



Special Kids
Special Families

The Special *Times*

SKSF E-Newsletter to promote, strengthen & support individuals with disabilities, their families & caregivers

DECEMBER 2022

A Special Santa For The Special Needs Community Shares Holiday Spirit With Others...

WE ARE SO PROUD OF BRYAN, an adult program participant at SKSF's Adult Services day program. Based on a recent press release about Bryan wanting to be Santa again this year, The Colorado Springs Gazette wrote an article about him. [READ THE GAZETTE ARTICLE HERE...](#)

A special holiday tradition at Special Kids Special Families started during the pandemic year when adult program participants couldn't attend services. SKSF staff wanted to reach out and show their clients how much they cared and were thinking about them during this difficult time. Staff dressed up in holiday garb and visited their client's homes while singing carols and dropping off gifts. In continuing this special tradition, adult day program participant, Bryan asked if he could be "Santa" as it's always been his dream to ride along and drop off presents to his peers. When it was agreed that Bryan could participate, he was so happy and excited. When asked why he wanted to be Santa, he said with a big smile, "I want to give back and show how much I care about them and their friendships." Being inspired by Bryan's response, SKSF Staff wanted to help Bryan be the best possible Santa and make his dream come true. [READ MORE...](#)



(Photo by Jerilee Bennett, The Gazette)



HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE >>> WITH GRATITUDE

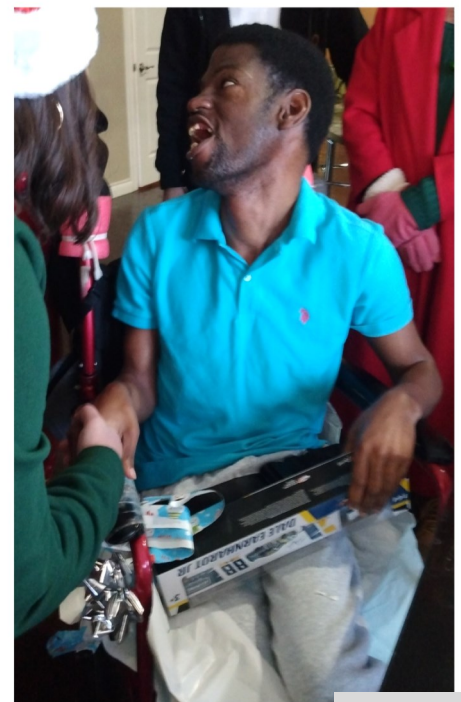
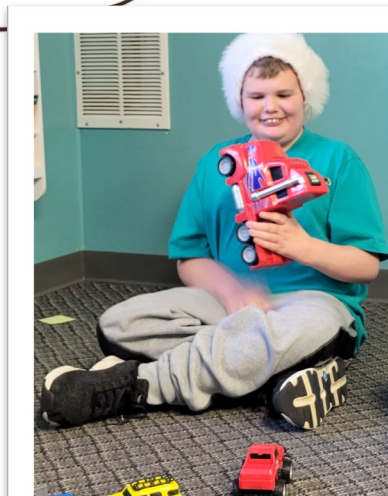
We are SO GRATEFUL to the volunteers and donors that participated in our holiday gift drive this year!! Busy volunteers (David Martinez & daughter + Morgan Walsh, Kimberly Blair) helped wrap gifts and so many individual & business donors stepped up to help! Businesses set up giving trees and collected gifts and gift cards. We were overwhelmed with their generosity and want to thank you so much for helping us make this a successful gift drive for the children & adults we serve! Happy Holidays!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Koscove Metal - Joe Koscove
- Dan Bowers
- Hope Montessori Academy - Monument
- Maxim Healthcare
- Berwick Electric
- Global Procurement Solutions - Tim & Amber Tomlinson
- Little Sprouts Learning Center - Sarah Brown
- Natasha Sexton
- Art Pearson & the folks at Pearson Promotional
- Val Cox & the folks at Ent Credit Union
- Mary Anderson at Shelter Insurance
- Lucrecia Sjoerdsma & the folks at Dept of Human Services
- Kristina Comer & the folks at Woodford Manufacturing
- Shayla & Dan Parsons & the folks at J2D Electric
- IBEW Local #113

TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

[CLICK HERE...](#)





Special Kids Special Families Interim Executive Director, Linda Ellegard was recently on FOX21 News promoting the GIVE! Campaign and Zach's Place program. Thanks to the GIVE! campaign and everyone at FOX21 for making this possible & helping us spread the word!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CLIP...](#)



[Special Kids Special Families](#) would like to thank [Together We Rise](#) Foster Love program and everyone at [Bombas](#) for donating to our organization's foster care program. These donated socks will go a long way especially around holiday time to comforting those kiddos transitioning into the foster care system. Who doesn't like a good sock!! Thank you so much for your donation!!

<https://www.togetherwerise.org/how-we-help/>



The Board of Directors and SKSF staff present a donation award to two very special people, Jay & Angie Klein for their very generous donation to SKSF to help further our mission. THANK YOU very much for your generosity! This donation will allow us to continue our mission to promote, strengthen & support individuals with disabilities, their families & caregivers.



Photo: left to right - SKSF Operations Director, Michele Peters; SKSF Board Member, Leslie Wolken; Jay & Angie Klein; SKSF Board Member, Toni Major; SKSF Board Vice President, Mark Schaefer; SKSF Interim Executive Director, Linda Ellegard; & SKSF Board Secretary, Patty Brookes.



A special thanks to the following grantors and foundations for supporting our programs for individuals with disabilities:

- The Denver Foundation
- Green Our Planet
- Virginia W. Hill Foundation
- The Kerr Foundation, Inc.
- Sprouts Healthy Community Foundation

THROUGH THE EYES OF A PARENT - RUTH MOWERS >>>

We understand the struggles of caring for a child or adult with disabilities, and it is our mission to continue to promote, strengthen and support our client's needs, their families and caregivers. We'd like to share the story of a family that has been utilizing our Adult Services day program. By sharing their testimonial, we hope it will bring awareness and understanding of how important our services are to families.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY...](#)



SKSF - WE ARE HIRING! >>>

One of the most rewarding, while being one of the most challenging life choices that a family can make is to say YES to becoming a foster family. Children may need a foster home because their own parents may not be able to provide daily care and safe living for the children. There are various reasons for this to occur. The parent(s) may be dealing with substance abuse, mental health issues, and/or homelessness. The ages of children in need of homes are infant to adolescents and some children are placed with their siblings.



SKSF is seeking adults and families to make a commitment to provide a home for children!

WE'RE HIRING!
Click here for info...

- Community Connectors
- Adult Mentors
- Child Care Workers / Leads
- Foster Care Parents
- Host Home Providers
- Respite Care Providers

Meet SKSF's Newest Board Member!



We'd like to welcome SKSF's newest Board Member - Dr. Blake Graham, MD. Not long after graduation from San Jose State University in San Jose, California Blake joined the U.S. Army to attend Medical School at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. He completed medical school with an MD degree and was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army. Army service continued for 28 years with stations in Aurora, Colorado, Germany, Hawaii, Maryland, then back to Colorado ending up at Fort Carson. Service also included two tours in Iraq and ended with retirement in 2020. Blake and his wife Christine have 6 grown children. **We are honored to have Blake join the SKSF Board of Directors!**



Live Here. Give Here.

SO FAR
WE
RAISED

\$4,965

TIME
LEFT

13 days



OUR
GOAL

\$10,000

50%

\$4,965

**KOSCOVE
METAL**



The Give! campaign is almost over! Giving through Give! will help us support children with disabilities who attend SKSF's Zach's Place center. Your donation will help low income families with the respite care they desperately need! Raising a child with a disability can be 24/7 and your donation will **GIVE THE GIFT OF RESPITE!** Thank you!



GET REWARDS!

While giving is and should be its own reward, many local businesses want to support Give! and help our local nonprofits by providing a selection of cool gifts at no cost to Give!, as a special and unique THANK YOU to you for your donation. The more money you donate, the more rewards you get!

**DONATE
TODAY!**



CONTACT US:

**Special Kids
Special Families**

1915 Aerotech Drive, Ste 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
(719) 447-8983

sksf@sksfcolorado.org



MAKE A DONATION - SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

SAVE THE DATE!



March 11th, 2023

Bowl for the Green\$\$

BOWL-A-THON

All proceeds from this event support SKSF programming
for adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers

\$30 / person

\$15 / child (age 15 & under)

*includes 2 games of bowling,
reserved lane, shoe rental
& participation in contest
prizes & drawing.*

EVENT THEME

*St. Patrick's Day so be
sure to "don" your green!*



Saturday
March 11th, 2023
2:30 - 5:00 PM

KING PIN LANES
3410 N. Academy Blvd
Colorado Springs

CONTEST PRIZES
GOODIE BAG
DRAWING

Special Kids Special Families

1915 Aerotech Drive, Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
(719) 447-8983 x42 | sksf@sksfcolorado.org

501(c)3 organization
EIN #84-1476535

Ways YOU can make a difference!

- Become a "Bowl with a Buddy" sponsor for \$250 (other levels available from \$250 - \$3,000)
- Form your team & bowl
- Pledge/donate to a team
- Donate a gift to our drawing
- Volunteer or help spread the word! Hang a flyer, share on social media OR tell a friend

Click here to
SPONSOR

LEARN MORE