

Annual Report 2023



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

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As we reflect on a year of remarkable achievements in 2023, we at Raising Special Kids are filled with immense pride and gratitude.

Our mission to support Arizona parents and family members raising a child with a disability remains steadfast and robust, particularly in our work with low-income families who face unique challenges.

We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support from our community. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of our state agency partners, donors, volunteers, our esteemed board of directors, and our tireless staff. Your contributions have empowered us to expand and enhance our services, ensuring that we meet the evolving needs of Arizona families.

This year has been a period of continued growth and expansion for our organization. In response to the changing landscape and the diverse needs of the families we serve, we have implemented new programs, extended our

reach, and strengthened our network of support. Every step we take is driven by our commitment to fostering resilience and providing comprehensive support to families raising children with disabilities.

We are excited to share a significant milestone in our journey. At this time next year, our organization will be known by a new name. This change is the culmination of an intentional, multi-year process involving constituent focus groups, discussions with our staff, board of directors, and community partners. Rest assured, while our name will change, our dedication to serving families and

sharing the family experience will remain unwavering.resolute. Our services and supports will continue to be delivered with the same passion and commitment that have defined Raising Special Kids.

Thank you for standing with us every step of the way. Your enduring support has been instrumental in transforming the lives of countless families. Together, we are not just making a difference — we are creating lasting change, empowering families, and building a stronger, more inclusive community for all.



ALAN TINSLEY
BOARD PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Tinsley".



CHRISTOPHER TIFFANY, M.ED.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. 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.

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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.

OUTREACH

Raising Special Kids provides culturally tailored support to empower families, including refugees and other underserved communities, in understanding their child's disability, collaborating with professionals, and advocating effectively.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORT

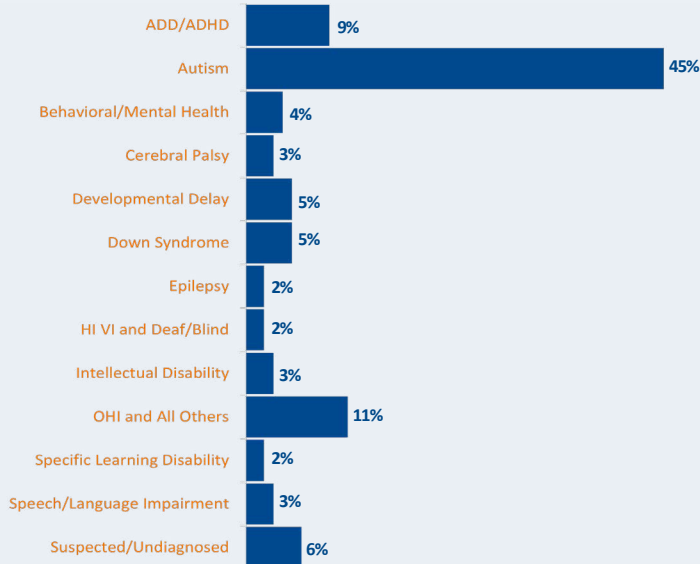
Raising Special Kids shares guidance, support, and practical information with parents of babies and young children. Parents receive assistance with locating medical information specific to their child's unique needs and help navigating new systems of care and insurance situations.

POSITIVE FAMILY COACHING

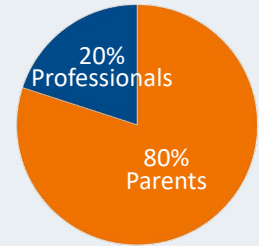
The Positive Family Coaching (PFC) program is available to families of children receiving behavioral health services through an AHCCCS plan. Our Behavioral Health Technicians (BHT) work with families to increase their capacity for problem solving, effective advocacy, and application of evidence-based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



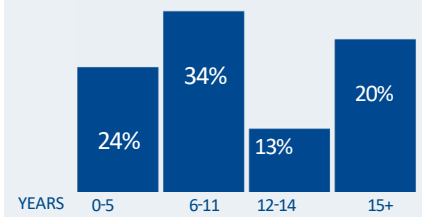
Children's Primary Disability



Parents/Professionals

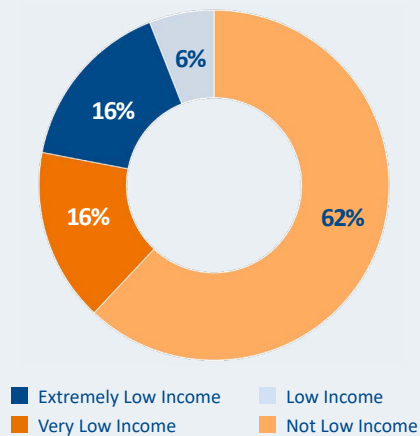


Ages of Children Served



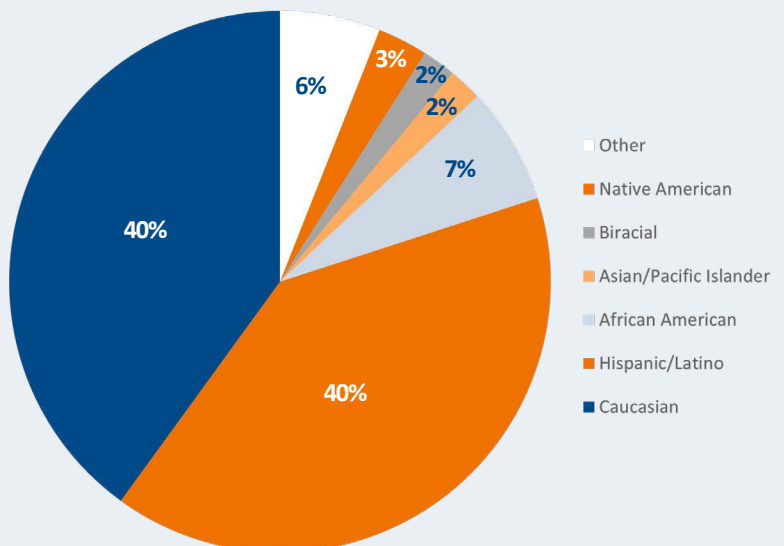
... & the People We Serve

Income



38% of the families we serve have income at or below 80% of the area median income

Ethnicity & Culture



**"RSK STRAIGHTENS THE
PATH AND REMOVES
THE ROADBLOCKS FOR
FAMILIES"**

Raising Special Kids is a beacon of hope for families. Our family could have stumbled along on our own in supporting our son, but with your help we didn't have to. RSK straightens the path and removes the roadblocks for families. Thank you for walking beside our family.

Financial Operations Report

FISCAL YEAR 2023

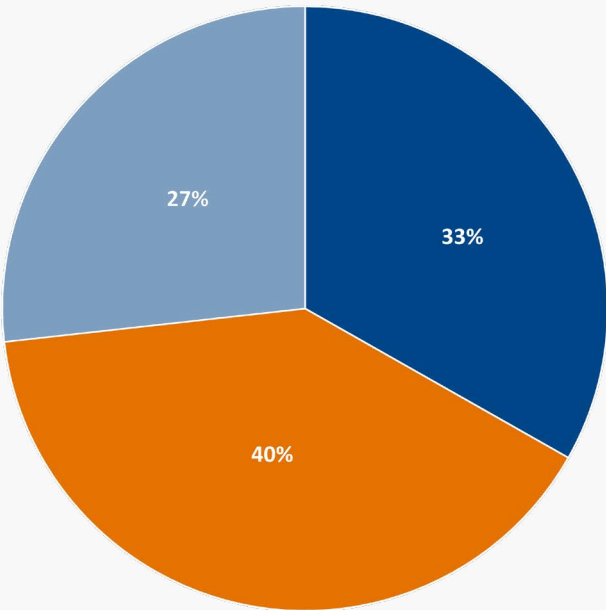
REVENUES

Federal Grants & Contracts	\$ 819,391
Arizona State & Local Contracts	\$ 987,561
Community Support	\$ 660,114
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,467,066

EXPENSES

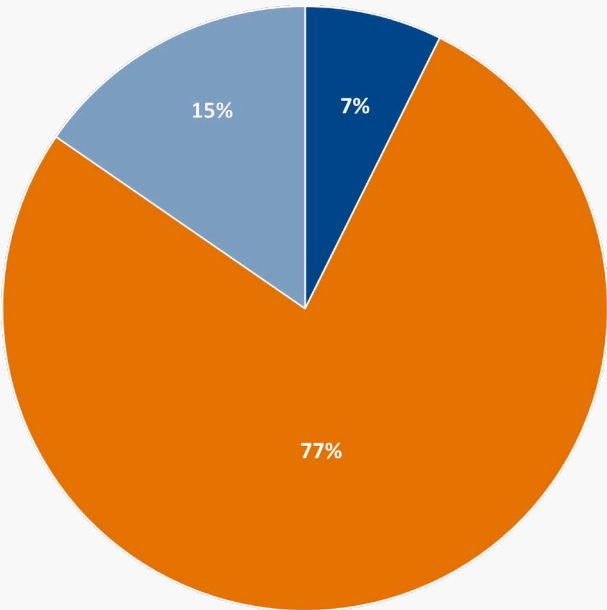
Fundraising & Development	\$ 176,066
Family Support Programs & Services	\$ 1,853,760
Management & General	\$ 368,961
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,398,787

Funding Sources



- Federal Grants and Contracts
- Arizona State and Local Contracts
- Community Support

Expense Categories



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



**"IT WAS A BREATH OF
FRESH AIR TO SPEAK WITH
SOMEONE WHO TRULY
UNDERSTANDS"**

"It was a breath of fresh air to speak with someone who truly understands parenting a child with the same diagnosis as my child's. As a single mom it is exhausting. Because her children are older, it helped me see there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for this program"

Our Impact

This year, your support has enabled Raising Special Kids to help 10,364 Arizona families with 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.

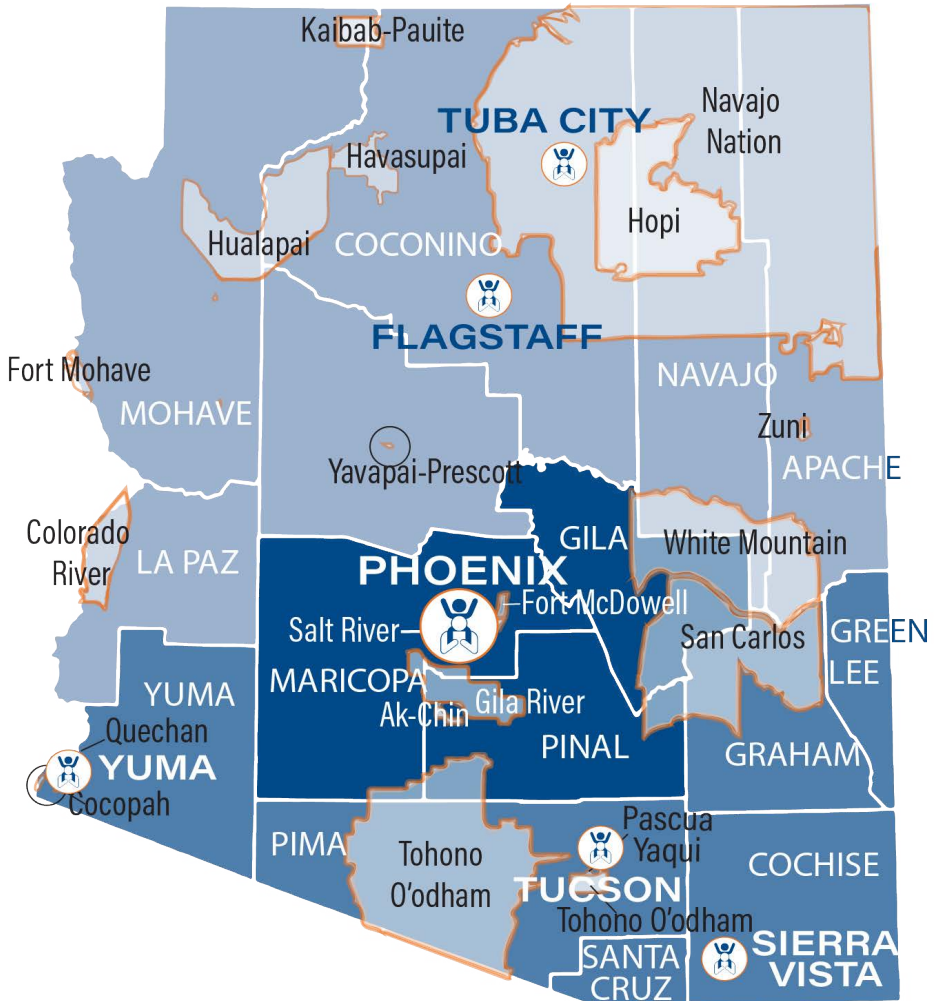
Phoenix is the headquarters for RSK and is located in the fully-accessible Ability360 Center. This hub is the gathering location for semi-

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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Estella McClain



"IT FEELS LIKE WE BELONG TO A COMMUNITY"

"To be able to talk to a person who is sympathetic and who understands where I am has helped tremendously. It feels like we belong to a community. It boosted my confidence to advocate for my child. I feel better prepared and know what may be coming a few steps ahead."

Crystal McGarry
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Raising
Special
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