

The Volunteer Spotlight

for volunteers, supporters and friends of Family Tree

Summer 2008

*A note
from
the
director:*

Sometimes it feels like the world is operating on an accelerated level ... as if it had one too many Red Bulls. We seem to be in one of those cycles. The excitement and anxiety around the upcoming elections ... the outrageous price of gas ... the anticipation of long-awaited summer ... not to mention the end of American Idol and seven or eight of the longest months in history as we wait for it to begin again next January.

Often, when the world is spinning so quickly, and so much is going on around us, it's hard for us to see the impact we're having in our small little corner of the world. We might wonder if it's worth all the effort or if we're making a difference at all. Well, I'm here to tell you that we are.

While in church a couple of weeks back, I listened to a family talk about how they'd overcome some struggles and obstacles recently, and how they'd come through it stronger than ever. "We talked it over and decided not to participate in the recession," the wife and mother of three said, matter-of-factly. She was speaking not only of the literal recession of our economy, but of the emotional recession that comes along with struggle and tribulation. "We kept our eye on the prize, and let nothing or no one keep us from getting where we wanted to be, where we could be."

I absolutely loved that statement, as did the other 1,500 people in the audience, from the sound of their applause. When the world spins out of control ... when so many things tug at our shirt sleeves for our attention ... when those voices in our heads tell us that the work we do is too hard, and that we're not making that much of a difference ... that is the time for us to make a conscious decision not to participate in the madness, in the recession. To keep our eye on "the prize" ... our clients becoming safe and strong. Our families moving into homes they can call their own and being self-reliant. Our children understanding that they are loved and cared for.

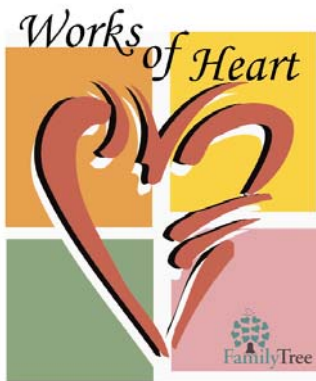
Thank you for all you do every day for Family Tree and the families we serve. Regardless of how fast the world spins ... or how slowly ... it's important for our clients to know that we're here for them. And it fills my heart with joy ... and a few tears ... to know that you, our volunteers, never let them down.



Sean Wolfe
Director of Volunteer Services



Sean Wolfe, Director of
Volunteer Services



2008 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

On Saturday, April 19, 120 Family Tree volunteers and staff came together to celebrate the work, dedication and passion of our amazing volunteers. Works of Heart, which is the new name of our volunteer appreciation event, took place at Copper Fields Event Chateau again this year.

In addition to the Works of Heart name, there were a few other exciting changes made to the event, as well. For the first time, award trophies were given to outstanding volunteers in our three program service areas as well as long-term service and senior service awards. All volunteer attendees were also recognized for their support with a certificate of appreciation.

CEO Scott Shields thanked volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Marty Kennedy, Family Tree's Chief Operating Officer, gave a very moving keynote address. As COO, Marty is very familiar with numbers, and her speech centered around the most important number of all ... ONE. She spoke about how one person ... one volunteer ... one heart ... can make the largest of differences in the lives of our clients.

"We could never in a million years express enough thanks or say exactly how much our volunteers mean to us," says Sean Wolfe, Director of Volunteer Services at Family Tree. "We simply couldn't do the great work we do without our amazing volunteers. I hope this breakfast will serve as a small token of our deep appreciation of our volunteers, and to let them know that their Works of Heart are changing people's lives. We love them for that!"

(clockwise from top left) Arlene Mayer; Janelle Young; Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church; Mary Beattie.

Award Recipients:

- Shermita West**
Long Term Service Award
- Janelle Young**
Domestic Violence Advocate Award
- Arlene Mayer**
Senior Service Award
- Mary Beattie**
At-Risk Youth Advocate Award
- Margaret Utter**
Homelessness Advocate Award
- Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**
Community Partner Award



How Much Are Our Volunteers Worth?

There has been a strong movement to assess "the value of volunteer time" or the "value of volunteer work" using the wage replacement approach. Briefly, this involves multiplying the number of volunteer hours by an average hourly pay rate based on what an employee might be paid to do the same work. The resulting total is reported as the "value" of the work done by volunteers. It is not. The resulting figure is quite simply what the organization did not pay to have the work done. That is very different from what the work is actually worth.

Think on how you might answer the following questions. What is the value of:

- 1) A volunteer who spends time at the bedside of a dying child?
- 2) 400 citizens who turn out to find a little girl lost in the swamp (and they are successful!)?
- 3) One volunteer who helps a battered woman and her children develop a safety plan and successfully remove

- themselves from an abusive relationship?
- 4) The adult literacy movement?
- 5) Mentoring a "high risk" child who then does not join a gang or get pregnant at the age of 14?
- 6) A volunteer fire department?
- 7) 700 volunteers who help raise over \$1 million to help provide services for persons living with HIV/AIDS live a better quality of life?

According to the volunteer management organization, Independent Sector, the dollar value assigned to one hour of volunteer time in 2007 (dollar values are always assigned the first quarter after the full year for which they are being given, to take into account economy for the entire year, and other factors) is \$19.51. We all know, however, that your time is worth much more than that ... it's priceless!

Excerpted from BEST OF ALL: The Quick Reference Guide To Effective Volunteer Involvement, Linda L. Graff, Linda Graff and Associates Inc., 2005, Pages 20-22 . Dollar value as determined by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org).

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast Photos



It's Fiesta Time !

We need your help in planning the

*2008 Family Tree
Fiesta For Families!*

Seeking volunteers for the following committees:

- ~ Corporate Sponsorships*
- ~ Decorations*
- ~ Silent Auction*

*For more information on how you can get involved
with Family Tree's event planning committees,
contact Angie Overlie at (303) 598-1551.*



Welcome to Volunteer Movers & Shakers!

WELCOME to all of our new volunteers!
Since December, we've had over 50
new volunteers come on board with us.
Every program is represented in those
volunteers, and we're very excited to have
you as part of our family.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following
volunteers who have transitioned to join
the Family Tree staff:

Jessica Yost, Housing & Family Services
Denise Labeaux, Karlis Family Center
Crystal Evango, Women In Crisis
Siobhan Hastings, Women In Crisis
Bonnie Vann, Women In Crisis
Cheryl Bittrich, House of Hope

Volunteers needed for Juneteenth Festival



Family Tree will be staffing an outreach
table at this year's Juneteenth Festival,
taking place on Saturday, June 14, in the
Five Points area of downtown Denver. We
need 10 volunteers to help us staff the table.
The Festival will be taking place from
10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and volunteers will be
working the table with a staff person for
two-hour shifts.

This is an easy, fun and exciting volunteer opportunity. All you do is sit (or stand) at the table and talk with Festival participants about Family Tree and the services and programs we provide to the community. And as I mentioned, a staff person will be working at the table with you. When you're finished with your shift, you're free to enjoy the festivities that are always a lot of fun!!

If you're available and interested in working the outreach table for a two-hour shift on Saturday, June 14, please call Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133 or email him at swolfe@thefamilytree.org.

**A special thanks to Sundyne Corporation for
printing this newsletter. We really appreciate it.**



Upcoming Volunteer Trainings



The following volunteer trainings are scheduled for the next few months:

Homelessness 101

Tuesday, June 17th, 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

At-Risk Youth Training I

Tuesday, July 15th, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

At-Risk Youth Training II

Tuesday, July 22nd, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Domestic Violence Training

Month of September, various times and dates

Volunteer Orientation

Last Saturday of every month, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All training sessions will be held at the Family Tree Admin offices, 3805 Marshall St., Wheat Ridge, EXCEPT for the Domestic Violence training series, which will take place at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. There is no cost for trainings for Family Tree volunteers. Cost for non-volunteers is \$15 for the Homelessness and Youth trainings, and \$25 for the DV training series (all 5 classes). Food and refreshments are served.

If you have not attended any of these trainings in the past, or if you have, but would like to attend again, please call or email Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133 or swolfe@thefamilytree.org.



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Visit us at
www.thefamilytree.org



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

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