Raising Special Kids

2016 Annual Report to the Community
Raising Special Kids Mission

Strengthening families and systems of care to improve the lives of children with disabilities.

Letter from the Board President

Each year seems to bring new changes and growth at Raising Special Kids. We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report to feature the latest news about our mission and accomplishments from the past year.

As a medical professional, and parent of a beautiful, accomplished daughter with Down syndrome, I am particularly proud of the fact that so many professionals in health, education, and social services attended training last year to improve their skills in providing a better quality of care for families and for children with special health care needs.

As you read through the report, you’ll see how hard we’ve been working to achieve our mission of family support for parents of children with the full range of disabilities. We served more families in 2016 than we have in previous years, forged more community partnerships, and trained more professionals than ever before. The numbers are all described and presented, and you can see the impact we’ve had on the community, but Raising Special Kids has never been about the numbers.

Raising Special Kids is about the kids, each and every single one of them. I hope you will take the time to read the story from the Guysi family. Nicole Guysi tells the real story of 2016.

For 35 years Raising Special Kids has been there: for the Guysi family, for your family, and mine. For all our children, here’s to a bright future full of promise and potential.

Paula Banahan, President
Board of Directors

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Programs and Services

Family Support

Our daughter, Brooke, was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Cohen Syndrome in May of 2013. I can’t remember exactly when we were told about Raising Special Kids, but I do know it was very early—about the time we received our daughter’s diagnosis. One of the things I really appreciate about Raising Special Kids is how they are always there.

We were at the very beginning of our journey, when I talked with Raising Special Kids and a very helpful person gave me a lot of information. After “the dust settled” I actually starting taking more time to read all of the material and resource information that Raising Special Kids had provided. It has been so beneficial to our family. Not only have they guided us and given us information to help with our daughter’s care, we’ve had assistance with special education and school issues, understanding health insurance, changes in Arizona policies, finding programs that are available, and so on.

Raising Special Kids has been such a great support in helping us find answers. We know who to call if we are feeling overwhelmed, and we know Raising Special Kids not only understands how to help us (which is obviously important), but also understands compassionate help and assistance (which is a necessity, as the challenges we face almost daily really add up and take a toll if you don’t have any form of compassionate support).

Raising Special Kids has also given me insight into things that families need to know, and how to meet and overcome the challenges we’re going to face. Often, it seems like families have to fight for services for their child, and they don’t always have support to learn how to advocate for themselves. Parents benefit from learning that when you are advocating for your child, you are working with, not against, the program or professional, and you’re trying to reach solutions that benefit everyone.

Raising Special Kids has been with us at the beginning of our journey, and they were there whenever we were overwhelmed by all we were learning and doing for our daughter. As time went on and I wanted to learn more, receive more and do more, Raising Special Kids was there and is still there, helping me be a better advocate for our daughter and for other families as well. This has been an invaluable gift and one that I will be forever grateful for.

Programs for Parents and Families

Parent-to-Parent support has always been the heart of Raising Special Kids. Each year, more than 300 families in Arizona are connected with veteran “mentor” parents who have walked a similar path, and who understand the challenges of raising a child with a disability or special health care need.

Raising Special Kids provides training and consultation in special education to families, schools, teachers, and other professionals.

Who we Serve

80% Families with disabilities and special health care needs
20% Professionals (health, education, social services)
9655 families received information, training, and individual assistance
98% of parents said they received information to address a critical need related to their child’s education
370 Parent to Parent Matches
89% of parents said that Parent to Parent support improved their ability to advocate for their child’s needs, services, and care.
Programs and Services for Professionals

Programs for resident physicians in pediatrics and family practice relay information about parents’ perspective on issues relating to medical services. Parent Panels and staff-led workshops are available to students in education, medical, oral health and social service fields.

4,213 Training/Conference Attendees
(Parents 1,983; Professionals 2,292)
97% of educational professionals reported being better prepared to work with families
59 pediatric and family practice physicians from five hospitals and medical centers completed training and home visits
95% of physicians reported training improved ability to communicate with families

Congratulation to Raising Special Kids on the 2016 EPICS Excellence Award for Community Partnership. In September, the Award of Excellence was presented to Raising Special Kids at the annual conference of the National Native American Parent Technical Assistance Center.

Christopher Tiffany (Director of Family Support and Education), Judy Wiley (EPICS/NAPTAC), Joyce Millard Hoie (Executive Director), and Trudy Johns (Family Support Specialist)

“I have been privileged to work with RSK for many years and refer every family that I see to you. Raising Special Kids does wonderful work!”

- Robin K. Blitz, MD Chief – Developmental Pediatrics, Phoenix Children’s Hospital
**Financials**

At Raising Special Kids we are committed to using funds responsibly to ensure we help families today and in future generations.

Total 3,014 hours would equal over $70,000

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**Thank You CareScape for the 2016 Dandelion Golf Classic**

**Gold Sponsors**
- Heinfeld Meech - $2,500

**Silver Sponsors**
- 1GPA - $1,000
- American Fire Equipment - $1,000
- Banahan Communications, Inc. - $1,000
- Batson Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
- Integrity Outsource - $1,000
- Kile & Kupiszewski - $1,000
- Off Madison Ave - $1,000
- People’s Mortgage - $1,000
- Sacks Tierney - $1,000
- Ted Diethrich, MD - $1,000
- Truly Nolen - $1,000

**Hole Sponsors**
- 1GPA - $500
- ASU Alumni Association - $500
- Jones, Skelton & Hochuli - $500
- Legg Mason Global Asset Management - $500
- Nothing But Net - $500
- Sechler CPA - $500

**Breakfast Sponsors**
- Rebath & 5 Day Kitchens - $300

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**Where Does Revenue Come From?**

**2016**

Grants and contracts ...................... $1,664,428
Donations................................. $181,909

**PROGRAM EXPENDITURES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Support Services</td>
<td>$655,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Support Services</td>
<td>$768,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$84,615</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$164,617</td>
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Thank You to our Donors!

Your generosity helps us serve thousands of families each year.

2016 Donors

CareScape, Inc. $50,000
Karen Barr
The Hannah B Foundation

$2,500 - $9,999
Chandler Compadres
Colten Cowell Foundation
Dr. Grant D. Senner
Eugene Huang
Helen Holden
James & Paula Banahan
John Hoie & Joyce Millard Hoie
Karin Smith
Lawrence O’Neill
Medtronic
State Employees Charitable Campaign

$1,000 - $2,499
Karen Barr
The Hannah B Foundation

$500 - $999
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Rebecca Dittersmoore
Stephanie Stevens

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Troy & Lisa Stockstad
UnitedHealth Group
Valerie Iwinski
Vaughn Perkins III
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

$250 - $499
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Deanne Tiffany
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Governor Ducey (pictured center) with members of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Council, on receiving their report and recommendations to the Governor’s Office.
Governor Doug Ducey giving one of the signing pens to Joyce Millard Hoie, after signing the ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience), which establishes Arizona’s program of tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. (May 2016)

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Sharon & Dan Campbell
Shauna Mattson
Stephen Snyder
Susan Gregg Odom
Thomas and Pamela Halpern
Tiffany Kafka
Tom & Ann Timmer
Wayne Dickmann
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Paula Friedlund
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Terra Garcia
Great American Title Agency
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Robert Gardner
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Consuelo Lopez
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Janet Fasulo
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Maureen & John Mills
Natalie Soto
Sheila Morgan
Veronica Reeves
Wendi Howe
Nancy Campbell
Patricia & George Mitwasi
Veronica Ramirez
Priscilla Overton
Adithya Rajasekar
Kate Ambrose

Cindy Tipton, OneAZ Community Foundation, with Joyce Millard Hoie, presents a check recognizing Raising Special Kids’ community impact.
Our Staff

Joyce Millard Hoie, Executive Director
Anna Burgmann
Brandi Clark
Gloria Demara
Vickie French
Terra Garcia
Kathy Gray-Mangerson
Rachel Hanzuk
Denise Hauer
Marie Hoie
Wendi Howe
Trudy John
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DONATE TODAY!
www.raisingspecialkids.org

Boards and Councils Served by Raising Special Kids Staff

ABLE Act Oversight Committee
Arizona Autism Coalition
Arizona Community of Practice on Transition
Arizona Department of Education
• National Technical Assistance Center on Transition Intensive Technical Assistance
• Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
• State Inclusion Coalition
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition
Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
• Advisory Council
• Employment First
• National Core Indicators Steering Committee
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
• Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS) Advisory Council
• Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Council
• State Medicaid Advisory Council
Arizona State University, Presidents Community Council

ASPIRE Advisory Council (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment)
Dignity Health Communities of Care
First Things First, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Task Force
Flagstaff Unified School District Special Education Advisory Committee
Maricopa County Family Support Alliance
Native American Parent Technical Assistance Center (NAPTAC) Governing Board
Parent 2 Parent USA, Board of Directors
Phoenix Children's Hospital
• Family Advisory Council
• Genetic Services Advisory Committee
Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports of Arizona, State Advisory Council
Southern Arizona Special Education Directors’ Group
Pinal County Special Education Director’s Consortium