

Annual Report 2021-2022



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 2022 Annual Report.

Over the last two years, we have been paying very close attention to our impact as an Arizona nonprofit organization with a mission of support for families raising infants, toddlers, children, youth, and young adults who have disabilities. In addition to the close eye on our services and supports, we have expanded the accessibility of said programs and services to low-income families by diversifying our organization.

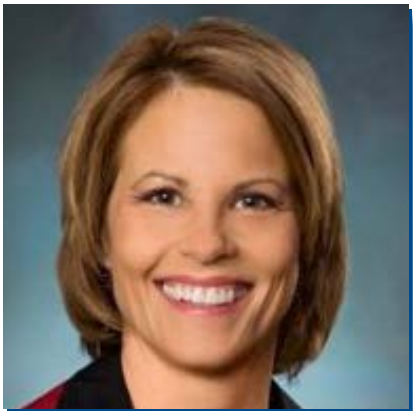
Ten years ago this organization was nearly 100% dependent on federal and state grants and contracts. We are so proud to report that we are now an organization that **receives over 30% of its support directly from the community it serves.**

We would like to thank all those who have made this possible. Without the support of our individual donors, community partners, charitable foundations,

and corporate sponsors, RSK simply could not have achieved the impact in 2022 that is described in this annual report. We hope you will enjoy reading the words from family members and professionals about our services, and we hope that the program data and statistics here help bring into focus the incredible need of the community we serve.

Lastly, we hope you will share this annual report with someone close to you to:

- 1. help them understand your personal connection to RSK, and/or
- 2. provide a resource that can help a parent or family member you know



SHARON MOYER, ESQ
BOARD PRESIDENT

Sharon Moyer

who is raising a child with a disability,

As RSK moves into its 44th year of service to Arizona families we reflect on our founders, and we thank them. We thank them for their tenacity and bravery as they sat at a kitchen table in 1979 envisioning a world where **everyone is valued and included in society.** We continue to work toward this ideal by empowering one family at a time with the information, training, and the support they need to effectively advocate on behalf of their child.



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.

2021-2022 Board Members

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Dr. Todd Liolios

Dr. Lynda Mills

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.

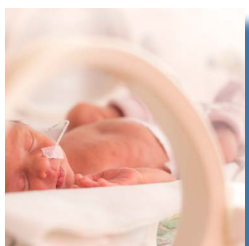


TRAINING AND INFORMATION

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

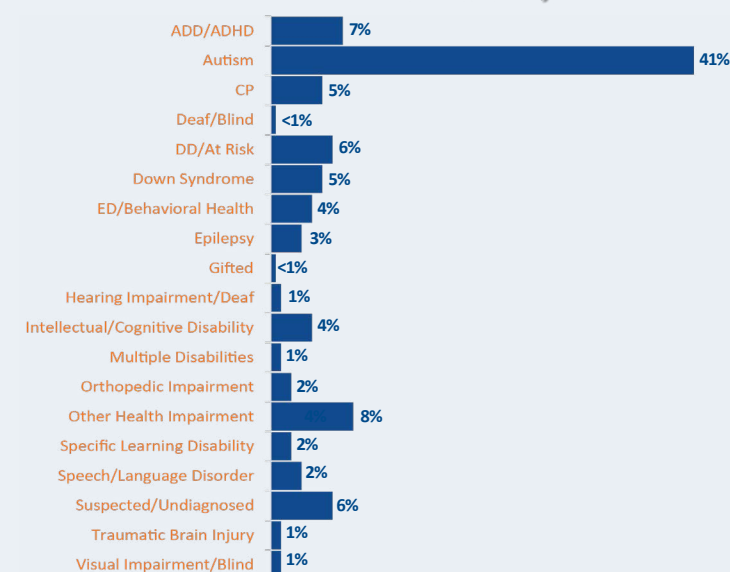
Raising Special Kids shares guidance, support, and practical information for parents who have a baby in the NICU or are NICU graduates. Parents receive assistance with locating medical information specific to their baby's unique needs and help navigating new systems of care and insurance situations.

POSITIVE FAMILY COACHING

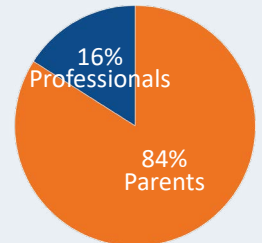
The Positive Family Coaching (PFC) program is available to families of children receiving behavioral health services through an AHCCCS plan. Our Behavioral Health Technicians (BHT) work with families to increase their capacity for problem solving, effective advocacy, and application of evidence-based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



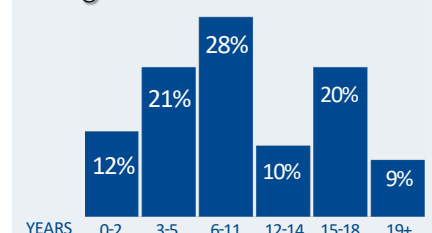
Children's Disability



Parents/Professionals

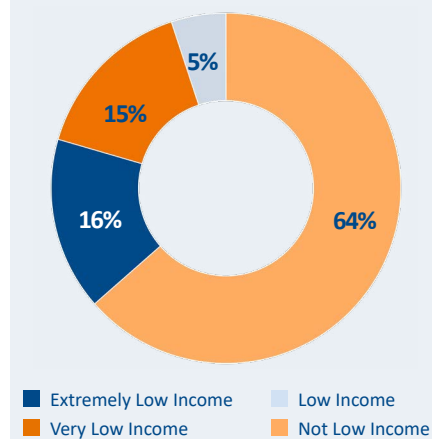


Ages of Children Served



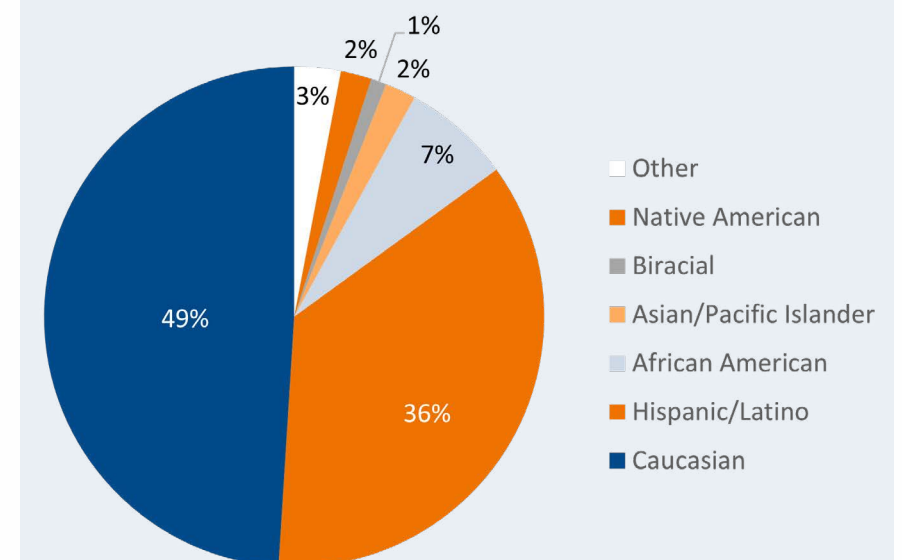
. . . & the People We Serve

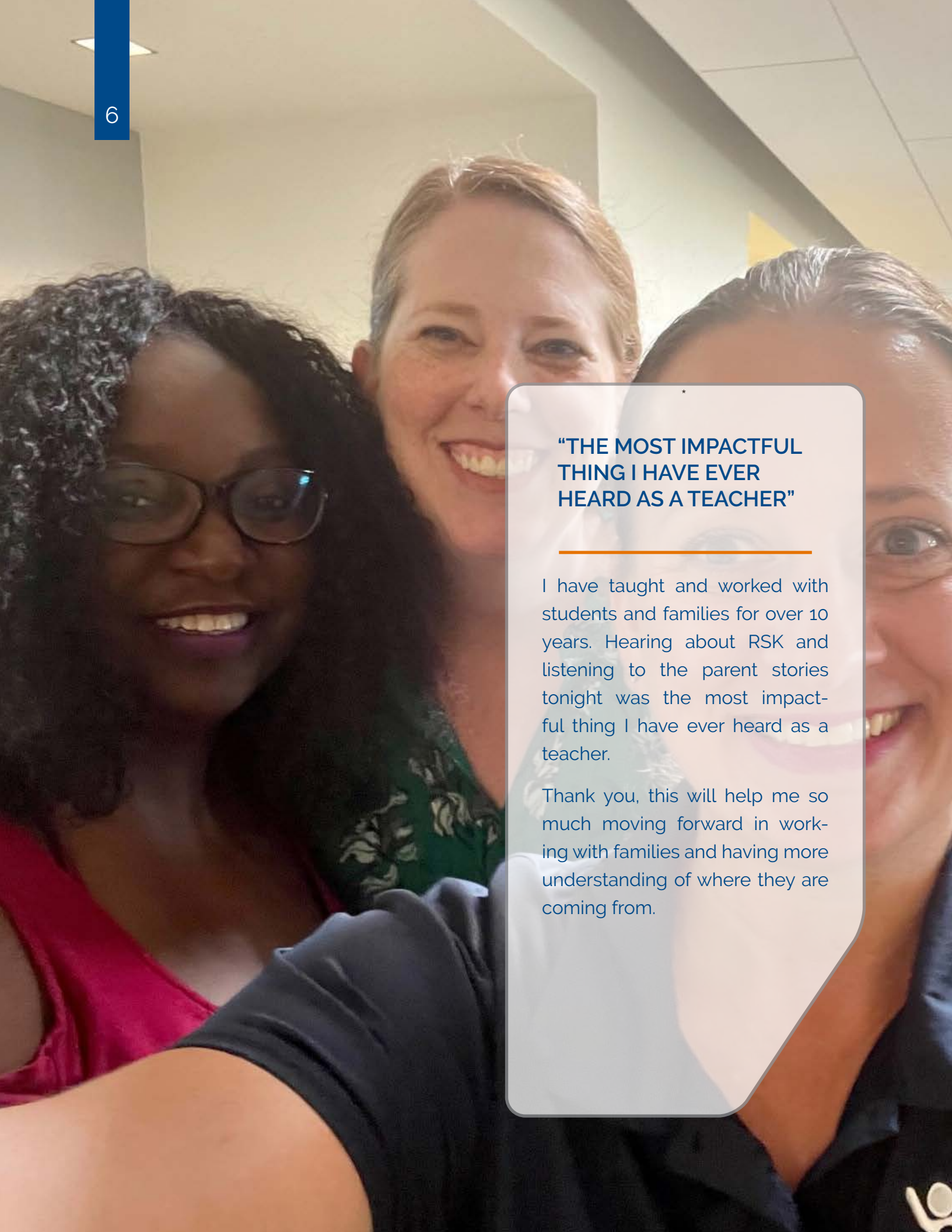
Income



36% of the families we serve have income at or below 80% of the area median income

Ethnicity





"THE MOST IMPACTFUL THING I HAVE EVER HEARD AS A TEACHER"

I have taught and worked with students and families for over 10 years. Hearing about RSK and listening to the parent stories tonight was the most impactful thing I have ever heard as a teacher.

Thank you, this will help me so much moving forward in working with families and having more understanding of where they are coming from.

Financial Operations Report

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

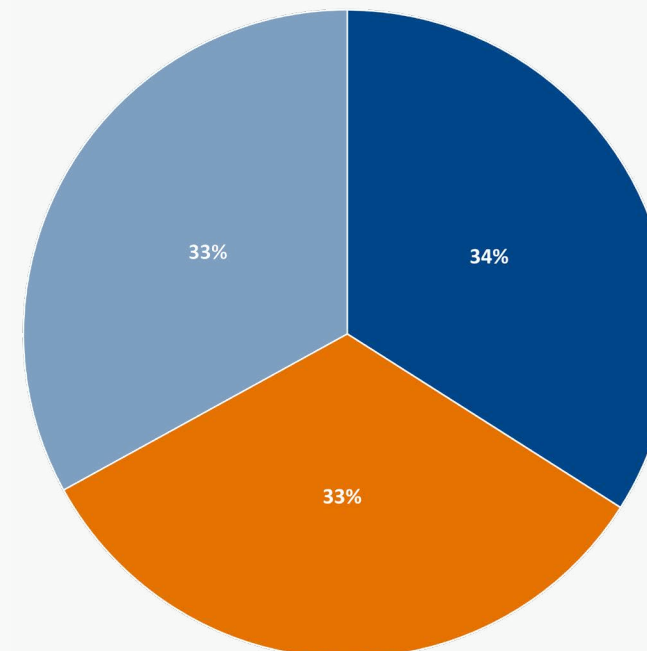
REVENUES

Federal Grants & Contracts	\$ 786,952
Arizona State & Local Contracts	\$ 790,462
Community Support	\$ 771,655
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,314,010

EXPENSES

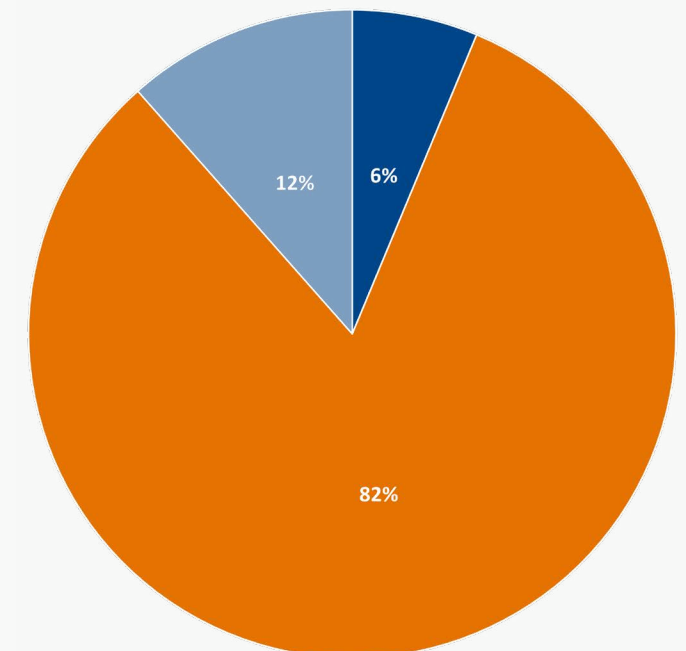
Fundraising & Development	\$ 129,395
Family Support Programs & Services	\$ 1,693,761
Management & General	\$ 237,413
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,060,569

Funding Sources



■ Federal Grants & Contracts
■ Community Support
■ Arizona State & Local Contracts

Expense Categories



■ Fundraising & Development
■ Family Support Programs & Services
■ Management & General

"I HAVE THE ABILITY AND CONFIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RESOURCES MY SON NEEDS."

"Thank you so much, Raising Special Kids, for always being there for my family. I wouldn't have been able to do this without all the support I received from my family support specialist, and I no longer feel lost or defeated," Veronica said. "I know RSK will guide me so that I have the ability and confidence to advocate for the resources my son needs. It is an ongoing process, and I am sure I will need help again but am so glad I am not alone!"

Our Impact

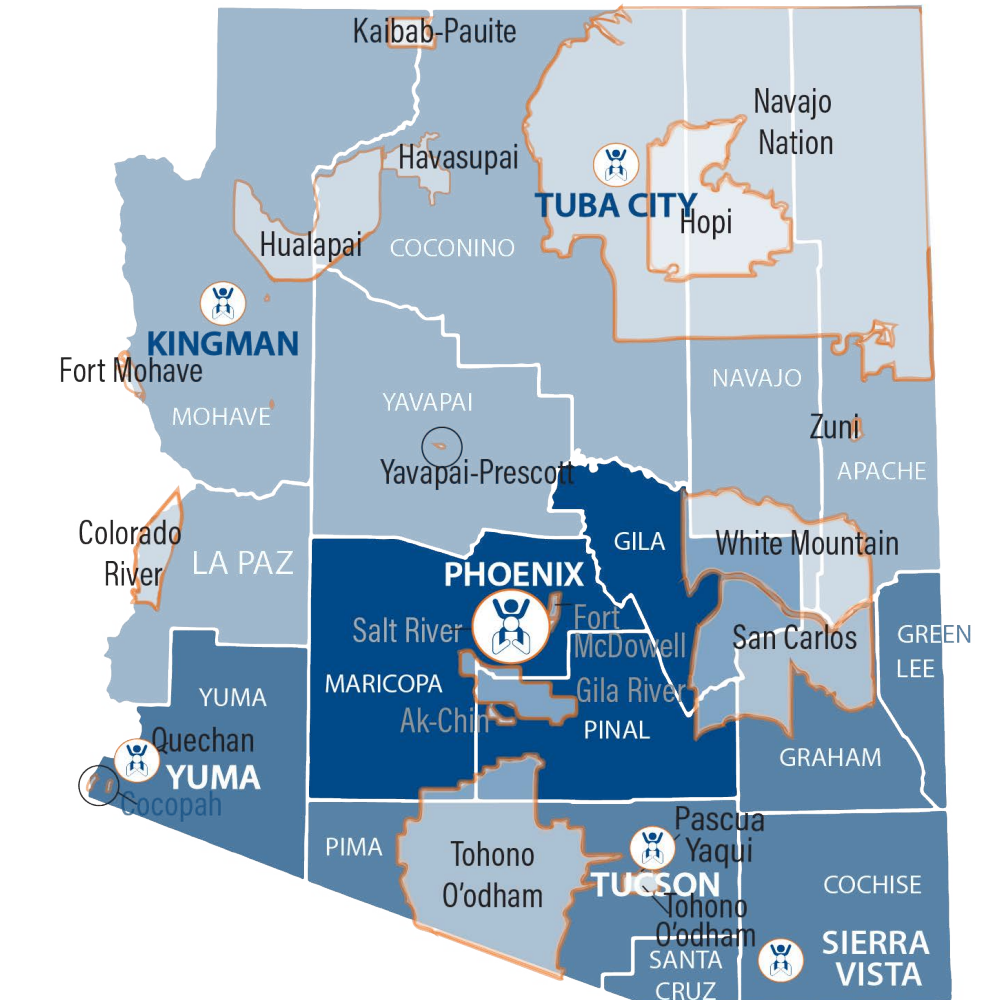
This year, your support has enabled Raising Special Kids to help 11,053 Arizona children who have disabilities.

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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Mary Robinson



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!

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Todd Liolios
Rosa Long



“RSK HELPED US WHEN WE FELT THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN”

“Raising Special Kids was a shining light that existed in a dark place on our journey,” Angela says.

“The knowledgeable Raising Special Kids staff and parent leaders who impart their wisdom, knowledge and resources have helped us when we felt there was nowhere else to turn.”

Maria Lopez
Jesus Macias
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