



**Families First:
Helping Families Improve
Children's Lives**

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Families First is Turning Thirty this Month!

Families First is proud to be in our 30th year of helping families improve children's lives. We invite you to take part in the many exciting opportunities and events that we have scheduled! Put the events below into your calendar and follow us on social media to stay up to date with all the goings-on happening at Families First!



Register [here](#) or for more information [here](#)

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Country Fair
Sunday, July 17
Hudson Gardens

Steppin' Out Gala
Friday, September 30
Hyatt Regency DTC

the FAMILIES FIRST cookbook

Submit your Recipes for the Families First Cookbook [here](#)

CONNECT WITH FAMILIES FIRST

[2015 Annual Report](#)

Families First Blog

Parent: Friend or Foe?
Author: Janette Matula

Families First on Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

DONATE NOW

Give a Gift

Families First mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of children by providing education, family support, and treatment.

We need your help to do so. Families First relies on the generous contributions of individuals like you to continue supporting the children and families we serve.

Thank you for your generosity.



WELCOME TO FAMILIES FIRST!

Families First is excited to welcome several new staff members who have joined our family!

At our Family Center, Melissa Haenchen joined Families First in November as the new Resource & Outreach Coordinator. In January we had two new additions to our family: Margot West brings her skills to our Director of Development position, and Marianna Castillo has taken on the role of Volunteer Administrator. Lastly, March brought us a new Early Childhood Program Coordinator, Lesa Nesbit.

We've had some changes at our Children's Treatment Center too: Lindsay Van Wyk & Caroline Caldwell joined the CTC team, and we have promoted 2 of our Child Treatment Counselors, Casey Boland and Kyle Dresser, to Team Lead.

Congrats to all!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

May's featured volunteer is Christina Lusk. Christina has been a Support Line Team Member since January 2016, and recently moved into a trainer role due to her natural knack at talking with and supporting parents.

When asked what attracted Christina to Families First she said, "I found the position through Douglas County Parenting Coalition and I originally applied to them because I was interested in learning more about family services. I myself am a single mom, in college, and trying to make it in this world. Now that I am here, I am in love with Families First. I have never worked in an organization which took such good care of its people."

In regard to her experience so far she said, "Not only have I been able to expand my knowledge of services in the city, but I have also been able to expand my social work skills. I am also grateful Families First has been supportive of me taking initiative in finding services for clients."

A fellow team-member had this to say about Christina: "Christina is such a natural at talking to parents regardless of what their concern is. She has a way of comforting those she talks with, and takes care of their needs without them even realizing the work behind it."

A fun fact about Christina: "My son James, the light of my life, is currently 17 months old. He is not yet talking, but he is climbing everything and he keeps me on my toes!"

Interested in volunteering with Families First? Click [here](#) to fill out an application.



Join us for a Special Film Screening of *Daddy Don't Go*

"Daddy Don't Go challenges skeptics and gives otherwise marginalized men the chance to be appreciated for loving, not forgetting about, their seeds."
Matt Barone, Tribeca Film – November 10, 2015

Wednesday, June 15, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Chez Artiste Theatre

A Free event
Seating is limited
Please RSVP [here](#) or call (303) 745-0327 by June 1st

FRIENDS for

We would like to thank everyone that attended the FRIENDS for Families First Happy Hour on April 19th. We had a great time and were able to collect 26 items of children's clothing in donations for our kids, adopted four pigs for the Drive for Community \$Change\$ that will be weighed in at the Country Fair, and met some new faces. We were also able to roll out the new online registration system for FRIENDS members.

The roll-out of this new system was very well received and is very helpful for Families First to update their databases. If you are a current FRIENDS member and haven't already updated your info click [here](#) to do so.

All in all - the event was a success and we thank everyone who took time out of their day to attend and support Families First!

Are you interested in becoming a FRIEND for Families First? Sign up as a member today to help with upcoming events and make a difference in the lives of Colorado's children. [Register here](#) today!

