



NEWSLETTER

**INVEST
IN KIDS**

SPRING EDITION 2011

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A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR...

Dear Friends:

As I reflect on the past few months at Invest in Kids, I am struck by how much we have to celebrate. Our programs continue to flourish and grow in new directions, we continue to develop new and exciting partnerships throughout the state, and despite the difficult economy we are able to sustain this growth thanks to the tremendous support of our donors.

In December, Invest in Kids was recognized with a prestigious Silver Medal rating for program effectiveness by GiveWell, an independent non-profit charity evaluator (www.givewell.org). There are over 1,000,000 U.S. charities and of the 409 GiveWell has reviewed, only ten were recommended. We were recognized for our commitment to evidence-based programming, fidelity to our proven models, and transparency in sharing information. These characteristics are at the core of our commitment to ensuring that investments in our organization have a lasting and measurable impact on the communities and individuals we serve.

I am also pleased to share that so far this year we have received some of our largest grants to date. I want to thank the Colorado Health Foundation, the Rose Community Foundation, and the Tony Grampsas Youth Services Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for their generous support of our organization and strong belief in our mission. These funds will enable us to introduce innovative additions to our Incredible Years program, including recruiting, training and supporting community-based Peer Coaches that will not only increase our organizational capacity but build local sustainability for the program in Colorado. You can read more about our exciting new work in this area on page 2.

I am thrilled to report that despite the state’s budget shortfall for fiscal year 2011-12, IIK was able to successfully negotiate a compromise with the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado General Assembly that will minimize the impact of budget cuts on Nurse-Family Partnership sites across Colorado. Throughout the debates in both the House and Senate, we were praised for our willingness to be a part of the budget solution, and we are so grateful to all of our supporters in the Colorado Legislature for their commitment to this proven nurse home visitation program.

Due to the support of all of our donors, we experienced 25% growth in the number of children participating in our programs this year, and anticipate further expansion of our services for the 2011-2012 program year. Each of these accomplishments would not be possible without your support. I want to offer a very special thanks to our 2011 Gala Co-Chairs, Catherine Goodwille and Diane Reed. They increased our gala revenues by more than 30% and hosted what was arguably one of Denver’s best nights on the town—see details on page 3. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Lisa Merlino



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: Nurse-Family Partnership

When NFP Nurse Valerie first met her client Rita, she was on probation for drug charges and relying on the generosity of friends to provide her with a warm place to sleep each night. Rita was also pregnant with her first child and seeking treatment for her addictions. Despite her intensely transient situation, Valerie faithfully chased Rita around from place to place, committed to ensuring that they had their visits regardless of the location. During these visits, Valerie and Rita built a strong relationship, and Valerie shared vital information with Rita regarding pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting. Not having a strong mother figure in her life, Rita admitted to knowing little about what to expect or how to care for and raise a child. With Valerie's support, Rita overcame the obstacles of her past, and is raising a beautiful, healthy, and happy 2 ½ year-old daughter. They live in their own apartment, Rita maintains two part-time jobs, and has earned a GPA of 3.69 at Red Rocks Community College. She aspires to complete her BS in Business Administration and maybe go on to earn an MBA. The pair read together every night, and Rita strives each day to set the best possible example for her daughter.



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL FUNDING UPDATE

Over the past year, Invest in Kids representatives have been deeply involved with the Home Visiting Stakeholder group established by the Governor's office to provide guidance regarding the state's distribution of a portion of funds made available under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This federal law, which was signed by President Obama in March of 2010, designates funding to states for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation Programs. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is one of seven national programs eligible for this funding.

In Colorado, the Stakeholder group included NFP as one of three programs that will receive a portion of the \$720,000 available this year, the first of five years of federal funding. The group also established criteria for determining which communities to focus efforts on, and decided that the first year of funding will be used in Adams and Pueblo counties, the top two at-risk counties as determined by the criteria within the needs assessment.

IJK is proud of the role we played in advocating for NFP's inclusion in the list of programs approved for funding in Colorado, and we look forward to serving more families as a result of this new funding stream.



THE INCREDIBLE YEARS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In May, IJK was selected as one of thirty applicants to receive Tony Grampas Youth Services (IGYS) funds for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. This is the first application and award of state funding for The Incredible Years program. We are excited for the opportunity this funding provides for our organization to venture into a new role with regards to IY implementation in Colorado. Through this partnership with the state, IJK will act as a fiscal intermediary in addition to our role of recruiting, training, coaching and evaluating local sites. It will provide support to up to ten new or existing IY communities. The funds will cover all costs associated with training, coaching and evaluation for each community, while the communities will contribute to the cost of program materials. We are currently developing a process for the identification and selection of communities and will be releasing a request for proposals in the coming months.

THE INCREDIBLE YEARS PEER COACH PROJECT

In January, The Colorado Health Foundation awarded IJK a two year grant to implement a new Peer Coach Project in our Incredible Years (IY) program. This will enable IJK to recruit, train and support IY teachers and parent group leaders as Peer Coaches in their local communities. The potential outcomes of this project are substantial. First, this effort will foster internal commitment and sustainability within local communities. Further, IJK will be able to support the overall implementation and growth of IY throughout Colorado in an economically efficient manner, without having significant growth in our staff. This spring IY Program Consultants identified and met with potential Peer Coach candidates and district officials and are currently accepting applications from interested individuals. The grant will allow IJK to engage 40 classroom teachers and 8 parent group leaders in this new role.



COOKING UP SUCCESS WITH INVEST IN KIDS

Cooking Up Success with Invest in Kids, held at EXDO Event Center on April 29th, was a tremendous success thanks to the generous support of Invest in Kids donors. The event, which featured delectable dishes created by eight of Denver's most acclaimed chefs, raised \$240,000 to benefit IIK programs.

Event Co-chairs Catherine Goodwillie and Diane Reed worked hard to make the event a success, leading a dedicated committee of TWINKs (Today's Women Investing in Kids) in coordinating the details of the evening. We can't thank Catherine, Diane, and the TWINKS enough for their time and dedication to the event.

Event attendees were treated to the culinary creations of Barolo Grill, ChoLon, Sushi Sasa, Tag, Olivéa, Vesta Dipping Grill, Rioja, and Happy Cakes. Governor Hickenlooper spoke during the cocktail reception, and Anne Trujillo of 7NEWS presided over the program, which featured Rita, a graduate of the Nurse-Family Partnership, who overcame a history of childhood neglect, domestic violence, and



Photo courtesy of Blacktie

drug and alcohol abuse but has since returned to school, secured a part-time job, and is successfully raising her beautiful two-year old daughter (See NFP story on Page 2).

Featured sponsors for the event included The Colorado Trust, Hyde Park, Peter Wege II, First Bank, The Piton Foundation, Barbara Grogan, Laura and Bob Hill, and Colorado Expression Magazine.

NEW FACES AT IIK

2011 has brought new faces to IIK. In January we welcomed Karen Niebrugge as Development Manager, and in February Patrick Sablich joined our team as Development Director. Sara Anderson is currently transitioning to the role of IY Program Coordinator.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Kristy Johnson, who has been an invaluable member of Invest in Kids and the Incredible Years team since 2002. Kristy will be leaving to return to the classroom as a teacher. Though we are going to miss her terribly, we wish her the best in this next phase of her career. Thank you Kristy for your tireless commitment to IIK's mission!

CONGRATULATIONS LISA!

IIK's Executive Director, Lisa Merlino, has been named to the 2011 class of Livingston Fellows by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. This program recognizes promising nonprofit leaders for their potential for "significant and unique contributions to the nonprofit sector" and provides \$20,000 to pursue advanced learning and professional development opportunities.

JANE-A-THON 2011

The 12th Annual Jane-A-Thon, held February 25th & 26th at Mary Jane in Winter Park, was a great success. One hundred and sixty-eight skiers participated over the two days, helping IIK raise over \$40,000 for Colorado's most vulnerable children and families. Skiers participated in a variety of competitive events, including team and individual vertical feet, team and individual fundraising, and fastest speed.

Congratulations and thank you to the events top fundraisers: Chris Toll, Allen Soo Hoo, and Ryan Hilty, who together raised over \$5,000! We also want to thank the companies who sent teams on Corporate Day for increasing corporate participation by nearly 30% over last year.

Additional thanks to Eric Hilty and Jennifer Rudolph who led a dedicated planning committee, and to each of the event sponsors: The Colorado Trust, Flaik, Winter Park, Bentek, Wells Fargo Private Bank, AIMCO, Holland & Hart, and Lockton.

2012 Jane-A-Thon dates coming soon! Check www.iik.org for details.



TOP CHEF SPONSOR



PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

**1775 SHERMAN ST.
STE. 2075
DENVER, CO 80203**

GET INVOLVED

Looking for ways to get more involved with Invest in Kids? Consider one of the opportunities below!

JANE-A-THON PLANNING COMMITTEE

Help make the 2012 Jane-A-Thon our best yet! The planning committee helps coordinate all details of the event, from sponsorships and prize solicitation to reception planning and skier recruitment. We have lots of exciting ideas in store for next year's event, but we need your help! To find out more about how you can be an integral part of this event, contact Karen Niebrugge at kniebrug@iik.org or 303.839.1808 x.108.

BECOME A TWINK

(T)oday's (W)omen (In)vesting in (K)ids is a volunteer group of dedicated women that provides crucial support to IIK's fundraising and marketing efforts. There are currently TWINKS chapters in Denver, Boulder, and Eagle Counties. Contact Patrick Sablich at psablich@iik.org or 303.839.1808 x.106 to learn more about becoming part of this fun and talented group.

GOING GREEN—MOVING TO E-NEWSLETTER

Help IIK in our effort to reduce our paper consumption! This newsletter is also available electronically. To sign up for the e-newsletter, please e-mail Karen Niebrugge at kniebrugge@iik.org.

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