



HOPE Highlights

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HOPE CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTED THE FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR!!



HOPE Center held its fifth annual Vintage Vegas night at the Sherman Event Center on March 13, 2010. This year's event was even more glamorous and dazzling this year. Many guests arrived in their most fabulous vintage costumes looking like they stepped right out of the roaring '20s.

Marcia's Costumes, one of the event sponsors, provided the fun costumes. The ladies wore feathers, headbands, pearls and fringe while the gents donned pinstriped suits and classic fedoras. It didn't take much imagination to travel back to Vintage Vegas, complete with roulette and poker tables, and the sound of rolling dice at the craps tables. There were cocktails and a fine buffet provided by Michael's of Denver.

Guests cruised the silent auction items, bidding on a variety of very attractive items, including the artistic creations made by the

of our HOPE Center children. The Hot Lunch Band provided the background music as well as some lively dance music to entertain guests throughout the evening.

Gloria Neal with CBS4 was back to emcee the event this year. Gloria, along with HOPE Center's Executive Director Gerie Grimes, welcomed the guests and gave a special thanks to the sponsors and supporters. Mrs. Colorado, Megan Yarbber was in attendance adding to the glamour of the evening and assisting auctioneer Norm Silver with the live auction.

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 new friends.



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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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

As they say: **SPRING forward!**

For our students and clients, the first nine months of this fiscal year have been very productive and successful. On the other hand, it has also been challenging and has the possibility of being even more challenging in the months to come.

The entire early childhood field has suffered cuts including HOPE Center. These cuts were significant and made it necessary for us to make adjustments to all aspects of our school programs. Despite these challenges, HOPE Center has managed to continue offering high quality services. We remain devoted to being a valued community partner, a good neighbor and committed to providing opportunities for parents, youth, seniors, interns, and volunteers. We have been fortunate to have businesses/organizations volunteer their time and labor such as Concert for Kids, United Parcel Services, United Airlines Mainliners, CSU Denver Extension/4H, the Denver Sheriff's Department, to name a few that have helped us in so many ways.

Even with the present support, the monies available in the Early Childhood Education arena is not enough and threatens our forward momentum. In 2009/2010 we called upon our families and friends to help us out. We set a goal of \$25,000 for a six month period of time and so far, we have obtained \$12,000. While we are immensely appreciative, we have a ways to go to reach our goal. Now, more than ever, we need you, to continue assisting us with identifying others who may give back and if you haven't yet taken the opportunity, now is the time.

Over 5,000 children and adults with disabilities have been served in some capacity by our agency over the past 45 years of doing business. If the past and present recipients of our agency just donated \$25.00 each, we could generate \$125,000. Let's make this goal a reality. HOPE Center has been trying to do our part and will continue seeking funding from grants, special events, annual giving, etc. but we need your help as well. Do you know the largest donor pool is not from businesses/organizations but from us as INDIVIDUALS!

We request a minimum donation of \$25.00; we also ask you to call upon your friends, family and acquaintances to let them know about Hope Center and the work that we do. Please ask them to also make a donation. We truly believe that if you don't ask you will not receive.

It's also possible to make an annual commitment to Hope Center. Just call or make arrangements according to one of the following categories:

I would like to GIVE BACK	Under \$100
I would like to PAVE the WAY	\$100 to \$249
I would like to SUPPORT YOUR ONGOING SUCCESS	\$250 to \$499
I would like to MAKE A PROMISE FOR TOMORROW	\$500 to \$999
I would like to MAKE A DIFFERENCE	\$1000 to \$2499
I would like to INVEST FOR THE FUTURE	\$2500 to \$4999
I would like to be a SHINING STAR	\$5000 to \$ 9,999
I would like to KEEP HOPE ALIVE	\$10,000 or More

Spotlight:

March 13th Fundraiser



March 13th Fundraiser

Spotlight:



Many Abilities, Many Opportunities

The Urban landscape is painted in many rich colors. People from all walks of life congregate in cities making these areas the most diverse places to live. Ethnic differences, varying education levels, and people of different sexual orientations, faith backgrounds and abilities make cities vibrant and interesting. But not all people in urban areas have the resources they need to get by. Many don't have equal access to certain essential services - such as education - required to lead a high quality of life.

HOPE Center is affecting that trend by ensuring that inner-city children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as gifted and talented children, get access to high-quality educational resources. That is why the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado supports HOPE Center.

The Gay and Lesbian Fund's mission is to create a Colorado where every person is treated equally and with respect. This is in alignment with HOPE Center. It serves many individuals and families who are living at or below federal poverty guidelines and lack the means to get the same services as those who are more financially stable. By serving these vulnerable populations, HOPE Center is doing its part to ensure that every Coloradan is treated equally and with respect.

The Gay and Lesbian Fund applauds HOPE Center's initiatives to make diversity and inclusion a top priority. In addition to meeting the needs of developmentally

disabled/delayed people and providing preschool, kindergarten and summer camp programming for Gifted children, HOPE Center operates on a philosophy of equality.

More than simply matching developmentally disabled adults with jobs, or placing kids in day programs that keep them busy, HOPE Center is passionately committed to finding opportunities that help these individuals shine and leverage their inner talents and skills to the maximum.

Hands-down, HOPE Center's successful educational programming has proven that the concept of the controversial "Bell Curve" - which theorizes that people from some ethnic minorities have lower intelligence levels than others - is a bust.

Today, HOPE Center's organizational policies reflect that same standard of inclusion. Its personnel policies are inclusive of sexual orientation and gender expression, and its health insurance program offers benefits to same-sex domestic partners of its employees. These moves are signs of a commitment to total equality and respect for all community members.

As a sponsor of HOPE Center, the Gay and Lesbian Fund is playing a role in ensuring that inner-city residents of all abilities have equal chances at success. In a recent grant award, the Gay and Lesbian Fund agreed to match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2,500 raised in new or increased

donations at the 2010 Vintage Vegas...Million Lights of Hope fundraising event.

If you have already made your contribution, thank you! Your support, together with HOPE Center's work and the Gay and Lesbian Fund's sponsorship, is helping build a better Colorado for all people

By Linda Lidov of Highland PR

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS:

Corporate Sponsors

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Bacardi USA

Card Sharp \$2500 Sponsor Level

**Gay & Lesbian Fund
PCL Construction
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Bieber Family
Foundation
AUM Framing/Gallery**

High "HOPES" \$1500 Sponsor Level

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Vintage Dress

Marcia's Costumes

The Importance of Diversified Revenue Streams in Nonprofit Fundraising

Fundraising is critical to the success of most nonprofit organizations like HOPE Center. Unfortunately, too many nonprofit leaders secure one funding source and then stop. They incorrectly assume that they don't need to seek other revenue. They don't think about the possibility of losing the one funding source or what might happen to their organization if the worst should happen.

Ideally, the funding for any nonprofit should come from lots of different sources and no one source makes up more than about 30% of the overall revenue. I'm talking about fundraising here, not program fees or earned income. If more than half of your funding comes from one grant or event and that grant or event goes away, what then? Which programs or service will get cut? Don't let that happen! Make sure that you have several different sources or streams of donations.

These diversified revenue streams will help you take the loss of a grant or donor in stride without too much trouble.

Consider the example of "Happy

Times Day Center for the Disabled," a fictitious nonprofit that represents countless real nonprofit organizations. Happy Times has been in business 30 years and has received most of its support from a grant from the state it operates in. Unfortunately, the state cut its budget in half last year, and now Happy Times must also cut its budget in half since it has no other source of revenue or fundraising. Had the leaders of the organization had the foresight to establish a fundraising office many years ago while times were still good, there would be a solid source of funding from any number of possibilities like special events, foundation grants, direct mail, giving clubs or other community support. Cutting programs wouldn't be an issue right now.

By Sandy Rees, CFRE

So this is why, HOPE Center is constantly seeking new funding opportunities. While continuing providing high quality services to our children, clients and community. Join us in seeking out new opportunities within our communities.



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 founded 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 68 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](http://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 2009-2010 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 144 children.

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

HOPE Center would like to acknowledge our Funders for the period of 12/09 thru 4/10:

- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
- Rose Community Foundation
- Adolph Coors Foundation
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Thomas W. Bean Foundation
- Hope For Generation/The Denver Foundation
- Post-News Season to Share



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