



Families First

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

Issue #12 March 2010 Editor: Alice Edwards
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Friday, April 30, 2010
Steppin' Out at the Kentucky Derby

Infinity Park Event Center
Tickets now available!



Please join us for an exciting fanfare event Derby style as we celebrate the 136th "Run for the Roses", also known as the greatest two minutes in sports! Sip on mint juleps while placing wagers on your favorite thoroughbreds in our cash raffle. Dance to Lannie Garrett and her fabulous band! Tickets are available starting at \$150. *Visit our website for more details or email Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.*

Steppin' Out at the Kentucky Derby Online Auction
April 7-May 6, 2010
Save the Date! Bidding begins 10am Wednesday, April 7

Don't miss the chance to bid on over 200 exciting auction items including:

- Jewelry, art, wine, home furnishings, spa packages and more!
- Gift Certificates to restaurants including Fruition, Grand Lux Café, The Broker and YaYa's Euro Bistro.
- Children's Birthday Parties at Monkey Bizness and Little Monkey Bizness.
- Unique fitness items like a golf swing evaluation, CorePower Yoga classes, private pilates instruction and ballroom dance lessons.
- Preview items that will be available at the April 30th event, including incredible live auction items like a suite for 20 at a Colorado Avalanche game, a private performance by Lannie Garrett and a luxury trip to Costa Rica.

FAMILIES FIRST FIRST WEDNESDAY TOURS
April 7 11:30am & 5:30pm

To make reservations, please contact Alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org



2010 FRIEND of the CHILDREN Award

Each year, Families First presents its most distinguished recognition - the "**Friend of the Children**" Award to an individual or couple who have made significant volunteer and financial contributions to our organization. We are pleased to announce that **Martha and Larry Donovan** have been selected as our 2010 honorees! The Donovans will be presented with their award at Steppin' Out at the Kentucky Derby.

Martha and Larry believe that every child has the right to a safe and happy childhood. A major focus of the Donovans has been to lead the grounds committee at the Children's Treatment Center. Together with family and friends they make sure the children have a warm, welcoming, safe environment all year long. We sincerely appreciate the Donovans' ongoing commitment to Families First and congratulate them on their award!

The "Friend of the Children" award is a bronze sculpture, specifically created for Families First by local sculptor Rik Sargent, which represents a child at the heart of the family, the heart of the community and the heart of the future.

Past award recipients: Liz and Charlie Steinbrueck, Barbara and Gerry Moore, Karen and Al Schmidt, Deb and Bill MacMillan, Marsha and Emmett Duemke, Jan Dudley, Sugar and Denny Chalus, Gail and Harry Doby, Barb and Greg Ingalls, John Warford, Jodie and Gene Hohensee, Toby and Larry Pippin, Sally Newcomb, Deb and Jerry Sturm, Barb and Gary Reece.

One Child's Story - Sofia

Sofia called the other day. She calls every now and then to let us know that she is OK and to make sure we remember her. How could we forget?? Sofia moved into the Children's Treatment Center when she was 8, after years of physical and sexual abuse. During 2 years of intensive treatment, Sofia stopped trying to hurt herself. She learned that she was not worthless and that she did not deserve the things that had happened to her. She started to make friends and participate in outings with our other children. She felt safe and was able to tell her mother that she was angry that her mother hadn't protected her and that she still loved her. She and her mother are still in therapy together, and Sofia reports that it is going well. She is 12 years old now and excited about middle school. She spends time with friends and is getting ready for her first party at school. She is excited about clothes, movies, music and getting her first cell phone....on which she called to make sure we are still here....happy to know that we will not forget her. *Ann Afton, Director – Children's Treatment Center*



I have been with Families First working for the Children's Center for over four years. I have worked with over 20 children who have been treated for abuse and neglect. Most of these children were either reunited with their families or went to adoptive homes and have been

successful in living their lives. The emotion you feel to have known that you had a hand in the rehabilitation of these children cannot be expressed through words. But to know that I have touched the lives of so many, giving so many a second chance at having a normal life is truly priceless. *Kimberly Tanner, Team Leader*

Our Team Leaders provide direct care of children and offer leadership and support to the Children's Treatment Center staff and volunteers in order to create an environment consistent with our values of positive communication, effective teamwork and quality services to children and families.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Families First is participating in a national and statewide awareness campaign - **Pinwheels for Prevention** - developed by Prevent Child Abuse America and promoted locally by Prevent Child Abuse Colorado. Pinwheels represent the hope and promise of a happy childhood. The campaign attempts to positively impact the way the general public views children, families and child abuse and neglect prevention efforts - efforts that prioritize

prevention, right from the start, to ensure that child abuse and neglect never occur in the first place.

1.800.CHILDREN We are happy to announce that as of March 2010, all Colorado calls placed through Prevent Child Abuse's national help line are answered by Families First.

Community Partners help raise funds and awareness

Monkey Bizness is highlighting "Pinwheel for Prevention" and hosting "Families First Days" at all 5 of their Denver locations in April! Stop by with your kids to get your official silver and blue pinwheel! For hours and directions, go to www.monkeybizness.com.

- Fri April 2 Little MB-Westminster
- Wed April 7 BIG Monkey Bizness-Centennial
- Tue April 13 Little MB-Denver Central
- Mon April 19 Little MB-Parker
- Wed April 28 Little MB-Lone Tree

Primrose School of Lone Tree is sponsoring a school wide "Piggy Bank" Fundraiser for Families First throughout the month of April. Primrose values social responsibility as a foundation for character development. Giving back to others and helping children understand generosity is central to the education preschool children receive at Primrose. Each year, Primrose raises funds for organizations that focus on the needs of young children and their families.

Meet Rachel Merkel Director of Volunteers and Special Events

Rachel Merkel has been Families First's Volunteer Coordinator

for the last five years. In addition to her duties of recruiting volunteers Rachel also works closely with Friends for Families First to coordinate our special events. In January, Rachel's title was changed to reflect more accurately the scope of what her responsibilities include. Rachel does a wonderful job providing support and coordination to both our program volunteers and our volunteer guild, Friends for Families First. Her new title, **Director of Volunteers and Special Events**, clarifies her role with both volunteers and her responsibility for directing all of our special events. She does an outstanding job working with Friends to coordinate these events and together their fundraising efforts have been remarkable! Thanks Rachel!



For more information about volunteering with Families First or any of our special events, contact Rachel at Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

Rachel Merkel (left) pictured here with Emily Kasper '09 Steppin Out - Diamonds & Spurs Returns.

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

Bill and Sandi Kuhn, Beth Hooper, Cathrin Crampton, Bear Kay, Bev McAdam, Jo Scharmann, Christy Fladen, Chris Hillman, Zephyr Graf-X

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

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