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

2011 Annual Report
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._
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
1986
- Children's Crisis Center opens.

1988
- Friends for Families First founded by Judy DeBord, Donna Miedema and Karen Schmidt.

1989
- Offered one parent support group and an accompanying children's group.

1990
- Created Family Support Services program.

1991
- Created the "Friend of the Children Award" to recognize outstanding supporters. First award given to Liz and Charlie Steinbrueck. The Children's Crisis Center mortgage paid in full.

1992
- Offered first parent education class.

1993
- Expansion at the Children's Crisis Center includes an activity room for the kids and a mud room.

1994
- 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.

1996
- Families First's 10th Birthday Bash. The name of the Children's Crisis Center is changed to Children's Center.

1997
- Our Children's Center changed it's focus from short-term shelter care to longer-term residential treatment.

1998
- Children's Crisis Center opens.
- Offered first parent education class.
- Friends for Families First founded by Judy DeBord, Donna Miedema and Karen Schmidt.
- Children's Crisis Center opens.
- Offered one parent support group and an accompanying children's group.
- 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.
- 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.
- Created Family Support Services program.
- Families First's 10th Birthday Bash. The name of the Children's Crisis Center is changed to Children's Center.
- Our Children's Center changed it's focus from short-term shelter care to longer-term residential treatment.
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.

2001

Calls to the Family Support Line tripled.

1999

Family Support Services expands to include Infant Massage classes.

2004

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

2005

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

2006

Completion of the Family Center and Grand Opening.

2007

Agency message is refined and web-site is redesigned.

2008

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

2009

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

2011

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

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

2000

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.

The Family Support Line 1-800-CHILDREN has answered 53,833 calls since 1990

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.

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

“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
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.

378 parents called for information, referrals or a listening ear
17 Spanish Parent Education Seminars were provided for 173 parents and caretakers
26 parents attended 2 Circle of Parents® Groups were held at Aurora Community Connections and Clayton Early Learning

“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.

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.

Claases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35 Education Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>351 Parents Attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>681 Children Impacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 Scholarships Granted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23 Seminars (17 Spanish/6 English)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>197 Parents Attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>446 Children Impacted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Infant Massage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Infant Massage Classes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Parents Attended</td>
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Conferences

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kinship Conference (Co-Sponsor)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43 Grandparents Attended</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conference Theme:
- Evolution of Communication

“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
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.

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.
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.
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).

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

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.

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.
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
Bianna Cattelino
Liane Cattelino
Monika Celado-Stenger
Julia Christian
Luz Contreras-Quirroz
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 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.

“T’ll 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
Nancy Bernstein
Jane Diamond
Martha Donovan
Tracy Donovan
Marsha Duemke
Shelly Goss
Karen Koop
Pam Lambrecht
Phyllis Madden
Denise McClard
Sally Newcomb
Mary Margaret Palms

Cheryl Paxton
Sonya Peterson
Cari Pippin
Daphyne Reiff
Aldona Seymour
Janet Spurck
Toni Theobald
Toni Tucker
Glory Weisberg
## Friends’ Fundraising Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Total Raised</th>
<th>Event Chairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steppin’ Out 25th Anniversary Gala</td>
<td>$151,432</td>
<td>Nancy Bernstein and Daphyne Reiff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive for Community $Change$ 25th Birthday Bash</td>
<td>$45,981</td>
<td>Sonya Peterson and Daphyne Reiff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fore Families First Golf Tournament 25th Anniversary Hawaiian Style</td>
<td>$43,275</td>
<td>Sally and Gary Newcomb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sponsors

- **DOM PÉRIGNON SPONSOR**
  - PBJ Reece Family

- **CRISTAL SPONSORS**
  - Gran Cru Friends
  - Summit Investment Management LLC

- **VUEVE SPONSORS**
  - DEX
  - MDC/Richmond American Homes

- **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 Duenke/
    - 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

### Special Thanks

- **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."

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

* Board Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Les Familles Donors</th>
<th>Annual Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kittie Arnold*</td>
<td>Davis and Annie Moberly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Bailey*</td>
<td>Jeff and Leslie Modesitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert and Anne Baillio</td>
<td>Shirley Mondragon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Baldwin and Debra Perry</td>
<td>Gerry and Barbara Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen and Barbara Barnard</td>
<td>Kelly Morrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert and Raeann Belknapp</td>
<td>Michael and Natalie Mount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry and Marty Berglund</td>
<td>Gary and Sally Newcomb</td>
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<td>John and Nancy Bernstein*</td>
<td>Bob* and Kirsten Omer</td>
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<td>Richard and Judy Billings</td>
<td>Virginia Park</td>
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<td>Joanne R. Blum</td>
<td>Robb Pickard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward and Jean Bolle</td>
<td>Toby Pippin* and Marty Tinglehoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert and Carol Brewka*</td>
<td>Kathleen Potter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert and Paulee Brody</td>
<td>Loren* and Traci Priest</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Brown and Jean Pryor</td>
<td>Emile and Yolanda Rainold</td>
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<td>Sue Burns</td>
<td>Gary and Gayle Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Carey</td>
<td>Gary and Barbara Reece</td>
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<td>Eric Carlson and Celeste Siade</td>
<td>Rick and Daphyne Reiff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miles and Connie Carson</td>
<td>Alec and Riley Rhodes</td>
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<td>Monika Celado-Stenger</td>
<td>Frank Riccio</td>
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<td>Dennis Chalus</td>
<td>Ken Roedel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Chase and Ellen Balaguer</td>
<td>Brad and Cathy Rothhammer</td>
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<td>Terry and Pat Colip</td>
<td>Tom and Alison Sandler</td>
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<td>Casey Cortese</td>
<td>Michael and Lyn Schaffer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Crown</td>
<td>Barney and Nancy Schotters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon and Brooke Cuenin</td>
<td>Jeffrey and Kim Schulz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas and Debra Dennis</td>
<td>Brent and Linda Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diahdra Diamond</td>
<td>Scot Smith and Susan Blake-Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Donovan</td>
<td>Steve and Irma Smith*</td>
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<td>Dean and Shelly Goss</td>
<td>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.</td>
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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.

Individual Donors

Thomas and Marguerite Brosh
Marc and Karen Brown
Jerri Farris Brummond
Robert and Susan Brust
Robert and Irene Bryant
Lindsay Bullot
Fred and Lynn Buschhoff
Chantel Butterfield
C. Deen Buttorff
Heather Caffrey
Sheryl Calvert
Thomas and Ann Carey
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Jessica Carpinelli
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Tom and Harriet Chaney
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Renee Fichtl
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Mark and Barbara Goldstein
Brian and Michelle Gonzales
Peter and Susan Goodwin
Richard and Juli Gordon
Jerry and Debbie Green
Sandra Gress
Michael Greunke
Richard and Lisa Gross
Joseph and Barbara Gschwendtner

* Board Member
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 unflagging 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

Partnerships:
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
Hablando Hoy
Haynes Mechanical Systems
Import Warehouse
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

Individual Donors
Joanna Love
Michael and Ann Ludwig
Lynette Luhnow
Donald and Patricia Lujan
Erica Maciel
Kiki MacMillan
William and Phyllis Madden
Bill and Kathryn Magaziner
Dan and Mary Mahoney
Scott Maiwald and Lida Citroen
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Margaret McCauley
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Lucretia Miller
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D. Douglas and Debra Montgomery
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Patricia Muscari
Mike and Stephanie Musella
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Gay Niemann
David and Norma Nixon
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Fredi Novin
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Arthur and Mary Otten
Kathlene Overholt
Nick and Val Owen
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Fred and Beverly Pax
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Anthony Piccone
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Cari Pippin
Ty and Inger Pippin
Kendra Plath
Keith and Margaret Platte
Sarah Poffel
Ruthanne Polidori
Claire and Nora Poole
Larry and Claudette Potthoff
Marjorie Price
G.W. and Rose Protextor
Bob and Laura Purinton
Sid and Penni Raines
Dan and Tanya Ranney
Jeff and Julie Reece
Jon and Kathy Reed
Michelle Reeves
Mick and Florine Richardson
Glenda Richter
Hannelore Rimplinger
Andrew and Karen Ritz
John and Linda Roberts
Thomas and Margaret Roberts
Jonah Robinson
Karen Robison
Blaine and Gayle Rodgers
Gary Rohr and Beth Alger-Rohr
Tony Rosacci
Harold and Dorothy Rosenblatt
Leo and Elizabeth Rostermundt

* Board Member
Annual Giving

Annette Rothman
Gordon and Susan Roy
Jack and Loretta Rule
Sebastian and Reta Ruma
LA Samaras
Chris and Gerri Saros
Marc and Joanna Saunders
Charles and Jo Ann Scharrmann
Charles and Ruth Schenck
Al and Karen Schmidt
Coral and Stephany Schmidt
Margaret Schmidt
Tracy Schmidt
Matthew and Patricia Schovell
Terry and Patricia Schroder
Thomas and Marcia Seawell
Sarah Senst
Katie Sevida
Rick* and Aldona Seymour
Katie Sheehan
Jim and Tricia Shultz
Donald and Arlene Shwayder
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Paul Singelstad and Jennifer Richardson
Jane Sleppy
Barbara Slocum
Nancy Smith
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Darrel and Heidi Somer
Steve and Ryta Sondergard
Marita Spangler
Robert and Cindy Speaker
Frank and Judith Spratlen
Martha Stimpson
Dorothy Stone and Neil White
Daniel and Kristin Stonebarger
Sharon Stuart
Sue James
Brett Sturm
Michael and Nan Sweetman
Jeffrey and Claudia Swiatek
Shana Symko
Kay Taylor
Rodney and Ann Thomas
Sabra Thomas
Lisa Thompson
Paul Thompson
Susan Thurgood
Terry and Nancy Todd
Neil Toribara and LA Huntington
Marilu Trainor
Terry Traynor
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Amanda Trudel
George Trusz
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Bob Wagner
Greg and Briana Wagner
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James and Kay Yates
Phil and Fran Yeddis
Dan and Wendy Youngquist
Tish Zadar
Aaron and Kerry Zieschang

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

**Annual Giving**

**Corporate Donors**

- Air Sprayers Inc
- Am Signal Inc
- American Lighting
- Bieging, Shapiro & Burber
- Bradbury Family Partnership
- CoBank
- Colorado Capital Bank
- Colorado Container Corporation
- Colorado Humanities
- Costco Corporate
- The Crazy Merchant, Inc
- CTL Thompson, Inc.
- Delish Demure
- Diversified Radiology
- Financial Management Partners
- First American State Bank
- Fleishman & Shapiro PC
- Fransen Pittman General Contractors
- Glacier Publishing Services Inc
- GoodSearch
- Greenburg Traurig Philanthropic Fund
- Halliburton Giving Choices Match
- Haynes Mechanical
- Hightower & Associates
- Import Warehouse
- Insperity
- J. Nicholas Corp
- Kaiser Permanente
- Legg Mason & Co LLC
- Lowe’s of Aurora
- Lumino Creations
- Mark Hamling & Associates
- McBride Drinkwine LLC
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- Monkey Bizzness
- Morton’s - Denver Tech Center
- Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage
- Neisen Borth Agency
- Newberry Brothers Greenhouse and Florist
- Nicholson, Spencer & Associates Inc
- No Boundaries Property Investments LLC
- Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts
- Park Meadows Business Improvement District
- Poysti & Adams LLC
- Puckett Energy Company
- R.W. Beck Inc
- RAM Development CO
- RE/MAX International
- Sander Ingebretsen & Wake PC
- Saunders Construction Inc
- Servitech
- Shear Class
- SOBO 151 Bar & Grill
- Southwestern Investment Advisors
- Streich and Company PC
- Summit Investment Management
- Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care
- Tagawa Gardens
- The Gary-Williams Energy Corporation
- The GE Foundation
- The Rudolph-Rogers Company
- The South Restaurant
- Therapeutic Alliance, Prof LLC
- Timber Canyon Holdings LLC
- Tranquility Salon & Day Spa
- Treece, Alfrey, Musat & Bosworth
- UMB Bank
- Walmart
- Westerra Credit Union
- WJFJ Inc/Fleming Financial
- World Capital Mortgage

*Board Member*

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.
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!
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!

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

“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