

Summer-Fall
2005

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Gemini
303) 235-0630

House of Hope
303) 762-9525

Housing and Family Services
303) 467-2604

Carlisle Family Center
303) 462-1060

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

Adams County Projects
ANF Stable Families Project
303) 227-2205
Early Intervention & Prevention
303) 412-5135
Community Family Resource
Team
303) 412-5283

Reassurance Trunk
Wheat Ridge: (303) 421-9205

12th Annual Celebration of Achievement: A Night to Remember

**Amber entered Family Tree through Family Tree Women In Crisis. She had grown up in a violent home and had endured domestic violence in her first and second marriages.*

**Marilyn was referred to Family Tree House of Hope by Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. At the time, she was seven months pregnant and did not have stable housing for herself and her three sons. (Complete story, cover page).*

These are but brief glimpses into the lives of only two of the more than 20,000 individuals that Family Tree touched during the past year. Two of the more than 20,000 women and children for whom Family Tree has provided shelter and services to help overcome domestic violence, homelessness, child abuse and other family crises.

Recently both Marilyn and Amber, along with seven other individuals, were honored at Family Tree's 12th Annual Celebration of Achievement. Held at the Mount Vernon Event Center, the event honors families and individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles in their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, Family Tree honored the enormous community support we receive by acknowledging three individuals who have partnered with Family Tree to enhance our service delivery. This year's community award recipients were: Daniel Olson, Sue Hagedorn and Melanie Dressman.

This year's event took on special significance as Jake Plummer, quarterback of the Denver Broncos, delivered the keynote address. His presence sent a clear message to the celebrants that their personal accomplishments and contributions are significant. Equally moved and inspired by the

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(l to r) Brian Ballard, Family Tree Board of Directors Chair; Ruth Ann Russell, Family Tree President; and Jake Plummer, Denver Broncos quarterback, representing the Jake Plummer Foundation.

Marilyn's Story: Overcoming Obstacles Leads to Hopeful Future

*Marilyn was referred to Family Tree House of Hope by Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. At the time, Marilyn was seven months pregnant and did not have stable housing for herself and her three sons. Before being referred, Marilyn had experienced legal problems and had a substance abuse problem. Due to her legal difficulties, Marilyn thought that it would be difficult to obtain employment and access to a housing program.

When she entered Family Tree House of Hope, Marilyn's goals were to take care of her legal issues, become employed, and receive substance abuse treatment. House of Hope is dedicated to providing safe shelter and resources for homeless women with children.

Through hard work and determination Marilyn completed outpatient drug treatment and also found a program that helped people with legal difficulties and job placement. While at House of Hope, Marilyn made several calls a week and was able to gain housing in a two-year transitional housing program. She also found work in the automotive field. Marilyn has remained drug free and has come a long way in providing stable housing for herself and her family. Family Tree congratulates Marilyn in overcoming the difficult issues involved with being homeless and for creating a safe, nurturing home for herself and her family. Marilyn was recently honored as a Family Tree Celebration of Achievement award recipient, nominated by Stacey Eberly, Family Advocate, Family Tree House of Hope.

Story contributed by Dennis Desparrois, Director of Family Tree Gemini and Nicole Sherwood, Outreach Supervisor, Family Tree Gemini.

*Pseudonyms have been used to protect the identity of clients



Marilyn and family photographed at the 12th Annual Celebration of Achievement along with Jake Plummer, Denver Broncos quarterback, representing the Jake Plummer Foundation.



From The President



Ruth Ann Russell
Family Tree President

"Once a month." This is a very familiar phrase. We pay rent or house payments "once a month." Most vendors expect a payment from us "once a month," like the water bill or the energy bill. A lot of the meetings I attend happen "once a month," like every first Monday or third Thursday. Perhaps you get a haircut "once a month" or write a letter to a friend or relative "once a month." "Once a month" just has a nice orderly sound to it, don't you think?

Just like your family, Family Tree pays certain bills "once a month." We have telephone bills and water bills and insurance bills - all are due "once a month." We hold lots of meetings monthly, board meetings on the fourth Thursday and agency staff meetings on the third Wednesday.

We are hoping that the organization and consistency of doing something "once a month" appeals to you. And that you will consider joining the Family Tree Treehouse Club, an exciting and innovative opportunity for all Family Tree supporters. The Treehouse Club is for caring, committed Family Tree sup-

porters who agree to send monthly donations to help insure that the vital programs and services needed by deserving individuals are always available. And we can even make your monthly contributions easy -- through Electronic Funds Transfer or by credit card. Or, we can remind you "once a month" to send your check.

Hundreds of families contact Family Tree, each month, needing shelter, food, and safety. Thousands of persons call us each month, needing an encouraging word, advice, and support. Family Tree will be there every month to help the most vulnerable and the most in need members of our community. I am asking you to join us as part of the Family Tree Treehouse Club. And I will appreciate your support, "once a month."

Ruth Ann Russell
President, Family Tree

cont. from cover

celebrants' stories, Mr. Plummer presented a check on behalf of the Jake Plummer Foundation to Family Tree President Ruth Ann Russell, and Family Tree Board Chair Brian Ballard, in the amount of \$75,000.

In addition to Mr. Plummer's gift, this year's event raised over \$15,000 through ticket sales to the 300 attendees and the generous support of event underwriter, Coors Brewing Company, as well as major sponsors that included: Hansen Law Firm, Events Unlimited, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Walk In Auction, Lewan & Associates, Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC, Sports Authority, 240 Union Restaurant, Auto-Chlor System Colorado, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Firestone. Other sponsors included: First National Bank of Colorado, FirstBank of Colorado, Kiwanis Club of Lakeside/Wheat Ridge, Wilson Sporting Goods, 1 Stop Printing, Inc., CTX Mortgage Company, Global Travel International, Steve Casey's Recreational Sales, Phoebe Hair Apparent, The Home Couple and Vickie Blasingame of State Farm Insurance.

Special thanks are extended to KCNC-TV4 sports anchor, Vic Lombardi, who did an outstanding job as this year's event emcee, and

special thanks to our Celebration Committee and volunteers. These included: Pat Schmidt, Dennis Desparrois, Nicole Sherwood, Karla Hallacy, Don Moseley, Elizabeth Clark, Sharon Crennen, Mark Perko, Laura Hamilton, Tammy Hogan, Barb Decet, Colleen Schell, Linda Barringer, Maggie Gillette, Shirley Fenz, Suzy Martin, Linda Levine, Stacey Eberly and Ruth Ann Russell.

This year's celebrants lavished praise on Family Tree and especially its dedicated staff members who have been instrumental in helping the celebrants bring positive changes into their lives. Equally important, the Celebration of Achievement event reminds Family Tree staff, board, supporters and volunteers of just how fortunate we are to have special people like the celebrants in our lives - individuals committed to improving their own lives, the lives of others, their family and community.

Story contributed by Steve Harrell. Mr. Harrell is the Family Tree Public Relations and Marketing Director.

To enjoy more photos from this year's Celebration of Achievement, go to www.thefamilytree.org; scroll to the bottom of the homepage and press: Celebration of Achievement 2005 Photos.

*Pseudonyms were used to protect the identity of our clients.

Congratulations

New Family Tree Board Members!

Family Tree announces the addition of two new board of director members. They are Colorado State Representative, **Cheri Jahn**, and **Dr. Barbara Morris**, with the Colorado Permanente Group. Representative Jahn has served on the advisory board of Jeffco CASA and as a victim's advocate. Dr. Morris played an integral part in the formation of the Family Tree Women In Crisis Safe Clinic.

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.

New Volunteer Opportunity:
Child Care Coordinator

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Mary Brook at (303) 422-2133, or visit www.thefamilytree.org.

Join
Helping Hearts & Hands
 for the
5th Annual
Holiday Harvest
Happening Luncheon

September 15, 2005
Arvada United Methodist Church
6750 Carr St., Arvada
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 For more information contact:
Betty Proctor @ 303.936.9043

Save the Date!

OCTOBER	
5	
Family Tree	
Feast For	
Families	

For more information visit
www.thefamilytree.org

Community Partnerships Share the Passion

A special thank you to our community partners who share our passion and have helped us financially from January - April 2005 to make a difference in the lives of others. We thank you.

Allstate Foundation
 \$500 Family Tree general operating

Boulder Community Foundation
 \$2,000 Gemini Boulder Outreach

Daniels Fund
 \$50,000 Gemini Outreach programs
 \$50,000 Housing and Family Services

John G. Duncan Trust
 \$2,000 Family Tree general operating

El Pomar Foundation Youth in Community Service
 \$2,000 Housing (Alameda High)

\$1,500 Gemini School (Heritage High)
 \$1,000 Karlis Family Center (Golden High)
 \$700 Karlis Family Center (Denver Academy)

FirstBank of Colorado
 \$15,000 Housing and Family Services

First Data Western Union Foundation
 \$7,500 Gemini

Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado
 \$15,000 Family Tree general operating

Google grants
 Ad space on Google

McKee Foundation
 \$1,000 Family Tree general operating

Post-News Season to Share
 (A fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation)
 \$25,000 Women In Crisis

Radio Shack
 \$500 Family Tree general operating

Re-Max Alliance (Ward Road)
 \$500 Women In Crisis

Schlessman Foundation
 \$2,000 House of Hope

Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
 \$15,000 Women In Crisis

TJX Foundation
 \$5,000 Karlis Family Center

Veritas Software Foundation
 Back-up software

Verizon Wireless
 \$5,500 Women In Crisis

Wal-Mart
 \$2,000 Family Tree general operating

And to ALL of our other funding partners, Thank You!
 Without you, we could not help as many people as we do.

Please see www.thefamilytree.org for our annual report and listing of donors.

Family Tree Celebrates Volunteers



In honor of our volunteers who take time to care!

A special breakfast- our way of saying "thank you" for the hard work and contribution that volunteers give to families in crisis.

Eighty people attended the 5th annual volunteer celebration breakfast on Saturday, April 30. This year we especially honored 41 volunteers with over 5 years of service to Family Tree programs. These individuals have become our stellar volunteers, providing services such as thrift store assistance, medical care, legal advice, counseling, financial assistance and oversight on our board of directors.

Thanks to Arlyn Tolzmann, Gary Johnson, Mathew Skeen and Jill Tunnell for sharing their personal stories about how volunteerism has shaped their lives. These are people with busy, busy schedules, and yet they find time and inspiration to serve others. These individuals and all the volunteers at Family Tree inspire us - inspiration that enables us to continue our work.

Also joining us was Aaron Scherer, a past Gemini resident and current Gemini Peer Counselor. How special is that?

Aaron told us about how he came to Family Tree struggling with issues of his own. Through his great perseverance and the services of Family Tree, Aaron now helps other youth who are struggling with family conflict and homelessness.

Our gift to each of these stellar volunteers was an individualized apron with Family Tree's logo along with the volunteer's name and number of years of service. Volunteerism is one of those special activities that many of us can enjoy. Giving time and care to people currently less fortunate is admirable and life enhancing.

From all of us at Family Tree, Thank You!

Story contributed by Mary Brook. Ms. Brook is the Director of Volunteer Services.

Making A Lifetime Difference

Please consider remembering Family Tree in your estate planning. Planned gifts provide donors with the opportunity to make a lifetime of difference to the people in crisis that Family Tree serves without the immediate obligation of a cash gift. Additionally, there are typically significant tax benefits.

Currently, we are able to accept bequests from wills and are working on establishing other planned giving vehicles such as charitable gift annuities. Please consult with your financial advisor regarding the tax advantages of leaving this type of legacy. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Family Tree Gifts and Community Support at (303) 422-2133, extension 744.

Story contributed by Jennifer Thompson. Ms. Thompson is the Family Tree Director of Gifts.

When is \$150 Actually \$200?

It's a win-win for Family Tree and Colorado taxpayers. What is it? It's an Enterprise Zone tax credit and it enables you and Family Tree to greatly benefit from contributions of \$200 or more. Here's how it works.

Suppose that Mr. and Mrs. Smith make a contribution to Family Tree in the amount of \$200. Their gift is eligible for a 25% tax credit. That means the Smiths enjoy a \$50 Colorado State Income Tax credit. In essence, the Smiths' gift had a net cost to the couple of \$150 and a \$200 impact for Family Tree.

You might wonder how the dollars will be used by Family Tree. We can assure you that the funds will have a positive impact in a variety of ways, as they will be used to support programs at Family Tree.

Ideally, your contribution to Family Tree

would be in the form of a check, made payable to Family Tree, Inc. You'll need to complete the top portion of the Colorado Department of Revenue form entitled "Certification of Qualified Enterprise Zone Contribution." The form is available at www.thefamilytree.org. You'll also find helpful instructions for completing the form on our website.

It's important to note that a tax credit is especially beneficial to taxpayers because unlike a tax deduction, a tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your Colorado State Income Tax liability. And your gift is also tax deductible. In addition, you may wish to consult with your CPA regarding other tax benefits related to your gift. As with all tax matters, please consult your CPA or tax attorney.

Thank you for considering this wonderful way of supporting Family Tree and truly making a difference in the lives of deserving individuals.



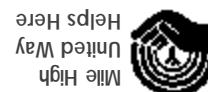
FAMILY TREE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!

Program Information
Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunities
Job Opportunities

Online Donations
Resources

Visit us at www.thefamilytree.org



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