

STATE OF COLORADO



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

George J. Kennedy, Deputy Executive Director

Division of Child Welfare

Lloyd D. Malone, Director

1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203-1714
Phone 303.866.5932 Fax 303.866.5563
www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Karen L. Beye
Executive Director

June 25, 2009

Kelly Rosati, Senior Director
Sanctity of Human Life
Focus on the Family
8685 Explorer Dr.,
CO Springs, CO 80920

Chris Padbury, Executive Director
Project 1.27
3651 S. Colorado Blvd.
Englewood, CO 80113

Dear Kelly and Chris,

I wanted to take a moment to dash you a quick email to let you know that we've been running our numbers and CO is making headway in achieving permanency for children. Just a few years ago we had approximately 875 children waiting for adoption. State and local government staff felt like we were running in place trying to find families for CO's kids. Several things have happened that have made a significant difference to move that 875 number to a whopping 550 waiting children:

1) Partnerships -

* Focus on the Family's willingness to lead the way in getting the word out with the CO Heart Gallery. Focus has been a consistent partner in showing the Heart Gallery.

* Project 1.27 in recruiting, prepping, training and supporting families willing to adopt from the Child Welfare System

2) Media Attention

* Focus on the Family has purchased radio and television time to make sure that families know about the plight of CO's waiting children.

* Project 1.27 has been so visible in the media in the last three years that families have been drawn to work with their agency.

Pg. 2

Ltr. to Kelly R. and Chris P.

June 25, 2009

3) Wait No More Event

This collaboration has been unprecedented in the history of state and local government during my 25-year tenure. The combination of partnerships (state, local, faith based organizations, private agencies), media recognition (Denver Post - front page, CO Springs Gazette, USA Today article) and speaking opportunities has increased the number of families inquiring and taking ACTION to make a difference in CO's children finding their forever families.

The Department wouldn't have been able to accomplish this alone. Focus and Project 1.27 have played significant roles in our achieving the outcome of 550 waiting children. Our agency looks forward to continue our work together for the "good of the children".

Thank you both for all you do! Please convey our appreciation to your staff and your administration.

Sincerely,

Sharen E. Ford, Ph.D.

Manager, Permanency Services