





Families First
Empowering parents. Nurturing children.

Family Support Line
1-877-695-7996
Consejos para Familias
1-866-527-3264

Issue #3 January 2009 Editor: Alice Edwards
To learn more about Families First or
to make a donation, visit our website
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

Friday, May 1, 2009
Steppin' Out ...Diamonds & Spurs Returns!
Mile High Station



This year's event will feature songwriters and entertainers direct from Nashville, line dancing, bull riding and quick draw dueling! It's a high energy party you won't want to miss!

Friends Educational Luncheon

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:30-1pm [>Learn More](#)

Pig Weigh-in and Adoption!

RSVP to Families First at 303-745-0327

Saturday, February 7 and March 7, 2009
Winter Family Story Time 2-3pm
At The Family Center (See article below)

Thursday, February 19, 2009
Open House 4-7pm
At The Family Center

Saturday, February 28 1-3pm
The Crazy Merchant, 1700 W. Belleview, Littleton

From Families First Executive Director, Mary Hencmann

Thanks to you, we are beginning 2009 on a high note here at Families First. Despite - or maybe because of - the poor economic conditions throughout the state, you responded generously to our Annual Appeal - exceeding our targeted goals. We are grateful for your demonstration of support for strengthening families in our community. As you know when times are tough, families get stressed and the need for our services increase. THANK YOU for your individual contributions, donations of stocks, corporate matching programs and for fulfilling our wish lists! We have so many of you to thank that we are producing a special edition newsletter in print that is coming soon! On behalf of all of us at Families First I wish you and your family all the best in the New Year!



One Parent's Story
Brenda and Harry Baker
Families First Parent Support Groups

To understand the potential impact of Families First parent support groups, let me introduce you to Brenda and Harry Baker. In 1992, Brenda found herself in a bad marriage with two young sons. Feeling inadequate as a parent, Brenda joined a Families First parent support group. Brenda credits Families First for "having and instilling confidence in her to succeed and to believe in

herself." Soon she wasn't just attending the group, she was contributing and helping other parents. Families First invited her to take on a leadership role in the group. [>Read More](#)

*Find our current Parents Support Groups on our website www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

* **Families First is currently looking for volunteer Children's Group Leaders.**
 For information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

Families First Family Support Line
Helps Fathers

Last year, John (not his real name) needed some parenting support and called the Families First Family Support Line. The court awarded John custody of his two children, ages 5 and 3. He explained that their mom makes it very hard on him and tries to usurp his authority. She will call to speak to the girls and then end up talking to the girls about things she should be talking to John about - like making demands about her parenting time. John also noted that when the girls come home from spending the day with their mom, they are all riled up and unsettled. [>Read More](#)



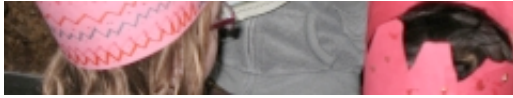
To learn more about **Be There, the Colorado Dad's Initiative**, go to www.coloradodads.com

"There are many different ways Dads can be there for their kids. Be There. It Matters."



Winter Family Story Time - FUN!!!

We had a wonderful time at our first Winter Family Story Time in January. Eight families attended! Storyteller, Gina Abegg joined us. We learned about the Latino celebration of Three Kings Day. Children made crowns to wear, gathered around the fireplace to hear stories and learn Spanish words, ate Kings Cake and enjoyed finding candy in their shoes! Many thanks to the



Nicholls Family for co-hosting and to 10 year old Emma Nicholls for reading "The Mitten" and for sharing her story of how kids can give to kids!

KIDS GIVING to KIDS

Do you have school-age children? In 2008 many children came up with creative ways to fundraise for Families First like Emma Nicholls hosted a pig-painting party for her 10th birthday. If you have a young philanthropist at your house who would like to explore fundraising opportunities with Families First, please have them contact Alice Edwards, Development Associate, at Alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org.

SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

Thank you **SOBO 151 Bar and Grill** for sponsoring a fundraiser for us for the second year.

Ella Bleu Boutique celebrated its fifth anniversary by sponsoring a fundraiser for Families First. The intimate evening of shopping featured the latest fall and holiday fashions modeled by Friends for Families First members including Jody Gruben, Linda Smith and Brooke Parker. The fun evening also featured opportunities to meet the "pros" behind Denver's Fashion Scene, complimentary Veuve Clicquot and fabulous door prizes. Many thanks to owners, Thierry & Kim Inghilterra!



Pictured at the Ella Bleu Fundraiser:

Mary Hencmann, Daphyne Reiff, Kim Inghilterra, Nancy Bernstein

GRANTS and FOUNDATION SUPPORT

We received grants from the **Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, The Schramm Foundation, George L. Shields Foundations, Inc** and **A. V. Hunter Trust**.

Thank you **PBJ Reece Family Foundation** for sponsoring our 2009 Family Support Line.

IN-KIND DONATIONS *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations (not related to holiday giving) in November and December 2008.*

Individuals *Kristin Stonebarger, Sue Bickel, Vicki Hattin, Po Higgins, Kittie Arnold, Jack Smith, The Palms Family, Kris Hillman, Loraine Sykes, Shelly Leinster, Kathleen Larsen*

Corporations, Clubs & Groups *Timbuk Toys, Chapter FI P.E.O.*

Community Partners *Christmas Decor by Swingle, Dex Media, On Target Mailing, Data USA, ESCO Mechanical Services, Environmental Pest Control*

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

Nina Bailey Qwest Foundation
Betsy Cole Mary Lester
Hazel Conner Lynn Hufnagel
Larry and Martha Donovan Kelly Morrision
The Handler Family Suzanne Handler
Rick Kite Rachel Merkel
Natalie and Matt Mauritz Rachel Merkel
Emma Nicholl Megan McCracken
Sharon Stewart Mary Lester
Nancy Todd Carladyne Conyers
Linda Toland Mary Lester
Magi Trousdale Sarah Hite
Jody, Terry, Nancy, Dorothy & Barb Toni Tucker

Marilyn Aycrigg Betty and Richard Douth
Carrie Birky Jane Birky
Jon Burns Penny Banks
Amy Fisher Brenda and Charles Clement
Kris Franz Toni Tucker
Alta Welch Toni Tucker
Everett Pond Bev and Ty Howard

**When you give a gift to Families First Special Giving, you honor special people in your life by passing on their spirit of giving. Your gift helps us to strengthen families by empowering parents and nurturing children. Your gift is a charitable tax donation.*

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