Hello Friends!

As the sun graces us with its warm rays and nature flourishes in vibrant hues, we hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the beautiful season of summer. At Special Kids Special Families, we couldn’t be more excited to connect with you once again and share the latest updates, inspiring stories, and upcoming events from our impactful journey.

Summer is a time of renewal, growth, and endless possibilities. It reminds us of the immense power we possess to create positive change in the world. With your unwavering support, we have achieved remarkable milestones over the past months, and we look forward to embarking on new adventures together during this sunny season.

We hope this summer-themed newsletter brings warmth and enthusiasm to your day and encourages you to embrace the season’s spirit of growth and compassion. Remember, your involvement in Special Kid Special Families is what keeps our mission alive and enables us to continue making a lasting impact in our community!

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY!

From all of us at
Special Kids Special Families

Donate Supplies from our
amazon wish list

CONTACT US:
1915 Aerotech Drive, Ste 100, CO Springs 80916
(719) 447-8983  sksf@sksfcolorado.org
Our Adult Day Program group toured City Hall! The clients learned about the importance of local city government and how they can make a difference in their community. They were able to have their concerns recorded about the bus system, ADA accessibility, section 8 housing and homelessness. The clients gained so much from this experience and we hope this has inspired them to get more involved in local government and have their voices heard. Thank you to Constituent and Outreach Program Coordinator, Samuel Friedman, for bringing us on a tour!

Our Adult Day Program Clients had a great time with the Love Your Neighbor volunteers during woodworking classes. Thanks again for the wonderful opportunities you've given them! They are learning so much and creating so many great projects that they can be proud of!

Zach’s Place kids are outdoors (when the weather allows) learning about gardening & indoor activities including hanging with their peers & craft projects.

Adult Clients were at Mid Shooks Run Community Garden creating their own special space to plant, grow their own food & connect with nature. This space offers a nurturing environment to be in a community setting, foster social connections and learn more about gardening while providing a platform for personal growth, independence and empowerment.
MISSION MOMENTS puts a face to what we do. Showing examples of how Special Kids Special Families is making an impact and working together to make our families and our community stronger.

RICHARD VELAZQUEZ - Adult Services Client

“Richard is always in good spirits and loves to greet his peers and staff. Richard will happily participate in activities in Joey’s Place. He is a very positive guy and is always displaying a good attitude. Richard strives to make his peers and staff feel special and will serenade the room with John Denver to cheer up his peers. He is a joy to be around!”  Dionna Lanich, Adult Services Director

JANIEL QUEMBA-BOTINA - Zach’s Place Client

“Eleven year old Janiel Quemba-Botina has come such a long way since he began here two years ago. Beginning as a non-verbal, loving and quiet boy he now uses both English and Spanish to convey his needs and feelings. He requires a few prompts of “use your words” but he does and we are so excited to be a part of this growth. Initially he never took part in art or group activities as he is more of a self-sensory kind of kid, but if we sit with him and walk him through things he really does light up. I think we have been able to open him up on so many levels and it’s great.”  Krista Ingram, Zach’s Place Director
We’d like to thank the following grantors & foundations for donating to our organization to help support programming for children with disabilities at our Zach’s Place center. We couldn’t run this facility without your generous support! Thank YOU!
- Albertsons & Safeway Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- Lowe Fund
- Nutrition Camp School Foundation
- Ent Credit Union YES Grant

Becky Wyzykowski, Founder of Cases of Love is collecting donations for our foster care kids to get them ready for back to school this year. She has created a list via Amazon to make it easy to donate backpacks and school supplies. “Thank you in advance to all who purchase items for our kids! We need supplies for 65 kids for Special Kids Special Families alone. I would love to be able to help out kids from other agencies as well. Thank you again for helping out our foster kids! I appreciate each and every one of you.” Becky
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1RFCIOA2FB1YJ...

Developmental Pathways was looking for a good home for miscellaneous office furniture, including desks, workstations, and chairs. SKSF was able to pick up several very needed chairs for our conference room, a few desks & other items. Thank you so much for this generous donation to our organization!

Special Kids Special Families was proud to be the recipient of an Ent Credit Union YES, Youth Endowment Series, grant. In 2022, Ent received more than 160 applications which was narrowed down to 74 grant recipients. We are so honored to have been selected! Since 2000, Ent YES grants totaling more than $1.8 million have helped 250 Colorado nonprofits who serve children of all ages and abilities in crucial and life-changing ways. SKSF’s Executive Director, Kevin Porter & Director of Development & Communications, Derek Wilson accepted the grant check along with representatives of other Colorado nonprofits. Thank you so much Ent for giving back to our community and supporting our founding program, Zach’s Place center. The funds will be used to help support children with disabilities and their families!

Sarada Connors of Cumulus Radio’s Our Town program interviewed Kevin Porter, SKSF Executive Director to spread awareness of our programs, Zach’s Place and SKSF’s 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles event. We appreciate the opportunity to be on the show! LISTEN HERE.

Take a listen to this great interview with Good Morning Colorado’s Shannon Brinias on KRDO NewsRadio with Kevin Porter, SKSF Executive Director and Derek Wilson, Development & Communications Director talking about our programs and upcoming events! Thanks Shannon for the opportunity! LISTEN HERE.

LISTEN HERE.
If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or family & have questions - we can help! Contact us today and we'll answer them 719-345-1785 or sksf@sksfcolorado.org. If you are interested in opening your home to an adult with disabilities, contact us today and learn more about becoming a Host Home Provider 719-447-8983 x45 or sksf@sksfcolorado.org.

**WE ARE HIRING!**

- **Adult Services Day Program Manager** $55k/yr.
- **Child Care Worker (Zach’s Place Center)** $18/hr.
- **Adult Mentor / Direct Care Provider** $18-$19/hr.
- **Master Gardener / part-time** $20-$25/hr.
- **Director of People & Policies** $70-$75k/yr.

Click here to view ALL JOB OPENINGS

We are truly amazed by the work that Luke Wrobleski, Love Your Neighbor Director and their volunteers have done to build a wheelchair accessible ramp at our Adult Services facility! It looks beautiful with expert craftsmanship and the clients love it - we greatly appreciate all the effort and time that everyone took to make this happen.
SAVE THE DATE Sat. 9/30/23!
We are so excited for SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles fundraising event at Boot Barn Hall to benefit Zach's Place center! Help us raise funds to support low income families whose children attend the program - BECOME A SPONSOR! We are seeking businesses to partner with us! You'll receive excellent marketing benefits and each level comes with complimentary admission to the event. Sponsorship levels from $1k-$10k.

A HUGE thanks to NuStar Energy for supporting our organization year after year!! Your silver sponsorship for this year’s Night of Comedy event will help us reach our goal to raise $100k to support Zach's Place center!

Thanks to our Sponsors:

Flood & Peterson
Humana

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BANK & TRUST