PROMOTE | STRENGTHEN | SUPPORT

Individuals with Disabilities, their Families and Caregivers

Special Kids Special Families

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.SKSFcolorado.org
As we reflect upon the past year, our organization witnessed a period of significant transition and management change, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement, strategic realignment, and leadership development. These changes were driven by not only our Executive Director retiring, but our desire to position ourselves for long-term success, enhance operational efficiencies, and capitalize on emerging opportunities to grow our programs. We believe that effective leadership is crucial, therefore, we took deliberate steps to strengthen our leadership team and foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence.

In 2022, we were grateful to our Founder and Interim Executive Director, Linda Ellegard for coming back from her retirement as she led our team forward as our Board of Directors embarked on an extensive and thorough process to identify the ideal Executive Director candidate who will lead our organization into its next phase of growth and success.

Recognizing the pivotal role of the Executive Director in shaping our future growth, the Board established a dedicated search committee comprised of esteemed directors and partnered with a reputable executive search firm. This committee conducted a comprehensive search to identify exceptional individuals who possess vision, experience, and leadership qualities required to guide Special Kids Special Families towards sustained achievement.

We are pleased to inform you that the search process was a success, and we identified an exceptional Executive Director who will build upon our accomplishments and drive Special Kids Special Families to new heights. We welcome Kevin Porter, SKSF’s new Executive Director, an accomplished professional who 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.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we express our gratitude for your continued trust and support as we embark on this important journey to accomplish our mission of promoting, strengthening, and supporting individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. Together, with a new Executive Director at the helm, we are confident in our ability to drive our organization towards a future of continued success and prosperity.

Daniel Frasier
SKSF Board President
It is with great pleasure and excitement that I address you as the newly appointed Executive Director of our esteemed organization in our 2022 Annual Report. I am honored to join this exceptional team, and I am committed to lead Special Kids Special Families towards a future of growth, innovation, and sustained success.

As I assume this role, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their confidence and for entrusting me with this significant responsibility. I am humbled by the opportunity to contribute to the continued advancement of Special Kids Special Families mission to promote, strengthen, and support individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers.

I’ve had the privilege of observing the strength and dedication of our employees, the unwavering support of our funders, grantors, and donors, and the commitment of our volunteers. This collective effort has laid a solid foundation, which I am eager to build upon.

I bring a strategic vision, a passion for innovation, and a deep understanding of the evolving needs of our clients. I firmly believe in fostering a culture of collaboration, empowering our talented team, and creating an environment that encourages creativity and excellence. Together, we will harness our collective expertise and drive the transformation needed to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

In the years ahead, we will focus on strengthening our leadership team, empowering our employees, accelerating growth, streamlining operational efficiency, and delivering exceptional services to our clients. We will prioritize the individuals who utilize our services, ensuring that we continuously exceed their expectations and anticipate their evolving needs. We will also embrace our mission and vision, recognizing the importance of making a positive impact on the vulnerable communities that we serve.

I am fully committed to transparent communication, open dialogue, and community engagement. We will foster a culture of trust, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that our clients, caregivers, staff, community, donors, funders, and grantors are well-informed and actively involved in our journey.

As we embark on this exciting chapter together, I invite you to join us in shaping the future of our organization and our community. Your support, insights, and constructive feedback are invaluable as we strive to achieve our vision of giving people in need the resources, compassion, and freedom to achieve a maximized life, which everyone deserves.

With your support and insight, I am confident that we will achieve remarkable milestones as we are committed to making this the best community in the nation serving children and adults living with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and our entire team as we embark on a journey of growth, innovation, and improved service delivery.

Kevin Porter
SKSF Executive Director

Desiree (left; age 3) and brother Cody (right; age 13) who attend Zach’s Place Program

“I value Special Kids Special Families and Zach’s Place services because it allows me to work. I’m a single parent with a special needs kiddo and the services SKSF offers are much appreciated in my home. My daughter also attends Zach’s Place and tells me all the time that everyone is so nice to her. I appreciate knowing that my children are in a very safe and caring environment.” Kim Craig, Mother of Desiree & Cody
We achieve our mission of promoting, strengthening, and supporting individuals with disabilities throughout their life span by offering three essential pillars of service delivered at our facilities, in the community and in the comfort of homes:

1. **CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**
   Includes Zach’s Place at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center (daycare & respite care center for children 2-18), respite and Foster Care and Adoption Services.
   
   **ZACH’S PLACE AT THE LAURIE HILLYARD FAMILY CENTER**
   - In 2022, served 39 clients and 12,389 hours of care
   - 98% of children served were under the age of 12
   - 80% of all children served were from low income families
   - 85% were diagnosed as being somewhere on the autism spectrum
   - 40% of all care offered was paid for on a sliding fee scale with an average of $5.15/hour while general care costs $30/hour

   **FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION SERVICES**
   - 124 children were served through SKSF’s Child Placement Agency
   - 2 children were adopted in 2022!
   - Reduced multiple placement moves for children through use of community connections/resources, life skills building and respite care services
   - 76% of children are reunited with their families within 12 months *
   - Most children are placed in foster care due to neglect, physical and sexual abuse (89.5%) *


2. **ADULT SERVICES**
   Includes Joey’s Place (facility-based day programming), community-based activities, Residential Host Home Services and Home Care Services.
   
   **ADULT DAY PROGRAM SERVICES**
   - In 2022, served 102 clients
   - Joey’s Place (specialized habilitation) provided 16,521 hours of service
   - 14,857 community service hours, increasing from 3 to 5 hours per day
   - SLS services (mentorship, personal care, respite, homemaker) total hours: 2,505
   - Total transportation rides: 3,565
   - Enrolled 13 new clients in 2022

   **RESIDENTIAL HOST HOME SERVICES**
   - Served 52 individuals in an adult foster home model which places adults who have disabilities with credentialed providers who are trained to care for their specific needs

3. **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

   Counseling, therapy, advocacy and family preservation services.

   We serve the mental health needs of underserved individuals, including those without insurance, those who can’t leave their homes to access services (due to disability, lack of accessible transportation, or caregiving for a person with a disability), and those living in underserved areas.
   - Served 35 clients

   **Organizational goals met in 2022:**
   - Strengthened the family unit with children and adults with disabilities through support services such as respite care, childcare, life skills training and home based services.
   - Increased the self-sufficiency of parents (especially single parents) who are caring for family members with disabling conditions.
   - Increased the independence, quality of life and community inclusion for youth and adults with disabilities through community participation and life skills training.
   - Worked in collaboration with other agencies and the business community to identify and provide the necessary services to promote healthy, safe and stable families.
CONTRIBUTIONS

Donors play a crucial role in providing financial support to our programs enabling us to make significant strides towards achieving our goals and sustaining our mission. Here are some highlights of these contributions in 2022:

The Board of Directors and SKSF staff presented a donation award plaque to two very special people, Jay and Angie Klein, for their very generous donation to SKSF to help further our mission. Their generosity will allow us to continue our mission to promote, strengthen and support individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

Ernie Rodriguez with the Knights of Columbus #9993 St. Patrick’s Council presented a check for $500 to Zach’s Place Program Director, Krista Ingram. The money was raised through the council’s Tootsie Roll fundraiser and will help families whose children attend Zach’s Place.

SKSF received $2,000 as the recipient of an Ent Credit Union YES (Youth Endowment Series) grant. These funds were used to benefit families who use Zach’s Place Center, in particular children with disabilities from low-income families.

Several local Walmart stores awarded our organization community grants through the Walmart Foundation. These grants will help support our Zach’s Place program and assist lower income families with respite and childcare at the facility.

Walmart at South Academy Blvd - Manager, James Harmes, presents a $1,000 grant

Walmart Neighborhood Market at N Union Blvd - Manager, John Rose, and his team present a $500 grant

Walmart SuperCenter at Highway 85/87 in Fountain - Manager, Daniel Jackson, presents a $1,000 grant

Tender Care Pediatric Services & Medical Supply generously donated thousands of dollars worth of supplies in 2022, including diapers, briefs, formula, G-tube feeding supplies, a car seat and a cough assist machine. These items will benefit children we serve who are in foster care and other individuals in our programs who are in need of these supplies.

Carol Doan, Owner of King Pin Lanes was presented with a special framed “Thank You” designed and created by Pete Rodriguez, an Adult Services Mentor. The art piece was given as a token of gratitude as she has supported SKSF’s annual Bowl-A-Thon for over a decade, contributing to years of event success!
With the help of sponsors, donors, bowlers and volunteers, SKSF’s 13th annual Bowl for the Green Bowl-A-Thon was a huge success! Hundreds of bowlers participated in this St. Patrick’s Day themed event and all 24 lanes were filled. We raised nearly $17,000 to support the Adult Services program.

The 2022 signature fundraising event, Night of Comedy, drew in nearly 300 guests with 32 sponsors (top sponsors J2D Electric, Koscove Metal and Risk Placement Services). The event, with the western theme Boots, Buckles & Chuckles, was held at Flying W Ranch with the Flying W Wranglers as entertainment. With hundreds of local businesses donating items to the Silent Auction, we raised nearly $20,000! In total, the 11th annual event was the highest grossing fundraiser for SKSF raising nearly $100k to support Zach’s Place program!

Unified Title Company chose SKSF as their charity of choice for their Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur. “They truly care and are an amazing group of people. We love partnering with them,” said Brian Cooper, Unified Title President. These funds helped children, families and caregivers afford valuable respite care at Zach’s Place center.

Volunteers in 2022 were an essential part of our organization. Groups from Rock Family Church, The Classical Academy, and COSILoveYou helped to beautify our facilities inside and out. They painted, weeded, cleaned buses and maintained our gardens.

Our community of dedicated volunteers and the generosity of donors amplify our capacity to provide support to our programs. Their contributions and passion for our mission are instrumental in generating funds needed for our programs to operate successfully.

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Caregivers and families caring for children and adults with disabilities are the backbone of our organization. Here are their testimonials and reasons why they value our services:

“I value Special Kids Special Families and Zach’s Place services because of how they treat my grandson, Iyan. The staff have so much patience with him and other children like him. The staff really do care about him.”

Erica Tafoya, grandmother of Iyan

“I can’t speak enough about how wonderful Joey’s Place and SKSF have been. The staff stands out above others because they treat each person individually, in the moment, and with love and respect. They are in all accounts our extended family. Because of the individual care the staff provide, Shelbie’s social skills have increased tremendously. She recognizes each staff individually and addresses them with her own special name. Shelbie has minimal family now and having Joey’s Place fills in that social aspect she was missing.”

Julie Norwood

“My experience as a Host Home Provider for Special Kids Special Families truly is a special one. It is the individual that I work with that makes it so special. She is an inspirational young woman that would bah-hah you if she heard you say that. After several years of working with her, I discovered she has the resoluteness of an Olympic athlete to live the life she wants. Her career ambition is to become a nurse and she is pursuing her college degree. The seizure disorder she has is just another obstacle for her to overcome. By using her superpower to seek out and discover the right people to help her on her path, she continually makes great strides towards her goals. As her provider, I do my best to help her on that path. Being a witness to her intrinsic drive is a daily inspiration and motivation for me. Not only do I accompany her to her medical and therapy appointments, assist with shopping and transportation, mentor and listen, we have also developed a unique friendship over the years. It is sharing a trusting and caring relationship that is the best thing about being a provider for Special Kids Special Families.”

Kathy Hegemann

“I value Special Kids Special Families and Zach’s Place center because they have the ability to care for my daughter, Willow, who has multiple disabilities. She didn’t socialize with others prior to coming to Zach’s Place and now she’s opening up, talking and making friends. The staff are awesome and my daughter loves going there!”

Jennifer Lara, Mother of Willow
SKSF has dedicated a large portion of its expenses to programs that support its mission and objective. This metric is very important to donors and is used to evaluate how much of its expenses the organization is allocating to programs.

**FINANCIALS**

*Graphs of revenue and expenses including all data provided by BiggsKofford, Certified Public Accountants Independent Auditor’s Report June 2023.*

### 2022 REVENUES

- Fees for Services 86.14%
- Contributions & Grants 12.56%
- In-Kind Contributions 0.56%
- Special Events 0.68%
- Other Income 0.06%

### 2022 EXPENSES

- Child Placement Agency 30.83%
- Host Home 37.59%
- Zach’s Place 5.56%
- Adult Services 16.93%
- General/Admin 7.95%
- Fundraising 1.14%