



Happy Holidays!

Hello Friends,

This year has been challenging for all of us and Special Kids Special Families is doing our best to continue to make provisions in order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus by making our employees and clients safe while fulfilling our mission. These challenges include maintaining enhanced sanitation and deep cleaning at all of our facilities, employee sensitization and awareness, management of employees who may begin to show symptoms, nose and mouth protection, and ensuring that sick and infected persons are not allowed to enter our facilities.

As we continue our services during this crisis, our mission is at the forefront - to promote, strengthen and support individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

In recognizing these challenges in the workplace, we also recognize that families are needing respite now more than ever. With school closings earlier in the year and kids learning from home, families raising children with special needs are overloaded with daily care and routines turned upside down. Special Kids Special Families Zach's Place program is busier than ever! In 2019, Zach's Place had a record breaking year serving over 26,000 hours of respite care. In 2020, we are targeted to serve over 27,000 hours with over 120 children attending the program.

For 21 years, Zach's Place continues to provide families with valuable respite care services, giving them a needed break and accepting children who've been turned away from other facilities because of physical, mental or behavioral issues.

In honoring National Family Caregivers Month, we would like to share Tina Gonzalez's story about caring for her grandson, Logan, and her experience at Zach's Place. By reading her testimony, we hope that you become inspired to help us continue our mission to support families who need the services that Zach's Place provides.

On behalf of everyone at Special Kids Special Families, we thank you for your continued support and contributions. Wishing you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!



Linda Ellegard
SKSF Founder & Executive Director



**During this holiday season, a donation
can be made to SKSF by using the
enclosed donation envelope or by
donating online at**

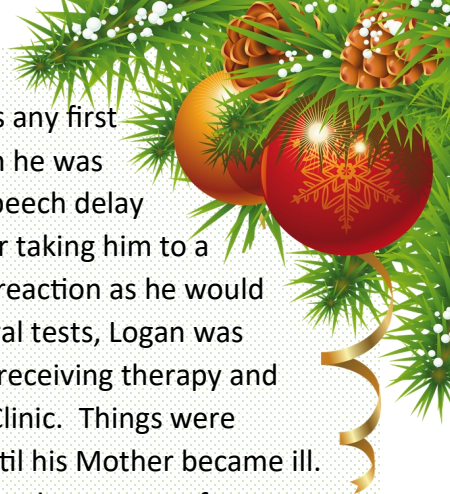
ColoradoGives.org/SKSF





Logan with GrandMom

“When Logan was born it was love at first sight and I was so excited as any first time grandparent would be. When he was about a year old, we identified a speech delay and just before he turned two after taking him to a playgroup, we noticed an unusual reaction as he would get very upset and cry. After several tests, Logan was diagnosed with Autism and began receiving therapy and speech services from The Shandy Clinic. Things were progressing smoothly for Logan until his Mother became ill. During this time, my schedule allowed me to care for Logan full-time. Over the years, I decided to return to my former position as a Head Start teacher and began searching for childcare for Logan. We were turned down by several centers simply because he has a diagnosis of Autism and for no other reason. We were told they didn’t have the staff to meet his needs each time.



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I had checked out Zach’s Place which was full at the time and placed him on their wait list. Shortly thereafter, Logan was enrolled and as I got to know the staff and see Logan’s reactions, I grew increasingly pleased with the care he was receiving. The staff is kind, polite, professional, friendly and are responsive to my requests regarding Logan’s care needs. It is very much a comfort to have Logan in a place where not only daily care needs are met, but where he is with people who love and understand him, and are compassionate to the



Logan with Mom at Chuck E. Cheese

everyday challenges that people with Autism face. I appreciate the flexibility and understanding regarding school schedule changes and working with Logan into their transportation schedule as I know he is in capable hands. I never thought I would find another center that I would feel as comfortable leaving Logan. I no longer have to worry that Logan will be rejected because of the challenges he faces due to his Autism and for this I am eternally grateful. Thank you for the love and care you have shown Logan and all the children in your care! It is such a comfort to me when I drop him off and he is smiling and at ease.” *Tina Gonzalez*

Remember Special Kids Special Families during these special days of online giving...

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
GIVING
TUESDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2020

COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
GIVESDAY
12.8.20
1-TBANK

Thank You!



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When you or your business contribute funds to promote and develop child care activities, you can receive up to a 50% Colorado Tax Credit, in addition to your regular state and federal contribution deductions. Details of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit rules can be found at SKSFcolorado.org.