



# Judi's House Newsletter

HOPE AND HEALING FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN :: April 2008



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## Upcoming Events

**Memorial Day Celebration**  
May 17th, 2008

**10A to noon at Judi's House**

For children, families and supporters.  
Please call 720-941-0331 to learn more.

**Book signing and discussion with Ann Hood** author of *Comfort: A Journey through Grief*. **May 20th at 7:30 PM at the Tattered Cover** at 2526 E. Colfax Ave. A percentage of books sold that night will go to Judi's House.

**The Monster Charity Coed Soccer Tournament**

**May 24th and 25th at the Rocky Mountain Sports Center, Northglenn**  
Call 303-254-5425 to register by May 10th. Portion of proceeds will go to Judi's House

**Garden Party at Judi's House**  
June 12, 2008

Call 720-941-0331 Ext 213 to learn more or RSVP.



## The Wilderness of Grief

On the second to last day of his Outward Bound course, Simms set out on the group peak ascent with his sights set on the summit. With his heart full of the dedication that he had made to his deceased father, who died on a mountain when Simms was two, and buoyed by the support of his peers from Judi's House who were each confronting their own losses, he knew he was not alone. He could never have imagined that he would be outdoors doing such a thing when he first started coming to Judi's House in 2002.

"I learned a lot on that first course and especially during the mountain ascent. I learned that it took a lot of will power to get to the top of that mountain. It was hard, but I made it!"

"It is the same with my grief....that it feels hard, but I know with commitment and support I can make it through these feelings."

Simms first started coming to Judi's House in 2002 when he was 12 years old, after his mom saw an article in the paper about the peer based grief support groups offered.

"My dad died when I was two and the effects of that really caught up to me as I got older and saw kids who were doing all kinds of things with their dads. I began to feel alone and as if other kids didn't understand what it was like to be me."

"When I came to Judi's House, I realized I was not the only one. There

were other kids, staff and volunteers who had all lost their dads just like me."



2007 Judi's House Outward Bound group

Since the summer of 2006, Judi's House, through a collaboration with Outward Bound has offered youth the chance to participate in a specialized five-day wilderness program with other youth from Judi's House.

"I have learned that with dedication and hard work, I can confront anything. Today I can push myself farther... I am more self sufficient."

### Research Findings

Our ongoing long term research collaboration with the University of Colorado at Boulder Department of Psychology has begun to yield preliminary findings about the children and families seeking support at Judi's House. These findings indicate:

- \* **76%** of the children are mourning the death of a parent
- \* **40%** have experienced multiple deaths
- \* **70%** of the deaths were sudden or unexpected deaths
- \* **80%** of the caregivers reported annual household income of less than \$48,000



1741 Gaylord St.  
Denver, CO 80206



### *Lively Luca*

The fourth annual fundraising dinner at Luca d'Italia in February exceeded expectations again as **Frank Bonanno** designed and delivered a mouthwatering five-course meal and attendees helped raise more than \$130,000. **Dean Prina**, chair for event, welcomed all those in attendance and **Brian Griese** and auctioneer **Reggie Rivers** made sure that everyone had a chance to laugh, learn about the needs of grieving children, and get in on the live auction bidding.

### *Dodging For Dollars*

This year's Dodgeball Tournament at the Bladium in Stapleton was far out - Raising more than \$20,000! 200 cool cats sharpened their claws in an effort to win this scrap with **Team A.P.E.**, led by **Jay Charness** as the last team standing! Huge thanks to the organizers of this event, **Sara Avery** and **Heather Young** and event sponsors **John and Dawn Matze** and **PFS, llc.**

### *Realtors Roll for Judi's House*

More than 100 supporters from the commercial and industrial real estate industry hit the lanes raising more than \$85,000 in the 3rd Annual **Bowling for Judi's House** event. The event was sponsored this year by **ProLogis, Continuum, Alberta Development and David Hicks Lampert.**

### *Memory Brick Donors*

The brick path that encircles the house continues to fill thanks to the generous contributions of the following donors:

*(Through February 29, 2008)*

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William "Ricky" Atwill, Jr.  
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*If you would like to become a memory brick donor, visit [www.JudisHouse.org](http://www.JudisHouse.org) under "Support Us".*