



FAMILIES PLUS

Mentoring Kids for Life!

June 2009 – Newsletter
Community Corner Stones

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Mentoring Mosley Style

Six year old, Zoey Janssen, has sparkly blue eyes and an Infectious smile. In May Zoey completed Kindergarten an “A” student in Ms. Lemoine’s class at Cedaredge Elementary School. Zoey’s mentors, the Moseley’s, came into her life last November. Zoey and her mother, Shawna Janssen, a single mother of three, were introduced to the Mosley’s at The Apple Shed, in Cedaredge, CO. There was an instant connection between the two families. Shawna Janssen grew up in Cedaredge and wants her children to grow up in the same rural community. Shawna is a CNA, at Horizon’s Health Care Community in Eckert. Zoey’s support system includes her Nana, Susan Janssen, who lives in Cedaredge and her two older brothers, Ryan and Owen. Zoey was referred to the Families Plus program by a church member. The Mosley’s retired and moved to Cedaredge after living in Lakewood, CO. Prior to retirement the Mosley’s both worked for the Department of Interior, Gini as a purchasing agent and Lyn, as a property manager. The couple is very active in the Cedaredge community. Mr. and Mrs. Moseley enjoy taking Zoey out to dinner. During the winter holiday season Gini and Lyn baked dozens of cookies with Zoe’s help. They typically have Zoey once a week in their home. The Moseley’s have invested 300 hours with Zoey in those six month’s. Ms. Janssen invited Mr. and Mrs. Mosley to attend Zoe’s 6th Birthday Party at her home last February. Last spring Families Plus used Wells Fargo Community Assistance funding to pay for Zoey’s soccer lessons. The Moseley’s are currently providing Zoe with swimming lessons at Bill Heddles Recreation Center and Gini transports Zoe to each lesson. Gini also takes Zoey with her to visit her mother, Marian, in Delta. Gini says as a youth her mother taught her and her sibling’s good citizenship and moral values.



The picture above shows Zoey enjoying sheep shearing and 9 types of farm animals at friends of the Moseley.

Zoey recently explained to this writer that she likes spending time with Lyn because, “he is just so silly.” Zoey spends lots of time reading and being read to when visiting the Mosley’s. The Moseley’s have been very invested in meeting Zoey’s need for consistency, peer relationships and skill building. Besides mentoring the Mosley’s belong to the SCV Historical Society, and Cedaredge Friends of the Library. Lyn also works for Habitat for Humanity in Delta a few hours a week. Gini also volunteers for the Hospice program in Delta.

Family Treatment Centers - Bob Lang LPC CAC III

Professional Counseling, Substance Abuse and
Evaluation Services
Located on Colorado’s Western Slope
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Mothers Day is celebrated in order to honor mothers everywhere in recognition of all they do for their children and their families. Officially, Mother's Day became a national holiday in 1914. Families Plus carries this tradition on by ensuring that all children involved in the program have something to give their mothers and to their mentoring mothers. With the help of community donations, this year each child was able to bring mom a beautiful geranium.

These are my hands.
 My hands will do
 A thousand loving things for you
 And you will remember
 When I am tall...
 That once my hands
 Were just this small.



Father's Day recognizes all of the dads in the world for their contributions to their families as well. A decade after Mother's Day became an official holiday, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first national holiday for fathers. Once again, the community helped the children at Families Plus by providing 70 dozen homemade cookies for the kids to present to their dads and mentoring father's.



Both of these wonderful holidays gave the children the opportunity to see that it is a wonderful experience to give and to show appreciation for those who care greatly about them!

(Brenda Holland, Pam Bliss, Jackie Parks, Elaine Martinez)
 Dodson, Lee Smith)

(Bev Gardner, Vicki Street, Larry Donathan, Mike)



Board
And
Staff Retreat



Board members and staff members volunteered their time and paid their way to attend a strategic planning retreat May 29th and 30th in beautiful Ouray, Colorado. Staff members and board members lead the group in each area of the strategic plan and all participated in reevaluating what changes needed to be made and what areas needed to be updated. The revised three-year strategic plan is under construction and will be available in the very near future. We want to thank the board members for taking time out of their busy lives to attend the retreat and help us plan for a great future.

Jackie Parks our newest board member is a retired business woman and is a member of the Paonia Chamber of Commerce, Paonia Rotary Club, District 50 Accountability and Paonia High School/Booster Club. Though Jackie has only been a board member for two months, she has already been a great asset to Families Plus and we are looking forward to more of her ideas for change and her enthusiasm for Families Plus.

WELCOME JACKIE

Do you want the good news or the bad news?

The **good news** is that staff worked really hard and long on preparing a grant application for the **Tony Gramscas Youth Services Tobacco Initiative (TTI)**. The grant focused on providing direct services, programs and interventions to high-risk children, youth and young adults ages 0-24 years and/or their parents and caregivers concerning tobacco use prevention, education, cessation, reduction of exposure to secondhand smoke and local-level policy work. It was a HUGE undertaking that consisted of a three-year detailed work plan including several levels of meeting specific goals and objectives. All the work paid off with a letter congratulating us for scoring high enough on the application to recommended for funding in the amount of not to exceed \$39,169. Yeah! We did it!

The **bad news** is due to funding cuts no new projects were going to be funded after all. Needless to say we were disappointed over the decision not to fund us, we can still take pride in the fact that we were able to put together a huge grant application that would have been a great addition to our services we already provide. So all we can do from here is try, try, try again!

SUCCESS IS

Accomplishments are defined as the “achieving of something”, or “a remarkable or successful achievement”, or even “a skill or a talent that has been developed.” Whether it is learning to tie your shoe, graduating from high school, or winning the Nobel Peace Prize, all mean one thing to us at Families Plus: SUCCESS! Each child that is involved with Families Plus is shown that each and every accomplishment leads to the next one, and a whole string of small accomplishments equals a lifetime of efforts that brings a rewarding, fulfilling life. Please join us in celebrating just some of the accomplishments of the children in our “family”.

“**Anna Fuller**” set a goal, trained hard, and completed the 5K “Run for Shelter” in April this year. As part of a group of girls sponsored by the Delta Recreational Center, “**Girls on the Run**” participated in regular work-outs which consisted of running, walking, and weight training, all to prepare them for the 5K run. On top of the hard work and personal achievements, the run was organized as a benefit for Tri-County Resource Center, which is a local women’s shelter. Anna said that when she started she was afraid that she might finish last – a fear she soon put behind her and proudly reported that “she finished GOOD!” She was excited that she had achieved such a great goal. Anna was able to RUN for a full two miles and then walked the balance of the race to receive her medal! “**WAY TO GO!**”



Michelle Tucker and **Courtney Mattler** were both awarded the Blazing Bulldog award in Hotchkiss last March. The Blazing Bulldog award is given to students for showing outstanding responsibility, achievements, and leadership. Students are nominated for this award by their teachers. Courtney and Michelle, you make us proud!

On May 4th, **Courtney Mattler** also received the honor of taking 3rd place in a poster contest promoted by the American Legion. The poster was entitled “What I Love About America!”

The poster was laminated and given back to the Courtney to display at her home. Thanks for showing the rest of Delta County how incredibly talented you are. Courtney!



Venus Stratton received the distinguished “**Principal’s Award**” at Olathe Elementary School. This award is earned by students who exhibit exceptional respect for others, responsibility and accountability, and remarkable leadership in their school. What an extraordinary stepping stone to a great future! **WOW**, Venus, you really rock!

Summer Hood is a member of “**STARS**”, a program encompassed in a local church, Delta First Assembly of God. In this all-girl program, badges are awarded for accomplishing goals set forth in a structured program. Summer received at this year’s recognition banquet nine badges in Girls Ministry Impact Club, a honor pin, camp badge, Adventure Badge, ministry badge, a service pin, a Bible reading pen, and two gold stars. One gold star was for an essay she had submitted about integrity, and the other was for memorizing Bible verses. Because of these accomplishments, Summer was promoted to the highest level within her **STARS** group. “What an honor, Summer! Keep it up!”

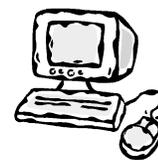


First Place
Dylan Hood showed off his speed at this year’s track and field event.
He placed **FIRST!**
Now that is impressive, **Dylan!**



“SUCCESS IS” will be a regularly featured article. Many more children have had successes that will be celebrated in the next edition

Computers, Computers, Computers!



The Learn and Earn program.

The program encourages children to set academic and civic goals. The children are rewarded for achieving their goals with a refurbished computer. This year the following children have received computers:

Jarrin Crandall, Joshua Onken, Courtney Mattler, Anna Flager, Zoey Janssen, Summer Hood, Venus Stratton, Victoria Hovey, and Kayla Rood.

That's quite a list of hard workers! Setting and achieving goals is just another way

FAMILIES PLUS kids are a SUCCESS!!!

Congratulations to all!



Volunteers

What would we do without our volunteers? Our mentor volunteers donated over 2500 documented hours last year. That is 2500 hours given to help a child succeed – to make a difference not only today, but forever impacting that child's life as well as those around him or her. These hours does not include those who volunteer as a friend of the family or a mini-mentor. Mentors include children in their regular family activities, such as dinner, family games, or even chores. Having a mentoring family means a child gets to see different ways of living, and in this hopefully giving them the desire to do whatever it takes to become their dreams. In my presentation about Families Plus, I use candy bars to portray the many different types of volunteers Families Plus utilizes. "Mounds" candy bars represent the "mounds" of time, energy and, most of all support that is given to a child who is being mentored. Mentoring families invite a child to become a member of their family, without judgment. Circumstances in the child's own home life may be chaotic and unpredictable, but for that time with their mentoring family, the child knows what to expect, what is expected, and learns through watching others how to get along, how to be kind, how to participate, and sometimes the harder lessons in life about what is not okay. Another way to volunteer with Families Plus is to be an "M&M", or a mini mentor. Mini-mentors take the time to teach a child a skill or a hobby or help them with developing academic or social skills. We have a retired dance teacher who gives private lessons to a little girl who couldn't get them any other way. Another volunteer is an artist, who shares her talent with a child who really wants to learn. Maybe it's fishing you love, or horseback riding, sewing, or photography – whatever your passion, there is a child who would love to learn what you know, and develop their own passion or abilities.

The third option, "Musketeers", become real Friends of the Family. Just like a friend, this volunteer drops a note in the mail just to say that they were thinking of them. A 'musketeer' may make a phone call just to check in, or send a birthday card to each family member. The Friend of the Family is a musketeer, or team member, for other reasons too. This special friend may hear of crisis or issues in their selected families before anyone else does. Being another mode of communication between the families, the therapist, the mentor, or even the teacher is crucial to supporting families. Though this role does not require much time – the impact of this friendship could lead to incredible opportunities that give each child the edge they need to step over the obstacles that may hinder their ultimate success.

For some, time is not an option, but they have been blessed with enough financial stability that they are able to give money or needed items to Families Plus. These gifts are used to assist families, mentors, and mini-mentors, friends of the family, teachers, therapist and each child during their journey. Swimming lessons, summer camp, annual "family" picnics, and sporting activities are just a few of the things that Families Plus has been able to provide to children who have expressed a desire for such things and have taken the steps that are designed individually and gives them the self-esteem that comes with earning a privilege. Computers are presented to children who have set and reached academic and civic goals. These computers are donated, refurbished and designed to accommodate the needs of that specific child, giving him or her fun educational tools and computer literacy that they will need in their lifetime.

Volunteers – thank you! We really appreciate you! If you would like to be a MOUNDS volunteer, or M&M volunteer, or even a "Musketeer" please contact our office at your earliest convenience. Financial contributions may be mailed or dropped off at 115 Grand Ave, Suite 2, Delta, CO 81416. For any additional information we can be reached at 874-0464 or email: allamericanfamilies@gmail.com.

Community Support Kudos



Scott
&
Marie
Corn

Thank you for the gently used high chair donated in May. The high chair was desperately needed by one needed by one of our families!



To **Mile High Nursery** for the discounted geraniums and to the

Family Treatment Center and **The Place I go Drug Screening Services** for the financial contribution to purchase the flowers for Mother's Day gifts. The flowers were given to the moms and to the mentors by each of the children enrolled in Families Plus.



Bob Lang,

for the beautiful area rug donated for the use by one of our families in the program.

It was very much appreciated.



We would like to extend a huge thank you to City Market Employees in Delta. City Market employees donated their time and efforts to enable us to send several local kids to Red Cloud Summer Camp! Add that to their generous contributions to our Christmas Giving Tree project last December and their upcoming Car Show to benefit our organization and it adds up to one terrific store – with the most caring, amazing employees ever.

Thank you city market!

A Big Thank You to Hospice, Wells Fargo, Altrusa International/Delta.

With your donated dollars we were able to purchase the computers for the children from a company in Denver that sells us refurbished computers at a discount rate for the children to have in their homes. There were nine Family Gatherings with mentors and children and their families. Your donated dollars helps build a bond between the natural family and the mentors and the child. One child took a dance class, two children signed up for soccer, two children took swimming lessons, one signed up for baseball, one did karate class for a month, and nine children received computers.



Thanks to Cocker Foundation for their generous donation that paid For our background checks & Training for our dedicated volunteers.



We want to thank you for always supporting Families Plus. You donated water and soda for the car wash. You have always donated soda for our annual picnic every year. We really do appreciate your continual support.



Another HUGE thank you for sponsoring FIVE girls for Camp Red Cloud! amp Red Cloud offers a full range of incredible summer camping adventures and memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving the girls this incredible experience!

Homemade cookies  by the dozens (literally) were provided by women from both the Delta Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Paonia Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and also the Peace Circle Women's group from the Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church. Over 70 dozen cookies were brought in. Sand buckets were filled with the cookies and each child involved with families Plus was able to present their dads and mentoring families with especially made homemade cookies. Needless to say, chocolate chip cookie smiles were abundant that day. Thank you, ladies for providing the cookies needed – we really appreciate it!

Julie Littlefield gets a warm round of applause for hosting us at the community meeting held at the Buffalo Connection in Hotchkiss. The burgers were great and the people were greater! Thank you so much for inviting us!



spotlighted Families Plus on their noon program promoting the town meeting. We really appreciate that air time and the wonderful signage at Buffalo Connection!

Thank you to both the **Delta and Hotchkiss Kiwanis clubs** for inviting us to present information about Families Plus at their meetings. Hotchkiss Kiwanis club sent us a generous donation to support the activities planned for the summer and beyond. YEA!! Thanks for listening and thanks for caring!!

Mentoring
Kids for Life!



Families Plus
115 Grand Avenue, Suite 2
Delta, CO 81416

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FAMILIES PLUS will be hiring a

part-time administrator starting
at 10 hours per week. Previous
experience including strong writing
and public speaking abilities required.

Call 874-0464

or

send resume to

115 Grand Avenue, Delta,



Yearly Events

July 16 - 18, 2009 - Cookie Booth at Delarado Days

(fundriser event)

July 25, 2009 - Cookie Booth at E M W run

(fundriser event)

August 13 - 16, 2009 - Cookie Booth at Delta County Fair

(fundriser event)

August 21, 2009 - Annual Fictic

August 26, 2009 - School Starts

October 3rd & 4th, 2009 - Cookie Booth at Applifest

(fundriser event)

December 18, 2009 - Christmas Wrapping Party

(fundriser event)

Volunteers Needed

for the fundrisers

Join the FUN.

Give us a call . 874-0464.