

Celebrating **75** Years
Families
First



... and the 72,748 children and parents we've served.

2011 Annual Report

2011 Board of Directors

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Families First

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From the President of the Board



Barbara Reece
Board President

What an exciting 25th year for Families First! Along with our Board of Directors, the staff and the numerous volunteers who believe in our mission to end the cycle of child abuse and neglect, we are the team working toward 25 years and counting!

In our next 25 years, we will continue to evaluate our programs and adjust to meet the changing needs of families in our state. Families First is taking this challenge to heart, looking at many opportunities for fundraising, responding to families' needs and providing a safe haven where abused children can grow and develop into productive citizens and effective parents. Families First has an updated website with increased access and information for parents, professionals and donors. We continue to promote our statewide Family Support Line, 1-800-CHILDREN.

In January of 2012, we ended our 25th Anniversary celebration by burning our mortgage for the Family Center, which continues to thrive with prevention activity. Families First members and volunteers met the \$25,000 challenge match to make this happen. I am proud to be part of this team that, together, makes things happen that will make a difference in children's lives.

As we begin our 25 years and counting, I would like to share a personal story. I am proud to work with Families First, but my "moment of pride" came this summer. I watched my grandchildren choose their piggy banks to save their money for the Country Fair. My children collected change when they were young and now their children are helping in the same way. My son told his boys that "Grami had me and my sister put our change from the week in our piggy (Petunia) and you are going to help these children in the same way. Together we can help children who need us!" This shows, that as parents, we do make a difference in our home and community.

Families First is a solid organization with supporters who have made it possible to move into 25 years and counting with our buildings paid for and our money going directly to services for Colorado parents and children.

Look out, here we come!

Barbara Reece
Families First Board President

Our Mission

To end the cycle of child abuse and neglect by providing resources to empower parents, nurture children and strengthen families. We respond to the needs of all families with an approach that is welcoming and collaborative.

From the Executive Director

2011 was a milestone year for Families First as we marked our 25th Anniversary. The dream began when the Children's Crisis Center opened on May 12, 1986. Our founders believed that it shouldn't hurt to be a child and created a warm, welcoming environment for young abused and neglected children to find shelter and hope. They also believed that parents want to be good parents and could be, with access to community resources and support. I'm proud that over these past 25 years we have served over 72,000 children and families! This wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated efforts of many, many people.

This year we've had the opportunity to share stories from our past board members, volunteers, staff, parents and even former residents. These hopeful stories capture successes of a simple philosophy – together we DO make a difference in the life of a child – one child at a time.

As you look through this annual report, you'll notice that it not only reflects the events of our past year, but it also includes a timeline of the past years. As our 25th Anniversary draws to a close, it is appropriate to reflect upon the strengths that have made us who we are. Most importantly, for a quarter of a century we have provided services to any parent willing to ask for help and hope for children whose lives have been disrupted by abuse or neglect.

No doubt the future presents challenges. Families need more. Government funding has been cut and competition for corporate, individual and foundation monies is tougher. However, we believe our future looks bright and our successes mean that the children and families we continue to serve will have a brighter future.

I'd like to offer a special note of thanks this year to the Families First staff (some who have been at Families First for more than 20 years), our community partners, program volunteers, Friends for Families First and the Governing Board - in particular Barb Reece, the Board President. Together we provide the framework to ensure families in Colorado have hope.

I believe that celebrating 25 years is not just about looking back at what we've accomplished but also looking forward and embracing the future. Families First is 25 years and counting

Hope is not a dream, but a way of making dreams become reality. ~ L. J. Cardinal Suenens

Mary Hencmann
Executive Director



Mary Hencmann
Executive Director



Management Team

Management Team

Mary Hencmann
Executive Director

Joanne Blum
Director of Major Gifts

Ann Afton
Children's Treatment Center Director

Jennifer Richardson
Family Support Services Director

Claire Poole
Clinical Director

Rachel Merkel
Director of Volunteers
and Special Events

Emily Kasper
Director of Operations

Alice Edwards
Development Associate

Po Higgins
Administrative Assistant

25 YEARS

1986

Children's Crisis Center opens.

1988

Friends for Families First founded by Judy DeBord, Donna Miedema and Karen Schmidt.

1992

Offered first parent education class.



1996

Families First's 10th Birthday Bash. The name of the Children's Crisis Center is changed to Children's Center.

1998

Our Children's Center changed its focus from short-term shelter care to longer-term residential treatment.

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998



Offered one parent support group and an accompanying children's group.

1987

The Parent Supportline opens from 3-9 p.m. weekdays. Addition of our second parent support group. First expansion at the Children's Crisis Center complete.

1989

Created the "Friend of the Children Award" to recognize outstanding supporters. The first award given to Liz and Charlie Steinbrueck. The Children's Crisis Center mortgage paid in full.

1991

Expansion at the Children's Crisis Center includes an activity room for the kids and a mud room.

1993

Family Support Services expands to include over 10 parent support groups in the Denver-Metro area.

1995

The Family Support Line expands hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

1997



OF HISTORY

2000

The Parent Supportline merged with Channel 4's 4Parent's Help Line to create the Family Support Line. The Family Support Services begins a relationship with Prevent Child Abuse America and is instrumental in creating the Circle of Parents® Support Group model. Our first web-site is launched. The land for the Family Center is purchased.

2004

Family Support Services expands to include education and support for Spanish speaking families.

2006

Completion of the Family Center and Grand Opening.



2008

Friends for Families First creates an arm for young professionals and parents called "PARTNERS".

2011

Families First celebrates 25 years of service to children and families in Colorado.

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

Family Support Services expands to include Infant Massage classes.

2001

Calls to the Family Support Line tripled.



2005

Ground Breaking of Family Center. A project of the "Dream Team".



The name of the Children's Center is changed to Children's Treatment Center.

2007

2009

Agency message is refined and web-site is redesigned.

The Family Support Line began answering 1-800-CHILDREN, a collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Colorado.

2010

A State-Wide Resource

The Family Support Line answers the statewide Father and Parenting help-line for the **Be There for Your Kids** program of the Colorado Department of Human Services as well as the parenting and school involvement help-line for the **Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center** (CPIRC). Additionally, Families First and **Prevent Child Abuse Colorado** have entered into an agreement whereby the Family Support Line serves as the answer line for 1-800-CHILDREN in the state of Colorado.

The Family Support Line number is listed under three different headings (Child Abuse Services, Human Service Organizations and Parenting) in every **Dex** phone book in Colorado and online.



Family Support Services Team

"I have enjoyed being a part of the Family Support line for many years (15+). The thing I have found most important is to be a good listener when people have difficult situations to face. Then in some cases I was glad to be able to provide them with information or tell them about services they were not aware of that could be helpful to them."
Karen Robison, Family Support Line Volunteer

The Family Support Line

Parents often need a listening ear to provide support, encouragement and resources when life is challenging. Our Family Support Line is the place Colorado parents can receive non-judgmental, supportive information and compassion to help them make good choices for their children and their families.

The Support Line is available daily. Our trained, caring volunteers offer assistance, information and resources to any parent, caregiver or professional willing to ask for help, regardless of circumstance.

The Family Support Line 1-800-CHILDREN

has answered

53,833 calls since 1990

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS: 3,386

PRIMARY CALL CATEGORIES

- Parenting Classes
- Abuse (Child, Substance, Domestic Violence)
- Divorce and Step-Parenting
- Legal Questions
- Behavior and Discipline
- Emergency Assistance

PRIMARY REFERRAL SOURCE

- 42% Agency or Other Professional
- 13% Fatherhood Initiative
- 11% Phone Book
- 10% Internet
- 7% Friend or Family

IN FOLLOW-UP CALLS

- 87% Found the Support Line Volunteer helpful
- 89% Found the information helpful
- 72% Found the referrals appropriate
- 47% Reported a meaningful change in their situation

Spanish Family Support Services

Our Spanish Family Support Services include Consejos Para Familias, a statewide Spanish Support Line, which provides child development information, answers parenting inquiries, offers understanding and emotional support and connects Spanish-speaking parents with community resources. Also included in our Spanish Family Support Services are seminars which seek to help Spanish-speaking parents learn how to enhance school participation and maintain academic readiness throughout the educational life of a child. Learning parenting skills firsthand, parents can create strong and healthy families. Many of our outreach efforts are targeted in early education centers, preschools and public schools. The program also includes the Spanish Advisory Council, a group of Latino community leaders who provide insight in the overall direction of the program and serve as ambassadors for the Spanish Family Support Services.

Consejos para Familias 1-866-Las Familias

Open weekdays
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Consejos para Familias

378 parents called for information, referrals or a listening ear

Seminars

17 Spanish Parent Education Seminars were provided for **173** parents and caretakers

Circle of Parents® Groups

26 parents attended **2** Circle of Parents® Groups were held at Aurora Community Connections and Clayton Early Learning



Family Support Services Collaborations

Denver-Metro Area

Aurora Community Connections
Clayton Early Learning
Community Resources, Inc.
Denver Public Library
Douglas County Youth Initiative
Evanston United Methodist Church
First Denver Friends Church
Littleton First Presbyterian Church
Mt. Loretto, Archdiocesan Housing
Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers
Rocky Mountain SER Head Start
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

Cortez

NEST Child Advocacy Center

State-wide

Advocates for Recovery
Colorado Department of Human Services, Fatherhood Initiative
Colorado Parent and Child Foundation (CPCF)
Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC)
Colorado PTA
Prevent Child Abuse Colorado

National

Circle of Parents®

"By working with Spanish speaking parents on a weekly basis in "Circulo de Padres®" groups, I see the growth and positive changes that occur in families; particularly, when parents place the interest of their kids first. I see commitment and a desire to become better parents."

Olga Salazar, Spanish Family Support Services

Children's Groups

While their parents attended our groups and classes, **323** children attended our Children's Group. We offer a structured children's program which provides fun activities and creative projects for the children. Our trained staff and experienced volunteers provide children with an opportunity to learn appropriate skills for socializing and self control.



Brent Kieft teaching a Love and Logic Parenting Class

*"I truly believe that using empathy and consequences rather than anger is a better parenting tactic that will lead to a better family relationship."
Parent who attended Appreciating Your Adolescent Parenting Class*

"I learned to make informed decisions and to trust my parenting choices and know I am the right person for the job!" Parent who attended Love and Logic Parenting Class

Parent Education

Children are not born with an instruction manual and we've seen that many parents make good choices when given good information. Our Parenting Classes, Seminars, Massage Instruction and Conferences teach effective communication and disciplinary skills for parenting children from birth to adulthood.

Classes

35 Education Classes
351 Parents Attended
681 Children Impacted
70 Scholarships Granted

Topics Covered:
General Parenting and Specialized Classes for Parents of Preschoolers Adolescents and Teen Parents

Seminars

23 Seminars (17 Spanish/6 English)
197 Parents Attended
446 Children Impacted

Topics Cover 5 Protective Factors:
Discipline, Communication, Stress Management, School Involvement

Infant Massage

2 Infant Massage Classes
8 Parents Attended

Conferences

Kinship Conference (Co-Sponsor)
43 Grandparents Attended

Conference Theme:
Evolution of Communication

CIRCLE of PARENTS®

Circle of Parents® is a national network of parent-led, self-help groups where parents can share ideas, celebrate successes and address the challenges of parenting.

We have found that when a group of parents come together to share frustrations and experiences, they don't feel alone in their struggles. The groups are a friendly, supportive environment led by parents with the help of trained facilitators. During free group meetings anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children.

Circle of Parents® Groups

12 groups met regularly (10 English, 2 Spanish)

180 parents and caregivers attended Circle of Parents® Groups at Families First or a collaborative agency

369 children were impacted through parents who attended Families First's Circle of Parents® Groups

Specialized groups were held for single parents, parents of preschoolers, grandparents and dads.

26 Circle of Parents® facilitators were trained in Sterling and La Junta to assist rural communities with parent support for parents in recovery from substance abuse. **21** Circle of Parents® facilitators were trained in Denver and Cortez, laying the foundation for additional groups in 2012.

90% of parents who attended a Circle of Parents® Group found that sharing ideas with other parents who experience similar frustrations is helpful in raising their own children.

National Research

Families First participated in the Circle of Parents® National Research Project which concluded in April 2011. This two-year project consisted of measuring the Protective Factors within the Circle of Parents® groups that Families First facilitates. We began by administering a pre test to new parents attending our groups and followed up with a post test after a period of time.

The objective of the research project was to measure positive change in protective factors that work toward preventing child abuse and neglect. The project allowed us to better understand the impact the support group experience has on building parenting skills, relationships between parents and children and social connections.

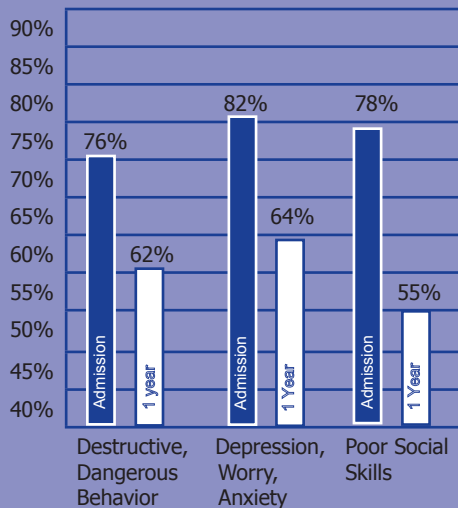
The results of the research project show that Circle of Parents® participants had statistically significant positive changes in their behaviors as parents. This demonstrates that the support group model we are using is working for parents! The skills and tools gained in these support groups build better parents and create healthy and happy children.

Measure of Success

There are four behavioral rating scales we use to gauge the needs of the children in our care, to measure a child's progress and help in organizing their treatment plan. It is considered a success when a child decreases their scores by 10-20 percent. As you can see in the graph below, over the past year, the children living at our Children's Treatment Center made significant improvement in destructive behaviors, level of depression and withdrawal and social skills.



Children's Treatment Center Team



A Shorter Bar Indicates Improvement

Children's Treatment Center

The Children's Treatment Center provides a therapeutic community for young children struggling with the emotional trauma of abuse and neglect suffered in their homes. This community is modeled on healthy family living and provides a unique opportunity for children to recover from their trauma and for families to develop healthy family interactions.

Fourteen children were served at The Children's Treatment Center in 2010-2011.

These children received:

- **779** hours of individual therapy
- **141** hours of group therapy
- **2,899** individual days of care.

Of the 14 children we served:

- **2** children returned to their biological home
- **2** children went to adoptive homes
- **2** children moved to another placement
- **8** children are still in placement with us.

Our unique facility is licensed as an RCCF and provides a full range of treatment services for young children and their families. The food program is monitored by the USDA. The USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. For additional information write the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Protective Factors

Families First adheres closely to an established set of protective factors which have been shown to increase the health and well-being of children and families. These attributes serve as tools, helping parents and care-givers make healthy and safe parenting choices, particularly under stress.

Regardless of a child's age, ethnicity, economic status, or religion, research has demonstrated that these protective factors increase the parent's ability to raise healthy children and lower the incidence of abuse and neglect. We promote these factors in all of our work with families and measure the outcomes through Group and Class Evaluations (figures below).

Protective Factors	Classes	Groups
Child/Parenting Nurturing and Attachment Participants reported getting along better with their children.	87%	82.5%
Parent's Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development Participants reported that they improved their parenting skills.	95%	80%
Parental Resilience During Stress Participants reported that they learned to creatively solve problems.	86%	72.5%
Social Connections to Family, Friends and Community Participants reported that they benefited from sharing ideas and experiences with other participants.	87%	90%
Provision of Basic Necessities and Access to Community Resources Participants feel like they know where to turn for community resources.	85%	75%

Adoption

Due to extreme histories of abuse and neglect, many children come to the Children's Treatment Center with no families. Our job is to prepare them for family life and match them with adoptive parents. We provide transitional services as our children move into their new homes and are available for aftercare consultation with parents. We are happy to report several successful placements for adoption this year.

"Through a nurturing, therapeutic, and supportive environment, Families First was able to successfully transition three children on my caseload into their permanent families within two months. While children reside at Families First they are given the tools necessary to heal from trauma and grow by leaps and bounds. The staff at Families First have the most difficult job of loving and caring for these children as though they are their own, yet helping prepare the children to move to adoptive families, return home or live with relatives. Denver Department of Human Services appreciates all they do for our children."
 Meredith Halstead, Caseworker

"Working with Families First in the transition of our new son has been an unexpected joy. In a time that could have been very demanding and stressful, we were amazed at the personal time and interest the staff at Families First put into preparing our son to join the family and start his new life. We cannot thank them enough for the nonstop encouragement, care, and support we have received both before and after placement."
 Chuck and Kelly Anderson, Adoptive Parents

Parent Leadership

This year, Families First announced the creation of a new award, the **Parent Leadership Award**. This award is given to a parent who has utilized our Family Support Services and demonstrated leadership amongst their peers and within our organization. It was designed to recognize parents who are taking an active role in not only making a difference for their family but with other families in the community.

This year's award was given to Brenda Baker. Brenda first attended a parent support group in 1992 and has grown immensely during the past 18 years. She began her parent leadership by supporting new parent group attendees and recruiting others in the community. She then expanded her leadership by becoming a Children's Group Leader and later a co-trainer for Circle of Parents® facilitators and parent leaders in Colorado, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma. She has also presented a family fun workshop breakout session at a Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference. She repeated this same workshop for grandparents raising grandchildren at the 2009 conference which Families First co-sponsors. Brenda was accepted to the Parents as Leaders Team and is now serving on the National Circle of Parents® Board of Directors.



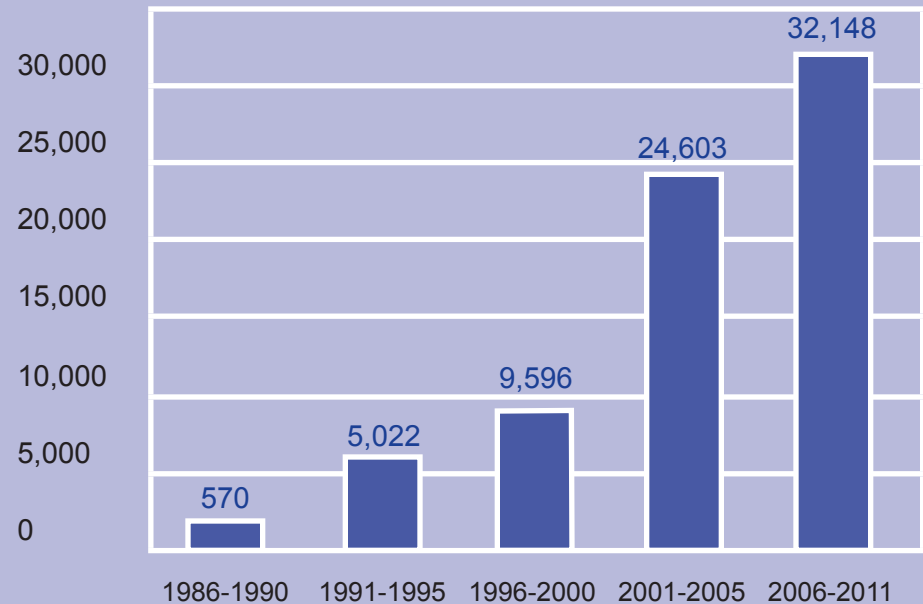
Brenda Baker with her husband Harry.

25 Years of Making a Difference

Families First opened its doors in 1986, providing a home for 100 young, abused children. Over the years, our services grew to include Parent Support Groups, with accompanying Children's Groups, a Family Support Line and Parent Education Classes. Our most recent expansion was to serve the Latino population through Consejos Para Familias. In 2011, we served 6,252 children and parents, a huge leap from the 100 children we reached in 1986.

Each year, the number of children and families we served has grown. Over the past 25 years we are proud to announce that we've provided direct service to 72,748 children and families! That figure doesn't include the countless children we have indirectly helped by providing resources and support to their parents. We know that our service to the community is far greater than any number we can estimate.

Children and Parents Served 1986-2011



Our Program Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of our organization. They provide direct care to abused and neglected children at the Children's Treatment Center, information and referral sources to callers through our Family Support Line, help plan and implement children's activities for our Children's Groups and help set the overall direction for our program services.

In 2010-2011, **55** program volunteers contributed over **3,203 hours**.

Our Active Volunteers

15 + Years

Sharon Bair
Ginny Ennis
Lucy Kissinger
Carole O'Shea
Karen Robison
Virginia Salazar

10-14 Years

Judy Coover
Toni Farquhar
Mary Lester
Cathy Murtha
Sharon Williams

5-9 Years

Harry Baker
Brenda Baker
Fred Buschhoff
Amy Cobb
Jane Harper
Cathy Hollis
Susan Wagner-Ellis

1-4 Years

Joe Archuleta
Aydé Avila
Tania Bailey
Joelle Begic
Monica Bergevin
Brianna Cattelino
Liane Cattelino
Monika Celado-Stenger
Julia Christian
Luz Contreras-Quriroz
Chandra DeSimone
Brian Firooz
Elizabeth Folmsbee
Shelly Goss
Lisa Hofmeister
Valerie James
Judy Jaramillo
Katie Lange
Tiffany Larson
Judy Marturano
Jennifer Metzler
Patty Michalek

Audrey Minchin
Ronnie Mitzner
Anitha Muralidaran
Srivatsan Muralidaran
George Robinson
Lauren Roybal
Esmeralda Santillano
Becky Sieve
Jim Shultz
Tricia Shultz
Sonja Singelstad
Michael Tiane
Lois Tilley
Pat Trujillo
Peter Urdiales
Jen Wilson

Volunteer Awards



Children's Treatment Center volunteer Brian Firooz was named the **Program Volunteer of the Year**.

*"Why do I volunteer? Because it's my favorite part of every week."
Brian Firooz, Staff Aide*



The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society and the Greek Festival received the 2011 award for **Outstanding Community Support**.



The award for **Outstanding Corporate Support** was given to Primrose Schools of Lone Tree and Castle Rock.

Friends' Awards

Daphyne Reiff received the 2011 **Outstanding Volunteer Award**. Daphyne was chosen because of her unselfish gift of time and energy to Families First. Recognition is given for the length of time this person has been involved and for exceptional commitment to accomplishing all volunteer responsibilities undertaken.

Nancy Bernstein received the 2011 **President's Award**. This award is chosen by the Friends Executive Committee and is given to a member of Friends for Families First for outstanding contributions during the current year of volunteer work benefitting Families First.



Daphyne Reiff and Nancy Bernstein

Friends for Families First

Friends for Families First is a special group of volunteers and supporters who embrace the vision of creating a community that nurtures children and strengthens families. Members help the Governing Board and staff accomplish our mission by recruiting volunteers, raising funds and promoting awareness in the community.

This year, Friends for Families First:

- recruited **300** members
- raised **\$240,688** through special events
- contributed over **1,638** hours of volunteer time
- provided birthday dinner, cake, gifts and monthly homemade cookies for the **14** children living at the Children's Treatment Center
- decorated the inside of the Children's Treatment Center and Family Center for the holidays.

"I volunteer with Families First because my father was an abused child. I am here because someone cared enough about him to make a difference." Daphyne Reiff, Friends for Families First

Friends for Families First Board of Directors 2010-2011

Executive Committee

Carol Brewka	President
Raeann Belknapp	President Elect
Kristin Stonebarger	President Elect
Melissa Jacob	VP of Administration
Martha Donovan	VP of Development
Kim Schulz	VP of Membership
Connie Carson	VP of Program
Shelly Goss	Secretary
Debby Konieczny	Treasurer
Cheryl Paxton	Past President

General Board

Jennifer Atkinson	Cheryl Paxton
Nancy Bernstein	Sonya Peterson
Jane Diamond	Cari Pippin
Martha Donovan	Daphyne Reiff
Tracy Donovan	Aldona Seymour
Marsha Duemke	Janet Spurck
Shelly Goss	Toni Theobald
Karen Koop	Toni Tucker
Pam Lambrecht	Glory Weisberg
Phyllis Madden	
Denise McClard	
Sally Newcomb	
Mary Margaret Palms	

Friends' Fundraising Events

Friends President



Carol Brewka,
Friends President

"I am so grateful to have been in the company of incredible leaders this past year. Their support and accomplishments during our 25th Anniversary year has taken my breath away! Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the members of both the General and Executive Boards of 2010-2011."

Carol Brewka, Friends President

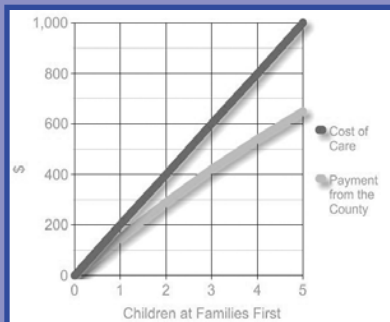


Our Pigs on Pedestals, which all had a birthday theme, sat on a giant birthday cake in honor of our 25th Birthday!

<p>Steppin' Out 25th Anniversary Gala</p> <p>\$151,432</p> <p>Event Chairs: Nancy Bernstein and Daphyne Reiff</p>	<p>Drive for Community \$Change\$ 25th Birthday Bash</p> <p>\$45,981</p> <p>Event Chairs: Sonya Peterson and Daphyne Reiff</p>	<p>Fore Families First Golf Tournament 25th Anniversary Hawaiian Style</p> <p>\$43,275</p> <p>Event Chairs: Sally and Gary Newcomb</p>
<p>DOM PÉRIGNON SPONSOR PBJ Reece Family</p> <p>CRISTAL SPONSORS Gran Cru Friends Summit Investment Management LLC</p> <p>VUEVE SPONSORS DEX MDC/Richmond American Homes</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY VINTAGE SPONSORS Nancy and John Bernstein Raeann and Robert Belknapp Carol and Bob Brewka The Brown Family Sue Burns and Howard Huffmaster The Crazy Merchant, Inc. Curran, Hohensee, Newcomb, Ray and Spurck Martha and Larry Donovan Marsha and Emmett Duemke/ David L. Tandy Foundation Shelly and Dean Goss Halliburton Cathy and Graham Hollis Toby Pippin and Family Priest Engineering Daphyne and Rick Reiff Saunders Construction The South Restaurant</p>	<p>TITLE SPONSOR The Crazy Merchant, Inc.</p> <p>DISPLAY SPONSOR Park Meadows - Colorado's Only Retail Resort</p> <p>SUPER HERO SPONSOR Perry/Baldwin Family</p> <p>FIRST BIRTHDAY SPONSOR DEX</p> <p>FOOD SPONSORS Edie and Mort Marks Family PBJ Reece Family</p> <p>PIGS ON PEDESTALS Aaron Bell International American Furniture Warehouse Lois and Jack Bradbury - ReMax Professionals Champion Bank/Great Northern Tavern Del Frisco's Fransen Pittman General Contractors Monkey Bizness Morton's, The Steakhouse DTC Newberry Brothers Greenhouse and Florist The Pippin Family Primrose School of Lone Tree and Castle Rock The South Restaurant Wells Fargo</p>	<p>TITLE SPONSOR Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage</p> <p>EAGLE SPONSORS DEX PBJ Reece Family</p> <p>BIRDIE SPONSOR The Crazy Merchant, Inc. and the WillMac Foundation Wealth Strategy Partners</p> <p>PAR SPONSORS Nan and Tom Alfrey Sally and Gary Newcomb The South Restaurant Wells Fargo Advisors-James L. Smith Jr.</p> <p>HOLE SPONSORS Sandy and Gary Autrey Beau Visage Skin Care and Spa and Tony's Meats - Denny Chalus Colorado Container Diversified Radiology Martha and Larry Donovan Friends of Sugar Kaye and Mike Hurtt Phyllis Madden Barbara and Gerry Moore Neisen Borth Insurance Rothgerber Johnson and Lyons Jane Wilson, Wallace Properties</p>

Fill the Gap

As state and county agencies cut funding for programs across the board, Families First issued a plea to help meet the needs of children at the Children's Treatment Center. We asked supporters to make a huge difference in the life of a child through a small contribution of \$49.89 (the daily difference between the cost of having a child in residential treatment and the reimbursement from the counties.) Our donors and community rose to the occasion and helped us "Fill The Gap". The funds raised were matched to the first \$10,000 by two long-time supporters. Not only did the campaign meet the challenge, funds raised exceeded our goals and provided support throughout the year.



Les Familles Donors

are individuals who have contributed \$500 or more during 2011.

Les Familles Donors

Kittie Arnold*
James Bailey*
Robert and Anne Baillio
Jeff Baldwin and Debra Perry
Glen and Barbara Barnard
Robert and Raeann Belknapp
Jerry and Marty Berglund
John and Nancy Bernstein*
Richard and Judy Billings
Joanne R. Blum
Edward and Jean Bolle
Robert and Carol Brewka*
Robert and Paulee Brody
William Brown and Jean Pryor
Sue Burns
James Carey
Eric Carlson and Celeste Siade
Miles and Connie Carson
Monika Celado-Stenger
Dennis Chalus
Mark Chase and Ellen Balaguer
Terry and Pat Colip
Casey Cortese
Donna Crown
Jon and Brooke Cuenin
Douglas and Debra Dennis
Diahndra Diamond
Amy Donovan
Larry* and Martha Donovan
Emmett and Marsha Duemke
Richard Eller
William and Janelle Endres
William and Karen Fisher
Trevor Garbers

Connie Genova
Ted and Suzy Gill
James and Ann Goldfarb
Dean and Shelly Goss
Mike and Pat Grace
Debra Gray
Rick Grisinger
Dale and Kathie Hagge
Margaret Hainey
Larry and Cindy Hamilton
Charles and Susan Harris
Ronald and Vicki Hattin
Kenneth and Elizabeth Haughey
Tom and Sheri Hauk
Joe and Ramie Hencmann
John and Mary Hencmann
Sarah Hite
Eugene and Jodie Hohensee*
Graham and Catherine Hollis
Lynne Hufnagel
Jordan and Melissa Jacob
Gary and Margo Jamieson
Scott and Martha Jentz
Bart and Katie Johnson
Sheryl Jonas
Rick and Lucy Kissinger
Scott and Rachelle Knisely
Frank and Debby Konieczny
Richard and Diana Love
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Colorado Health Foundation
Crystal Waters Foundation Inc.
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Denver Mile High Rotary Foundation
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Family Activity Nights

Family Activity Nights are structured evenings of fun and learning. They are designed to teach parents how to better understand their children by encouraging communication, building trust, sharing feelings and working together. It is a great way to build stronger family relationships while playing games and having fun. This evening provides an opportunity for parents to show their children love through touch and words.

This year, we were pleased to offer **2** Family Activity Nights at Monkey Bizness, an indoor facility with interactive play structures where kids can climb, bounce, swing and basically...go bananas! **52** parents and **77** children were able to play and have fun in this safe and nurturing environment.

*"Monkey Bizness is a great place to have fun. People can go to Monkey Bizness to play because it gives them time to be themselves. Here children play all together and make new friends. Adults interact with the children by playing games with and just having fun with them. It is fun and enjoyable for all ages."
Eli Baker, Child who Attended a Family Activity Night*

Leadership Award

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, the Governing Board elected to honor an individual who has given 25 years of service and leadership to Families First, Mary Hencmann. Mary joined Families First in 1986 as a child care worker and administrative assistant and today, serves as our Executive Director.

Mary was honored for leading the organization in upholding our strong values and for being committed to our mission since joining the organization 25 years ago.



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Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Campaign

Since 2006, children and families across the state, served by Families First, have benefited from the generosity of Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage. This year's customer donation campaign, with funds matched by Natural Grocers, resulted in a \$16,400 donation to Families First. We are especially grateful to the cashiers for their front line efforts, the store managers for their support and encouragement, Nancy Flynn, Director of Marketing, for her unflinching belief in Families First and its mission and the Isely family, owners of Natural Grocers, who have made generosity a part of their very successful business model.



Corporate Partnerships Sponsored Fundraisers

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Beacon Communications
Caprock Business Forms & Envelopes
Colorado Kids First
Concerts For Kids
The Crazy Merchant, Inc.
Creative Concepts & Design
DataUsa
Dex Media, Inc.
Environmental Pest Control
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Kaiser Permanente – Arapahoe Office
Lowe's of Aurora
Monkey Bizness
On Target Mailing Services
Philoptochos
Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care

Fundraisers:

CoBiz Cares
Comfort Suites
Greek Festival
Highline Elementary
Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary
Committee (MDIC)
Meiklejohn Elementary Penny Harvest
Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage
Primrose School of Lone Tree and
Castle Rock
Rocky Mountain Business Travel
Association (RMBTA)
Seven 30 South
Tagawa Gardens
UMB Banks

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Gift of Hope Holiday Program

The Holidays are a time when HOPE is emphasized and expectation is heightened. It is often very difficult for families with low incomes or for single parents to feel that HOPE and to fulfill the desires of their children. Families First is dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Give the Gift of Hope to children and parents in our community and help alleviate some of the stress and expectations associated with the Holidays.

Through the generous support of the community, we were able to bring joy during the holidays into the lives of:

- **65** families and
- **146** children.



Clubs, Schools and Organizations

Assumption Greek Orthodox
Cathedral of Denver Colorado
Aurora Public Schools
Christ Church United Church of Christ
Highline Community Elementary
School
Just Give
LCC Ladies League
National Charity League Inc
Network for Good
Penny Harvest - Meiklejohn
Elementary School
PEO Chapter CQ
Philoptochos Ladies Society of the
Annunciation
Primrose School of Lone Tree and
Castle Rock
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Association
TIAA-CREF Employee Giving
Campaign

In compiling these reports, every effort was made to ensure accuracy. If there are omissions, misspellings or other errors, please inform us at 303 745-0327 or info@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

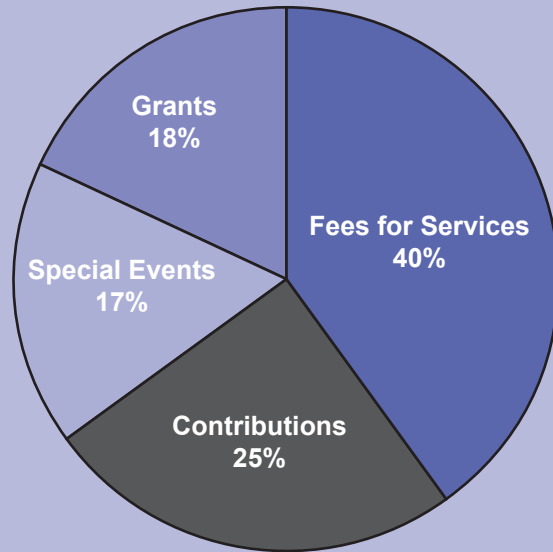
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WJFJ Inc/Fleming Financial
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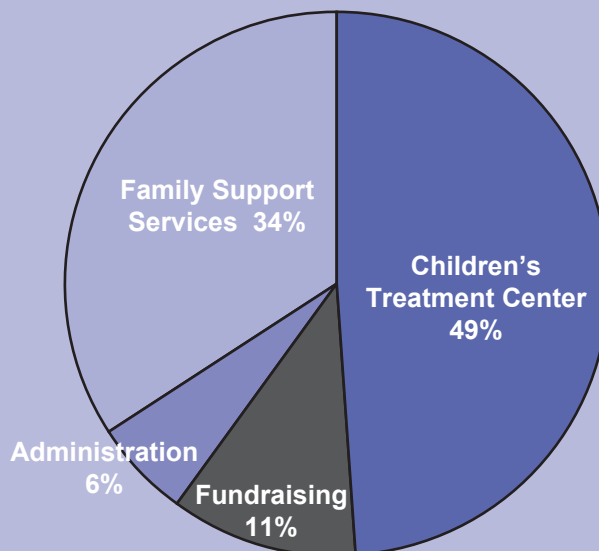
2011 Financial Profile

Kids Helping Kids



Revenue and Support

Fees for Services	\$521,558
Contributions	\$327,956
Special Events	\$227,800
Grants	\$234,094
Total	\$1,313,811



Expenses

Program Services	
Children's Treatment Center	\$621,136
Family Support Services	\$432,559
Support	
Administration	\$71,469
Fundraising	\$138,327
Total Expenses	\$1,263,491
Change in Net Assets	(\$50,320)
Net Assets	
Beginning of Year	\$2,583,808
End of Year	\$2,634,138

The Common Cents Penny Harvest grew from one child's desire to feed the homeless, and since 1991, children between the ages of four and 14 have been converting their natural compassion for others into action by collecting pennies and turning those pennies into grants for community organizations - \$8.1 million in grants donated by children since 1991!

The Penny Harvest shows young people they have the ability to make the world a better place by introducing them to the power of philanthropy and service during their formative years. As children help others, they develop their generosity and moral character, and they learn through practice the skills and responsibilities of democratic participation.

Seven year old Parker Zieschang created a video that introduced Families First to the Penny Harvest leadership team at his school, hoping they'd select Families First as a grant recipient, and they did!

Families First was thrilled to receive a \$1500 Penny Harvest Grant from Meiklejohn Elementary School. Students collected a record 107 bags of pennies and more importantly, learned the importance of making a difference for other kids!



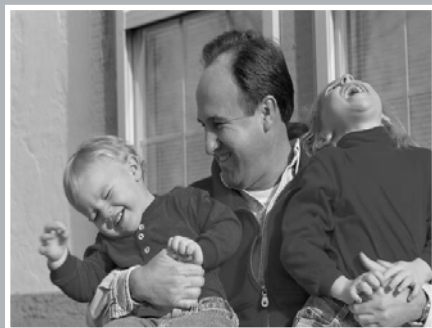
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"I look forward to attending the group. It gives me strength to know I'm not alone and it offers support." Parent who attended a Circle of Parents® Support Group



"Although I did not take this class voluntarily, I wanted to learn and take something away from it and I did. I would encourage other parents (of all kinds) to do the same. I feel like I learned more about communicating with my children and how to encourage them." Parent who attended a Parenting Class



"I feel like this class has completely changed my perspective on parenting and I share what I've learned in this class with family and friends." Parent who attended a Parenting Class

Why do you think Families First has been successful for 25 years?

"Everyone that works at Families First does so because they believe in the cause. Our agency works both with intervention and prevention. We truly believe in families and want to see children live better. Most of the funding for our agency is through private donations which means there is a whole community that believes in us."
Christina Dalpiaz, Parent Educator

Families First is committed to working with parents, children, professionals and others to end the cycle of child abuse. We recognize that it takes all of us working together to achieve our vision of a happy, healthy life for our kids. The staff, volunteers, children and families thank you for your support!