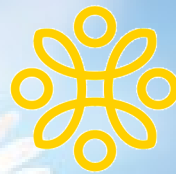




Special Kids  
Special Families



## OUR MISSION:

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

# The Special Times

## The Healing Powers of Gardening...



Gardening is proven to reduce stress, tension, and anxiety. "Our clients interact with big smiles and look forward to gardening every day, where in the beginning they were hesitant and not sure," says Julie Hudak, SKSF Horticulture Program Coordinator. It's finally summer and Special Kids Special Families (SKSF) is busy developing their therapy

gardens for adults and children with developmental disabilities that attend their programs. With grant awards received from the Colorado Garden Foundation, Whole Kids Foundation and KidsGardening.org, SKSF has plans to continue to build and grow their new Social and Therapeutic Horticulture program. "When this project first started, many of our clients were not excited to work in the soil and get their hands dirty. They would often refuse or would ask to wear gloves. With the patience and encouragement of then volunteer Julie Hudak, the clients are now engaged and love to help. There is no longer a hesitation, and they look forward to working in the garden," says Adult Services Program Director, Dionna Lanich. [READ MORE](#)

## JULY 2022

### IN THIS ISSUE >>>

- ◆ Therapeutic Garden Program
- ◆ Staff Of The Month
- ◆ Program Highlights
- ◆ Community Collaborations
- ◆ Night of Comedy Event Update
- ◆ Grants Received
- ◆ New Staff Introductions

**DONATE**  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

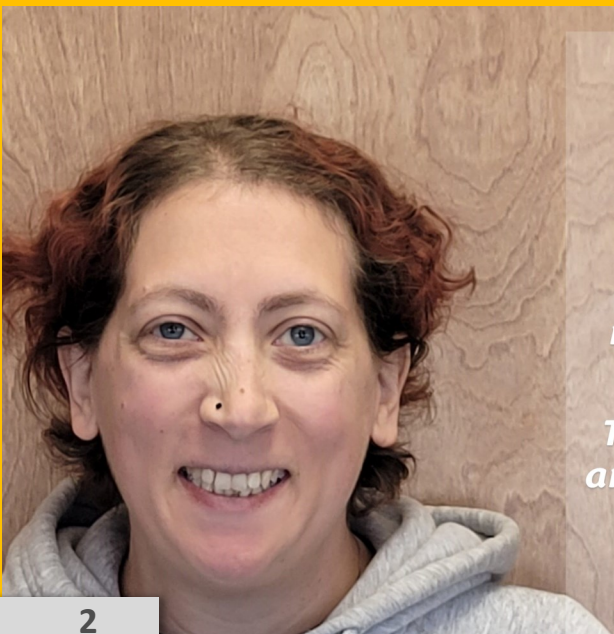
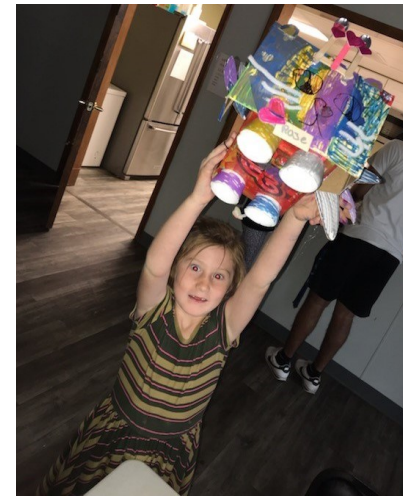




At our Adult Services program, we celebrated Best Friends Day (shown left) in Joey's Place with several clients developing a friendship bond while at the center. Here they are showing off the art project they did together. In addition, Ciara Patrick proudly displays a space shuttle project made out of recycled materials during Joey's Place space shuttle themed day!



Summer is here at Zach's Place! Playing outside and creating yummy treats are keeping the kiddos busy and engaging them in social activities.



### WHY DO YOU LIKE WORKING AT ZACH'S PLACE?

*"It motivates me  
to know that I am  
making a difference  
in these kids' lives."*

*The children's smiles  
are my favorite part of  
working at  
Zach's Place!"*

Jessica Mazza

## NOW HIRING!

We are currently hiring for  
Child Care Providers, Lead  
Teachers & Adult Mentors!  
If you have a desire to work  
with individuals with  
disabilities, [visit our website](#)  
for job details and benefits.



Special Kids Special Families is excited to be the recipient of an Ent Credit Union YES grant. YES stands for Youth Endowment Series. Since 2000, Ent YES Grants totaling more than \$1.6 million have helped 240 Colorado nonprofits serve children of all ages in crucial and life-changing ways. SKSF was awarded \$2,000, which will be used to directly benefit families who use Zach's Place Childcare and Respite Center, in particular children with disabilities from low-income families. SKSF Development & Communications Manager Jon Karroll accepted the grant check along with representatives of other Colorado nonprofits at Ent's new Colorado Springs Headquarters.

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

- ◆ Torch Helps
- ◆ KidsGardening.org Inc. / GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant
- ◆ The Mary K. Chapman Foundation
- ◆ The Marson Foundation
- ◆ Walmart Giving Grant (Store #3176 at 1725 N Union Blvd, CO Springs)

# NEW GRANTS AWARDED

We are excited to be accepted into the Class of 2022 Give Campaign! We are looking forward to collaborating with the other great nonprofits in our area & help raise funds for SKSF's Zach's Place programs supporting lower income families with respite and childcare for their children with disabilities. This campaign will run from 11/1-12/31/22.

We are currently seeking donors to provide matching grants before the campaign starts. These grants encourage giving during the campaign. If you are interested in participating please contact Jon Karroll at [jkarroll@sksfcolorado.org](mailto:jkarroll@sksfcolorado.org) or call 719-447-8983 x42. STAY TUNED for more details in months ahead!!

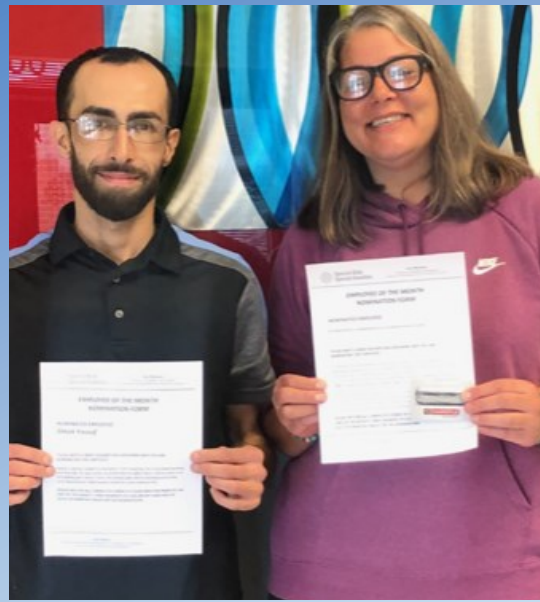


**Did you know Amazon Prime days are coming up July 12-13?** If you plan on shopping, every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. If you represent Special Kids Special Families click on this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1476535> to shop [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) & SKSF receives .5% of all eligible purchases you make!

July  
12-13

prime day  
2022





**CONGRATULATIONS** to our **June Employees of the Month!** Receiving the honors are Kelley Ummel (Adult Services Administrator), Shkak Yousuf (IT/Transportation/Facilities Manager) and Sarah Kelso, (Residential Home Supervisor). They were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond and received gift cards of their choice. Thank you for all you do for SKSF and your hard work! We appreciate YOU!

## STAFF RECOGNITION & WELCOME >>>

SKSF welcomes the following **NEW** staff to our TEAM!



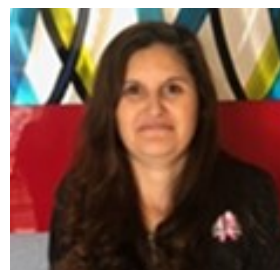
**Beulah Greenberg**  
Adult Mentor



**Tanya Morgan**  
Adult Mentor



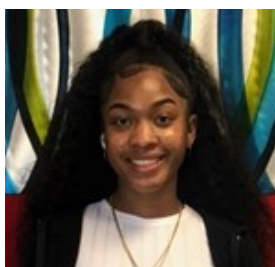
**Teresa Reed**  
Foster Care Case Aide



**Theresa Clementi**  
Adult Mentor



**Melissa Perez**  
Behavioral Health



**Marketa Draper**  
Foster Care Program

# NOW HIRING!

[Visit our website to apply](#)

- ◆ Behavioral Health Providers
- ◆ Adult Mentors / Caregivers
- ◆ Childcare Workers & Lead Teachers
- ◆ 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)**



### WHY DO YOU LIKE WORKING AT SKSF Adult Services?

"THE CLIENTS! They are so cheerful and I like seeing them smile - it makes my day! When the clients are working on projects how they really get into it and get excited. Everyday is a different day at SKSF and it makes me want to come back each and everyday to see what the day may bring. My co-workers are the bomb - cheerful and ready to help whenever I need help. I've always enjoyed helping people learn, be all they can be, see the look on their faces when they are trying and when they accomplish what they set out doing."

*Patsy Allmond, Adult Mentor*



Special Kids Special Families was honored to celebrate UnitedHealthcare's 1st place award as Best Health Insurer at the Colorado Springs Business Journal's Best in Business networking/casino night event at Clay Venues last week. Jon Karroll SKSF Development & Communications Manager & Sarah Kelso, SKSF Residential Home Supervisor, joined Broker, Cheryl Harding with Moody Insurance Agency & Carrie Classen, UHC Strategic Account Executive at the event. SKSF is proud to have United Health Care as our health insurance provider in addition to our 11th Annual Night of Comedy sponsor supporting Zach's Place center!



Once again Unified Title Company has chosen SKSF as their charity of choice for their upcoming Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur on September 12th, 2022. "They truly care and are an amazing group of people. We love partnering with them," says Brian Cooper, Unified Title President. These funds will help children, families and caregivers afford valuable respite care at Zach's Place center, SKSF's founding program.

If you'd like to donate an item to their auction or learn about participating in this event, contact Jon Karroll at [jkarroll@sksfcolorado.org](mailto:jkarroll@sksfcolorado.org).



[WELLSPRING](#) would like to share details about an opportunity to get paid for taking care of your children. Wellspring Care is helping parents get certified as CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) and then get paid through Medicaid for providing the right care for your children. They handle everything with Medicaid and work towards getting your child approved for a number of hours per week based on needs. They have a community of families like you providing and getting support, together.

You can find more information on Wellspring [here](#), and can reach them at: 833-433-0441 OR [care@withwellspring.com](mailto:care@withwellspring.com)



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

**JULY 22nd:** 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](mailto:sksf@sksfcolorado.org)



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



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PASCO  
Peak View Behavioral Health

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The Vinton Law Firm  
United Healthcare

### COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Biggs Kofford, P.C.  
Integrity Bank & Trust  
OfficeScapes  
Rocky Top Resources

**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!

**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.