

A Great Way to Make a Difference for Families

Since the fall of 2005, Parenting Place has been part of a wonderful statewide organization called **Family Resource Centers**. This group is comprised of 24 family centers throughout the state of Colorado that work to “help families help themselves.” There are several centers in the Denver Metro area and many in isolated, rural areas. In some of these areas the local Family Resource Center is the only place that families can receive assistance such as: food; clothing; ESL classes; parenting classes; childcare; playgroups, and counseling.

A mom named Melissa wrote, “Six months ago severe health problems kept me at home and soon my family and I were facing an eviction. I needed to get back to work and didn’t know how I was going to do it. My greatest barrier to a full-time job was affordable day care for my two year-old. In Cortez, there are limited well-paying jobs. We were in trouble. I went to Family Resource Centers to see if we could receive emergency assistance. While there, the family advocates on staff told me there was a job opening with childcare. Today, I have a job I love and am able to do it well knowing my child is in a safe, loving, and rich environment.”

At Parenting Place our mission is to relieve isolation and reduce the stress of parenting by providing outreach and a place where families can receive support, education, and develop a sense of community. We are an open eligibility agency that serves a diverse group of families through our Family Support/Playgroups for parents/caregivers and their children, Latino Family Strengthening program, our Bright Beginnings home-visitation program, Family Connection news publication, Parent’s Directory to Boulder & Broomfield Counties, and a large donation room.

One day during our parent and infant group that meets every Thursday morning at Parenting Place, a mom walked into the room crying. After participating in our group for a few months, Mary sent us a thank you card with the following testimonial. “As a first-time mother, I was exhausted, overwhelmed and an emotional mess. My doctor suggested I go to the parenting support group. I’m sure you remember my first day, I cried in front of the whole group! I was so embarrassed, but rather than ostracize me, other moms said, ‘hang in there,’ I know what it’s like,’ and ‘it will get better.’ That was exactly what I needed to hear. I thought something was wrong with me. I had a beautiful new baby, but I was very unhappy. It was a relief to hear that other moms experienced the same thing. Slowly, our life improved and now my daughter is the light of my life. I don’t go to the parenting groups often these days, but I’ll never forget the strength it gave me. I don’t know what I would’ve done without those few months of support.”

If you can identify with these moms’ sentiments, or simply believe that supporting families and children is a priority for all communities, I do hope that you will consider making a contribution of **\$30 to the “Family Resource Centers Fund” on your state tax form. Your contribution will help provide vital and innovative services to over 70,000 families and children in 40 counties across Colorado.** Fondly, Fran

