

The *Baby* Haven

by Jenna Samelson Browning

Piñon Fine Art delivers the kickoff to Friends of The Haven's new capital campaign.

At Fort Logan, an old U.S. Army post has become a place for new beginnings. Babies are being born healthy and *drug-free*

— and mothers who have battled addiction are getting a fresh start in life.

In 1992, The Haven became the first program in the state to make it possible for infants and toddlers to reside with their mothers while the adults undergo substance abuse treatment, keeping the children out of foster care and maintaining the mutually beneficial bonds between mothers and babies. Many of the 89 women who currently call The Haven home have also faced imprisonment, homelessness, abuse and mental health problems, and lack the educational or vocational skills necessary to function in the workforce. The Haven's intensive programs address all these needs for women, expectant mothers and mothers of young children – with remarkable results.

A 2006 STUDY BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFIRMED THAT A YEAR AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, 95% OF THE HAVEN'S GRADUATES REMAINED DRUG-, ALCOHOL- AND CRIME-FREE, WITH 90% STILL CLEAN TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION.

For years, Kathryn Winn has volunteered at The Baby Haven, where the children spend their day as their mothers participate in rehabilitation activities. Fourteen babies and toddlers now fill the childcare center, a living room in a 19th-century house, and five newborns accompany their mothers to treatment because of lack of space at the center.

The Baby Haven needs a new home

Moved by his wife's dedication to these children, in 2006 Bill Winn founded a 501(c)(3), Friends of The Haven. The organization provides private donations, he says, "to level out the feast and famine" of The Haven's reliance on constantly changing funding streams from various grants and contracts. Friends of the Haven has stepped up to raise money to construct a Baby Haven building at Fort Logan with ample room for 30 children to romp and play.

Winn family friend Betsy Hook, director of Piñon Fine Art in Littleton, also couldn't escape the call to action upon learning about The Haven. She has generously offered her gallery as the artful setting for the kickoff event on May 16 for Friends of The Haven's campaign to raise funds for the new childcare facility. By hosting the fundraiser and donating a percentage of all Piñon Fine Art sales during May, Hook hopes to raise enough money to build a playground for the future Baby Haven. The reception is an all-artist show with libations from neighboring Lido Wine Merchants,

and attendees can mingle with several artists represented at the gallery.

"Through this fundraiser, we want to give back to the community," explains Hook. "The Haven is such a worthwhile program. With foster care, mothers don't have a choice; here, they have a choice."



The Haven Mother's House Mission is to provide a safe and empowering Therapeutic Community for pregnant women and their infant children where women can recover from addictions and co-occurring illnesses; deliver healthy, drug-free infants; and become self-sufficient, confident, and productive members of the community.

Author bio:

Freelance writer and editor Jenna Samelson Browning was managing editor at Westcliffe Publishers and is editor of the Colorado Creative Living series of books. She has also worked as associate editor of 5280: Denver's Mile-High Magazine and Colorado Homes and Lifestyles, and her writing has won several awards from the Denver Woman's Press Club.

EVENT info

What:

Wine-tasting reception to benefit The Baby Haven

When:

Friday, May 16, 6–9 p.m.

Who:

Hosted by Friends of The Haven and Piñon Fine Art

Where:

Piñon Fine Art, 2510 W. Main St., Littleton

Contact:

The event is free and open to the public, and no RSVP is required. For more information about the fundraiser, contact Piñon Fine Art at 303.733.3133 or www.pinonfineart.com. To volunteer for or donate to The Haven, contact Friends of The Haven at www.havenfriends.org, or The Haven at 303.761.7626.



Joseph Orr, Winter Oaks, 20" x 24" Acrylic

Ann Dettmer
David W. Mayer
Joseph Orr

Opening Reception Friday
April 25th, 6 - 9pm.
Artists in Attendance.
Show runs through May 15th.



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