

BRIARGATE & PINE CREEK

FEBRUARY 2017

Friends & Neighbors



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AND MORE

Cover photo by Sally Sue Dunn

 Best Version Media

*Live, Laugh
and Love*

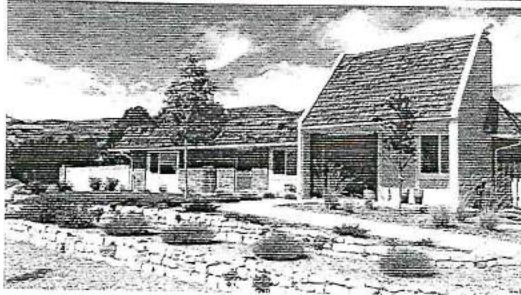
WITH THE REYNER FAMILY

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Special Kids Special Families

By Patty Brookes

Special Kids Special Families (SKSF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 umbrella organization with several unique programs designed to support people with disabilities of all ages from early childhood through adult as well as their families and caregivers. In 1999, Zach's Place at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center opened a respite and childcare facility serving children with disabilities and special needs ages 2.5 through 21 years old. Since that time, SKSF has expanded its reach filling the growing needs of the community. In 2001, a therapeutic foster care program was launched specializing in foster care and adoption for youth with disabilities and special needs. In 2005, SKSF added programs for adults with disabilities and host home services (adult foster care). On a given day, over 180 individuals participate in SKSF programs.



▲ Kids at Zach's Place enjoying fun activities.

◀ SKSF's Zach's Place at the Laurie Hillyard Family Center, 4795 Granby Circle, Colorado Springs

easy knowing their loved-one is in professional, trained and caring hands. SKSF help families remain strong and healthy. No family has ever been turned away because of inability to pay, so many programs run on a deficit.

Finding alternative funding is critical. SKSF invites the public to participate as an event sponsor or participant in several upcoming 2017 fundraising events such as SKSF's 8th Annual Bowl-A-Thon held at King Pin Lanes in Colorado Springs on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 or the 3rd Annual BBQ, Blues & Brews (Summer of 2017) and the 6th Annual Night of Comedy (October 28, 2017). Please visit the SKSF website at www.SKSFcolorado.org for more information outlining events and the various sponsorship levels. By sponsoring or participating in an event, you will be making a huge difference in the lives of so many families in the Pikes Peak region.

Respite care is the common theme among all three SKSF programs. Did you know that respite care is the most frequently requested service by families having a loved one with a disability, but is one of the least funded services? Caregivers of those with disabilities provide better, safer care when they are able to recharge with regular breaks. Not only are caregivers given a much needed break, but they can rest



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