



Mommy Rocks

May 2005

Mommy Rocks is a project of the
Colorado Nonprofit Development

CELEBRATING OUR 3rd YEAR

Join us for our first
Rocking Chair Round-Up
on **Mother's Day, Sunday,**
May 8th. We will be
celebrating our **3rd**
Anniversary by collecting
gently used wooden rocking
chairs and newborn
diapers.

Special thanks to **Mile Hi**
Church of Religious Science
for sponsoring this event.
We will be collecting chairs
and diapers in the parking
lot at **9079 Alameda**
(Alameda and Garrison),
Lakewood from 8 A.M. to
2 P.M.

Rocking Chair Round Up
Mothers Day Sunday May 8,
2005

8 AM- 2 PM

Mile Hi Church - parking lot
Alameda and Garrison –
Lakewood

Mommy Rocks will accept at
this event:
Gently used WOODEN
rocking chairs newborn diapers
and baby wipes

*At this time we are unable to
accept chairs that need extensive
repair or chairs that are fabric
covered – this includes gliders.*

So **round up** that dusty wooden
rocking chair from your garage
or basement that's too good to
toss out and we'll make sure it
goes to a great home!

For more information on
Mommy Rocks go to:
www.mommyrocks.org

If you have questions please
contact us at 303-601-8421



Mommy Rocks
www.mommyrocks.org
PO Box 261033
Lakewood CO 80226

Mommy Rocks – a view from the man behind the scenes.....

It has been four years since Deb, my wonderful wife, founded Mommy Rocks. At first I wasn't quiet sure what to make of it. Give away rocking chairs? I wondered. Couldn't the moms just, well, buy them themselves? And the books and flashlights and baby things – they sell those at the stores, right? It seemed like a lot of work for Deb and her volunteers to go to. But when I started helping make deliveries I began to understandand that's what I wanted to share with you.

We often hear it said, "It's the thought that counts." A cliché, maybe, but when I saw the faces of our mothers I knew how true it really is. Sure, they were grateful for the material things – the chairs and clothes and such – but more than that, they're unfailingly touched by the fact that someone cared about them and their babies. That someone cared enough to donate the chairs, to paint the angels, to crochet the baby clothes, to give their time to try and make their lives a little bit easier, especially those moms who often have so little. And even though our moms never see the

faces of all the volunteers who donated their time and effort, I know they can feel the love and generosity that supports and drives Mommy Rocks. You can hear it in their words, but you can also see it in their faces. I've been there. I know.

Like a quilt of many colors, Mommy Rocks is a patchwork made of the gifts of our volunteers. Some pieces are large and some are small, but all are necessary to make it whole and complete.

As we move into the future, what will *your* piece be? Craig Sanders

Wish List

- Gently used wooden rocking chairs
- Medium size flashlights and batteries
- New children's storybooks
- Baby CD's and cassette tapes
- Digital Camera
- Lightweight Shelving 6-8' table (3)
- Baskets for Silent Auction
- As always your financial support
- Acrylic paints and brushes



Each mother receives a tote bag that contains the following items some are donated and other items are purchased.

- ❖ Storybook to read to their child. Some books are in Spanish to meet the needs of the families we serve.
- ❖ Flashlight and batteries to offer comfort when it is dark and to have in emergencies.
- ❖ Music CD for infants.
- ❖ Layette set for each child
- ❖ Crocheted sweater and hat. This may be the warmest items of clothing they have for their baby.
- ❖ Diapers and baby wipes.
- ❖ Blanket crocheted, quilted or fleece
- ❖ Folder of parenting tips, immunization information and other items for first time parents.

This issue of Mommy Rocks is dedicated to volunteer, Betty Clossen who passed away in March of this year. She will be greatly missed!

Please accept my donation/pledge to support the mothers and children served by Mommy Rocks in 2005

___ \$100.00 ___ \$75.00
 ___ \$50.00 ___ \$25.00
 ___ Other \$_____

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Your entire donation is tax deductible. Mommy Rocks is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center a 501 (c) 3 organization.

I would like to make a pledge to Mommy Rocks in the amount of \$_____. Please contact me in (month) _____, 2005.

Make checks payable to:
 CNDC FBO Mommy Rocks
 Mommy Rocks
 PO Box 260133
 Lakewood, CO 80226

Last May we were honored to be part of Peace Jam where over 400 students gathered at Red Rocks Community College and 40 students painted 17 rocking chairs and made over 20 baby cakes for our moms! All the rocking chairs were donated to young mothers at McClain Community High School in Golden.

To date we have served 180 low-income mothers and babies. We have collaborated with the great nurses and WIC dietitians with Jefferson County and Tri-County Health Departments and other organizations that have referred moms they serve in their communities.

The newest agencies that we have collaborated with are Kaiser Mental Health, Adams County Head Start, Jeffco 1st Steps, Early Childhood Connections, and Arapahoe County Social Services.

Jylle Lardaro with Whole Foods in Cherry Creek surprised us with a wonderful donation of hundreds of dollars worth of diapers and baby wipes that were donated from their suppliers. Each of our rocking chair deliveries now includes diapers and baby wipes. We will find a way to continue including diapers and baby wipes even after our supply from Whole Foods is depleted.

December 2004 we held our 3rd Silent Auction, which was at Christ on the Mountain in Lakewood. We had a visit from Saint Nicholas and many new supporters! It was a great success and we look forward to holding another in December of 2005.

Rocking chairs are a big part of our budget as only one third of the chairs that are given to moms are donated. We purchase two thirds of the chairs that are given to moms as well as many of the items they are given. We thank all the chair donors for recycling their rocking chairs.



Please visit our web site as we'll have more photos as the year progresses. www.mommyrocks.org

Volunteer Highlights

Mommy Rocks could not have grown as we have without our incredible volunteers! We have over 15 **Girl Scout** troops and individual Girl Scouts paint and donate chairs, make blankets, stuffed bears, collect diapers and even help deliver and pickup rocking chairs!

Betty Clossen, mother of Board Member **Sheryl Clossen**, has crocheted and knitted dozens of sweaters, booties and hats so that every baby gets a beautiful set that we can often match to blankets made by **Marcia Allen** and her friends from St Thomas Moore. **Gay Lynn Long** and **Paula Sszalelak** have joined **Paula Kennedy** and **Diane Calkins** in painting angels on many of our rocking chairs.

January was an incredibly busy month delivering over 17 chairs in one month. This could not have been done without the help of **Linda Henry** who delivers chairs to our Spanish-speaking mothers. **Vicki Scott** who delivered her first rocking chair and decided she would do more! **Sheryl Clossen** and **Craig Sanders** who helped get chairs delivered on time. Tri-County Nurse **Cecile St. John** and husband **Paul** who are now regular Mommy Rocks volunteers, making several deliveries in

the past several months! **Geri Schiel** continues to make layette sets for each of the babies, which include a receiving blanket, bib, burp pads, changing pad.

Sara and **Alicia Oletski** have really stepped up and gotten information on the web site as needed.

It seems like we should always mention the wonderful group of men in Jefferson County who are part of the **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** with a group called the **Woodchucks!** They have tightened up loose arms, made and repaired rocker bars for chairs and preformed miracles on some chairs we didn't think could be repaired. Their personal generosity and special touch they give to each chair they repair is very much appreciated.

And if we have forgotten anyone our apologies as your efforts are an important part of what makes Mommy rocks a success!

