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Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Colorado Families

Issue #23 July 2011

It's a birthday party! Bring the whole family!**Country Fair 25th Birthday Bash****[Click here to buy your tickets online by July 11!](#)****\$35 Adults, \$15 children (10-12), FREE Children under 10**

You won't want to miss this special celebration! We'll enjoy a family BBQ, old-fashioned pioneer games, stage-coach rides, gold panning, piñatas, museum tours, a silent auction, birthday cake and more! Remember to bring your fattened piggy bank to be weighed-in!

Sunday, July 17
5:00 to 9:00pm
Four Mile Historic Park

On the banks of Cherry Creek, just four miles from downtown Denver, Four Mile Historic Park is a 12 acre oasis featuring Denver's oldest standing structure, pioneer exhibits and guided tours that transport visitors to Colorado's frontier past.

The Country Fair has been proudly sponsored by **The Crazy Merchant, Inc.** for 19 years!



What is Drive for Community \$Change\$?

From The Guild LANTERN Jan/Feb 1996

Pictured is Past FRIENDS President Debbie Gray with her daughter and clown friend at the first Country Fair held in 1994. For information on how you can join FRIENDS, go to <http://www.familiesfirstcolorado.org> (Get Involved - Friends of Families First)

Over a year ago, Friends for Families First initiated the Drive for Community Change program to raise funds and inform people about services offered by Families First. The program's name reflects the goal of reordering society's priorities to include a strong focus on children. While developed to involve the entire family, the program is especially geared towards children. To accomplish its objectives, the fund-raiser uses handmade piggy banks. When Keith Nichols, a pottery teacher at The Crazy Merchant, first began making pigs for FRIENDS, he had no idea how involved he would become in the project. However, after visiting Families First and meeting some of the children his pigs have helped to support, he has become dedicated to the efforts of the organization. "This has really become a project close to my heart. I am happy that I have been able to energize others to help children in need. I have especially enjoyed working on the designer pigs, because I can use my imagination to make sure each one of them is really one-of-a-kind." There are pigs awaiting adoption by families, businesses, and schools. Sponsors adopt a piggy bank, place it in a prominent place, and fill it with spare change. Crucial to the success of the Drive for Community \$Change\$ program are the efforts of sponsors Deb and Bill MaMillan and The Crazy Merchant. A great big thank you to them!

"FORE" Families First

Early bird registration just \$200 before July 15.

Valley Country Club

Monday, August 22

8:30am Shotgun Start

Lunch and Award Celebration following the tournament



Sarah Hite announces her retirement

Retirement has to come sometime! I am blessed that I have wonderful children and grandchildren here to enjoy as well as friends and activities. I do believe I have contributed to our callers' lives in a positive way and have made a difference, as they certainly have to me. The resilience of the human spirit is remarkable. It's been a joy to be associated with this terrific organization. I'll look forward to seeing the new directions and further impacts Families First makes in



the next 25 years.

Please join us in congratulating Sarah on her retirement and thanking her for taking Support Line calls from Colorado parents for the past 20 years.

Sarah became the Family Support Line Coordinator for Families First in 2000. Supporting parents in the difficult job of raising their children has always been her passion. Before her children were born, Sarah taught elementary school. As a community volunteer, she worked with Community Resources Inc., C.H.U.N., Denver Mile Hi Rotary, Denver Girls, Inc., and the Denver Public Library. After earning a Masters Degree in Counseling at the University of Colorado at Denver, she became the Coordinator of 4 Parents Helpline in 1994 that led to her work with Families First.

Burn the Mortgage!

We want to have a "burn the mortgage" party by the end of the year.

Help Families First go into 2012 debt free!

Contact Mary@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

*Families First is currently seeking **Support Line Volunteers** to staff our Family Support Line. Volunteers provide a listening ear, educational information and community resources to parents and caregivers seeking support. Volunteers are asked to do one, 4-hour shift per week working at the Family Center during the day and from home nights and weekends.*

For more information about volunteering with Families First contact:

Rachel at 303 745-0327 or Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

THANKS to EVERYONE

...who voted for their favorite pig at "Pigs on Pedestals"

... who participated in our School Supply Drive

...who donated summer clothes and rain gear for our kids

The kids LOVE their new raincoats. They beg to wear them even in sunny, dry weather!



IN-KIND DONATIONS

We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies who provided us with in-kind donations in May and June 2011.

Marjorie Alexander, Larry Donovan, Sheri Hauk, Tanga Alexander, PEO Ladies, Geri Reinhart, Diana and Richard Love, Karen Fisher, Briana Wagner, Marlene and Richard Galasso, Ivy Jones, Judy Holtus, Anne Kaye, Marilyn and Bob Petrik, Jean Pryor, Liane Cattellino

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are grateful to the many organizations and foundations who have already supported us this Summer.

Tagawa Gardens "Give-Back" Program, The Greek Festival, UMB Banks, Primrose School of Lone Tree and Castle Rock's Piggy Bank Fundraiser and "Spring Fling", Rocky Mountain Business and Travel Association (RMBTA), CoBizCares

GIVING PARTNERS

Thank you for supporting Families First through donations and by raising awareness of our mission.

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

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