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**Families First**  
Empowering parents. Nurturing children.

Family Support Line  
1-877-695-7996  
Consejos para Familias  
1-866-527-3264

**Issue #6 July 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards**  
**To learn more about Families First**  
**or to make a donation, visit our website**  
**[www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org](http://www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org)**

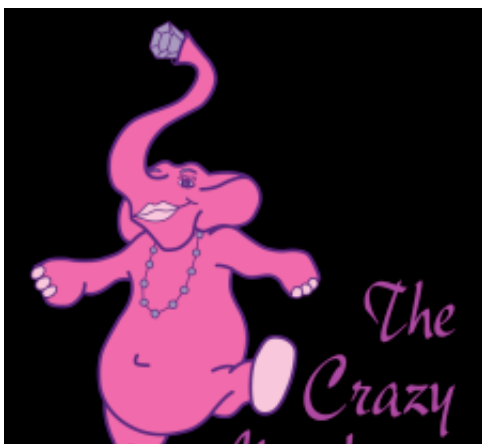


Cleverly embellished **PIGS on PEDESTALS** are on display at Park Meadows Mall until July 6th! Stop by and vote for your favorite piggy bank! (Pictured - "Chui" by artist, Kiki MacMillan)

Modeled after the famous "Chicago Cows," the **Pigs on Pedestals** project brings together the creative contributions of Denver-area artists with the sponsorship of regional businesses and individuals. A part of Families First's "Drive for Community \$Change\$," **Pigs on Pedestals** is a community wide art event focused on raising money and awareness for Families First.

**We want to thank our Pigs on Pedestals Sponsors:**

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aaron Bell, International      | Cammy MacMillan              |
| BCT Printing                   | Kiki MacMillan               |
| Champion Bank                  | Edie and Mort Marks Family   |
| The Crazy Merchant, Inc        | Morton's, The Steakhouse DTC |
| Del Frisco's                   | Occasions by Sandy           |
| DEX Media                      | PBJ Reece Family             |
| Families First Governing Board | The Pippin Family            |
| Friends for Families First     | The South Restaurant         |
| Great Northern                 | Wells Fargo                  |



**COUNTRY FAIR Roams Wild**  
**at The Wildlife Experience!**  
**Sunday July 19 6-10pm**

Join us for an exclusive after-hours family adventure at **The Wildlife Experience!** See and interact with exciting exhibits including private access to the brand new Globeology Exhibit which opened in May. Enjoy a family BBQ and auction as well as games, crafts, and music! Tons of fun for the entire family!! Purchase tickets by July 10 on our website or by calling Families First. (303.745.0327) *All tickets must be purchased in advance.*  
Admission: \$40 adult \$15 child (5-12 years)



\$10 child (2-4 years)

Throughout the year, adults and children, schools and businesses "adopt" our hand-painted piggy banks and "feed" them with pocket change. Then they bring them to our premier piggy bank "weigh-in" party - Country Fair Roams Wild (another part of Families First's "Drive for Community \$Change\$"). All money is donated to Families First! Country Fair Roams Wild is one of the few Denver-area fundraising events where parents are encouraged to bring their children. Even if you don't have a piggy bank, come out and enjoy the fun with us!

Many Thanks to **THE CRAZY MERCHANT** for sponsoring The Country Fair for 17 years! Visit the Littleton shop for jewelry, beads, gifts! [www.thecrazymerchant.com](http://www.thecrazymerchant.com)

## Save the Date for Golf!

### September 21 "Fore" Families First ... A Golf Tournament The Ridge at Castle Pines North

Sponsor a hole! Contribute an auction item! Put together a foursome!  
Tickets are now available. Please contact [jo@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:jo@FamiliesFirstColorado.org).

## THANKS to "OTHER KYM"

from Claire Poole, Psy. D.  
Clinical Director, Children's Treatment Center

True to our commitment to use community resources, Families First relies on graduate students from DU to provide therapy for our kids at the Children's Treatment Center. Like all students, Kym Thompson made a year commitment when she came to work with us in 2006. That one year turned into two - Families First is a good place to work and learn. She left us in 2008 for a full time internship. But ... there was one little girl in our care who really needed her. Kym went above and beyond by continuing to provide treatment for this child in addition to her full time job, being a mother of two, and writing a dissertation. Let me explain why my thanks is to "Other Kym." At first it was confusing for our little one because we have another staff member named Kim, but she sorted it out by calling her therapist "Other Kym." Now that this little girl has moved on to an adoptive home\*, Kym will not be around Families First either. We will miss her and we are deeply grateful for her expertise and generosity. Soon she will be Kym Spring-Thompson, Psy.D., but to us she will always be affectionately known as Dr. "Other Kym."



*\*The child that Kym was seeing is now living on a farm with her adoptive family. Her parents report that she is doing well and loves the animals. She is especially fond of her new companion, Brutis, a five month old sheep, that follows her everywhere and plays chase with her. She is happy in her new home, is loved by her five new brothers and sisters (not to mention her wonderful parents) and has a strong community network around her. We call this a huge success story!!*



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE! YOU CAN HELP!

*Betty Miller is pictured here with Staff member, Emily Kasper, volunteering on our Family Support Line. Betty has volunteered for us every Thursday morning since 1995. Helping parents is her passion. She gives them all the tools and support she can.*

When they were recently asked the question, "How can we ensure that critical community services flow to those in need?" both President Obama and Gov. Bill Ritter's Commission on Community Service named volunteerism a key part of the solution. You care deeply about Colorado families. Consider translating that concern into action by finding a few hours a week to volunteer at Families First. Interested? Contact [rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

Here are some of our current opportunities:

**SUPPORT LINE VOLUNTEERS** staff our bi-lingual Family Support Line (English & Spanish). Well-trained volunteers listen and provide educational information and community resources to parents and caregivers seeking support. Volunteers answer phone calls at the Call Center at our Family Center during the week and from home in the evening and on weekends. Volunteers are asked to do one, 4-hour shift per week. The next Family Support Line Training is Thursday, July 2, 2009 (Noon-5pm).

**CHILDREN's GROUP LEADERS** plan and implement activities that enhance a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical development while parents attend support groups or parenting classes. Volunteer in the evening for two hours a week at one of our locations in Aurora, Denver, Englewood or Littleton. The next Children's Group Leader Training is Wednesday, July 22, 2009 (6-9pm).

From time to time, we have a need for SKILLED individuals to assist with minor updates at our Children's Treatment Center, including plumbers, electricians, gardeners, painters, etc. We currently need to repair/replace a swamp cooler and a retaining wall. Can you help? Know anyone who can? Please contact [Emily@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:Emily@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

PARTNERS for Families First is sponsoring a **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** for the children living at the Children's Treatment Center, parents who attend our support groups and classes and other deserving families in our community. Collection Deadline: Friday, July 24. For details, please [click here](#).

## DRIVE for COMMUNITY \$CHANGES\$ KIDS GIVING to KIDS

In May we received this delightful note from Temple Sinai Pre-School teachers, Terri Richardson and Barb Calkins. "Our Pre-K class of 4 and 5 year olds has been collecting



monies throughout the year to contribute to a charity. The kids collect money from doing chores and then bring in the \$ to donate to a worthy cause. This is our "Tzedakah" project to teach the joy of giving. The kids are taught at a young age the act of giving. Our class has collected \$105.25 and would love to donate it to Families First." **THANK YOU!** (Pictured - Development Associate, Alice Edwards receiving the check from a very proud 5 year old!)




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## SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

Love Golf? Enjoy your favorite past-time while you make a difference for kids!

August 3 - 13th Annual **RMBTA Golf Tournament** - Blackstone Country Club

September 10 & 11 - **Beaver Creek Women's Invitational** Golf Tournament

For more information, please contact [jo@FamiliesFirstColorado.org](mailto:jo@FamiliesFirstColorado.org)

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## GRANTS and FOUNDATION SUPPORT

We appreciate the support for our general operating expenses that we recently received from The Anschutz Foundation and from The Denver Foundation.

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**IN-KIND DONATIONS** *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in May 2009.*

Shelly Goss, Molly Lemmers, Sally Newcomb, Beth Rust, Tavern Hospitality

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## SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

### IN MEMORY OF:

Judith Coffman	by Rosemary Satterwhite
Bill Farley	by Al and Karen Schmidt
Andy Andrews	by Al and Karen Schmidt
Lynda O'Rourke	by Al and Karen Schmidt
Charlie Steinbrueck	by Al and Karen Schmidt
Bart Johnson's Father	by Rick and Aldona Seymour

*\*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 [www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org](http://www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org)*

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