

Celebrating the Journey!



*President's Report 2007*

**SILVERTON**  
Family Learning Center

## *Growing into our identity...*



As the result of a fantastic Board retreat in 2006, we entered 2007 with a much stronger identity, a clearer mission and a better idea of how to portray ourselves as an organization to the public. We now have a detailed 'Frequently Asked Questions' document to guide us.

## *A new mission statement*

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The Silverton Family Learning Center's mission is to guide students to reach their creative, intellectual, social and physical potential. We value the imagination and curiosity of children and respect childhood as an integral part of life. Our teachers challenge students to question, to think, to collaborate and to act with integrity. Our school works in partnership with families to teach personal and social responsibility, and to create a community that honors diversity and our common humanity. SFLC inspires students and community members to be lifelong learners with the courage and confidence to make a positive contribution to the world.

# *An work in progress*



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We were graced in 2007 with some incredible teachers. However, we continue to face challenges in retaining our wonderful staff for longterm positions. They have not stayed with us as long as we would like, with an average tenure of only 6 months. The counterpoint to this challenge has been Courtney Roland, who took over as School Director in January, 2008. Courtney will celebrate her 2 year anniversary in 2008, and she has been a solid and talented lead teacher in our Preschool. I feel that her commitment to SFLC and her example as a teacher and employee will help us to attract and retain a team in 2008. Our enrollment has been stable, and with the help of the State Licensing Board, we enter 2008 with some more flexibility to staff and group age groups for the best possible experience and efficiency.

# *A new set of lofty goals*

In 2006, in these same pages, we described ourselves as a child wearing clothes that were too big. Our primary goals for 2007 were to 'grow into our clothes' by:

Develop a plan to increase our staff salaries and benefits, and reward their exceptional performance: Our salaried staff received an average of 10% increases in pay in 2007!

Continue an exemplary method of providing professional development for staff: Our staff received an average of 16 hours of development opportunities

Listen (and listen again!) at every opportunity to each other, to our community, to our funders, to our school parents and most importantly, to the children. We have listened both formally and informally, and developed some better 'soundbites' to promote and represent our organization.

Continue to diversify our funding sources and manage every penny wisely. We added the United Way, improved revenues from our three main fundraisers (yard sale, peony sale and direct mail) and handled increased enrollement in the summer.

## FOR 2008!

Find ways to improve our recruitment and retention of staff in all positions.

Continue to implement the Reggio Emilia philosophy and emergent curriculum in all classrooms at all times.

Support the Director in practical ways to assure that the job description is manageable.

Build our rainy day fund by approximately \$10,000 in 2008!

Consider more community-based learning in 2008.

Assure that all children of eligible age have an opportunity to enroll.

## *Reggio comes of age*

Wow! We know it has been a good year because:

- \* families understand our curriculum & philosophy
- \* documentation is evident throughout school
- \* we offered monthly parent cafes
- \* we produced our first-ever yearbook of learning
- \* we got formal praise from our funders
- \* our audits returned excellent results
- \* and children come running in excited to learn!

## *A solid fiscal foundation*

We ended 2007 with no net loss, having spent the revenues we earned, no more - no less. We received our first United Way grant of \$4,000 this year, and were able to see the impact of these funds on staff development and curriculum. We hold in trust \$1,000 for the Colorado Preschool Program to be spent on future qualified children and school investments. We have \$6,000 in our rainy day fund, which is not quite as much as we would like, but unlike last year, we own all of the funds held there. We raised more than \$3,500 through fundraisers, all of which is in our Capital account to spend as our Board sees fit. We really felt the improvements in our bookkeeping, payroll and fiscal tracking systems as our reports become more detailed and easier to digest. The United Way renewed our grant for 2008! We still have ahead of us the significant challenge to triple the size of our rainy day fund, but cash flow was stable and our fiscal outlook remains sunny.

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