

Winter/Spring 2011

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Family Tree, Inc.
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Children's Services

Adams County Projects
TANF Stable Families Project
Early Intervention & Prevention
Community Family Resource Team

Arapahoe County Kinship Family Stability Program

Military Family Assistance Program

Gemini

Domestic Violence Services

Women In Crisis

Legal Advocacy Program

Counseling & Education Program

Parenting Time Program

Homelessness Services

House of Hope

Housing & Family Services

Gifts & Community Support

Volunteer Services

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ANDREA'S STORY: A TRIUMPH AGAINST ALL ODDS

Andrea's life has never been typical. As an only child, Andrea lived with her mother and had very limited contact with her father before he died when she was only 13 years old. Growing up Andrea was emotionally and physically abused by her mother. For years Andrea looked for ways to escape the abuse, but at age 19 she was suddenly left to fend for herself after her mother died from cancer.

After living in Oregon for a short time, Andrea moved to Wyoming and obtained a job in the coal mines where she would eventually begin a relationship with a man who would change her life in many ways. The couple soon re-located to Colorado and Andrea found herself in a new state with no family, no friends and extremely isolated.

Andrea was 5-months pregnant when she became a resident at Family Tree Women In Crisis Safe Shelter. For the past three years Andrea had been physically and emotionally abused by her unborn baby's father. From pushing her down a flight of stairs to trying to cause a miscarriage by switching Andrea's prenatal vitamins with the drug Vicodin, Andrea's perpetrator was a very dangerous man. Although she had attempted to leave the relationship multiple times, his attempts to harm Andrea and their unborn child were just too much for her to bear.



Family Tree Housing and Family Services clients Andrea and daughter Renae enjoying their new life of safety and self-reliance.

"I never thought I would ever be a part of a domestic violence relationship. When I decided to leave my abuser I had no idea where I would end up. I was 5 months pregnant with no job and no money. I packed what I could in my purse and left. I never lived in a shelter before, and I was scared for my unborn child as well as myself."

-- Andrea, Family Tree Client

During her stay at Family Tree Women In Crisis, Andrea received advocacy, support, information and connections to community resources to help her re-establish her life, free from abuse. She was referred to Family Tree Housing and Family Services program, whose purpose is to serve families and individuals who are homeless as a result of domestic violence by providing case management, short term financial assistance, rental assistance, and employment and education assistance.

With the help of Family Tree Housing and Family Services, Andrea was able to find an affordable apartment and maintain her rent while on bed rest due to her high risk pregnancy. With help from Family Tree donors and the Family Tree Treasure Trunk Thrift Store, Andrea was able

(cover story cont. page 6)



From The CEO



Scott Shields
Family Tree CEO

One of Family Tree's strategic goals is to "operate model programs and provide services because they are necessary in our community." To accomplish this we've reviewed best practice models; tried to implement better tools for comprehensive program evaluation; and agonized over the best way to gather and report on our metrics and client outcomes to better demonstrate the effectiveness of our service and our positive community impact. But when we see and experience so many in our community who need help, we must focus on our core competencies and what we know we do well because it is "necessary in our community."

Last fall Family Tree did exactly this by conscientiously seeking additional funding so we would not have to turn away runaway and homeless children who self-refer for shelter at our Gemini program. Based upon the frequency and volume of requests from youth to stay at Family Tree Gemini, we knew the need was considerable. For decades we've provided services to help these youth, but unfortunately national and local data support the growing need to help these children who fall through the cracks, very often through no fault of their own.

Because of the reputation of Family Tree Gemini's Runaway and Homeless Youth program for first-rate street outreach and excellent outcomes for reunifying children with their families, our efforts were recognized with a significantly increased grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This funding allowed us to

enhance our staffing levels so we can continue to provide a safe environment when our runaway and homeless youth census increases dramatically.

During the past several months the number of runaway and homeless children we've sheltered has indeed increased dramatically; the daily average of runaway and homeless youth at the shelter has been at least double what it was prior to receiving the increased funding and often triple the old "norm." Providing shelter for these children and real opportunities to reunify with their families is something we do well, and as an agency we feel privileged to have the capacity and expertise to improve our program to meet the needs of these at risk children.

Family Tree's continuum of services helps people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness and emphasizes what we do well in providing necessary community services. As an organization, we're passionate about this work and helping to make our community a better place for all people, and we thank you for believing and allowing us to play this important role.

For safe children and families,

Scott Shields
Chief Executive Officer

E V E N T S

House of Hope Anniversary Event

February 8th

Celebrate House of Hope's 10-Year Anniversary!

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

February 19th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mile High Church

Come alone or bring a guest to celebrate the sweet successes of amazing Family Tree volunteers.

At-Risk Youth Training

March 8th

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Explore the dynamics of child abuse and neglect, and runaway and throwaway youth.

Homelessness 101

April 14th

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Gain a better understanding of the realities of homelessness and how you can help.

2011 Celebration of Achievement

May 5th

Arvada Center

Celebrate Family Tree clients and their journey to self-sufficiency. For tickets visit www.thefamilytree.org

Colorado Colfax Marathon

May 15th

Register now and support Family Tree!
www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org

For more details on event times and locations, visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Treasure Trunk Welcomes New Store Manager



Family Tree is pleased to announce a new addition to our Gifts and Community Support team. In January 2011, Kathryn Westphal joined the agency as the new store manager for Family Tree Treasure Trunk Thrift Store.

Kathryn brings a wealth of experience in both the retail world and non-profit sector, including past work experience at Ann Taylor as well as Boys Town and the MS Society.

"Kathryn has an extremely positive attitude and great energy and I know she will be an asset to our thrift shop," commented Judy Hall, Family Tree Managing Director of Gifts and Community Support.

Interested in meeting Kathryn? Come on down to Treasure Trunk, 7043 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge, Monday - Saturday, 9a.m. - 5p.m.

Journey viaje reis 안전한 여행 taxidi
voyage putovanje cesty rejsen Matka
reisen jornada viaggio עסמה חוטב
旅程 taxidi Matka **Journey** calatorie
viaje putovanje voyage rejsen Reise
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Reise viaggio taxidi 안전한 여행 viaje
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reisen cesty jornada voyage resa
עסמה חוטב Matka **Journey** calatorie
viaje putovanje voyage rejsen Reise
taxidi resa *The Journey Starts Here . . .*

Family Tree
C2011
Celebration
of Achievement
Fundraising Dinner

May 5, 2011
Arvada Center
6901 Wadsworth Blvd.

**DON'T MISS
EARLY BIRD
PRICING!**

Join us in celebrating Family Tree clients and their journey to self-sufficiency. Experience the obstacles faced by families and individuals in crisis. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Funder Spotlight



COBIZ CARES foundation



(l-r) Becky Theis, Dennis Desparrois and Paige Norton at Family Tree Gemini.

CoBiz Financial supports our community by leveraging corporate dollars, employee contributions and the overall compassion of their employees to benefit local non-profit organizations through the CoBiz Cares Foundation.

On December 3, 2010, CoBiz Financial representatives, Paige Norton and Becky Theis, presented Family Tree Children's Services Managing Director, Dennis Desparrois with a check for \$5,000 in efforts to address medical care needs for homeless and runaway youth at Family Tree Gemini.

Family Tree Gemini is a 20-bed co-ed youth facility offering emergency shelter and basic needs, therapeutic intervention, aftercare services and a comprehensive state-licensed education program to youth who have been abused, neglected, are in family conflict, or may be runaway or homeless. Due to the dangers of living on the streets, many of the youth we serve are in desperate need of healthcare services, which is why the support and commitment of the CoBiz Cares Foundation is so vital. The funding will be used to provide prescribed medications and lab work as well as medical supplies for runaway and homeless youth. "Thanks to the support of the CoBiz Cares Foundation, we are now able to cover the costs of prescriptions and laboratory tests for at-risk adolescents in our care," states Dennis Desparrois.

Story provided by Dana Juniel, Family Tree Manager of Marketing and Special Events.

TREASURE TRUNK VOLUNTEER CELEBRATES 95TH BIRTHDAY

Family Tree's Treasure Trunk Thrift Store is celebrating one treasure this year that's not for sale. Volunteer Mary Cuckler has been donating her time to Family Tree for the past 13 years, since the youthful age of 82. And if you do the math correctly, that made January 19, 2011 her 95th birthday.

Mary volunteers at least twenty hours per week at Treasure Trunk and is known as the "house expert on jewelry". Her primary tasks include cleaning, polishing, sorting, pricing and tagging the jewelry. "I am so lucky and thankful to have such a dedicated volunteer," said previous Treasure Trunk Store Manager, Allyson Hakala.

When asked why she is so passionate about working at Treasure Trunk, Mary replied, "I do it for the therapy. I just feel better when I'm here." After her husband passed away in 1997, Mary was looking for a way to stay busy and active. She's been volunteering ever since and says her favorite thing about the store is the friendships she has built with the other volunteers and the Family Tree staff.

At 95, the most important thing for Mary is having something to look forward to everyday to keep her going. "Maybe now I'll start looking forward to a few years of retirement," adds Mary.

Story provided by Dana Juniel, Family Tree Manager of Marketing and Special Events.



Previous Treasure Trunk Thrift Store Manager, Allyson Hakala and volunteer Mary Cuckler.



May 15, 2011

Register now and support Family Tree through the Charity Partner Program! By participating, Family Tree benefits by building a successful fundraising campaign and broadening our visibility within the community.

Our goal is for each runner to raise money through their individual network of friends, family, businesses and co-workers. To donate, go directly to www.thefamilytree.org and select 'Colorado Colfax Marathon.'

For more information on the Colorado Colfax Marathon, visit www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org or contact Angie Overlie at (303) 598-1551 or aoverlie@thefamilytree.org.

Family Tree Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

February 19, 2011
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mile High Church
Community Center
9077 W. Alameda Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80226

Please **RSVP** by calling
(303) 403-5892 or emailing
jwilmot@thefamilytree.org

Join us for a Winter Wonderland Experience

CONNECT WITH FAMILY TREE ELECTRONICALLY



Sign up today to receive the latest information about Family Tree via email.

It's easy to do . . . simply visit www.thefamilytree.org and click "SIGN UP."
Complete the newsletter sign-up form and begin connecting to Family Tree through our Electronic Branching Out Newsletter, E-Bulletins and E-Alerts!

For additional information or to sign-up over the phone, contact Nancy Tomb at (303) 422-2133.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers - Do you have a little time to offer and the knack for coaching your peers as they prepare for work?

If so, Family Tree needs your help as a Workforce Readiness Specialist!

This volunteer position pairs with one or more clients from Housing and Family Services to help them successfully re-enter the workforce. You will teach basic computer skills, how to identify good careers, how to craft effective cover letters and resumes, and techniques for excellent interviewing.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Jaclyn Wilmot, Director of Volunteer Services at (303) 403-5892, jwilmot@thefamilytree.org or go online: www.thefamilytree.org "Give Your Time."

Family Tree House of Hope Celebrates 10 Years

In January 2001, Family Tree House of Hope, located at 3301 South Grant Street in Englewood, opened its doors. House of Hope is a 24-hour residential shelter that provides homeless families (female heads of household and their children) with safe shelter and a broad range of services enabling families to stabilize their situations while learning skills that will assist them in becoming self-sufficient. Last year, House of Hope provided 9,397 nights of shelter and services to 75 women and 127 children, and we responded to 692 crisis line/information calls. Of the households served by House of Hope in the prior year, 97% reported their annual income to be \$10,000 or less.

Family Tree House of Hope case managers work with residents providing the support necessary for a family to reach, or to return to, self-sufficiency. Case managers provide support services, including community referrals, to address issues such as housing, employment, education, medical care, mental health care and childcare. During the day, school-age children attend a nearby school while moms work on goals. At night, families share a meal and engage in activities such as homework time, parenting classes or reading projects. Family Tree House of Hope also has an onsite health clinic staffed by

volunteer physicians and nurses. The clinic provides residents with immunizations, health assessments for women and children, medically necessary prescription and referrals to other health resources in the community.

Story provided by Judy Hall, Managing Director of Gifts and Community Support.



Images from Family Tree House of Hope (clockwise from top right) - outside view; kitchen; children's play room; health clinic.

Donor Spotlight

Betty has been giving generously to Family Tree since 1993. She gives because she believes wholeheartedly in what we do. I asked Betty why she chose to support Family Tree from among the many worthy charities in Colorado and she said she learned of our work with battered women and providing shelter to the homeless through the Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Mary Magdalene's Church. She felt that our mission to help women and families become safe, strong and self-reliant was where she wanted to emphasize her charitable giving.

Although she has lived in Colorado since 1951, Betty is originally from New Jersey. She travels back East on occasion but is very fond of the Colorado lifestyle and says she thinks it's possibly the best place in the world to live!

Betty also learned that Family Tree is the favorite charity of her very dear friend Ava* and both women continue to support Family Tree on a regular basis helping the agency serve over 37,000 people last year. "Many times I wish I could give more; but I do what I can," states Betty.

Thank you Betty and all of the passionate donors like her! With support from people like you, we know we will fulfill our mission and provide shelter and safety for tens of thousands of people in the years to come.

**Pseudonyms have been used to protect donor privacy. Story provided by Judy Hall, Family Tree Managing Director of Gifts and Community Support.*

(cont. from cover)

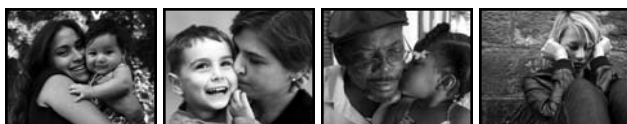
to furnish her apartment and prepare for the birth of her healthy baby girl, Renae. Since the birth of her daughter, Andrea has obtained a part-time job at an insurance company and recently became a licensed insurance agent! She has also started attending school at Red Rocks Community College in efforts to continue her education.

After sharing her story with me, Andrea concluded by saying, "Family Tree saved my life. Family Tree is such a great agency, and I truly thank them for everything they have done for my daughter and me."

**Pseudonyms have been used and photos substituted to protect the identity of the client. Story provided by Dana Juniell, Family Tree Manager of Marketing & Special Events.*

Family Tree 2011 Celebration of Achievement Fundraising Dinner

Join us in celebrating other Family Tree clients and their journey to self-sufficiency at the 2011 Celebration of Achievement fundraising event on May 5th. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.thefamilytree.org.



Family Tree TOURS

If you would like to know more about Family Tree and our programs, we invite you to join us for one, or all, of the following tours:

Children's Services - Gemini

March 3rd, 4p.m. - 5p.m.

Domestic Violence Services - Karlis Family Center

February 17th or March 17th, 4p.m. - 5p.m.



To reserve your space and receive additional information about the tours, please call Judy Hall at (303) 422-2133.

Corporate Spotlight

Family Tree Oil and Gas

During the holiday season, Family Tree was fortunate to receive financial and in-kind support from our corporate community. Our Holidays of Hope Partnership Program gave companies the ideal combination of giving options to meet their needs. Businesses could choose to participate in our Giving Tree Program, Adopt-A-Shelter/Program or the Extraordinary Gift Program by financing a capital project. We are extremely appreciative and touched by all the corporate giving we received.

Family Tree would like to take this opportunity to personally thank and recognize Family Tree Oil and Gas Corporation for their amazing contribution to our programs and services during the holiday season. Family Tree Oil and Gas generously donated a monetary gift and are covering the expenses of two capital projects. One of the projects is to repair and waterproof the foundation at Family Tree Gemini Adolescent Treatment Center and another project is to install an awning for the basement staircase at Family Tree Women in Crisis Shelter. Without their help, these much-needed projects might not have been completed.

Formed in 1978, Family Tree Oil and Gas is a family owned and operated company that focuses on acquiring minerals and leases throughout the United States.

"Keeping our shelters in good repair is so important to the safety and comfort of our clients and staff – but, it is very expensive. Most of our buildings are quite old. Gemini, for example, was built in the 1920's. We are so fortunate to have Family Tree Oil and Gas fund these needed capital projects at Women in Crisis and Gemini. Without these funds we would not be able to make these valuable improvements this year," added Jo-Ann Scharmman, Family Tree Chief Financial Officer.

Story provided by Angie Overlie, Family Tree Director of Corporate Relations.



Family Tree Project IMPACT is a group volunteer program designed to engage volunteers to deliver high impact service and volunteer leadership to improve the programs and services of Family Tree.

On a sunny, autumn day in October 2010, twenty employees from Shell Oil engaged in a volunteer project with Family Tree through Project IMPACT to make a difference for at-risk youth at Gemini Adolescent Treatment Center. The group of volunteers, led by Darla Hooker, gathered resources to perform a series of projects for the day.

One group of Shell Oil engineers started the day by building new storage units for each of the resident's bedrooms as well as installing new baseboards in Gemini's living room. Another group of volunteers applied fresh coats of paint in 9 bedrooms and two conference rooms. The remaining group members sanded down all of the wooden furniture and applied new

sealer. The volunteers did not stop there... they then made additional repairs throughout the facility like fixing the basketball hoop and touching up chipped paint in the hallways.

While the Shell Oil volunteers worked, the residents of Gemini were treated to a meal, also provided by Shell Oil. At the end of the long day, the storage units were installed, the paint was drying, the furniture was put back into place and the last of the materials were cleaned up. The finishing touches came when each resident received brand new comforters and pillows for their beds. Amazingly, in just one day, Shell Oil volunteers were able to make an incredible impact for Gemini that will last over time.



Shell Oil Project IMPACT volunteers, Aaron Parola and Renee Call outside of Family Tree Gemini.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Education ~ Awareness
Prevention

April 2011 marks the
28th anniversary of
Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Join Family Tree in our effort
to end child abuse and neglect!



Family Tree Annual Report



35 Years

13 programs
6 counties
3 service areas

Now
Available!

1 FamilyTree

*In recognition of our 35 year commitment to helping
people become safe, strong and self-reliant.*

Mile High
United Way
Helps Here



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safe, strong, self-reliant families
FamilyTree



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