamieson

Janet Ellis	by Rick and Margaret Garbe	Jon Burns	by Peter and Susan Goodwin
Don and Mary Lee Beauregard	by Rick and Margaret Garbe		
Len and Beth Griffiths	by Rick and Margaret Garbe		
The Donovan Family	by Kelly Morrison		
Dianne Bowman	by Judith Perrill		
Ken and Connie Bowman	by Judith Perrill		
Judy Jaramillo and Family	by Nikki Jaramillo		
Deb and Bill MacMillan	by Susie Hotz		
Sandra Elkins	by Linda Oberle		
Jean Pryor	by William R. Brown MD		
Jo Blum	by Anne and Bob Baillio		
Kathy Luth	by Jane Hetrick		
Sarah Hite	by Ronnie Mitzner		
Karen Fisher	by William Fisher		
Glory Weisberg	by Lyn Schaffer		
Bubbles and Andy Pfeiffenberger	by Judith Perrill		
Kay Omer	by Bob and Kirsten Omer		
Jim and Diana Neisler	by Bob and Kirsten Omer		
Lisa and Dee Reeves	by Bob and Kirsten Omer		
Catherine Omer	by Bob and Kirsten Omer		

*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>

*We would like to thank **myemma** for donating the graphic design services needed to add the 25th Anniversary banner to our 2011 eNewsletters.*

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