

Winter/Spring
2008

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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

Arapahoe County Kinship
Family Stability Program
(303) 636-1503

Treasure Trunk
(303) 421-9205

Tragedy to Triumph

I didn't know Abby Robertson but she must have been an amazing young woman. Everyone who knew her tells of her joy for life and her compassion for people. Tragically, Abby's young life ended on Tuesday, December 11, when her ex-boyfriend broke through the door of her apartment and stabbed her 27 times.

Just the night before, Abby had been out with 30 friends celebrating her 21st birthday. Many of those friends and co-workers gathered a week later at Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakewood, where Abby had worked, to raise money to help other victims of domestic violence. With a life-size picture of Abby near the entrance of the restaurant, her friends and co-workers gathered around a table and talked about their



Photos of Abby, similar to the one above were posted throughout Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakewood to celebrate her memory.

“ . . . a light that lit up every room she walked into.”

memories of Abby and about the kind of person she was, describing her as “. . . a light that lit up every room she walked into.” Close friend and co-worker, Liz Lukrafka, said that, “Abby. . . made everyone happier. She was always positive. It made you happy just to know her.” Chrissy Jordan emphasized, “Abby had the ability to affect people and made people she didn't even know feel welcome. She had wisdom beyond her years. She learned from her mistakes, always trying to be a better person.”

Even in death, Abby is affecting the lives of people she didn't know. That night, her friends and co-workers raised almost \$1,500 in tips which they are donating to Family Tree Domestic Violence Services in Abby's name. On Wednesday, January 30, all Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants in Colorado donated a percent of their net profits, totaling over \$4,300, to Family Tree in memory of Abby.

Unfortunately, stories like Abby's are not all that uncommon when there is a history of intimate partner violence and stalking. According to the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are most vulnerable to intimate partner violence (May 2000, NCJ 178274) and they are most vulnerable when they try to end the relationship. In the Uniform Crime Reports, "Crime in the United States 2000," the FBI concludes that almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner. If you know someone in a dating relationship who may be experiencing isolation, intimidation or abuse, call the Family Tree Women in Crisis hotline at (303) 420-6752.



Staff and board members from Family Tree showed their support by having lunch at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakewood.

Story submitted by Kathy Wells, Managing Director, Gifts & Community Support.



From The CEO



Scott Shields
Family Tree CEO

This April, like those of the past 25 years, marks National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is a time when the impacts of child abuse and neglect are highlighted to raise awareness and educate communities around the country on child abuse prevention.

In today's age of remarkable advancements in many facets of our society, it's easy to wonder why we still need to dedicate an entire month to raising awareness of the need to provide fundamental protection and care for our children. But while parenting styles and family dynamics are absolutely unique, most would agree that being a parent is not easy. In fact many parents say, and justifiably so, that parenting is their toughest, most demanding and most important responsibility. And nearly all parents will quickly agree that providing a safe, nurturing and loving environment for their children is a top priority.

Unfortunately, life choices are not always made in the best interest of children, and children are hurt and mistreated. For more than 30 years Family Tree has been providing services to children who have been abused, neglected, or are at risk of abuse and neglect, through our Children's Services programs. Today we're faced

with the concerning fact that the needs in our children's programs are not diminishing: we're asked to provide more services, and more intensive services, for this vulnerable population. That's why it's critical that we continue to spotlight this issue in our community, and nationwide.

In this edition of Branching Out you will read about two new programs, our Military Family Assistance Program and Kinship/Family Stability Program, both operated in collaboration with community partners. These programs were created and started primarily to prevent children from experiencing abusive treatment that no child should, and to help assist families in gaining parenting skills that will aid them in making healthy choices in the future.

We are grateful for your support of Family Tree's services to help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness.

Scott Shields
Chief Executive Officer

E V E N T S

**Family Tree
Domestic Violence Training**
May 10, 14, 17, 20, and 28th
Times vary
A five-class symposium covering a wide range of domestic violence issues.

**Family Tree
"How To Help" Workshop**
Fourth Monday of each month
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Please join us for a free workshop on how friends and family can assist and support victims of domestic violence.

**Family Tree Fundraising Event
Celebration of Achievement**
May 1st, 6:00 p.m.
Family Tree presents the 2008 Celebration of Achievement, honoring families who have overcome numerous obstacles to achieve self-sufficiency.

**Family Tree
At-Risk Youth Training**
March 18 (part 1), March 25 (part 2)
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Gain a better understanding of the dynamics of runaway and abused youth.

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

Holidays of Hope - Sponsor Recognition

Family Tree sincerely thanks the following companies for going above and beyond this Holiday Season! If your company would like to support worthwhile programs to assist deserving families, contact Angie Overlie at (303) 598-1551.



Shawn Tracy and Mark Sheedy, managing partners of Associates Group, spearheaded a holiday fundraiser with their friends and associates for Family Tree. Family Tree would like to sincerely thank them for their efforts and their long-term commitment to support our organization.



Coors Brewing Company's Customer Service & Product Supply Department got into the spirit of the giving season by donating their time, non-perishable items and good hearts towards a basket building project at their December 2007 staff meeting. The baskets were created for two of Family Tree's facilities (Women in Crisis and The Karlis Family Center).



Barnes & Noble, Inc., located at 8136 W. Bowles Ave. in Littleton held their annual holiday book drive. Family Tree received over 350 new books. It was truly amazing to distribute these wonderful books throughout our programs and shelters during the holiday season.



Belmar Whole Foods selected Family Tree to be the recipient for their Community Giving Day on November 28th! Five percent of the total purchases that day were donated to Family Tree!



The generous and caring real estate professionals with the Kentwood Company DTC donated over 50 gift cards in December. The cards were distributed throughout our programs and shelters and were sincerely appreciated by Family Tree and our clients.



For the second year in a row, Quiznos showed their support of Family Tree by donating 100 grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving. It was a special touch to have volunteers from Quiznos personally hand the gift cards to our clients when they came to pick up their Thanksgiving food boxes.



Old Chicago at 3250 Youngfield in Wheat Ridge selected Family Tree as their charity partner for the holiday season. We received 10% of their total gift card sales in November and December. This was truly a WIN-WIN for all!!



This company partnered with Family Tree for the first time during the holidays and brought in a generous amount of items, gift cards and monetary donations. Their employees were able to select a client ornament and fulfill the wish on the ornament.

*A special **Thanks** to everyone else who supported Family Tree and our programs during the Holiday Season. The outpouring of items and donations truly defined the spirit of giving.

Family Tree
C 2008
Celebration
of **A**chievement



The Journey Starts Here. . .

May 1, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Jeff Evans,
World-Class Adventurer, Motivational Speaker and Author
Emcee: Vic Lombardi, CBS4 Sports Anchor
Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO 80003

For details or sponsorship opportunities please
call (303) 422-2133 or visit www.thefamilytree.org.



Largest Volunteer Group Project in 2007!

In September, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) provided Family Tree with our largest group volunteer project of the year. They purchased and installed two new playground sets, at Brookview Apartments and Karlis Family Center; then held a large school supply donation drive benefiting our Housing and Family Services clients, and cooked and served four meals at Gemini.

Over two dozen NREL employees pitched in to help with the playground and meals projects. Our staff and clients are really excited about the new playgrounds, and we've heard many great comments about not only the projects themselves, but the volunteers from NREL as well. Thank you so much, NREL. The smiles on our clients' faces and the joy in their hearts because of your generous contributions say it all.



“Before & After” - NREL employee volunteers dedicated hours to constructing two playgrounds, one at Brookview Apts., the other at Karlis Family Center. The projects were a huge success, with the volunteers ending the day posing on the structure.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect can be defined as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical harm, sexual abuse, exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents imminent risk of serious harm.

It's estimated that in 2005, **1,500** children died from abuse and or neglect. In Colorado, **50 - 60%** of all child fatalities were a result of child abuse or neglect, yet were not reported as such. With the majority of child abuse and neglect fatalities taking the lives of children **four years old or younger**, it is crucial that we all report suspected child abuse to local child protection agencies.¹ *Note: A single occurrence of one of these indicators isn't necessarily a sign of child abuse and/or neglect, but a pattern of behaviors may demonstrate a lack of care that constitutes abuse.*

SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT:

- Child discloses abuse is occurring.
- Parents have serious issues with alcohol and/or drug dependencies.
- Domestic violence occurs/has occurred in the home.
- Child wears unsuitable or insufficient clothing for the weather.
- Child's explanation of how injuries occurred is inconsistent with the injuries.
- Child is left to care for other children when responsibility is inappropriate for the child's maturity/developmental level.

The following signs in combination with those listed above:

- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance.
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention.
- Lacks adult supervision.
- Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home.
- Any type of fracture to a child under the age of two.¹

¹Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008

For more information on child abuse and neglect, or for details on how you can help in preventing child abuse, visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Family Tree
C²⁰⁰⁸
Celebration
of
A
Achievement

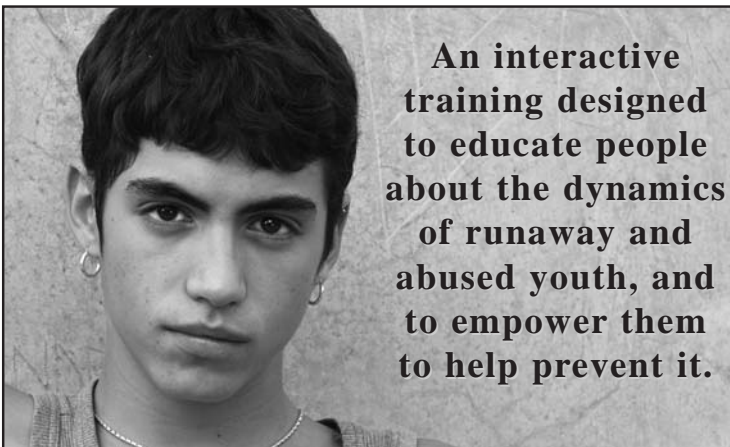
Corporate Sponsorships

If you know of a company that would be interested in a corporate sponsorship for the 2008 Celebration of Achievement, please contact **Angie Overlie** at **(303) 598-1551**. Corporate Sponsors receive complimentary VIP tickets, recognition at the event and a sponsorship advertisement in the program.

Get your sponsorship packet today!!!

At- Risk Youth Training

Family Tree will be presenting an At-Risk Youth training on **Tuesday, March 18th (part 1) and Tuesday, March 25th (part 2)**, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at our Administration office. This training is strongly encouraged for all volunteers and is open to the public. It is free for Family Tree staff and volunteers, and only \$15 for the general public.



An interactive training designed to educate people about the dynamics of runaway and abused youth, and to empower them to help prevent it.

To register or for more info on the At-Risk Youth training, please call or email Sean Wolfe, Director of Volunteer Services, at **(303) 422-2133** or by email at **swolfe@thefamilytree.org**.

Orange Ribbon Campaign

The Orange Ribbon is the international symbol used to promote Supervised Visitation Awareness Month during the month of May.

Supervised visitation centers exist to provide a safe haven for children during parental visitation. What color signifies safety better than orange? Orange is a bright color used to warn people to watch out and take notice. We want the world to see the orange ribbon and take notice of the thousands of children and families in need of this service.

The Orange Ribbon Campaign was begun in Minnesota in 2001, and was started by the Family Tree Supervisor of our Supervised Parenting Time programs, Jody Bittrich. Jody joined Family Tree in October of 2007.

Family Tree Karlis Family Center offers supervised parenting time and safe exchanges between children and their parents. Karlis Family Center provides a safe, home-like, cheerful environment for the child, and guidance to the parent in healthy parenting techniques.

For more information about the Orange Ribbon Campaign and the services available at Family Tree, please visit us at www.thefamilytree.org

Make Time -- Make Friends -- Make A Difference

Already given up on your New Year's resolutions? How about a resolution to help others and make a positive difference in our community! We have dozens of volunteer opportunities in our various programs, and there is literally something for everyone! Join us for one of our monthly Volunteer Orientation sessions, held on the last Saturday of every month, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are fun, informative, exciting and very interactive. For more info on the orientation and many volunteer training opportunities, please call or email **Sean Wolfe**, Director of Volunteer Services, at **(303) 422-2133** or **swolfe@thefamilytree.org**.

Kaleidoscope Committee

Promoting Inclusiveness and Diversity at Family Tree

During the summer of 2004, Family Tree staff members began meeting voluntarily to discuss diversity issues as they related to the agency. Four years later, this committee on diversity, which has been named the Family Tree Kaleidoscope Committee, is making strides towards inclusiveness.

After much discussion early on, it was determined that to create a culture of inclusiveness agency wide, involvement from all program areas was necessary. With this came a restructuring of the committee, a greater commitment by staff and a specific purpose statement for the committee. The purpose of Kaleidoscope is to increase the respect, understanding, awareness, celebration, and sensitivity of diversity across Family Tree as a function of the broader goal to develop inclusiveness in our staff, our clients and our community.

In 2007, the committee was successful in drafting updated inclusiveness wording for the existing Family Tree anti-discrimination statement, and was adopted by the Board of Directors. The committee focused its efforts through the Denver Foundation's Expanding Non-Profit Inclusiveness Initiative, which provided a template for researching and developing an inclusive non-profit agency. Recently, after determining our pri-

Family Tree defines inclusiveness as a measure of the degree to which an organization has diverse individuals involved in all areas, and the extent to which it is learning centered, striving to acknowledge and incorporate the needs and viewpoints of diverse communities with the intent to create balance among people of privilege and marginalized people, in accordance with the Family Tree mission.

mary objectives for the committee, we divided into four sub-committees, Translation, Research, Staff Development and Client Services. Each sub-committee was given the task of pinpointing goals and objectives and creating action steps for implementation.

The Kaleidoscope Committee is excited and optimistic for 2008. With increased staff and board support and hands-on committee objectives, Keith Singer, Kaleidoscope Committee Chair, says, "Building inclusiveness is challenging work, but if it is done successfully, it will benefit our clients as well as our community and ourselves." For information on Kaleidoscope or updates on our progress, contact Dana Juniel at (303) 422-2133.

Story submitted by Dana Juniel, Development Associate, Gifts & Community Support.

Kim Whitrap, Outstanding Victim Advocate



Family Tree would like to congratulate Kim Whitrap, Legal Advocacy Supervisor with Family Tree Domestic Violence Services, for receiving the Deanna Griswold Award for Outstanding Victim Advocate, Non-Profit Sector. The award, presented at the 2007 COVA (Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance) Conference, is to honor the exceptional work and outstanding contributions Kim has made to the victim assistance field.

With a skill for identifying problems in the system or gaps in services, Kim is motivated to develop solutions and provide follow through with corrective action to help victims. Kim has been the driving force behind Family Tree's "How To Help Workshop: for friends and family of domestic violence victims," and the Menu of Options, an innovative brochure provided to victims of domestic violence. When describing what she admires most about Kim, Jane Pemberton, Managing Director of Family Tree's Domestic Violence Services, states, "Kim gives a passionate voice to victims when they cannot speak for themselves." This passion makes Kim a great asset to Family Tree and a vital agent for change in our community. When asked about the award, Kim says, "This award reminds me that innovation is a good thing. It has inspired me to step outside the box and look for new ways that I can better serve victims."

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Family Tree would like to thank the following 2007 Feast For Families sponsors for their continued support to Family Tree.

Bank of Choice
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EKS&H
Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado
Godin & Baity, LLC.
Golden Hill Family Dentistry
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JDF Enterprises
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Kaiser Permanente
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Nelnat, Inc.
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Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons, LLP.
Sundyne Corporation
Arlyn & Jeanne Tolzman
Wheat Ridge Pharmacy



Join Family Tree &

your community in
the Blue Ribbon
Campaign to prevent
child abuse

**APRIL IS
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH**

For more information on how you
can participate, contact Angie
Overlie at (303) 598-1551 or visit
www.thefamilytree.org.

Visit Family Tree Treasure Trunk

7043 W. 38th Ave.,
Wheat Ridge

**Open: M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. &
Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Providing clean, gently-used adult
and children's clothing, furniture,
household goods and small
appliances for sale to the public.

**For more information,
call (303) 421-9205.
Donations accepted.**

Email Addresses Provide Quick Communication

Recently we sent an email alert to hundreds of Family Tree friends letting them know about an exciting opportunity that benefited Family Tree simply by dining at a great local restaurant chain. Did you receive the alert? If not, chances are we do not have your email address.

Receiving breaking news first and being the first to know about special events are only a couple of reasons why providing your email address to Family Tree is such a good idea. Here's another -- it saves trees. All of us are becoming more eco-conscious and reduced printing means less trees are used to get our message of hope and healing into the greater Denver community. Take a moment today and send your email address to us. You can do so at: info@thefamilytree.org. In the subject line simply write, My Email Address. Please be assured we will treat your email address with the utmost respect for your security and privacy.

BROADENING OUR SERVICES

Introducing Arapahoe County Kinship Stability Program and Adams County Military Families Program

In October of 2007, we broadened our kinship program to offer similar services for kinship families in Arapahoe County. We are happy and excited that the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services has contracted with Family Tree to serve relative caretaker families. According to the 2000 U. S. Census, there are 2.4 million grandparents nationwide serving as the primary caregivers of their grandchildren. This statistic does not include aunts, uncles, and other relatives who take in the children of relatives to raise as their own. Most of these relatives do not qualify for foster care payments in the states where they live. By offering the services of Family Tree's new Kinship/Family Stability Program, the eligible families in Arapahoe County will be able to access information and financial assistance to support them as they raise the children they have taken into their homes.

In November of 2007, Adams County decided to expand the services of the TANF Stable Families Program to include military families residing in the county who have children in the home. Family Tree is now serving sixteen military families through the new Military Family Assistance Program. The program is meant to provide services and assistance that an active duty or veteran family might not otherwise receive. For more information, visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Story submitted by Suzy MacKenzie, Director, Adams County TANF Stable Families and Military Families Program, Arapahoe Kinship Family Stability Program.

Beneficiary Designations

Beneficiary Designations are an easy and free way to remember Family Tree in your estate planning. You may leave Family Tree all, a specific dollar amount, or a percentage of, your IRA and/or Life Insurance Policy. Simply call your IRA representative and/or Life Insurance Company and request a beneficiary change form, complete it and return it to them.

We would be delighted if you would notify us of this future gift so we may thank and recognize you. To do so, or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Wells at (303) 403-5896.

Make Your Planned Gift Today!

Bequests ~ Wills ~ Estate Planning

Planned gifts come in all shapes and sizes and every single gift will help us serve those affected by child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness.

**To discuss your planned gift,
contact Kathy Wells at
(303) 403-5896.
For more information visit
www.thefamilytree.org.**

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2007 Family Tree Annual Report



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