

The Volunteer Spotlight

for volunteers, supporters and friends of Family Tree

Winter/Spring 2009

*A note
from
the
director:*

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009!!!

Wow, what a year 2008 was, right? I'm sure I'm not alone in saying "good riddance," and how happy I am to look forward to a new ... and brighter ... tomorrow.

For some of us, feeling the way we did in '08 was a new and uncomfortable sensation. Many of us had never had our financial security taken away from us before this year. We worked hard and invested wisely and put away a little nest egg for retirement, and fully expected that it would be there when we needed it. The majority of our volunteers have not had to fear losing their home. They may not have been overly wealthy, but they were able to work and pay their mortgage or their rent, and they had a place to call home at the end of the day.

So this year, when even the mightiest fell like Humpty Dumpty off of his brick wall, we were all affected, and we all felt the earth shake as Humpty hit the ground with a thud. I'd venture a guess that very few, if any, of our volunteers survived this past year completely unscathed.

And how did you respond? With greater compassion, more hours of service, and more donations than ever. In our 2008 fiscal year Family Tree volunteers donated 21,130 hours of service to Family Tree, which equals \$412,246 of labor. You recognized that although this feeling of loss and insecurity was a new experience for you ... it is a way of life every day for the clients we serve. And you were determined to do whatever you could to make a difference in their lives.

There's an old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." And our amazing volunteers at Family Tree are perfect examples of the truth in that statement. Your dedication and hard work humble and awe me every day. I am so honored and blessed to work with you.

As we move forward into 2009, remember that tomorrow has the potential to be the brightest day of our lives. I'm looking forward to it, because the biggest and best moments of our lives very often come right after the hardest and lowest times. That's because we lean on and learn from one another, and we can only move one way when we do that -- upward and forward.

THANK YOU for all you do every day to help Family Tree help our clients overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong and self-reliant. I hope each of you experiences half of the joy and peace in your lives this year that you bring to our clients each day.



Sean Wolfe
Director of Volunteer Services



Housing & Family Services volunteer Marian Katz reviews files with Director of Volunteer Services, Sean Wolfe.

Letter From Our CEO

During these trying and uncertain economic times, volunteerism has never been more important. We are so grateful to each of you, and truly appreciative of the efforts you put forth to benefit Family Tree and help improve the lives of the individuals and families we serve.

We partner with all of you and we are well aware many of our programs and services wouldn't function nearly as efficiently and effectively if it weren't for our dedicated volunteer corps. In fact, many of our programs, such as our volunteer-led health clinics at Women In Crisis and House of Hope, wouldn't exist at all without volunteers.

As Family Tree and other human services agencies continue to experience significant spikes in the numbers of those needing our assistance, we will be seeking new and innovative ways to meet the increased demand on our services. We hope you all will push us and grow with us as we continually strive to be an answer to our community's needs.



Scott Shields
Chief Executive Officer



Family Tree CEO, Scott Shields pictured here with DNC Service Day Volunteers.

Showing Up ... And Creating A Better World

I'm reading a book now called, *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, by Peter Block. It's an amazing book, and in it one of the author's statements has really stood out for me, and I've adopted it as my new mantra:

***"Possibility is the declaration of what we create
in the world every time we show up."***

Isn't that brilliant? Think about all of the peace in the world ... all of the hungry people we can feed ... all of the warm homes we can provide ... all of the happy kids we can keep safe and healthy and strong. And then realize that we can change those possibilities into realities just by showing up!

Family Tree volunteers know this already. You are changing people's lives dramatically every day ... just by showing up. You share yourselves with our clients, and they share themselves with us ... and then magic happens. Everyone is transformed. Peace and safety is discovered, hungry people are fed, houses and apartments become homes, and kids grow up healthy and safe and strong.

Block also has another book titled, *The Answer to How Is Yes*. I haven't read this one yet, but the title alone speaks volumes to me. And it reminds me of all of our incredible volunteers. You don't question why or how or who or when. You just say YES, and you bring your unique qualities and talents to the table, and you bring about change.

Casey Stengle once said, "There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, 'what happened?'"

Thank you for being that person ... that volunteer ... who makes things happen!

Email Addresses Provide Quick Communication

Recently we sent an email alert to hundreds of Family Tree friends letting them know about an exciting opportunity to double the impact of any financial donation made to Family Tree. 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.



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





Volunteer Spotlight

Belva Freml

Administrative Volunteer
Extraordinaire

No one loves a story better than Belva Freml. "I've lived quite an interesting life," she says with a sparkle in her eye. And she loves sharing her stories with staff and volunteers alike.



And she's right ... she has lived quite an interesting eighty-one years ... and still is going strong. One of my favorite Belva stories is about how, while in Spain on vacation during the Franco regime, her hotel was raided by Spain's Secret Service, and her passport was confiscated for three days! But that's only one of a dozen or so that she proudly tells with that mischievous chuckle that is uniquely hers.

Belva has volunteered at the reception area in Family Tree's Admin offices every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning for the past four years. She loves people, and it shows every time she answers the phone. To Belva, everyone is "dear", and she will go out of her way to make sure she helps you ... or puts you in touch with someone who can.

Her favorite color is purple, the color of strength and royalty and regality. Belva is fiercely independent ... a little stubborn ... and has a heart of pure gold. When she puts her mind to something, it gets done. And that's a good trait to have when working with our populations.

"I love working with the employees at Family Tree," Belva says. "They are so enjoyable." But her real love is helping those in need. And that love for helping others has been a lifelong rendezvous for Belva. In addition to volunteering at Family Tree for the past four years, she has also volunteered with Lutheran Medical Center for the same amount of time.

And long before that time, she was hard at work helping those who were in need. "During the Vietnam War I went to schools and churches and was able to collect 10,000 gifts to send to our service personnel overseas," she says proudly.

For this determined Virgo, giving up is not an option. When there is work to be done, or someone is in need, Belva Freml is up and running and ready to help. It's just who she is, and we at Family Tree are proud of her and blessed to be working with her.



Welcome to Volunteer Movers & Shakers!

Since our last volunteer newsletter issue in September, we've added 58 new volunteers to our Family. We're so happy to have you with us!

The following volunteers have transitioned to staff positions:

Barbara Stone
Adams County Karlis Family Center

Dulce Solis
Adams County Karlis Family Center

Andi LaRoche
Adams County Karlis Family Center

San Castillo-Jones
House of Hope

Kathie Love
House of Hope

Lauren Brown
House of Hope

Ruth Shepard
House of Hope

Mae Washam
Housing and Family Services

Congratulations, and welcome aboard!



Auction - 5:30 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

**Arvada Center,
6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO 80003**

**To RSVP or for more details contact Dana Juniell at
(303) 422-2133 or visit www.thefamilytree.org**

Upcoming Volunteer Trainings

The following volunteer trainings are offered through April 2009.

Domestic Violence Training	Month of February	* See times on webpage
At-Risk Youth Training	March 12 & 19	6 - 9 PM
Homelessness Training	April 20	6 - 9 PM

Volunteer Orientations are held the last Saturday of every month, from 10 AM - 4 PM.

All training sessions will be held at Family Tree Administrative offices EXCEPT for the Domestic Violence training series, which will take place at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. There is no cost for trainings to 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, or if you've attended them in the past, but would like to attend again, please call or email Sean Wolfe at (303) 422-2133 or swolfe@thefamilytree.org.



Volunteer Opportunities

Stories

Visit

www.thefamilytree.org

safe, strong, self-reliant

Jobs

Photos



Visit us at
www.thefamilytree.org



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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9th Annual Volunteer Recognition Brunch

Saturday, February 21st
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Mt. Vernon Event Center
17173 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Golden, CO 80401



*Family Tree staff and volunteers at the 2008
Family Tree Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.*



Join other Family Tree volunteers and staff to celebrate YOU!!!

Great Brunch
Fun Fellowship with Family Tree Volunteers
Appreciation from Family Tree Staff
Exciting Entertainment
Meaningful Awards

This is Family Tree's time to express our thanks and appreciation for all of the great work you do for us and our clients everyday. PLEASE join us for our 9th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. . . and bring a guest, if you like!

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Sean Wolfe, Director of Volunteer Services, at (303) 422-2133 or swolfe@thefamilytree.org, if you plan to attend.

We hope to see you there!