



**HAPPY 14th BIRTHDAY TO US and  
The FAMILIES PLUS System of Caring for children!!!!**

All of us are now investing in 60 Delta County children. This is 60 points of light on our birthday cake.



**Please help us keep these children in sports, on computers, at classes, in school, and OUT OF TROUBLE with a birthday party donation to pay their costs. All contributions are tax deductible. SEE ATTACHED ENVELOPE**

**DELTA COUNTY LOVES IT'S CHILDREN!!!! These children are our future.**

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874-0464  
Or come by:  
  
115 Grand, Ste. 2  
Delta, CO 81416**



## ANNUAL PICNIC 2012



August 17<sup>th</sup> was the annual gathering of kids, families, and volunteers to celebrate the start of school and each other! This year was more fun than ever with an art project for kids organized by Lore McDonough, one of our mentors. Games were lead by Danielle Kemper, LCSW, therapist. The Astra Clubs of Delta and Cedaredge handled the set-up, take-down, and serving of the food. This youth organization emphasizes community service in their activities. All of them were a great big help in having a smooth running event. The picnic is a chance for the children to be surrounded by their family, their mentoring family, and other volunteers that have helped them through the year. School supplies are freely available at the picnic to make sure the children have everything necessary for a high achievement school year. The St. Nicholas program under the leadership of Jason Acheley and many private donors made the supplies available to the children. McDonalds and Big E Market contributed food for the picnic.

## ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS FOR FAMILIES PLUS

Families Plus was recently awarded a \$19,000 technology grant by the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council to purchase and implement a complete system of electronic health record (EHR) for the Families Plus mental health program. A state-of-the art computer program will replace the current paper charts and records that are becoming outdated. Families Plus has currently exceeded storage capacity for the 60+ very large charts in their records department. The therapists, who often are working out in the community, have difficulty accessing the health information in these charts. The new system will transfer all these records into one electronic file where all information is accessible to therapist with security clearance and adequate privacy protections. In addition to having health information that can be used, the new EHR system will allow Families Plus therapist to communicate securely on-line with others also supporting the health of the children served.

Families Plus will use their new expertise to assist other mental health care professionals in the area to explore and potentially implement their own electronic systems.

The grant is part of a five-year, \$7.5 million program funded by United Healthcare to encourage the delivery and quality of health care in facilities across the state. In its final year, United Healthcare and the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council awarded more than \$1,180,000 to 36 health care facilities across Colorado. United Healthcare and the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council are working together to improve the delivery and quality of health care services across Colorado's rural communities. These grants are one way they work to achieve that. Through this grant electronic health records will become common place in mental health care in Delta County.



# FAMILIES PLUS

## Mentoring Kids for Life!

September 2012 – Newsletter  
Community Corner Stones

### Staff

Brenda K. Holland, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Psychologist  
Thomas Friel, M.A., L.P.C.  
Mental Health Professional  
Karen Wolfram, M.A., L.P.C.  
Mental Health Professional  
Suzanne Horning-Rieder, M.A. DTR LPC  
Mental Health Professional  
Karen McFarland  
Office Manager  
Dave Armlovich, Web Master

### Board Members

Dawn Reeder, President  
Dave Shishim, Vice President  
Larry Donathan, Secretary  
Dennis Bollig, Treasurer  
Mike Dodson, Member  
Bev Gardner, Member  
Lisa Joss, Member

### Mentors & Family Friends

Dorothy Allen  
Richard & Linda Bell  
Dwight & Karen Benson  
Dennis & Mary Bollig  
Katrina Chandler  
Matt & Terri Clark  
Renae Coffman  
Jared & Nicole Davis  
Jason & Britny Havertape  
Jeff & Susie Hirsch  
Dave & Jill Knutson  
Sheldon & Hazel Kier  
Shane & Mary Jo Lance  
Stephen & Cynthia Lewis  
Harry & Pat Masinton  
Brian & Diana Matus  
Loren McDonough  
Artis Miller  
Rita Murphy  
Robert & Corey Rice  
Kurt Roithmayer & Alisa Johnson  
Linda Roper  
Sherry Schenk  
Troy & Cassandra Shenk  
Dennis Schwartz  
Mike & Vickie Street  
John & Reveille Sullivan  
James & Dorothy Schwietert  
Ruth White

### BRIANA HAS PAT AND HARRY



**Briana and Eleanor**

Briana met Pat and Harry through the Families Plus program in June of 2011. Their grandchild lives in England so they were excited to get involved in the life of a child closer to home. They took Briana to the Families Plus Annual Picnic, where she created an art masterpiece as one of the activities at the picnic.

They spend a lot of time with Briana helping her with her schoolwork, teaching the value of self-directing her studies rather than relying on others to motivate her. They take her to church regularly. All of them go rock hunting in Colorado and Utah. They have connected Briana with their same-age granddaughter who lives in England via Skype. Briana was able to spend time with her when she visited Pat and Harry this summer. They enjoy Briana and she enjoys them. She tries hard to do her best for them as they work with her often on her homework. Pat has spent time in Briana's classroom to help her focus and assist her to master concepts. Harry Masinton is a retired school principal and superintendent. Pat is a retired school teacher so the tutoring came naturally to them. Strong and lasting relationships have developed that help Briana's parenting grandmother, Marelen Branum also. Marelen is currently raising three grandchildren including Briana and her sister, Aliyah, and her brother, Iyven who all live in the Cedaredge area.

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**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change  
The World, in deed it's the only thing that ever has.**

**Margaret Mead**

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## **Camps and Sharon's Kids**

### **Suzanne Horning-Rieder joins the Clinical Staff**

Suzanne Horning-Rieder, M.A., TR, LPC, is an experienced psychotherapist who will coordinate services for families in the North Fork Valley. She will replace Danielle Kemper, LCSW, who has moved into another job that came her way and was too good to pass up.

Suzanne has been in private practice since 1996 when she and two other therapists opened North Fork Psychological Associates. Her work focuses on psychotherapy with all ages and populations, a significant amount of court related services which includes; Parental Responsibility Evaluations, Child and Family Investigations, Parenting Coordination and is a court approved educator for parents in a post divorce setting. She is able to provide services from psychotherapy practice offices in both Hotchkiss and Delta. Suzanne was instrumental in helping reorganize the Families Plus program in 2004 so she is familiar with the model and the services provided to children.

Suzanna with her grandson, Ethan



### **FREE CHILDREN'S CLINIC**

*Dr. Janet Moore offers a free wellness and immunization clinic for children who do not have insurance or are under-insured to provide this necessary medical care ever. This clinic is offered every Wednesday at the Bella Preschool. For appointments call 874 9517.*

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### **FAMILIES PLUS CHILDREN AIM FOR GREAT GRADES**

Families Plus therapist work with the parents, children, teachers, and mentors to help the children achieve a "C" grade or above in every academic class. By coordinating everyone's effort, most of the children are performing very well in school. The teachers of Delta County are consistently helpful in making suggestions to help improve performance. Families Plus children were strong in school performance during the 2011-12 school year. 78 percent of the participating children had a "C" grade point average or above over the school year. Most of the 8 children with lower grades were young children just settling into school routines.

This year 10 participants of Families Plus tried out a new camping experience. Camp Santa Maria is a YMCA camp located over by Grant, Colorado about 60 miles this side of Denver. The camping opportunity was organized by Sharon's Kids lead by Sharon Riegel. Just getting all the doctor physicals and paperwork together is a major undertaking. (Just ask Sharon.) Sharon also arranged most of the drivers to get the kids 231 miles to camp and back. Those assisting with transportation were Sharon Riegel, Larry Donathan, Donna Cochran, Rick Hite and Bob White.

Camp Santa Maria offered the kids a variety of experiences including hiking, swimming, art activities, singing, teamwork, and just the experience of being on your own away from home. A new feature for many of the kids was the two-week camp for the older youth. These youth were completely away from their family and community for two entire weeks. Everyone did amazingly well.

Camp Santa Maria generously discounted the usual camp fee to allow Families Plus children to attend. Kids, parents, and all of us are most appreciative of their large subsidy to get Families Plus children out in the world and their patience with all of our campers.



## Featured Member of the Board of Directors



**Lisa Joss** is the newest member of the Board of Directors. She has been a part-time resident of the Paonia community since 2001 and is in the process of establishing a full time residence in Delta County. She brings to the program 27 years as an educator. She taught middle and high school science in Adams County District Twelve schools and during a sabbatical at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado, worked as an education coordinator of teacher training programs.

She currently works from home as an editor of professional papers, journal articles, and books. She has been adept at editing the many grant applications that have gone out of the office over the summer. She is enthusiastic about the Board's efforts to develop the Families Plus organization as a program of Nonprofit Excellence.

### THE PIANO PLAYER

*Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the boy to a Padrewski Concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "No Admittance". When the house lights dimmed the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered her child was missing. Suddenly the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on the stage. In horror the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit, keep playing." Then leaning over, Padrewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the base part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child's and he added a running obligation. Together the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience, the audience was mesmerized.*



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Families Plus, under the leadership of the Board of Directors is striving to meet all the Colorado Principles and Practice of Nonprofit Excellence. At the spring retreat, the Board carefully reviewed the standard and identified needed changes to policies and practices. Each month, through the effort of the energetic board, the organization comes closer to operating at the highest levels of excellence.

As part of these structural changes, each role in the Families Plus organization has adopted monthly targets to serve as an ongoing performance evaluation. For example, each board member strives to contribute at least six hours a month to promoting Families Plus success. Each staff member has a unique role to play in providing for all the children. Each month, each staff member records their success in meeting their role objectives called monthly targets. Since adopting these performance standards, the Families Plus organization has come closer to maximizing help to children despite the small staff and limited resources available.

**KIDS PASTA PROJECT DINNER: OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2012**  
**\$14.00 for adult    \$8.00 for child**

**SCENIC MESA RANCH IN HOTCHKISS**  
**CHILDREN'S ART WILL BE ON SALE**

**families plus      is always looking for volunteers  
to help us with various activities.**

**If you are interested, please call us at  
970-874-0464.**



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