



# FOR THE KIDS!

## Child Advocacy Center and CASA Program

### 2009 "Light of Hope for a Child"

As a follow up to National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, A Kid's Place will host its 9th Annual Light of Hope breakfast and candlelight vigil on Wednesday, May 6th at Grace Church from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

The breakfast is a national movement to light a symbol of hope for abused and neglected children and share the hope we share for all children to live in a safe and permanent home. In 2008, A Kid's Place helped more than 500 children and their non-offending family members through the CASA Program and the Child Advocacy Center.

The fundraising breakfast is a critical event for A Kid's Place, helping build awareness of our work, supporting our volunteer recruitment efforts and helping us raise the funds critically needed to ensure that we can continue to reach these kids in the years to come.



### 9th Annual "Light of Hope for A Child"

#### Breakfast Fundraiser

**Where:** Grace Church 6400 W. 20th Street

**When:** Wednesday, May 6th 7:30a.m.-8:30a.m.

**Why:** To Benefit Abused and Neglected Children of Weld County

**Ticket Price:** Breakfast is free, donations are accepted!

**We are recruiting Table Captains, Food and Event Sponsors.**

**Plan to join us and support our event**

**by calling A Kid's Place at 353-5970.**

April 2009

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Linda Goff, *Chair*
- Robin Overmyer, *Vice Chair*
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- Debbie Calvin
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- Beverly Hood
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- Tony Markley
- Brandie Putallaz
- Michelle Sheets
- Karen Thompson
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- Brent Kelly

#### STAFF MEMBERS

- Gwen Schooley,  
*Executive Director*
- Chris Sarlo Bergmann  
*CAC Program Manager*
- Marsha Stoll  
*CASA Volunteer Case Manager*
- Loretta Duran  
*CASA Case Manager*
- Elaine Romero  
*CASA Case Manager*
- Brandi Kraft



## Child Advocacy Center News

Changes abound in our Child Advocacy Center Program. Chris Sarlo-Bergmann, former

CASA Program Administrator has been hired as the new Program Manager. We are eagerly progressing forward with our South Weld County Child Advocacy Center, set to open in July. Initially being funded with an

Expansion grant through the National Children's Alliance, a site is being located and equipment has been ordered. Part time Family Support Advocate Brennan Proctor has joined the staff to provide bilingual services to children and families.

Funding through VALE, the Community Foundation serving Greeley and Weld County Litter Youth Fund and the National Children's

Alliance are helping us to make major improvements to the recording systems used to record children's interviews, the program data collection system and our security system. Our national recertification process in early 2010 will require higher standards as a "best practices" program and we are heading all efforts in that direction, all to benefit children.

## From the Executive Director *by Gwen Schooley, M.A.*

In a year that came with its own unexpected crisis—the August flooding of our offices and the subsequent relocation of our agency, we are still facing the same challenges of most local and national non-profits as we navigate the severe downturn in the economy. Foundation giving is less than expected and contributions and fundraising efforts have already shown a significant decline. At A Kid's Place we have already made significant efforts to make sure the most important elements of our programs are not affected. Sadly, one full time staff position has been eliminated along with two part time positions. Existing staff continue to take on additional work at the same time that we have frozen salaries. We have been fortunate to have the

skills of a full time Americorps VISTA member through the local United Way of Weld County project, at no cost to our agency. All unnecessary expenses have been eliminated whenever possible. Unfortunately, we do not anticipate seeing a decrease in the need for our services and will most likely see a greater need with the current financial crisis. Families are stressed and kids often suffer.

A Kid's Place has been the grateful recipient of tremendous generosity this year. Donations of time, storage, office furnishings, toys and contributions have helped us get back on our feet in a matter of months. Most importantly, the goodwill and concern of our caring community has enabled us to continue to provide for our most vulnerable children.



So how can you help?

Check out this newsletter and our website to see the many opportunities to show up and support our events, big and small. “Dine out for Kids”, “Light a Candle of Hope”, Ride in the Annual New Plantation Hog Run, listen to the 28 Hours of Hope on K-99. We will need donors of every kind to weather this next challenge. For that support, we thank you.

## CASA NEWS

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program is successful only because of those special people who have decided to give up part of their life to help a child they have never met. While the country is focused on the economy and how we will survive the economic downturn, our CASA's have chosen to focus on what they can do to make a difference for a child whose life is in a turmoil the worries about the economy can't even begin to touch.

The spirit of giving that is CASA is seen in every aspect of our program. When Christmas came, the staff was worried that with the economy people would not be able to give as generously as they have in the past. We wor-

ried about how we would be able to provide presents to all of our CASA kids. We need not have worried! Not only did our CASA's come through but the community was astounding in their response to our request for toys. From our Board of Directors to the Scroll and Fan Club to UNC to Starbucks to Atmos Energy to Genny's Hope, and more, the toys and money and refreshments for our party came in! The children, most of whom are away from their families, learned that no matter where they are, Santa will find them!

As more families struggle to provide the basic necessities for their families, the stress can become too much and children sometimes suffer. A new class of CASA volunteers is being

trained so that these children have someone to advocate for them until they have a safe, permanent home.

The staff works everyday with the realities of child abuse and neglect. It can be sad, frustrating and heartbreaking. However, along with seeing the worst of our society, we get to see the very best, too. Everyday we witness individuals and companies and organizations such as yourselves, step up to ensure that the most vulnerable members of this community have what they need not only to survive but to succeed. There is no better job and we consider ourselves lucky everyday to be able to witness the good in people!



# Fundraising Opportunities

Our busy Americorps VISTA member, Brandi Kraft has been hard at work identifying new and exciting fundraising opportunities. Pick one, or pick two and have fun while helping raise critical funds for A Kid's Place!

**You can donate** an old car to benefit A Kid's Place through Cars Helping Charities. They accept any car in any condition -- and that includes trucks, vans, RVs, boats, snowmobiles and motorcycles. The net proceeds of the sale will benefit A Kid's Place. Your donation is tax deductible, and Cars Helping Charities provides free towing. For more information, call 303-423-CARS (2277) or visit [www.carshelpingcharities.com](http://www.carshelpingcharities.com) and designate A Kid's Place, Inc.



License Plates through Colorado Kids 1st are available with a portion of proceeds benefiting

A Kid's Place; during the month of April, 100% of the \$30 donation will go to AKP! You need to print off the donation slip before you go to Motor Vehicle. More details at [www.ColoradoKids1st.org](http://www.ColoradoKids1st.org). Show your support of kids every time you drive down the road!

Annual Hog Run at New Plantation  
Sunday, May 17th  
Call A Kid's Place at 353-5970  
for more information!

What if A Kid's Place earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!



GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter **A Kid's Place** as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!



Tickets are being sold for the following events. All funds raised before June 1st will be matched by a grant from El Pomar Fdt. for up to \$10,000.

"Dancing with the Cars" Sat. April 25 7:30 pm at Co's BMW in Loveland. \$100 a couple with dance instruction, \$40 couple without.

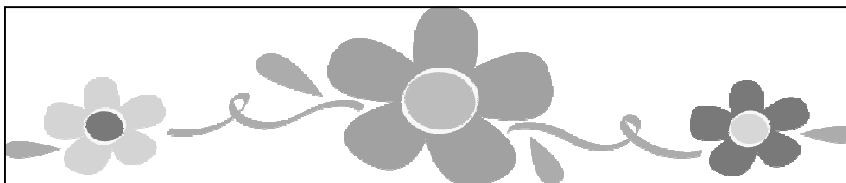
Call Sara at 351-0476 to purchase a ticket.

"Jimmy Buffet Style Dinner" August 28th. Lots of Jimmy Buffet style fun! \$50 per person. Call Liz at 356-6751 for tickets.



The K 99 Good Morning Guys 11th Annual 28 Hours of Hope begins again this year on Thursday, April 16th at 5 am and will stay on the air through Friday April 17th at 9 am. Brian and Todd will again try to meet their goal of raising much needed funds and increasing awareness for the important work being done at A Kid's Place, the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center and the Namaqua Center.

They reach their goals each year with the help of listeners, local businesses and nationally and locally recognized artists. So please listen in, much help will be needed this year!



## Did you Know?

Research shows that children with a CASA volunteer:

- ➔ Are less likely to experience new abuse
- ➔ Have fewer placement changes.
- ➔ Are more likely to be adopted rather than remain in long term foster care.
- ➔ Receive more comprehensive and appropriate services such as therapy, healthcare and education.

## WISH LIST

Individually wrapped juice and snacks

Office Supply Store Gift Cards

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tissues

Copier Paper

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS !!!**

By providing us with your email address we can add you to our electronic newsletter database, saving valuable agency resources!

Send address to: [director@akidsplace.org](mailto:director@akidsplace.org)



2540 11th Avenue  
 Phone: 970-353-5970  
 Fax: 970-353-9577  
 E-mail: director@akidsplace.org  
 www.akidsplace.org



*The mission of A Kid's Place is to provide advocacy and support for abused or neglected children by advancing coordinated investigations, prosecutions and victim services.*



## DINE OUT FOR THE KIDS!



We hope that you will join A Kid's Place and participate in one of our "Dine Out for Kids" events. We have part-

nered with the following restaurants to generate much needed funding for our programs. The restaurants have all agreed to support us through a percentage of their sales on the designated days. **Bon Appetit!**

### PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

**Texas Roadhouse**  
 2451 West 28th St. Greeley  
 Tuesday April 14th 4—10 pm

**Meme's Brick Oven Pizza**  
 3050 67th Avenue Greeley  
 Friday May 15th 5—8 PM  
 → Let them know you are there for A Kid's Place Fundraiser

**Harvest Modern Country Kitchen**  
 3055 65th Avenue Greeley  
 July through September  
 → 10% of sales goes to A Kid's Place when you order from the KFA menu from 4-6 pm

**Applebee's**  
 4100 West 10th St. Greeley  
 Thursday June 18 4—9 PM  
 → You must bring coupon below.

**APPLEBEE'S Neighborhood Grill and Bar**  
**Fundraiser for A Kid's Place**  
**Thursday, June 18 5—8 pm**  
 → You must bring this coupon for 10% of your total sale to go to A Kid's Place. ✂

