

Spring/Summer
2011

News for HOPE Center's Families, Friends and Supporters



HOPE Highlights

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HOPE Center would like to recognize Max and Sandy Garcia as a former Alumni family. Their oldest daughter Gianna Garcia attended HOPE Center 3 years ago. The Garcia's twin four year old daughters Anabella and Sophia Garcia are currently attending our "Movers and Shakers" classroom.

Max Garcia has been in fulltime Christian Ministry for 15 years and the last three as a youth pastor at Church in the City - Beth Abraham. Sandy Garcia his wife has been a Physical Therapist for 14 years and in the therapy field for 21 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Garcia state, "Because of the caring, teaching and personal attention our daughter Gianna received while attending

HOPE Center, she is now at the top of her class in all of her learning skills."

They believe that HOPE Center's ECE programs are vital to the community. The family believes that the first five years are the most critical for ECE development and knew that their child would receive high quality services at HOPE Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Garcia feel that the continual volunteer support of parents and long term financial support will allow families at HOPE Center to benefit from such an awesome educational program. They absolutely love the teachers, administrators and curriculum that is utilized at HOPE Center.



COLORADO CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION INCOME TAX CREDIT

By donating to HOPE Center's Early Childhood Education and Care program, you may be eligible to receive a 50% tax credit on your Colorado state income taxes, Example: your donation of \$1000 may be eligible for a \$500 Credit on your Colorado state taxes. For more information about making a donation to HOPE Center, contact us at 303.388.4801. For specific information regarding your tax situation, please consult with your accountant, or the Colorado Department of Revenue.

HOPE Center, Inc.

*HOPE Center is a 501(c)3
community-based non-profit agency.*

Mission Statement

HOPE Center is a community-based agency dedicated to meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, developmental delays and persons in need of specialized educational or vocational services. These services are provided in order to develop, maintain, and enhance the functioning of each enrollee.

The philosophy of service is to admit individuals to programs within our agency which meet their needs and requirements as specifically as possible. Length of service within a given program is dependent upon assessed individual needs, program goals and objectives. Enrollees will be served in a normal environment with services assessed periodically to evaluate the program.

All enrollees of HOPE Center will be treated with dignity and respect and will be accorded the civil and human rights to which they are entitled.

Vision Statement

All children and adults receive the opportunity to thrive with quality education.

Programs

Early Childhood Education and Care Program

Located at 3400 Elizabeth Street-- in the heart of the inner city; we help children to be better prepared for success in school and throughout life.

- **Integrative** Childcare: Year-round childcare, from 7:00 A.M - 6:00 P.M. Includes children with developmental disabilities/ delays. Ages 2^{1/2} - 8.
- **Preschool**: Year-round preschool for children with developmental disabilities/delays. Ages 3 - 5.
- **Colorado Preschool Program, (CPP)**: School-year preschool, for children who are at-risk; may include language delays or other socio-economic risk factors. Ages 3 - 5.
- **HOPE Academy for Gifted Children**: School-year preschool and kindergarten programs along with a 5-week math and science summer camp. Ages 3 - 8.

Vocational Program

Located at 3475 Holly Street— in the center of the community; we assist adults ages 16 and older with developmental disabilities to maximize their independence.

- **Basic Skills Training** helps our most challenged clients/ employees to maximize their independent functioning through training in self-care, socialization, communication, leisure and pre-vocational skills.
- **Work Activity** provides individuals with disabilities with vocational skills training. Our goal is to identify and develop appropriate skills and habits necessary to maximize their fullest potential.

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Eugene Lawson * Karla Turner
Suzann Vega * Richard Wachendorfer

Here are some facts about HOPE Center's 4-Star Rating:

HOPE Center has a strong commitment to provide quality care for children. This is HOPE Center's 9th "4 Star Quality rating." All classrooms are well equipped to keep children engaged and comfortable. Children's social skills are enhanced through modeling and guidance by the teachers. Our staff knowledge of child development and curriculum planning support the learning environment. Our program supports family's needs and goals.



Gerie Grimes
Executive Director
HOPE Center

From the Executive Director

A "CALL OUT" to all our families and friends to support us at our First Annual Walk-a-thon Fundraiser.



***FOLLOW THE ROADRUNNER!!
TO A HEALTHIER LIFE!***

***COME ALONG EVERYONE FOR
HOPE CENTER'S FIRST
1K/5K WALK/RUN***

**When: Saturday, September 10, 2011
A FAMILY AFFAIR!**

**Where: Central Park
2373 Central Park Blvd, Denver CO 80238
(located east of Quebec Street
& MLK Blvd approximately 8 blocks)**

For more information call (303) 388-4801

**Also hold the date 3/10/2012 for our next Casino Nite
Fundraiser!**

Spotlight:

Live! Vintage Vegas Casino Night...Million Lights of Hope Fundraiser held on 3/12/2011



First Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference



Martin Luther King Award Ceremony by Metro State honoring "Gerie Grimes"

Brenda Natt, Teacher at HOPE Center Early Childhood Program

Brenda Natt has been teaching at HOPE Center for the past 17 years. Her classroom is known as the "Knowledge Builders". She currently teaches children age 3 to 4 in the Gifted Preschool classroom.

Ms. Natt has worked in the Gifted field of education for many years. She has a Bachelors Degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy and an Associates Degree in ECE. Ms. Natt is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Reading and Writing. Ms. Natt's literacy focus of teaching falls within the five areas of reading:

phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Ms. Natt stated that her gifted students are very fast learners and don't need any repetition. They are very studious, inquisitive and need full explanations. Her classes involve large group discussions and research material helps back up evidence for these discussions.

Most of her students are very sensitive and tend to take on issues afforded to adults. Ms. Natt believes we should never give up on a child even if a behavior is challenging or instability stagnates aca-

ademic growth. HOPE Center never gives up on a child!



Otis Preston, Vocational Program Coordinator at HOPE Center Vocational Program

Otis Preston has worked at the HOPE Center Vocational Program for 15 years. Mr. Preston's responsibilities consist of supervising the daily activities of the adult program of 34 disabled clients as well as the upkeep of the facility.

Mr. Preston attended Texas Southern University and received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. His experience here has been received through on-the-job training and many years of day to day servicing of clients. One of his favorite events is to interact with his clients on a daily basis during their lunch hour. This allows him to discuss current events, a means to establishing trust and allow the

clients some unstructured time.

Last summer clients participated in the Holly Urban Garden. One client observed her tomato plant harvested from seed to a full grown plant. This was a great experience to see this client watch this plant grow over the summer.

Mr. Preston instills in his staff that the best time of the whole day is the time the clients spend at HOPE Center. Once the clients leave they may not have as much interaction as they do within the program. Mr. Preston also instills in each client that we are there to serve and enhance their lives.



Wendy Greenberg, Teacher at HOPE Center Early Childhood Program

Wendy Greenberg is the teacher of the "Los Chiquititos" classroom. Ms. Greenberg has been teaching here at HOPE Center for approximately 15 years. She currently works with children 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years of age.

Ms. Greenberg has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with a Minor in Reading. She also has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education and Early Childhood Education. Ms. Greenberg is a certified teacher by the Colorado Department of Education. She has received and attended many professional conferences,

workshops, formal education and in-service activities.

Ms. Greenberg stated that working with children incorporates growth and progress in skills and major accomplishment, repetition, modeling and patience.

Based on her training and experience the classroom is adapted to the needs of her students. Ms. Greenberg continues to work with her team member to teach 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 yr old children who are new to school, begin the learning process and to establish new skills.

This allows them the foundation to be successful.



HOPE Center's Vintage Vegas ... Million Lights of Hope Casino Night

HOPE Center's sixth annual fundraising event, Vintage Vegas ... Million Lights of Hope, took place at the Sherman Event Center on March 12, 2011. Guests were greeted by showgirls dressed in vintage sequined costumes and the well known "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. It was a spectacular fundraising event featuring all the glamour of old Las Vegas and a special night dedicated to raising the necessary funding for HOPE Center to continue addressing the needs of clients, children and families.

Guests could place their bids at the silent auction table, which featured fine dining and getaways, family outing packages and artistic creations made by children ages 2 to 5 years old enrolled at HOPE Center. After placing their bids on silent auction items, guests took their envelopes of play money to buy chips and hit the gaming tables to get lucky for a good cause! Gaming tables included blackjack, poker, roulette and craps. The Hot Lunch Band provided musical entertainment throughout the night and kept everyone grooving. With all of the razzle and dazzle of the evening, the main purpose of this Vegas night was to raise

funds, make new friends and have fun. In making new friends and turning our chips in for much needed funds to support our Center, we were successful raising some dollars and making new friends.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS:

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Do your neighbors kid you about the fossil that used to be your car?

Instead, put your old car to good use — **Donate it to HOPE Center and save on your taxes.**

If you took advantage of the recent low interest rates and "0 down" financing specials at a car dealership, you may have opted to keep your old car instead of accepting a very low trade-in offer.

Consider donating your old car to HOPE Center— You will be helping us to provide important services to the community. Then invite your neighbors over for a BBQ with all the extra money you'll save on your taxes!

For more information, call 303.470.5511 ext 8311. Ask for Liz Rizen

Thank you to our "Partners in Funding"

Mile High United Way

The first United Way was found in Denver, Colorado in 1887 to meet community needs by funding many charities while reducing the number of appeals. Today, Mile High United Way coordinates the collective strength of more than 50,000 individual donors, 800 local businesses and 100 nonprofit organizations to support and empower individuals and families through investment in three key areas: School Readiness and quality care and education for low-income children, Youth Success with after school and youth mentoring programs for at-risk youth and Adult Self Sufficiency for families experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Mile High United Way has been a critical partner of HOPE Center since 1982 - working in the trenches as an advocate and providing invaluable funding for those children and families who slip through the cracks.

www.unitedway.denver.org

Denver Preschool Program

The **Denver Preschool Program (DPP)** is the result of a voter approved initiative to maximize access to and participation in quality preschool programs. It is accessible to all children living in the City and County of Denver who are in their last year of preschool before entering kindergarten. The program is also focused on promoting and supporting quality improvement in all local preschool programs. DPP is funded by a 0.12% sales tax and provides a tuition credit ranging from \$34 to \$1,000 per child per month based on family income, family size and the quality of the preschool the child attends. HOPE Center currently has over 60 Children participating in DPP.

<http://www.dpp.org>

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program & Temporary Aid to Needy Families

The Denver Department of Human Services provides child care assistance for families meeting certain income and employment/training qualifications through the Colorado Child care Assistance (CCCAP) and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). The programs are funded by a mixture of federal CCDBG, state and county dollars as well as through parent fees. CCCAP and TANF are administered by county departments of social services through contracts with providers or certificates to parents. Parents can select any legally operating child care provider and pay a parental fee based on a sliding scale. On any given day, approximately 10% of the 220 children served by HOPE Center are receiving CCCAP or TANF.

www.cdhs.state.co.us/childcare/CCCAP HOME.htm

Denver Options

Denver Options' services span a lifetime, beginning with early intervention to help every child with a delay or disability, receive critical care. They tailor resources and services to adults who have intellectual disabilities to help each individual reach their full potential. Denver Options works closely with families to connect them to resources, education opportunities & support groups.

www.denveroptions.org

Colorado Preschool Program

The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) is funded through the Colorado Public School Finance Formula and administered by the Colorado Department of Education in participating with local school districts. School districts in turn collaborate with public and private early childhood education agencies located within the district. In the 2011-2012 school year, over 20,000 children will receive 10 hours per week of quality early childhood education through CPP. In collaboration with Denver Public Schools, HOPE Center provides CPP for 132 Children..

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp>

HOPE Center would like to acknowledge our Funders for the period of 11/10 thru 6/11:

- Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- John G. Duncan Charitable Trust
- Rose Community Foundation
- ECA Foundation
- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- Riverfront Park Community Foundation
- Thomas Bean Foundation
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Season-to-Share/20 30 Children's Foundation
- Qwest & Family Development Fund
- Nathan B. and Florence R. Burt Foundation



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