



**Families
First**
making **child
ABUSE**
disappear



Annual Report
Oct 2014 - Sept 2015

making **child**
ABUSE
disappear

MISSION

To provide services which strengthen families, empower parents, nurture children, and end the cycle of child abuse and neglect.

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To my friends in the Families First community,

Families First is long-standing, special and fills an important space for care and direction to parents and children in Colorado at a time when they have nowhere else to turn. Generations of families are changed by giving children second chances and breaking the pattern of abuse. None of this could happen without your heartfelt efforts and commitment to Families First.

I have been lucky to be a part of this community for many years now, and I am so proud, not only of Families First's true impact and achievements, but also of the determined dedication of our staff, our volunteers, our board members and our donors. Our organization is truly unique in that it inspires long-standing commitment and support from people like you.

This year we want to achieve even more. We are the voices of our children and we believe that collectively, with support and hard work, we can make child abuse disappear. I ask all of you to join me in focusing harder than ever on giving Families First the voice and visibility in our community that matches its impact.

My warm thanks to you for your continued support and here's to a great, loud and joyful year!

Katie DeBord
Board President



Friends for Families First
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AMOUNT RAISED
\$56,379

CHAIR
Denise
Shore



SPONSORS

PRESENTING - 7,500
The Crazy Merchant, Inc.

PURPLE RIBBON - 5,000
The Pippin Family

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Julia and Peter Ruston Porterfield

FRIENDS FOR FAMILIES FIRST
FOUNDED 1988

Judy DeBord, Donna Miedema, and
Karen Schmidt, Founders

The purpose of FRIENDS for Families First is to provide for Families First specifically by:

- Developing funding sources
- Recruiting volunteers and new members
- Educating the community and the membership about the goals of Families First and supporting the prevention of child abuse through our Family Support Services.

AMOUNT RAISED
\$89,263

2015

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
FORE FAMILIES FIRST
GOLF
TOURNAMENT



SPONSORS

TITLE SPONSOR - 10,000
PBJ Reece Family

BIRDIE SPONSORS - 2,500
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i2 Construction
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AMOUNT RAISED
\$127,727

CHAIRS
Kathy Colleran
Whitney Harris

MAMBO
in
MIAMI

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VISION

A community that nurtures
children, empowers parents
and strengthens families.

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disappear

Strengthening

Families



orgullosa



fuerter

laughter

Turning to Families First for Strength

Megan's heart is in the right place. She has been legal guardian and adoptive mother to a twelve year old boy since he was two and this boy is the son of a child Megan fostered years ago. The foster daughter had seen her share of troubles as she began using drugs when she was still a teen and ultimately was reduced to living on the streets. The little boy did not bond to his biological mother or to Megan in his early years and was subsequently diagnosed with attachment disorder. Megan chose to attend Families First Circle of Parents® groups in the hope to find the support she needed. She also wanted some guidance to help reinforce her parenting style. Megan now provides a firm, consistent and loving environment for this child and relies heavily on the group as a trusted gathering of parents who allow her to vent her frustrations and find companionship and support from the group as a whole.

special

Families First Support Line Helps Parents Manage Stress

Joanna, facing eviction from her home, called the Families First Support Line, desperate for a sympathetic ear and eager for someone to direct her to any resources that might mediate her current situation. Support Line team members, carefully trained in managing calls of this nature, spent more than twenty minutes discussing Joanna's situation, ultimately suggesting several resources available to her. Although Joanna's situation was still not resolved the following week, she did report that she was contacting several resources suggested by the team and was awaiting responses from those sources. Joanna reported that she was most eager to share her new found peace of mind: She stated that what had been most helpful to her were the various resources to which she was directed by the caring Families First Support Line team combined with their willingness to listen to her vent and their encouragement in developing a workable, realistic plan of action.

divertido



Empowering



Parents

familia

**Rocky Mountain Parents
as Teachers**

**A program acquired by
Families First in February, 2015**

**Home Visitors made
611 visits to 110 children**

Nurturing Children

**1,649
support line
contacts**

patient

The Case of Katie

Six week old Katie was suffering from challenging physical limitations and her parents found themselves overwhelmed with what they were facing. The mere identification of the disability afflicting their baby was enough to send the worried parents into a panic state. It wasn't until the family turned to the early intervention services offered by Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers, a program of Families First, that Katie began to respond well to treatment.

Families First made it possible for Katie's parents to be given access to adaptive tools to effectively manage Katie's disability. She is now thriving in pre-school and her parents are now fully engaged in the scheduled home visits, they report they look forward to subsequent visits with enthusiasm.

love



joy

kind

making **child**
HOPE
disappear

making **child**
USE
disappear

Getting Through to John and Will

John and Will are fun-loving, extremely active brothers who enjoy play, but struggle with participation in activities that require quiet focus and calm demeanors. While attending **Families First Children's Group**, Will would resort to crying when asked to come inside or put toys away. John struggled to sit calmly through any activity. After attending the Children's Group, the boys learned to sit quietly to enjoy story time, complete an entire project and participate in meaningful activities. John and Will also successfully engaged with other children, learning their friends' names and sharing experiences in a group setting!



13
CHILDREN
SERVED IN
RESIDENTIAL
TREATMENT

Helping One Child at a Time

Ben was a child who would completely ignore rules and directions and insisted on doing things his own way. He was continually disruptive, often times separating himself from the children in children's group and behaving inappropriately to distract other children. Children's Group Leaders worked hard using behavior modification techniques to treat Ben. Now, after a few months, he will engage in group activities and is more likely to follow directions when he finds a task challenging. Ben is also willing to be helpful, enjoying responsibilities like passing out snacks, helping smaller children with projects or reading books that the entire group can enjoy. Ben has come so far in his social adaptability that he suggested the group game Charades during the last session and reached out to another child so that this child would become engaged in the game. Ben is becoming a more considerate part of the group, learning the names of the other kids and the group leaders in the **Families First Children's Group**.

2,615
CHILDREN BENEFITED
FROM OUR SERVICES

WE PROVIDED
736 HOURS INDIVIDUAL THERAPY
105 HOURS GROUP THERAPY

Melissa and Mom

Melissa was one of several siblings removed from an abusive home and after living with several foster families, she came to Families First when she was eight years old. After a year and a half of intensive treatment, Melissa was ready to be placed with an adoptive family. A single mother from the Washington D.C. area had seen pictures and videos of Melissa online and was eager to learn more about her. After many back and forth conversations between Denver and Washington, the D.C. Mom flew to Denver to meet Melissa. Melissa and Mom are now together and fondly remember Families First. They keep in touch with the treatment staff and even came back on their first anniversary together to visit the team and they regularly contribute to a small "outing" fund for the current treatment center residents.



2 CHILDREN
PLACED IN
ADOPTIVE HOMES

**Nurturing
Children**

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making child
SE
 disappear



\$250-\$499

Individual Donors

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\$500+

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• Company •

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Supporters

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Erik Isernhagen: CEO LINX

“When you look at the work that Families First does, from a good portion of the attention and focus going to education and prevention of child abuse, and then there is of course, the kids that are being cared for that have already been removed from their home in cases of severe abuse, how do you not have an appreciation and soft spot for that kind of work.”

“The ways that corporations can help organizations like Families First is only limited by creativity.”



238

volunteers

2,120

volunteer hours

valued at

\$57,304

John Gibson: President, Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care

“We’ve been involved with Families First for well over 10 years, it’s become a part of our culture for all of our employees.”

“Families First provides a unique opportunity to help people, not only with the problems they are dealing with today, but to educate people in advance of those situations.”



Tony and Yolanda Rainold
Friend of the Children Award

Emma Eagan



Volunteer of the Year Award

Meredith-Hotz-Olson:
General Manager
Crazy Merchant

“We’re here to help spread the word of Families First and let people know how they can get involved in breaking the cycle of child abuse.”



Thanks to
YOU!

\$17,526.20

COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
GIVESDAY

12.08.15



From the desk of the
Executive Director



Dear Friends,

A picture has the power to move us, to share, communicate and show others what is important to us. This year, our pictures share our accomplishments, highlighting all of the good work we have done and the number of lives we have impacted. Our pictures provide you with a glimpse into the world of the children and families we serve. Their smiles grace our frames with their triumphs and spirit as they participate in our programs; reaching for and attaining their goals. The stories they share emphasize personal struggles and accomplishments, yet, provide support to others who may be experiencing similar challenges. As you moved through the pages of our report and viewed our pictures, you noticed that we don't stand alone in our efforts to make child abuse disappear. We have amazing corporate, foundation and individual supporters who help ensure that we continue to impact the lives of so many children and families.

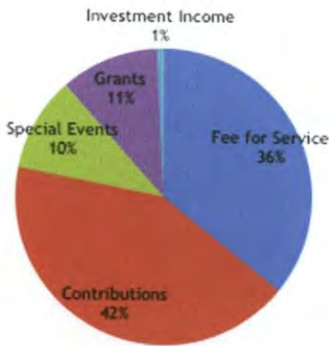
In 2015, one of our major accomplishments was acquiring a well-established program, Rocky Mountain Parents As Teachers. This in-home program provides information, support and encouragement parents need to ensure their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life increasing school readiness and success among children and preventing child abuse, neglect and the breakdown of the family. We are thankful to the founders of this amazing program who placed their trust and support in us as we carry on the work they began.

I am humbled by the many amazing people that I meet. The memories that will fill my picture frames will be a constant reminder of the generosity that surrounds us everyday. I know that through your support the frames of the children and families we serve will be filled with pictures that remind them of good times, positive interactions and exciting adventures. Thank you for helping make child abuse disappear in our community.

My Best,

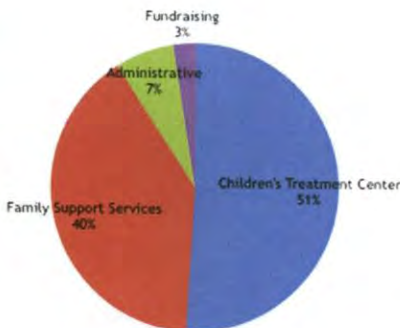
Adam Rebe

Executive Director



Revenue and Support

Fees for Service	\$636,383
Contributions	\$754,130
Special Events	\$183,860
Grants	\$191,087
Investment Income	-\$13,506
Other	\$932
Total	\$1,752,886



Expenses

Program Services	
Children's Treatment Center	\$654,552
Family Support Services	\$514,787
Support	
Administration	\$85,015
Fundraising	\$32,752
Total	\$1,287,106

Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$2,237,811
End of Year	\$2,703,591
Change in Net Assets	\$465,780

Our Family of Services Include:

Families First Support Line (877-695-7996)

Consejos para Familias (866-527-3264)

Serves as a statewide resource and the main point of contact for professionals and parents. The support line provides a one on one conversation with a Families First professional who listens to a caller's concerns and connects them to the appropriate service.

Circle of Parents® is a free weekly support group conducted by parents and facilitated by a professional. The focus is building on existing strengths by sharing and learning through fellowship.

Parent Education Classes are offered to any parent and emphasize learning versus punishment; our classes teach encouragement, communication, child development, parenting style, discipline, setting limits with consequences and self-care. (Denver metro only)

Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers home visitation program is for families with children from prenatal through Kindergarten age. RMPAT's trained parent educators, also known as home visitors, make monthly home visits, offering child development information, parenting strategies, annual developmental screenings, activities to promote school readiness and connections to community resources. (Denver metro only)

Children's Residential Treatment Center offers a safe, nurturing and homelike environment for boys and girls, ages three to twelve, who have been abused or neglected and whose resulting behavioral problems make living in a family setting impossible. We provide an intensive wrap around treatment program to prepare the children for life with a forever family.*

*All our services, with the exception of the Children's Residential Treatment Center, are in English and Spanish.

**Families
First**

Empowering Parents, Nurturing Children, Strengthening Families

2163 South Yosemite Street
Denver, CO 80231
303-745-0327

www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org