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Issue #17 Oct 2010 Editor: Alice Edwards

Give the **GIFT of HOPE** to the children at our Children's Treatment Center or to a family in need this holiday season. To learn how [click here](#).



For over 24 years the Children's Treatment Center (CTC) has offered a nurturing, homelike environment for young children who have been abused and need a safe place to heal. We currently have nine children living at the Center.

Your gift of \$500 can provide them with ONE WEEK of FOOD.

Your gift of \$75 can provide them with ONE WEEK of MILK.

Your gift of \$35 can buy one child a pair of shoes or an outfit of warm clothes.

Your gift will help a child.

One Child's Story

Healthy family and community life is our model at the Children's Treatment Center. School-age children living at the CTC attend public school. Here's a story written as a school project by a young girl who lived with us in the 90s. It is literally "One Child's Story."



My name is Mary. I was born in Nebraska. I am seven years old.

I wrote this book for my whole family. It was my second day of school at my new elementary school and my first day to ride the bus.

"The First Day on the Bus"

Dedicated to my mom, my dad and my brothers.

This morning Hope, Joe and Tiffany rode the bus.

On the bus, it was getting too loud.

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*The bus driver stopped the bus.
The kids wouldn't listen to the driver.
The kids started to listen and go back into their seats.
We got to school on time.*

On Tuesday, November 16, **SEVEN 30 SOUTH** is doing a fundraiser for us. Owner Larry Herz will donate 20% of your dinner tab - food and drinks! - to Families First. Click here for all the details. www.730south.net

Call your friends. Call for reservations. **303.744.1888**



Making a Difference

In September Families First hosted a Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Dinner where we honored our staff and program volunteers for their commitment and gift of time in the past fiscal year. Our guest speaker was family therapist and author, Jane Irvine. *(Pictured here with Family Support Services Program Specialist, Rosa Huber.)* Jane designed the parent/teen mediation training program for the Colorado Restorative Justice Program. Jane gave a fascinating presentation on teenagers and ways to prevent difficult behaviors in pre-teens. She stressed that good communication skills and success in parenting are tightly linked and gave many

"real world" examples of positive parent/child interaction. To read a full summary of her talk, [click here](#). For more information about Jane Irvine and her practice, visit her website www.janeirvinema.com

Our program volunteers interact with the children and families we serve on a daily basis. They provide direct care to abused and neglected children, provide information and referral sources to parents and help plan and implement children's activities. Our FRIENDS volunteers raise funds and promote awareness in the community. We are grateful to have a stellar group of volunteers who support our efforts and truly make a world of difference in our community.

Last year Families First volunteers donated 4,985 hours of service - a value of \$100,000.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, contact:
Rachel Merkel 303.745.0327 Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

CTC PAINTING DAY!

Saturday, October 9th was an exciting day at the Children's Treatment Center (CTC). In just eight hours an army of volunteers painted the interior of the house – dining room, living room, hallways, six bedrooms and two bathrooms! The project was spearheaded by Lowe's of Aurora, known for its active involvement in the community. Commercial Sales Specialist, Kim Lawson worked alongside Families First staff for months planning the project. She enlisted volunteers to serve as team leaders including co-workers Jason Boltz, Larry Bendt, and Ryan Kinslow. She also contacted paint reps Jay Hannah (Olympic) and Heather Youngs (Valspar) who arranged to have ALL the paint donated. The paint crew included volunteers from the Greek Orthodox Church, Tower Community Fellowship, Direct TV, Saunders Construction, members of Friends for Families First and the Families First Board and Staff. The Greek Orthodox Ladies Society, Philoptochos, provided both breakfast and lunch! At the end of the day the house was fresh and clean and it was filled with good wishes from a caring community. [Subscribe](#) to our email list

**Who supports Families First?
OUR COMMUNITY!
TOGETHER we make a difference!
Individuals, Businesses, Community Groups**



THANKS to everyone who helped us on Painting Day!

Anne & Aaron Eisen, Cyndi Nodich, Mary M. Holmes, Pano Papadimitriopoulos, Teddy Hellen, Hannah Arnold-Souleotis, Demetri Arnold-Souleotis, Lia Peulen, Matt Peulen, Caterina Derr, George Kyriazi, Loanna Kyriazi, Maria Vassos, Vasiliki Vassos, Ayathi Apostolopoulos, Abreana Bardossas, Peter DeAngelis, Joey Priddy, Angelique Roussalis, Joni Kappos, Klea Kappos, Sandra Bollig, Alec Billig, Vora Vukovich, Sofi DeAngelis, Chris Van Zandt, Tracy Miranda, Cathy Valdez, Denise Trujillo, Irma & Jaime Gutierrez, Jason Lundberg, Jose Melendez, Rafael Melendez, Chris Hunt, David Hunt, Karen White, Ron White, Ann Afton, Emily Kasper, Rachel Merkel, Alice Edwards, Mary Hencmann

**Pictured: Klea Kappos who coordinated all the participation from the Greek Orthodox Church and Families First staff member Emily Kasper who organized the event.*

THANKS to the Women's Ministry of Tower Community Fellowship for making fleece blankets for each of the children's beds in colors that match the new paint color in their room. The children love the whimsical prints - monkeys, frogs, hearts, circles, stripes, and bubbles!

THANKS to Clint Leonard, Store Manager of Lowe's of Aurora, for his sincere interest in Families First and his active, "can-do" support.

THANKS to Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage for matching all the donations from September shoppers for a grand total of \$32,807!

THANKS to RMBTA, the Rocky Mountain Business Travel Association (\$8,607) and the Beaver Creek Women's Invitational (\$13,500), presented by Park Meadows Colorado's Only Retail Resort and hosted by Beaver Creek Resort and Colorado AvidGolfer, for once again raising funds for us at their very successful golf tournaments.

THANKS to the dedicated individuals from our community who serve on our Boards.

2011 GOVERNING BOARD Kittie Arnold, James Bailey, Nancy Bernstein, *Carol Brewka, Cathrin Crampton, Stephen Dietrich, Larry Donovan, Ashley Eller, Jodie Hohensee, David Korn, Sally Newcomb, Bob Omer, Toby Pippin, Loren Priest, Barb Reece, Daphyne Reiff, Rick Seymour, Irma Smith, Pat Trujillo-VanZandt, *Glory Weisberg, Karen White (*new members)
Special thanks to retiring member Melody Staffen.

2011 FRIENDS BOARD Raeann Belknapp, Carol Brewka, Connie Carson, Martha Donovan, Shelly Goss, Melissa Jacob, Debby Konieczny, Cheryl Paxton, Kim Schulz, Kristin Stonebarger

IN-KIND DONATIONS

We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in September 2010.

Christel Dale, Elly Baldwin, Sherri Pellicert, Lauren and Ava Veldhuizen, Sylvia Archuleta,

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Joni Fish, Debra Perry, Raeann Belknapp.

Special thanks to Energy Outreach Colorado's - Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Programm (NEEP) for installing two swamp coolers at the Children's Treatment Center and to Metro Denver CPRC and to The Pacer Center for donating a children's computer.

The Crazy Merchant, Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care, Dex One, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, On Target Mailing, Data USA, Environmental Pest Control, Comfort Suites Denver South, Monkey Bizness, Colorado Kids 1st, Caprock Business Forms & Envelopes

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

Bart Richardson by Joan Jones

Bart Richardson by Evan Jones

Donna Miedema by Ann Carey

Betty Clark by Ann Carey

Louise Steinbruner by Ann Carey

**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>*

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