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.

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

Click here to donate needed items from our wish list

amazon.com

CONTACT US:

1915 Aerotech Drive, Ste 100, CO Springs 80916
(719) 447-8983  sksf@sksfcolorado.org
Adults from our Building Connections day program toured the Colorado Springs Police Department Gold Hill Division. We’d like to thank the officers involved in making this a special experience for our clients. After visiting the police station, we performed a mock trial and learned about the process of going to court, including the people involved and their job duties. Everyone was given a different part to play including a judge, defense attorney, witnesses, and plaintiff. The clients very much enjoyed this experience and it was also a learning opportunity.

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 Wrobleski, Director of Love Your Neighbor, to thank everyone involved in making this collaboration possible.
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

LEARN MORE about BECOMING A HOST HOME PROVIDER
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

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

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 find welcoming and accepting families to support them.

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 to mingle with our foster children and families!

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.
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**
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

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 $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.

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SPONSOR DONATE PRINT A FLYER REGISTER

We are excited to introduce SKSF’s 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles promotional video.

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

Thanks!

LEARN MORE about NIGHT OF COMEDY & WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!
Special Kids Special Families

NIGHT OF COMEDY

12TH ANNUAL

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!

Featuring
Comedian
Ventriloquist
GREG CLAASSEN

Event Emcee
FOX21 Morning News Anchor
ABBI BURKE

@ BOOTBARN Hall
13071 Bass Pro Drive

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