



Spring/Summer

*The following story was written by one of Childhaven's past residents. While she was happy to share her experience, she preferred to remain anonymous.*

### My Childhaven Experience

During my childhood I spent a couple of months at Childhaven. This was because I had abusive and neglectful parents. Overall I liked the experience I had at Childhaven. The best part about living there was that it was a safe place. When I lived with my biological parents I was constantly worried about where we were going to live and if we would have enough food to go around. Childhaven gave me the chance to focus on just being a kid. I also learned a lot about what a normal life should be like. Let me further elaborate on this. When a person comes from a family that is abusive and neglectful, that is all they know. I was not used to being treated well. Only after living at Childhaven did I realize that I came from a really abusive family and that my life at home wasn't the greatest. While most of the children that lived there wanted to be reunited with their families, I just wanted to stay at Childhaven. I began to realize that I deserved better.

This was not my feeling when I first arrived at Childhaven, however. I was very angry for a while because I thought that Childhaven had taken me from my parents for no reason. As a younger person I completely misunderstood what had happened. I did not know that my parents' behavior had been abusive and neglectful, so in the beginning I might have been resentful towards a few of the staff members. But, once I realized that they were the "good guys" my attitude towards the facility's staff changed. The staff at Childhaven were nice people and I liked almost everyone.

Living at Childhaven completely changed my views about life. I was well cared for and the experience led to some much needed personal growth. Since my parents never changed their destructive behavior, I was not allowed to go home. I stayed in the foster care system until I aged out. During this time I stayed with a couple of different foster families.

Currently, I am attending college and majoring in Chemistry. Following graduation I would like to go on to pursue a career as a Pharmacist. I will not forget Childhaven, though, because it was there that I began to feel like life wouldn't be so bad anymore.



Former Childhaven resident works on Science Fair Project.

### The \$50,000 Pie Plate

The atmosphere at the Childhaven "Phone for Children" Campaign became electric when a pottery pie plate made and donated by local artist Steve Biernacki sold for \$50,000 during the live auction portion of the event. BP America had previously decided to make the large donation but company representatives Kelly Hart and Curtis Thomas thought that bidding up the pie plate would be more fun than just dropping a check by the shelter. According to Mr. Hart, BP Operations Center Manager, "BP and its employees strongly support providing our children with a future of opportunity. Thus, we have had a long-standing relationship with Childhaven including both financial support and volunteerism. When we became aware of the funding predicament Childhaven was encountering, we wanted to help in a meaningful way. The auction came at an opportune time for us to make a commitment and have a little fun in the process."

Childhaven Executive Director, Erin Hourihan had discussed the budget cuts in a December 2009 Daily Times article written by Elizabeth Piazza. The article stated that "Childhaven was recently designated a "Core Service Agency" by the state, giving the program the responsibility of helping all the children with severe emotional disturbances in San Juan County. However, no additional funding would be provided. The change adds responsibility for about 50 more than the 600 children Childhaven already serves".

The "Phone for Children Campaign" brought in close to \$90,000 to the Childhaven Foundation. The money will be used to help offset the cuts in funding that Childhaven is anticipating. According to Childhaven Board President, Laurie Jordan, "We were very excited about the donation from BP America. We hope it enables us to keep all of the current programs intact."

Childhaven and the Childhaven Foundation wish to express their heartfelt thanks not only to BP America, but to all those who phoned in pledges, donated auction items, bid at the live auction and volunteered for the two day event. We would like to thank our auctioneers, Tommy Bolack and Scott Michlin, American General Media, Clancy's Irish Cantina for feeding us and Hastings Books, Music and Video for providing us with a great location again this year.



The Pie Plate that was sold for \$50,000 to BP America.



## Great Things About Endowments

**#1. Endowments Give:** Every year, each endowment is valued. Once we know the value, we then apply a “payout” percentage to determine how much we are able to use to fulfill the purposes of the endowment.

For example, let’s say the John and Mary Smith Endowment for Operations is worth \$40,000 on January 1st. If we were to apply a 5 percent payout rate, \$2,000 would be available to help meet operational expenses during the year.

Each year the endowment would produce money for “an annual gift.” This is one reason why people like endowments. They like the way this provides annual funding even after they are gone. In other words, these funds can endow, in perpetuity, your regular giving to Childhaven Foundation.

**#2. Endowments Grow:** Our endowment investment policy is designed to not only provide enough cash for an annual payout, but also to help the fund appreciate over time. Our goal is to keep pace with inflation and to make sure that each annual endowment payout retains the same or greater value year after year.

**#3. Endowments Glow:** Creating an endowment with the Childhaven Foundation is like lighting a perennial candle. The light of steady financial support shines from one generation to the next.

But there is another kind of glow our endowments create. This is found on the faces of those children who benefit directly from your endowment. Children will receive care, shelter, safety and hope because of the financial security endowments create.

For more information on establishing an endowment through the Childhaven Foundation, please contact Development Director Jamie Church at (505) 325-5358.

## Tommy Bolack Launches “2010 Club”

Childhaven Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the “**2010 Giving Club**”. Mr. Tommy Bolack generously founded the club with a \$20,000 donation to the Childhaven Foundation. A \$10,000 donation is required to join the club and Mr. Bolack encourages others who are able to get involved as well. The purpose of the “2010 Club” is to provide resources to grow the Childhaven Foundation and support its mission of, “Working to secure the future of Childhaven and the children of our community.”



“2010 Club” Founder Tommy Bolack (left) presenting a check for \$20,000 to Childhaven Executive Director, Erin Hourihan. Also pictured, Foundation Board Member Tedra Liessmann and Foundation Development Director, Jamie Church, (far right).

## Childhaven Foundation Memorial Donations

(November 2009 through April 2010)

Kathryn Grover

In Memory of Russell W. Grover

## Childhaven Foundation Endowments From 2003 to April 2010

### Platinum

(\$75,000 and above)

**BHP Billiton**

**Butch Mathews and M&R Trucking**

### Gold

(\$50,000 to \$74,999)

### Silver

(\$25,000 to \$49,000)

**BP America**

**Performance Auto**

**David & Maxine Pierce**

### Bronze

(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

**Arizona Public Service**

**Bayless Family Trust**

**Burlington Resources**

**Citizens Bank**

**Dial Oil**

**Garcia & Co. Jewelers**

**Wells Fargo Bank**

### Copper

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

**Erin Hourihan**

**Independent Mobility Systems**

**Merrion Oil and Gas**

### Aluminum

(up to \$5,000)

**Aztec Well Service**

**Coca Cola**

**Steve and Lindy Dunn**

**Jeff and Janet Parkes**

**Pinon Family Practice**

**Public Service Company of New Mexico**

**Ziems Ford Corners**

**Jaynes Corporation**

**Kysar Insurance**

## Childhaven Designated Core Service Agency

The New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative has selected 11 Core Service Agencies (CSAs) statewide to serve adult and children with coordinated behavioral health services. The Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative was formed over 5 years ago to help New Mexico transform its behavioral health services and systems to become more client-centered, family-focused, culturally competent, and community-delivered. The focus of the CSA's is to provide a single point of entry for the client/family with intensive behavioral health needs, assuring comprehensive care in coordinating their behavioral health and other social service needs, much like a primary care physician would in physical health care. Individuals and families are encouraged to work as partners in their care, engaging in the design and implementation of their service planning.

Core Service Agencies provide 24/7 access to services, access to psychiatric evaluations and medication management, comprehensive mental health assessments and service planning, through Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS). CSAs provide the individual and family a hub that will be consistent over time, even as individuals may access services in and out of county, coordinating care across providers and agencies. The CSAs should help bridge the gaps and reduce confusion that families may experience when dealing with multiple entities. A wraparound philosophy will be utilized that will focus on the individual's/family's strengths and integrating these along with their natural supports to assist them in fulfilling their individual/family goal or vision. These family team meetings will occur in locations and at times that are convenient for the individual or family.

Childhaven applied to be the children's Core Service Agency in coordination with other San Juan County agencies, including Halvorson House, San Juan College Family Resource Center, Family Crisis Center and Desert View Counseling Services. Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) is the adult Core Service Agency for our area. Referrals to Core Service Agencies began January 1, 2010. In addition to this designation Childhaven has a complementary array of services in place to work with children and families in our area that include: Outpatient therapy and assessments, Children's Shelter, Regular and Treatment Foster Care, Children's Safehouse Forensic Interviews, Court Appointed Special Advocates and Family Support Services.



## CASA Volunteer of the Year

Kitrina Wiza, our 2009 CASA Volunteer of the Year, is one of those people who is always helping other people. If someone in her family, church or community comes to her in need that person is welcomed by a friendly smile. She is not only a good listener, but someone who will get things organized to find a solution.

As a CASA volunteer for the last five years she has seen two children happily adopted but has also spoken up for the children who could not speak for themselves when she has not been in agreement with the permanency decision. In both of those cases she had made the right recommendation.

It is wonderful to watch people grow. In the CASA Pre Service training this CASA volunteer was in the process of finishing her Associates Degree at San Juan College. We have been honored to watch her achieve her goals as she finished her bachelor's degree and now holds a very important position helping people living with mental illness as Community Support Supervisor with Presbyterian Medical Services.

During that same time she and her husband became proud foster and adoptive parents. She has provided a permanent home for three children as well as advocating for a permanent home for her CASA children.

## CASA Volunteers Needed

There is still much work to be done. In spite of recently graduating a class of 17 volunteers, CASA is only able to meet 50 percent of the cases that require attention. In order to continue its services, CASA needs more volunteers to sign up. For more information on the upcoming CASA training courses, please contact Program Director, Amy O'Neill, or Volunteer Supervisor, Jeannie Wright at 325-5358 ext. 142.



*Kitrina Wiza (left) is recognized by Amy O'Neill as the 2009 CASA Volunteer of the Year.*

## CASA Program Director Honored

Amy O'Neill, CASA Program Director, has been selected to be one of the 20 recipients of the 25th Annual Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. *"You are an inspiration to those that have had the good fortune to know you, and you are a credit to your community and the state of New Mexico"*, New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. Congratulations Amy!

## 2009 Childhaven Awards

Friend of Childhaven  
**BP America**

Volunteer of the Year  
**Mel & Joyce Grimm**  
(Kai-Lee, Darla Jean, and  
Andrew Todd, Therapy Dogs)

Board Member of the Year  
**Chuck Beauparlant**

CASA Volunteer of the Year  
**Kitrina Wiza**

Employee of the Year  
**Amy O'Neill, CASA Supervisor**

Oops! In the Spring 2009 Newsletter it was incorrectly stated that the 2008 Friend of Childhaven was Dawn Trucking. Actually the honor was given to Mr. Tommy Bolack. Dawn Trucking owner Jack Nelson was the 2003 Friend of Childhaven.



*Mr. Tommy Bolack is seen here receiving his 2008 Friend of Childhaven plaque.*

## Childhaven Honor and Memorial Gifts

*(November 2009 through April 2010)*

*Ernest L. Stromeyer, D.D.S. M.S. P.C.*  
***In Honor of Bob Stewart***

*Judy Gosling*  
***In Memory of Brian Lucero Hughes***

*Jan Keyes Trust*  
***In Memory of Bradley Nichols Keyes and Parents***

## Thank You

Family Support Services would like to thank the Farmington Civitan Club and Millennium Insurance for each adopting a family and providing for their needs during the holidays. Family Support Services works with children ages five to twenty-one who are having a difficult time coping with severe emotional disturbances. They help families coordinate services in order to develop coping skills and promote rehabilitation and resiliency.

## Childhaven on KSJE

Childhaven is featured the first Friday of every month on KSJE with morning program host, Scott Michlin. Tune in to find out what is happening at Childhaven and with the following programs: CASA, Comprehensive Community Support Services, Foster Care, Shelter, Safehouse Forensic Interviews and Outpatient Therapy. KSJE can be found at 90.9 or you can log on to the podcast at [www.ksje.com](http://www.ksje.com).

