

## Dear Families, Friends & Supporters,

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.



Special Kids  
Special Families

[www.sksfcolorado.org](http://www.sksfcolorado.org)

"When Richey, my third child, was born, I knew something was wrong. At six months old, his doctors told us that we had to send him to a rehab center. They said that he would never understand anything you said to him, that he would never sit up and that he would pretty much be unresponsive to anything. They wanted me to place him in a bassinet all day and give him very strong drugs. After hearing their diagnosis of his condition, I didn't accept their suggestions, removed him from the facility immediately and never turned back! Richey was almost 3 years old when he received his first wheelchair. We placed him in pre-school with District 11 which he attended five days a week. He still wasn't talking at this point, but he had an excellent teacher. Eventually, she taught him to talk and to this day - he hasn't stopped!



Richey was born with Pectus Carinatum, also known as a pigeon chest, which is a deformity of the chest wall where the breastbone and ribs are pushed outward. He was having trouble breathing and talking at the same time. After having thoracic surgery, which was successful, he also had to have surgery on his legs to extend the tendons. This was a very rough surgery, but we survived! At 21, Richey graduated school and started his first day program. I wasn't sure what to expect at first, but after many years, he became angry and frustrated. I would go to pick him up and they couldn't find him. I didn't know where to turn and worked with his case manager at The Resource Exchange (TRE) to work on finding another day program that suited him better. When we found Special Kids Special Families Adult Services day program, the change in Richey was like night and day! I feel I have my son back after so many years of turmoil. The staff at SKSF are very special people! For the past 2 years Richey has been attending day program, he's been so happy and has grown so much which has made him a well-rounded young man." *Ruth Mowers* - Mother of Richey



*Richey with his friends at Day Program*

"We have seen great improvement in Richey over the years," says Adult Day Services Director, Dionna Lanich. "In November 2021, Richey was elected by his peers as Champion of the Month. He's made many friends at the program too." The plaque that Richey received says - **Richey is encouraging to his peers, always positive, and loves to try new things. SKSF Staff has noticed an increase in his patience and understanding for his fellow peers and their actions and emotions. Richey is always happy and is able to empathize with his peers when they show behaviors or emotions during program. Staff emphasized that knowing Richey is humbling in many ways because he is always able to see the best in everything and everyone.**

On behalf of everyone at Special Kids Special Families, we thank you for your continued support and contributions and we wish you a very happy holiday season!

*Linda Ellegard*  
SKSF Executive Director

Special Kids Special Families has been around since 1998 providing valuable programs to families and caregivers that need respite and day care services. By providing stimulating community and center based activities for children and adults with disabilities, we give a family or caregiver a break in the day where they can seek respite, relaxation and re-charge. Caring for an individual with a disability can be challenging and knowing their loved one is being well cared for by trained staff is reassuring to families. At our programs, we look at each individual and prepare lessons and activities according to their special needs to assist them in learning various life skills, hobbies, and interests.

Respite is the number one most requested service for people with disabilities and one of the least funded. We rely on your donations and the assistance of grants and community business support, as we turn no one away because of an inability to pay. **Your support makes a difference and keeps our programs alive!**



- **A \$50 donation** provides for a program participant to socialize with their peers during Provider's Night Out;
- **A \$100 donation** provides 3 individuals to participate in a community outing like bowling or going to the movies;
- **A \$250 donation** supports fuel costs for transportation to and from programs for 1 week;
- **A \$500 donation** provides for one child, from a single parent family, a week of respite care at Zach's Place center.



### **DONATE TODAY & get a tax break in April!**

When you or your business contribute funds to promote and develop child care activities, you can get up to a 50% Childcare Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC), in addition to your regular state and federal contribution deductions. Visit online for more information:

**[www.colorado.gov/revenue](http://www.colorado.gov/revenue) OR  
[www.SKSFcolorado.org](http://www.SKSFcolorado.org)**

## **Please consider a donation in any amount**

SKSF is participating in the Give! campaign which runs from 11/1-12/31/22. A donation in any amount can be made online at **[www.GivePikesPeak.org/SKSF](http://www.GivePikesPeak.org/SKSF)**

## **Thank You!**



**give!**  
Ready, set,  
**GIVE!**

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