

The Special Times

OUR MISSION:

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

National Awareness Months

As Special Kids Special Families (SKSF) embraces and shares May Awareness Months, we recognize the importance in bringing attention to Mental Health Awareness Month and National Foster Care Month.

MAY/JUNE 2022

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SUPPORT OUR MISSION



During Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognize that when faced with a mental health concern, it's common to feel like no one understands

what you're going through. But many people overcome the mental health challenges they face. You are not alone! Help is out there, and recovery is possible. **SKSF offers Behavioral Health services** that include counseling and specialized therapy to change behaviors, thoughts, emotions and how people see and understand situations. Our behavioral health team will consider your physical, behavioral and emotional aspects of your health and help determine a course of action that is best for you. Contact us at 719-447-8983 x11 or [visit our website for more information](#).



Each May, during National Foster Care Month, SKSF highlights families and recognizes the importance of kinship and keeping families strong. Throughout this month's E-News, we'll share with you several media opportunities we've had to help raise awareness of the need for foster families in our community.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- ◆ There are over 407,000 children and youth in foster care, and 34 percent were placed with relatives or kin.
- ◆ Of all children and youth waiting for adoption, 25 percent were placed with relatives.
- ◆ Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth. Maintaining relationships with relatives and kin can help provide a sense of belonging for young people in care.



In our Adult Services Building Connections program, we are learning about guest speakers & how to research and ask meaningful questions. Recently, Jon Karroll, SKSF Development & Communications Manager talked to the group about what it was like being a newscaster for so many years. The clients had thoughtful questions to ask and enjoyed listening to Jon's stories. Jon says, "I truly enjoyed the opportunity to speak to our 'Building Connections' clients about my long career in broadcasting before coming to SKSF. They were very attentive and had prepared thoughtful questions ranging from how I got my start in TV news, to whether I got nervous on air, to what were the best and hardest parts about the job. I think the experience benefited me as much as it did them. The SKSF Adult Services staff has done a tremendous job of creating a fun and interesting way of engaging clients with the community."



Client of the Month

Help us congratulate SKSF Adult Services Client of the Month - Ciara Patrick! Ciara is always so happy to be at program, she comes in every day with a smile on her face! Ciara has grown tremendously since attending SKSF and has improved her communication & social interaction skills. Ciara always encourages her peers to do their best and enjoys hyping them up when they do a good job. She is the most dedicated to our spirit weeks and always participates in activities with the group and does it with a smile on her face! Ciara is a ray of sunshine & always brightens everyone's day!



Adult Services Staff of the Month

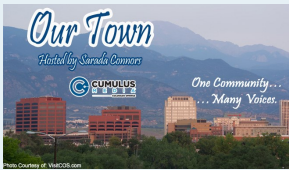
Kayla Carey is always positive and enthusiastic when working with clients. She brings a sense of humor that is always welcome, has a willingness to work with all of our clients regardless of their needs, and is always open to challenges. She sees potential in all individuals and allows them to always be themselves. Thanks Kayla for your hard work & dedication to SKSF and the individuals we serve!



Tom Drews has worked with clients giving them support and building meaningful relationships. He is willing to use his personal vehicle and work after hours to provide services for clients. He's always engaging and making sure clients get involved in center activities like yoga. He also is supportive of his peers and willing to help out when he can! Great job!

WE ARE NOW HIRING ADULT MENTORS!

If you have a desire to make a difference and work with individuals with disabilities, [visit our website](#) for job descriptions and ways you can help!



Sarada Connors of Our Town interviewed SKSF Foster Care Recruiter, Teddy Thompson! We appreciate your assistance in helping us spread the word about our Foster Care / Child Placement Agency and the need for more foster parents in our region - especially during National Foster Care Month. [TAKE A LISTEN HERE...](#)



FOX21 News Loving Living Local hosts Keni and Nova hosted Special Kids Special Families highlighting long-time SKSF Foster Parent Ron Woodson joined by Jon Karroll, SKSF Development & Communications Manager. They talked about the need for foster parents and how to become one.

To learn more about becoming a Foster Parent or Family visit SKSF website at: www.sksfcolorado.org



SKSF Foster Parent, Sheila Williams and her family are highlighted on KOAA! What an amazing family that provides loving care to her children with special needs. She and her family are truly inspirational!



Take a listen to a great segment on THE EXTRA KRDO NewsRadio highlighting SKSF programs including foster care program information. Thanks Shannon Brinias for this great opportunity for helping SKSF spread awareness of our programs and reaching out to the community! [TAKE A LISTEN...](#)

Awarded Grants

We'd like to acknowledge the following grantors and foundations for grants awarded in the past few months:

- ◆ The Denver Foundation
- ◆ The Moniker Foundation
- ◆ Monument Hill Foundation
- ◆ Colorado Springs Health Foundation
- ◆ The Nutrition Camp School Foundation

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT >>>



Volunteers from [Rock Family Church](#) helped make Zach's Place center's playground area pretty again by spreading truckloads of mulch! In addition, Mr. Bruce Nygren with the donations made by [Rocky Top Resources, Inc.](#) worked hard beautifying the front yard of the center. We appreciate all the hard work that our volunteers give! The center looks AMAZING!

If you have a group that would like to volunteer with SKSF, contact Sarah at 719-447-8983 or email at skelso@sksfcolorado.org.



During their "TCA Day", 15 students and teachers from The Classical Academy volunteered to clean our vans, organize craft supplies and deep clean our kitchen at the Adult Services facility. We greatly appreciate their efforts as they truly made a difference! Thank you!

STAFF RECOGNITION & WELCOME >>>



SKSF welcomes Dr. Brenda Demouchet or "Dr. D." to the team as Behavioral Health Clinical Director. She comes to us with a wide variety of experience and education. Most recently working at the Department of Corrections. When asked what she enjoys doing outside of work she stated that she is a sports enthusiast enjoying hiking and volleyball.

NOW HIRING!

Visit our website to apply

- ◆ Behavioral Health Providers
- ◆ Adult Mentors / Caregivers
- ◆ 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:

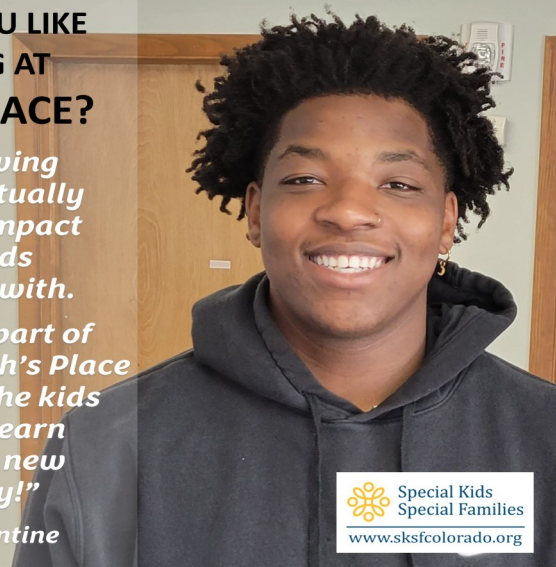
hr@sksfcolorado.org

WHY DO YOU LIKE WORKING AT ZACH'S PLACE?

"Just knowing that I am actually having an impact on the kids that I work with."

"My favorite part of working at Zach's Place is watching the kids grow and learn something new every day!"

Jahune Valentine





SKSF joined several other nonprofits at [TRE - The Resource Exchange](#) KidsFest at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. The free festival focused on early learning, prevention, literacy, health and safety. Samantha Villarreal, SKSF Foster Care Team Lead and [Jon Karroll SKSF](#) Development & Communications Manager manned the SKSF table.



[Sarah Kelso](#), SKSF Host Home Supervisor & [Jon Karroll SKSF](#) Development & Communications Manager spending a beautiful sunny day at the [Pikes Peak Interagency Transition Team](#) Annual Resource Fair. Lots of great organizations on hand providing information for families of students with disabilities getting ready to transition into adult programs.



SKSF was at the Pikes Peak Workforce Center job fair in Woodland Park this month. SKSF staff Kelly Ummel (Adult Services Admin), Jenny Stalnaker (Director of Residential Services), Samantha Phelan (Foster Care Home Supervisor), & Jon Karroll (Development & Communications

Manager) manned the table as interested job applicants strolled the venue. Thanks to everyone that came out and was interested in our organization!



SKSF Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Brenda Demouchet attended the [CPCD giving children a head start](#) fundraising event held at Phantom Canyon. The speakers were children that shared their stories of when they started in the program as youngsters and are now college graduates.



SKSF joined several other agencies at [Alpine Autism Center's](#) 15th Annual "Run for the One" 5K Run & Walk for Autism awareness. Beautiful weather greeted the runners and walkers at America the Beautiful Park.



Do you have any lightly used furniture in good shape that you'd like to donate to SKSF? We are creating visitation rooms for our Behavioral Health clients to feel comfortable and we are needing furniture to create a family room feel.

Couches, sofas, chairs, light fixtures, bookcases, end tables, coffee tables, plants, pictures, throw pillows, rugs, etc.. Contact Dr. D at bdemouchet@sksfcolorado.org to arrange pick up or drop off. THANK YOU!



JUNE 7th: SKSF will be hosting a FREE Foster Care Information meeting to answer all your questions about becoming a Foster Family/Parent. [MORE INFO](#)

JUNE 17th: 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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(719) 447-8983 sksf@sksfcolorado.org



SKSFcolorado.org

THANKS FOR SPONSORING!



October 8th
2022

11th Annual
Night of Comedy



**BOOTS, BUCKLES
& CHUCKLES**

@ FLYING W RANCH

We'd like to thank our sponsors for supporting SKSF's 11th Annual Night of Comedy event - without their support this event would not be possible.

**Thanks for your donation to help support
Zach's Place center!**

[NuStar Energy](#)

[Blazer Electric Supply](#) Fund of the
Pikes Peak Community Foundation

[Centerpoint Insurance Group](#)

[CIA-Leavitt Insurance Agency](#)

[IBEW Local 113](#)

[MRC Technology LLC](#)

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[The Vinton Law Firm](#)

[Biggs Kofford, P.C.](#)

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[OfficeScapes](#)

[Rocky Top Resources](#)

**HELP US
REACH OUR
GOAL!**

**MORE INFO
About Event**

**SPONSOR
ONLINE**

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are a business or organization looking for promotion, we have sponsorship opportunities available. Various levels include marketing benefits, complimentary admissions, ad placement, TV/Radio/News media coverage PLUS you'll be supporting a great cause! Your sponsorship dollars will support Zach's Place program for children with disabilities. Sponsorships are tax deductible.

**DONATE TO
SILENT AUCTION**

Donate items to be used in our silent auction! Examples include: gift cards, gift certificates, admission tickets, gift baskets, jewelry, vacation packages, etc... Your donation will be acknowledged on our social media pages, E-News, SKSF website and at the event.

**REGISTER
ONLINE**

EARLY BIRD PRICING \$85/person

through 9/15/22

Includes Chuckwagon style dinner with reserved picnic style table seating, cash bar, Raise the Paddle auction, great Silent Auction packages, and a 1 hour original western stage and comedy show by the world famous Flying W Wranglers. Golf carts to venue will be available. Dress is country western casual.

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





**Special Kids
Special Families**

Promote • Strengthen • Support

NOW HIRING

DIRECT CARE PROVIDERS

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

Special Kids Special Families is seeking Direct Care Providers! We are hiring Childcare Workers to care for children with disabilities at our Zach's Place center and Adult Mentors to care for adults with disabilities at our Adult Services facility.

Duties Include

- Provide direct care, including physical care to the program's participants. May include caring for medically fragile individuals.
- Assist in the implementation of established goals and treatment in the daily programming of the program; as determined in the participant's individual plan.
- Follow program policies & procedures for care. This includes safety plans, reporting emergencies, life skills programming and emergency procedures.
- Maintain necessary paperwork, including medication logs, incident reports, check-in guides.
- Attend staff meetings and complete all required training, including medication training.
- Work as a team member and assist other staff in the completion of tasks to maintain the program's standards for safety and cleanliness.
- Provide for the transportation needs of the individual using company vehicle or own vehicle.
- Must be willing to attend and implement community participation activities.
- Must be willing to assist with administrative duties, recreation activities, and other areas to better serve those participating in the program.

\$16-\$19/hr + benefits (Health/Dental/Life/Vision Insurance, Paid Time off, 401K, Paid Holidays)

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

www.SKSFcolorado.org



Contact Information

SKSF Human Resources

(719) 447-8983 x22

hr@sksfcolorado.org