

Winter-Spring  
2004-05

## Inside

President's Message

Welcome New  
Board Members

Tax Check Off

Community  
Partners Share The  
Passion

Feast For Families

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

Treasure Trunk  
Wheat Ridge: (303) 421-9205

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

Adams County Projects  
TANF Stable Families Project  
(303) 227-2205  
Early Intervention & Prevention  
(303) 227-2203

## Jake Plummer Plays Santa

*The Plummer Foundation Teams Up With  
Target and Garts/The Sports Authority*

Jake Plummer shared that one of his favorite toys was a Tonka truck he received one Christmas that he pulled so much he just about wore the rubber off the wheels. That truck is among Jake's favorite Christmas recollections and now he quietly goes about the work of helping others create their own favorite Christmas memories.

On December 14, The Jake Plummer Foundation teamed up with Target and Garts/The Sports Authority to provide an unbelievable shopping experience for 68 children from Family Tree. Armed with Christmas lists and \$250 gift cards, the kids took to the aisles of both shopping stores and snagged great toys, clothes, bikes, athletic wear, games, and top-of-the-line sports gear. No item was safe from these kids because, with the aid of Broncos stars such as the towering Tom Nalen, even items on the top shelves were within reach.

Children from virtually every Family Tree program lined up for a chance to shake hands with "Santa Jake" at which time they also received an autograph and a specially selected gift. Always gracious, Jake spent time with each Family Tree child.

Staff at Target and Garts/The Sports Authority are to be heartily thanked for their wonderful planning, kindness and generosity to the children and families from Family Tree.



Denver Broncos QB Jake Plummer (right) and wide-receiver Rod Smith (left) spend time with Family Tree children during the Christmas with Jake shopping event. *Photo by Jill Foraker.*

To view additional photos visit [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org)

## Avoiding Amber Alert

*Karlis Family Center Helps  
Strengthen Family Communications*

*In a recent Rocky Mountain News story, a Colorado Springs attorney was arrested after an Amber Alert was issued for him and his two daughters. Brighton police served the father with a summons for child abuse and obstruction of justice. The Amber Alert was issued after the father failed to return his children to their mother as required by the couple's custody orders. The Amber alert followed a week of what was described as harsh language and bitter feelings between the recently divorced couple.*

News stories like this remind us of just how important the programs and services at Family Tree Karlis Family Center are. Karlis Family Center provides a safe environment along with experienced staff to address child visitation and custody issues.

The Smith Family – Karlis Family Center clients  
The Smiths had a short relationship and separated after Ms. Smith found out she was pregnant. She gave birth to a boy and the child resided with his mother. Later, the father filed for a paternity test so that hopefully he could start visiting with his son, pay child support and have unsupervised visits.

The judge awarded the father visitation rights and eventually placed the child in his custody. It is unclear how much contact the child had with his mother during this time. In 2002, the family began to use Karlis Family Center for supervised parenting-time services. These services provide for a trained counselor to observe all interactions between the child and parent during their visit. The counselor helped the Smiths to improve their communication and parenting skills.

Fortunately, Karlis Family Center will continue to work with the Smith family emphasizing that the child's needs come first. It is vitally important that parents experiencing the difficulties and challenges of marital conflict, separation and divorce are able to access services like those available at the Karlis Family Center. When they do, and when they are successful, situations like those which led to the issuance of an Amber Alert for the Colorado Springs family can be avoided.



## From The President



Ruth Ann Russell  
Family Tree President

Do you ever wonder why people work for not-for-profit agencies? What moves employees to choose careers that require long working hours, comparative low salaries, and tremendous pressures and stress? Why in the world would someone choose to work with the sick, the poor, the misbehaved?

Family Tree has 138 employees. Many have worked for Family Tree for five or ten or even 18 years. Many have worked at several other not-for-profits during their adulthood. Myself, I am just celebrating ten years as an employee at Family Tree and 28 years in the helping services profession. Why? How does one explain a commitment to night shifts, and tired work space, and often less than up to date equipment?

We do it because we are passionate about helping others less fortunate than ourselves. We do it because we can do nothing else that makes us feel as good as helping people to be safe, strong and self-reliant.

One day I stopped by a local fast food restaurant to pick up salads for a noon committee meeting. As I usually do, I was wearing my Family Tree name tag, which describes me as President of Family Tree. The counter staff read my name tag and asked if I were the President of Family Tree in that part of town. I said yes. And she said, "Family Tree helped me when I really needed it." That is why I do what I do. No amount of compensation compares with a young, hopeful face of someone who is safe from harm and working toward self-reliance.

Once again, we thank you for supporting our passion, our work. Your gifts are used for critical services for women and children and families who need life's basics - shelter, food, safety, hope. Thank you and please consider making your most generous gift possible so we can help even more people in need.

Ruth Ann Russell  
President, Family Tree

## Welcome New Board Members

Family Tree announces the addition of several new board of director members in 2004.

**Sharon Crennen**  
Crennen & Company Insurers

**Lisa Glinche**  
President & CEO  
Sales Prodigy, LLC and  
Glinche & Associates

**Denise Hoffman**  
Attorney  
Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons, LLP

**David Lewis**  
President and Publisher  
Sentinel and Transcript Newspapers

**Mark Perko**  
National Sales, retired  
Coca-Cola North America

**Kimberley Quinn**  
Senior Deputy District Attorney  
City and County of Denver

**Sara Reynolds**  
Training and Outreach Coordinator  
Colorado Municipal League

**Dana Shea-Reid**  
Principal Consultant  
Shea Resources, LLC

**Rev. Dr. Phyllis J. Taylor**  
UCC clergy, retired

**Katherine Vigil**  
Senior Trial Attorney  
U.S. Department of Labor

## Join Family Tree's Circle of Caregivers

**Are you compassionate? Do you love kids?**

**Provide child care for families in crisis** while parents receive education, counseling and support.

**Time commitment is on average two hours a month.**

### Other Volunteer Opportunities:

Internships & Special Events  
Administrative assistants/Donation assistants  
Crisis line help/Legal advocates  
Service Projects/ Group Activities

### Domestic Violence Training

February 19, 23 & 26

### Homelessness Training

March (TBA)

For more information on volunteer opportunities and trainings, please contact Mary Brook at (303) 422-2133, or visit [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org).

## Tax Check Off

The annual income tax deadline is, fortunately, still a few months away. We encourage you, in advance, to consider two check-off opportunities on your 2004 Colorado income tax form that will benefit Family Tree.

✓ A portion of the monies collected through the **Homeless Prevention Activities Program** go to our Housing and Family Services Program to provide emergency funds for individuals and families who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

✓ **Domestic Abuse Assistance Program** check-off funds help provide safety and support to women and children at Women In Crisis shelter who have fled the dangers of violence in their homes.

## Community Partnerships Share the Passion

A special thank you to our community partners who share our passion and have helped us financially from July-December 2004 to make a difference in the lives of others. We thank you.

**Altria Doors of Hope**  
\$30,000 Women In Crisis counseling

**Anschutz Family Foundation**  
\$7,500 Family Tree programs

**Sam S. Bloom Foundation**  
\$2,000 Karlis Kids Connection program

**Colorado Association of Realtors**  
\$21,666.66 Helen's Hope endowment

**Denver Foundation**  
\$25,000 Family Tree programs

**Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado**  
\$15,200 Karlis Family Center & general operating

**HealthONE Alliance**  
\$10,328 Women In Crisis Safe Clinic

**Jefferson Foundation**  
\$2,500 Gemini School

**Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation**  
\$20,000 Family Tree programs

**Edward L. Johnstone Memorial Trust**  
\$5,000 Karlis Kids Connection program

**Kenneth Kendal King Foundation**  
\$2,500 Women In Crisis and Housing

**Poverty, Justice and Peace Fund**  
\$4,000 Family Tree programs

**Rabb Foundation**  
\$5,000 Family Tree programs

**St. Jude Catholic Church**  
\$1,400 Karlis Kids Connection program

**St. Mary's Land & Exploration**  
\$20,000 House of Hope

**Sunshine Lady Foundation**  
Scholarships for low-income women

**Verizon Wireless**  
\$5,000 Women In Crisis

**Gary-Williams Employee Fund**  
c/o The Piton Foundation  
\$8,000 Gemini

And to ALL of our other funding partners without whom we could not help as many people - THANK YOU!

Please see [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org) for annual report and full listing of donors.

## Feast For Families

Family Tree's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Feast for Families event drew over 500 attendees who enjoyed wonderful western cuisine, country music and an opportunity to hear firsthand the life-changing stories shared by Family Tree clients who came to say that your support does make a difference.

Feast for Families was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds where the main auditorium was transformed into a warm and friendly western wonderland complete with checkered tablecloths, cowboy cutouts and boots galore.

This year, there were no up-front tickets to purchase as table hosts invited friends and family to join them at their tables with the opportunity to make contributions at the end of the evening if they so desired. The Feast for Families guests did choose to support the programs and services of Family Tree with over \$36,000 having been raised thus far.

Co-chairs Beth Wicht and Michael Rios are to be congratulated for their superb leadership of volunteers and committee members, all of whom contributed to this year's success.



Feast for Families event Co-Chairs Beth Wicht and Michael Rios.  
Photo by Laurine Moore.

To view additional photos, visit [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org)

## Coldwell Banker's "OT Team"



Angie Overlie and Dawn Tillson created the "OT Team" because of their passion for helping others.

Angie Overlie and Dawn Tillson work in real estate together as the Overlie-Tillson Team (OT Team) for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Angie is a member of our Development Committee and both of them believe and support our mission at Family Tree. During 2005, Angie and Dawn will donate \$500 to Family Tree for each referral from Family Tree that results in a successful closing. The referral can come from employees, volunteers, board members, supporters or anyone associated with Family Tree. The \$500 will be donated after closing. They also will be contributing throughout the year to Family Tree in other areas such as volunteering and soliciting corporate sponsorships.

## Treasure Trunk Lakewood to Close

Recently, the Board of Directors of Family Tree, Inc. voted to consolidate the operation of our two thrift stores. Treasure Trunk Lakewood located at 10500 W. Colfax closed its doors on December 30, 2004.

Family Tree service recipients will continue to benefit from the generous donations of the community. Their "no cost" shopping will continue exclusively at the Wheat Ridge location after December 30, 2004.

### Treasure Trunk Thrift Store

7043 W. 38th Avenue

Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Phone: (303) 421-9205

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm and Sat, 9am-4pm



## FAMILY TREE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!

Program Information  
Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunities  
Job Opportunities

Online Donations  
Resources

Visit us at [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org)



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Englewood, CO  
Permit No. 1171

