

Spring
2007

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Family Tree, Inc.
3805 Marshall St., #100
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Phone: (303) 422-2133
Fax: (303) 422-5707
Web: www.thefamilytree.org

Gemini
(303) 235-0630

House of Hope
(303) 762-9525

Housing and Family Services
(303) 467-2604

Karlis Family Center
(303) 462-1060

Women In Crisis
(303) 420-0412
24-Hour Crisis Line:
(303) 420-6752

Adams County Projects
TANF Stable Families
(303) 227-2205
Early Intervention & Prevention
(303) 412-5135
Community Family Resource
Team
(303) 412-5283

Treasure Trunk
Wheat Ridge: (303) 421-9205

Early Intervention Changes Family For The Best

Mark and Beth were referred to Family Tree's Early Intervention and Prevention Project (EIPP) by the Adams County Social Services Department for counseling and referrals for parenting classes. Mark and Beth reported having previous involvement with social services agencies from other counties due to allegations of physically abusing their children. Mark reported having to attend court in a few weeks to face additional child abuse charges.

The family consisted of Mark's three children from a previous marriage and Beth's two children from a former marriage. During meetings with both parents, they expressed concerns that Mark's eldest son was acting out at home and in school and was beginning to influence the other children and defy his parents and teachers. Mark and Beth thought that the children were experiencing abandonment issues since neither of their ex-spouses maintained contact with their children.

Both, Mark and Beth, however, characterized Mark's oldest son as "playing the victim" and explained that he had the knowledge to "manipulate the system" because he had reported his father to Social Services for child abuse on more than one occasion. Mark and Beth believe that "corporal punishment" is appropriate and shared their concerns about the court system taking away their rights to administer such discipline. Mark minimized his son's accusations of abuse and also blamed his son for the loss of his job due to the reporting of the abuse.

Throughout their involvement with EIPP, Mark began to acknowledge that his lack of parenting skills and "anger issues" could be
(cont. on pg. 4)



Mark is now spending more quality time with his eldest son, pictured here.

Holiday Shopping with Jake Plummer

On December 11, 2006, Denver Broncos quarterback, Jake Plummer, and the Jake Plummer Foundation made holiday wishes come true for forty Family Tree youth and their families by hosting the third annual "Christmas with Jake" shopping trip.

The children, ranging in age from 7 to 16, were encouraged to compile holiday wish lists for themselves and their families in the days prior to the event. With lists in hand and smiles on their faces, the children were transported in a luxury charter bus provided by Arrow Stage Lines to the Super Target store in Glendale. Upon arrival, the children and their families learned that they would not only receive \$250 each for shopping, but



Jake Plummer plays Santa with (l-r) girlfriend Kолlette Klassen and Family Tree client Vincent, who was able to share this moment with his mother, Maureen.

would also be matched with a Broncos player as their shopping buddy.

Family Tree is grateful to Jake Plummer and the participating Broncos players, which included, Tony Scheffler, Chad Mustard, Paul Ernster, Steve Cargile, Chris Myers,
(cont. on pg. 4)



From The CEO



Ruth Ann Russell
Family Tree CEO

As I approach the date of my retirement from being Chief Executive Officer of Family Tree, I am beginning to experience a series of last events. Writing this, my last letter, is one of the first of those happenings. June 30, 2007 will be my last day of employment at Family Tree. There, I have said it. The words still don't come easily as I close this significant chapter of my life. And yet I am eager to see what is next.

Over two years ago, I informed members of the Family Tree Board of Directors that I planned to retire. We felt that Family Tree would benefit from this amount of notice as we developed our revised strategic vision and action plan. We were also able to carefully and thoroughly prepare and complete the selection process for the new CEO.

We are happy to announce the appointment of Mr. Scott Shields to the position of CEO effective July 1, 2007. Scott, who is currently Family Tree's Chief Financial Officer, has worked for Family Tree for more than eight years. His experience, knowledge, and passion for the work we do clearly set him apart from our other applicants. Scott will begin the transition to his new role on May 1, 2007, working with me.

The Board of Directors and the Executive

Team of Family Tree are proud of the work we do. We feel good about our services, our procedures and our culture. Our values are commitment, integrity, accountability, diversity, collaboration and advocacy and we believe we walk the talk in each of these areas. The name of the CEO will change but the mission, vision and values will not. You can be sure of that.

I am leaving a job and an agency, which I have loved and deeply respected. Hopefully, you also are proud of being a supporter of Family Tree and our 30 years of helping people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong, and self-reliant. I am confident that you will continue to be proud of what we do at Family Tree.

Please join me in welcoming our new leader and wishing me farewell on June 16th at Morse Park in Lakewood. Please visit www.thefamilytree.org for details and to RSVP for the party and to share your farewell thoughts to me and best wishes for Scott. It is a party and you are all invited. Thank you for being a friend to me and to Family Tree.

Ruth Ann Russell,
CEO, Family Tree

E V E N T S

**Family Tree
Homelessness Workshop**
March 13th, 7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
This interactive training will explore the myths and realities of Colorado's homeless population.

**Family Tree
Celebration of Achievement**
May 3rd, 6:00 p.m.
Join Family Tree in celebrating the successes of our clients at the 14th Annual Celebration of Achievement.

Family Tree Feast for Families
October 4th, 6:00 p.m.
Family Tree presents the 7th Annual Feast for Families, an event filled with bluegrass music, a western BBQ and live and silent auctions.

**Family Tree Volunteer
Celebration Breakfast**
April 21st, Time TBD
Our way of saying "thank you" for your hard work and dedication to families in crisis.

Visit the events calendar at www.thefamilytree.org for more information.

Corporate Spotlight

Family Tree would like to thank our generous corporate sponsors who donated tremendously during the 2006 - 2007 holiday season. These companies have made a huge difference in the lives of Family Tree clients and for that we say thank you!



Old Chicago at 3250 Youngfield in Wheat Ridge selected Family Tree as its charity partner for the holiday season. The restaurant sold gift cards in November and December

with 10% of gift card sales donated to Family Tree and they promoted two days during the holiday season during which coupons would earn 10% of the total food bill for Family Tree. Old Chicago at 3250 Youngfield is a longtime Family Tree supporter and we want to thank them for their generosity and community support!



Belmar Whole Foods put together an amazing 10 foot decorated Giving Tree in their lobby from November 25th - December 24th to support Family Tree

and all our programs. Customers were able to pick an ornament off the tree and buy what was listed on the ornament. The response was amazing and the Family Tree programs received much needed items. Belmar Whole Foods also had coin boxes throughout the store on behalf of Family Tree. We feel very fortunate to have partnered with Belmar Whole Foods and are looking forward to a long relationship!



For the 2006 holiday season, Quiznos partnered with Denver Firefighters Local 858 to collect hats, scarves, and gloves that will benefit

children and families in Family Tree programs. The drive began December 4th and lasted until December 16th. The collection was extremely successful, producing hundreds of hats, scarves and gloves that will help our clients at Family Tree stay warm. Thank you Quiznos and the Denver Fire Department for your generosity and commitment to helping our community!



Newmont Mining Corporation is a leading gold producer with operations on five continents. Newmont is head-

quartered in Denver and on top of being a leading gold producer, they were a leading producer of gifts and gift cards for our families during the holidays. They set up 10 giving trees and provided specific gifts from our wish lists and purchased numerous gift cards from Target and Wal-Mart. Newmont Mining truly made a difference for our clients in Housing and Family Services and Gemini. Thank you!

Family Tree would like to sincerely apologize for the omission of the following donors in our 2006 Annual Report: **Sharon L. Harper; David A. Lewis; Mark and Maureen Perko.**



ASF Gives Back to the Community!

Many thanks to all the ASF employees who participated in the Giving Tree. In total, ASF donated eight large bags of goods to Family Tree Women in Crisis and House of Hope shelters. ASF as a company also made a generous donation of \$1,000 to Family Tree! Says Tamara Valdez, ASF's Chief Financial Officer, "Family Tree was in need of some big ticket items, like washing machines and dryers. We hope that our donation enables them to make such purchases."



TSYS iSolutions, formerly ProCard, Inc., is a leading provider in building and hosting solutions for consumer,

small business, and corporate card programs. On December 5th, the Employee Activity Committee coordinated a bake sale and silent auction for all 100 Golden office employees. A percentage of the proceeds from the event were donated to Family Tree. TSYS iSolutions is a very community-focused organization and we thank them for their contribution to Family Tree programs.



We would like to give a big thanks to First Franklin for the fundraising event that took place on November

9th at Brunswick Zone in Lone Tree. It was their first Family Tree Bowling Tournament. This event raised \$2,085, with all the proceeds coming directly to Family Tree. Over 140 people participated and it was a fun filled evening for all. First Franklin went above and beyond in launching this event and we at Family Tree sincerely appreciate their generosity.



The Starbucks store at 38th & Wadsworth supported us during the holidays by donating coffee and pastries for our holiday events. On top of that generous donation, this Starbucks joined forces with

10 other Starbucks locations to raise awareness for Family Tree during National Homeless and Hunger Week. Family Tree employees were able to set up tables to accept cash donations on behalf of Family Tree on November 16th. It was a great success and we thank them for their ongoing support.

Unique Party Idea

Dr. David and Lynette Collins of Conifer recently hosted a unique party for their friends. The evening was filled with food, fun, laughter and information about Family Tree. Brian Ballard, a long-time Family Tree supporter and former board chair, informed partygoers about our programs and mission to help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong and self-reliant. After learning about Family Tree, the hosts "passed the hat" and collected \$1,050. We appreciate the donations and the opportunity for people to learn more about Family Tree.

(cont. from cover, *Plummer*) Chris Kuper, Nate Jackson, Dominik Hixon, Cedric Cobbs, Quentin Harris, Kyle Johnson, Doug Nienhuis, and Preston Parsons. We would also like to thank Jake's mother, Marilyn Plummer, and Jake's girlfriend, Kollette Klassen, for participating in the event.

The event was a great success. At the end of the day, all of the children went home with Plummer Foundation t-shirts, new backpacks from Under Armour, dinner provided by Quiznos, and gifts for themselves and their families. After loading the bus with dozens of wrapped gifts including bikes, televisions and gifts for mom, it was time to return home. As the children boarded the bus, each of them were given a personal photo of themselves with Jake Plummer, a small token to remember the day the Jake Plummer Foundation made their holiday wishes come true.

Story provided by Dana Juniell, Development Associate.



(continue from cover, *EIPP*) contributing to his children's emotional and behavioral issues. Mark began attending parenting and anger management classes on his own for his family's benefit, as well as to demonstrate to the court that he was being proactive. After attending his court hearing and receiving his sentence, Mark admitted to his EIPP therapist that he felt remorse about abusing his son. He said that what he did was wrong and expressed confidence in his ability to administer methods of discipline that did not involve verbal belittlement or corporal punishment. Mark began to empathize with his children and work on improving his communication skills. Mark has started spending more time with his children and told the EIPP therapist that his oldest son's behavioral problems have disappeared.

In addition to counseling Mark and Beth, the Family Tree Early Intervention and Prevention Program therapist provided referrals to community resources to improve their financial situation and assist with Beth's medical issues.

Story provided by Ann Carter, Managing Director of Family Tree Children's Services, Adams County Projects.

(clockwise) Bronco player, **Quentin Harris**, poses with his two shopping buddies; Bronco player, **Chris Meyers**, lifts more than just the spirits of a Family Tree youth; **Jake Plummer** ends a perfect day of shopping with a group of grateful brothers.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Show Your Support In April

The month of April is devoted to celebrating everything we can do to transform our communities into places that care about - and actively support - families and children. By ensuring that all parents in our community have access to quality programs and services, we make progress toward what the month stands for: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Nationally, four children die every day as a result of child abuse. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), Colorado ranks third in the nation for deaths resulting from child abuse. The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are entirely preventable in an engaged and supportive community. A community that comes together to ensure that affordable housing is available in good, safe neighborhoods is less likely to see stressed, isolated families who don't know where to turn. Cities and towns that support early interventions such as parenting classes, home-based case manage-

ment and other supportive services reduce the likelihood that children will be seriously injured or need to be removed from their homes.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is about connecting all of these dots so that the solutions to child abuse receive the attention that every child deserves. One of the places to which families turn is Family Tree. We provide a broad range of services and shelter to families and youth of metro Denver to overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong and self-reliant.

So this April, contact Family Tree at (303) 422-2133 and learn what more you can do to prevent child abuse and encourage others to learn about what communities do to support child abuse prevention.

Story provided by Kathy Wells, Managing Director of Gifts and Community Support.

Help End Domestic Abuse in Colorado

Checkoff ✓ the Domestic Abuse Fund on your Colorado State Income Tax Form

April 15th is tax day!
Please make it the day you also help stop domestic violence!

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Domestic Abuse Assistance Program (DAAP), the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), and your local domestic violence victim services program are seeking your support. You can help end domestic violence in your community by contributing to the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund (CDAF) Tax Check Off ✓ on your state income tax form. The CDAF provides financial support to 41 local domestic violence victim services programs and shelters throughout Colorado. These funds help support critical services for domestic violence victims and their families, such as shelter/safehouse services, counseling, and 24-hour emergency services. Remember, on April 15, to checkoff!



SAVE THE DATE

14th Annual Family Tree Celebration of Achievement

May 3, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
Denver Marriott West
Golden, CO

For more details or sponsorship opportunities, contact Kathy Wells at (303) 422-2133 or visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Believe . . . Achieve . . . Celebrate!



Family Tree Welcomes Kathy Wells, MPA

Managing Director, Gifts and Community Support

Kathy Wells was previously the Director of Community Relations at the Center on Domestic Violence at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. Prior to this position, she was the Public Policy Director at the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence for two years; the Executive Director of Crisis Services of North Alabama, an agency serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, for eight years; and Project Director and Assistant Director at the National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse. She has a Master's of Public Administration degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts.

Make Time -- Make Friends Make A Difference

Family Tree has many opportunities to volunteer! Do you have a special skill - yoga, fundraising, class instruction, special events, child care, etc. . . ?

Have ideas? Want to discuss your potential? Call **Sean Wolfe**, Director of Volunteer Services, at (303) 422-2133 or visit our website at www.thefamilytree.org.

We are currently recruiting for:

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

See a detailed job description at www.thefamilytree.org.



April 15th - April 21st
is Volunteer Recognition Week!
We thank our volunteers for all you do here at Family Tree!

2007 Jazzercise Fundraiser

More than 20 men participated on February 10th in the Sixth Annual Evergreen Jazzercise Valentine's Day class to benefit Family Tree. The men participated with about 40 women at the class, taught by four area instructors. This was the most successful Evergreen Jazzercise fundraiser yet -- raising about \$2,000.

Board Minute:

Those with Business Background Contribute to Non-profit Success



A recent article in a Boston-area weekly newspaper was right on target in stating that operational expertise is critical in running a not-for-profit agency. Operational expertise ensures that board members - and senior staff members - develop strategic direction for the organization, regularly assess how well it's meeting the goals set, and whether it's able to make course corrections to adjust to external changes and be entrepreneurial when new opportunities arise.

Members of the business community often bring significant operational expertise to nonprofit boards, making many excellent candidates for not-for-profit board membership. They bring an entrepreneurial spirit, a heightened focus on measurable outcomes, and an emphasis on results-based planning and assessment.

Recently Branching Out spoke with three of our newest board members who themselves are all active in the Denver-area business community. We asked each of them the same questions and now provide a sampling of their responses.

Branching Out - What do you think are the most important issues/challenges facing the provision of child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness programs/services in the next five years?

Brad - I think that the issues and challenges facing the provision of child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness programs and services is funding for the programs. As government resources shrink, it will be up to each community to address these issues. Family Tree has a great history and can use this strength to reach out to the business community and hopefully gain additional funding for these programs.



Brad Geissler,
Broker/Owner,
Halcyon Realty, LLC

Branching Out - With regard to the issues of child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness, what do you see as Family Tree's role?

Stuart - Family Tree's efforts should focus on education across all segments of society to help people identify abuse and find the appropriate resources to end the cycle of abuse. As part of the education process, I would hope to continue to see Family Tree offer workshops. As a Family Tree board member, I look forward to promoting the importance of educating others, which I hope will have a long-term impact toward reducing the number of people affected by abuse.



Stuart Wright,
Senior Vice President,
FirstBank of Wheat Ridge

Branching Out - Adding new board members is vital to our ongoing success. How should Family Tree go about recruiting new board members?

Mark - We should recruit new members truthfully and with excitement. The nice thing that Family Tree has going for it is that we can take pride in the wonderful life improvements we help deserving individuals accomplish. Let's take this sense of accomplishment and help potential and new board members catch the spirit and feel the excitement and satisfaction that comes with being a part of something that is larger than themselves.



Mark Ruthven,
Product Manager,
Western Union

Family Tree welcomes inquiries regarding board service. To learn more about Family Tree board membership contact **Ruth Ann Russell** at (303) 422-2133, ext. 731.

Story provided by Steve Harrell, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.



Join Family Tree &

your community
in the fight to
prevent child abuse.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Visit www.thefamilytree.org
for more information.



(L) Bill Myers, Assistant Vice President, Qwest - Colorado, meets with Dennis Desparrois, Managing Director of Family Tree Children's Services. On behalf of the Qwest Foundation, Mr. Myers presented Family Tree with \$10,000 in funding from Qwest that will help supply needed up-to-date classroom resources and salary support for Gemini School.

Community Partnerships Share the Passion

A special thank you to community grant partners who share our passion and have helped us financially with grant awards from September 2006 - January 2007 to make a difference in the lives of others. We thank you.

City of Arvada

\$5,500 Women In Crisis shelter upgrades
\$5,000 for Housing and Family Services helpline

Sam S. Bloom Foundation

\$2,000 Housing and Family Services Kickin' It program

Daniels Fund

\$175,000 Family Tree general operating

Denver Foundation

\$25,000 Family Tree general operating

John G. Duncan Trust

\$2,000 Gemini School

Energy Outreach Colorado

\$7,875 Housing and Family Services

Gannett Foundation

\$3,000 House of Hope shelter

Jefferson County

\$22,222 CSBG funds (Community Services Block Grant) for Women In Crisis and \$15,000 for Housing and Family Services helpline. Also partnered with Family Tree for federal USDJ-OVW funding.

Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation

\$22,500 Family Tree general operating

Edward L. Johnstone Memorial Trust

\$8,000 Karlis Family Center
KIDS CONNECTION

Kaiser Permanente

\$10,000 healthcare expenses for Family Tree clients

Kinder Morgan Foundation

\$1,500 Gemini School

Newmont Mining Corporation

\$10,000 Family Tree general operating

Omni Institute

Technical assistance with Family Tree inclusiveness/diversity planning

Qwest Foundation

\$10,000 Gemini School

Saint Frances Cabrini

\$1,000 Women In Crisis

Saint Jude Catholic Church

\$2,500 Karlis Family Center
KIDS CONNECTION

Target Stores

\$1,500 Karlis Family Center
Time Out for Kids/Counseling

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

\$100,000 Gemini program for runaway and homeless youth-Boulder/Adams Counties

U.S. Department of Justice

\$24,596 S.T.O.P. VAWA funds for Women In Crisis legal advocacy program (through the Colorado Department of Safety)
\$347,682 OVW Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program (three-year grant)

\$347,145 OVW Safe Havens grant for Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchanges- a partnership with Jefferson County Community Development for services at Karlis Family Center (two-year grant)

VALE (Victim and Witness Assistance and Law Enforcement Board) -1st Judicial District

\$29,101 Karlis Family Center
KIDS CONNECTION and \$1,875 for COVA scholarships

City of Westminster

\$12,000 CDBG funds for Housing and Family Services helpline

And to ALL of our other funding partners, Thank You!
Without you, we could not help as many people as we do.

Please see www.thefamilytree.org for our
2006 annual report and a complete listing of donors.

Make Your Planned Gift Today!

Bequests ~ Wills ~ Estate Planning

To discuss your planned gift, contact Jennifer Thompson at (303) 467-3794, Ext.707.
For more information visit www.thefamilytree.org.

GIVING THROUGH A BEQUEST MAY BE EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Remembering Family Tree in your Will or Estate Plan can be a very simple process. If you already have a Will or Estate Plan, you can create a codicil (an addition or amendment) that leaves Family Tree a percentage of your estate or a specific dollar amount. If you have yet to draft your Will or Estate Plan, you can create a bequest in the original document(s). Here is a sample of language a donor can use: "I give to Family Tree, Inc., located at 3805 Marshall Street, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033, a Colorado non-profit corporation, the sum of \$_____ [or _____% of my estate; or the property described herein], for its general purposes." One may also leave the residuary of an estate or a percentage of the residuary estate to Family Tree.

Giving through a bequest can be a very appealing option for charitably-minded people who may not have the means to give what they would like to in their lifetime. Also, bequest designations are revocable so a donor has the ability to change his/her decision at anytime for any reason.

We would be delighted for you to tell us if you have made a bequest gift so we may personally thank you. If you have done so and chose not to notify Family Tree of your generosity, please accept our gratitude on behalf of the families we serve.

Please contact Jennifer Thompson (303) 467-3794, ext. 707, if you have any questions about this process.

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Now!

2006 Family Tree Annual Report

Financials Donor Listing Programs & Services

Contact us and get your copy today!

Visit us at www.thefamilytree.org



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