



FAMILIES PLUS

Mentoring Kids for Life!

June 2012 – Newsletter
Community Corner Stones

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FAMILIES PLUS SYSTEM EXPANDS TO FIT THE NEEDS!



Kayla Rood and her devoted parents Leonard and Tina Rood have been participating in the Families Plus healthy growth program since December 2, 2004. They lived at that time in Cedaredge. In that community they were generously supported by the Bell Family including Richard and Linda Bell and their adult son, Shane. Ursula Craig helped them get to appointments when transportation was not available. Kayla spent many days and happy outings with the Bell family, who gave Leonard and Tina some respite and some help in teaching Kayla skills and building values. When a family home became available in Hotchkiss area, the Rood family moved there. The Bell family continues to assist as much as possible, but the move created the opportunity to bring also into the system-of-care a family with age-mates to help Kayla, a single child, to develop strong social skills. Cassandra and Troy Shenk along with their three children, Irene, Evelyn and Odessa rose to the challenge of including Kayla as a part of their home life. Kayla spends time with them on their small farm enjoying chickens, rabbits, gardens, horses and lots of running around the place with the other children. She has grown and matured through these experiences. The picture above shows this happy group along with Michelle and Amy Tucker who are friends with both the Bells and the Roods at a picnic this spring to celebrate the happy collaboration of all toward Kayla's bright future. Kayla is a good student at Hotchkiss Elementary School achieving mostly A's and B's on her report cards. She is a regular volunteer at Kids Pasta Project Dinners where she cooks and serves with increasing skill. Cindy Lewis is Kayla's mini-mentor, helping her serve at the dinners. Raising and guiding children like Kayla is more fun and more community-based with so many involved.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Eddie Hecht, a Webelo Cub Scout, was honored by Cub Scout Pack 481 for earning the Arrow of Light Award. To earn the Arrow of Light Award a boy must achieve all four ranks of Cub Scouting – Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. *The Arrow of Light awards is considered to be comparable to the Eagle Scout Award earned by older boys active in the Boy Scouts of America program*

Dylan Hood received three *Art Awards* at the Edge of the Cedars Art Show in June!!

Shelven Fair received the Bear Den Award for April at Cedaredge Elementary School.

Jose Montoya received the Bear Den Award for May at Cedaredge Elementary School.

Vanessa Kettle earned a Terrific Kid Award from the Kiwanis Club.

Cameron Hovey flipped his tassel and walked with pride at the May 2012 graduation ceremony at the Opportunity School in Delta. Even though Cameron secured a GED in 2011, he definitely wanted a full high school diploma and did not give up. He continued to study and gather credit to a very successful graduation this spring. Cameron is the oldest and one of the longest participants in the Families Plus program. He is very interested in computer game design and other computer application career. He is hoping to now go forward to more education. He currently lives with his proud parents, John and Vickie Hovey and his younger sister, Tory, who is also a successful student.

WAY TO GO KIDS, WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!!!



School is just around the corner-----As a reminder -----A picnic is coming up!!!!

The Annual Families Plus Picnic will be held Friday, August 17th at the Lions Pavilion across the road from Heddles Recreation Center. Always held the Friday before school starts, this event is always a fun time to meet, greet, honor, and recognize all the adults and children that together make Families Plus the effective and positive force it is in the lives of an ever-growing number of families and children. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Everyone is welcome!**

At this picnic, we like to have a school supplies for the children, as it creates a hardship on families to buy them all at once. If you would like to help, by donating supplies it would really be appreciated. The supplies include pencils, crayons, colored pencils, small scissors, glue sticks, folders, note books, erasers, binders, back packs, water bottles, etc. **If you can help, please call 874-0464 for additional information. Thank you**

Lady Bird Johnson, former U.S. First Lady

“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”

Mother Teresa, Roman Catholic nun

“The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.”

GROWTH PLANS



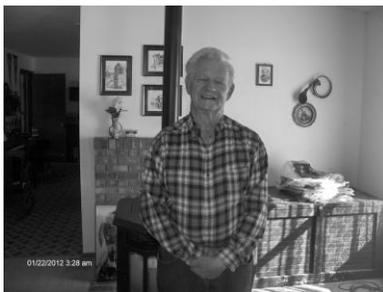
Families Plus recently lead a collaborative grant application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) seeking funding for Delta County-wide systems of care programs for children living below the poverty line. Joining in the application were Delta County Public Schools, the Center for Mental Health, and Drug-Free Delta County. This RWJF call for grant proposals offered \$200,000 in grant monies if funded. The four local organizations serving children and families enthusiastically joined together to try to fund more coordinated programs to assist children in developing into healthy adults. Although the application was not among the 50 applications invited to compete further for the 20 grants to be funded throughout the United States, the coordinated efforts on the behalf of the vulnerable children in Delta County proved that the understanding, the energy and the commitment to the needs of these children is strong in Delta County. Delta County clearly cares about children! Systems-of-Care that coordinate help for these children community-wide are seen by many as the answer to success for these children.

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS HAVE ARRIVED FOR FAMILIES PLUS AND AREA MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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) keeping 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 has 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 therapists to communicate securely on-line with others also supporting the health of the children served.

In addition to moving Families Plus records into a state-of-the-art system, Families Plus will use their newfound expertise to assist any and all mental health care professionals in the area to explore and potentially implement their own electronic systems that will permit them to efficiently maintain records and bill for services.

It is with great appreciation to the COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CARE GRANT COUNCIL that Families Plus embarks on this most exciting upgrading effort.



Jerry Grosshans

WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT for this newsletter.

We are using a local printing company for the printing, collating, folding, taping and getting it ready for mailing. This appears to be the most cost effective way to go. In the past it has been printed in our office, using 2 & 3 printers at a time and our volunteers would collate, fold, and tape it for mailing.

We want to thank all the wonderful volunteer help we have. Without your willingness and helping hands, we would have never been able to get the newsletter out. Thank you ever so much. But do not run away, we will still need your help in other areas. A BIG thank you to Linda Bell, Jerry Grosshans, Mariah Clark, Christine Clark, and Amy Quick for their help with the newsletter.

FUNDING CORNER

All of us at Families Plus believe in the power of extra-curricular activities to inspire children by increasing their confidence and skill level. We are grateful to a number of funders for providing the necessary resources to enable our children to explore themselves and the world around them by participating in activities such as skiing, hiking, sports, art classes, and of course, summer adventure camp experiences. We send a hearty “thanks” to Wells Fargo, who provides fee payment for the activities that encourage our children to become more capable and well-rounded. Thank you, Wells Fargo, Colorado Health Foundation, Wolcott Family Foundation, Harold and Margaret Porter Family Fund and Anschutz Family Foundation for helping to create a better world for Delta County children.

WHAT OUR BOARD HAS BEEN UP TO:



Who doesn't dream of getting away for a little retreat, a chance to think and plan and dream? That's what our board members did in April for a one-day retreat in the conference room of the historic Citizen's State Bank in Ouray.

Exciting things are happening here at Families Plus. Our organization is growing, and our ability to affect change for Delta County children is increasing. Because of this, we recognize the need to have a board that can lead us forward in an organized and well planned way.

At the retreat, Families Plus board members participated in educational and planning sessions to increase their knowledge of the responsibilities of a well-functioning board. In addition, they dedicated time to learning more about the mission and vision of Families Plus so they could participate in creating the organization's strategic plan for the next three years. Illene Roggensack, a non-profit consultant from Grand Junction, led the Board in activities designed to help them get more efficient at leading the organization. Presentations by staff members on the System of Care model, as well as information about what Families Plus services look like “on the street” increased the sense of community and common goals for the retreat participants.

A special thanks to our dear Karen McFarland, office manager extraordinaire, for organizing all the logistics and keeping us well fed and watered. With her support, we were better able to get down to the business of nurturing our program so we can continue to change the lives of Delta County Children.

MEET A BOARD MEMBER

Dawn Reeder is one of three Families Plus board members from the Paonia area. Dawn Joined the board in mid-2010 and has been learning more and more about what makes Families Plus tick ever since. The board elected her Vice President in 2011, and her contributions have included organizing the program for this year's working board retreat, as well as serving on several committees concerned with organization sustainability, board development and strategic planning. “I have gained a huge appreciation for the efficiency, uniqueness, and wonderful effectiveness of this little organization, and want to see it continue to thrive” she says. Dawn served on the Paonia Rotary Club's scholarship committee for several years, and was a past co-chair on the board of directors of the Western Slope Environmental Resource Council, now the NFRIA-WSERC Conservation Center (NWCC). Dawn enjoys the work on the Families Plus board in particular because the organization helps and makes a difference in the lives of so many children. Having grown up in a family afflicted with alcoholism, Dawn knows what a difference it makes when kids and parents get help and support. Dawn is a biologist with a small consulting practice called Rare Earth Science, which works on land conservation projects throughout the state. Dawn enjoys whitewater rafting, competitive trail riding with her horse, gardening, and generally being outdoors and appreciating the natural world.



David Vitter, U.S. Senator

“I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!”

FATHER'S DAY COOKIE PACKERS



*Jarrin Crandall, Kishara McFarland, Ivorie Crandall,
Karen McFarland, Office Manager*

Father's Day followed closely on the heels of Mothers Day, it seemed. Families Plus volunteers and staff brought a variety of homemade cookies and a blow-up globe of our earth to every family. Deliveries went out to 45 households so children would have a present for their fathers or mothers filling in for fathers.

We are so thankful to all the VOLUNTEERS that made the 72 dozen cookies. Cedaredge Methodist, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints-Paonia Ward, Cedaredge Assembly of God, Linda Bell, Olinda Patzer, Mary Bollig, Bev Gardner and Mary Lou Albers. Thank you so much!!

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER CREW



*Ladies from All Saints Lutheran Church
are preparing the flower arrangements.*

As always, Mothers Day was celebrated at Families Plus as staff and many volunteers personally delivered the flower arrangements to all our participating families, honoring all the mothers in the name of their children. We celebrate Mothers Day every year but with a different kind of gift each year. ***This year we are so thankful to All Saints Lutheran Church Women for volunteering to assemble the flower arrangements. Thank you so very much.***

Suggestions for future Mothers Day observances are welcome, so the children can honor their mothers on this special day with a gift.

CAMP AND ADVENTURE

FAMILIES PLUS is helping Sharon Riegel's nonprofit organization **Sharon's Kids and Wells Fargo Bank** send ten children from our program to YMCA Camp Santa Maria this month. The camp is located Bailey on Highway 285, north of Leadville. It is a fully accredited and licensed camp run by the Boulder Valley YMCA. Each child can choose to participate or not participate in activities that range from kayaking and boating, nature walks, fishing, group games, archery, arts & crafts, and for older kids, hiking, rock climbing, and horseback riding. They also emphasize values and character development, based on the YMCA values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Caring. We are excited to have found Camp Santa Maria and very grateful to Sharon Riegel's organization and Wells Fargo in making this adventure possible for ten of our kids. **Those children that attended camp this year are; Aliyah January, Ben Hecht, Christine Clark, Summer Hood, Ivorie Crandall, Iyven January, Briana January, Eddie Hecht, Jarrin Crandall, Cameron Porter.**

Sharon's Kids also included some of **Families Plus** children in a trip to Glenwood Taverns Adventure Park in Glenwood for a day of excitement and fun. This unique adventure included a tram to the top of Iron Mountain and tour of Colorado's largest show cave, thrilling alpine coaster rides, 4D motion theater, laser tag, and one full minute of sheer terror on the Giant Canyon Swing flying off the edge of Glenwood Canyon and swinging upside down, which was voted the scariest ride in North America last year. This was made possible by the generosity of Steve Beckley, owner of the Adventure Park. Thank you, Sharon, for your time, caring, and generosity. **Those children attending were; Michelle Tucker, Jarrin Crandall, Ivorie Crandall, Eddie Hecht, Summer Hood.**

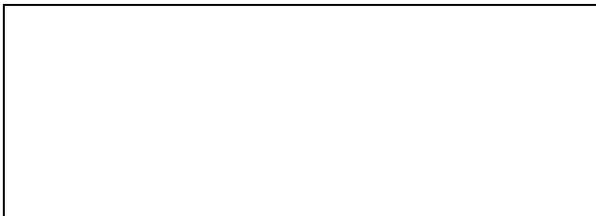


DIRECTOR'S CORNER

FAMILIES PLUS grows and strengthens each and every month with a few more children and a few more mentors to assist them. Recently the organizational section of the program has taken two giant leaps forward – 1) the new Board leadership is strengthening infrastructure of policies, procedures, and planning and 2) a new strategic goal is preparing Families Plus to be a model to be shared with other communities. The children of Families Plus are enjoying widespread and heart-felt investments from individuals, churches, businesses and foundations throughout Delta County and Colorado! Families Plus children are on a path of success as these investments continue to buoy them up!

**KIDS PASTA PROJECT DINNER MAKE YOUR RESERVATION! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Monday October 1, 2012**

The kids of Families Plus would love to serve you a gourmet spaghetti dinner that they made themselves from scratch in their work with the KIDS PASTA PROJECT. Seating begins at 6:00 PM at the Scenic Mesa Ranch just south of Hotchkiss. PLEASE EMAIL kppreservations@gmail.com (or call Lenore, 970-985-9220) to hold space for you and your party. Seating is limited. Fun is not!



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