

Annual Report 2020-2021



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 who have disabilities



From Our Leadership

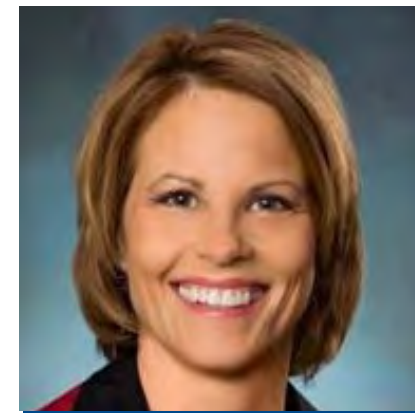
On behalf of the Raising Special Kids' (RSK) board of directors, staff and the families we serve, we are pleased to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

We hope you enjoy reading about the organization's many accomplishments and the experiences of families who received services from RSK in 2020 and 2021. RSK operated the entirety of the year 2020-2021 from remote worksites and our offices were closed to the public. Over the past year, we have learned a lot about hosting virtual meetings, facilitating training in cyberspace and the art of 'muting' ourselves so our microphones did not pick up dogs barking, our children participating in remote education, or any number of audible 'distractions' as we continued the mission of family support. We celebrated strong partnerships with state agencies specifically: the Arizona Health Care Cost

Containment System [AHCCCS], the Division of Developmental Disabilities [DDD] and the Arizona Department of Education [ADE] who, in this time of need, came together to support remote education. They provided flexibilities that allowed for provider support to facilitate online education and special education for students eligible for Home and Community Based Services because of the nature of their disability. This collaborative effort impacted the lives of thousands of Arizona families, and we

would like to thank AH-CCCS, DDD, and ADE for their hard work in making this happen.

We also would like to thank our donors and funders who continued to believe in the mission of the organization through the first full year of the pandemic and whose critical support helped us meet the needs of families across the state struggling with unique challenges brought on by the public health crisis.



SHARON MOYER, ESQ
BOARD PRESIDENT

Sharon Moyer



CHRISTOPHER TIFFANY, M.ED.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christopher Tiffany

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 of 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, community 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.

2020-2021 Board Members

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Programs, Services . . .



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION

Our staff of family support specialists are parents and family members of children with disabilities and can relate to the challenges facing families who call for support for the range of issues a family may encounter from birth through age 26, and sometimes beyond.

PARENT TO PARENT SUPPORT

Parent-to-parent support has always been the heart of Raising Special Kids. Each year, more than 400 families in Arizona are connected with veteran "mentor" parents who have walked a similar path and who understand their challenges.

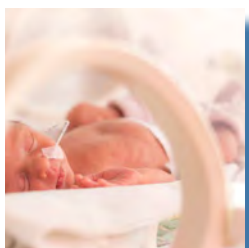


TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Raising Special Kids provides programs and services at no cost to families. There are no eligibility requirements. Any parent or family member of a child with a disability can take advantage of services which are provided in English, Spanish, and other languages.

REFUGEE AND ASYLEE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (RAMP)

By providing culturally appropriate supports and services, Raising Special Kids educates and empowers refugee and asylee families helping them understand the nature of their child's disability, how to work collaboratively with professionals and strategies for effective advocacy.



NICU PARENT SUPPORT

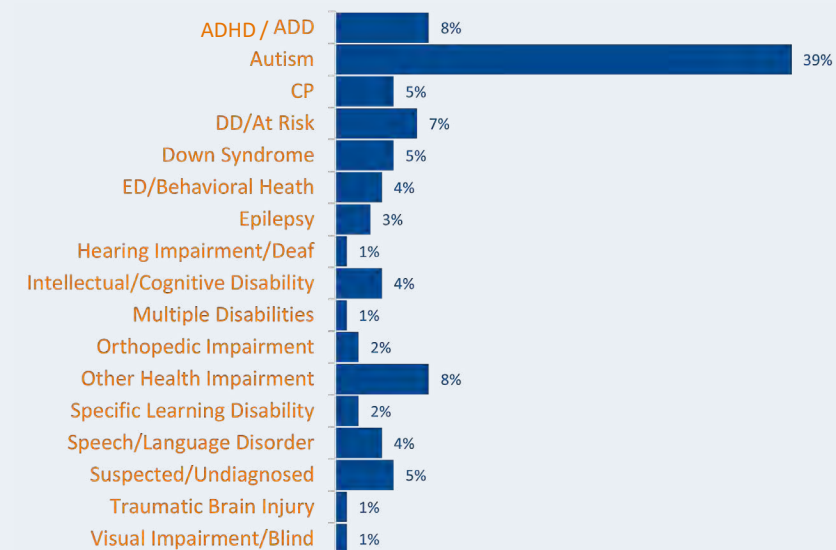
Raising Special Kids shares guidance, support, and practical information for parents who have a baby in the NICU or are NICU graduates. Parents receive assistance with locating medical information specific to their baby's unique needs and help navigating new systems of care and insurance situations.

POSITIVE FAMILY COACHING

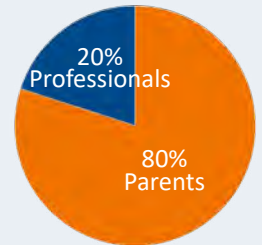
The Positive Family Coaching (PFC) program is available to families of children receiving behavioral health services through an AHCCCS plan. Our Behavioral Health Technicians (BHT) work with families to increase their capacity for problem solving, effective advocacy, and application of evidence-based behavior management strategies.



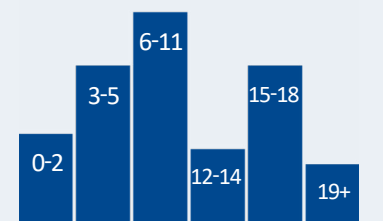
Children's Disability



Parents/Professionals

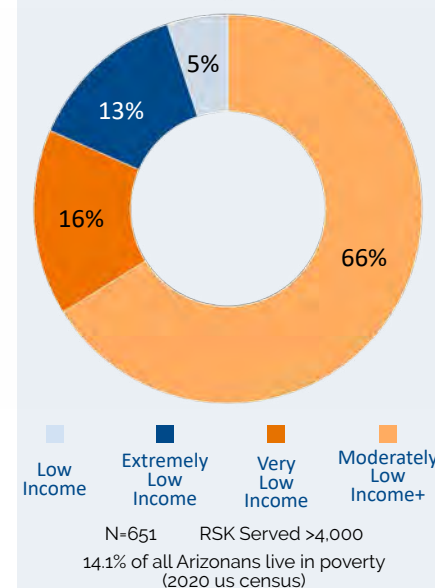


Ages of Children Served

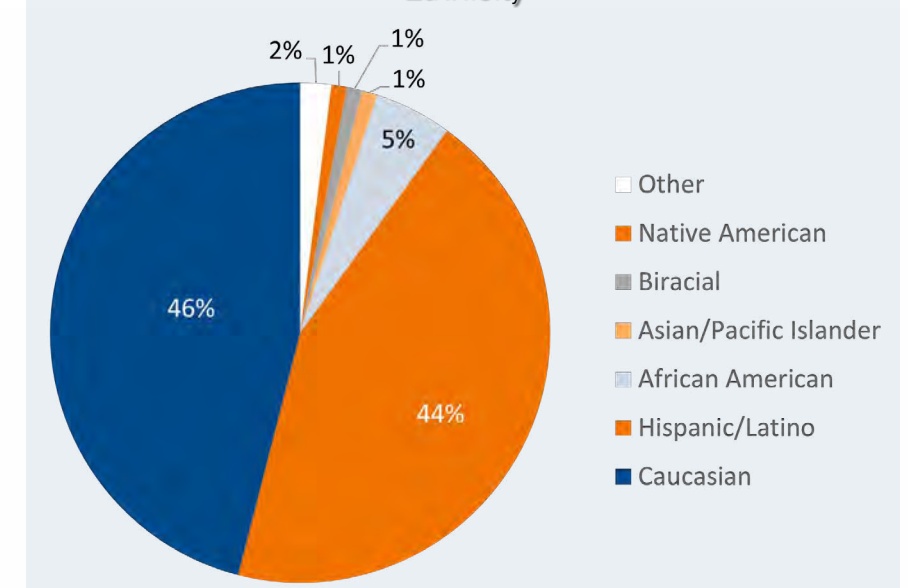


. . . & the People We Serve

Income



Ethnicity





"ONE OF THE BEST PRESENTATIONS THEY HAVE ATTENDED"

"Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge and experiences with my class. The students commented on the presentation and said it was one of the best presentations they have attended! They made some great connections between our chapter reading and your presentation on parent involvement in the IEP process."

Laura Atkinson, PhD,
Barrett Honors Faculty
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
Arizona State University

Financial Operations Report

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$1,765,966
Long-term Assets	\$ 3,602
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,769,568

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

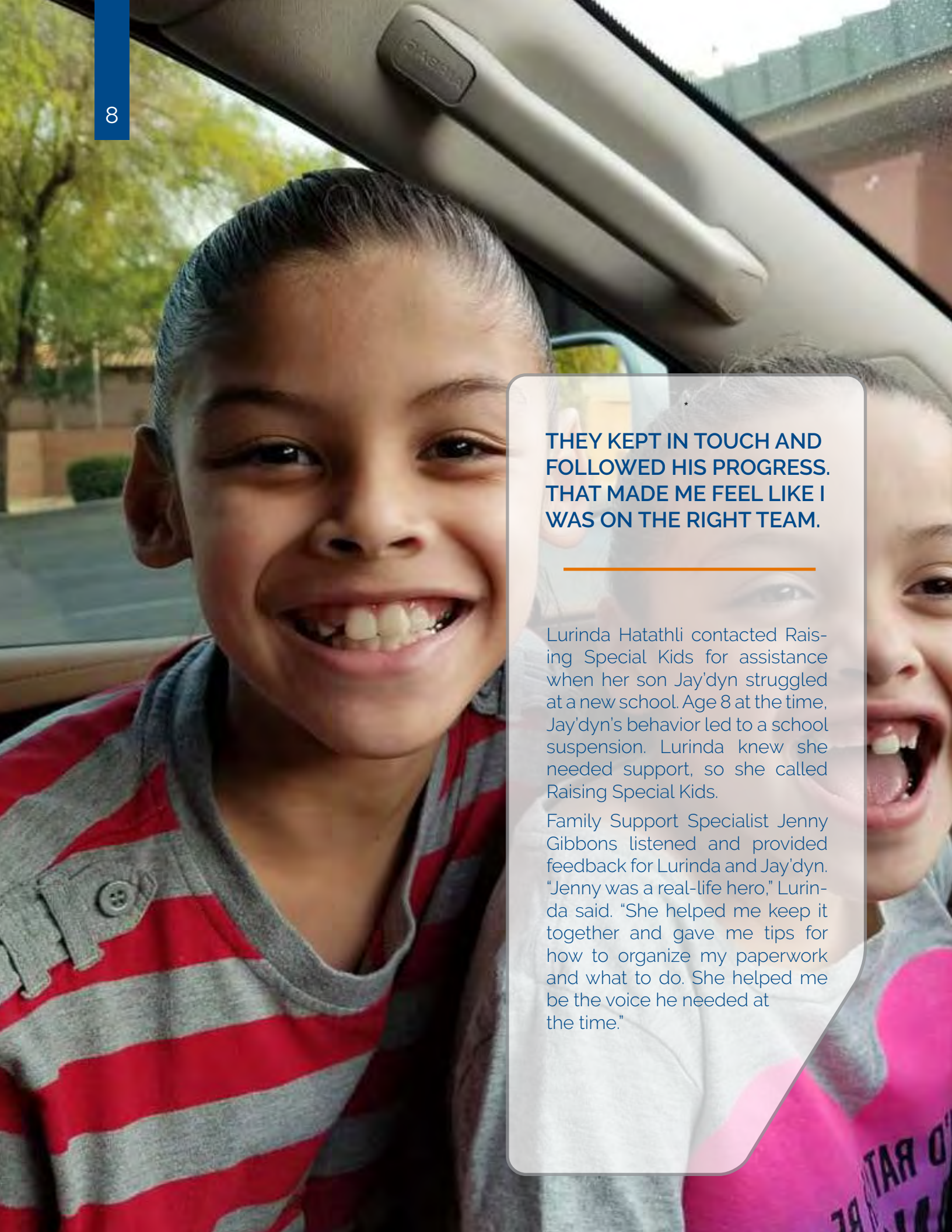
Current Liabilities	\$ 29,349
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 0
Total Liabilities	\$ 29,349
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$1,142,594
Net Assets Board Designated	\$ 500,000
Net Assets Donor Restricted	\$ 97,625
Total Net Assets	\$1,740,219
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$1,769,568

REVENUES

Grants and Contracts	\$1,507,817
Fundraising and Donations	\$ 411,189
Gain on Note Payable	\$ 155,216
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,074,222

EXPENSES

Program Services:	
Parent Support, Training & Program Services	\$1,498,543
Supporting Services:	
Management & General	\$ 250,858
Fundraising	\$ 76,038
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,825,439



THEY KEPT IN TOUCH AND FOLLOWED HIS PROGRESS. THAT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS ON THE RIGHT TEAM.

Lurinda Hatathli contacted Raising Special Kids for assistance when her son Jay'dyn struggled at a new school. Age 8 at the time, Jay'dyn's behavior led to a school suspension. Lurinda knew she needed support, so she called Raising Special Kids.

Family Support Specialist Jenny Gibbons listened and provided feedback for Lurinda and Jay'dyn. "Jenny was a real-life hero," Lurinda said. "She helped me keep it together and gave me tips for how to organize my paperwork and what to do. She helped me be the voice he needed at the time."

Our Impact

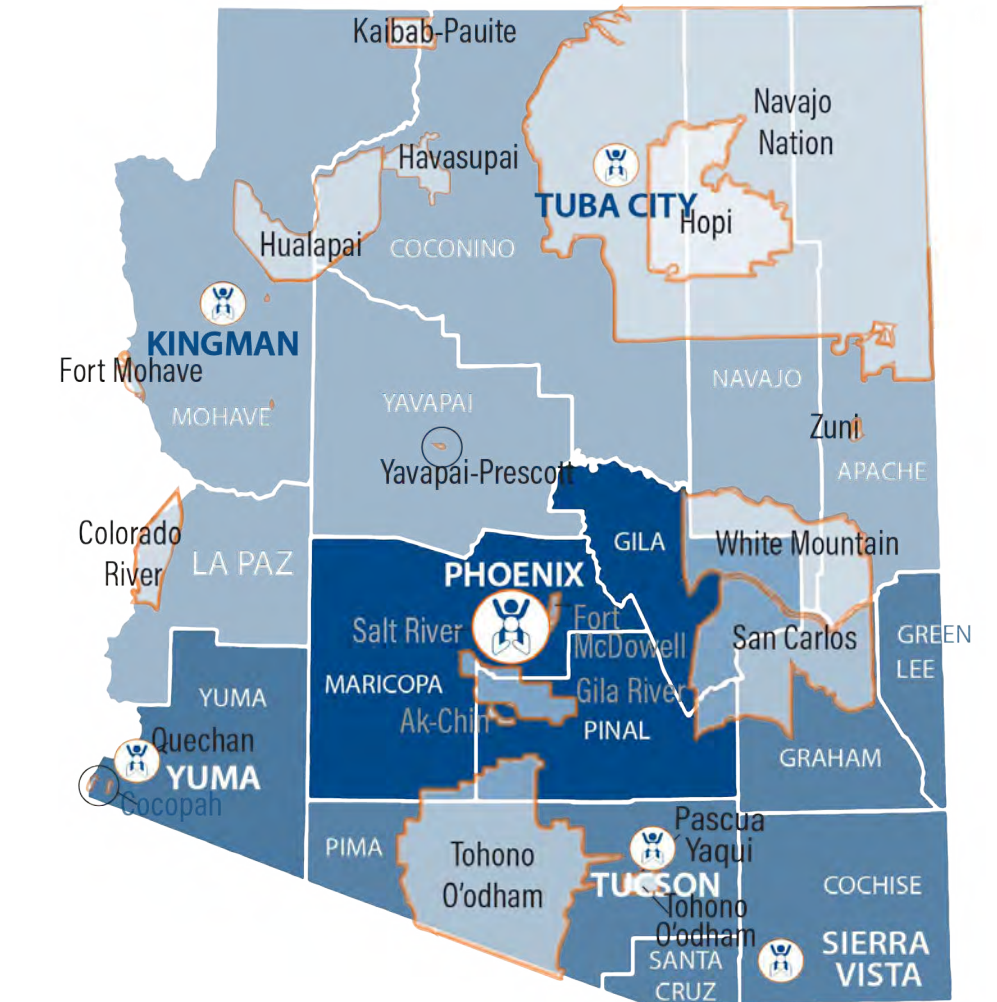
This year, your support has enabled Raising Special Kids to help 9,353 Arizona children who have disabilities.

Whether it's a parent of a newborn infant or a young adult, RSK provides assistance to help parents navigate complex systems of care, connect with other parents who have similar lived experiences, and engage in an array of trainings that empower them to work effectively with professionals.

As a result, children who have disabilities and special healthcare needs receive the assistance they need to live their best lives.

RSK staff members are located across the state and enjoy a hybrid work environment allowing for easy in-person engagement with families in their communities.

Phoenix is the headquarters for RSK and is located in the fully-accessible Ability360 Center. This hub is the gathering location for semi-



annual staff strategic planning and professional development sessions.

We make a concerted effort to bring our services to underserved communities. Our Tribal Program Manager engages with tribal leaders and community members to ensure their needs are being addressed.

The Refugee and Asylee Mentorship Program assists families who are newly arrived in Arizona to understand their children's diagnoses and educational rights.

As our mission, vision and beliefs attest, we strive to keep families at the heart of everything we do.

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.

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Troy Stockstad
Ryan Stokke
Peggy Storrs
Nicole Stuard
Kara Swierz
Ann Marie Tate
Debbie Terrill



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Julia Banahan lends her name to this special collection of donors who have provided a minimum of \$1,000 in support for Raising Special Kids during the year. A self-advocate who has Down syndrome, Julia and these donors consistently show levels of generosity and leadership that deserve special recognition. Many thanks!

PAULA BANAHAN

KAREN BARR

TOM BATSON

MICHAEL CHAPNEK

CARLISLE DAVIS

JENNIFER KUPISZEWSKI

ERIKA LEBLANC

MALLORY LEE

DIRK LEVERANT

RIGOBERTO LOPEZ

JOYCE MILLARD HOIE

SHARON MOYER

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Cynthia Yee



"I DON'T KNOW WHO I WOULD HAVE TURNED TO, OR HOW I WOULD HAVE FIGURED THAT PROCESS OUT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR RAISING SPECIAL KIDS."

Raising a medically complex child takes a village. Jennifer Smith has reached out to Raising Special Kids many times for assistance and has always received the support and answers she's needed to help her daughter Madison.

Jennifer and Maddie live in Holbrook, Arizona and travel back and forth to Phoenix for Maddie's medical care. Jennifer is a special education teacher, is passionate about teaching children with disabilities and has a deep love for the families she serves in her community. While Jennifer's professional experience and expertise is very helpful, she shared that it is much different advocating for her daughter than it is advocating for one of her students.

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Raising
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