



Families Plus

Give a child a hand up

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Winter 2020 Newsletter

Success = Kids & Mentors

It all started in the spring of 2019. Ender Browne agreed to try soccer with considerable reluctance. He was assigned to coach Kevin Lorenz.

Lorenz worked with Ender's under-confidence and kept him engaged for the whole season. Noticing that Ender needed transportation, Kevin and his wife Cara offered to pick Ender up and drop him off for each soccer event.

As this worked out, Ender made many friends with the other kids, the coaches and a special kid. It was not by accident that Ender showed up again on Kevin's team roster for fall soccer. Relationships developed and now Ender clearly loves soccer. Kevin and Cara did not have to think long when they were asked to become a mentoring



Cara and Kevin Lorenz with Ender and their son Xacary.

family for Ender. Ender's family was also enthusiastic!

With some screening, training, and background checking, a new mentoring family now performs relationship magic in the life of a young boy. Ender does well in school and has high potential to become a solid productive adult.

Delta County Cares About Kids



The annual Families Plus gift wrapping party was held December 11th at Delta Methodist Church. The Board of Directors provided and served an amazing lunch. Most FP parents and grandparents were present to receive designated gifts purchased by community members through the Giving Tree Program.

Businesses and churches throughout Delta hosted Giving Trees, including: Alpine Bank, Arby's, Blue Sage, Delta United Methodist Church, Delta County Federal Credit Union, First Bank Hotchkiss, Grace Community, KVNF Radio, Kwiki Tires, Lost Mesa Grill, Redeemer Lutheran, Safeway, Zack's BBQ, & Delta County Memorial Hospital.

Thank you to the Families Plus Investors Club

Please support these Delta County business and organization for giving their support to helping children get a hand up



Alpine Bank



**Dependable
Lumber Co.**
Paonia, CO



If you see the Families Plus plaque, please help us warmly thank these businesses for supporting children.

Businesses in the Investor Club donate annually to Families Plus. These donations increase the range of services that Families Plus can provide to children.

Do you run a business or organization that wants to support Delta County youth? Join our Investor Club!

If you want to learn more about how to be a part of the Investors Club contact Tabatha Godoy, Outreach Coordinator, at 619-315-7037 or email at TGodoyFP@gmail.com.

Families Plus is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible.



Feature

Bringing Together Families

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC DRAWS CROWD

Area youth led activities last August at the annual back-to-school picnic, held at the Lyons Pavilion in Confluence Park. Youth passed out school supplies, painted faces, served icy drinks, set up the pavilion, and joined in games. The gathering was well attended by families, mentors, and volunteers.



SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS MAKE AN IMPACT

Access to school supplies may not seem to be of great importance but to families in a time of struggle, that donation ensures their child will not miss out in the classroom. Community support is vital to youth development and we thank the Delta Community for helping us lift up all of our children!

Giving A Hand Up Club, Are You In?



For a few years now, Families Plus has had the 100's Club for individuals who donate at minimum, \$100 annually. We are excited to announce we are renaming the club from the **100's Club** to **A Hand Up Club**! We believe you can't put a number on the impact you have on a child.

We invite other people to join A Hand Up Club

With your donations we are able to help children thrive and help them have the opportunities, resources, and support that every child deserves.

How to Join! Go to our website or call to start giving children a hand up!

We have children in need of mentors

Are you interested in being a mentor? Do you know someone who would make a great mentor? Start building a relationship that will impact both yours and a child's life. To learn how little it takes to be a great mentor and get started contact us at:

970-874-0464 or go to www.familiesplus.net/volunteering-and-mentoring.html

What's Happening

Safeway puts "Us" in Community

When your check-out clerk at the local Safeway store asks during the holidays, "and would you like to help a local needy family?" you may not know just how much that donation will mean to a family at Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Safeway's Delta Manager, Bill Borens, knows very well what that can mean; he's the one who decides who gets the bounty those donations provide. In Delta, that means families served by Families Plus share the proceeds of those donations. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, Safeway was able to donate to Families Plus to the tune of more than 80 complete turkey

dinners, including frozen turkey breasts, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and dinner rolls.

Borens delivered the goods himself and our Parent Partners helped families receive that bounty



Bill Borens of Safeway

to enrich their lives and show them how much the Delta community cares. Families Plus isn't the only recipient of the community's good will.

Safeway also makes sure those who find themselves at the local shelter also get a great meal. Borens is quick to take the credit off of himself, saying it's the community who gives so generously for the food and to our Giving Tree Program. Safeway helped by setting out a tree for Families Plus family donations.

However, it's Borens himself who comes into the store on Thanksgiving to cook up special holiday dinners for Delta Police Department and Sheriff's Department, Delta and Cedaredge EMTs and Fire Department personnel, who find themselves working during the holidays to keep us safe. He laughs and says next year he's going to ask for some volunteer help.

Families Plus kids succeed!

Parents and staff were very pleased with the academic success of most of our youth last school year with semester grades averaging:

13% A Average
46% B Average
31% C Average
6% D Average
4% F Average



Are you a part of a church or community organization looking to learn about what is going on in Delta County? Let us speak to you about Families Plus! We are currently looking for new mentors and would love to talk more about our program at church services and organization meetings.

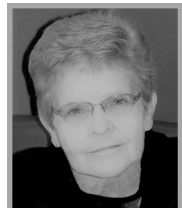
Call us at 970-874-0464

What's New

Families Plus adds talented staff



Annie Holton assumed responsibility for business operations for Families Plus. As a small business owner both in Summit County and Delta County, Annie has mastered the art of accomplishing numerous tasks with accuracy. Even though she works part-time she is easily able to oversee business and use her time flexibly to getting everything done.



Jackie Robirds is lending her decades of experience as a licensed clinical social worker to join with parents in drawing in services for their children and provide counseling. She has worked over the years both Delta County Memorial Hospital and Human Services in both Delta and Montrose Counties. Jackie is an strong supporter of parents leading their own families and getting the respect they deserve as loving parents.



Nina Clouse loves being a Parent Partner. Even though she works limited hours since she also is enrolled in a program to earn a Master's Degree and is raising three young children, she leaves no loose ends in her support of families that she comes alongside of. Her youth and enthusiasm is a spark in the Families Plus community.



Carole A. McKelvey is our newest Parent Partner. Carole states she has joined Families Plus so she can continue contributing to the community and continue her passionate work with families and children. Her years of experience should bring success to her families and the Families Plus mission; Carole works part-time. Carole holds a BA / journalism and an MA/clinical psychology.



Tabatha Godoy is our new Outreach Coordinator. After working directly with youth for ten years, she joins Families Plus' outreach team to promote the wonderful success experienced by families, staff, and volunteers. She is excited to work with such a dedicated team committed to fully improving the lives of youth and families in the community.

Two New Board of Director Members:



Maria Windbigler Forster joined the Families Plus board of directors because "I am most interested in helping programs that have a focus on improving the lives of children." Maria is very invested in helping children have a stable home life to help them with challenges in the future.



Mary Waddinton has been involved for many years with Families Plus and says she "would like to add support for the program." Mary has raised 4 children as a single mother. Mary has Colorado sales business license.

The Families Plus therapists are now offering counseling services for the community

Call us at 970-874-0464 to book an appointment
or visit our website and click on Momentum Health Plus





Families Plus

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To everyone that has given so generously,
the Families Plus team appreciates your time,
talents, gifts, and financial support. Thank you!

**OUR FAMILIES,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
AND STAFF**

***Checkout our revamped website!
www.familiesplus.net***

- ⇒ Learn more about our programs
- ⇒ Stay up to date on events and news
- ⇒ Learn about volunteer opportunities!

- ⇒ Donate
- ⇒ Follow us on Facebook to learn when and how you can help!

Be strong, you never know who you're inspiring!