



November, 2004

CP of Colorado



In-Touch

"Uniting With Communities and People to Build Opportunities"

From The President and CEO

Welcome to the current installment of CP of Colorado In-Touch. The children are back in school and fall is in the air. In fact, we are back in school too! This summer we opened our sixth (!) Creative Options Center for Early Education at 1345 Macon St. It seems like only yesterday that we had just one center in our community. We are now at full capacity and even have a waiting list. As we prepare for a full autumn, I want to tell you about an exciting summer that included some great special events, an exciting award, and great legislative action.

Each year, CP of Colorado holds five special events (the Great Balls of Fire Billiards Challenge, Mother's Tea, The Exotic Car Show and Concours d'Elegance, the CP of Colorado Golf Classic, and Wine in the Pines) that add a great deal to both our community exposure and our fundraising efforts. This spring and summer, the community supported us in raising over \$125,000 through three special events, providing critical dollars for our programs and services. You can read more about these wonderful events in this issue.

Erin Ellis is a staff member at CP of Colorado. She has also had Cerebral Palsy since birth. This summer, Erin was honored as a recipient of the Hal O'Leary Dedication Award. Erin's story is one of true inspiration.

Our Development office is anticipating some wonderful opportunities. In March, the Colorado State Legislature extended the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit through 2009—and our staff looks to be very busy! We are also creating a new recognition society to honor donors who remember CP of Colorado in their estate plans. Please watch for more news about the Tree of Life Society in future issues of CP of Colorado In-Touch.

Wishing you a bountiful autumn,

Judy Ham

Be sure to visit us on the Web:
www.cpc.org

In-Touch with Special Events

Community Support raises over \$125,000 for CP of Colorado programs

This past spring and summer, Cerebral Palsy of Colorado hosted three of its most popular special events. The Brown Palace Hotel was the site of CP's 3rd Annual Mother's Tea. This luncheon, which celebrates the mothers and other caregivers in our lives, was highlighted by Mistress of Ceremonies Dr. Stephanie Clements of 9News and guest speaker, "Dr. Mom". In addition to a delicious lunch and fun fashion show, several respite packages were given away to very deserving mothers and other caregivers. This event raised over \$22,000 to help support Cerebral Palsy of Colorado's four grassroots parents groups, Parent-2-Parent, Family Voices, EMPOWER, and Faith-In-Action.

In June, the campus of Arapahoe Community College was the site of CP's

21st Annual Exotic Sports Car Show and Concourse d'Elegance. Over 260 cars of all makes graced the lawn on another beautiful Colorado Sunday. This year, Cerebral Palsy of Colorado was joined by the Colorado State Patrol's Child Passenger Safety Team and "Alive At 25" Program in what we hope will be a long partnership. The combined efforts of area sports car clubs, sponsors, contributors, and committee members helped raise \$47,500 for CP's Creative Options Centers for Early Education.

The boys of summer may be beginning to turn grey, but that didn't stop them from having fun at Cerebral Palsy's 8th Annual CP Golf Classic. The Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association brought over 30 of its members to share in excitement of a



Hundreds attended the 2004 Concours Event

competitive tournament at Valley Country Club this past July. This two day event began with a delicious dinner and silent auction before the golfers arrived in earnest the next morning. Over 145 golfers played in the tournament and helped raise over \$56,000 for Cerebral Palsy of Colorado!

A Special Thank You To All Of Our Generous Sponsors!

2004 Mother's Tea Sponsors: AAA Medical, Arbonne International, BrainMatters, Centrad Healthcare, Inc., Chico's - Park Meadows Mall, Gerald H. Phipps General Contractors, Jeppesen, JFK Partners, Kaiser Permanente, KOSI 101, PASCO, Peak Wheelchairs, LLC, Pfizer, PHARMA, Sheridan Ross, Shield Healthcare, Stork's Choice, The Brown Palace Hotel

2004 Concours D' Elegance Sponsors: Academy Park Pediatrics, Alive at 25, Audi Car Club North America Rocky Mountain Chapter, Child Passenger Safety Team Colorado, CNI Contractors, Colorado Medical Systems, Inc., Commerce Bank, Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman P.C., Ferrari Club of America-Rocky Mountain Region, Ferrari of Denver, Iconoclast Motor Group, Jim & Debbie Walters, John Elway Lamborghini, KEZW AM 1430 Radio, Knoll, Inc., Lewis Enterprises, LLC, Mile High Sports Magazine, Morgan of the Rockies, Norris Advisory Services, Phillips and Tober, Inc., Powers Electric & Telephone, Prestige Imports, Rocky Mountain Region Porche Club of America, Sill-TerHar Motors, Inc., Sprinkle and Associates, LLC, Stephen & Peggy Nichalson and Family, Stevinson Imports Jaguar/Porsche, Storz Garage

2004 CP Golf Classic Sponsors: B & H Consulting, Bank One, Berry Petroleum Co., Coors, Dillon Ridge Liquors, Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Enercom, Inc., FirstBank, FirstBank of the Tech Center, Halliburton, Jim Hudson Chevrolet, Kopycat Printing, Law Offices of Jim French, Love/Cleary, Madison Insurance, Marriott Denver City Center, Mile High Sports Magazine, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Robert Weyand & Friends, Robert Woodruff & Friends, SDA Inc., Shaw Construction, Thompson & Sitz Construction Inc., Thunderbird Company, Thunderbird Development Company, VRG Management Services, Williams Production RMT

You Can Make a Difference!



In the spring of 2004, the Colorado Legislature extended the Child Care Contribution Credit through December 31, 2009. The State of Colorado has chosen to encourage taxpayers to contribute to programs such as Cerebral Palsy of Colorado's Creative Options Centers for Early Education by offering tax incentives to donors.

A gift to Cerebral Palsy of Colorado's Creative Options Centers for Early Education will be used to provide

necessary services for the children in our community. Money donated would help support the developmental and medical screenings that play an integral part in our focus on the needs of the children that we serve. More "at-risk" children will have the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to advance in our community. As gifts to CP of Colorado grow, so does our ability to make a difference in the lives of the children that we serve.

The Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit allows Colorado taxpayers who make a monetary contribution to

promote child care in Colorado to claim an income tax credit of 50 percent of the total contribution. The credit allowed can not exceed \$100,000 per year, and the credit allowed cannot exceed the tax liability for the year. Any excess credits may be carried forward for up to five years. As always, please consult your tax advisor. Cerebral Palsy of Colorado has many uses for the gifts that we receive. Because CP's administrative costs are 10%, more of the money that you give goes directly to the programs. Call Taylor for more information: 303-691-9339, Ext. 20.

In-Touch with People

CP Employee Honored



Erin Ellis

On a beautiful summer evening, friends of CP of Colorado gathered at Coors Field to honor Erin Ellis, the 2004 recipient of the Annual Hal O'Leary Dedication Award. Erin, her family and friends enjoyed a sumptuous dinner on the field as they listened to the amazing stories of the other award winners. Erin, who was

born with cerebral palsy, is truly an outstanding young lady. A 2004 high school graduate, she was a member of the National Honor Society in both her junior and senior years. Erin achieved a 3.84 GPA while earning honors in Who's Who Among American High School Students. Erin is also a tremendous asset to Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, and we are proud to have her as an employee and friend. She has been named Employee of the Month at the Creative Options Center for Early Education and has been named

Community Service Volunteer of the Year by Cerebral Palsy of Colorado for all of her voluntary contributions. At the Hal O'Leary Dinner, Erin was honored for her courage and spirit and as a role model for those who seek to lead extraordinary lives. Erin's resolve is evident in her decision to undergo a painful and complicated surgery, so she can maintain her ability to walk. As Erin stated in her acceptance speech, "I never take life for granted."

In - Touch with Services

Creative Options Makes a Difference

Every day, Creative Options Centers for Early Education make an impact on the lives of hundreds of children in the Denver Metro area. Many times our reward is simply in the smile of a small child. When we receive success stories from parents, it helps us to understand that the work that we do doesn't stop when the children go home for the day.



Our son* was 3 years and 2 months old when he started attending the Creative Options Center for Early Education. He was barely verbal, having a total of three words ("kee" for kitty, "doh" for door, and "ma-ee" for Mommy). He had echolalia, repetitive oddities, could not write or use spoons/forks, had very limited social interaction, could not pretend-play, had no daily living skills such as dressing/toileting and had a strong food texture defensiveness. His diagnosis is high-functioning autism.

Because our young son was placed in an inclusive environment in a regular classroom with typical peers, plus given speech/language therapy, occupational therapy and special education services as well, he made truly amazing progress in many areas. The teachers, therapists, and administrative staff at Creative Options were of such high quality that both he and his younger sister, who is typical and at-

tended class with him, thoroughly thrived. They worked with our boy's learning styles and strengths, connecting them accordingly with curriculum and objectives together in a way that was very smooth. They were sensitive to our goals and concerns as parents, and invited our input frequently. They also gave us many ideas and activities to do at home, which was so valuable! They were patient with him and gently guided his learning through his areas of weakness. We did notice, too, that they treated all of the children with respect and dignity while responding to their individual needs in a way that balanced beautifully.

Now our son is very proficient in his receptive and expressive language, makes excellent eye contact, and is so socially interactive that he is almost a flirt! His fine motor skills have come a very long way, which is reflected in his continuing mastery of the tripod grip using markers, crayons, pencils, and pens. Using eating

utensils and daily living skills are still a struggle for him, but he learned such strong practice skills at the school that we're encouraged for the future. His imaginative ability and pretend play have skyrocketed. The staff at Creative Options also made use of our son's fixation on alphabet letters and numbers, so much that we can confidently say they made a major contribution to his learning to read and do so well with sequencing. He speaks using present and past tenses and shows ever-growing comprehension. The reasons for our son's success, among many factors, include the way the staff made the most of his abilities.

All we can say is, how lucky and grateful we are! Thank you so very much for helping to make our little boy's life better in so many ways. Everything came together so well for him with the learning environment at Creative Options and his wonderful team of professionals.

*Name of child has been omitted.

"Because our young son was placed in an inclusive environment in a regular classroom with typical peers, plus given speech/language therapy, occupational therapy and special education services as well, he made truly amazing progress in many areas."

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Mark Your Calendar



challenges all but the best billiards players. Drawings, prizes, trophies, and a grand prize trip add to an exciting day.

Saturday, May 7th, 2005 4th Annual Cerebral Palsy of Colorado Mother's Tea
Join us in a Celebration of Mothers and other caregivers. Luncheon, Fashion Show and dressy day of relaxing. Check our website for upcoming details on this very special event!

As always, we are happy to tailor a special event corporate packet to meet your needs.

Please contact Sandy Mariani, Special Events Coordinator or Liz Neafus-Stenzel, Corporate Development Director at 303-691-9339 for details.

Please visit our website at www.cpcoco.org for detailed information about each of our special events.



Wednesday, November 17, 2004 Cerebral Palsy of Colorado's Annual Meeting
Please join us at The Doubletree Hotel, 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, CO (I-225 and Iliff) (303) 337-2800
ANNUAL 2004 MEETING
Featured this year are our annual organization update and recognition of valued individuals and organizations. **Reception: 5:30 PM-6:00 PM Program: 6:00 PM-7:30 PM** CP of Colorado Board Meeting to follow the Program.

Friday & Saturday, February 11th & 12th 2005 11th Annual Great Balls of Fire 9-Ball Billiards Challenge.
"Warm Up" Party Friday, 6-8:30 pm **Denver Firefighter's Museum. Tournament Saturday, 11-4 Wynkoop Brewery.** The 11th Annual Great Balls of Fire 9-Ball Billiards Challenge was established to support the Kyle E. Fisher Memorial Fund at Cerebral Palsy of Colorado. The event kicks off on Friday night with a dinner, silent auction, and children's entertainment at the Denver Firefighters Museum. Saturday, with the help of the Colorado Professional Firefighters, Denver Firefighters Local 858 and Wynkoop Brewing Company, the fast paced 9-Ball tournament challenges all but the best billiards players. Drawings, prizes, trophies, and a grand prize trip add to an exciting day.


CP of COLORADO
Uniting Communities and People
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