



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

The vision of our organization is to give people in need the resources, compassion and freedom to achieve the life that everyone deserves.

SKSFcolorado.org



A YEAR IN REVIEW...

2020 was a year that we faced head on and overcame many challenges. It was a year we never imagined would happen, a time to appreciate relationships and connections to the ones we love. It was certainly a time to see strength and resiliency in us all. We haven't stopped serving the community, but rather we changed the manner in how we are doing business. While adhering to COVID-19 protocols, we struggled to keep our doors open while maintaining strict rules around cleanliness, sanitizing our facilities, wearing masks and social distancing. We found ourselves coming together as an organization - stronger than ever. While the Adult Program had to shut down temporarily, staff from Adult Services stepped in to help Zach's Place program staff with deep cleaning at the facility, preparing garden plots, office work and providing extra support on the floor with direct care. Zach's Place provided a record number of respite hours to families in need due to school closings providing front line and essential care workers needed daycare for kids out of school. In spite of many local businesses closing their doors, we were overwhelmed and amazed by the generosity of giving throughout the year. During the holiday season, 1,000 gifts were given from an anonymous donor to our program clients. We not only had youngsters step up to help wrap hundreds of gifts, but local businesses also donated gifts and gift cards to make our clients feel extra special.

Thanks to our hard working staff and generous community support this past year! Despite being a turbulent year, we have some great accomplishments to share.

Linda Ellegard

SKSF Founder and Executive Director

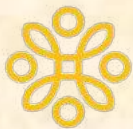
Kathy Ciano-McGee

SKSF Board President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board Members are passionate individuals dedicated and committed to promote the mission of our organization. They leverage their skills and direct their energy to contribute to Special Kids Special Families' strategic focus and financial sustainability. They are consistently visible in the community by actively participating and contributing in several areas of our organization. We appreciate their time and volunteerism and value their contributions!

BOARD PRESIDENT: Kathy Ciano-McGee; BOARD MEMBERS: Sarah Brown, John Butts, Dan Frasier, Harold Jordan, Katie Monson, Bijili Purushothaman and Mark Schaefer



ZACH'S PLACE at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center

NOTEWORTHY FACTS

- In 2020, we surpassed our goal at providing a record breaking 28,800 hours of respite care!
- 90 youth were served in 2020
- 87% of children served are under age 12
- 72% are single parent households
- 62% use the ability to pay fee schedule
- 40% of children have an autism diagnosis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supported front line & essential care workers with daycare while schools were closing
- Staff developed a quality learning environment and structured free time play for pre-school aged children (2-5 yrs old)
- Established a dedicated garden area to teach kids horticulture skills
- Received The Arc Pikes Peak Region award for Excellence in Programming & Services
- Working on obtaining a Class B license to serve youth in their home setting



2020 was a challenging year for Zach' Place. We managed to keep our doors open during the COVID-19 pandemic and surpassed our goal of providing over 27,000 hours of respite care! Since schools were closed, the demand for services rose and with the help of amazing staff, we were able to accommodate the need for services. We were able to keep kids busy at the center with hands on science and art projects, gardening, outdoor and indoor fitness activities along with developing and maintaining gross motor skills, language skills, math, reading and writing skills.

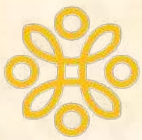
In addition, Zach's Place adhered to strict COVID-19 protocols and mandates, keeping hands washed, cleaning and disinfecting, along with social distancing rules and mask mandates. Our goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy during this time while navigating through the public health crisis.



"We were on a waiting list for another center for a very long time and when we finally got a spot, they kept him (Viktor) for a couple of days and then called us and said, "this isn't going to work". When we were refused from the other center, we started looking for another program that could cope with him and was referred to Zach's Place. This is the only facility where he is happy to be. He has a lot of social anxiety and people make him very anxious. He doesn't feel like he has to come here to "perform". It's a comfort space for him. We were afraid that he wasn't going to be able to speak and we were told that we would never get the opportunity to ever speak to him. Because of the staff members here I've been able to talk to him and that's amazing! With the interactions that he's had at Zach's Place, he's more emotionally grounded, can communicate his needs, an interact better with his peers and adults on a scale that we've never seen before." **Megan & Jason Clegg**



PROMOTE



ADULT DAY PROGRAM



SKSF Staff assisting adult clients with various activities at Joey's Place

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Joey's Place (Specialized Habilitation) our facility based adult day program accepted more individuals who are either elderly, blind or disabled. Medicaid waivers refer to this program as the EBD waiver. We have been getting more referrals because the community resources are diminishing, especially for the more medically fragile adults.
- With a donation from Unified Title Company, we were able to create a video of our adult day program produced by Bolt Video. This highlighted the importance for the people that we serve to be part of the community.
- Because of COVID shutdowns, staff were supported by offering different tasks within the organization like assisting at other programs which continued to maintain our workforce.
- The program served individuals in their home settings and via virtual interactions until state guidelines offered the reopening of the program to limited numbers and reintroduced clients in a safe manner.
- With the help of grant funding and local establishments (Sprouts, Home Depot) program clients were able to build an outdoor garden with creation of planer boxes, planting seeds and experiencing the therapeutic benefits of gardening while learning about nutrition at the same time.

NOTEWORTHY FACTS

- 94 adults were served in 2020
- The total hours of our community-based program, Supported Community Connections (ICAN) was 8,969 hours
- The total hours of our center-based program, Specialized Habilitation (Joey's Place) was 10,968 hours
- A new Adult Services video was created to share with the public a walk-through of the program
- In early 2020, Adult Services received a complete remodel with new flooring installed and a fresh coat of paint throughout



Adult Services Director, Dionna Lanich being presented a check from the Sprouts Healthy Community Foundation

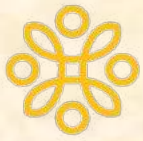


Adult clients working on the gardening project lead by Volunteer, Julie Hudak



During down time, (L) SKSF Staff, Jon Karroll & Shkak Yousuf helping out during the remodel project & Pete working on a mural in the sensory room

STRENGTHEN



HOST HOME RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

SKSF Host Home Residential Program contracts with eligible Host Home Providers (HHPs) to support, supervise and open their homes to care for adults with disabilities who are eligible for the Comprehensive Medical Waiver.

This program experienced continued growth of the number of clients we served, which allowed us to expand our Host Home staff to continue to offer our Providers and Clients a strong level of support services with 24-hour crisis intervention trainings, respite services, representative payee services, and oversight of the progression of client life goals and objectives.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 30 Host Home Providers beginning the year to ending at nearly 50 providers
- Expanded Host Home staff to accommodate the growth of the program
- Host Home team is in collaboration with Foster Care Program for kids aging out of the foster system
- The Behavioral Health team and Adult Services Day Programs are offering a variety of supports for HH clients
- HH program implemented successful virtual online trainings & home monitoring visits during COVID-19 crisis where 100% of HHPs participated



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



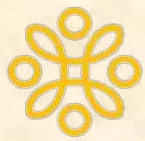
NOTEWORTHY FACTS

- In 2020, 61 clients served (individuals and family)
- We provide bilingual services - almost 1/3 of our clientele is Spanish speaking
- Telehealth is being offered during the pandemic via Zoom

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2020, we contracted with the El Paso County Department of Human Services and is now a core service provider which allows our agency to provide supervision of child and parent visits within the child welfare system.
- Developing necessary credentialing needed for other insurances and for private pay clientele.
- During the pandemic, for a limited time, the agency was able to offer free behavioral health services to seniors.

SUPPORT



FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created the first Foster Care promo video which won an Addy Award for the video's producers, Ralph Giordano (ArchAngel Productions) and Nate Shields (Shields Productions).
- The foster program has started to accept private care respite requests from birth families and will utilize foster families as family resource homes.
- The program improved quality of services through regular foster parent support in transportation services, in consistent monthly trainings and support group meetings which as in turn increased foster parent referrals.
- Working closely with the Residential Host Home program to aid young adults with disabilities in the foster care system to move into the Adult Host Home program to help stabilize their lives and prepare them for community living.
- Staff was able to do weekly check in on all foster parents to ensure all needs were being met during the pandemic. Staff shared virtual schooling for parents and assisted with daily homework lessons.
- The agency built a partnership with Salvation Army to receive weekly donations of breads and snack cakes from Bimbo company in Denver to give out to foster parents to help during the pandemic.
- The agency was able to provide additional support in foster parent homes with hourly respite for the parents. Staff were able to take children on hikes and walks to provide relief to the foster parents during these uncertain times. With this support we were able to maintain placements and retention of foster parents.



NOTEWORTHY FACTS

- Foster Care outcomes maintains a factor of having a higher than national average standard in preventing disruption of placements
- Total number of foster youth served in 2020 is 148 with an average of 64 youth per month
- At year's end, we had 46 foster parents with placements and 6 respite families

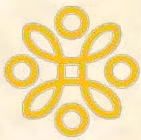


At Special Kids Special Families we have seen several families grow this year. One amazing story involves three young boys who've spent most of their lives in foster care. The oldest boy entered the system in 2009 due to substance abuse by his biological mother. He was soon joined by two siblings. In 2012, the boys were put in the care of a Special Kids Special Families foster mother. During that time the woman's daughter, Qiana Garner, often took the children to appointments and engaged in fun activities with them, forming a special bond. The boys were briefly placed in the home of a relative in 2017, only to return to an SKSF family within months. Ms. Garner had maintained her relationship with the boys and in June of 2018 they were placed into her care full time. On October 15, 2020 Qiana Garner was able to adopt the three boys; Vern, 12, Verndal, 10 and Tristan, 8. "We were watching on the virtual Zoom and crying through the adoption," said SKSF Child Placement Agency Program Director Sandra Dunlap.



Qiana Garner is a full-time student and works a full-time job to support herself and the boys. She's on track to graduate in 2023 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She and her mother have been a constant support for these boys even while they were placed in other homes, communicating through Skype visits and phone calls.

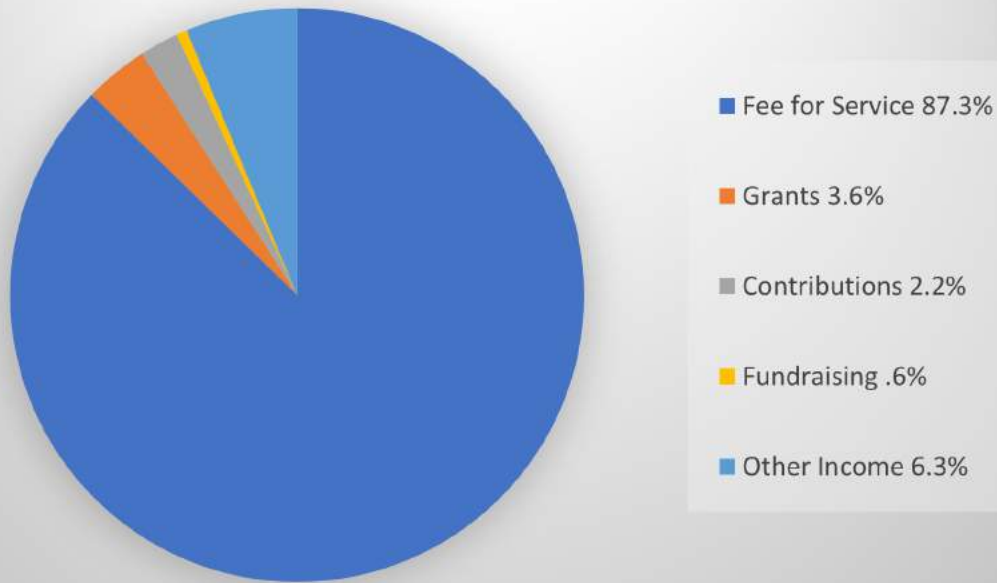
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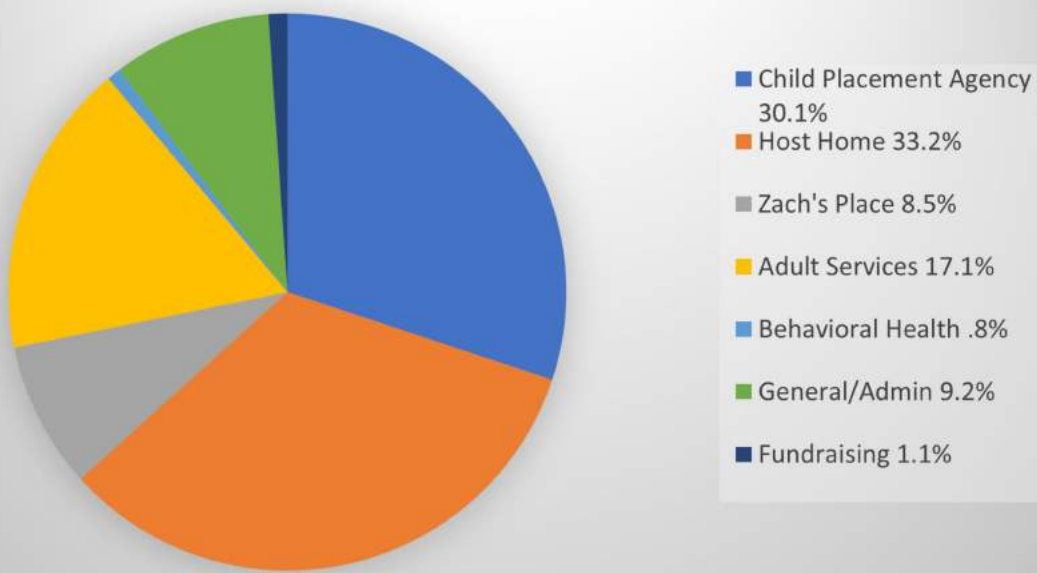
FINANCIALS

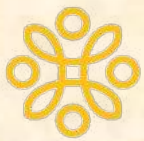
Special Kids Special Families is dedicating a large portion of its expenses to programs that support its mission and objective. This metric, program efficiency, is very important to contributors and stakeholders and is used to evaluate how much of its expenses organization is allocating to programs.

2020 REVENUES



2020 EXPENSES





FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BOWL-A-THON - BOWL FOR THE GREEN

This fun event took place prior to the pandemic closings. With its St. Patrick's Day theme, we once again managed to fill all 24 lanes at King Pin Bowling. This 11th annual event surpass all other Bowl-A-Thon events and raised over \$10,000 to support SKSF Adult Services programs.



NIGHT OF COMEDY

Despite the pandemic restrictions of large group gatherings, we were able to raise over \$40,000 to help support Zach's Place center. Our 9th Annual Night of Comedy signature fundraising event was held on Saturday, October 11, 2020. SKSF staff along with assistance from Chris Baldwin of Graham River Productions, was able to pull off our first ever virtual live event! In addition, we had an online silent auction that exceeded our expectations. "We were very surprised that everyone came together to make this happen in such a short amount of time," says Linda Ellegard, SKSF Executive Director. "This was just an idea a few months ago, since COVID-19 caused us to cancel our in-person event. We are so happy that this virtual event went so smoothly and we appreciate everyone that participated in making this happen."

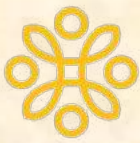


Due to the pandemic, we had to change the way we celebrated the holidays. Normally, the organization would have a big party, with lots of food, invite Santa and pass out gifts to all adult clients, kids attending their programs and siblings. However, this year was a bit different but nonetheless very special. We received from an anonymous donor a generous donation of 1,000 toys, games, and stuffed animals to be given to the children at Zach's Place and our foster care program.

In addition, the staff at Adult Services reached out to their families, friends and community through phone calls, emails and social media to ask for donations. Raising over \$3,000 in just a few days, the plan to purchase gifts and distribute to the clients was a reality! The weekend before Christmas, staff volunteered to go to client homes and drop off presents, dressed as Santa's Elves and favorite fantasy characters, singing carols, and showing them that they have not been forgotten! "My heart is so full seeing how much our community has supported us and to know that we can show our clients just how important they are. It sure put smiles on so many faces," said Madeline Dulle, Joey's Place Coordinator.

1,000+ Gifts Donated!





THANKS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS & DONORS

Thanks to every individual, business, organization, grantor and foundation that made a contribution in 2020. Every gift you give directly benefits our mission and helps change the lives of individuals with disabilities and special needs. *(Reflects \$100+ in giving.)*

GRANTORS

Anonymous Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Carl W. and Carrie Mae Joslyn Charitable Trust
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation
Credit Union of Colorado Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Ent Youth Endowment Services Grant
Good Coin Foundation
Healthy Childcare Colorado
Herbert E. Parker Charitable Trust
Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation
Johnson Foundation of the Rockies
Lily Pearl Foundation
MDC Richmond American Homes Foundation
Monument Hill Foundation
PayPal Giving Fund
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation
The Denver Foundation
The Marson Foundation
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
Virginia W. Hill Foundation
Walmart Community Giving

BUSINESS / ACADEMIC

CIVIC / FAITH

A Physicians Home Care
A Rise Above
Adams Bank & Trust
Add Staff
Analog Devices
Balance Chiropractic
Berwick Electric
Biggs Kofford
Black Forest Community Club
Blackhat Distillery
Blazer Electric Supply
Broadmoor World Arena
Carson's Wine & Liquor
Cheyenne Canon Segways
CIA Leavitt Insurance
Colorado Behavior & Learning Group
Colorado Springs Commercial Curves
Double Vision Carpentry
Elk Creek Construction

Fab'rik Clothing
Fillmore Veterinary Hospital
Five Star Productions
Genesis Med Spa
Graham River Productions
Hotel Elegante
Junior League Colorado Springs
KES Radon, LLC
Kids on Bikes
King Soopers / City Market
Knights of Columbus #582
Knights of Columbus #9993
Koscove Metal
Kristi Williams Photography
Kroenke Sports Charities
Kroger Family Stores
Moody Insurance
Moser Corporation
MRC Technology
NuStar Energy
Old Town Guesthouse
PASCO
Patsy's Candies
PDC Pharmacy
PDC Pharmacy
Penrose-St Francis Centura Health Services
Phil Long
Phil Long
Pinnacol Assurance
Porch
Pottery Barn #731
ProSound Music
Realm of Caring
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
Rocky Mountain Roosters
Rocky Top Resources
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Simple CPR
Sovereignty Wines
The Arc Pikes Peak Region
The Gazette
The Wine Seller
Tri Lakes Guitar Studio
Trinity United Methodist Church
Unified Title Company LLC
USBorne Books
Warren Management Group
Williams Sonoma #519
Woodford Manufacturing Charities

INDIVIDUALS

Acree, Jennifer
Agyepong, Nana & Rose
Angiocchi, Al & Christine
Ascarelli, David & Sandy
Bell, David
Bennett, John & Karen
Berger, Jeff & Maria
Berwick, Doug & Marie
Bowers, Dan & Debra
Bowman, David & Arlene
Brown, Sarah
Brown, Virginia
Brush, Elaine
Butts, John & Jenny
Butts, Rachel
Canno, Lorie
Chiacchia, Rob & Christine
Cogswell, William & Susan
Creps, Darrel & Kristi
Crom, Gordon & Kimberly
Curry, Dr. Katharine
Davidson, Mark & Wendy
Dickson, Jeff & Wendy
Dobrzelecki, Eugene
Dominic, Brian & Kimberly
Doner, Geoffrey
Dulle, Marianne
Dulle, Paul
Dulle, Lisa
Ellegard, Cheryl
Ellegard, Linda
Evans, Randall
Fisher-Rosenberg, Lee
Frasier, Daniel & Christina
Greenwood, Dick
Grier, Amy
Hansen, Abigail & Elizabeth
Harding, James & Cheryl
Harlor, Lyle & Pamela
Heinicke, Philip
Held, Dan
Helton, Jason & Deborah
Herrera, Alex & Linda
Honeycutt, Marisa & Steve
Horn, Aaron & Jennifer
Hughes, John & Beth
Isaacs Henry, John & Jan
Jivan, Hashmeera
Johnson, Sherry
Jolly, Calvin & Patty
Jones, Dean & Jo
Jordan, Harold & Maureen

Kelso, Sarah
Koch, Barry & Jennifer
Kraska, Andrew
Lane, Philip & Anita
Lawrence, Sean & Kristi
Main, Sarah
May Chick, Sabrina
Mlynek, Edward & Madelyn
Nagel, Dan & Diana
Nickerson, Ronald & Kathleen
Olmsted, Terry
O'Rourke, Maureen
Paap, Colleen & Shawn
Pillai, Sanavi
Powell, Becky
Prudhomme, David
Prudhomme, Chris & Sara
Prudhomme, Richard & Pamela
Purushothaman, Bijili
Quidachay, Francis & Fern
Renslow, Chad & Ashley
Rhea, Elizabeth
Rockwell, Kent & Elizabeth
Rodriguez, Myrna
Ryan, Michael
Saltzman, Nancy
Salvador, Benjamin & Linda
Saponas, Thomas & Charlotte
Schaefer, Mark & Julie
Scott, Eric & Deborah
Seder, Robert
Shrack, J. Kipp & Patricia
Skalski, Henry & April
Smith, Mary Ellis
Smith, Robert & Ann
Sperber, Michelle
Stone, Chad
Swanson, Rob & Jessica
Thompson, Jon
Tolve, Amy
Upton, Roger & Judith
Van Thournout, Betty
Waldron, Betty
Walker, Samantha
Walter, Anita
Warren, Mark & Linda
Weiss, W.K. & Rita
Weisseg, Brian & Amanda
Wiepking, Jack B & Linda
Wiley, Bob & Rita
Winder, Kathleen
Youngwerth, Cheryl