

## OUR MISSION:

Promote, Strengthen & Support  
Individuals with Disabilities,  
their Families & Caregivers

## National Awareness Months

As Special Kids Special Families (SKSF) embraces and shares April Awareness Months, we recognize the importance in bringing attention to Autism, Child Abuse Prevention and Volunteer Appreciation.

### APRIL 2022

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**DONATE**  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION



During Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, here's 10 great ideas to increase autism acceptance and love from

[SpecialLearningHouse.com](https://www.speciallearninghouse.com). For autism

resources in your area, visit the [Colorado](https://www.colorado.gov)

[Department of Education](https://www.colorado.gov) site for families raising individuals on the ASD spectrum.

In addition, SKSF has many programs available for children and adults with autism. Contact our Adult Services program (719-634-4675) or Zach's Place childcare center (719-329-1717) for information.



Recognizing & supporting National Child Abuse Prevention Month  
- SKSF Child Placement Agency staff - Angelo Penny, Jimmy Browder, Tashli Duran, Brandon Palmer, Samantha Villarreal, Samantha Phelan.

Each April, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, communities across Colorado come together to challenge one another to do more to promote healthy child development, strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. At Special Kids Special Families, our mission is to promote, strengthen & support these families. Visit [CO4Kids.org](https://www.CO4Kids.org) to find out ways to spread the word and [IlluminateColorado.org](https://www.IlluminateColorado.org) to read parent stories of bravery and resilience.

Trust your gut instinct and call [844-CO-4-Kids](https://www.844-CO-4-Kids.org) if you are concerned for the safety and well-being of a child or youth.



# Building Connections

Zach's Place kiddos are getting creative! Thanks to a recent grant, the center just received a new track recently installed for kids to ride their bikes.



Through our Building Connections program at Adult Services, program participants visit [Phelan Gardens](#) and created terrariums.



## Client of the Month

**SKSF Adult Services Client of the Month is Donna Miller!** Donna is always excited to participate in program activities and greet staff with a smile. She always greets her peers and encourages them to participate. Her enthusiasm is contagious and let's not forget to mention - she is a great dancer and singer!! Congratulations Donna!



**"What do YOU like about your job at**



**?"**

## What SKSF Staff are Saying...

Zach's Place Childcare Worker, David, says this about why he loves coming to work - "The kids! I really like working with the kids and seeing them grow. It makes me feel good!"

Nadia, SKSF Child Worker says this about working at Zach's Place... "I love learning the personalities of the children. I like discovering how much they know, so much more than I think. I learn from them. I also like the friendly welcoming environment."

**It's the hard work and dedication of our employees that make our programs successful! If you want to be a part of our team - we are **HIRING!****

[Check out our available positions](#)



# Join Our TEAM!

## NOW HIRING!

[Visit our website to apply](#)

- ♦ Residential Services Home Supervisor
- ♦ Adult Mentors
- ♦ Childcare Workers
- ♦ Crisis Respite Care Providers
- ♦ Host Home Providers
- ♦ Foster Care Parents / Families

If interested in working for SKSF, submit your cover letter and resume to:

[hr@sksfcolorado.org](mailto:hr@sksfcolorado.org)

Looking for a new Job? VISIT OUR ANNUAL  
PIKES PEAK REGION SPRING

## JOB FAIR COLORADO SPRINGS

Wednesday, May 11, 2022



Colorado Springs  
EventCenter

3960 Palmer Park Blvd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

10 AM - Active Duty, Guard.  
Reserve, Veterans & their Spouses  
10:30 AM - 2 PM - Open to General Public

Meet & chat with hiring  
employers in the Pikes Peak Region



**REGISTER: [ppwfc.org/job-fairs](https://ppwfc.org/job-fairs)**

★ Veterans are entitled to priority of service. ★

Paid from U.S. Department of Labor funds



## GET ON BOARD

connects community organizations seeking  
skilled volunteers,  
passionate community trustees,  
and board members to those ready to serve.

April 26th | 4:30 - 6:30 pm | Penrose House

Register at [leadershippikespeak.org](https://leadershippikespeak.org)



Elevating Leadership Development  
A Program of El Pomar Foundation

## Are you are interested in board membership or volunteering?

SKSF will be attending the Get On Board event hosted by [Leadership Pikes Peak](https://leadershippikespeak.org) on April 26th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Penrose House. JOIN US!! We'll be there to answer all your questions.

# April is National Volunteer Month

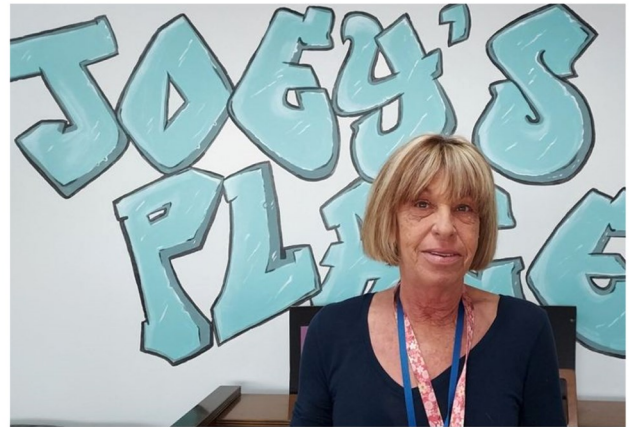
Celebrating  
People  
in Action

Be the  
Change.  
Volunteer



April is Volunteer Appreciation Month! We'd like to highlight SKSF Volunteer - **Grace Gilbreth**. She has volunteered her time at our Adult Services program prepping for a variety of activities for the clients at Joey's Place and has helped with several rounds of envelope stuffing! Grace also prepared all the goodie bags for this year's Bowl-a-Thon! She is open to any task and has been a welcoming face at our Foster Care program for the past several weeks, greeting visitors and assisting the team with scanning and filing.

*"My goal is to make an impact in the community I live in and what better way than getting to volunteer with such amazing humans. I chose SKSF because they are doing wonders working with people who have extra special needs. I have a big place in my heart for people who have such special minds and special hearts!" ~Grace Gilbreth*



We'd like to acknowledge our Adult Services staff member of the month - **Linda Goodman**. Linda is always dependable to her fellow staff, along with being flexible in her schedule. She has been working with SLS clients, building relationships with them while also helping them to achieve their goals. Linda is patient and perseveres in demanding situations. We appreciate the awesome job Linda does to assist our clients throughout their day - you truly make a difference! Congratulations Linda!



SKSF would like to WELCOME our new Management staff - Krista Ingram as Zach's Place Assistant Director and Tyler Carpenter as Director of Programs.

**WELCOME TO THE TEAM!**





Thanks to Carol at [King Pin Lanes](#) for her generosity and kind heart! Over the years, she has supported SKSF and the annual Bowl-A-Thon event! She was recently presented with a framed "thank you" piece of art - designed and created by Pete Rodriguez, an Adult Services Mentor. The art piece along with a thank you card was presented to Carol by SKSF Executive Director, Lukas Zakrzewski, Jon Karroll SKSF Development & Communications Manager and Adult Services Program Director, Dionna Lanich. Be sure to visit [King Pin Lanes](#) - it's an awesome place for a game of bowling, hanging with your friends and getting a great burger!



In recognizing local business members that go above and beyond, SKSF recently presented a Community Appreciation award to [Fountain Corner Pocket Bar & Grill](#). A group of adult clients presented the certificate to the owner, Gary Reichmuth. SKSF is very thankful to Corner Pocket and their staff for always being patient, helpful and welcoming our clients and making them feel comfortable. Thank you!

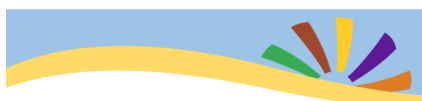
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS >>>



**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](#)

**APRIL 21st:** SKSF will be hosting a FREE Foster Care Information meeting to answer all your questions about becoming a Foster Family/Parent. [MORE INFO](#)

**MAY 20th:** SKSF offers QMAP CLASSES monthly for staff and HHPs caring for IDD community. Open to the public at \$65/ea. [MORE INFO](#)

## CONTACT US:

### Special Kids Special Families

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Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
(719) 447-8983

[sksf@sksfcolorado.org](mailto:sksf@sksfcolorado.org)

[SKSFcolorado.org](http://SKSFcolorado.org)





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 8<sup>TH</sup>** 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](http://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](mailto: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

