

The Special Times



Special Kids
Special Families



OUR MISSION:

To Promote,
Strengthen
and Support
Individuals with
Disabilities,
Their Families &
Caregivers

Special Kids Special Families E-Newsletter

JULY 2023



Hello Friends!

July is Disability Pride Month! July 26, 2023 is the 33rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law in the United States. In celebrating this month, we also invite YOU to share your pride with your own story at [#wearesksf](https://www.wearesksf.org).

This month is dedicated to uplifting the genuine experiences and triumphs of disabled individuals. The campaign is by and for disabled people, reclaiming their voices and sharing the extraordinary moments, talents, and joys that unfold in their lives every day. Join us in embracing the power of authenticity and community as we dismantle stereotypes, challenge societal biases, and spread some disability pride!

We must remember that not all disabilities look the same. Disabilities can be physical, sensory, cognitive, or invisible. Many people with disabilities may not exhibit any visible signs, but that doesn't make their challenges any less real.

It's essential for us to adopt a more inclusive mindset and not make assumptions based on appearances. We should strive to create an environment where everyone feels accepted and valued, regardless of their abilities.

Let's educate ourselves and promote empathy and understanding. By doing so, we can break down barriers and build a more inclusive society for everyone. Together, we can make a difference and create a more inclusive world!

Happy Disability Pride Month!
From all of us at -
Special Kids Special Families

Disability Pride Month

Allies to the disability community can honor Disability Pride Month by listening to the lived experiences of disabled people, celebrating and sharing disabled joy, and supporting disabled people in their fight for justice, equity and inclusion!



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Click here to donate needed items
from our wish list

amazon.com



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CONTACT US:

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(719) 447-8983 sksf@sksfcolorado.org

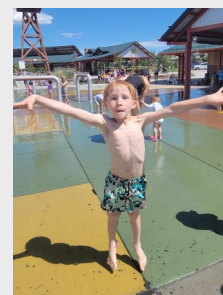


PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



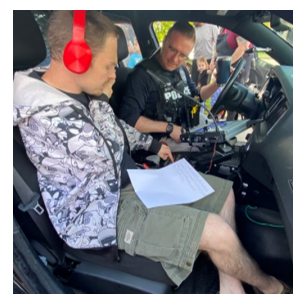
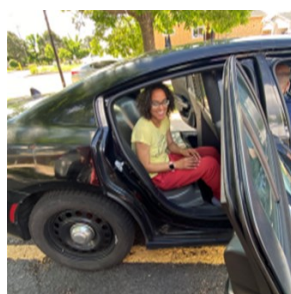
We're so COOL! Just look at the fun our Zach's Place kids are having during their summer break! The kids took a community outing to the John Venezia Park and played in the water splash pad. So much fun on such a hot day!

LEARN MORE about Zach's Place Center



Videographer/Producer, Nate Shields

We are thrilled to announce that our Zach's Place promotional video is in the process of being completed! Thanks to award winning videographers Ralph Giordano of ArchAngel Productions and Nate Shields for producing the video and showcasing the heart and soul of Zach's Place! This year's video will feature preschooler Willow and her Mom, Jennifer telling their story of why Zach's Place is so important to them. The video will debut at SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles fundraiser – get your tickets today to support families like this and so many others that need the respite services we provide!



LEARN MORE about ADULT DAY SERVICES



Producer/Interviewer, Ralph Giordano



Executive Director, Kevin Porter with Willow



We are grateful to Love Your Neighbor and the volunteers that help our clients in making these wonderful projects every month! Our adult program participants presented an appreciation plaque to Luke Wroblewski, Director of Love Your Neighbor, to thank everyone involved in making this collaboration possible.

Mission MOMENTS



Special Kids
Special Families

Promote, Strengthen & Support Individuals with Disabilities, their Families & Caregivers

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.



PATRICK TAYLOR - Adult Services Client

Meet our Champion of the Month: Patrick Taylor - *"Patrick has been a SKSF Adult Services Program Participant for many years and has made a huge impact on those around him. Patrick is very intentional to learn the names of his peers and staff and will strike up a conversation to make people feel included. Patrick loves to share stories of cool trips that he has been on, about his family, and his dogs. If you ever need a song suggestion or a music trivia partner, Patrick is your man! He is always very positive and encouraging to those around him and he never gives up!"* **Dionna Lanich, SKSF Adult Services Director**



Calling all Volunteers!

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Are you looking for purpose and connection, and would like to contribute to a worthy cause? Join us and become a part of something truly meaningful!

Volunteer opportunities available right now:

- Assistance needed at each of our locations (Adult Services & Zach's Place) for general cleaning, organizing and outside landscaping work. Anytime.
- Help us get ready to mail out our invitations for our Night of Comedy event! Help us stamp, label, stuff, and prep a mailing to over 2500 donors! Work performed at our Admin offices at 1915 Aerotech Dr, Ste 100. Anytime now through August 25th. Hours vary and can be adjusted according to your schedule. We are available Mon-Fri 8am-5pm.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Leslee Carr at sksfvolunteer@sksfcolorado.org or call 719-447-8983.



JOB OPENINGS:

- [Master Gardener](#)
- [Host Home Supervisor](#)
- [Director of People & Policies](#)
- [Child Care Worker \(Zach's Place Center\)](#)
- [Adult Mentor / Direct Care Provider](#)

[VIEW ALL JOB OPENINGS](#)

LEARN MORE about BECOMING A
HOST HOME PROVIDER

Host Home Providers Needed

COMMUNITY CORNER



great opportunity to network and find common ground with different organizations. We discussed the overlap between youth experiencing homelessness and foster care.

SKSF is out and about in the community! SKSF Child Placement staff was happy to be at The PLACE Off The Street breakfast fundraiser to help raise funds for homeless youth. We arrived early and volunteered to set-up and assist with the event preparations. It was a



find welcoming and accepting families to support them.

Whitney Wegner, SKSF Foster Care Home Supervisor (tie-dye shirt) joined representatives from CASA and Denver County DHS at Denver Pride to help recruit LGBTQ+ affirming foster parents. SKSF is in need of homes and/or same-sex couples to accept LGBTQ foster kids and to



to mingle with our foster children and families!

It was a beautiful day for our Foster Kids Fun Day at Panorama Park. The Child Placement team hosted a fun day for families and their foster kiddos to enjoy lunch and fun activities. Everyone had a great time and it was a terrific opportunity for the staff

LEARN MORE about
FOSTER CARE SERVICES

To learn more about fostering a child, contact our Child Placement team at 719-345-1735 or sksf@sksfcolorado.org.

Be sure to tune in to [The Networking Diva Hour](#) on **Friday, August 4th at 10:15am!** Janiece Carlson will be interviewing SKSF Executive Director, Kevin Porter and Derek Wilson, SKSF Development & Communications Director to discuss SKSF programs and upcoming events.

The Networking Diva Hour
Hosted by
Janiece Carlson
Weekly on Friday's @ 10 am MTN.

networking sales branding customer service

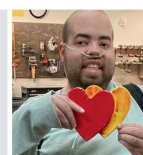
Call in 646-478-3651 ...and more!
f /thenetworkingdivahour
www.blogtalkradio.com/networkingdivahour



PROMOTE | STRENGTHEN | SUPPORT
Individuals with Disabilities,
their Families and Caregivers

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**2022
ANNUAL
REPORT**



www.SKSFcolorado.org

Exciting News!

Our 2022 Annual Report is here! Amidst challenges and many changes, our financial performance remained strong and we continue to develop our programs to

serve the most vulnerable community members. [The complete Annual Report is available here](#) where you can download, print or share with others. We invite you to explore and join us in celebrating our achievements!

GRANT AWARDS

We'd like to thank the following grantors and foundations for donating to SKSF 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!**

- Marson Foundation
- Stewart Title Foundation

**SPACE IS LIMITED
SIGN UP TODAY!**



2 WAVES OF PLAY:
3:30 - 5:30pm
5:30 - 7:30pm



165 Spectrum Loop
CO Springs, CO

Driving **FORE** Disabilities

A Topgolf benefit sponsored by Thrivent
for Special Kids Special Families

thrivent[®]



Special Kids
Special Families

*Proceeds from this event will help support SKSF
programs for individuals with disabilities*

\$100 per person
per wave

INCLUDES:

- 2 hours of golf
- Delicious assortment of appetizers
- Non-alcoholic beverages

(alcoholic beverages available at additional cost)

Secure your spot at www.SKSFCOLORADO.ORG
or contact Derek Wilson
719-372-5847 | dwilson@sksfcolorado.org

Driving FORE Disabilities sponsored by Thrivent at Topgolf

Get ready to swing into action with Thrivent's Topgolf event for SKSF! Join us for a few hours of fun with your friends, family or co-workers. We're bringing the excitement with food, refreshments (non-alcoholic), and 2 hours of golfing fun! Whether you're a pro or a beginner, this Topgolf event is the perfect opportunity to showcase your skills and make new connections. Don't miss out on this chance to tee off and help raise funds for our programs to support individuals with disabilities – all to support our amazing mission! **SPACE IS LIMITED** (24 guests) so be sure to **SIGN UP TODAY!** 2 waves available: 3:30-5:30pm AND 5:30-7:30pm. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



The Knights of Columbus
Saints Gabriel and John
Vianney Council #12335
generously donated to Zach's
Place center for children with
disabilities and special needs.
This donation will go a long
way at helping families afford
activities and care at the
center!



Thanks to the 54
households that have
helped us raise
\$443.64 for 2nd
quarter 2023 through
King Soopers
Community Rewards
Program. When you
choose SKSF as your nonprofit of choice, we
receive a percentage of your total food and gas
bill. IT'S SO EASY to participate! Link your
loyalty card TODAY! [DETAILS HERE](#)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION!

Only \$85/pp

EXTENDED
thru 8/31!



\$85/person includes free drink ticket, buffet style dinner, silent auction, and comedy entertainment - all for a great cause to help raise funds for Zach's Place center for children with disabilities.

Get your tickets
EARLY for SKSF's
12th Annual Night
of Comedy - Boots,
Buckles & Chuckles
event at Boot Barn
Hall! Early Bird
pricing now
EXTENDED
through 8/31! Only

NIGHT OF COMEDY 12TH ANNUAL *Boots, Buckles & Chuckles*

9-30-23



WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SPONSOR

DONATE

PRINT A FLYER

REGISTER

Special Kids Special Families would like to acknowledge these area businesses for being CHAMPIONS for children with disabilities at Zach's Place center! Thank you for donating to our SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles Silent Auction to help raise funds for families attending Zach's Place child and respite center!

Everyday Girl Adventures
United Access
Panera Bread
Sasquatch Cookies
The Summit Interquest
Josh & John's Ice Cream
City of CO Springs Golf Courses
Balance Chiropractic
Atomic Cowboy / Denver Biscuit
American Furniture Warehouse
Noah's Ark Adventure Company
Topgolf
Overdrive Raceway
Michael Garman Productions
Fab'rik
Springs Adventure Park
Peppertree Restaurant
Texas Roadhouse
Arapahoe Basin
Hops n Drops
Marigold Café & Bakery
Pikes Peak Credit Union
James & Cheryl Harding

Air City 360
Denver Broncos Foundation
iFLY Indoor Skydiving
Dormie Network Foundation
Affordable Medical Supply



Thanks!



We are excited to introduce SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles [promotional video](#).

We would love if you could pass this along to a friend and share on your social media pages!

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS only \$85/pp -
EXTENDED NOW THROUGH 8/31!**

**LEARN MORE about NIGHT OF COMEDY &
WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!**



Special Kids
Special Families



12TH
ANNUAL

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Boots, Buckles & Chuckles

Proceeds from this event support Zach's Place center which is only one of two licensed daycare facilities in the state offering specialized respite and childcare for children with intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities.

9/30/23

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

DINNER BUFFET

SILENT AUCTION

**REGISTER
TODAY**

FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING!

\$85/pp or \$650/table
of 8 thru 8/31

9/1 & after \$95/pp or
\$750/table of 8

Includes FREE drink ticket



Featuring
Comedian
Ventriloquist

GREG
CLAASSEN



Event Emcee
FOX21 Morning
News Anchor

ABBIE
BURKE



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



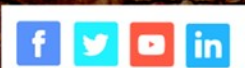
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Classic Homes

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El Pomar Foundation
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Moody Insurance
MRC Technology
Rocky Top Resources
The Arc Pikes Peak Region

The Vinton Law Firm, P.C.



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