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Families First
Empowering parents. Nurturing children.

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

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To learn more about Families First
or to make a donation, visit our website
www.FamiliesFirstColorado.org

“FORE” Families First
A Golf Tournament
The Ridge at Castle Pines North
Monday, September 21, 2009
Registration Deadline – September 14



It’s time “FORE” you to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Colorado! On Monday, September 21, 2009, we will host our 16th Annual “FORE” Families First golf tournament at The Ridge at Castle Pines North. For the past 6 years, this course has been rated as one of the top 10 public courses in Colorado!

The tournament is in memory of Sugar Chalus. Our Honorary Chair, Dr. Denny Chalus and our Event Chairs, Barb and Gary Reece are committed to making this tournament fun and memorable. A Hawaiian theme – one of Sugar’s favorites - should do the trick.

1 pm Shotgun Start
Contest Holes, Silent Auction, Prizes
[Hit a hole in one. Win a 2010 Mercedes Benz!](#)
Sponsor a hole! Contribute an auction item! Put together a foursome!

FRIENDS for FAMILIES FIRST
Cordially invites you to attend
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 9 11am to 1pm
Guests are welcome!
RSVPs requested by September 4
Contact Rachel@FamiliesFirstColorado.org. 303-745-0327

Preventing child abuse is everyone's concern.
Help us expand our membership for this important cause. Bring your friends and family!

 **Natural Grocers and Families First**



Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage cares about Colorado kids. This September they will match donations made to Families First dollar for dollar in any of their stores statewide. This is the third year of our partnership. Last year we raised \$32,668. Here's how you help us make this our best year ever!

Visit your local Natural Grocers frequently throughout September. Have fun making healthy choices for your family as you shop for organic produce, natural foods and vitamins. When you check out, look for the Families First poster with artwork created by a child who once lived at our Children's Treatment Center. (Shown above in our eNews header!) Ask for a donation coupon. Natural Grocers will match it 100%! Mention this campaign to your friends and neighbors. It's a great way to promote good health for your family and all the Colorado families helped by Families First!

One Parent's Story - Meet Annette Davis From Teen Mom to Teen Mom Class Educator

Annette Davis, born in Thailand, came to the US with her family when she was 2. Her parents gave her a strong sense of her native culture which emphasizes the importance of family. According to Annette, these strong family values have had a great deal to do with her successes...both in her own family life and professionally.



Annette was a single teen mom. With the support of many - including her family, friends, one particular high school counselor and the Director of Warren Village, Annette is truly a success story. Not only was she able to complete her education - achieving a bachelor's degree in nursing - and place herself in a position of being able to take care of her children, she also achieved her goal of working with teen parents. Annette says that one of the things that helped her succeed was encouragement from others to "stay focused and meet your goals."

As a young mom, Annette had her first apartment at Warren Village - a Denver program for single parents. The non-judgmental atmosphere they provided made it clear they were interested in her future and very much wanted her to succeed. While at Warren Village, Annette entered Regis University to work towards her bachelor's degree in nursing. Annual community service was one of the requirements. Annette chose to do her community service at Warren Village. In a team effort with Families First, she developed and taught a program there for young moms.

Today, Annette is a single mom with 4 children ranging in age from 4 to 18. She continues to volunteer for Warren Village and Families First, while working as a clinical nurse at Children's Hospital with expertise in critical care. She specializes in surgical services from infancy to early adulthood, assisting all members of the surgical team.

In 2009, Families First was designated as an approved provider of parent education classes in the Denver Public Schools Teen Parent programs. Annette taught classes at Montbello and Lincoln High Schools last Spring. Due to their success, teen mom classes will be offered again in the 2009/2010 school year. With 11 years of experience as a Families First parenting educator and a commitment to helping teen moms forged from her personal history,

Annette now encourages others "to stay focused and meet your goals" and strives "to be a positive influence on the lives of these young moms."

"What I Learned" Anonymous Teen Mom, 2008 Lincoln HS Teen Mom Class

Being a Mom is a great experience because I have learned many new things. For example, because I've learned to set a schedule, I'm a lot more organized which helps me in school as well. These past weeks I have learned a lot of new things in my parenting class. I learned that each child is unique and that they have different behaviors. Also, I was asked what I thought was right or wrong in a certain [parenting] situation. [At another class] a lady came in and talked about what domestic violence was. This led me to think that maybe I should start putting boundaries on my relationship with my husband. All this information has brought really good resources into hand. Thanks for the support you have given me.

DPS teen parenting classes are held during lunch. Each school provides lunch for the participants. Families First provides the instructor and uses Power Source Parenting as a parent handbook guiding discussion. Last year various community groups supplied the class with "Giveaways" (diapers, grocery store coupons, baby wipes, children's books, etc.) to encourage attendance. If you would like to support 2009-2010 teen mom classes with a donation to cover expenses or in-kind gifts, please contact alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org



DRIVE for COMMUNITY \$CHANGES\$ KIDS GIVING to KIDS

Debbie Messmore is the proud parent of one of the 12 piggy banks adopted at the RMBTA Golf Tournament on August 3. Her 3 kids, Tori, Ryan and Joshua, got in the spirit of things right away. They insisted that "Hog Heaven" come along for a ride with the family - carefully seated in his own seat beat! They created quite a stir as they went to the swimming pool, to Grandma's house and to King Soopers! When they stopped at 7/11 for Slurpee's, each of the kids insisted on paying for their \$1.29 Slurpee's with two \$1 bills, so they had change left over to FEED "Hog Heaven!" After a few days with the family, "Hog

Heaven" now lives on the reception desk at Debbie's office at Polk Majestic Travel Group. No doubt about it - supporting Families First is fun for the whole family!

Got a pig? Got a story? Want to adopt a piggy bank for your family?

Want to host a piggy bank fundraiser at your school or office?

Contact alice@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

On August 3, the **Rocky Mountain Business Travel Association (RMBTA)** "chipped in" to support Families First for a third year with a fabulous golf tournament at Blackstone Country Club. We are so fortunate to have such a committed community partner!



Pictured - Jo Blum, Director of Major Gifts



The 3rd Annual **Beaver Creek Women's Invitational** presented by Park Meadows, is designed to be **the ultimate women's golf & leisure event** hosted by Beaver Creek Resort and Colorado AvidGolfer magazine at the exclusive Beaver Creek Golf Club, on September 10 & 11, 2009. Register your twosome today! Registration Deadline: August 25. For more information, please contact jo@FamiliesFirstColorado.org

August 27 at Park Meadows 5-8pm
BCWI Charity Shopping event at Brooks Brothers
 15% Discount to Shoppers
10% of evenings' proceeds will be given to Families First!
Members of the General Public are invited!
 Bring your friends and neighbors!

IN-KIND DONATIONS *We'd like to acknowledge the generosity of individuals and companies that have provided us with in-kind donations in June and July 2009.*

Individuals Daphyne Reiff, Bill and Deb MacMillan, Shelly Goss, Jolanda Witvliet, Corky Thompson, Stephanie and Abby Hanouw, Brenda Baker, Cathy Jones, Mindy Fischer, Deb Sturm, Alexis Fischer, Martha Donovan, Kelly Morrison, Cindie LoSasso, Naomi Benell, Jane Diamond, Toni Tucker, Leslie Oberlin, Diane Heller, Stacy Johnson, Matthew and Melissa Bolton, Amanda Waleski, Tim Swionter, Nora Poole .

Corporations, Clubs & Groups

Beacon Communications, Kazoo & CO, Aspen Academy, Administaff

Community Partners

Swingle, Dex Media, On Target Mailing, Data USA, ESCO Mechanical Services, Environmental Pest Control

SPECIAL GIVING RECOGNITION

IN MEMORY OF:

John Perkinson by Bob and Jan Spurck

IN HONOR OF:

Sherry Kenney by Sarah Krause

**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 strengthen families by empowering parents and nurturing children. Your gift is a charitable tax donation. To learn more about Families First or to make a donation, visit our website <http://www.familiesfirstcolorado.org/>*

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