

Annual Report 2019-2020



Raising
Special
Kids

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND SYSTEMS OF CARE
TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.



Providing help and hope for families of
children with disabilities

From Our Leadership

1



JENNIFER KUPISZEWSKI, ESQ.

Words cannot adequately describe what last year has been like for Raising Special Kids, the families we serve, Arizonans in general, and perhaps citizens of our entire planet. Throughout the year we saw many silver-linings that gave us hope for a future new normal for the organization that is so near to our hearts.

We saw Raising Special Kids respond to our global crisis by moving programs and training to new virtual platforms, reaching out to families with individual phone calls to check in, connecting with

communities using social media, partnering with State Agencies to communicate updated policies and flexibilities for families raising children who have disabilities. We saw Raising Special Kids develop a Task Force on diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure the organization is a part of the broader solution to the problem of systemic racism and discrimination. We also ensured the organization's staff and services are accessible to the many communities that make up Arizona including Black, Indig-

enous and People of Color. We saw the organization pivot to help sustain revenue to ensure stable employment for its 27 staff members in a time of deep economic crisis.

We have never been so proud to be leading Raising Special Kids and would like to say 'Thank You' to our community partners, donors and volunteers for your support through this challenging year. With that we hope you will enjoy reading about the accomplishments of the organization and its staff over the past year.

Above all, and on behalf of the Raising Special Kids Board of Directors, We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

Jennifer Kupiszewski, Esq.
Board President



CHRISTOPHER TIFFANY, M.ED.

 Christopher Tiffany, M.Ed.,
Executive Director




2019-2020 Board Members

Jennifer Kupiszewski, President
Karin Smith, Vice President
Sharon Moyer, Vice President
Karen Barr, Secretary

Trish Robinson, Treasurer
Katie Barclay Penkoff
Barbara Brent
Kelly Carbone

Michael Chapnek
Charles Douglass
Tonya Gray
Mallory Lee

Dr. Lynda Mills
Jill Nico
Maya Rao
Alan Tinsley

About Us

OUR MISSION: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND SYSTEMS OF CARE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

OUR VISION: TO ENSURE FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS HAVE THE SUPPORT, INFORMATION, TRAINING AND HOPE THEY NEED TO RAISE THEIR CHILD TO REACH THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL.

We Believe

Experienced families are a key source of knowledge and support to help new parents become effective advocates for their children.

Professionals are important allies for families. The shared wisdom, counsel, respect and support creates enhanced positive outcomes for children.

In the value diversity and celebrate our commitment to serving families in many forms.

In supporting the role of the family in establishing public policy and promoting public awareness related to families and disabilities.

Parents who model effective self-advocacy encourage a child's pursuit of their own dreams.

Raising Special Kids began in 1979 as a grass-roots effort of families, professionals, and community leaders determined to provide support and information for parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs.

Today, Raising Special Kids serves as Arizona's Family-to-Family Health Information Center and as Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center.

Helping parents access information about health care, commu-



nity resources, and support services so they can make informed decisions regarding their children's care has been our mission from the

beginning.

We support thousands of Arizona families each year through our programs and services at no cost to them.

OUR CREDO OF FAMILY SUPPORT

Programs & Services



INDIVIDUAL
CONSULTATION



PARENT TO PARENT
SUPPORT



TRAINING AND
INFORMATION

8.981

FAMILIES
SERVED



278

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS



REFUGEE AND ASYLEE
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (RAMP)



NICU PARENT
SUPPORT



POSITIVE FAMILY
COACHING



608

PROFESSIONALS
SERVED



42

ORGANIZATIONS
WITH RSK BOARD
REPRESENTATION



“I LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING IN THE FUTURE TO BRING TEACHER CANDIDATES THIS INCREDIBLE INSIGHT.”

“The parent panelists passionately presented their unique views of parenting that are so important to future teachers. My students were very engaged in the presentations as they offered real-life scenarios. Most commented on how they would never have guessed that children deal with so much prior to coming to class and while trying to participate within class. The parents also provided my students a view into how their future classrooms may be perceived by parents. What a valuable perspective for teacher candidates to gain! I look forward to collaborating in the future to bring teacher candidates this incredible insight.”

Lori Lovitt, M.Ed.,MLFTC
Honors Faculty
Arizona State University

Financial Operations Report

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$ 1,705,319
Long-term Assets	\$ 8,869
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,714,188

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$ 16,352
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 206,400
Total Liabilities	\$ 222,752
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$ 849,535
Net Assets Board Designated	\$ 500,000
Net Assets Donor Restricted	\$ 141,901
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,491,436
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,714,188

REVENUES

Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,614,482
Fundraising and Donations	\$ 225,319
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,839,801

EXPENSES

Program Services:	
Parent Support	\$ 724,168
Training Support	\$ 924,155
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	\$ 164,188
Fundraising	\$ 134,151
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,946,662

"RAISING SPECIAL KIDS HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE FOR MY FAMILY! THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR BEING ON OUR TEAM."

For the Chance family, autism is a large part of their family life having two boys on the spectrum. Moving to Tucson was a challenge, and mom, Alexis, was overwhelmed trying to understand what services and supports were available for them. She did not know where to turn for help.

Alexis heard about Raising Special Kids and immediately called for assistance. Now her boys have therapies in place, health insurance, community resources, and are thriving. For Alexis, trying to work outside the home proved impossible. Raising Special Kids helped her get approved as a parent provider with DDD. She calls it life-changing support for their family.

Our Impact

8,981

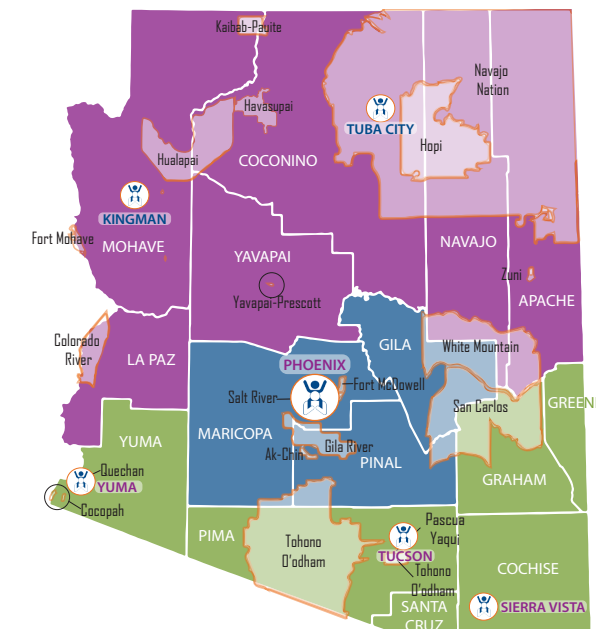
FAMILIES
SERVED

This year, Raising Special Kids helped 8,981 children birth to 26 who have disabilities.

Help was provided through Raising Special Kids programs for families, educators, and professionals.

More than 15 programs provided individual assistance, trainings, publications, and support to help our communities navigate complex systems of care together.

As a result, Raising Special Kids provided a disabilities and special healthcare needs live their best lives.



CENTRAL ARIZONA

Phoenix is the headquarters for Raising Special Kids. Located in the fully-accessible Ability360 Center, this hub houses the management, AzEIP referral, communication and IT teams as well as several family support staff.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Staff in Southern Arizona are located in Sierra Vista, Yuma, and Tucson. A staff member also works from The Children's Clinic in Tucson where she meets with families who are visiting their children's providers.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Our Northern Arizona staff covers a vast territory and is home to our Tribal Program. Staff works with Tribal leaders to ensure we are meeting the unique needs of Tribal members in a culturally appropriate manner.

With Much Gratitude

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU! WE ARE HONORED TO RECOGNIZE OUR SUPPORTERS WHO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, AND ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

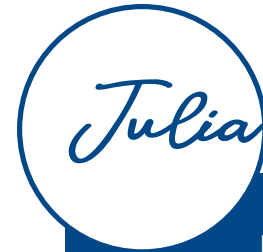
Ability360, Inc.
Humeira Ahmed
Mark Alberti
David Alexander
Brianna Allen
Nancy Alling
Julie Alvarado
Summer Alvarez
Kristie Amator
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Airlines
American Express
Foundation
American American Fire
Equipment Sales & Service
Laura Ames
Andrea Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Arizona Ballroom
Arizona Community Found-
ation
Arizona Dept. of Health
Services Office for Children
with Special Health Care
Needs
Ana Arjona
Amalia Encinas Arriaga
Cindy Ashcraft
Edward Ashton
Jim Attwood
Obodai Badger
Amber Bailey
Dawn Bailey

Marti Baio
Alan Bakst
Banner Health
Dianne Bark
Michaelene Barlow
Cathy Barto
Tom Batson
Sandy Bawden
Becki Bigler-Smith
Trudy Billy
Elizabeth Bird
Robin Blitz
James Blowers
Ann Bogle
Amy Bonner
Amy Bonnett
Paul Borsari
Bob Boushell
Beth Bovee
Jody Brigham
Carrie Bruce
Evangeline & Patrick Buckley
Patrick Budge
Anna Burgmann
Courtney Burnett
Marcia Busching
Jeni Calkins
Debbie Campbell
Nancy Campbell
Steven Cano-Wells
Randa Canter
Shari Capra
Cardinals Charities

Laurie Carmody
Ramona Carrasco
Anya Carrillo
Bonnie Carroll
John Carroll
Jane Carter
Sonia Carver
Mary Cash
Veronica Castillo
Jill Castle
Julie Cauich
Shauna Cedillos
Rosa Chacon
Manda Chatelain
Patrick Clasen
Steve Clasen
Julie Clawson
Susan Coates
Becky Coffman
Marilyn Coffman
Dominique Colunga
Maria Colunga
Community Foundation for
Southern Arizona
Sally Compton
Whitney Cooley
Vicki Copeland
Bill Corry
Jessica Crain
T.P. Cullison
Cynthia Cypher
Dominick D'Agosto
Elizabeth Dail

Ronald Dalton
Lauren Daniels
Daniel Davidson
Patricia Dean
Flor Del Campo
Brady Del Giudice
Jennifer Delgado
Anne Dennis
Anu Desu-Kalyanam
Raymond DiCiccio
Jason Diez
Bruce Diven
Division of Developmental
Disabilities
Sarah Dorman
Rebecca Dorn
Miriam Doyle
Carol Dries
Ellen DuBiel
Lee Dueringer
Jewel Dulson
Michelle Dumay
Vijay Duvvuri
Early Warning Services, LLC
Dan East
Larry Edwards
Jeanette Elam
Cynthia Elliott
Mark Elson
Patrick Eng
Andrew Evans
Williams Express
Michelle Faudskar

FedEx
Lloyd Felder
Shylo Ferland
Tom Feutz
First Things First
William Fisher
Peter Flanagan-Hyde
Samantha Flores
Morgan Follett
Laura Foster
Matthew French
Vickie French
Austyn Frisk
Cody Frisk
Gary Fritcke
Chris Gale
Mary Gale
Claudia Gamez
Araceli Garcia
Drew Gasser
Heidie Gentes
Tom Georgiou
Jerry D. Gerk
Jenny Gibbons
Sarah Giddings
Janet Giel-Romo
Charles Gilhart, III
Cheryl Gilroy
Clinton Gode
Shannon Goldwater
Dixon Golf
Margarita Gonzalez-Maynez
Rhonda Goodman



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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PAULA BANAHAN
KAREN BARR
CARESCAPE, INC
K CHANDRASEKARAN
THE CHAPMAN FAMILY
MICHAEL CHAPNEK
GREG CHILDS

DEBRA CITRON
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MARY HOLMAN
CLAUDIA JARAMILLO
CYNDI JENKINS
JENNIFER KUPISZEWSKI
JANNA MURRELL

TIM NOREN
SEAN O'MALLEY
LAWRENCE O'NEILL
PAM RANDALL
DONNA RISER
SCOTTSDALE SUNRISE
ROTARY CLUB
KARIN SMITH

CHRIS STEVENS
THE HANNAH B
FOUNDATION
JENN THOMSON
CHRISTOPHER TIFFANY
ALAN TINSLEY
DONNA WIENHOFF
KATHLEEN YBARRA

Recognizing those who have made leadership level gifts of \$1,000 or more

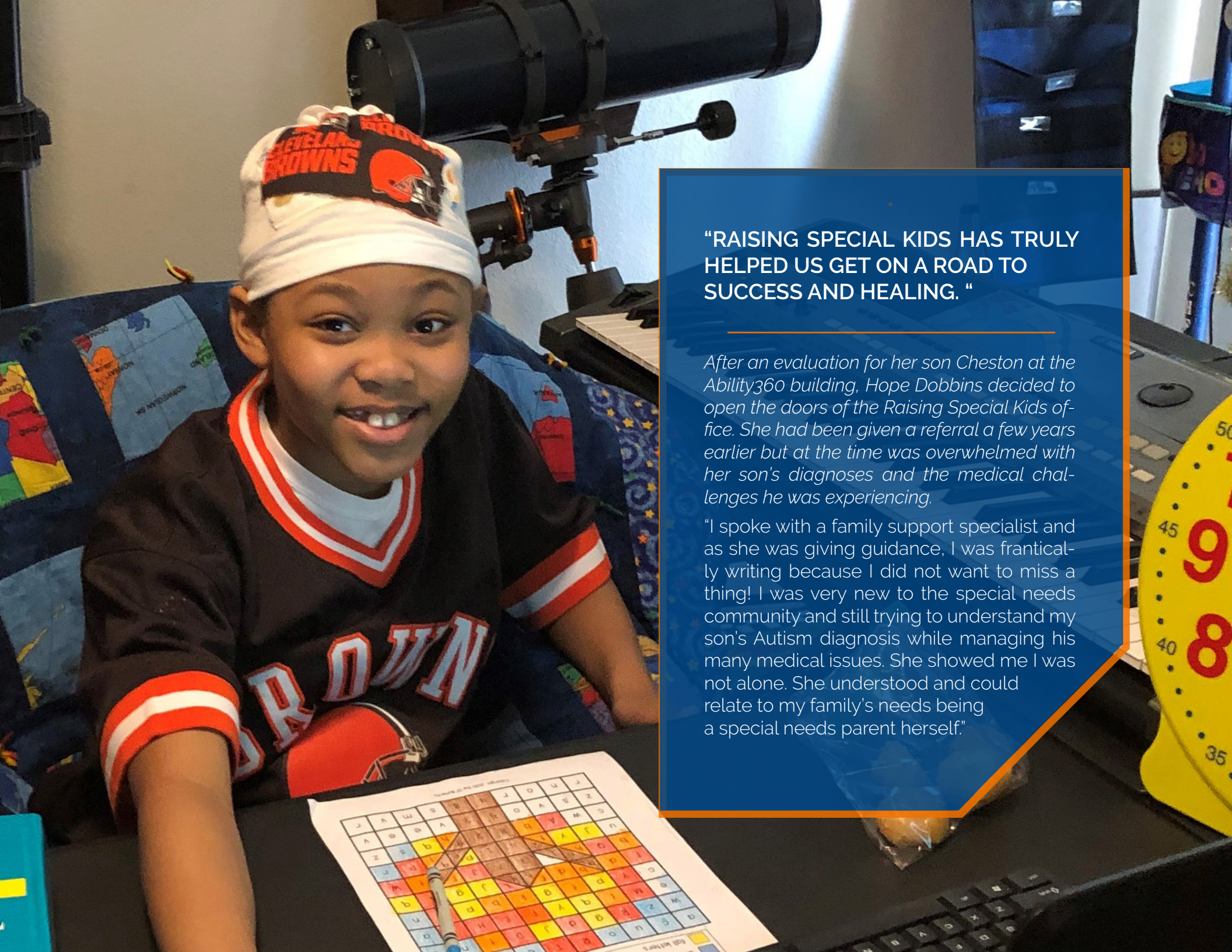
Google, Inc.
Pat Gottfried
Gaye Gould
John Grady
Susan Grant
Kristi Grasser
Tonya Gray
Kathy Gray-Mangerson
Great American Title Agency
Great Hearts Arete Prep HM
Drs. Marlene & Richard
Greyson
Daniel Gulchak
Nicole Guysi
Dennis Haberer
Thomas Halpern
Rachel Hanzuk
Frymet Hare
Linde Harned
Madelyn Harper
Mary Harrison
Alan Hartsook
Altaf Hasan

Nate Hastings
Lurinda Hatathli
Karen Hayenga
Richard Heck
Amy & Gary Heinfeld
Chad Heinrich
Zarai Hernandez
Mario Hidalgo
Brenda Higuera
Joyce Millard Hoie
Helen Holden
Christy Holstad
Honeywell International, Inc.
Hopebridge Autism Therapy
Centers
Cathy Humphrey
Marissa Huth
Regan Iker-Lopez
Paula Ilardo
Intel Charitable Match Trust
Intel Corporation
Michele Interian
J. W. Kieckhefer Foundation

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Elianna Jacobs
Michael Jacoby
Michelle Jacquez
Jakenheimer
Adriana Jimenez
Christina Jimenez
Belinda Johnson
Julie Johnson
Rebecca Johnson
Jane Jollie
Anita Kadikar
Marcee Kahan
Pierre Kaluzny
Steve Kaminskas
Sonya Kanidis
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Kellogg Company
Kenneth Kennedy
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Dan Kessler
Bharat Khanna
Nancy Kiernan

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Dawn Kurbat
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Kathy Lane
Angelica Lara
Karen Largent
Jody Lauer
Julie Lazzara
Cesar Leal
Erika LeBlanc
Greg Lechowski
Karen Lee
Legends Garage Door, LLC
Ellen Leibow
David Lewis

Lisa's Rum Cake
Charlene Littrell
Kristin Loboda
Matt Loboda
Mike Locher
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Heather Joy Magdelano
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Machelle Martin
Melissa Martinez
Nancy Maser
Jim Massa
Eliana Matthies
Cindy May
Dan McAuliffe
Tony McCarty
Estella McClain
Emily McCune



"RAISING SPECIAL KIDS HAS TRULY HELPED US GET ON A ROAD TO SUCCESS AND HEALING. "

After an evaluation for her son Cheston at the Ability360 building, Hope Dobbins decided to open the doors of the Raising Special Kids office. She had been given a referral a few years earlier but at the time was overwhelmed with her son's diagnoses and the medical challenges he was experiencing.

"I spoke with a family support specialist and as she was giving guidance, I was frantically writing because I did not want to miss a thing! I was very new to the special needs community and still trying to understand my son's Autism diagnosis while managing his many medical issues. She showed me I was not alone. She understood and could relate to my family's needs being a special needs parent herself."

Amy McDonald
Kathy McDonald
Randy McGrane
Kathleen McNamee
Melissa McQueen
Chanda McRoberts
Melmed Center
Maria Mendoza
Merck Foundation
Mercy Care
Kelley Merwin
Jon Meyers
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Steve Michael
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Andrew Milich
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Ryan Miller
Maureen Mills
Janet Moeur
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Kathleen Moroney
Sharon Moyer
Julia Mraovic
Tricia Mucklow
Tobi Murphy
Jerry Murrell
Lisa Myers
Ramona Napier
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Larissa Neale
Jodie Nebrich
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Jill Nico
Joann Niese
Rosa Maria Castañeda Nieto
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Enid Nixen
Gayle Nobel

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Katie Petersen
Phelps Law Office
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Patricia Pimental
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Heather Prouty
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Rosa Ramirez
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Jean Richmond-Bowman
Heather Rinard
Dolores Rios
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Jennifer Roberts
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Alli Roth
Vicky Rozich
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Raghu Rudra
Ronald Russo
Ellen Rutemiller
Ched Salasek
Jillian Salasek
Nannette Salasek
Tequa Salehi-Rad
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Laurie Sang
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Jeremy Schmitz
Allyson Schug
Susan Schuler
Robert Schwallie
Jack Schwimmer
Sherri Scruggs
Sechler Morgan CPAs, PLLC
Mike Seiden
Laura Senften
Paulina Serna
Sharon Shelley
May Sheppard-Ketchner
Scott Sherman
Laurie Shook
Sarina Siebenaler
Cindy Silverman
Ginger Simmons
Cheri Skiba
Mary Slaughter
Chuck Smith
Eadie Smith
Emily Smith
Nathan Smith
Stephanie Smith
Stephen Snyder
Jon Soeby
Jessica Soltes
Carolyn Sostrom
Southwest Human Develop-

ment
Special Education Services
Aleta Speier
Melanie Speights
Jerry Stahl
Carol Stanton
State Employees Charitable
Campaign
Amanda Steele
Jeffrey Stein
Mica Stewart
Troy Stockstad
Ryan Stokke
Peggy Storrs
John Strittmatter
Neil Sutton
Lisa Swanson
Wendy Swartz
Kara Swierz
Alissa Taylor
Debbie Terrill
The Hedges Chritable Fund
Derren Thompson
Ariana Thude
Thunderbird Charities
Deanne Tiffany
Kathryn Tiffany
Paul Tiffany
Paulina Tiffany
Terry Tiffany
Juliet Tiffany-Morales
Tom Timmer
James Tomczyk
Touchstone Behavioral Health
Nilda Townsend
Mateo TreeTop
Joanne Trifilo
Kelly Triplett
Betsy Trombino
Trumpet Behavioral Health
Cathy Turner
Jennifer Turrell
Susie Turrey
Kodethoor Udupa
United Healthcare

Kim Updegraff
Carlos Lopez Urueta
USAA-United Services Auto-
mobile Association
Juan Valdez
Melissa Van Hook
Andrea Vandersnoek
Vanguard
Esmeralda Vasquez
Kathy Visser
Vitanya
Susan Voirol
Gerald Voll
Anh Toan Vu
Amy Wagner
Jill Walker
Jessica Walsh
Keith Walter
Virginia Ward
Mikel Waszczak
Jo Ann Watkins
Claudia Weiss
William Weiss
Wells Fargo Advisors
John West
Ron West
West Valley Mavericks
Andrew Wheeler
LaTasha Whitaker
Noelle White
Tina Wildoner
Kayla Mae Wilkerson
Heather Wilson
Patricia Winner
Neil Wintle
Cherie Wright
Kimberly Wright
Julie & Richard Yand
Cynthia Yee
Isaac Zwinger-Nathanson



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