



3010 W. State Street, Ste. 104  
Boise, ID 83703 // 208-345-3344  
www.familyadvocate.org

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- A Year of Accomplishments
- A Guardian's Story
- A Family's Story
- Thank You to Our Donors
- Fiscal Year Financial Recap
- 5 Ways You Can Help

KEEPING  
CHILDREN SAFE  
& FAMILIES  
**STRONG**  
FOR OVER 30 YEARS.



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2009  
2010  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

## An Angel?

*Evan Vonberg, court appointed  
Guardian ad Litem, page 4*

PROVIDING A VOICE FOR CHILDREN – SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES



Nicole Sirak | Executive Director

## Family Advocates

Family Advocates is a non-profit agency dedicated to keeping abused children out of danger and in safe homes, while partnering with parents to build strong families. Family Advocates has two important programs that complement each other – The CASA program and the Families First Program.

### CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates



The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program is committed to the protection and healing of abused and neglected children who have been placed in foster care and referred to us by the courts. CASA appoints a trained volunteer (called a Guardian ad Litem) and a volunteer attorney to the child. It is the volunteer's job to visit the child regularly, research the child's background, and prepare a detailed profile of the child for the courts.

### Families First



The only early education home visiting program in the Treasure Valley. Professionally trained parent educators visit with parents in their homes to increase confidence in parenting skills, connect families to community resources and ultimately prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

Other components of this program include The Idaho Parent Information Resource Center, Please Read to Me and Love and Logic.

### The Idaho Parent Information and Resource Center

A collaboration of five Idaho agencies, with Family Advocates as the lead agency. Each organization, provides parent education services similar to those offered by the Families First Program. This collaboration serves 34 counties in Idaho. Other PIRC sites around the state are located in Coeur d'Alene, Pocatello, Idaho Falls and Caldwell.

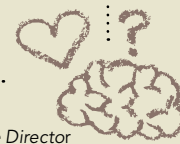


### Please Read to Me

A literacy project to encourage and enhance reading skills by putting age appropriate books into the hands of children served by Family Advocates. Parent educators educate parents on the importance of reading to children and deliver one book a month for each child in the families they visit, to build a "library" for each child.

### Love and Logic

A series of parent education classes that offers practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. The guiding philosophy of the class is that parents must hold their children accountable for their behavior. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes and Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices.



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You don't have to raise a child to raise them up. You just have to raise your hand and say you'll help.

As you read through this annual report, we're excited to introduce you to the hundreds of people who raised their hand last year to help Family Advocates serve children and families who need us. You'll meet Evan, the angel who never hesitates to advocate for children who've been subjected to the most severe abuse and neglect we see. You'll meet Sally, who works with parents and their children to make sure they enter kindergarten ready to learn alongside their peers. You'll also see the names of literally hundreds of people, companies, service groups and volunteers from all walks of life that donate time and treasure to ensure Family Advocates strengthens families and improves the lives of over 1000 children we serve. As you read through these pages I hope these stories inspire further action, engagement, help and commitment. Please contact me at 345-3344 xt 1002 or nicoles@familyadvocate.org so we can discuss ways for you to raise your hand to bring real change to the lives of vulnerable children.



# You don't have to make a hole-in-one to make a difference.



## Family Advocates Golf Classic

**Date:** Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**Time:** 1:00 pm, rain or shine  
**Place:** Plantation Country Club

Dinner reception immediately following play. Teams are \$500; individual green fees are \$125. A wide variety of Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact Nicole Sirak at 345-3344 or nicoles@familyadvocate.org for more details.



# FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

1

## BECOME A PLEDGE TO PROTECT MEMBER

By participating in our Pledge to Protect monthly giving program, our gift of just \$5 or more each month will provide us with a vital source of funds to help us provide a voice in court for children placed in foster care and support families. In addition to aiding our programs, Pledge to Protect members are acknowledged for their extra commitment with special benefits. We hope to recruit 250 people to give \$300/year or \$25/month.

Benefits pledge to protect members enjoy:

- Special reports and inside information on Family Advocates initiatives and invitations to special events;
- Recognition in our annual report, as well as a copy of it;
- Convenient yearly tax statement summarizing your annual giving;
- A chance to make a more substantial gift by pledging a small amount, each month;
- Saves time and money used to process donations, cutting down on administrative costs to Family Advocate Program. Simply put, your contribution goes straight to kids and families.

2

## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

These are meaningful ways to remember loved ones or to honor special occasions and accomplishments – an anniversary or birthday – with a gift to Family Advocates. Upon making a memorial or tribute donation, the family member or loved one will be notified of your contribution.

3

## THE LEGACY SOCIETY

A club for those who have made gifts to Family Advocates through bequests, life income gifts, insurance policies and other estate planning vehicles. Friends who are making legacies to Family Advocates in their estate and financial plans will ensure that our programs continue to enhance the lives of children and families in the years to come.

4

## BEQUESTS

In your Will or provision in your Trust direct a gift to Family Advocates and provides you with an opportunity to create a lasting legacy. Your will or estate plan can designate gifts of cash, real property or retirement plan assets.

5

## INSURANCE POLICIES

If you have a paid-up life insurance policy you no longer need, consider contributing it to Family Advocates. It's as easy as requesting and completing a change of beneficiary form from your life insurance company. Talk to your accountant or financial planner about the considerable tax savings you could earn. Purchasing a new policy and adding Family Advocates as the beneficiary is another possibility.

There are a number of ways that you can support Family Advocates' important work. You may choose to give an annual gift, to make a special one-time gift or to include Family Advocates in your Will or Estate plan. You may wish to honor a friend or colleague or to make a gift in memory of a loved one. Some of your gift choices have tax advantages that will help you meet other personal and financial goals while helping your Treasure Valley neighbors and their children achieve their fullest potential.

## A Year of Accomplishments

With the help of many who gave generously of their time, expertise and financial contributions, Family Advocates can report the following accomplishments for FY 2009-2010.

THE  
CASA  
PROGRAM



616

children placed in foster care were assigned a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate who acted as their voice in court.

98%

of the children assigned a CASA volunteer did not re-experience abuse and were placed in safe, permanent homes.

Increased volunteer recruitment by  
25%

282

CASA volunteers donated 15,000 hours of their time.

Children assigned a CASA volunteer spend  
50% less time in long term foster care.

Statewide, it is estimated the CASA program saves taxpayers  
\$1.5M in court costs and attorney fees.

THE  
FAMILIES  
FIRST  
PROGRAM

To reduce isolation, held 10 Parent Group Meetings with topics ranging from household budgeting, fire safety and trips to area attractions low income families could not afford otherwise.

90%

of parents reported they have more confidence in their parenting skills. 100% would recommend our services to others.

Conducted over

924

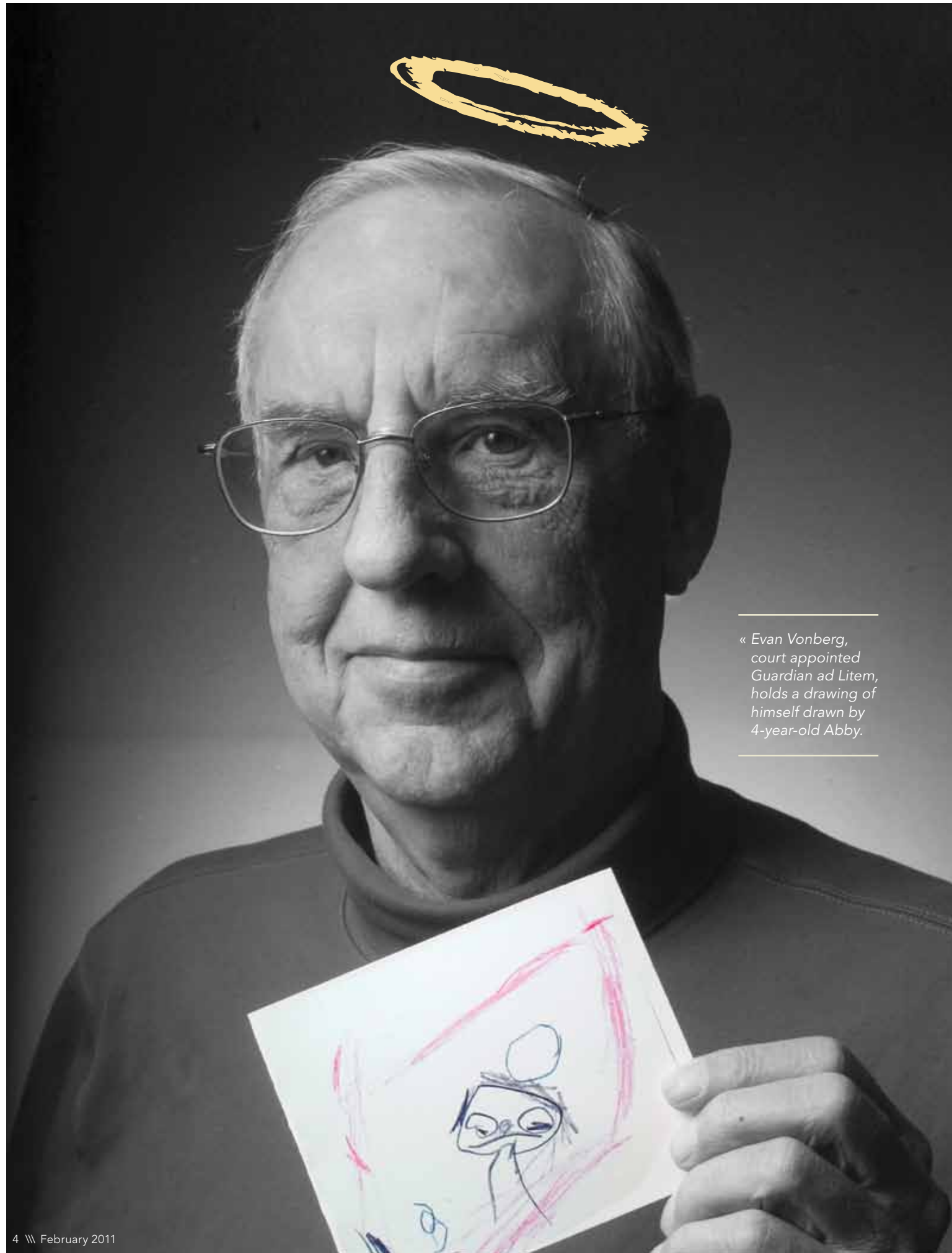
home visits. 85% of the families were "high needs" families facing poverty, single parenting, substance abuse, mental illness and/or failure to graduate high school.

Made over

500

connections to community services that help families meet basic needs.

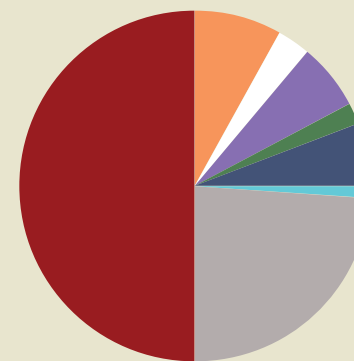




« Evan Vonberg, court appointed Guardian ad Litem, holds a drawing of himself drawn by 4-year-old Abby.

2009  
2010  
FINANCIAL  
REPORT

INCOME



- In-kind contributions 50%
- Federal - indirect 1%
- Local government 2%
- United Way allocation 3%
- Federal - direct 24%
- State 6%
- Private grants & foundations 6%
- Events & other unrestricted income 8%

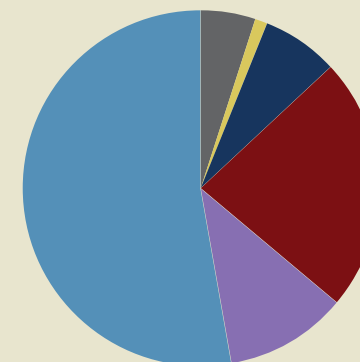
INCOME

Federal - direct	\$417,951	24%
Federal - indirect	\$20,032	1%
State	\$98,837	6%
Local government	\$42,000	2%
Private grants & foundations	\$102,750	6%
United Way allocation	\$48,001	3%
Events & other unrestricted income	\$139,995	8%
In-kind contributions	\$860,452	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,730,018</b>	

EXPENSES

Fundraising/grant writing	\$116,505	7%
Public education	\$24,460	1%
Administration	\$84,194	5%
CASA	\$878,453	53%
Families First	\$176,647	11%
Idaho PIRC	\$387,984	23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,668,243</b>	

EXPENSES



- CASA 53%
- Idaho PIRC 23%
- Public Education 1%
- Families First 11%
- Fundraising/Grant Writing 7%
- Administration 5%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
June 30, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$118,308
Property and Equipment	\$226,819
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$345,127</b>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$36,180
Long-term Liabilities	\$34,601
Net Assets	\$274,346
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$345,127</b>

We completed our annual fiscal audit with all positive feedback from our auditors, Eide Bailly. With great pride, we recorded over \$850,000 of in-kind revenue and donations, which leaves us speechless! Each year we have been able to increase our in-kind contribution amount, and are very thankful to all the generous donors who make this possible. This includes our legal community, volunteer Guardian Ad Litem, and administrative volunteers who donate a generous amount of time to Family Advocates. This incredible amount also includes the Christmas gifts for the families and children we serve, and donated items for our live and silent auctions. Although these are tough economic times, we continue to move forward successfully due to the increased help from our wonderful supporters.

## Thanks to the following Foundations, Corporations and Agencies who continue to invest in us.

### \$20,000+

Ada County Commissioners  
Elmore County Commissioners  
Idaho Council on Domestic Violence & Victim Assistance  
Idaho Supreme Court  
National CASA Association  
The Julius C. Jeker Foundation, Inc  
U.S. Department of Education  
United Way of Treasure Valley

### \$10,000+

Scentsy, Inc

### \$5,000+

Albertsons Boise Open  
Blue Cross of Idaho  
Fourth District Bar Association  
Morningside, LLC  
Premier Insurance  
Schwab Charitable Fund- Office Max  
St Luke's Regional Medical Center  
Trustmark Foundation  
Weyerhaeuser

### \$1,000+

Bank of America Foundation  
Bank of the Cascades  
Boise Cascade, LLC  
Boise Paper Holdings, LLC  
Boise Ranch  
Chigbrow, Ryan and Company Chtd.  
Citigroup Business Services  
Egyptian Theater  
Fred Meyer  
Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley LLP  
Idacorp Employees Community Assistance Fund  
Idaho Community Foundation  
Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation  
Intermountain Gas  
KeyBank  
Les Bois Kiwanis Club  
Pacifsource Health Plans  
ProTeam, Inc.  
Splitting Kings, LLC DBA Knitting Factory Concert House  
The Integra Foundation  
Walter & Leona Dufresne Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wilson Properties, LLC

### \$500+

Boise Rotary Foundation, Inc  
Cadwell Properties LP  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Southwest Airlines  
Target  
Wal-Mart Foundation



## Volunteering for CASA can pierce the thickest skin, and the hardest heart

By Evan Vonberg | Court appointed Guardian ad Litem

As a former security officer, I was a real hard-nose. I took the job seriously and sometimes that rubs people the wrong way. I've been called a lot of names, few of them printable. I've got a thick skin so that's ok.

I'm retired now and have been a CASA volunteer for six years. In that time I've advocated for more than 30 abused or neglected children.

I take this job seriously too. I still get called some choice names. A guardian isn't always popular with parents or case workers. I tell them I can be their best friend or I can be their worst enemy — it's up to them. But their opinions of me don't count.

Once in a while, the people who do count, the children, let me know that I'm on the right track, even if the adults don't agree. Being called an S.O.B. doesn't affect me one bit.

But twice now, a child has told me that I am an angel, and let me tell you, that will melt your heart.

The first time, I was visiting two little girls, two and four years old. I had been Abby's and Candace's guardian ad litem for nearly two years and they were delighted to see me.

They were in a foster home because their mother's boyfriend had picked up Candace — the two-year-old — by the throat with one hand and beat her unconscious with the other. Her skull was cracked and she nearly lost her left eye.

When I took the case I figured she would be afraid of men, but I don't think she remembers what happened. Abby witnessed it all though.

As Candace and I played on the couch, Abby lay on the floor and drew a picture. I watched as she crowned her colorful stick-man with a golden halo.

I said, "You really do a good job drawing...who is this?"

"It's a picture of you!" she said.

Teens are tougher. They don't want to let on that they need anyone's help, and they're moody. They don't trust.

I was Guardian ad Litem for one young man. He was 17 at the time and a talented artist who was about to age out of the child-protection system. The uncertainty of his future weighed on him and he took refuge in his artwork.

He drew portraits of people he found in magazines and people he read about in school books — anything that would stop his mind from fretting about the future or reliving the past.

Ahmed was a Somali refugee. His family came to America after surviving brutal wars in his own country, and refugee camps in Ethiopia. There his grandfather gave his mother and sisters to soldiers in exchange for protection and safe passage. From there they made their way to Kenya, and finally the U.S.

After they settled in Boise, Ahmed's dad decided religious law permitted him to beat the mother to death — in front of the children — for her transgressions in Ethiopia.

The father went to prison. Ahmed's mother survived, but she has a hard time caring for herself now, so Ahmed and his sisters were placed in foster homes. Ahmed was nearly 18 and would be set out on his own at the stroke of midnight on December 31, and he was worried.

He felt nothing for the foster home, but was afraid to leave. He was afraid to be alone and be entirely responsible for himself in just a few weeks.

He asked if I had a photo of myself that he could draw from. When I brought him two, he told me that I was the only one who really cared about him, who wasn't paid to visit him but came because I wanted to. That meant a lot to him.

He asked if he would ever see me again after he turned 18. I told him that I always left it up to the children if they wanted to stay in

contact with me and that several of them do keep in touch with me.

Choosing from the two photos I brought him, he pointed at one and softly said, "You are an angel."

I was surprised.

"I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I have never been called an angel," I told him.

"Well, you are," he said.

He seemed quite pleased and thanked me for being there for him, now and in the future.

I really had no idea that this young man needed me so much in his life. I will always be humbled by his sincerity.

Candace and Abby are living with their father now and doing well. Ahmed does his best to care for his mother and two sisters, but he struggles to find employment and stay out of trouble.

As for me, I've taken another CASA case.



Drawing of Evan by Ahmed, 18 years old.

# Building strong families, one scribble at a time



By Brad Talbutt | CASA Volunteer Supervisor

Leslie listens attentively to her three-year-old daughter, Carmen, describe the rainbow she has drawn.

“I used all colors, mostly orange. My pony is orange. Casey’s dress is orange, and I like blue,” Carmen says.

Casey, Carmen’s 14-month-old sister, ignores Carmen’s riff on orange completely and concentrates on stuffing every crayon she can grab back into the green and yellow box. Leslie is enthralled though. She’s been a Families First client since Carmen was born, and she’s proud that her girls are hitting their milestones on schedule.

With satisfaction, Leslie points out the series of individual, parallel lines of Casey’s rainbow. “You see how these are separated?” she asks. “Sally says that means she’ll be ready to learn to draw letters soon.”

Because of the deficit, Federal funding that supports programs like this across the nation will likely cease in September. We are turning to the local community to continue this impressive and effective program.



Sally McClure, a Families First Parent Educator, has visited this Boise family every week for three years, bringing a wondrous mix of educational activities for the girls and developmental information for the mother. Like most of us, Leslie didn’t learn about developmental stages from her own family. She left home at 14 after her parents moved to Idaho to live “out in the woods.”

“We just split up,” she says with a shrug.

Leslie says Sally taught her how the brain develops, and explained what milestones to watch for and when. Leslie was especially surprised to learn about a baby’s critical need for bonding and nurturing in the first months. “I’d always been told to let them cry or you’d spoil them,” she said.

At the mention of Sally’s name, Carmen looks up from her drawing. “Is Sally coming over?” she asks excitedly.

The milestones of human development have been charted in detail. Experts in the field know that a healthy nine-month-old toddler in Tangiers, is developing the same skills as nine-month-olds in Tokyo and Twin Falls, give or take a week or two.

The Families First curriculum leverages the power of this knowledge, providing 156 weekly lessons for new parents to practice with their quickly maturing infants and toddlers. That’s one unique lesson every week for a baby’s first three years.

At around 12-months-old, or even earlier, children may have the ability to scribble,

and they will if they’re allowed. Some kids develop this later because many parents try to keep the crayons and markers out of their little hands and off the walls for as long as possible, according to America Carrion, Families First Program Manager.

But given the chance, children’s ability to draw and write increases in a standard sequence. To encourage them, parent educators introduce activities that are repetitive to develop greater strength and flexibility in the fingers.

For example, at 10 months, they give children a toy wrapped in paper. This simple tool stimulates a child’s curiosity while it helps to develop the fine motor-skills needed to write and draw. The evolution progresses from rubbing a pen in a random, continuous “S” scribbling motion, to drawing detailed human figures by the time they’ve turned five.

“Repetition is really needed to refine those movements, so it’s important to just give them different writing tools and just let them go at it,” America says.

“I drew a spider. It’s so scary,” Carmen says as she holds up her paper to display a disjointed black and blue scribble.

Just then, tears fill Leslie’s eyes and spill out onto her cheeks. Concerned by the sudden emotion, Carmen rushes over to comfort her mom. Leslie hugs her tight and explains that she isn’t sad.

“I’m just so grateful for Sally,” Leslie says. “She’s just the most generous person and we are so lucky she’s part of our lives.”

Paul Schmidt  
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Christy Smith  
Derik Smith  
Phyllis Smith  
Rick & Toni Smith  
Darren & Annette Smock  
Smokey Mountain Pizza & Pasta  
Snake River Winery  
Sockeye Grill and Brewery  
Doris Soderstrom  
Matt Somero  
Southwest Airlines Co  
Southwestern Idaho Combined  
Federal Campaign  
Scott Sparks  
Sandy Spasoff  
James & Patricia Spearman  
Knitting Factory Concert House  
Curt Sproat  
Sam Sproat  
Kristie Larsen, Kathy Steinmetz, &  
Cindy Gallegos  
Carla Terry & Roxanne McGuire  
Tammy Myreholt and Patti Cannon  
Patricia Dobson, Ashely Gregory  
& Alisha Pruner  
Jacque Aldridge and Corinne  
Chastain  
Jacque Aldridge, Ashely Gregory,  
Lynn Worthy, and Susan Tepfer

Peggy Standish, Tina Flint, &  
Jan Harrell  
Amber Witt, Brenda Gleeman,  
& Patricia Normand  
St Luke’s Regional Medical Center  
Stag Haircare For Men  
Starlight Herbs  
Mark & Caryn Stastny  
State Appellate Public Defender  
Darlene Stattner  
Norma & Jr Stattner  
Richard & Ruby Stauber  
Tony & Patrice Steenkolk  
Kenny & Dyan Stephens  
John & Jennifer Stevens  
Kristin Stewart  
Pete Stickney  
Sandra Stivison  
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George Taylor  
Monica Tetrauh  
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The Flicks  
The Griddle  
The Integra Foundation  
The Julius C Jeker Foundation Inc  
The Melting Pot  
The Pampered Chef  
The Pantry  
The River Rock Eagle  
The Valley Club  
Therese Patek  
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Ron & Sue Thomas  
Orville & Heidi Thompson  
Shannon & Chuck Thompson  
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Cindy Towner  
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Chris Wade  
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Courtney Waites  
Misty Lynn Wall  
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James & Mistry Wolf  
Lee Wollenhaupt  
Bob Wonderlich  
Lisa Wong  
Matthew & Joni Wood  
Woodland Park Zoo  
Sarah Woodley  
William & Virginia Woolley  
Scott Wright  
Cynthia Yee-Wallace &  
Jeremy Wallace  
Dave Yorita  
Melba Yost  
Michael Youngblood  
Stephanie Youngerman  
Jeff & Tina Youtz  
Ben & Penny Ysursa  
Shirley Zabel  
Colleen Zahn-Dallmann  
Zamzows  
Robin Zimmermann  
Zoo Boise  
Jane Zornik

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Joe Cenarrusa:**  
Pete and Freda Cenarrusa

**In Memory of Allyn Dingel:**  
Guy and Linda Hurlbutt

**In Memory of Beverly G. Haley:**  
Terry and Pamela Myers

**In Memory of Ilene Berenter Nelson:**  
Joe and Harriet Berenter

**In Memory of Michael Reed:**  
Sally Ruscitto

**In Memory of Jane Oppenheimer:**  
Scott Simplot & Maggie Soderberg  
Robert & Donna-Marie Hayes  
Patricia & Ernest Watkins  
Thomas & Alice Hennessey  
Nathan & Nancy Alexander  
Jeremy Malone & Ana Mendiola  
Virginia & WL Wooley  
Willard & Jeanie Swenson  
James & Barbara Stokes  
Lance & Cyndy Salladay  
Amanda Albers  
Andrea Patterson  
Mike & Robbye Clements  
Richard Keim  
Paul & Diane Ingersoll  
Michael Brown & Martha Lunbeck

Derra Kolar  
 Carol Kotaska  
 KPMG LLP  
 Cap Kramis  
 Kody & Kimber Kraus  
 Caroline Krieger  
 Kroger  
 Anne Kunkel  
 Paul Kurtz  
 La De Da  
 Jodi Labrie  
 Ann Lail  
 Emily Lake  
 Rachel Lalley  
 Toni Landers  
 Debbie Langley  
 Matthew Larkin  
 Larry Miller Subaru  
 Carol Larson  
 Jackie Larson  
 Warren & Beth Lassen  
 Joellen & Steven Ledbetter  
 Steven Ledbetter  
 Chung-Li Lee  
 LeMaster Daniels  
 Pam & Jack Lemley  
 Les Bois Kiwanis Club  
 Le-Sorellas Salon  
 Law Enforcement Training Resources  
 Robert Levandusky  
 Lynn Lewis  
 Like-Nu Carwash  
 Lilly Jane's Cupcakes  
 Lisk Gallery  
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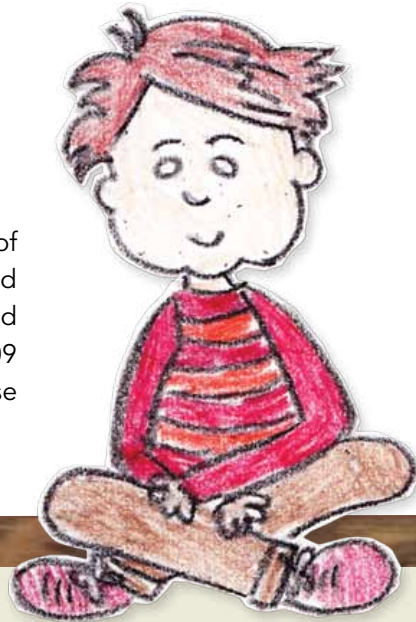
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