

Appreciation Dinner

Greeley-Evans District 6

Greeley, CO

Greeley-Evans' District 6 Family Center and the Greeley Family House work closely together to ensure that every student receives the services available to them. Building a relationship with the families and staff helps the Family Center better serve the community. The goal of District 6's Appreciation Dinner was to foster the relationship between district staff and the local shelter.

The Families in Transition (FiT) team coordinated the event with assistance from a staff member at the Family House. Family Center staff served the meal to the shelter staff and families residing in the shelter. District staff members donated all of the food. In the planning stages, the idea came about to give the children gifts since the event was taking place around the holidays. The Family Center collaborated with a private donor for gifts for all the children invited.



Once the Appreciation dinner was planned, the FiT team met with the Family House staff to finalize a date that would work for everyone. Flyers were made and distributed at the shelter and case managers personally invited each family. The day of the event, District 6 staff cooked the meal and prepared gifts for the families to be honored at the Family Center building.

The turnout was amazing and families had a great time coming together as a community with both Family Center and Shelter staff. Along with enjoying dinner, families participated in activities, such as building gingerbread houses. Every child left with gifts for the holidays.

This event encouraged everyone to interact with each other and share conversations that helped build trust and let families know that the Family Center considers serving them a privilege. Families are more likely to remember that positive interaction with the staff and reach out when they need help.

The practice was evaluated by the success in turnout and by the ability for everyone present to interact with each other and begin a new relationship or build on established relationships. The biggest challenge was having only one private donor. In the future having more than one donor would be helpful. The FiT team offers three valuable pieces of advice: "Start planning early, recruit donors, and have fun!"

