



# RAISING SPECIAL KIDS

2018-2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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*Fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019*

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Alan Tinsley  
Parent

## Letter from the Board President



We are proud to present the 2018-2019 Annual Report. On behalf of Raising Special Kids Board of Directors, Staff and Families, we express our gratitude to all of you for supporting our mission of strengthening families to become effective advocates for children with disabilities.

This report is created, and this letter is written, as a retrospective and, as such, celebrates our achievements and highlights the incredible work of our exceptional team in 2018-2019. As you read through this report, unlike other years and given the unimaginable events that have passed in the first half of 2020, it may be hard to recall a time when parents and families gathered together in conference centers and training rooms sitting shoulder to shoulder engaged in learning and discussion about advocating for their child who has a disability. It may be hard to imagine large community events where parents and families of children who have disabilities could network and connect with professionals and providers of disability related services, and with each other.

Without a doubt, the 2020 Raising Special Kids Annual Report will look much different as, just in a few short months, the organization has made sweeping changes to how it supports Arizona's parents and family members in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. At the time of this writing, in a time fraught with social and economic uncertainty, the organization is in discussion of how and when to re-open our physical offices in a way that ensures safety, but allows for in-person contact, as it was in 2018-2019.

We hope you, your family and your loved ones are safe and healthy, and we hope that you enjoy reading about the accomplishments in 2018-2019. Especially dear to me is the story of the Lee Family, featured in this annual report. From its beginning in 1979 until today Raising Special Kids has been about the kids, all kids, and Mallory Lee beautifully illustrates this truth in the telling of her family's story in 2019.

For 40 years Raising Special Kids has been there: for the Lee family, for your family, and mine. For all our children, here's to a bright future full of promise and potential. The annual report gives us a chance to thank all of our partners, including our individual donors, and our many community collaborators we work with in Arizona. The list of RSK supporters gets longer and longer each year, and for that, we say thank you. We simply could not do the work we do without you.

Jennifer Kupiszewski, President  
Board of Directors

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## Mallory Lee Family Story

Mallory reached out to her friend who works at Raising Special Kids to see what advice she could offer.

Quickly, she was guided on how to get Skylar evaluated by the Arizona Early Intervention Program and it wasn't long before Skylar began receiving weekly early intervention services. Before the end of that school year, she began attending developmental preschool.

With a smile in her voice, Mallory recalls, "She began developing this independence. She really enjoyed the structure of school and things just started progressing." Once Skylar started communicating, Mallory started to see a decline in her challenging behavior and tantrums. By the time Skylar entered Kindergarten, she was placed in a general education classroom and received daily speech therapy.

This year, Skylar is in first grade. Mallory said, "It really is this crazy change. She loves reading and writing and all things 'school.' We don't have any of those behavioral issues we had when she was having communication challenges. Considering the change, she shared, "If Skylar hadn't started building habits of learning through her experiences with early intervention and preschool, she would not be enjoying the success she is now!"



"If Skylar hadn't started building habits of learning through her experiences with early intervention and preschool, she would not be enjoying the success she is now!"

## Programs and Services



Connections with a trained Parent Mentor skilled at providing information and support.



Accurate, authoritative information related to your child's disability or special health condition.



Special education consultations, training, and problem-resolution services.



Education and coaching for parents to learn the most effective methods in managing challenging behavior.

## Who We Serve

**70%** of who we serve are families with disabilities and special health care needs.

**30%** of who we serve are professionals in health, education, and social services.

**18,019** families received information, training, and individual assistance.

**91%** of parents said they received information to address a critical need related to their child's education.

**381** parents were matched with a Parent Mentor.

**84%** of parents matched with a Parent Mentor said it improved their ability to advocate for their child's needs, services, and care.

## 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.

# Programs and Services continued

## 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.

- 4,022 parents attended training and conferences.
- 3,421 professionals attended training and conferences.
- 93% of educational professionals reported being better prepared to work with families
- 47 pediatric and family practice physicians completed training and home visits.
- 89% of physicians reported training improved ability to communicate with families

## Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Financials

### Where Does Revenue Come From?

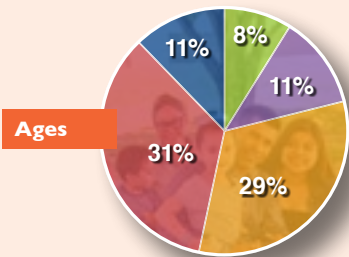
Grants and contracts . . . . .	\$1,493,844
Donations. . . . .	\$284,368

### Program Expenditures

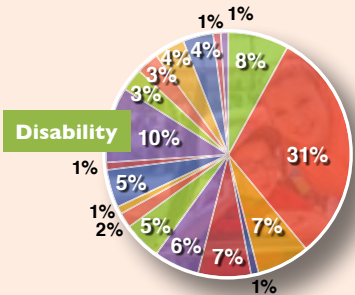


\$731,166	Family Support Services
\$596,225	Training and Education for Families and the Professionals who serve them
\$63,270	Fundraising
\$232,671	Management and General
\$99,716	General Program Expenses

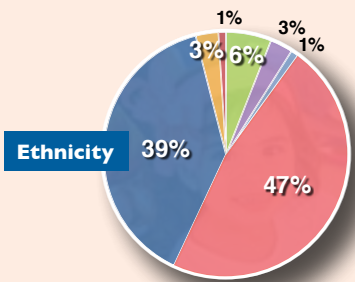
## Children Demographics



Age
0-5 years – 31%
6-11 years – 29%
12-14 years – 11%
15-18 years – 21%
19+ years – 8%



Disability
ADD – 8%
Autism – 31%
Cerebral Palsy – 7%
Deaf/Blind – 1%
Developmental – 7%
Down Syndrome – 6%
Behavioral Health – 5%
Epilepsy – 2%
Gifted – <1%
Hearing Impairment/Deaf – 1%
Intellectual & Cognitive – 5%
Multiple Disabilities – 1%
Other Health Impairment – 10%
Orthopedic Impairment – 3%
Specific Learning Disability – 3%
Speech/Language – 4%
Suspected/Undiagnosed – 4%
Traumatic Brain Injury – 1%
Visual/Blindness – 1%



Ethnicity
African American – 6%
Asian/Pacific Islander – 3%
Bi-Racial – 1%
Caucasian – 47%
Hispanic/Latino – 39%
Native American – 3%
Other – 1%

## Raising Special Kids 40th Anniversary Celebration



In 2019, Raising Special Kids celebrated 40 years of service. CareScape and Mitch Owens and Marcy DeChandt were honored with a “Lifetime Giving Award” in recognition of their generous contributions to ensure families of children with disabilities can get the help they need.

### Thank You 40th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors

Ability 360  
Banahan Communications  
Hope Group  
Joyce Millard Hoie Family  
Kile & Kupiszewski Law Firm  
The Living Room  
Phoenix Children's Hospital Orthopedics  
Raising Arizona Kids  
Southwest Human Development  
The Menta Group  
Murrell Family  
Scottsdale Rotary Club  
Tiffany Family  
United Healthcare



Julie Banahan sharing her story.



Raising Special Kids past Executive Directors, Mary Slaughter, Betsy Trombino, and Joyce Millard Hoie

## CareScape's 2018 Dandelion Golf Classic



Drawing by Matthew French

Christopher Tiffany accepts check for \$56,000 from Mitch Owens



### Thank You 2018 Dandelion Golf Classic Sponsors

#### Gold Sponsors - \$2500

Heinfeld Meech  
Kile and Kupiszewski Law Firm

#### Silver Sponsors - \$1,500

IGPA  
Truly Nolen  
American Fire Sales & Equipment Sales and Service Corp.  
Hades Family Charitable Fund  
Integrity Outsource

#### Hole Sponsors - \$500

ASU Alumni Association  
Batson Group of Wells Fargo Advisors  
Perkins Coie  
Banahan Communications  
Producer Hub  
Helen and Jerry Holden  
Brent/Lensink Family  
The Rainmaker Institute

#### Lunch Sponsor - \$500

Sechler Morgan CPAs PLLC

#### Beverage Sponsor - \$500

Hades Family Charitable Fund





## Thank you to our 2018-2019 Donors

Your generosity helps us serve thousands of families each year.



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

### \$10,000 - \$75,000

Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc./In honor of the Ressler Family  
Carescape, Inc.

### \$2,500 - \$9,999

The CHA-07C Foundation Trust/  
Chapman Automotive Group, LLC  
The Hannah B Foundation - Brad Perkinson  
Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Karen Barr  
Lawrence O'Neill  
Donna and Denis Wienhoff

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

JDM Route 66 Classic, Greg and Becky Childs  
Jennifer and Steve Kupiszewski  
Chuck and Donna Riser  
Rebecca and Isabella Parisi  
John Hoie and Joyce Millard Hoie  
Alan and Michelle Tinsley  
Lisa and Matt D'Alesio  
Paula and James Banahan  
Suzy and Tim Noren  
Karin Smith  
Kathleen Ybarra  
Laura Alger  
Sharon Moyer



### \$500 - \$999

Allysa Adams  
Anita Kadikar  
William Corry  
Cari Morris  
Christopher Makrias  
Donald and Danielle Needham  
Dr. Daniel Davidson  
Dr. Emily and Nick Andrisevic  
Dr. Vaughn Perkins III  
Ellen Wilson  
Emily McCune  
Evangeline and Patrick Buckley  
Gayle Nobel  
Heather Prouty  
Janet Moeur  
Jenine and Jason Slocum  
Jennifer Roberts  
Jo Ann and Gordon Watkins  
Joseph Hansen  
Kathy McDonald  
Kerstin Ziesmer  
Lisa and Jon Soeby  
Lisa Davis  
Marc and Susan Voirol  
Marcee and David Kahan  
Marianne and Rich Langner  
Mark Ruggiero  
Matthew and Rebecca Barr  
Megan Pitas  
Melissa and Dr. Judson Karlen  
Michael and Nancy Maser  
Molly and John West  
Nagaratnam Murugaiah and Vijaya Thannimalai  
Nicole Madera  
Peter and Erika LeBlanc  
Raghu Rudra  
Randi Dando  
Regan and Rigoberto Lopez  
Sally and Richard Compton  
Susie and Nate Hastings  
Tequa Salehi-Rad  
Terry Cole

### Tracy Bame

Christopher and Paulina Tiffany  
Katie Barclay Penkoff  
Mark and Janna Murrell  
Louise and Phillip Murphy  
Sonia Carver  
Tonya Gray  
Barbara Brent  
Christina Hudson and Craig Prichard  
Dan Kammrath  
Jan and Bill Cawthorne  
Machelle and Craig Martin

### \$250 - \$499

Phil Pangrazio  
Sandy Bawden  
Aleta Speier  
Alisha Mihoda  
Amy and Kevin Bonner  
Andrew and Dr. Jodi Carter  
Anthony and Marti Baio  
Bob Colabianchi  
Cherie Wright  
Christopher Gentis  
Jane Rucker  
Jody and Bob Brigham  
John and Maureen Mills  
John and Michele Quinn  
John and Amy Guzek  
Julie Lazzara  
Kelly Carbone  
Kim Updegraff  
Lauren Daniels  
Leticia Barrera  
Madelyn Harper  
Margaret Corcoran  
Marilyn and Kirk Peda  
Mary Ressler  
Mary Slaughter  
Pam and Mark Remsey  
Paul Metz  
Peter and Sharon Flanagan-Hyde  
Polly Thomas  
Rene Bartos

## Special Day for Special Kids

A fun day for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs held at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park sponsored by Scottsdale Sunrise rotary Club – co-sponsored by Raising Special Kids.



**1,846**  
**Hours**  
**Donated**

Total 1,846 hours would  
equal over \$47,000



Rodrigo and Claudia Jaramillo  
Ross Robb  
Stephanie Lynch  
Sue Koudelka  
Tanya and Daniel Gulchak  
Terry Manning  
Trish Robinson  
Troy and Lisa Stockstad  
William and Ellen Leibow  
William and Megan Froelich  
William Weiss  
Karl and Elizabeth Freeburg  
Eugene Huang  
Medtronic  
Claudia Weiss  
Kristen and Steven Roles  
Chaya Ryan  
Juan Valdez  
Patrick Budge  
Joseph Errante  
Nancy Gunderson  
Paul Tiffany  
Rebecca Theunissen  
Michael Woodard  
Elsie and Victor Badger  
Jill and Jonathan Nico  
Joann Niese  
John and Michelle Bartlett  
Joseph Osiecki

**\$100 - \$249**

Patricia Winner and Tom Snidecor  
Esmeralda Vasquez  
Edith Barrera  
Fred and Anna Burgmann  
Anne Updike  
Bob and Shannon Goldwater  
Bonnie and John Carroll  
Corinne and Ronald Newbold  
Dr. Lynda Mills  
Frymet Hare  
Gary and Amy Heinfeld  
Kathryn Tiffany and Justin Santos  
Keith Aspinall

Leslie and Jim Cole  
Leslie Williams  
Manda and Matthew Chatelain  
Marilyn Coffman  
Mary Neil  
Michael Tucker  
Sarah Boroson  
Shoshana Mayden  
Thomas and Pamela Halpern  
Tom and Ann Timmer  
Vickie and Steve French  
Patty Olson  
Nilda Townsend  
Marisue Garganta  
Michael and Kari Sanderfer  
Michaelene and Steuart Barlow  
Amanda Manning and Dylan Rybinski  
Neil Wintle  
Andrew Evans  
Jenny and Collin Gibbons  
Julie Alvarado  
Andrew Norelli  
Chellappan Narayanan and Vinodh Narayanan  
Narasinga and Shobha Rao  
Alan and Ellen Rothbart  
Alfonso and Heather Perez  
Alice Villarreal  
Andrea Piering  
Art Kesh and Allison Dibble  
Betsy and John Trombino  
Bill Mager  
Bob Dekruffy  
Carolyn Sostrom  
Carrie Bruce  
David Permy  
Dean and Janice Dinner  
Dr. Robin Blitz  
Dr. Mary Allare  
Drs. Marlene and Richard Greyson  
The Fahrenheit Group, LLC  
George Chonczynski  
Gregg Kerns  
Greg Lechowski

James Beal  
Jean Richmond-Bowman  
Jill and Michael Walker  
Jodi Feuerhelm  
John Skelton  
Joy and Terry Tiffany  
Juliet Tiffany-Morales  
Kara and James Swierz  
Karen Bannon  
Kate Dulaney  
Kimberly Wright  
Christopher Stathakis  
Lizbeth Leeson  
Mallory Lee  
Maureen Casey  
Megan Davis Dey  
Michael and Kelly Randall  
Michelle and Arvid Faudskar  
Michelle Carr  
Pat Gottfried  
Ramya Kumar  
Ronald Dalton  
Rosemary and Brad Johnson  
Sarah Anderson  
Scott and Stephanie Nelson  
Scott Sherman  
Shari Capra and Neil Wake  
Shirley and Jerry D Gerke  
Stephen Snyder  
Steve LaMagna  
Steven and Jane Carter  
Suzanne Olea-Turney  
Tanjela Sims  
Todd Liolios

**to \$99**

Great American Title Agency  
Ellen Rutemiller  
Mark Bazill  
David and Kristie Amator  
Adam Brooks  
Amy Seiter  
Bonnie Bazill-Davis  
Charlene Littrell

Cheryl Klein  
Chuck and Nancy Smith  
Dolores Rios  
Dr. Raun Melmed  
James and Chris Speros  
Jess Carrasco  
Kathy Gray-Mangerson  
Laura and Chris Ames  
Marianne and Kenneth Kennedy  
Mark Elson  
Matt Aud  
Melissa Kovacs  
Robert Allen  
Shauna Mattson  
Shirley Bentle  
Trudy Billy  
Boris Najac  
Marj and Jane Dalen  
Nancy Kiernan  
Francisca Morquecho  
Ahmet Cekirdek  
Connor Minto  
Dana Fredericks  
Dick Kowalski  
Jacqueline Guerra  
Leslie Tjarks  
Margaret Mills  
Michael Lachenauer  
Nannette and Ched Salasek  
Ramona Napier  
Tonya Hall  
Vicky and James Rozich  
Virna Valenzuela  
Terra Garcia  
Nancy Campbell  
Freda Mills  
Laurie Shook  
Rachel Hanzuk  
Juan and Angelica Lara

**First Annual Uncommon Event for Extraordinary Kids**

Sierra Vista fun day for children with disabilities and special health care needs and their families sponsored by the San Pedro and Sierra Vista Kiwanis Clubs – co-sponsored by Raising Special Kids.





## Raising Special Kids

**19** Board Members  
**27** Staff Members  
**27** Advisory Council Members  
**250** Parent Leaders



### Boards and Councils Served by Raising Special Kids Staff

5025 E. Washington St., #204  
 Phoenix, AZ 85034  
 800-237-3007  
[raisingspecialkids.org](http://raisingspecialkids.org)  
[info@raisingspecialkids.org](mailto:info@raisingspecialkids.org)

### STATEWIDE SERVICES

**Central Arizona**  
 602-242-4366

**Northern Arizona**  
 928-444-8834

**Southern Arizona**  
 520-441-4007

Arizona Autism Coalition

Arizona Community of Practice on Transition

Arizona Department of Education

- Arizona Community of Practice on Transition (AZCoPT)
- Cochise County Community of Practice on Transition
- East Valley CoPT
- Flagstaff CoPT
- Mohave county CoPT
- Pima County CoPT
- Tuba City CoPT
- Education Advisory Committee
- Local Community of Practice on Transition
- Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
- State Inclusion Coalition

Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition

Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

- Advisory Council
- Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- Employment First
- National Core Indicators Steering Committee

Arizona Early Intervention Program

- ICC Interagency Coordinating Council
- Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

- Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS) Advisory Council
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Committee
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Workgroup Meeting

Cochise County Networking Coalition

Comprehensive Systems Task Force

Community of Practice on Cultural and Linguistic Competence on Developmental Disabilities

Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)

First Things First, Early Childhood Comprehensive System Task Force

Institute for Human Development - Community Advisory Council

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

Maricopa County Family Support Alliance

Mohave County Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC)

Parent 2 Parent USA

Phoenix Children's Hospital  
 • Family Advisory Council

Pima County Community of Practice on Transition

Pima County Family Support Alliance

Shift Project Governing Board

Southern Arizona Special Education Directors' Group

Southern Arizona Transition Consortium