



Special Kids
Special Families

The Special Times

E-Newsletter



MARCH 2023

Hello Friends!

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month and is dedicated to highlighting people with and without disabilities - coming together to form strong, diverse communities and to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. This month we knocked it out of the park and participated in many activities at our programs plus out in the community - we can't even include them all! In this month's edition, we'll highlight as much as we can but also **LIKE** or **FOLLOW** us on social media to keep up to date!



We held our 14th Annual St. Patrick's themed Bowl-A-Thon fundraising event which was a HUGE success to support our Adult Day Program. In addition, our program participants visited local businesses, collaborated with other organizations, volunteered in the community, participated in St. Patrick's Day activities, and accepted generous donations to support our programs.

With the generosity of the community, SKSF staff, business partners and volunteers, we were able to celebrate Developmental Disability Awareness month and help unlock the potential and increase independence for the individuals we serve. Thank you for your support! To learn more about SKSF visit: www.SKSFcolorado.org.



Adult Day Program participants & staff at SKSF's
14th Annual Bowl for the Green Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser!

We Love Our Neighbors

In collaboration with LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, our Adult Day Community program participants started woodworking classes and learning new skills. With the help of SKSF staff and volunteers, our clients are learning how to use tools safely and work with wood as they learn how to sand, hammer, and paint. By accomplishing these projects, they are gaining independence and skills to which they are all very proud of! We appreciate the opportunity that Love Your Neighbor Director, Luke Wroblewski has given our clients. The group will meet monthly and create different projects every time with the end goal of using their newly learned skills to eventually assist in making beds for foster kids. Thank you Luke and friends at Love Your Neighbor!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT ADULT DAY PROGRAMS](#)



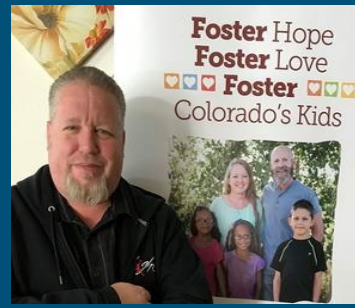
Achieving Milestones - Brian Jones

Brian has been a part of our community for over 10 years and to say that he has come far is an understatement! Brian was once viewed as a "safety risk" and pegged as an individual who did not have the desire to build friendships with peers. Brian has shown his ability to grow and his desire to be a friend to others. He has shown a kinder side which has brought smiles to everyone. He is engaging in program activities and has made many positive strides. Brian previously required space between him and others due to his ability to respond aggressively which made others fearful. Brian has been supported by the SKSF staff to come "out of his shell" and show the world all the love in his heart. Peers now seek out to be near Brian due to the kind affection that he demonstrates. He is now known for rubbing a peer's back to show his support, giving high-fives, kindly smiling & laughing to encourage others and affirming that they are doing a great job. Way to go Brian! We look forward to seeing all that you will achieve.



Above & Beyond Business

During National Flower Arranging day, Adult Program participants visited two amazing flower shops in town - [A Flower Girls Dream](#) and [Skyway Creations Flower Shop & Greenery](#). We'd like to thank them for their time and kindness when touring their businesses. Each flower shop demonstrated how flowers were arranged and shared their expertise & knowledge. In addition, each client was sent home with a special flower gift. Please visit their shops & support these wonderful community partners!



Congratulations to Jimmy Browder for his promotion as the new Child Placement Supervisor for our Foster Care & Adoption Program!

Darianne Kearney Child Care Worker / Zach's Place	Leslee Carr Operations Administrative Support	Michael Plowman Adult Mentor / Adult Services

Education & Social Services ^{In-Person} Job Fair

Thursday, April 6, 2023
 from 3 to 5:30 PM

1675 Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

SKSF will be attending the Education & Social Services job fair at [The Pikes Peak Workforce Center](#) on 4/6/23. Stop by, say hello & we'll inform you of our career opportunities.



New Board Member

We'd like to welcome our newest Board Member - Ben Burlinson.

Ben is a therapeutic foster parent in Colorado Springs for nearly 5 years with another agency. He was owner of a behavioral clinic and prior to this, Ben spent time in youth talent development and pediatric exercise physiology preparing young athletes for the rigors of high level competition. Ben also taught at the Vanguard School for almost 10 years and has a significant amount of experience with children's programming. **WELCOME BEN & thank you for your volunteerism!**

[Learn more about SKSF Board of Directors](#)

Careers

Career Opportunities

SKSF IS HIRING! If you are looking for a meaningful career where you can put your talents to good use, apply with us! We have several management & direct care provider positions available with great pay & benefits.

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

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

- ◆ Host Home Supervisor
- ◆ Behavioral Health Clinical Director
- ◆ Director of Development & Communications
- ◆ Director of Quality & Process Improvement
- ◆ Child Care Workers + Lead Teachers
- ◆ Adult Mentors / Direct Care Providers



[God's Pantry Ministry](#) donated plastic eggs, baskets, candy and other items to be used for creating Easter baskets for our children in foster care! In addition, [Assistance League of Colorado Springs](#) donated several stuffed bears to include in each basket. We are grateful for these donations and for their support!

Our Mission: To PROMOTE, STRENGTHEN & SUPPORT Individuals with Disabilities, their Families & Caregivers

THANK YOU!



COLORADO SPRINGS

After visiting our facilities and SKSF team and learning more about our valuable services we provide to individuals with disabilities, Tyrone Williams, President of [Lexus of Colorado Springs](https://www.lexusofcoloradosprings.com/) donated \$2500 from Lexus to help support our programs! We greatly appreciate their generosity & look forward to growing our community partnership.

<https://www.lexusofcoloradosprings.com/>

FUTURE EVENTS

4/6: 3-5:30pm - [Pikes Peak Workforce Center Education & Social Services JOB FAIR](#)

4/20: 4-6:30pm - [PPITT Annual Resource Fair for Individuals with Disabilities](#)

4/29: 8am-12pm - [Alpine Autism Center's 16th Annual Run for the One 5k Run/Walk](#)

CONTACT US:

Special Kids Special Families

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We harvested the lettuce from our hydroponics garden at Adult Services & Zach's Place programs. We couldn't believe how much lettuce was yielded! Each client was able to take home lettuce to their families PLUS everyone enjoyed a big salad with their lunches. It's truly amazing to access & grow fresh foods during the winter months! The clients have enjoyed this entire experience from start to finish & much learning has been accomplished.



Transforming Food Systems

[Nourish Colorado](#) awarded a \$2,000 garden grant to SKSF to help purchase items related to expanding the therapeutic garden program at Adult Services and Zach's Place. The funding will go along way in purchasing needed supplies like gardening tools, seeds, soil and other materials. We are grateful for their support & helping us continue this program for children and adults with disabilities & special needs.

Botanical INTERESTS®
HIGH-QUALITY SEED AND GARDEN PRODUCTS



Thanks to Botanical Interests for their donation of 135 packages of seed valued at over \$300! We appreciate this donation to our garden program as this will help grow many plants and flowers!

14th Annual BOWL-A-THON

Bowl for the GREEN



SPECIAL THANKS
to our SPONSORS:

NUSTAR ENERGY

BLAZER ELECTRIC

COLORADO SPRINGS COMMERCIAL

DISABILITY SERVICES OF COLORADO

KOSCOVE METAL

LEAVITT GROUP OF COLORADO

PASCO

SHIELD HEALTHCARE

DIVERSUS HEALTH

PDC PHARMACY

THE VINTON LAW FIRM

AUTOSEARCH USA

K9 COMPANION

KIDS CARE HOME HEALTH

SHANDY CLINIC

**We appreciate their generosity &
supporting our mission!**

SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone that came out on Saturday 3/11 for SKSF's 14th Annual Bowl for the Green Bowl-A-Thon event. We raised over \$15,000 to support SKSF's Adult Day Program. Thanks to Carol Doan, owner of King Pin Lanes for accommodating us as we took over the whole bowling alley occupying every lane! Thanks to all of our teams and bowlers, volunteers, sponsors, and businesses that [donated to our drawings](#).

[Check out more event photos here...](#)

SAVE THE DATE
NIGHT OF COMEDY

9/30/23 at Boot Barn Hall

Help us make our next event a SUCCESS! If you'd like to donate to our Silent Auction OR SPONSOR the event, contact us at 719-447-8983 x42 or sksf@sksfcolorado.org. Examples: gift cards, gift certificates for services, gift baskets, admission tickets, jewelry, electronic items, travel vouchers, overnight stays, etc.. [LEARN MORE...](#)

