



FAMILIES PLUS

Mentoring Kids for Life!

November 2014 _____ Newsletter

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MENTORING FAMILIES

Antonio and Dorothy! A sad Goodbye!

Dorothy Allen is all about kids. She retired from teaching special education 1999. She had another long term mentoring relationship with a Delta County Child until the child grew up. She always attends the Christmas Wrapping party. Dorothy helps with wrapping the presents as well as the annual picnic in August. Dorothy has pitched in and done anything that she could to help the children.



Dorothy has been involved with mentoring since 2002. She is currently working with Antonio Visuano. He has need both tutoring help and someone to be with him after school some days until his mother, Brooke Trullio, arrives home from work. Dorothy and Antonio have had many adventures during this time together. A family history field trip to Escalante Canyon and the Montrose Ute Museum where the lesson was being thrifty with money are just two examples. Dorothy has supported Antonio's abilities and talents in art, chess, and computers through various activities.

Antonio has made a mature decision to be baptized and participate in confirmation classes. He has made incredible strides in increasing his social skills.

Dorothy feels that the experiences she and Antonio have shared have benefited both of them. Dorothy will be relocating and will no longer be Antonio's mentor. A new mentoring family is needed for Antonio.

KIDS MEAN THE WORLD TO US!

They bring love, joy, splendor, imagination, dreams, sunshine, and anticipation into our lives. Let's help them blossom in their world.

Give A Child A Hand Up!

Family Treatment Centers

Bob Lang LPC CAC III

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Located on Colorado's Western Slope

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Father's Day!

Yummy, yummy! I have cookies in my tummy!

That's what are fathers were saying this year on Father's Day. A generous group of volunteers baked cookies of all varieties.

Three "cookie bandits" packaged the cookies paired with a Frisbee so fathers could work off those extra calories playing outside with the kids.

Volunteers delivered the treats and there were happy smiles from everyone.

We appreciate you fathers!



The "cookie bandits", Nevaeh Angotti-Snyder, Laurie Roach and Roger Towner



***LOOK HOW
OUR KIDS
ARE DOING!!***

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU!!

Summer Hood is on the Honor Roll At Delta High School.

Jose Montoya successfully completed speech therapy at Mt. Garfield Middle School in Grand Junction.

Leroy Zavala-made the football team at Garnet Mesa.

Damien Kirksey was a server at the October Fest in Grand Junction.

Iyven January is taking care of his mentors (the Havertape's) pets.

Antonio Visuano, Aliyah, Brianna, and Iyven January are taking Karate lessons from Mr. Sanford and doing very well.

WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU KIDS!!!

Mentors & Family Friends

Dorothy Allen
Peggy Bathie
Richard & Linda Bell
Dwight & Karen Benson
Dennis & Mary Bollig
Matt & Terri Clark
Jared & Nicole Davis
Ken Gates
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
Lore McDonough
Artis Miller
Rita Murphy
Robert & Corey Rice
Kurt Roithmayr & Alisa Johnson
Linda Roper
Sherry Schenk
Troy & Cassandra Shenk
Dennis Schwartz
Mike & Vickie Street
Josh & Reveille Sullivan
Harold & Kathleen Schafforth
James & Dorothy Schwietert

Porter Family Foundation

The Harold and Margaret Porter Fund administered by Western Colorado Community Foundation recently granted Families Plus \$8,000 for their 2014 expenses to support approximately 60 deserving children in the Delta County area. Harold and Margaret were successful ranchers in Delta County beginning in 1945. They established a fund to benefit others that continues to be managed **by remaining family members. Even in his 90's, Harold Porter** continued to attend the Delta Livestock auction on Thursdays and participate in the community until his death in 2011. Harold and Margaret exemplified the pioneering spirit and community caring of this area. The Porter Family Fund carries forward this spirit. The financial support that the Porter family has extended to Families Plus over many years has made a critical difference in having staff time available to the children.



Wells Fargo Grant

A \$500 check was presented to Linda Black, Families Plus Board Member by Tina Jessee, Montrose Business Bank Manager and Paul Gomes, Delta Branch Manager. The funds will be used for kids activities.

We are grateful!

BALLOONS GUIDES

The delivery of the 100 Birthday balloons was almost as smooth as if they had all glided right where they needed to go. Linda Bell has been a dependable gift deliverer in the Surface Creek area. She departed the office with 20 balloons weighted down with apples and candy and called within several hours to say they were all delivered with a party greeting. Alice McCracken, a new member of the Board of Directors, had no problems finding all the right addresses in her area since she was formerly the postmaster there. Maggie Shishim also knew all the individuals on her list in the Paonia area and enjoyed greeting all of them with a surprise. Joel Siminier, a student at Hotchkiss High School, helped Maggie in those areas and represented the youth in the delivery process. He drives and what is better than a reason to take off with the car. Jerry Groshans of Eckert is another dependable volunteer that gets the job done very time. He delivered to businesses in Delta. Wells Fargo Bank has made an ongoing contribution to Families Plus. This year bank employees took a little time out during the work day to get balloons out to Delta residences. The annual birthday balloon delivery exemplifies the spirit of the Families Plus program - **give a child a hand up** through volunteering and donating what you have.



Annual Picnic - A Success

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Annual Picnic this year. There were about 45 people in attendance. The weather and location were ideal for children to run and play and for the adults to visit. The chicken and corn were cooked to perfection thanks to several volunteers. The children enjoyed painting and decorating rocks. A generous volunteer donated a bicycle that was raffled at the picnic. Roger Towner was the lucky winner. The group recognized the efforts and contributions of Kathy Svenson to the children through Families Plus. Some families were able to take home donated computer supplies. The St. Nicholas program and community members donated school supplies that were given out to help the children have a productive school year.

≈New Board Member≈

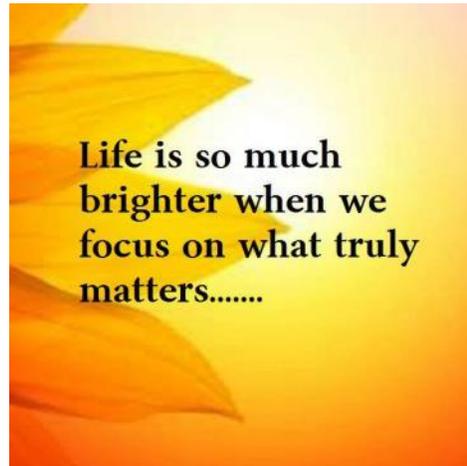
Families Plus welcomes our newest board member, Alice McCracken. Alice adds to the diversity of the group with experience from working with family help programs, drug court treatment, and as a member of the Hotchkiss Planning Committee. Alice was involved with the Valley Youth Symphony board of directors.

She is an avid golfer and enjoys reading and swimming.

Welcome aboard Alice!

You are never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

~ Dr. Seuss



You should never ask your three year-old brother to hold a tomato.

12 year old Alecia

Summer-time fun in the sun!!!!

In August, Families Plus helped some of our youth to attend the Xodus Adventure Camp directed by Calvin Evans. The camp they attended was a day camp focusing on science and **environmental concerns. The camp also honed kids' skills in working as a team and working out problems.** Participation was made possible by the generous offer to provide transportation to Hotchkiss and back by two staff members of the Delta County Department of Health and Human Services, Karen Marchun and Melinda Johnson. Since the families of the youth **were not able to accomplish this much driving, they were invited to "hitch" a ride with some county staff.** Carolyn Trullio offered to help the kids fill in the time until their rides were ready to depart. The youth were very enthusiastic about participating in this camp.

More information about this camping opportunity can be found at www.xodusadventures.com/xodus-adventures-camp.html



Executive Director, Dr. Brenda Holland
presents a balloon to
Delta County Commissioners,
C. Bruce Hovde, District No. 2, and
Mark Roeber, District No. 3.

Thank you to the RSVP
volunteers, under the
direction of Leah Lewis
for the artful assembly
of the gifts.

Families Plus celebrates 16th Birthday

Families Plus celebrated its 16th Birthday on October 9, 2014. Birthday balloons were distributed throughout Delta County to commemorate all the community support to help children over the last year. The balloons were delivered by our generous volunteers to honor those who contributed to Families Plus through their time, mentoring, and financial support.

Cedaredge Mercantile donated the candy that was attached to the balloons and Laughing Goats Farmers Market (formerly High Quality Packing) donated the apples.

Family Mentoring helps Delta County children who are in challenging circumstances become successful and able to handle **life's challenges**. The wrap around program has six part-time therapists who coordinate and work with the parents, child mentors, and school staff to support the children in the program.

Families Plus believes that all the children can grow up to be healthy contributing citizens with the wrap around support of the community and the philosophy, **"Give a child a hand up!"**

Grand Opening!!!

A kidZ CLINIC

Mariah Emond, director of the new school-based health clinic, has announced the grand opening of this clinic. Named, A kidZ CLINIC, this facility will provide acute care to school aged children.

The facility will be staffed with a nurse practitioner, a dental hygienist, and a mental health care provider.

The clinic is located behind the
Delta Performing Arts Center at
360 East 8th Street

Call 970.874.2753

For more information.

New Book!

Linda Bell, one of our wonderful family mentors has written a book that is published and currently being printed by Amazon. The book is titled, **"The Miracle of Shane"**, and is about the first 10 years of her sons life. It includes the trials of major brain surgery, and the struggles after losing two-thirds of his brain. He is definitely a MIRACLE.

Congratulations to Linda!!

We are happy and proud for you.

Families Plus
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A Special Thank You!

TO ALL OF YOU THAT HAVE SO GENEROUSLY GIVEN OF YOUR TIME,
TALENTS, GIFTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

WE AT FAMILIES PLUS APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF