Our Mission:
Promote, Strengthen and Support Individuals with Disabilities, their Families and Caregivers

Our Vision:
Giving People in Need the Resources, Compassion and Freedom to Achieve the Life that Everyone Deserves

Seasons Greetings Friends,

Special Kids Special Families has recently changed our mission statement to promote, strengthen and support not only individuals and families but caregivers. Caregivers are an integral part of the daily life of an individual with disabilities and they refer to anyone who provides care - a family member, a friend, a respite care provider, a host home provider or an organizational program.

November is National Family Caregivers Month and is a special time to recognize and honor caregivers! As we reach out to our friends and community members, we’d like you to feel connected to all the families we serve and feel inspired by their stories of struggle, triumph and joy. So many caregivers need respite - a break from the 24/7 caring of their loved ones, to rest, recharge and restore. Respite is the number one most requested service for people caring for loved ones with disabilities. The individual requiring the care may also need a change of pace or of their surroundings to keep them energized and living their life to their fullest capability.

We’d like to share with you the Norwood family’s experience with Special Kids Special Families. We hope by reading this testimony it helps you feel more connected to the families we serve and inspire you to help us continue this great work!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Linda Ellegard
SKSF Founder & Executive Director

During this holiday season, a donation can be made to SKSF by using the enclosed donation card or by donating online at ColoradoGives.org/SKSF

Thank You!
“Every person is unique in their own way!

A child or adult with a handicap or disability is unique in even MORE ways. Society can be challenged with how to approach or respond to someone who has a disability. Resources are limited and finding the right ones for your specific needs are difficult. You have to know the right people and those people need to know the right people.” — Jules Norwood

Jules Norwood and her daughter, Shelbie, now 22 years young, started at Zach’s Place in 2013. Jules heard about Zach’s Place from School District 49 and The Resource Exchange after struggling to find other daycare options. After enrolling Shelbie in the Zach’s Place program, the staff immediately focused and catered to her special needs. Shelbie transitioned to SKSF’s Joey’s Place program at age 21 after graduating from Falcon High School and attends the program three times per week. Joey’s Place prepares lessons according to the needs and skill levels of the individual to assist in learning various life skills, prevocational skills and hobbies.

“We found out Shelbie was delayed when she was not reaching her milestones by the age of 6 months. After several trips to professionals, Shelbie was labeled as “severely developmentally delayed”. Incontinent, poor gait and muscle control, non-verbal or able to communicate her needs, we were at a loss on what we could do to help our sweet baby girl. When Shelbie was 12, she had a grand mal seizure and after going to another specialist it was concluded that she was actually having seizures all her life, we just didn’t recognize them apart from her being severely delayed. Shelbie was given the diagnosis of having Sudden Death Epilepsy, along with low functioning Autism, developmental delays, and a few other less severe concerns. Shelbie was deprived oxygen at birth and her brain didn’t grow normally.

Family and friends were helpful, but couldn’t provide what we needed and we didn’t know where else to turn as Shelbie needs 24/7 care. New places and people cause Shelbie to be very upset and anxious. Anytime we were someplace new, Shelbie was uncomfortable or scared. She would say over and over “band aid”, which her doctors always gave her at the end of her appointments. Over the years we tried several respite care providers, until we finally found Zach’s Place. At first, Shelbie started becoming anxious, crying and asked for a “band aid”. The Zach’s Place Director bypassed me and went straight to Shelbie. She immediately took Shelbie by the hand and said “let’s go find you a band aid”. I was so impressed as Shelbie became calm, I knew that this was the place that put children first. I always found the staff to be helpful, kind and caring and always felt like we were part of a family. When it was time to transition to Adult Services, I didn’t hesitate to place Shelbie at SKSF’s Joey’s Place program. With such friendly staff and individual attention, Shelbie was receptive to the change and adjusted quickly. As I look at things through a Mother’s eyes, I notice that SKSF has loving and attentive staff - as if they were caring for a family member. I cannot praise them enough for the commitment they have to work in this field. It is a blessing to know that Zach’s Place will be there for others and Joey’s Place will be there for us for as long as we need them. I can feel safe with leaving my adult child in their care.” — Jules Norwood

WAYS TO GIVE

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019

Recurring Donations

Your recurring donation to SKSF is support we can count on! When you use this option, you are making a commitment to donate in any amount over a specific period of time. You can give as little as $10 donation every week, month, quarter or year! Simply set up your donation schedule and your donation is automatically deducted from your credit/debit card or bank account at ColoradoGives.org/SKSF.