

Fall
2011

News for HOPE Center's Families, Friends and Supporters



HOPE Highlights

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*Staff Interviews and Article:
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HOPE Center would like to welcome back an alumni from 1999! Believe it or not Ms. Lilia Macias was her Teacher Assistant and was so surprised when Claudia walked through the doors as an intern. Claudia Ordonez is a student intern assigned from Bruce Randolph School, who attended HOPE Center when she was 3 & 4 years old. She is in her Senior year and is currently in the top 25 of 98 total students graduating in the Class of 2012.

Ms. Ordonez credits her educational success to what she learned in the very beginning to HOPE Center. It reflected in her studies as she went on to attend a Gifted Program at Barrett Elementary. She was ahead in the areas of math, reading, numbers and writing. Currently she is taking courses in A/P Literature, Spanish, Language Arts and Chemistry.

Ms. Ordonez assists in the Knowledge Builders classroom. She likes to read to

the children and says they ask intelligent questions. The students are gifted between 3 & 4 yrs. old and have a high awareness, don't act their age and are very mature.

Upon her graduation Ms. Ordonez plans to attend college and has already toured several campuses here in Colorado. She wants to pursue the possibility of studying to become an ECE teacher or a journalist. Ms. Brenda Natt whom she assists has helped her to develop a good foundation on teaching skills.

Ms. Ordonez believes that HOPE Center is a great preschool where a lot of children of color can receive opportunities. She said, "What you learn in preschool is important and especially the way subjects are presented...any 3 or 4 year old absorbs information at this age".



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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Patsy Stewart * Autumn Willis

Vocational Program Staff

Cindy Hermosillo * 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.



From the Executive Director

Well can you believe it we are a month away from the end of 2011. WOW where did it go!!

So much is going on within our agency, the city, the state and worldwide. We have a new mayor, governor and two council people serving our Districts 8 & 11 and we want to make sure early childhood education and serving adults with disabilities stays on the forefront of their agendas.

Gerie Grimes
Executive Director
HOPE Center

For HOPE Center the upcoming Month of December on the 12th & 13th, we will be receiving our site visit from the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for reaccreditation. We have been accredited by CARF since 1984. Accreditation is a process that demonstrates a provider has met standards for the quality of its services. CARF has standards they have developed and uses as a guide to evaluate how well a provider does. The accreditation process includes interviews with board members, staff, parents, funders, partners and others. Our goal is to receive another 3 year accreditation and, as in the past we will make every effort to be successful!

Finally, another plea to join us in our efforts to raise funds. It is critical that we raise dollars to support our agency to continue to offer high quality services and be a 12-month program. We cannot do this alone. Cuts over the last three years have been considerable and we have had to make major adjustments overall. With this in mind, we need more participation with every individual giving what you can. In past newsletter articles I have shared how we can do it if everyone helps. **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!**

We request you to consider a minimum donation of \$100.00 per year (little over \$8.00 per month) or whatever you are able to do; 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. We appreciate the accolades that have been shared with us but unfortunately that alone will not help us keep our doors open.

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

Don't forget about our "Casino Nite" fundraiser on MARCH 10, 2012! Make your arrangements to attend now.

Spotlight:

Hope Center Turns 50 Years Old



Gerie Grimes
Executive Director
HOPE Center

Hope Center turns 50 years old and is still going strong. Over the next 5 pages we would like to travel back in time and share some of the highlights of the past 50 years that have led to the many successes that have helped numerous families and children.



Hope Center Inc. for disabled kids moves to new site

The Hope Center, a 37-year-old nursing center for the developmentally disabled, moved into new quarters last week. The larger facility included a day-care program, including a 12-hour day-care program for all children ages 3-12.

The new facility is at 5430 Elizabeth St., a renovated former apartment.



Hope Center opens new quarters

HOPE CENTER INC. has moved to its new quarters at 5430 Elizabeth St., where it will provide day-care, day and night care for children with physical and mental disabilities. The new facility is a general and professional education center for children.



It's a tradition

Don Baker, 68, 2874 E. 1st St., serves as the club's link as the president of the Hope Center for the Handicapped. He is a member of the club's board of directors. The club's members are all disabled people and their families. Since the club began, Baker has served more than 1,000 meals at parties here for guests.



Black Ball, 1981, with Mrs. Eugene L. Baker at the opening of a luncheon to honor the club's 50th anniversary. Baker is the club's president and Mrs. Baker is the club's vice president.



HOPE CENTER

Many gifted children in our community are never identified as such. This is particularly true in the lower city where there are so few programs for the gifted and talented. HOPE Center is a program dedicated to identifying, at the earliest possible age, those city children with exceptional abilities and providing a stimulating environment designed to nurture their talents. The future of a community lies in the abilities and opportunities of its children today. HOPE Center seeks to utilize the unique and extensive contributions that our inner city children can have upon the world of tomorrow. It is a belief that is shared by the News, which is why we created and continued a comprehensive advertising campaign to help support this worthwhile and visionary organization.



Season's Greetings



Season's Greetings to the most beautiful people on earth.

"Lifetime" of hope, self-worth

By David Brantley, The Denver Post


HOPE Center, a nonprofit organization that provides educational and enrichment programs for inner-city children, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The organization, founded in 1980, has grown from a small group of volunteers to a well-established institution with a staff of over 100 people and a budget of over \$1 million. HOPE Center's programs include after-school tutoring, arts and crafts, and music. The organization's goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for children who often face challenges at home and in school. HOPE Center's success is a testament to the power of community and the dedication of its staff and volunteers.



GEORGE E. BRANTLEY

"Steward Of Hope"

By Kenneth Gross




Zengo packed with supporters of HOPE

HOPE Center's 10th anniversary celebration was a night to remember. The event, held at the Zengo restaurant, was packed with supporters of the organization. The evening was filled with music, dancing, and a sense of community. HOPE Center's success is a testament to the power of community and the dedication of its staff and volunteers. The organization's programs have made a significant impact on the lives of many inner-city children, providing them with the support and resources they need to succeed. HOPE Center's 10th anniversary is a milestone in the organization's history, and a testament to the power of hope and self-worth.




Spotlight:



CITYSCAPE

Ailing children get free day at Disneyland



Robert Jackson

More than 200 terminally and chronically ill children from Colorado, including 25 from Hope Center on Denver's Northeast side, were treated to an all-expense-paid trip to Disneyland recently.

The Florida-based Sunshine Foundation picked up the tab.

"It was quite a day for them," said George Brantley, executive director at Hope. "The Sunshine Foundation heard about the work we were doing and invited us to participate for the second time." The youngsters were driven to Colorado Springs Airport and were greeted by Air Force cadets, a band, and an honor guard. When they got off the plane in Anaheim, Calif., members of the U.S. Navy greeted them and acted as chaperons. The operation was coordinated by Capt. Ralph Marlin of the Colorado State Patrol's Caring for Special People program, a branch of the foundation. The group left at 6 a.m. and returned at 12:30 a.m. that night. "All the parents had to do was get them here and pick them up," Brantley said.



Some of the 25 terminally and chronically ill children from Denver's Hope Center at Disneyland, thanks to the Sunshine Foundation.

Winans, will be presented by Denver's Starjam Productions. Curtain times: June 1, 7:30 p.m.; June 2, 8 p.m.; June 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Information: 321-9282.

292-3203 . . . Mi Casa's Business Center for Women will hold two free workshops for entrepreneurs looking for capital for start-up businesses. The dates are June 3 and June 10. Information: Deborah or Rosalie, 573-1302. . . The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is sponsoring technical-assistance training seminars June 7 and Aug. 16 at the Holiday Inn, 3200 S. Parker Road. Information: Dottie Bruton, 866-1319. . . The Third Media Access Workshop sponsored by the Colorado Association of Black Journalists will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 10 at KUSA (Channel 9), 500 Speer Blvd. The free workshop is for non-profit community organizations. Registration deadline is June 5. Information: Karla Winfrey, 584-3121 or Tracy Williams, 344-6060, ext. 308. Mayor Wellington Webb will address the Col-

Spotlight:



More toys, 7D
Kids at Hope Center, including (clockwise from top left) Jalen Paris, Lindi Serrano, Cory and the author. The reason they lost include: no parents, no family members, no one to care for them, etc. (more text is cut off)



Spotlight:

Preschool program offers financial lifeline to schools



James Mejia, CEO of the Deaver Preschool Program, works with students at the Boys Center.



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Monthly Business Office

The Office of Economic Development (OED) is pleased to announce the launch of its monthly business office. This program is designed to provide small business owners with a free, confidential, and confidential service. The program is available to all small business owners in the state of Michigan. The program is available to all small business owners in the state of Michigan. The program is available to all small business owners in the state of Michigan.

2011 1831 LIMITED WAS PAID 423 PERCENT OF THE 1831 GOAL
MIDNAY THROUGH ITS FULL CAMPAIGN



2011 1831 LIMITED WAS PAID 423 PERCENT OF THE 1831 GOAL MIDNAY THROUGH ITS FULL CAMPAIGN. The company has achieved a significant milestone in its fundraising efforts, exceeding the goal set for the 1831 campaign. This success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire team.



Spotlight:

Follow the Roadrunner to a Healthier Life 1K/5K Walk/Run-a-Thon held on 9/10/11



Hanna Jung, Early Childhood Consultant at HOPE Center Early Childhood Program

Hanna Jung was initially a HOPE Center social work intern for the school year 2009-2010, and is now an Early Childhood Consultant of the Play Project at HOPE Center. HOPE Center is partnering with the Mental Health Center of Denver's Play Project. She has been here about 4 months.

Ms. Jung received her BA degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver. She is taking training in infant and early childhood mental health as well as nutrition and

physical activities.

Ms. Jung values HOPE Center's personnel, she learns new and different things from them everyday. HOPE Center teachers are great role models for children including herself. She values HOPE Center's families, life experiences and expertise with their own children.

Ms. Jung enjoys her many conversations with parents about how to parent a child, she has facilitated groups to know what works and what doesn't during Parent Focus Groups in parenting.



Eugene Lawson, Work Activities Instructor at HOPE Center Vocational Program

Eugene Lawson has been at HOPE Center for approximately 12 years. Mr. Lawson is a Work Activities Instructor at the Vocational Center. Mr. Lawson enjoys interacting with all of his clients on a daily basis.

Mr. Lawson received an Associates degree in Nursing and has his CNA license in the state of Nevada. Other trainings he has completed include CPR, First Aid and Epilepsy Certification.

Mr. Lawson instructs adults with disabilities on basic job readiness and on personal skills. Other areas which he covers are in health, safety and hygiene. He makes the training flexible by giving the

clients an option of which they would prefer. Transitioning clients from one task to another makes for a smoother and efficient way to keep their skills enhanced. The idea is to make sure the client is always served, while making the entire process fun and enjoyable.

Mr. Lawson feels that our Vocational program provides a safe and positive environment that enhances our community as well as the lives of our Developmentally Disabled adults.



Autumn Willis, Teacher at HOPE Center Early Childhood Program

Autumn Willis is the new pre-k teacher in the Creators classroom. She has been with HOPE Center for a short time, but has already begun to love the children and staff so much! With monthly parent nights and other resources for families Ms. Willis feels that HOPE Center is committed to ensuring a wonderful future for all of us.

Ms. Willis has an Associates degree in Interdisciplinary Studies Education Paraprofessional and is working towards her Bachelors degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Child Development. She stated that educa-

tion is one of the key focuses at HOPE Center and everyone is encouraged to further their own education as well.

Ms. Willis is the first face that our extended care children see each morning. They are all wonderful little people and rarely complain about the early hour. In fact, some are so eager to get in and get to learning that it is almost humorous to see.

Circle time for the Creators class is very interactive and often filled with music and movement. The children love to read and do art projects. Every-

one has been getting to know one another and learning how to live in harmony within the classroom.



50 Years of Committed Service to the Inner City, Give HOPE Center 50,000 Lights of Hope to Celebrate!

HOPE Center has entered its 50th year of service as a community agency based in the Heart of Denver. In existence since 1962 providing quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) for children from all backgrounds and Vocational services to adults with developmental disabilities. Nationally accredited since 1984 and an ECE program with a 4-Star Qualistar rating for over 10 years, the agency's programs have benefited from servicing around 50,000 combined families, community members and individuals in its lifetime. HOPE Center attributes its success to highly skilled staff, teachers with degrees specializing in Early Childhood Education, committed families and extended community partners. One of HOPE Center's Community Partners, Mile High United Way, featured a five year old student from HOPE Center in an article about MHUW's School Readiness Initiative. Another highlight featured HOPE Center in the Denver Post titled "School lays foundation for youngsters". These stories and many others illustrate the reason why HOPE Center has 50,000 Lights of HOPE to celebrate.

HOPE Center's premier ECE program is located at 3400 Elizabeth Street and Vocational program at 3475 Holly Street in Denver, CO. HOPE Center is a non-profit 501(c) 3, whose funding stream depends on gifts and grants from individuals like you. Currently, their ECE program serves over 200 families predominately from lower socio-economic households with over sixty-seven percent in

need of aid for tuition assistance

.The Vocational program specialized for individuals with mental retardation as well as secondary disabilities, which limit social, vocational, communication and transportation abilities provides special training, supervision, social interaction, healthy/nutrition programs, community activities, life skills and non-integrated work activities. Children enrolled in HOPE Center's Early Childhood program graduate well prepared academically and socially receiving an educational head start. The vocational site focuses on helping adults with disabilities maximize their independence skills. HOPE Center is a light of HOPE to its families and surrounding community. If this Light goes out the chances of outreach to an additional 50,000 individuals dwindle also.

HOPE Center's success for another 50 years and ability to impact another 50,000 lives relies on YOU! The demand for high quality early childhood education services and vocational programs are greater than Denver's current ability to supply. HOPE Center is in need of monetary donations designated for tuition scholarships, funding for the purchase of quality resources in the classroom, revenue for building improvements and renovation in efforts to maintain safe and secure learning environments and so much more

In Celebration of its 50th Year, HOPE Center invites all to attend its **7th Annual "Casino Nite" fund raiser Saturday, March 10, 2012**

The Agency's desire is to raise more than \$50,000. You can serve as a Light of HOPE. Your light will shine bright when you make an investment in HOPE Center today. Invest through volunteering, attending a Fundraising Event and/or make a financial contribution. Remember mark your calendars for 3/10/12 and stay tuned for more information!



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" and Quality ECE

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 there 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](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 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 07/11 thru 11/11:

UPS Foundation
Seasons to Share Fund
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Walter & Elizabeth Lipe Charitable Trust
Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation
Food Bank of the Rockies
The Bieber Family Foundation



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