

## 2009 Annual Report

### Volume 1, Issue 4

#### Upcoming:

#### **February Cabin Fever Days**

Skiing and sledding in Telluride, Swimming in Montrose or Ouray, Touring the coal mine/power plant in Nucla

**Deon: 327-0555 X10**

#### **Red Ball Express**

Purchase tickets by March 8<sup>th</sup> from any Prime Time Teacher

#### **Social-Emotional Training:**

Support Staff: March 3;  
Prime Time staff February 22;  
Infant/Toddler teachers, March 22, 23

#### **Child Find's Free Developmental Screening: April 9**

Wright's Mesa Center  
For ages 0-5 yrs.

327-4336 to make an appointment.

*Newsletter of the Wright Stuff Community Foundation, established 1998*

## **Prime Time and Norwood Preschool selected by UC Denver as Certified Pyramid Plus Site**

Enthusiastic implementation of the Social /Emotional Competencies and S/E Pyramid has led Prime Time Early Learning Center and Norwood Preschool to be selected as Certified Pyramid Plus Sites for Colorado – an privilege they share with only a handful of other organizations in the state. The Jan. 14 Memorandum of Understanding signed with UC Denver outlines the implementation and evaluation standards that will guide staff, teachers, students and families toward nourishing healthy, happy, life-long learning, emotional growth, and relationships.

The PTELC/Norwood PS staff has embraced Social/Emotional methods and measurements as an extension and validation of the standards they had already set for themselves.

"We're so excited to have something that we know works, and have a chance to take it even further," commented Sharon Perry on her return from the Infant & Toddler Educator Training sessions in January. "We can do so much more to support the children's development and make the classrooms even better for them."

**Pyramid Plus**, a statewide collaborative effort to promote the positive social emotional development of all infants and young children and the inclusion of children with disabilities in all early childhood settings. has begun operations at the University of Colorado Denver. Through the pioneering efforts of Johanna Wasser and Virginia Kile, both early childhood education specialists, Prime Time and Norwood School staff have caught the attention of the Pyramid Plus Initiative.

After presenting some of the initial results of using the S/E Pyramid at a conference in Denver, Kristen Parrino said, "It was great being able to give other teachers examples of real-world situations, with

real kids, demonstrating real results. It takes it beyond theory, and we're doing it."

The Social/Emotional Pyramid provides tools and techniques to assist in developing strategies for coping with day-to-day challenges, conflicts, strong emotional responses, and disruptions that can limit learning and readiness. At school, home, and work, these changes in how we act and react bring a productive, positive, and beneficial change all around.

For more information, visit [www.pyramidplus.org](http://www.pyramidplus.org).



## **Foregoing Qualistar**

This year, Prime Time will not be seeking renewal of the Qualistar 3-star rating. The funds (\$4,800) will instead be used to continue staff training opportunities, particularly for Pyramid Plus and Creative Curriculum. Since both of these programs are recognized by the State

of Colorado and professional Early Childhood Education organizations, the staff decided to focus their energies on direct services. Prime Time will, however complete a different external, environmental-based rating in 2010.

## Wright Stuff Foundation's 2009 Annual Report

This year, WSCF board of directors adopted a 3-year strategic plan, developed committees for hands-on work and achieved financial maturity for the organization.

WSCF mission: To serve as a catalyst for youth- focused rural community development for Wright's Mesa and neighboring communities of southwest Colorado.

### Three Year Strategic Planning:

The Board of Directors wrote and adopted a three year strategic improvement plan in June, 2009. View the plan as well as the annual review on our website: [www.wrightstufffoundation.org](http://www.wrightstufffoundation.org).

### Board of Director Committees:

#### Green Committee

- We are implementing a green action plan, including an audit of energy use, food program and cleaning supplies, and staff acuity.
- We replaced all lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs, organic and whole foods are now offered, and we use more environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies.

#### Media Committee

- Using weekly donated space in the Norwood Post, we provided regular updates to the community.
- We published a quarterly newsletter, reaching 500+ members of the community.
- We made the web sites more useful by including postings, highlights and donation receipts.

#### Fundraising Committee

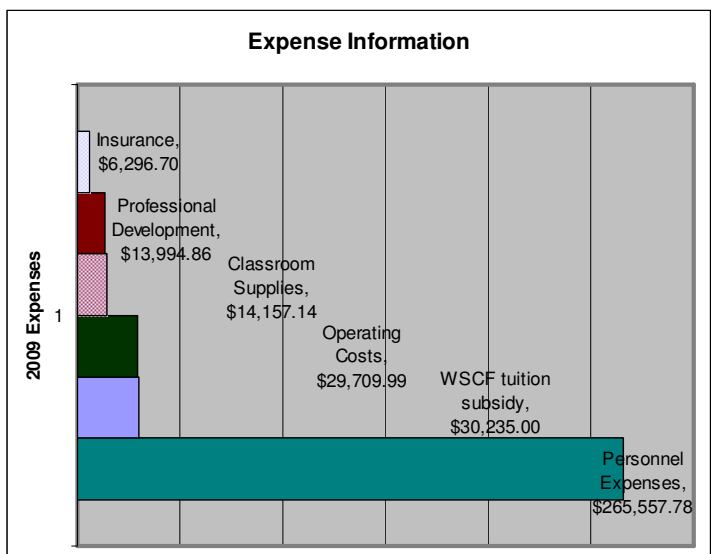
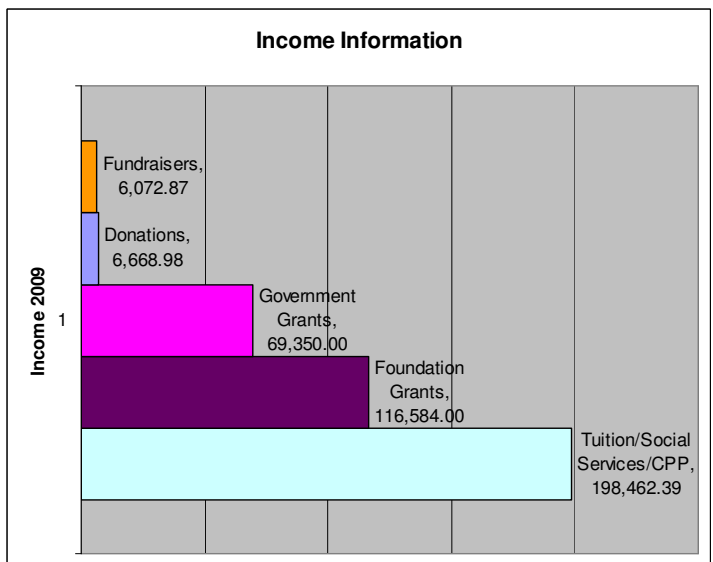
- We held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Block Party on June 13<sup>th</sup>, raising \$3,500 for Wright Stuff programs.
- We raised \$1,400 through our annual appeal to the public to use for the purchase of a mini-bus.
- We added one more board of trustee member, making three trustee's total.

#### Volunteer Committee

- We outlined a classroom support program to utilize parent and community volunteers.

### Financial Maturity:

- Major funders have recognizing the stability of our programs, as well as their value to the community, evidenced by \$185,890 in grant funds received in 2009.
- We saw a consistently healthy ratio between earned income and program expenses.
- With a one-month operating reserve now in place, we have drastically reduced the possibility that a financial crisis could close the center.



## From the Executive Director



*"This was the first year in my tenure with the Wright Stuff that an official evaluation took place."*

This past year was a year of firsts. We were successful in avoiding a financial crisis; Prime Time was selected as an exemplary program for the implementation of the Social/Emotional pyramid; and we reduced enrollment and staff turnover significantly from previous years. Our successes in 2009 are due in large part to the work of the staff and board of directors.

2009 was also the first year in my four years with the Wright Stuff that an official evaluation took place, including the board of director's evaluation of their effectiveness as a governing entity.

Evaluation results are as follows:

The board of directors found our, **Judgment and sensitivity, Knowledge and skills**, to be excellent, while our **Leadership Qualities and Community Relations/Effectiveness** to be of good quality.

Not only did we evaluate our effectiveness as a governing board, we also surveyed past Prime Time and BASE/EXPLORE! Participant's to get a feel for how our programs made a difference in their lives. Respondents ranged from families whose children attended just a few excursions to fairly regularly during a five year span.

Of the 18 returned surveys, 14 people said Prime Time prepared their child for school, and 16 responded favorably to life preparation.

Past Prime Time attendees said they chose Prime Time because of its location (13), hours (8), staff (6), price (6), programs offered (6) quality rating (5), facilities (5) or that their kids had friends there (5).

With evaluation results comes hard work. The Prime Time staff, Wright Stuff board of directors and I are using the evaluation and survey results to make goals in hopes of making our organization the best place for our community's kids and families.

**DOING ALL THE WRIGHT STUFF:** Comments from previous attendee's surveys let us know what we are doing well. Some of the best memories listed included some of the summer camp offerings, particularly the Geology and climbing camps. Parents were excited by kids' enthusiasm on returning from Dolores river trip. Some Prime Time specific comments included: "Sharon, Lea, and Shanda were fantastic" in the toddler room." And "the day (my) son was happy & not crying when dropped off." As read in the Norwood Post's editorials, one previous participant noted, "2009 was by far the best summer ever!"

**ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:** Comments from previously enrolled families will allow program staff and organization administrators to improve the quality of offerings as well as the follow-through on issues as they arise.