



THE PathFinder

The Newsletter
for volunteers,
supporters and friends of
Parent Pathways

Summer 2006

Parent Pathways

Helping Teen Parents Raise Healthy Families



Dear Friends...

Summer is upon us, which means one school year has come to a close and we are busily preparing for the next one. For a few months Florence Crittenton School students, babies, teachers

and staff are pursuing their summer plans, while the facility is being readied for the burst of new activity in August.

Summer plans for many teachers and staff mean continuing education courses, seminars, trainings and planning meetings. Many students are actively engaged in job opportunities or internships.

With all of this continuous activity, it seems an appropriate time to tell you that our Infant/Toddler Learning Center recently received great news. Qualistar Early Learning, a Colorado statewide early childhood education quality rating system, has increased our ranking to three stars on a scale of four. We're focused on continuing our improvements to offer the best learning environment with well trained, accredited staff and family involvement! This is a tribute to the hard work and perseverance of all the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Learning Center. Kudos to all of you! Our babies will be healthier, happier and higher achieving than ever before.

Speaking of the Learning Center, please be sure to read through Karina's story on how it has helped her adjust to the challenges of her beautiful baby Diana. Without the parenting skills and information Karina has gained, her life with little Diana would be so much more difficult.

And finally, I'm very proud to announce to you that the Florence Crittenton School graduating class of 2006 'walked' on May 18 with all the pomp and circumstance they so richly deserve. With your continued support, Parent Pathways makes these successes possible for every teen parent that comes to us in need. We truly couldn't do this without you. Thank you for being a part of this important work!

Moreen

inside:

- Pathways 5K Run/Walk Update
- Planned Giving Opportunities
- Florence Crittenton School News
- Graduation Highlights
- Volunteer News

Sweet Peas: A Haven for Babies

Motherhood at fourteen years old while working toward a high school diploma is enormously challenging. Add a very mobile and energetic 15 month old toddler and meeting those challenges successfully can be completely overwhelming. Many of our student moms have unstable and chaotic lives; others struggle with depression or additional issues. Often, the only safe place is school. The Florence Crittenton School is designed to help a teen mother navigate these challenges and the Infant/Toddler Learning Center, onsite at Florence Crittenton, provides a safe and educational environment for up to 60 babies at a time.

"I am deeply grateful for the devoted care and attention given to Diana."

Karina Barron started as a freshman at Florence Crittenton School in August 2005. She is now 16 years old and an upcoming sophomore. Her daughter, Diana, has been in the Learning Center's Sweet Peas classroom since she was five months old with the same teachers, Theresa Romero and Cindy Bowdry.

"Diana learned so much in Sweet Peas this past year!" exclaims Karina. "She started crawling and then walking. Now she's coloring, playing music, and dancing!" Her social, physical and emotional maturity dramatically improved. Karina is deeply grateful for the devoted care and attention given to Diana. She feels Diana's marked improvements are indicative of the nurturing she receives at the Learning Center.

The Learning Center is a place where professionals care for infants and toddlers, providing high quality care for the babies as well as giving their mothers hands-on child care education. The interactions teen mothers have with their babies in these classrooms promote successful parenting to produce self-sufficient families. The learning opportunities are comprehensively structured around the babies' needs and the students' academic schedules. This past year, Karina was able to check on Diana during lunch as well as spend structured time visiting with her each week. Denver Public Schools' regularly scheduled classes and academic rigor are as important as parenting classes, although balancing the two during a busy day is challenging.



Karina and Diana

The New Moms program, guided by Bev Parent, Early Childhood Education Specialist, and Linda Gould, Lead Counselor, provides teen moms the time necessary to learn about their babies and how to care for them. Teen mothers meet together to ask questions about feeding, changing diapers and sleeping schedules. They talk about how to encourage their babies' development. There's also time for lots of interaction with their babies; singing, playing and enjoying snacks together. Moms learn why such stimulating play is necessary. A level of trust begins between the mothers in this group and as it grows, they realize the benefits of shared learning. They create their own agenda with Bev's assistance, and they REALLY learn from each other through sharing problems and solutions.

And when young mothers visit the Sweet Peas classroom, Theresa and Cindy encourage them to ask questions. They focus on helping the moms be more confident in all areas of child care.

A day at the Learning Center involves a wide range of stimulating activities for the babies. New sounds and free play are designed to develop cognitive abilities and motor activity exercises are

(continued on page 2)

Pathways 5K Run/Walk

**Another Year,
Another Success!**



Our 2nd Annual Pathways 5K Run / Walk was held Saturday, May 13th in Cheesman Park in central Denver.

Thanks to all those who ran, walked or strolled, especially to all those who contributed in raising funds through collecting pledges. We were astonished with the amount of donations that were collected, over **\$5,400!**

We would also like to thank our 2006 Presenting Sponsor, Kaiser Permanente, our partner in health. And recognize: Albertsons, Bally Total Fitness, Boulder Running Co., California Pizza Kitchen, Cliff Bar, Circuit City, Dick's Sporting Goods, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Good Friends Restaurant, King Soopers, Patagonia, Racine's Restaurant, Safeway, Simms Landing, Sunflower Market, The Sporting Woman, Title 9 Sports, Tokyo Joe's, Two Feet to Go, Vitamin Cottage and Wellsprings Massage for all their support in helping make this a successful event!

Over a hundred and forty people of all ages and fitness levels participated in the event. We would like to congratulate Kirk Framke, this year's race winner!



Our event was an officially-certified USA Track & Field (USATF) race! Completion of our Pathways 5K Run/Walk counts toward other competitive races in the region.

Would you like to learn more about how Parent Pathways is Helping Teen Parents Raise Healthy Families? Visit the Colorado Health Foundation website and read **Bonnie's Story!**
www.coloradohealth.org

Your Will is a Way to... Help Teen Parents Raise Healthy Families

You can leave a legacy and continue to assist Parent Pathways in helping teen parents raise healthy families. It's as easy as leaving a gift in your will.

A charitable bequest to Parent Pathways can perpetuate the things you value long after your lifetime. Through your legacy, you can help 1) teen mothers obtain a high school education while their babies receive quality child care, improving their opportunities for future success 2) young fathers learn life-long parenting skills, and 3) young families get into housing while they connect to job training and other services, creating productive futures.

The first step in making a gift to Parent Pathways through your will (charitable bequest) is to consider how you want your donation to be used. To best support Parent Pathways' vision of healthy self-sufficient families building strong communities, an unrestricted gift with maximum flexibility is desirable. You can also donate a restricted gift to a specific program. We can help you determine which option is best for you and most suits your desires and interests.

Next, set a meeting with your estate planner. Have available the exact name and address of the organization(s) that you want to name in your will. This is especially important because many organizations have similar names. When you leave Parent Pathways a future gift, please consider language such as "This gift is to be used for the general mission of the organization at the discretion of its board" and include the following information:

Parent Pathways Inc.

6795 E. Tennessee Avenue, Suite #600

Denver, CO 80224-1613

Tax Identification Number: 84-0429686

You can remember Parent Pathways in your will in a variety of ways. Choose a method that honors your family as well as your wishes:

- Designate a specific amount of money in your will.
- Allot a percentage of your estate.
- Allocate the assets that remain once your estate is divided according to your wishes.
- Leave property or other tangible assets (a complete description of the property is necessary - please check with Parent Pathways to insure the gift complies with our gift acceptance policies).

For more information about charitable bequests or other charitable methods, please contact Gail Lehrmann, Vice President of Development, at 303-321-6363.

* Parent Pathways does not engage in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice and specific kinds of assistance, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.

(Karina, continued from page 1)

performed for different muscle groups. Other daily activities include: painting, reading, verbal communications; walks to the park to explore different environments; and growth through sensory education. Basic words in sign language are taught. Feeding is on a regular schedule but nap time and other activities are based on each baby's needs. The room always offers a calming atmosphere for babies and moms. And Theresa and Cindy have parties celebrating "first" occasions of all kinds.

Because the expectations in her academic classes are high, and because she trusts that Diana is safe and well-cared-for during the day, Karina has done well in her studies. The School and the Learning Center offer significant encouragement for the moms to stay in class and to trust the staff. Karina is looking forward to her time with Diana this summer, in between her shifts at her summer job. They'll sing Diana's favorite song (the Roly-Poly Song), enjoy Diana's favorite foods (fresh fruit), and dance to the music that makes this particular baby so happy!



Florence Crittenton School News

Many goals and objectives are set for the Florence Crittenton School to help teen parents build healthy families by providing individualized services. Due to the enthusiasm and enduring work of all our students, and through the guidance of the teachers, staff and volunteers, we achieve many outstanding successes.

This past school year, test scores of students at Florence Crittenton improved an average of more than three grade levels for reading and more than one grade level for math. 76% of our graduates plan to pursue post-secondary education. 100% of our teen mothers increased their knowledge of child development and parenting skills, as measured by the Parenting Stress Index. 98% of our babies achieved appropriate developmental milestones. Another outstanding achievement, our *Infant/Toddler Learning Center recently received an increase in our ranking to three stars on a scale of four* from Qualistar Early Learning, a Colorado statewide early childhood education rating system.

We are amazed by all that these teen parents and their children accomplished this past year and we look forward to continuous success in the school year to come!

The Florence Crittenton School graduated 21 seniors at a moving and excitement-filled graduation ceremony on May 18, 2006. Many of our students return to their "home" schools to 'walk' in the graduation ceremonies but for those who choose to 'walk' with Florence Crittenton School, a beautiful ceremony was held at Central Presbyterian Church with the Denver School of the Arts Brass Ensemble providing the music. The Zonta Club of Denver II also awarded Porschea Bowden with a \$1,200 scholarship towards future education and hosted the reception following this ceremony.



Congratulations to the Class of 2006!

About Us:

Parent Pathways is a 501(c)(3) organization helping teen parents raise healthy families. Our programs include the Florence Crittenton School and Infant/Toddler Learning Center, Housing, and Young Fathers Services.

Our Mission:

To help teen parents raise healthy families

Our Vision:

Healthy self-sufficient families building strong communities

Volunteer News

A Huge Thank You for a Great Mother's Day!

Pax Christi Church once again recognized the students at the Florence Crittenton School by providing each one with a Mother's Day gift. We are grateful for this wonderful program that makes these young mothers feel appreciated as a mother.



Annual School Supply Drive

We would like to invite you and/or your organization to participate in our annual School Supply Drive. For most children and teens, the start of a new school year is an exciting time filled with great anticipation and hope. But for students whose families are unable to afford new school supplies, the start of school can cause feelings of embarrassment. Your donation of new school supplies will reach a needy teen in time for the start of the new school year!



The School Supply Drive is supported solely by the generosity of community groups and individuals.

If you would like to contribute or for more information, please visit www.parentpathways.org or call Marsha Bukofzer at (303) 321-6363 x 208.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 10TH ANNUAL

Crittenton Classic Golf Tournament

Monday, July 31, 2006
Pinehurst Country Club

Tee time 8:00 a.m. | Shotgun Start | Scramble

- **Individual golfer fee: \$200**
- **Foursome: \$700**
- **Tee Sponsor: \$1,500** (includes complimentary foursome)

For more information please contact Marsha at 303.321.6363 x 208
or mbukofzer@parentpathways.org, or visit www.parentpathways.org

303-321-6363 | www.parentpathways.org

6795 East Tennessee Avenue, Suite 600
Denver, Colorado 80224-1613

parent pathways



Board of Directors

Patti Klinge, Chairperson

Retired – Executive Vice President,
Human Resources
AT&T Broadband

Noreen M. Keleshian

President and Chief Executive Officer

Doug Hock, Vice Chairperson

Director of Community and Public Relations
EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.

Marion Leggett, Secretary

Vice President, Cash Management
First Community Bank

Gregory W. Berger, Treasurer

Shareholder
Brownstein Hyatt and Farber, P.C.

Anthony Antista

President
FirstBank of Aurora

Ellen Balaguer

Partner
Accenture

Tammy Rivera Berberick

Vice President of Corporate Synergy
Molson Coors Brewing Company

Peg Brown

Deputy Commissioner of Insurance for
Consumer Affairs
State of Colorado Division of Insurance

Juan Calderón

Investment Associate
UBS Financial Services Inc.

Linda Clark

Managing Director for Public Finance,
Piper Jaffray

Tom Feldkamp

OEM Account Manager
Hewlett-Packard

Pat Glinsky

Architect

Stuart Gottesfeld, M.D.

Retired – OB/GYN

Dorotha Hogue

Retired – Teacher
Denver Public Schools

Lara Salazar

Pure Brand Communications

Kristin Snyder

Vice President – Quality & Public Affairs
Kaiser Permanente

Karen Spies

Author

Laura J. Wegscheid

Director of Communications
St. Anthony Hospitals

P
A
R
E
N
T

P
A
T
H
W
A
Y
S

|

H
E
L
P
I
N
G

T
E
E
N

P
A
R
E
N
T
S

P
A
R
E
N
T
S

R
A
I
S
E

H
E
A
L
T
H
Y

F
A
M
I
L
I
E
S

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 1313

