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Families First

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

Issue #16 Sept 2010 Editor: Alice Edwards

The Crazy Merchant, Inc is hosting
The Sweet Charity Market
Friday, September 24, 2010 10am to 6pm

Families First is one of the charities participating in this fun shopping event. All proceeds go to Denver area charities. You'll find vintage jewelry, signature gifts, custom artwork, homemade goodies ...and so much more!

The
Crazy
Merchant, Inc.



The Crazy Merchant www.thecrazymerchant.com 303.761.6100
1700 W. Belleview Ave, Littleton, CO 80120
2 blocks east of Sante Fe. Look for the big turquoise building!



One Parent's Story Sonia and Manuel

by Olga Salazar, Spanish Family Support Services

Sonia called the Consejos para Familias support line looking for help. *My 12 year old son doesn't want to go to school. For weeks I've tried everything I can think of to encourage him to go, but nothing works. He won't talk to me. I just don't know what to do! Manuel is home today. Would YOU talk to him?*

OK. Some things are hard. Like what? English class. What about it? It's too much English. It's too fast.

I found out that his first language is Spanish...that he is learning English but doesn't fully understand his lessons in school...and that he doesn't want to read in public. I empathized with him and told him that what he is doing is not easy. I encouraged him to talk about these things with his Mom and asked if I could share what he told me with her. When I did, she said she had no idea that this was the problem. She decided to contact the school, explain the situation and find out what kind of help was available for Manuel.

I called Sonia a month later and she told me that Manuel's behavior had changed tremendously. *He is going to school and likes it now. He's enrolled in an additional program besides school to help him learn English. The extra help has helped him a lot because he doesn't misbehave as much anymore and his attitude has changed.* Sonia said that some changes in the home have helped with Manuel's behavior too. *I wasn't so hard on him after you talked with me about his developmental stage and the problems he was facing.* Sonia ended the call by saying, *I encourage parents to call the support line and ask for help! They give great tips.*

These are the kinds of calls that come into our Family Support Line every day. It feels good to know that we are here to help parents when they need it!

**Do you speak Spanish? We're looking for volunteers to help us staff [Consejos Para Familias](#), our statewide, toll-free Spanish support line. Please contact Olga@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.*

In August, Families First started a Spanish Circle of Parents support group at Aurora Community Connections Family Resource Center - *Circulo de Padres*. The group will run for six months and will focus on equipping Spanish-speaking parents with parenting and leadership skills built on each parent's strengths and capabilities.

CONGRATULATIONS! Families First Volunteer **Carole O'Shea**



In August, the City of Aurora Police Department recognized **Carole O'Shea** as the **2010 recipient of the Circle of Life Award** because of her extraordinary work in the police department's Victims Services Unit. Aurora Police Chief, Dan Oates said, "Carole is an extraordinary public servant - one of the most compassionate, dedicated and resourceful persons I have dealt with in all my years in policing. Her nomination calls attention to the entire Victim Services Unit - the five full-time staff members and the 45 volunteers who perform such wonderful work for our city in counseling and caring for crime victims."

In addition to her police work, Carole O'Shea has been a Families First volunteer for over fifteen years. She started out volunteering at the Children's Treatment Center and on the Family Support Line, but most of her work has been as a parent support group facilitator. Most recently, she has facilitated our Grandparents Circle of Parents support group that meets at our Family Center on Monday nights. (pictured above). Congratulations on your award, Carole!

Grandparents Raising Grandkids and Kinship Provider Conference

Saturday, October 9, 2010 9am to 3:30pm

Just \$5 per adult, \$3 per child! The best bargain in town!

Carpenter Recreation Center, Thornton, Colorado

To register or for more information, call Family Tree 303.412.7855 ext 20

Each year, Families First co-sponsors the Grandparents Conference with the City of Thornton. If you are a Grandparent or family member raising a family member, call today to sign up for this amazing day of workshops, speakers and resources. The registration fee includes breakfast and lunch for all and child care with an afternoon of swimming or attending a magic show for the children! Pre-registration is required.

"FORE" Families First..... A very special Golf Tournament!

The 17th Annual "Fore" Families First Golf Tournament in Memory of Sugar Chalus was held on August 30th at The Ridge at Castle Pines North. The 120 participants enjoyed the Hawaiian themed event (one



of Sugar's favorite places) including the pineapple tee markers and the awards party luau. Many thanks to our tournament chairs, **Barb and Gary Reece**, our honorary chair, **Denny Chalus** and our golf committee, **Sally Newcomb, Daphyne Reiff, Nancy Bernstein, Paulee Brody, Cheryl Paxton, Janet Spurck** and **Martha Donovan**. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped with tournament registration, monitored contest holes and took photographs and helped make this event a true success!

With the help of **our sponsors**, we raised over **\$50,000** to support Families First's efforts to prevent child abuse and treat young abused children. **THANK YOU!**

- **Title Sponsor** Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage
- **Presenting Sponsor** PBJ Reece Family
- **Eagle Sponsors** DEX One, HealthONE
- **Birdie Sponsor** Nancy and John Bernstein, The JBR Group – Merrill Lynch
- **Par Sponsors** Nan and Tom Alfrey, Margaret and Rick Garbe, Sally and Gary Newcomb, Fransen Pittman General Contractors, Wells Fargo Advisors-James L. Smith Jr.
- **Hole Sponsors** The Autrey Foundation, Colorado Container, Colorado AvidGolfer, Diversified Radiology of Colorado, P.C., Beau Visage Skin Care & Spa – Denny Chalus, Martha and Larry Donovan, Barbara and Gerry Moore, Phyllis and Bill Madden, Jill and Tom Darrah, Kaye and Mike Hurtt, Friends of Sugar
- **Cart Sponsors** Janet and Bob Spurck, Carol and Brad James

FRIENDS RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

The annual Friends Membership Luncheon was held on September 14 at the home of Daphyne Reiff. Two devoted Friends members were recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Shelly Goss (left) received the 2010 **President's Award**. She has been involved in FRIENDS for eight years and has brightened the lives of many children who have lived at our Children's Treatment Center by coordinating special birthdays for each of them with gifts and a special dinner. **Deb Sturm** (right) received the 2010 **Outstanding Volunteer Award** that is given to an individual who has taken on many major roles during her long-term involvement with FRIENDS. Deb has been a member of FRIENDS since 1998 and over the years has served as President, Development VP, Administration VP in addition to chairing two of our major fundraisers, Steppin' Out and Fore Families First Golf Tournament. Congratulations Shelly and Deb. We appreciate all you do for Families First!



Become a member of FRIENDS in 2011 - Families First 25th Anniversary Year!

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

Mary Margaret Palms, Karen White, Kim Schulz, Kittie Arnold, Jen Wilson, Fonda Paxton, Tanga Alexander, Roger and Janet Medbery, Mike Neisen, Carol Brewka.

Lockton Inc, Gabby Krause Foundation, Computer Edge Systems

The Crazy Merchant, Monkey Bizness, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care,
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Environmental Pest Control, Comfort Suites Denver South, Colorado Kids 1st,
Energy Outreach Colorado's - Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP),
Caprock Business Forms & Envelopes

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION Summer 2010 (June/July/Aug)

IN MEMORY OF:

Jimmie L. Meadows by Mary Moser, Kent Village, Maureen Shuley
by Brinkerhoff Revenig & Corrigan PC
Bart Richardson by James and Marica Po Higgins
Kim Heyburn by John and Shirley Warford
Jim Norling by John and Shirley Warford

IN HONOR OF:

Barb Reece by Charles and Ruth Schenck

**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.*

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