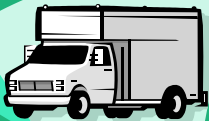


Our Mission

To strengthen vulnerable American Indian children and families through collaborative and culturally responsive services.

WE'RE MOVING!



DIFRC is moving to the
Denver Indian Center
July 25, 2011

Our new address will be:
**Denver Indian Family
Resource Center**
4407 Morrison Road
Suite 100
Denver, CO 80219

Please join us at our
OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, August 23, 2011
10:00 AM—2:00 PM

DIFRC is a proud member of
the following:



DIFRC Commemorates 10-Year Anniversary



DIFRC Executive Director John Jewett (center) and members of the Board of Directors look on during DIFRC's 10-Year Family Reunion.



Mile High Singers perform at DIFRC's 10-Year Family Reunion.

On January 27, 2011, the Denver Indian Family Resource Center commemorated a decade of progress in reducing disparities within the child welfare system by hosting a DIFRC “Family Reunion” at the Sheraton West in Lakewood, Colorado. Over 250 people attended the event, including current and former board members, staff, clients and community supporters.

The evening was hosted by Rick Waters with entertainment by the Denver Indian Center Youth Group dancers and the Mile High Singers. Festivities began with a remembrance and honoring for the late Phyllis Bigpond, Susan Yellow Horse-Davis, Lance Allrunner and Farrell Howell, former members of DIFRC staff and board. The evening also included the introduction of new Executive Director John Jewett to the community, a moving family success story and recognition of Lucille Echohawk’s contributions to the organization.

For the past ten years, DIFRC has worked to reduce the numbers of Indian children going into foster care and increase the number of Indian children returning home from foster care. The Family Reunion gave all DIFRC supporters an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made in Colorado Indian Child Welfare during the past decade. A special thank you goes out to all the donors and volunteers that make this work possible!

DIFRC Family Reunion event sponsored by:



Our Operating Principles

- ✦ Hold children and families first.
- ✦ Acknowledge, respect, and support traditional Indian family roles.
- ✦ Include children and caregivers, as well as extended family members, in the decision-making process.
- ✦ Support tribal and spiritual values and practices.
- ✦ Operate with respect for people based on who and where they are.
- ✦ Value inclusiveness at all levels.
- ✦ Provide culturally responsive services.
- ✦ Create and utilize innovative approaches to services.
- ✦ Value community and interdependence and recognize that collaboration is key.
- ✦ Celebrate achievement—large and small—and honor growth from mistakes.
- ✦ Strive for the greater good by fostering “giving back” to the community and leadership development.
- ✦ Strive to share and collaborate with other providers around resources.

Indian Child Welfare

Success Story

A permanency outcome was achieved for a Navajo child after thirteen months of out of home care. In January, the child was reunified with her maternal grandparents through the collaboration of Adams County Department of Human Services, University of Colorado's American Indian Law Clinic, DIFRC, the Navajo Nation, the child's extended family members, and Juvenile Court Judge Straus. The grandparents participated in the following DIFRC services: Intensive Case Management, Fatherhood/Motherhood is Sacred program, a SAFE home study, and Healthy Relationship program. The child will maintain a permanent tie to her family and tribal community through a Relative Adoption hearing scheduled this summer.

2010 Outcomes

December 2010 marked the end of another year of Indian Child Welfare service delivery at DIFRC. Our agency goal is to serve 100 families annually. **Throughout 2010, DIFRC served 89 families and 226 children.**

Of the 116 children whose cases closed during 2010, the following permanency goals were attained:

- 48** children (41%) were preserved in their homes
- 22** children (19%) were placed with relatives
- 36** children (31%) were reunified with parents
- 1** child (1%) was adopted by relatives
- 1** child (1%) experienced a termination of parental rights
- 8** children's families (7%) withdrew from services

Last year, **91%** of the children served and whose cases were closed experienced a **positive permanency outcome.**

Health Advocacy

Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC), Utilities Assistance Program

Energy is a basic necessity of modern life. The heat and electricity we pump through our homes keep us safe, healthy and comfortable. Heat and electricity allow us to cook, bathe, learn, sleep and grow. Without them, we are unable to safely store food, wash our clothes, heat our homes and a dozen other essential daily tasks we take for granted. That is, most of us take them for granted.

Did you know that more than 22 percent of Colorado's households (that's more than one-fifth) are low-income and at times unable to afford energy?

DIFRC is fortunate to partner with Energy Outreach Colorado to assist families who are in need. Last year, we were able to assist 17 families. This year, we have been able to assist 21 families thus far, with over \$8,000 in EOC funding.

To be eligible for EOC assistance, low income families are referred to the LEAP program in their specific county first. Please call Terra Her Many Horses at 303.871.8035 ext. 241 to schedule an appointment or to get more information.



Our V

Generations of
American Indian ch

Nurturing Parenting Skills for Families

DIFRC has offered different versions of the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting curriculum for over 5 years. The current class format focuses on developing nurturing parenting skills in parents and children — while parents are in class learning concrete skills, the school aged children are in a class that echoes the topics their parents are experiencing with age appropriate activities. The class is designed to strengthen families through a focus in five important areas:

- Building self-worth and appropriate expectations through an increased understanding of child development
- Developing increased empathy and a sense of caring in parents and children
- Utilizing positive, non-violent discipline practices and techniques
- Exploring family roles and increasing self awareness and
- Developing personal power in both adults and children.



Culturally relevant activities include traditional storytelling and children's arts & crafts activities. Each week, participants are provided with a nutritious meal and transportation assistance, if needed. Childcare is provided for the very young. Last year, 30 parents/grandparents completed the program. The next class cycle will take place every Tuesday beginning July 26, 2011 from 4:00—6:30 PM at DIC/DIFRC. For more information or to sign up, please contact Lily Boyce at lboyce@difrc.org or 303.871.8035 ext. 229.



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

ision

healthy, strong
children and families.

Strong Fathers/Strong Mothers

The 3rd Annual “Cultural Responses to the Modern World: Healing Our Nations through Culture” workshop took place March 16-17, 2011, at the Daniels Fund in Denver. The two-day workshop was established in 2009 to address the declining presence of cultural and traditional life ways in today's American Indian communities and the effects on families.

Thirty professionals and community members attended the workshop, including representatives from county departments of social services, local fatherhood groups, the Two Spirit Society of Denver, and Administration for Children and Families. A wide range of sessions were presented by DIFRC staff and partner agency staff on topics such as domestic violence, healing, healthy relationships, maintaining cultural ties, observations in fatherhood, and veterans' issues, amongst others.

Positive feedback was received from participants, expressing a desire to learn more about Indian culture, beliefs and practices as well as the struggles Indian children face. Many found the presenters very informative and interesting, and wanted the presentations to be longer. All were in consensus saying that much of the information that was presented was new knowledge. One participant had such an eye-opening experience that he expressed shock and frustration due to how much he did not know. The majority of the participants would like to attend another event similar in nature and would recommend it to co-workers and friends.

The Strong Fathers Program would like to thank all those who contributed to the event to make it a great success! For more information on the Strong Fathers/Strong Mothers Program, contact Thompson Williams at 303.871.8035, ext. 230 or Erlidawn Roy at 303.871.8035 ext. 242.



DREAMCATCHER



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Fax: 720.884.0850
www.difrc.org

Honoring the tradition of strong Indian families.



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