Support from near and far

Mommy Rocks is blessed to have supporters all over the country, even though we only distribute chairs in Colorado. So I thought until a month ago, when we did have a mom from South Dakota in town planning her move to the area.

We met with her, and set her up to receive a rocker and supplies, so when she returns after the birth of her baby these will be waiting for her.

Oh, and then we supplied five rockers to the Rosebud Indian Reservation this fall as well, with help from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

We have stretched out our arms to support those in need, and you have done the same.

This summer, seven year old Maddie, her four year old sister Lexy, and a friend had a lemonade stand to raise funds to support Mommy Rocks! They explained to their customers that the money would go to new mothers and their tiny babies.

They made enough for us to buy another rocking chair!

Just last week we received a box from the Needlework Guild in New York and a box of Lullaby CDs from New Jersey. It is amazing how people from outside of our community want to assure that new moms have a little something extra to go along with their rocking chair.

This fall, we were thrilled to be part of a Tea Party given by Cheryl Brychel. Cheryl wanted to have a Tea Party using a collection of her mother’s beautiful teacups, and planned it for a brilliant fall day. She was gracious to include Mommy Rocks by asking her guests to bring an item to donate to us. With a guest list of over fifty, we were overwhelmed with the generosity of Cheryl and her guests. We were able to share the stories of some of our moms and our mission with them as well.

(See “Support” on page 2)

Maddie, Lexy and friend at their lemonade stand.

Silent Auction and good eats news

By now, many of you know that we decided not to hold the Silent Auction this December. The economy has had an effect on many non-profits, and it is important that we come out ahead in our fundraising efforts. This year we felt that we would not be able to recoup the efforts and monies put into the endeavor. In October we had a book fair at Barnes and Noble Denver West, which was successful.

On Wednesday, December 17th, Chili’s in Lakewood at 88 Wadsworth, will support Mommy Rocks by donating 10% of the sales that our supporters bring in to the restaurant. So gather up your friends, co-workers and family and head to Chili’s, and have lunch or dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Be sure to bring along your coupon flyer (enclosed). It is available on our Web site, www.mommyrocks.org, for more copies.

Advisory Board

Mommy Rocks Advisory Board meets twice a year in January/February and then in July. We review the past and look to the future by planning activities and fundraising for the coming year.

This past July we started working on a Marketing Plan developed by Sara Oletski, that we will be implementing for the next several years. We are looking for volunteers who have fundraising and media experience. For more information on the Advisory Board or volunteering, please call 303-601-8421.
Mommy Rocks is on the move

By Craig Sanders

In September 2008, Mommy Rocks held its first event in Buena Vista.

Support for the project came from everywhere: Sandy Shrawder, owner of the Inn at Buena Vista, made important local contacts and helped secure the Buena Vista Community Center as our distribution point. Many of our volunteers devoted their weekend to transporting, assembling and distributing chairs and supplies. Girl Scout, Elizabeth Champion, and her family came down from Frisco to help distribute chair pads, baby cakes and stationery sets that she made to earn her Gold Award. With so many hands, the work went smoothly. The mothers were grateful for everything Mommy Rocks provided.

Rocker recipients included two sisters, two sets of infant twins, and even two mothers who were actually in labor as they received their chairs!

“We hoped to distribute 25 chairs,” said Deb Sanders, “but we distributed 27. What a wonderful tribute to the hard work of our volunteers.”

Mommy Rocks is evaluating the possibility of holding similar events elsewhere in Colorado. If we do, we will be on the move again!

Painless and fun ways to support us

1. By using Goodsearch.com, a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates one cent to Mommy Rocks every time you shop or search online. Designate Mommy Rocks and help us see the pennies grow: go to www.goodsearch.com.
2. We accept credit cards American Express, Visa, Mastercard and Discover for ease in making donations. Call Deb Sanders at 303-601-8421 or the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, 720-855-0501.
3. Checks to Mommy Rocks should be payable to CNDC FBO Mommy Rocks, and can be sent to our P.O. Box.
4. Donate used vehicles to www.vehiclesforcharity.org, and designate the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center/Mommy Rocks as the recipient of the vehicle.
5. Host a party for Mommy Rocks with proceeds going to purchase a rocking chair or needed supplies, or have guests bring needed items. Call Alicia, 720-339-5657 for ideas in planning this type of event.

Mommy Rocks is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center.

Make donations payable to: CNDC FBO Mommy Rocks.

Mission Statement
To provide first time mothers and their infants a “place” of their own as small as it might be to continue the life long bonding and loving process.

Thank you notes
We occasionally get a written thank you note from a family. We recently received several, and would like to share this one in particular, since it is with your help that we can do what we do, and we share pictures as well!

To all of Mommy Rocks:
Thank you so much for the wonderful items you donated to us. The clothes, books, diapers, a fun CD , a flashlight and the big, comfortable Boppy! But we definitely could not forget to say thank you a million times for the beautiful rocking chair! It has been so much fun being able to rock my baby son Jesse. Not only is it fun... it is relaxing for both of us. You have a great organization, and we appreciate all you have done from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks so much!
Rachel and Jesse.

Support (from page 1)
Mommy Rocks gets calls from all over the country inquiring about our program and no matter who it is, a large agency or an individual who has found us on the internet, they are touched by what we do. Without your support and the support of our volunteers we would not be able to continue. So thanks to all of you who buy books, blankets or diapers, no matter if you are near or far. You are very much appreciated!

A mother-to-be on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in her new rocking chair.