A YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was a busy year for Special Kids Special Families. Our Administration offices have moved from the old office location on 424 West Pikes Peak Avenue, which was built in 1929, to a new modernized facility at 1915 Aerotech Drive, Suite 100, in Colorado Springs. With this move, we look forward to expanding our services to more families in need, accommodating additional staff and introducing new programs like Behavioral Health Services rolling out in 2019. We continue to keep our Operating Principles in mind as we engage with the population of people we serve and the Springs community -

- Demonstrating compassion for all;
- Supporting visions of one's abilities, strengths and potential;
- Displaying integrity, trust and respect;
- Providing a safe and healthy environment;
- Enabling joyful living with a good quality of life.

We look forward to sharing the impact of our work with you and the community. You are welcome to stop by and visit our programs any time!

Linda Ellegard
SKSF Founder and Executive Director

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board Members are dedicated, committed and visible in the community. They are consistently bringing our mission into active participation and contributing in several areas of our organization. SKSF Board Members are the fiduciaries who steer our organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure Special Kids Special Families has adequate resources to advance its mission. We appreciate their time and volunteerism and value their contributions!

BOARD PRESIDENT: Kathy Ciano-McGee; BOARD MEMBERS: John Butts, Amy Gehrett, Eric Gustafson, Hal Jordan, Sarah Kelso and Mark Schaefer
Zach’s Place has introduced an opportunity for parents to take a well deserved break where kids enjoy a night geared to keep them entertained allowing them to socialize with their peers. Each themed night offers pizza or another meal, a craft activity, watching a movie or playing games.

THE KOSCOVE KIDS PUPPET PROGRAM
In 2018, the puppet program teaching children about their peers with disabilities has expanded offering presentations at various area schools and community functions. These presentations are teaching kids inclusion and are fostering positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities. Our SKSF YouTube puppet video went “viral”, continuing to gain more subscribers and over ONE MILLION views proving that puppets are a popular method for teaching children.

SIBSHOPS WORKSHOPS
We’ve continued the Sibshops program and have collaborated with The Arc Pikes Peak to bring these monthly groups of brothers and sisters of siblings with disabilities together to build friendships and share like feelings regarding their sibling with a disability. In 2018, FOX21 News covered one of SKSF’s Sibshops events highlighting the program’s benefits.

NOTEWORTHY FACTS
- In 2018, served 102 youth
- 80% of parents are considered low income
- 57% are single parent households
- 56% use the ability to pay fee schedule
- 52% of children have an autism diagnosis

PARENT TESTIMONIAL
“We moved here from a state that didn’t have care for kids with special needs. I had to quit jobs at various times during my son’s childhood because the average childcare provider and even centers, could not handle his needs along with all the other children. Zach’s Place has been critical to my ability to provide for my kids as a single mom. I know they have compassion and they understand and accept that all of the kids in their care will have a variety of needs that are above and beyond just childcare. As a parent of a special needs child, I can’t tell you how different life can be to live in this world. And when it comes to being able to have peace of mind, transportation to and from school, and the ability to have my son in care that will not quit on him is really, really important. Not only that, but my other son who doesn't have special needs is able to attend Zach’s Place! If you really think about the daily grind of one person being in charge of doing everything for their kids and holding down a full time job, you can imagine how grateful I am to have Zach’s Place!”

Autumn Hart
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION SERVICES

NOTEWORTHY FACTS
- 111 youth served in 2018
- 61% of children are ages 12 & younger
- Substance abuse is the main reason of why children come into care
- 53% of children demonstrate permanency or being in a relative home

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- With a critical shortage of families, we were able to expand the program from 32 families to 44 families
- The Benchmarks Program continues to recruit and train families to accept youth with dual diagnosis
- The program moved to new facility to continue to expand crisis respite, expand foster care homes and provide greater supports to young people with medical and developmental challenges
- Developed monthly Foster Care Orientation sessions to answer questions that interested foster families may have about becoming foster parents

PARENT TESTIMONIAL
“After fostering for almost a year, we made the decision to adopt the child that came into our home. SKSF staff have been there every step of the way through the adoption process. They have been not only strong advocates on our behalf but on our potential adoptive child’s behalf as well. Our family is so thankful for Special Kids Special Families as a company. We have grown not only in the size of our family but in our capacity to loves other families and children beyond a level that we knew could be possible. We look forward to continuing to foster and being a part of this organization.”
Sheila Williams

ADULT SERVICES

NOTEWORTHY FACTS
- A grant was received from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase a 2019 Ford E350 bus with wheelchair lift
- Host Home residents grew from 41 to 49 individuals
- SKSF ran 56 bus routes per week going anywhere from Fountain to Falcon and everywhere in between providing over 55,000 total day program hours

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Joey’s Place has implemented a sensory schedule emphasizing Tactile, Visual, Auditory & Range of Motion activities
- 12,000 rides were given using wheelchair accessible busses transporting 45 clients
- Increased services to Elderly/Blind/Disabled Medicaid waiver clients
- ICAN community day program started a new curriculum to include math, writing, exercising, money management, science & social studies projects visiting the Money Museum, Pikes Peak Library, YMCA and Cici’s Pizza to test their skills

“I am very pleased with the level of transportation service that my son receives to and from the Adult Day Program. The drivers are courteous and timely and the staff is caring and helpful. It takes special people to work and play with our precious families. Thank you for the service your team provides!”
Linda Henry
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BOWL-A-THON - BOWL FOR THE GREEN
In 2018, the 9th annual St. Patrick’s themed Bowl-a-thon event was held at King Pin Lanes. It continues to attract families and community support with over 100 bowlers participating and all 24 lanes filled! This was the most successful Bowl-a-thon ever raising over $8,000 to support SKSF programs.

NIGHT OF COMEDY
This year’s 7th annual signature fundraising event - Night of Comedy - was the highest grossing fundraising event ever for SKSF raising nearly $50,000 to support the Zach’s Place program! With over 200 guests and over 25 sponsors, the event featured nationally known comedian and 2018 Boston Comedy festival winner, Nancy Norton. It was filled with fun and laughter with an unforgettable “Happy” themed performance by Zach’s Place kids.

Local video producer & director, Ralph Giordano of ArchAngel Productions, walked away with an American Advertising Federation (AAF) silver ADDY award in the PSA category for his promotional video of Zach’s Place program during the AAF annual Advertising Award Gala. This video was debuted at the 2018 Night of Comedy event and brilliantly captured the emotional story of Miranda Baca’s journey of raising a child with a disability and how Zach’s Place assisted her along the way.

Over $115,000 raised!
total fundraising revenue from all events in 2018

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

We have several local businesses that have supported SKSF throughout the years hosting their own fundraisers and contributing the funds to support SKSF programming. Some of our generous donors include:

- Unified Title has hosted their annual golf tournament since 2014 donating over $70,000 to SKSF!
- Colorado Springs Country Club hosted their 1st annual golf tournament in 2018 raising over $13,000 for SKSF!
- 100 Women Who Care gather 100 local women who donate $100 each giving $10,000 to SKSF!
- Knights of Columbus through their Tootsie Roll fundraiser has given nearly $15,000 to SKSF over the years!
- Rocky Mountain Roosters hosted their annual Sportsmen for Community Shootout and raised $10,000 for SKSF!
Volunteerism has increased in 2018! Several community and corporate groups have volunteered hundreds of hours encouraging volunteerism and giving back to their community. Volunteer highlights include:

- **Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind** volunteers with Joey's Place adult program participants assisting in client activities.

- **Griffis/Blessing**, a real estate management group, volunteered at Zach’s Place playing games and organizing crafts for the kids.

- **Pikes Peak Academy** students and staff visited the Adult Program during their Hands & Hearts on a Mission project assisting clients with various craft projects.

Volunteers dedicated their time to SKSF in 2018, totaling over 3500 volunteer hours, saving SKSF over $89,000.*

*Estimated value of a volunteer hour in US at $25.43 according to the Independent Sector

FINANCIALS

Special Kids Special Families is dedicating a large portion of its expenses to programs that support its mission and objective. This metric, program efficiency, is very important to contributors and stakeholders and is used to evaluate how much of its expenses organization is allocating to programs.

*Graphs of revenue and expenses including all data provided by BiggsKofford, Certified Public Accountants Independent Auditor’s Report June 10, 2019*
Thanks to every individual, business, organization, grantor and foundation that made a contribution in 2018. Large or small, every gift you give directly benefits our mission and helps change the lives of individuals with disabilities and special needs.