THE GREATEST GIFT  By Deb Sanders, Founder

I’m not sure if a rocking chair, diapers or a blanket are the greatest gift. Is it the act of giving or receiving or both?

Recently Olivia came to choose a rocker, a proud young mother having her first child. She chose a rocker joyfully and with reservation took diapers for her one month old but she would not allow herself to take additional items leaving them for others that may need them more. Olivia’s gift would be to let others receive what she would not.

It is different for all of us. Sometimes we do not even realize we are giving a gift to another.

Another mom that comes to mind found just the right rocker for her. As a first time older mother she was no wiser than the younger mothers who we see and may have additional support from family. Kaye had little support and was quite nervous.

She was thrilled with everything she received. It was a mini-baby shower just for her. When I asked her if she needed anything else she looked at me a little worried and said “Advice!” Were kind words, my phone number and assurance that someone cares her gift?

When a new mother is referred to Mommy Rocks they know they will receive the gift of a rocking chair, an act of caring enough to give the gift, no matter what it is.

I do not believe the rocker is the greatest gift, or the diapers, books, baby wipes or blankets! To me it is the new mom or mom-to-be, she is the one to decide what the greatest gift. And right at that moment it may be the greatest gift. It is what is needed at that moment in time!

The greatest gift to me is the giving and then receiving the smile, the hug, the knowledge that what has been given to me (for Mommy Rocks) will be passed on to a new mom in need.

Your gift, financially small or large, store bought or handmade, given joyfully is one of my Greatest Gifts.

So I ask, is the act of caring enough to give a gift no matter what it is? The greatest gift is in your heart and the hearts of those who receive it.

This year’s newsletter is dedicated to not only the families we serve but to those who support Mommy Rocks.
Grateful Moments and Thank You’s

Audrey B. thank you for giving of your time this time of year.

Mel J. provided a car seat for a family that needed one to come home from the hospital.

Paul S. allowed his birthday party to be turned into an in-kind baby gift party. Brave and generous of him! And to Pam for the idea!

From Nurse Family Partnership, Tri County Health Department: “Thank you for all that you are doing for our clients. Your organization means so much and is a huge help in mother-child bonding. We appreciate you!”

Billie B. surprises us with gift bags of handmade blankets.

To the unknown persons at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church who leave baby items for us and make donations through the church that help us continue our mission.

“I thought of you and Mommy Rocks today on COLORADO GIVES DAY – and remembered being able to see a young couple choose a rocking chair through Mommy Rocks. That was so awesome! Thanks For all you do for so many mothers & families!” Thanks for the kind words, Bonnie!

Books...we love books for our moms to read to their babies! Thank you GFWC Southwest Region Women’s Club for your generous donations.

From Karen M, with the Women’s Life Insurance Society, “I really enjoyed learning more about Mommy Rocks today. The personal story illustrated the importance of your organization and the difference a rocker can make!”

For the quilts you make, Marcia A., your knitting group, Marilyn H., and the Clements Community Center sewing group, we thank you!

Gerri & Ray who give so much time to sewing and repairing rocking chairs in need of a little TLC.
Mommy Rocks 2014 Donors

Piñon Pine Level ($10-$39)
Bonnie Liu
Ronald & Sally Kenny
Sara Dawson
GoodShop
Karen McDermott
Melba Johnston
Nadeen Reinecke

Cedar Level ($40-$99)
Ebert & MaryLou Arellano
Mil & Bernita Lundquist
Dr. Charles Pavluk M.D. & Karen Pavluk
Beverly Breda
Marianne Fairbank
Charlotte Shepic
Ann Marie Nelson
Gerri Schiel
Jennifer Braun
Shereen Abusaeedi & Duane Fitz
Judy & Bill Henderson
Billie Brown
Joan Dawson
Linda Brancato & John Keating
Joanne Wilson
Marlene & Dennis Logan
Pam & Ron Scherier
Barbara Burgeson
Minnie Lundberg
Bill & Geri Harris

Maple Level ($100-$499)
Sal & Pam Costa
Craig Sanders
Linda Henry
Alicia & James Tutt
Jennifer Braun
Michel Neal
Holly Rutherford Allen
Norma Tubman
Pamela & Paul Smith
Dr. Patrick Sweeney DDS
Bales State Farm Insurance
Pat Sladek
Penelope & Norm Carvalato
Sue & Chris O’Dell
Maximum Company/Bob Burgee
Southwest Women’s Club-GFWC
Lynn & Mark Voth
Holy Shepard Lutheran, Lakewood
Deb Sanders
Gwen Piehn
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Lakewood

Walnut Level ($500-$999)
Christ on the Mountain, Lakewood

Great Oak Level (over $1,000)

We want to thank these Corporate Donors for their support!
Chef Lana Zimdars, SAVA Catering
Doug & Teri Witt, Beacon Printing

A few words about photos in this issue. All pictures except one are our moms, babies and donors except one! First page, top left is our little Cole Sanders who just turned one in March!

Thank You to our In-Kind Donors that have provided:
Diapers
Baby wipes
Flashlights
Books
Rocking Chairs
Chair Pillows
Handmade:
Blankets
Bibs
Crib Sheets
Burp Pads
And so much more!
These are items that we love to receive, although many are handmade, store-bought are as valued by our families!

2014 Report
33 Families served
693 Families served since 2002

As of the printing of this spring newsletter
29 families served & 722 families to date

SAVE the LIFE OF A CHILD!
Colorado Statewide Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline
1-844-CO-4-KIDS
Sunday, May 10th... *Mother's Day, and 13th Anniversary of Mommy Rocks!* Consider making a donation to Mommy Rocks in your mother’s name!

**Saturday, June 13th**: Mommy Rocks Baby Shower! Hostess: Christy Oletski Bettis  
**Location**: Lakewood  
**Time**: 2 p.m.  
**Text or call Christy @720-318-8147 or Deb @ 303-601-8421**  
Cake and tea will be served. RSVP by June 8th.

**Saturday, July 18th**: Summer Salad and Iced Tea Luncheon $15.00 per person  
**Hostess**: Carla Opp  
**Location**: Arvada  
**RSVP to Deb @ 303-601-8421**  
Guests will have the opportunity to be creative and try their hand with Stamping Up with Lisa Gray. All supplies to make two cards are provided. Join us for a fun afternoon!

**Friday, October 16th**: Wine Tasting and Italian Buffet at Spero Winery in Denver.  
Enjoy the amazing wines and foods from the Spero Family. Reservations must be made in advance $45.00 per person. This is our most popular event and no one leaves unhappy. The atmosphere and friends you meet are **FAVOLOSO**!  
**Time**: 6 p.m.  
**RSVP to Deb @ 303-601-8421**

Remember Mommy Rocks on **COLORADO GIVES DAY**!

If you are interested in hosting an event on behalf of Mommy Rocks let us know

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**Mission Statement**

To provide first time new mothers and their infant a “place” of their own as small as it is be to continue the lifelong bonding and loving process between mother and child.

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**Upcoming Mommy Rocks Events**

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**Support Mommy Rocks**  
Make donations payable to: **CNDC FBO Mommy Rocks** or to make a secure credit card donation call 303-601-8421. All donations are deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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**MOMMY ROCKS**

**PO BOX 261033**  
**LAKEWOOD CO 80226**

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

Donor Name ____________________________________________

Address for acknowledgment: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________

Circle one: $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.

Consider making a minimum of $13.00 gift. $1.00 for each of the years we have been serving moms in our communities!

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**Special thanks to Beacon Printing**

Beacon did a great job redesigning our brochure, which we love! And thanks to family and friends for providing baby pictures for the inside of the brochure!