Reflection on ten years  By Deb Sanders, Founder

It’s hard to believe, but over ten years ago the vision on giving away rocking chairs to new moms in need was as clear as a beautiful Colorado day.

Waking up from a sound sleep the plan was set before me to give each mother a rocking chair in which to rock their new child, to make sure that she had a blanket to wrap that baby in and a book to read and music to soothe them both. And of course a flashlight! You ask why the flashlight...so they would have light not matter where they were.

The mission was also clear; to provide first time mothers and their infants a “place” of their own as small as it might be to continue the lifelong bonding and loving process.

Starting out in my basement- chairs, blankets, flashlights were purchased with minimal funds. Our first two rocking chairs were distributed on Mother’s Day 2002. Contacts were made to health care agencies and eventually local hospitals, non-profit groups and agencies serving low resource mothers.

With a few volunteers we delivered rocking chairs and needed items to moms and babies throughout the metro area. We carried chairs up flights of stairs, down long hallways, often to find that the chair we brought was too big, to small, too tall, too low to the ground for the mom! The moms were gracious, understanding and patient, allowing us to make a return trip if needed.

Today, we are blessed to have a sacred roof over our heads so that each family can come in and choose their own rocking chair. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Lakewood opened their doors to us and has helped us celebrate milestones for seven years now. Each family is given special attention by our dedicated volunteers.

It takes a little effort from a few to accomplish a lot! We have about a dozen dedicated local volunteers, however, if your count the people out of state and in states who send donations and those who quilt, crochet, sew and knit from coast to coast, as well as those who sponsor a fundraising event for us, we get the work done together. We are very small in the world of nonprofits and depend on your support.

My hope is that you believe in what Mommy Rocks has accomplished in the last ten years and what we might accomplish in the ten, to come.
Deb Sanders came to the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC) a decade ago with a simple, but powerful concept – provide expectant moms with free rocking chairs to help facilitate the bonding between them and their newborn. It took little to convince us that Deb had a great idea. It made sense to all of us at CNDC that many new mothers could not afford a rocking chair and those of us who were mothers were keenly aware of the bonding that occurs while rocking babies to sleep and calming them by rocking. Of course, we were also impressed with Deb’s commitment and dedication this cause.

Since CNDC accepted Mommy Rocks, six hundred and twelve mothers and children have benefitted from a Mommy Rocks rocker. At CNDC we have been impressed with how adeptly Mommy Rocks is able to leverage cash donations with donations of time and chairs. Their budget has remained small even as they have served more mothers. It is that efficiency that allows Mommy Rocks to keep providing support and services even as other small nonprofits are cutting services in the current economy.

On behalf of all of us at CNDC, congratulations to Deb and Mommy Rocks for 10 years of service to mothers, children and our community. We are all better off because of the work they are doing.

Keep rockin’!

Agency Partnership

Susan Botarelli, RN, Jefferson County Public Health Partners for Healthy Families, Lakewood CO

Mommy Rocks is an amazing community support and resource that benefits the poorest of our clients. When I choose to refer a client to Deb Sanders and Mommy Rocks, it is always for a woman who is having a difficult time pulling together the necessary items to create her nursery.

I love referring my clients to Deb, because the clients always receive so much beyond the rocking chair that they were able to select for themselves. I have had mothers receive infant clothing, maternity clothing, books, toys, layettes; you name it and they have received it through Mommy Rocks.

I am so grateful to have Mommy Rocks in our community. When clients share their experience of selecting their rocking chair, they are so pleased that they were the only one present so they were able to find the chair that fit them the best. One client I referred for a rocking chair told me that the one she picked was constructed of cane. It reminded her of her mother’s furniture in Mexico.

Working with first-time, low-income women often present challenges in physical preparation of the nursery. I always know that the clients I encounter who have the greatest need will receive a beautiful rocking chair, and more than they ever anticipated.

Thank you, Deb et al, for all the love and labor you put to Mommy Rocks. Our clients, and our team, are so grateful! Many thanks!

Jefferson County Public Health nurses support Mommy Rocks with donations of chairs and blankets!
My husband and I have been supporting Mommy Rocks since its early inception. We believe that this wonderful organization is a fantastic outreach to moms that not only need support in their lives financially but to have encouragement as they start their lives with a new baby.

Deb and her volunteers are caring, loving individuals who have truly shown the love of Christ in their actions by coming to help meet the needs of these new moms. We hope that their encouragement touches many more lives in the years to come.

Congrats on your 10th anniversary!

Pam & Sal Costa

I wanted to volunteer for this program the minute I read all about it. The thought of being a part of bringing a mother and baby together in their own special place warmed my heart.

Learning just how much help the mothers really need opened my eyes. An example is a very young mother who came with her parents who had nothing. She was the 600th mom.

I want to be a part of that for many years to come.

Elizabeth Jimenez
Volunteer

As Deb’s husband, I have been involved in Mommy Rocks since the very beginning. During that time I’ve done pretty much everything from putting together and delivering chairs to helping in special events.

I’m constantly impressed by the dedication of all the volunteers and their desire to serve our special mothers and babies. In a world full of earth-shaking events, it is encouraging knowing how much of a difference a simple rocking chair can make!

Thanks to everyone who helps!

Craig Sanders
Volunteer

We recognize and thank volunteer, Ray Schiel, who has been turning “sad” looking chairs into chairs that bring happiness into the homes of our Mommy Rocks families. We affectionately call him the “chair-man” of the board!

Thank You Ray

Our first deliveries!
May 2002
Elizabeth with 2 mo. old son and Katina with 8 mo.
Old Nicole.
Rocking Chair Blessings

Having a rocking chair, to me is a great gift from a mother's heart. Being a first time mom, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be able to have a rocking chair for me and my newborn. But I didn't have to go far to find a kind and thoughtful generous mother who understands the gift of life and how precious it is to have a rocking chair that will comfort a tired mom and a fussy, crying baby.

I enjoyed and treasured every minute rocking in the rocking chair received from Mommy Rocks. It has been three years now and I still have the chair that I sat on with my baby, and that she sat on by herself to rock herself to sleep when she was a year and half old, and still does now. I am blessed with the rocking chair.

Thanks Mommy Rocks, 
Rebecca

Distributing Rocking Chairs
Janna Brown, Volunteer

I love to rock. Anytime I can get in a chair and rock I do!

It is just natural to rock when you hold a baby, whether you are standing or sitting. It is such a soothing movement for a child.

Each meeting is unique. Each mom has a story. Each mom has a smile and a thank you that is so sincere; it melts my heart. It is Saturday mornings like these when I am at Mommy Rocks that makes me feel good about life.

(Note: Janna along with other volunteers, Gerri, Craig and Audrey, distribute rocking chairs twice a month. Spending one on one time with each mother making sure they get the rocking chair that fits them the best and other needed items)

Please accept my donation to Mommy Rocks (All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law)

Donor Name _______________________________________
Address for acknowledgment: _________________________  
________________________________________________________________________
Note:  
Circle one: $15  $25  $35  $45  $55  $105  other $ _________
Make checks payable to:  CNDC FBO Mommy Rocks 
Mail to:  Mommy Rocks  PO Box 261033  Lakewood CO 80226  
To make a credit card donation call 303-601-8421 or e-mail deb@mommyrocks.org and Deb will contact you to obtain credit card information. Be sure and share best time to call and best telephone number to reach you.
NEW: Piñon Pine Level
This level of donors is long overdue and has been added this year to thank all our donors. The Piñon Pine was chosen to represent the vast amount of our donors. The pines grow to a height of 20-50 feet and each cone contains 10-20 large edible seeds. Each time a donation at this level comes into Mommy Rocks it allows us to grow a little more by helping one more mother and child. The seed of the Piñon Pine gives back to whomever or whatever may choose nourishment from them, just like all our donors, giving new mothers and babies in need.

Piñon Pine Level ($10-$39)
Charles & Karen Pavluk
Maureen Kloer
Ronald & Sally Kenny
Michael & Adria Maestas
Susan Hammermeister
Mark & Lyn Voth
Richard & Jean Heiman
Grace Zanski
Arthur E. Fast
Denise Davis
Mary Ann Fairbank
Alicia Oletski
David Harris
Patricia Crocombe
L. Foreman
Jennifer Campbell
C. Gonzales
Cynthia Farkas
Barbara Burgeson
Kristin Libberton
Catherine Hebert
JoAnne Wilson

Cedar Level ($40-$99)
John Pughs & Diane Calkins
Susan Botarelli
Michael & Andrea DePinto
Shawn & Amy McCuaig
Charlene Sandoval
Joan Dawson
Ann Marie Przbyl
C.A. & D.C. Newton
Complete Spectrum
Nadeen Reinecke
Yuchiang Cheng
Meriel Romero
Mil & Bernita Lundquist
Lorena & Marc Zimmer

Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

Maple Level ($100-$499)
Sal & Pam Costa
Craig Sanders
Gwen Piehn
Dee Hayes
Dennis & Marlene Logan
Nicole Bohannan
John & Pam Bilby
Mike & Linda Henry
GFWC/ Southwest Region
Women’s Club

Walnut Level ($500-$999)
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Lakewood
Deb Sanders

Great Oak Level (over $1,000)
Golden Aspen (Corp. Sponsor)

Little Bear Level (Youth who support Mommy Rocks)
Jennifer Schiel
Cody Schiel
Alayna Nelson
Megan Nelson

Drawn to the Mission

When I met Deb in 2004 I was immediately drawn to the mission of Mommy Rocks because of Deb’s passion for the project. As I began to Volunteer and meet the families served by Mommy Rocks and my enthusiasm and care for the project grew enormously and has continued to grow ever since.

I realized how lucky all of the new moms in my family (and all of the new moms I have ever known) were, because they all enjoy baby showers providing everything necessary to welcome their little bundle of joy into the world. Likewise, all of the babies I have been lucky enough to help welcome into the world arrived to the safety and comfort of many things and much space devoted solely to them. To me it’s an amazing thing that Mommy Rocks helps take care of moms and babies who may not enjoy such fruitful baby showers.

In addition to the positive emotional support Mommy Rocks provides by meeting some of the needs of moms and new babies, rocking also serves an important role in the overall development of the babies served by the program. Physical, neurological and psychosocial benefits of rocking babies are well documented, as is the positive impact of reading to babies from a very young age.

I am so impressed that Deb had the vision and energy to create and grow Mommy Rocks. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Mommy Rocks families this past decade, and extremely thankful for our sponsors, donors and other volunteers.

Deb, Kristine and Jeffery shortly after receiving Mommy Rocks 400th rocking chair, and Jeffery in 2012
Upcoming Mommy Rocks Events

Sunday, May 13th...10th Anniversary Celebration Mother’s Day, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Lakewood, 10:30 a.m. service followed by cake in church hall.

May...Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive donations accepted at the Corner Cupboard Tea Room. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

July... Flashlight and battery Drive donations accepted at the Corner Cupboard Tea Room. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Saturday, September 1st... Wine Tasting at Spero Winery, Denver. Wine tasting and wonderful Italian buffet. Reservations must be made in advance-limited seating $45.00 per person. $15.00 per person benefits Mommy Rocks.

October... Children’s New Books Drive (newborn to pre-school aged, board books and story books parents can read to child) donations accepted at the Corner Cupboard Tea Room.

December... Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive donations accepted at the Corner Cupboard Tea room. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Corner Cupboard Tea Room
2099 Wadsworth Blvd Unit B Lakewood CO 80214
303-888-7848 www.cornercupboardtearoom.com

Many of you know that I started a new venture in November 2011. My desire was to have a place where I would enjoy spending a new chapter in my life and also be able to help make a few extra dollars to purchase rocking chairs and needed items for our moms and babies. At the tea room we have been able to sell items that have benefited Mommy Rocks. Some of our customers have made knitted scarves and other gift items donating a portion proceeds to Mommy Rocks.

Our location has easy access to drop by donations of gently used rocking chairs (no gliders please), diapers, books, flashlights and other items. If you have a large donation such as a rocker please call first.

I look forward to you dropping by for tea or lunch. It is a great place to meet friends.

Follow Corner Cupboard Tea Room on Facebook