



Help Us Meet The Challenge

A Core Operating Principle: Supporting visions of one's abilities, strengths, and potential

In 2012 and 2013, families seeking respite care were often turned away for lack of space. In 2014, the Special Kids Special Families Board and staff made the decision to seek a new respite care facility to meet these growing needs, one that would provide the following:



- Increased physical space to accommodate the growing requests for service;
- A therapeutic environment for children with sensory issues;
- Space for specialized indoor and outdoor play;
- Confidential meeting space for families and other professionals;
- Additional space to accommodate a preschool population.

An existing facility in the Mountain Shadows neighborhood was identified in late 2014. The projected cost to purchase the facility is \$500,000; with necessary renovations and moving expenses costing an additional \$75,000. A major donor came forward to fund the renovations and to provide \$300,000 toward the purchase of the building.

These generous gifts served as **the catalyst for Special Kids Special Families to embark on a multi-faceted Capital Campaign** to raise the remaining funds. Owning this building and keeping overhead costs low is an important facet of our long-term financial stability, which will help us provide respite care for years to come.

Help us fund Zach's Place at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center and make it possible to serve the children and families that need our help.



Elijah O'Neil

Zach's Place was a God send for Elijah and myself. Every single time I dropped him off, I knew I was leaving him in the best hands possible outside of his momma's. From day one at Zach's Place, I watched Elijah lose the sad, timid, scared look on his face change to one of happiness, ease and confidence, due in part from the dedication and caring from everyone at Zach's Place. When Elijah was diagnosed with Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder along with other issues, I actually was completely uneducated and unprepared for the journey we were to begin. As every parent feels, the best, safest most loving place for their child is with themselves. There is only one other place in this entire world that I feel absolutely at ease and comfortable leaving my son, and that's with the staff at Zach's Place. They have never just been people that were paid to watch my son, they quickly became family to us - a trusted, loved and respected family. Thank you so very much for everything you have done and been for Elijah and I.

**Much love,
Mandy and Elijah O'Neil**