



Families Plus

Give a child a hand up

Summer 2020 Newsletter

STAFF

- Brenda K. Holland, Ph.D.**
Executive Director, Psychologist
- Susan Simianer, MA, LPC**
*Licensed Professional Counselor
Parent Partner Director*
- Stacey Delisle, MA, LPC**
Licensed Professional Counselor
- Jackie Robirds**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Ruth Fletcher**
Business Operations
- Erin Gallob, BA, MA**
Parent Partner
- Nina Clouse, BA**
Parent Partner
- Carole McKelvey, BA, MA**
Parent Partner
- Karen Wolfram, MA, LPC**
Quality Control
- Jennifer Ramsey**
Outreach Coordinator
- Tabatha Godoy**
Outreach Coordinator

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In spite of the ongoing uncertainties 2020 has brought the world, Families Plus was happy to keep some traditions going (with modifications of course). The Back to School Picnic Parade was a great success and truly represented the strength of the Delta County community.

We want to extend the biggest of thanks to the following businesses for hosting collection bins: **Safeway, Alpine Bank, Grand Mesa Arts Center, Coaltrain Coffee Shop, and Olly's Ice Cream.** Thanks to a donation from **Wal-Mart**, we purchased a variety of backpacks for all ages. We also passed out dinner to families thanks to very generous donations from **Safeway and Big B's Delicious Orchards.**



We also received school supplies from the **Delta United Methodist Church, the Delta Veteran's group, and Altrusa International.** Families Plus had enough supplies to share these donations with the Delta Family Center to ensure that even more children have what they need to begin the school year.

Delta County truly came together to bring so much joy to local youth and get them excited about going back to school. Families Plus is committed to supporting local youth succeed in school. We are so grateful to everyone who participated and contributed to help our kids and their families prepare for this new school year.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD AND REACH MORE FAMILIES.

As businesses begin opening their doors and people start to interact again, it's easy to feel as though the worst is over. Unfortunately, we are aware that the effects of this pandemic are barely beginning.

We are proud of our ability to adapt and continue serving the needs of our families, however, it will truly take a village to keep our youth from succumbing to the additional stress and chaos caused by this virus.

We know there are, and will be, more families needing the long term support that Families Plus provides. We have the capacity to serve more families facing challenging circumstances but we need your help to spread the word. More importantly, we need your continued support because our success is dependent on a strong community network.



Whether financial or through volunteering, our success relies on individuals, organizations and businesses throughout this community who help Families Plus **Give A Child A Hand Up.**

Thank you to the Families Plus Investors Club

Please support these Delta County business and organization for giving their support to helping children get a hand up



Alpine Bank



**Dependable
Lumber Co.**
Paonia, CO



If you see the Families Plus plaque, please help us warmly thank these businesses for supporting children.

Businesses in the Investor Club donate annually to Families Plus. These donations increase the range of services that Families Plus can provide to children.

Do you run a business or organization that wants to support Delta County youth? Join our Investor Club!

If you want to learn more about how to be a part of the Investors Club contact Tabatha Godoy, Outreach Coordinator, at 619-315-7037 or email at TGodoyFP@gmail.com.

Families Plus is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible.



Feature

Getting Youth Outside!

After being cooped up at home for a couple months, our youth are eager to get outside and socialize. Families Plus has teamed up with The Nature Connection to register our kids for upcoming outdoor youth camps in Hotchkiss and Delta.

Through all the uncertainty and constant changing rules, The Nature Connection has worked tirelessly to deliver safe, fun, and meaningful experiences to local youth. From raft trips to biking to hiking, we are so grateful to provide our youth with these great opportunities to build skills, have fun, and meet new friends. These meaningful experiences are often unavailable to our families due to cost, transportation, and awareness. Thankfully our community knows how to rally together to make sure all kids have the chance to enjoy the many adventure activities Colorado has to offer.

Director of Development, Ben Graves, says “Our partnership with Families Plus has really helped us achieve our mission to eliminate the barriers to getting outside for kids and families in our community. The Families Plus kids we are serving in our Delta camp are making friends, having adventures and building their confidence. We can't wait to expand this partnership in years to come.”

Coming up on Sept. 1st, The Nature Connection will be hosting another Full Moon Paddle at Sweitzer Lake from 6-8pm for families and 8-10pm. You can find more information on The Nature Connection at www.thenatureconnection.net.

Thanks to a grant from the Western Colorado Community Fund, Families Plus has partnered with Friends of Youth and Nature and Ridgway State Park to offer a new program, “Teaming Up: Art, Action, and Leadership in the Outdoors!” Twice a month for a full year, Families Plus youth and their families will get to enjoy the great outdoors with local park rangers and

Rangers teaching about Colorado Parks



Making Solar Prints at Ridgway State Park

volunteer educators to learn outdoor skills, like fishing, animal tracking, and snowshoeing. They will also learn about leadership and engage in nature-based art projects.

Our first outdoor day was on July 11th at Ridgway State Park. Youth learned about snakes and other reptiles, nature journaling, went hiking, and made solar prints. Getting to meet new friends and spending time outside builds great memories and an appreciation for the beautiful state of Colorado. We look forward to exploring new places, learning new activities and outdoor skills, and engaging in creative art projects.

Families Plus is dedicated to getting our youth engaged and learning new skills. Thanks to community partnerships and successful grant seeking we are able to provide these opportunities to some of our youth. If you are interested in supporting youth access to summer programs, please consider making a donation! For more information, please visit:

DonorBox.org/Summer-Camp-Scholarship-Fund

Skipping rocks on the Uncompaghre River



What's Happening

EMERGENCY GRANTS BRING RELIEF TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Families Plus serves Delta County youth from families experiencing long term challenges. On normal days it can be difficult to make ends meet. And then a global pandemic hits. Suddenly, our families are the first to lose their jobs because of underlying health conditions, school closures, and stay at home orders. We realized quickly that we needed relief funds and, thankfully, they came in!

With an emergency grant from Tony Grampsas Youth Services, Families Plus provided phones and computers to our youth so that remote therapy sessions can continue. Funds from this grant also allowed us to set up a self-serve food pantry for our families to access when needed. Thanks to our trustworthy and respectful families, our little food pantry has provided groceries to over 20 families on multiple occasions.



In March, Families Plus closed the office doors and opened new lines of communication to our families. Thanks to the Payroll Protection Plan, we have been able to continue working remotely, providing teletherapy, helping parents and caregivers track stimulus checks, encouraging youth to complete online education, and keeping in touch with youth and their parents and caregivers.

The Help Colorado Now Covid Relief Grant gave us a budget to provide financial assistance to our families struggling to pay rent, car insurance, and internet to stay connected. The Next50 Initiative emergency grant allows us to provide extra support to grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Thanks to the help of local community groups, like Delta Elks Lodge and Cedaredge's WELL Youth Group, and individual donors, we were able to provide immediate support to youth and their families.

There is no doubt that the year 2020 has been a tumultuous year for most. Thankfully, our community continues to rally together and we would like to share the good news coming out of this dark time.



Are you a part of a church or community organization looking to learn about what is going on in Delta County? Let us speak to you about Families Plus! We are currently looking for new mentors and would love to talk more about our program at church services and organization meetings.

Call us at 970-874-0464

The Families Plus therapists are now offering counseling services for the community both in-person or remotely. Whatever your comfort level, we can adapt to your preference.

Call us at 970-874-0464 to book an appointment or visit our website and click on Momentum Health Plus



What's New



Families Plus adds talented staff

Jennifer Ramsey started with Families Plus in April. She's excited to bring her background in Nonprofit management and fundraising to Families Plus. She has a passion for helping families and connecting communities. Jen lives in Paonia with her husband, Tim, their energetic 3 children, loving dog, and many chickens. When she's not working or taking care of little ones, she enjoys biking, hiking, reading, listening to live music, and good food.



Ruth Fletcher has recently rejoined Families Plus and will primarily be responsible for accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll. She lives in Montrose with her husband, one dog and 15 chickens rescued from a farm including two one-legged hens named Eileen and I Hop.

Two New Board of Director Members:



Barbara Wolfe is a Colorado native, growing up on a ranch in the Eastern Plains. She and her husband made the move to Montrose in 1989. She feels blessed to have her three sons in Montrose, along with her 10 Grandchildren. She really enjoys the Delta community; volunteering and being a part of Delta is a fulfilling experience. In her spare time she enjoys tracing family genealogy, spending time with family and friends.

John Coombe is a retired attorney, former partner at Holland & Hart, the largest law firm in the western United States. He is the Former Vice Chancellor for Intellectual Property and Events at University of Denver. Former Board Member of the Challenge Foundation and Third Way Center (larger non profits focusing on troubled or disadvantaged youth).

Giving A Hand Up Club, Are You In?



For a few years now, Families Plus has had the 100's Club for individuals who donate at minimum, \$100 annually. We are excited to announce we are renaming the club from the 100's Club to **A Hand Up Club!** We believe you can't put a number on the impact you have on a child.

We invite other people to join A Hand Up Club

With your donations we are able to help children thrive and help them have the opportunities, resources, and support that every child deserves.

How to Join! Go to our website or call to start giving children a hand up!

MAKE IN IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY BY BECOMING A MENTOR WITH FAMILIES PLUS

Are you or someone you know someone interested in making a difference in a young life? For 21 years, our unique mentoring program has been the most VITAL part of our success. Whether once a week or once a month, our mentors build rich relationships and provide children a new experience. Start building a relationship that will impact both yours and a child's life. Times are touch for some children and their families but this is a time when our community comes together and makes Delta County Strong and Resilient.

To learn how little it takes to be a great mentor and get started contact us at:

970-874-0464 or go to www.familiesplus.net/volunteering-and-mentoring.html



Families Plus

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Delta, CO 81416

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To everyone that has given so generously,
the Families Plus team appreciates your time,
talents, gifts, and financial support. Thank you!

**OUR FAMILIES,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
AND STAFF**

Checkout our revamped website!
www.familiesplus.net

- ⇒ Learn more about our programs
- ⇒ Stay up to date on events and news
- ⇒ Learn about volunteer opportunities!
- ⇒ Donate
- ⇒ Follow us on Facebook to learn when and how you can help!

Be strong, you never know who you're inspiring!