Dear Community Partners, Friends & Supporters:
We want to extend a huge thank you for your generosity, loyalty and support this past year. We have so many plans for 2023! With the introduction of a new Executive Director we are looking forward to growth and an exciting new future! We will continue to grow our programs and offer a variety of services to support our mission. We are excited to grow our Homemaker Services to children and adults and expand our Community Connector services, our Behavioral Health services, Therapeutic Horticulture & Crisis Respite programs. We will be increasing our client population across all programs and will continue to recruit more Foster Care and Host Home families. We are looking forward to expanding our collaborations with area businesses and organizations while continuing to grow our signature events and seek grants to help fund our programs. In addition, we will be growing our Volunteer program to recruit more corporate groups and individuals. We are looking forward to a great year and are very grateful for your support! Wishing you peace & happiness in 2023!

SKSF Board of Directors

Meet SKSF’s NEW Executive Director

Kevin Porter has spent most of his career focusing on helping the at-risk and marginalized population. He’s been advocating for the underserved in the Colorado Springs community in the healthcare field for the past 13 years. With over 20 years of leadership experience, Kevin brings non-profit and healthcare experience in operations, strategy, project oversight, business development, communications and marketing. “After 23 years, I’m eager for Kevin to step into the Executive Director position. I’ll still be around in a supportive role and volunteering with the organization. I’m really looking forward to my next phase in life,” says Linda Ellegard, SKSF Founder and former Executive Director.

“Special Kids Special Families is one of the most beloved and revered nonprofit organizations in our community. I am excited to work alongside an amazing and dedicated staff and grateful for the opportunity to follow in the founder’s footsteps as my predecessor retires and embarks on new adventures. I am looking forward to using my experience to help SKSF continue to grow and even have a greater impact in our region.” Kevin Porter.

With the SKSF mission always at the forefront, the Board of Directors envision the organization moving forward to provide support services to as many families as they meet the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout their life span. “On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are extremely happy about our decision to hire Kevin. He knows the Colorado Springs area and is connected to the community. We look forward to seeing the organization grow and flourish under his leadership and direction,” Dan Frasier, SKSF Board President.
NEW! THE GARDEN CORNER

As we enter a new year, we’d like to share with the community what our program participants have been learning and experiencing in our new Therapeutic Horticulture program. We recently received a grant from “Green Our Planet” and plan to start implementing a hydroponic system in our gardening projects.

ADULT PROGRAM
With the garden beds put to sleep, covered, and hoop houses installed, we are hoping to grow beets and lettuce throughout the winter months. We’ve made many garden projects indoors making ornaments, evergreen lanterns, gnomes, bird feeders, herb salt, and gingerbread houses.

ZACH’S PLACE
During the holidays, the kids decorated a bean pole base holiday tree. With the colder weather, indoor projects include making worm bins, snowmen, gingerbread houses, wreaths, and dried fruit projects. The kids are learning that the garden takes rest and are reading books about gratitude and kindness that can be found throughout the gardening process.

Both adults and kids are getting together monthly for fun events centered around gardening projects encouraging socialization and friendships.

Julie Hudak
SKSF Horticultural Specialist / jhudak@sksfcolorado.org

WISH LIST

When the Spring arrives, we’d love to have these items on hand. If you can donate any of the items on our WISH LIST, please contact Julie at jhudak@sksfcolorado.org to make arrangements for pick-up or drop off.

THANK YOU!

- Potting soil / seed starting mix
- Seed trays and pots for seed starting
- Gloves (adult/child) cotton based / safe from harmful chemicals
- Spray bottles / child and adult based
- More garden beds! With more galvanized steel based beds, we can plant more & have perennial based native plants for pollinators
- A shade structure & better seating at the adult program
- A nice picnic table at Zach’s Place program
- Sand box features with a cover feature for Zach’s Place
- Rollable inside planting table for the adult program
- Help with installing a walkway in our adult program
- Monies to purchase some permanent based plants in both programs, shrubs, mini-trees, rose bushes, and trees
- Bird houses, feeders and seed
Unified Title Company generously donated $17,000 to Special Kids Special Families from funds that were raised from their 2022 Annual Golf Tournament held at Perry Park Country Club. The support from sponsors, donors and golf participants is AMAZING! These funds will help support families who use Zach’s Place childcare and respite center. Thank you for your continued generosity - it's greatly needed and greatly appreciated!

Photo (L to R): Linda Ellegard, former SKSF Executive Director; Angie Cooper, Unified Title; & Kevin Porter, SKSF Executive Director.

As the Give! campaign comes to a close, we’d like to thank the many donors that generously donated through the campaign. We received $6,005 in donations! In addition to our matching grantors - Koscove Metal & the SKSF Board of Directors, we raised a total of $7,705 to help fund SKSF's Zach's Place program for children with disabilities and their families! THANK YOU for your generosity and support of our organization and the individuals we serve!

We’d like to acknowledge our most recent grants received from generous grantors and foundations. We appreciate their consideration and support of our program. Funds will be used for programs supporting individuals with disabilities and their families.

- El Pomar Foundation
- The Hester and Edwin Giddings Foundation
- Disabling Barriers
- Carl W. and Carrie Mae Joslyn Charitable Trust
- Johnson Foundation of the Rockies
WE ARE HIRING!

Zach's Place Childcare Worker, Brianna, with little one Desiree…

"I love working at Zach's Place because of the kiddos. I enjoy watching them learn & grow and seeing how we make a difference in their lives."

JANUARY is National Mentoring Month and during this month, we are recognizing our dedicated MENTORS! Being an Adult Mentor or Child Care Worker is a key part of the success of our organization. By being a mentor, you give support, motivation and guidance to the individuals we serve and care for!

Your positive example gives the children and adults that we serve a sound path and helps them prepare to succeed and become more independent.

TAKE A QUICK PEEK at our NEW Adult Services promotional video & see how you can make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve and their families!

Zach's Place Childcare Worker, Sita, with little one Willow…

"I get great satisfaction in being a positive role model for these kids and I can make a difference in their lives! I enjoy the team that I work with very much!"

CONTACT US:
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Colorado Springs, CO 80916
(719) 447-8983
sksf@sksfcolorado.org

• Program Manager
• Community Connector
• Residential Home Supervisor

• Adult Mentor
• Childcare Workers
SKSF’s 14th Annual Bowl-A-Thon is a tradition that many look forward to every year! BOWL FOR THE GREEN St. Patrick’s Day Bowl-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at King Pin Lanes.

This annual event is celebrated every year where teams don their favorite St. Patrick’s Day outfits, wear their green and bowl to support a good cause helping raise funds for programs for adults with disabilities and their families. We will hold a DRAWING for some great prizes offered by area businesses. We will also be awarding CONTEST PRIZES throughout the event. A goodie bag will also be given to every registered bowler.

Help us SPREAD THE WORD! Please print out the flyer & post at your place of business OR share with a friend or family member. Thank you for your help!