2021 Annual Report

PROMOTE, STRENGTHEN & SUPPORT
Individuals with Disabilities, their Families and Caregivers
2021 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 has been a continuation of ever changing elements with the need to proceed with caution and future uncertainty, along with the glimmers of hope that the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to release its grip on the public. Its those glimmers of encouraging aspects that we see our clients coming back to attend our community day programs and our Zach’s Place center in greater numbers and with greater consistency. Seeing children and adults delighted to have their “good friends” return to program and experience friendships and connections again has been uplifting for staff as well as the clients.

The pandemic has certainly had its challenges on our workforce. As clients were not able to return for health and safety reasons, it created a decrease in our staff; thus requiring the organization to develop a momentum to increase the workforce. Change in national, state and local matters for direct care meant that the typical means for recruitment needed to change. We are up to the task to make this effort first and foremost. As I am writing this in early 2022, I must say that the momentum is starting to make a difference as we’re seeing an increase in hiring with a bustling and positive effect in the workplace.

To meet the changing needs of our clients, new programming within our programs have been created. In developing therapeutic gardens at Zach’s Place and Adult Services, our clients and their families enjoy innovative horticultural experiences where they engage in the beauty of the gardens. With daily interaction with the plants, birds, insects, water and the life cycle of nature, we see children and adults with disabilities learning by being part of the caretaking role of a gardener.

Other positive aspects have been the development of the Community Connectors program within the Child Placement Program. As families find themselves without community based group programs, the need to develop more individualized services for families having high risk youth was apparent within the client referral system. Our Child Placement team is training and working with new staff to support youth and give them opportunities to facilitate and build relationships in the community.

In our Adult Program, in an effort to regain connections to one another, Building Connections was started. This program offers interactive activities with therapeutic themes and communication to allow friendships and sharing to occur. This class is well attended with pre-planning within the program.

The power of the human spirit to move through difficulties and find new ways to develop and grow is a good insight for the organization. As we assess what doesn’t work moving forward, we are continually adding program elements that do work so we can continue to respond to the needs of our clients.

We thank our dedicated Board of Directors who work tirelessly to assist in moving our mission forward. In addition, we are grateful for our community partners, businesses and funders who continue to be committed to our mission and are engaged in helping us to deliver our vision - “Giving people in need the resources, compassion and freedom to achieve the life that everyone deserves.”

Linda Ellegard  SKSF Founder & Executive Director
NEW PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED

THERAPEUTIC GARDENS
In 2021, SKSF created garden spaces at Zach’s Place and Adult Services facilities. Working with a LCSW and Master Gardener who is trained and certified by the Horticultural Therapy Institute, this program provides educational, social and therapeutic gardening for individuals with disabilities and high needs. By participating in this program, individuals improve their self-esteem, socialization and communication skills, fine and gross motor skills and receive sensory stimulation.

GOALS / OUTCOMES
- Empower individuals to accomplish tasks in which they can be proud of
- Demonstrate productivity through harvested fruits and vegetables
- Implement family-inclusion activities and take-home garden projects
- Increase access to fresh produce and willingness to try new foods
- Teach nutritious choices in foods through planting, growing and harvesting
- Create educational opportunities to learn about gardening
- Use soil (digging, planting, weeding) as a therapeutic sensory tool

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
Through the Child Placement program, Community Connector services was developed to help youth interact with others in the community to strengthen their social skills. This program teaches individuals with disabilities how to function in the community by providing a wide variety of opportunities to facilitate and build relationships and natural supports in the community while utilizing the community as a learning environment to provide services and supports identified in their service plans.
- Currently serving 11 children
- 242.5 hours served in 2021 with plans to continue to expand in 2022

BUILDING CONNECTIONS
Adults participate in the new Building Connections program to interact with others through various therapeutic themed activities. These activities relate to a discussion topic of the day in which some are even client led encouraging socialization & communication.

PROVIDER NIGHT OUT
Designed for adult clients participating in current programs. This special themed monthly event allows for socialization with community and center based activities. It gives caregivers a time for respite and an opportunity for clients to experience independent fun activities.
- Started with 3 clients & by year end - 16 clients!
PROGRAM FACTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ZACH'S PLACE  Serving children 2.5-18 with disabilities and special needs (behavioral, developmental, physical & medical) and engaging them in practical life skills education, critical safety and self-sufficiency skills with community inclusion.

- 64 youth served in 2021
- 27,000 hours of care provided
- Served over 80% of families from low-income backgrounds
- 69% of children served were under age 12
- 46% of children were diagnosed on the autism spectrum
- 28% of the care we offer is paid using a sliding scale which averages $4.90/hr. when our actual cost of care is $28/hr.

ADULT SERVICES
- Approved as a Home Care Agency obtaining a Class B licensure being able to provide Homemaker services to clients
- Expanded the SLS (Supported Living Services) Program for clients providing Respite, Personal Care & Mentorship
- Joey’s Place & I-CAN served 42 clients in the start of 2021 and 63 clients at year end
- Increased the amount of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities
- Introduced Client and Staff of the Month to recognize individuals going above & beyond
- Recognized local businesses supporting client participation at their facilities (King Pin Lanes, Sun Water Spa, etc.)
- Served 52 individuals in our Residential Services program which places adults with disabilities with credentialed providers trained to care for their specific special needs
- Residential Services hosted their first Trunk or Treat event for the community; many new connections and collaborations were made with organizations like NAMI, MGA Home Care, Team Select & Realm of Caring

FOSTER CARE SERVICES
- Served 55 youth from 13 counties
- At year end 2021, there were 42 active foster parents with 6 foster parents in the certification process
- Increased the number of children served (12) in CHRP (Children's Habilitation Residential Program) providing services for children and youth who have an intellectual or development disability with very high needs
- Collaborated with Salvation Army and distributed hundreds of boxes with food and necessities to foster family homes
- Partnered with Fostering Source to provide training on cultural bias sending out information and providing training via Zoom
- Selected by CDHS to be a part of a Geo-Mapping pilot program where the state provides the agency a recruitment system to areas where most removals are happening
- Working with Beacon Options in developing a crisis respite program for families seeking respite services for children in crisis
- Collaborated with Cases of Love and distributed backpacks with school supplies for every foster child
- Approved for a new license for Therapeutic Foster Care aligning with the new Family First Act
- Introduced Community Connectors providing a wide variety of opportunities for youth in crisis
- Local award winning video producers, Ralph Giordano of ArchAngel Productions and Nate Shields of Shields Productions won a silver Addy award in the PSA category for their foster care promotional video

Ralph Giordano & Nate Shields accepting Addy Award
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Several local businesses supported SKSF in 2021 hosting their own fundraisers and contributing the funds to support SKSF programming.

Unified Title hosted their Annual Golf Tournament in 2021 and SKSF was the recipient once again! They donated over $14,000 to support our programs. With their generosity over the years, they have donated nearly $100,000!

Balance Chiropractic presents donation check

SKSF would like to acknowledge the following foundations and grantors for supporting our mission supporting individuals with disabilities:

- Albertsons & Safeway Foundation
- Carl W. and Carrie Mae Joslyn Charitable Trust
- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- Colorado Springs Health Foundation
- Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation
- Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville
- Credit Union of Colorado Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Disabling Barriers
- El Pomar Foundation
- Ent Credit Union / YES Grant
- Johnson Foundation of the Rockies
- Lexis Nexis Cares Board
- The Arthur J Gallagher Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- The Hester & Edwin Giddings Foundation
- The Marson Foundation
- The Myron Stratton Home
- The Stewart Foundation
- Virginia W Hill Foundation
- Walmart Store #1200
- Walmart Store #1273
- Walmart Store #3082
- Walmart Store #3582
- Whole Kids Foundation

SKSF received several grants from various Walmart locations.

Knights of Columbus Council #582 present a check from their Tootsie Roll drive

An unexpected donation from Kenzi’s Causes, a Denver based nonprofit, donating over $16,000 worth of toys, diapers, wipes and stuffed animals. Partnering with Safelite Autoglass to collect & distribute a truckload full!

Fraternal Order of Eagles #3260 presents several checks to support SKSF programs from their fundraisers

Lara Stern (left) with Disabling Barriers presented a check for $20,000 to SKSF to help support low income families whose children attend Zach’s Place.
“If it wasn’t for SKSF, I’m not sure what or where we would be today. I see how much Kyle has grown as an adult and the many things he has learned from the program; not only working with and being with his peers but learning to work and communicate with others. I know Kyle will continue to grow while attending the program. We are thoroughly grateful for having SKSF in our lives.”

Jeanne Crabtree

As SKSF Foster Parents of nearly 15 children, the Riehl family supports the biological families of the children they foster. “We always had a desire to be foster parents and as soon as we got our first kid we just treated them like they were our own kids. You’re just there to love, care and protect whether it’s your kid or someone else’s kid... We’re here to restore the sense of innocence that was lost.”

Lance & Nancy Riehl

“IT’s so special to me to know that he’s comfortable here (Zach’s Place) and he’s happy here. He is so excited to see everyone in the mornings. He’ll run up and give them hugs and ask to play right away and everyone is so welcoming, kind and patient. That’s so important for not only Emerson, but for all the other kids here at Zach’s Place. I’m so thankful that I found Zach’s Place. It is such a unique program and there is no other program in this area like it. Families absolutely count on it and need it.”

Jeanne Crabtree

SIGNATURE FUNDRAISERS

BOWL-A-THON
Due to COVID restrictions earlier in the year, SKSF’s 12th annual Bowl-A-Thon Bowl for the Green event was held on September 11th at King Pin Lanes with a Patriot’s theme. It was SKSF’s highest grossing Bowl-A-Thon with hundreds of bowlers participating and all 24 lanes filled! With the support of area sponsors (NuStar Energy, Blazer Electric, Leavitt Group, El Pomar Foundation, MRC Technology, Vinton Law Firm & others) and participants, we raised over $12,000 to help support our Adult programs.

NIGHT OF COMEDY
This year’s 10th annual signature fundraising event, Night of Comedy, had an appropriate theme of “Laugh Your Mask Off”. The event featured comedian Josh Blue, NBC’s America’s Got Talent 3rd place contestant, and drew in nearly 300 guests with over 26 sponsors (top sponsors - A Rise Above, RPS Insurance, Ent Credit Union, Koscove Metal, NuStar Energy, Pentrust Mortgage & others). With the support of 100+ local businesses donating items to the Silent Auction, we raised nearly $20,000! In total, this 10th annual event was the highest grossing fundraiser for SKSF raising nearly $95,000 to support Zach’s Place program!
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 the organization is allocating to programs.

**2021 REVENUES**

- Fee for Service 89.4%
- Grants 6.7%
- Contributions 2.3%
- Fundraising 1.5%
- Other Income .1%

**2021 EXPENSES**

- Child Placement Agency 27.9%
- Host Home 36%
- Zach's Place 7.5%
- Adult Services 15.2%
- Behavioral Health 3.5%
- General/Admin 8.7%
- Fundraising 1.3%

*Graphs of revenue and expenses including all data provided by BiggsKofford, Certified Public Accountants Independent Auditor’s Report June 2022.*
THANKS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS & DONORS

Thanks to every individual, business, organization, grantor and foundation that made a contribution in 2021. Large or small, every gift you give directly benefits our mission and helps change the lives of individuals with disabilities and special needs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A Rise Above
A Special Needs Connection
Adams Bank & Trust
Add Staff
American Overseas Door
Analog Devices
Balance Chiropractic
Bank of Colorado
Bee Bee's Boards
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ENT Credit Union
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Ken's Causes
King Soopers/City Market
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Risk Placement Services / RPS
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
Rocky Mountain Roosters
Rocky Mountain Vibes Baseball
Rocky Top Resources
Rudy's BBQ
Safe Splash Swim School
Sand Creek Liquors
Shandy Clinic
Simple CPR
Sophie's Bubbles
SOCO Women's Chamber
Soerenvig Wines
Space Foundation Discovery Center
Springs Adventure Park
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