



November Newsletter



The children are getting ready for Thanksgiving, outside playing in the leaves and enjoying the fall weather.

What are your Thanksgiving Day plans? Will you spend time with family? Friends? Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all we are thankful for. We're very thankful for you, our supporters and friends!

From all of us at Families First,

We wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Only 13 days away, schedule your donation now!



Children's Treatment Center Update

What are the next steps?

We are in phase one of our transition plan, which includes the closure of the treatment center. Phase two and three will include the implementation of two new programs to the agency. This process will take several months as we work closely with private and public agencies to develop these programs and align our services to maximize the benefit to Colorado's children.

What's going to happen to the kids at the Children's Treatment Center? And to staff?

This is the beginning of our transition. We have given 90-day notifications to the county and state offices, allowing more time to better transition our kids to more permanent placements. (The required notification is 30-days.) We are working diligently with the teams of advocates and caseworkers for each child to provide the best possible placement for them when leaving the Children's Treatment Center. We have provided compensation to the Children's Center staff to allow them to stay and provide the children care during the transition and allow them time to find future positions after the final child has been safely transitioned. We also have a plan in place to provide career transition services for all CTC staff.

Will this affect the other programs? Will the parenting classes change? Will you still have the Support Line and Parents as Teachers programs?

The Executive Director and Board of Directors have designed a long-term plan to ensure the viability of the agency and the programs we offer. During this process, we will continue to focus our efforts on building our existing prevention programs such as Parents as Teachers, Parent Education Classes, Circle of Parents® and the Family Support Line, while creating new prevention and treatment programs which will increase the number of children we will impact. As with any nonprofit organization, we are dependent on grants and donations from our community stakeholders.

How can the community help?

Over the years, our supporters have played a variety of roles in helping Families First provide the quality programs our community needs. As we move forward in our transition, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you, our community partners, supporters and friends. Please contact us to discuss how you'd like to be involved in the exciting new programs and existing services we offer to improve children's lives.



November is National Adoption Awareness Month

National Adoption Awareness Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau with a goal to increase national awareness and

bring attention to the need for permanent families for children and youth in the U.S. foster care system.

Each year, the initiative focuses its outreach and awareness-raising efforts around a new adoption-related theme. For the 2017 National Adoption Month initiative, the theme "Teens Need Families, No Matter What," highlights the importance of identifying well-prepared and committed families for the thousands of teenagers in foster care. Many of these young people are less likely to be adopted, often because of their age, and will too often age out of the system without a stable support system. Securing lifelong connections for these teens, legally and emotionally, is an urgent need and critical component of their future achievement and overall well-being.

In Colorado, The Adoption Exchange is a great place for more information regarding adoption.

If you are looking for information about adoption not found here, explore the adoption section on Child Welfare Information Gateway. If you are a parent who is interested in adopting from foster care, check out the resources and photolisting from AdoptUSKids.

For all of your Black Friday and



Holiday shopping on AMAZON, don't forget to use AMAZON SMILE! Just click on the link or picture and shop as you normally would on AMAZON, and you will be donating .5% to Families First!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0963358>



Have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

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