

MARCH 2022

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DONATE TO SKSF
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Raising Awareness

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is observed in March in the U.S. This class of disabilities can refer to impairments in learning and behavior, such as autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and impairments in physical and/or intellectual functioning such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and Down syndrome. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about including people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. It also creates awareness of the difficulties that people with disabilities still face in fitting into the communities in which they live.

[TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH](#)



Celebrating Spirit



In the Adult Services program, they celebrate spirit week and have themed days where the clients and staff dress up and participate in activities that go along with that theme. Spirit days include themes like The Wizard of Oz Day, Team Pride Day, and Disney Day. Adult Program Participant, Ciara and her Mom have been dressing up in the themes and sending pictures even on days that Ciara does not attend the program. It's a fun activity where they can participate as a team and celebrate together!



Client of the Month - Ivan Garcia

Ivan is kind and helpful and sees the best in everyone. He has an amazing memory and remembers everyone's birthday, where they are from and favorite sports teams. Ivan makes his peers and staff feel special with the details that he remembers and is always the first person to congratulate you when you do something good, wish you a happy holiday or birthday or celebrate your sports team's win. Ivan has grown since attending our Building Connections program and has improved his ability to have conversations with others, following directions and identifying emotions. [Congratulations Ivan!](#)



What SKSF Staff is Saying...

Katherine Kendall, Adult Mentor said this when we asked her what motivates her to come to work each day...

“Being able to cheer them up and see what's going on in their lives. Being there for anything they need. I get to hang out with them and have fun! I love laughing, telling a joke or doing something silly to laugh with the clients.”

[Find out how YOU can join our team!](#)

Join Our TEAM!



NOW HIRING!

[Visit our website to apply](#)

- ◆ Program Director Assistant Zach's Place
- ◆ Behavioral Health Clinical Director
- ◆ Residential Services Home Supervisor
- ◆ Adult Mentors
- ◆ Childcare Workers
- ◆ Crisis Respite Care Providers
- ◆ Host Home Providers
- ◆ Foster Care Parents / Families



Special Kids
Special Families

Promote • Strengthen • Support



NOW HIRING

**Direct Care Providers:
Childcare Workers
& Adult Mentors**

Do you have experience in caring for others or in caring for individuals with disabilities? Have you worked as a teacher, CNA, education paraprofessional or caregiver?

Special Kids Special Families is seeking direct care providers and mentors for children and adults with disabilities and special needs.

- Full or Part-time positions available at our Zach's Place childcare facility or Adult Day Program;
- Assist individuals with meeting their goals either out in the community or at the center;
- Supporting individuals with building relationships with others

Starting salary \$16-\$18/hr

Contact Information

Cynthia Valdez
SKSF Human Resources
(719) 447-8983 X22



**For additional job description & information,
visit our website:**

www.SKSFCOLORADO.ORG

Why Work at SKSF?

If you would like to work for a company where you can make an impact, we are seeking individuals with job skills and the heart to truly care about the safety and well-being of others. With many diverse programs, and three locations in Colorado Springs, Special Kids Special Families is an organization focused on supporting individuals with special needs throughout their lifespan.

If interested in working for SKSF, submit your cover letter and resume to: hr@sksfcolorado.org or call Human Resources at 719-447-8983 x22.

Visit our website for job descriptions

<http://sksfcolorado.org/get-involved/career-opportunities/>



Respite Care Foster Parents
give hope and help to those in need.

EVENT WRAP UP >>>

Thanks to everyone that came out to participate in our 13th Annual Bowl for the Green Bowl-A-Thon! It was a huge success! With the help of bowlers, donors and sponsors, we raised nearly \$17,000 to help fund our Adult program.



An AMAZING group of people!! Thanks to [David Slimdog Bell Jr.](#) and his peeps for helping raise over \$1,600 in pledges for daughter, Lafayette Brady, SKSF Adult Program Participant. Lafayette won for most individual pledges raised and the group won for most pledges raised. We appreciate your generosity and your willingness to support our organization!



Special Kids
Special Families

13th Annual BOWL-A-THON Bowl for the GREEN!

All proceeds from this event support SKSF programming for adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers



Thanks to the folks at [NuStar Energy](#) for participating at the [SKSF Bowl for the Green Bowl-A-Thon](#) event on Saturday! NuStar was the our top sponsor & has supported SKSF every year for the past 13 years of this event! We are so fortunate to have such a great community supporter like YOU! You truly make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve!



View more photos here...

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT >>>



Thank you [Colorado Garden Foundation](#) for awarding [Special Kids Special Families](#) a \$5,000 grant to continue our horticultural garden therapy at our Adult Services and Zach's Place programs. These grant funds will encourage our clients to participate in gardening while stimulating all their senses while engaging in creating outdoor garden spaces this Spring. The Colorado Garden Foundation has awarded \$600,000 in horticultural related grants thanks to the proceeds from the Colorado Garden & Home Show. Photo shown is check being presented to Madeline Dulle, SKSF Staff with Jim Fricke, Colorado Garden Foundation Executive Director, and Lukas Zakrzewski, SKSF Executive Director.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS >>>



APRIL 5th: SKSF will be hosting a FREE Foster Care Information meeting to answer all your questions about becoming a Foster Family/Parent. [To register & MORE INFO...](#)



APRIL 22nd: SKSF offers monthly support for staff and HHPs caring for IDD community. These classes are open to the public. \$65/ea. [To register and MORE INFO...](#)



MAY 7th: SKSF will be attending The Resource Exchange's 20th Annual KidsFest at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. Stop by our booth for some great giveaway items & to learn more about our services we provide adults and children with disabilities. [MORE INFO...](#)



MAY 7-8th: SKSF will be attending the [Denver Cinco De Mayo event](#) in Civic Center Park. Stop by if you need information about becoming a Foster Care Family/Parent.



MAY 14th: SKSF will be attending the Pikes Peak Interagency Transition Team's Annual Resource Fair for Individuals with Disabilities. Join us and visit our booth for some swag & great information about programs we offer the IDD community. [MORE INFO...](#)



There's a new way for your to support our work! Use our registration # **20073010355** to donate all or part of your state tax refund. Look for the prompt to Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit on your return or tax software. [MORE INFO...](#)



CONTACT US:

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SKSFcolorado.org



2022 Annual Resource Fair for
Individuals with Disabilities

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD! Print & post at your business, pass to a friend or post on social media.



Special Kids
Special Families

Saturday

OCTOBER 8TH
5:30-9pm

11th Annual

Night Of Comedy

BOOTS, BUCKLES & CHUCKLES

EARLY BIRD PRICE thru 9/15/22: \$85/person
9/16 & after \$95/person; special table price available

Includes:

- * Chuckwagon style dinner
- * Picnic table seating
- * Cash bar
- * Raise the Paddle auction
- * Great Silent Auction packages
- * 1 hour western music, stage and comedy show by the world famous **Flying W Wranglers!**

FLYING W RANCH
3330 Chuckwagon Rd
CO Springs, CO 80919

Golf carts to venue will be available. Dress is country western casual.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: SKSFcolorado.org

WANTED

SPONSORS

Levels from \$500-\$7,500 include great marketing benefits, complimentary admissions, ad placement + TV, radio, and news media coverage.

DONORS

Donate items to be used in our silent auction - gift cards, gift certificates, admission tickets, gift baskets, jewelry, vacation packages, etc...

VOLUNTEERS

We would love to have you join our volunteer event committee or help during the event. Contact Sarah if interested
skelso@sksfcolorado.org or 719-447-8983.

JOIN US for Special Kids Special Families' signature fundraising event benefitting **ZACH'S PLACE** at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center. The center is one of only two licensed daycare facilities in the state offering specialized respite care for children ages 2.5-18 with intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities.

EIN #84-1476535

a 501(c)3 organization

