

About Laurie Hillyard



Laurie Kenney Hillyard was born in Denver in 1951, the child of an Rh-negative mother and an A-positive father, blood types that were not a good match. Back then, the study of blood differences and birth defects was just beginning. Living with foster parents and then in a Special Needs home, there was no diagnosis for Laurie other than that she was impaired and not expected to survive. Following the diagnosis of a particular genetic disorder, her family found a wonderful home where she could be better understood and unconditionally loved. Laurie's sister is fond of telling her that she will be the Queen Bee in her next life, where everything that occurs in her life will be blessed and happy.

Laurie's sister, Lynn Champion, is Chairman of the Board of the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. Laurie's journey in life and the loving care she has received have fostered a deep respect among Johnson Foundation family members for the services delivered by nonprofit organizations like Special Kids Special Families and the Zach's Place program. The family foundation has provided ongoing support for SKSF for many years and is a major funder in the acquisition and renovation of this new facility that will welcome many others like Laurie for decades to come.

About the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation



In 1948, Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson started a philanthropic tradition of thoughtful giving that has thrived for nearly seven decades and four generations of Johnson



family members. Through both financial support and strategic guidance, the private family foundation has helped hundreds of outstanding nonprofit organizations make a lasting impact in communities throughout Colorado and beyond.