

## Aid helps women ride into future

### WomenGive provides funds for child care

BY SARA B. HANSEN • SARAHANSEN@COLORADOAN.COM • MAY 15, 2009

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Hadley Iacovelli will be able to start nursing school sooner, thanks to a scholarship from WomenGive.

The 32-year-old single mom had been working to complete her degree in equine science at CSU, but due to child-care issues for her nearly 2-year-old daughter, she wasn't able to take more than nine credits at a time. When she got a scholarship to cover child care for Eleanor, she was able to focus on school, took 25 credits and got all A's and one B.

"My (grade point average) is higher than it has ever been, and I owe that to WomenGive," Iacovelli said. "I had time to focus on school."

Iacovelli will receive her diploma from Colorado State University today and plans to pursue her nursing degree at either the University of Wyoming or Regis University in Denver.

WomenGive, a United Way of Larimer County program, provides child-care funding for single parents who want to get their degrees. Nine program participants are graduating this semester, including Iacovelli.

Cindy Richmond of WomenGive said having nine graduates is a big achievement for the program.

"We are just beginning our third year. To see nine graduates this semester is exciting," said Richmond, a charter member and WomenGive co-chairwoman.

Shawnee McPhail, 22, also will graduate from CSU with a degree in English and education.

Before she started receiving help from WomenGive, McPhail was juggling three part-time jobs to pay for child care for her 3-year-old son, Tristan.

With help from WomenGive, she was able to cut back to one part-time job and focus more on her education. She just finished a semester of student teaching at Webber Junior High School.

"Without their help, I would have had to stop school. And I knew going to school was the only way I was going to be a productive member of the community," she said. "I didn't want to be dependent."

Nikki Bronnee, 32, who graduated this spring from Front Range Community College, will continue her education this fall at CSU where she'll study environmental engineering.

Like the others who turn to WomenGive for help, paying for child care for her 4-year-old son, Archer, while attending school was a challenge.

"It's hard to focus," Bronnee said. "Now I know my son is in a good place, and I can focus on school."

For Iacovelli, the help from WomenGive is part of a bigger process that's put her on a new path. When Iacovelli discovered she was pregnant, she was married and running her own equine training business.

After her divorce, she lost the business and decided to go back to school. She'd started her degree several years earlier and needed only about 40 credits to finish her equine science degree and about 20 credits in prerequisites for nursing school.

Once she's working as a nurse, she'll put in three 12-hour shifts and will be able to devote the rest of her time to Eleanor.

"I always thought I'd be a stay-at-home mom. It's been a very hard adjustment, and luckily, WomenGive was there to provide a huge stress reliever," she said.



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Single mom Hadley Iacovelli plays Thursday with her 22-month-old daughter, Eleanor, in their backyard. Iacovelli will graduate from CSU this weekend with a degree in equine science. She received financial help from WomenGive, a United Way program that helps parents pay for child care. (Miranda Grubbs/The Coloradoan)



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Single mother Nikki Bronnee is pictured with her son, Archer, 4, at their apartment Wednesday. Bronnee is graduating from Front Range Community College with a associate's degree and will transfer to CSU this fall. (V. Richard Haro The Coloradoan)

### Want to help?

Send donations to United Way of Larimer County, 424 Pine St., Suite 102, Fort Collins, CO 80524. For information on becoming a member of WomenGive, call Amanda Giacalone, Leadership Giving Director, at (970) 407-7013. For information about applying for scholarships, scholarship application terms and deadlines, call Joy Nyenhuis at (970) 407-7089.