

# The Volunteer Spotlight

for volunteers, supporters and friends of Family Tree

Spring 2007

*A note  
from  
the  
director:*

When one starts a new position with a new agency, (s)he is usually overwhelmed with learning as much as (s)he can about the agency, programs and policies and procedures under which the agency accomplishes its mission. But, while I have been busy integrating myself into the mission and programs of Family Tree, I have been *overwhelmed* by something else: the amazing spirit, dedication and integrity of all of the incredible volunteers I've met in my first month at Family Tree.

Hopefully most of you have gotten my letter of introduction that went out in mid-March. But for those who did not receive that, here's a little about me. I have over 14 years of non-profit and volunteer management experience. My most recent positions have been as Volunteer Coordinator for the **LIVESTRONG** Challenge (Lance Armstrong Foundation's signature fundraising event for cancer survivors), Volunteer Development Manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Public Education and Volunteer Manager for Colorado AIDS Project, and Director of Communication and Public Affairs for Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corp.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 21**. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and fellow volunteers, meet new ones, meet or get reacquainted with Family Tree staff, and be recognized and honored for all of the hard work and dedication that you've given to Family Tree and our many programs. The breakfast will be at Copper Fields Event Chateau again this year, from 9 - 11 a.m. Family Tree CEO, Ruth Ann Russell will be our featured speaker. She will share memories of her years with Family Tree and of its great volunteers. This is a celebration of YOU, so please feel free to bring a guest or two. So that we can plan accordingly, please RSVP to me by Friday, April 13, with the number of people attending.

Speaking of celebration, Family Tree's annual Celebration of Achievement is Thursday, May 3. This is a time of honoring clients who have gone through our various programs, and have overcome obstacles in their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. That's what our work is all about, and something all of us should be proud of. We're looking for 25 energetic volunteers to help with the Celebration. Or, if you'd rather attend the gala, please call Kathy Wells at (303) 422-2133, Ext. 744, or visit [www.thefamilytree.org](http://www.thefamilytree.org).



New Director of Volunteer Services, Sean Wolfe.

A special thanks to Sundyne Corporation for printing this newsletter. Throughout the years, Sundyne volunteers have provided printing, donated meals, worked at our facilities and most recently were a sponsor of Feast For Families. Thank you so much; we really appreciate it.



(l) Ruth Ann Russell, Family Tree CEO, receives \$955 donation from Sundyne Corporation on March 8, 2007.

# Goodbye From The 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](http://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



## Welcome to Our New Volunteers, Interns and Board Committee Members

### New Volunteers

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Heather Goodwin   | WIC Legal Advocate Intern     |
| Deborah Makray    | WIC Legal Advocate Volunteer  |
| Kathy Reyes       | WIC Legal Advocate Volunteer  |
| Brenda Bomgardner | WIC Women's Volunteer         |
| Kelly Walker      | WIC Women's Volunteer         |
| Amber Willoughby  | Karlis Family Center          |
| Meg Heithaus      | House of Hope Homework Helper |
| Jennifer Calloway | House of Hope Homework Helper |

### Board Members/Board Committee Members

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mikkel Kelly        | Development Committee/Board |
| Randy Saucedo       | Communications Committee    |
| Ed Greivel          | Advisory Committee          |
| Sheila Squires      | Advisory Committee          |
| Michelle O'Laughlin | Development Committee       |
| Gary Hutchcraft     | Services Committee          |
| Kathryn Davies      | Services Committee          |
| Sharon Boyd         | Board                       |

### Congratulations to interns and volunteers recently hired as staff

Sarah Goodrich      Women In Crisis

## Volunteer Survey!

Family Tree is gathering information from staff and volunteers to assist the Kaleidoscope Diversity Committee with a project to improve services for all our clients. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133.



Please join us in wishing Ruth Ann Russell, outgoing CEO, well in her retirement. We'll meet at Morse Park in Lakewood on June 16 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for a retirement picnic. Ruth Ann has been an incredible leader for Family Tree and a strong advocate and supporter of our volunteers. Let's show her how much we appreciate all she's done for us!

## 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.





# Volunteer Spotlight

## De De Brewer is De Bomb!

De De Brewer has been volunteering with Family Tree for five years, and has worked in several of our programs. She started working in the Admin office, helping out with answering phones, sorting, filing and keeping us super organized ... which is not an easy task! Currently she splits her volunteer time between the Adams County TANF Stable Families program and Women In Crisis shelter.

"De De is a ray of sunshine, and her smile brightens everyone's day every time she steps foot in the shelter," says Julie Duhegraham, WIC's Volunteer Liaison and House Manager. "Her eye for detail is incredible, and without her, our toy closet would be a disaster. We love her so much."

**"De De is a ray of sunshine, and her smile brightens everyone's day. . ."**

A very typical Scorpio, De De is determined, passionate, intuitive and energetic. She has the unique ability of getting any job done while still keeping her sense of humor and making everyone around her

happy. "I love laughing and helping people and joking with them. Life is to be enjoyed, and helping others helps me too," De De says with her infectious smile.

When not making a powerful impact at Family Tree, De De might be found skipping through Disneyland with Micky and Minnie, or munching on popcorn while catching a midnight showing of "The Sound of Music" at an old art-house sing-along performance. Her favorite colors are purple and yellow ... which should be no surprise at all. Purple is the color of empowerment, and yellow is the color of inner strength, and De De Brewer is the personification of both.

Thank you, De De ... you're a ROCKSTAR volunteer!



De De Brewer, Adams County and Women In Crisis volunteer.

## JOIN US 14th Annual Family Tree Celebration of Achievement

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

**Believe . . . Achieve . . . Celebrate!**

## Seeking Energetic Volunteers for Celebration of Achievement

Celebration of Achievement is Family Tree's largest annual event that honors individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles in their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. We're looking for 25 dynamic volunteers to help make this year's COA a huge success. We need help in the following areas:

- \* Registration
- \* Greeters/Ushers
- \* Marketing/Signage
- \* Traffic Control
- \* Miscellaneous Assistant duties

Please call Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133 if you are interested in volunteering with this EXCITING event to celebrate the fruits of our labor.

Come Celebrate YOU!!

## Family Tree Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Honoring all of our amazing and dedicated volunteers and the work you've done to help us accomplish our mission.

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Copper Fields Events Chateau

4901 Marshall St.

Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

This is a special time to honor you and the work you've done for Family Tree and our mission. Please feel free to bring friends and family members that you'd like to join in on your special celebration. This is our opportunity to give back to you, after you've given so much to our clients.

Please RSVP to Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133 by April 18.

## National Volunteer Week

April 15 - 21

"Inspire By Example!"



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The mission of  
Family Tree  
is to help people  
overcome child  
abuse, domestic  
violence and  
homelessness to  
become safe,  
strong and self-  
reliant.

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