



Raising Special Kids

2013 Annual Report to the Community



Raising Special Kids Mission: *Raising Special Kids exists to improve the lives of children with the full range of disabilities, from birth to age 26, by providing support, training, information and individual assistance so families can become effective advocates for their children.*

Credo: *Each parent of a child with a disability or special health need will have access to reliable sources of information, training, and assistance to help them advocate effectively for their child.*

Letter from the Board President

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2013 flew by! Each year seems to bring new changes and growth and we are pleased to present this Annual Report to feature the latest news about our mission and accomplishments from the past year:

A Yuma office opened in April, with a bi-lingual staff member. The partnership with the Arizona Department of Education to expand parent training and information in special education. Three achievement awards recognized the organization's efforts to excel in family support and community service

As a medical professional, and a parent of a beautiful, accomplished daughter with Down syndrome, I am particularly proud that over 2,000 professionals in health, education, and social services participated in our training for physicians, nurses, teachers, and case managers. The response from the professionals has been overwhelmingly positive and life-changing. You can read more about this on page four.

As you read through the pages, you'll see how hard we've been working to achieve our mission of family support for parents of children with the full range of disabilities. We served more families in 2013 than we have in previous year, forged more community partnerships, and trained more professionals than ever before. The numbers are all described and presented, and you can see the impact we've had on the community, but Raising Special Kids has never been about the numbers. Raising Special Kids is about the kids, each and every single one of them. I hope you will take the time to read the story from the Shook family. These parents tell the real story of 2013. For 34 years Raising Special Kids has been here: for the Shook family, for your family, and mine.

For all our children, here's to a bright future full of promise and potential.

Paula Banahan, President
Board of Directors

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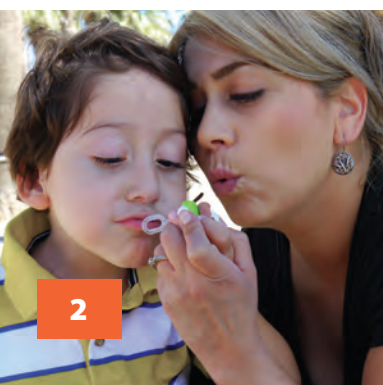
Learn more about the financial health of Raising Special Kids

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Learn more about the donors who help make Raising Special Kids possible

8 Celebrations

Celebrate with Raising Special Kids for the awards and recognitions received





Programs and Services

Raising Special Kids provides information, training, resources, and support to families of children with disabilities and special health care needs in Arizona. Experienced staff lend an understanding ear and assist families in identifying and locating appropriate resources.

Workshops offer training in a variety of skills including advocacy, effective

communication and collaboration techniques. Our newsletter, Connecting, reaches more than 10,000 parents and professionals and e-news alerts are shared by request with a growing list of interested individuals.

Over 8,000 parents and professionals were reached through e-news alerts by request.

“I could talk to someone who understands and someone who is a few steps ahead of where we were at the time. I now know just how important Raising Special Kids is to those who have kids with special needs.”

- Laurie Shook

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.

Who we Serve

68% Families with disabilities and special health care needs

32% Professionals (health, education, social services)

Programs and services for parents and families

7701 families received information, training, and individual assistance

93% of parents said I gained useful knowledge about my child’s needs and services

70% of parents said I received information to help me address a critical need related to my child’s education

94% of parents said training materials were of high quality

381 Parent to Parent Matches

90% of Parents said that Parent to Parent support improved my ability to advocate for my child’s needs, services, and care

98% of parents would recommend P2P for another parent

96% of parents said that P2P is a reliable source of information for the future

I felt overwhelmed, stressed, sad.

When Laurie and her husband adopted Adilynn, they anticipated a few minor medical issues. What they couldn’t have anticipated was the hospitalizations, medical procedures and over a dozen specialists necessary to meet Adilynn’s medical needs. We have been hospitalized a total of four times and with every stay we would leave with more doctors, tests, and stress to come,” Laurie said.

“We were bombarded with paperwork, insurance issues, and the feeling that we were drowning and couldn’t catch up.” In addition to Adilynn, the Shook’s have a two year old

foster son who also has special needs. “I felt overwhelmed, stressed, sad, and even hopeless at times. I would sit at the hospital and cry some days because I wasn’t sure how to move forward or where to begin.”

“They helped me cope...I finally felt like I could breathe again.”

Following Adilynn’s surgery, Laurie received a call from Raising Special Kids. “They helped me cope with her new feeding tube and the best help of all was that I got pointed in the

right direction on how to get Long Term Care set up! I finally felt like I could breathe again!” Through Raising Special Kids’ Parent-to-Parent Connection program, Laurie was connected with another mom who also has a child with complex medical needs. “I could talk to someone who understands and someone who is a few steps ahead of where we were at the time. I now know just how important Raising Special Kids is to those who have kids with special needs.”

Programs and Services continued

Programs and Services for Professionals

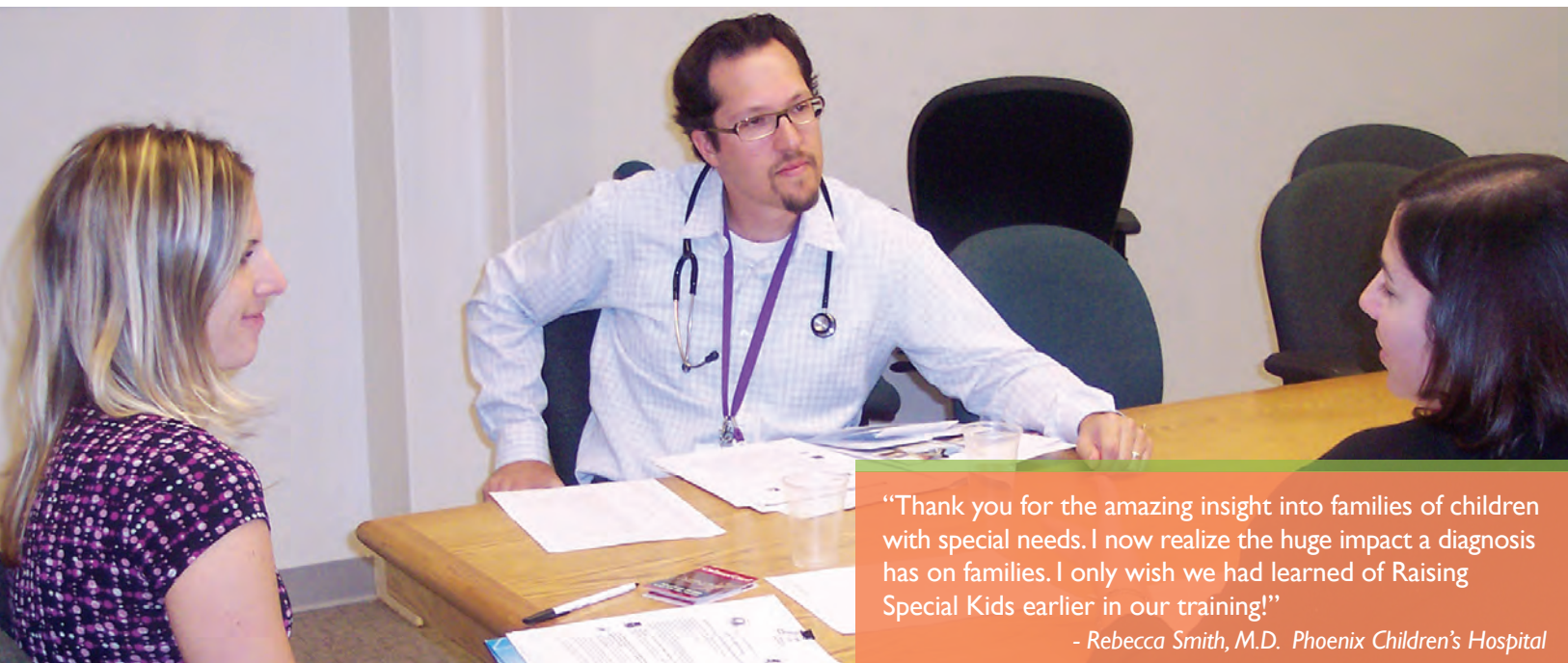
Programs for resident physicians in pediatrics and family practice relay information about parents' perspective on issues relating to medical services. Parent Panels and staff-led workshops are available to students in education, medical, oral health and social service fields.

4,931 Training/Conference Attendees
(Parents 2,578; Professionals 2,335)

91% of Educational professionals reported being better prepared to work with families

59 pediatric and family practice physicians from five hospitals and medical centers completed training and home visits

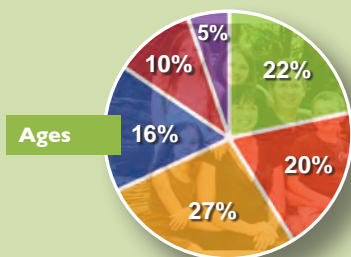
96% of physicians reported training improved ability to communicate with families



"Thank you for the amazing insight into families of children with special needs. I now realize the huge impact a diagnosis has on families. I only wish we had learned of Raising Special Kids earlier in our training!"

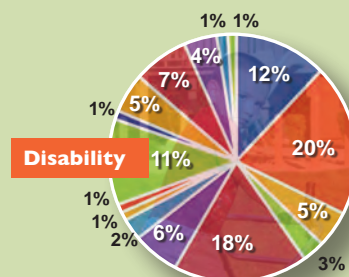
- Rebecca Smith, M.D. Phoenix Children's Hospital

Children Demographics



Age

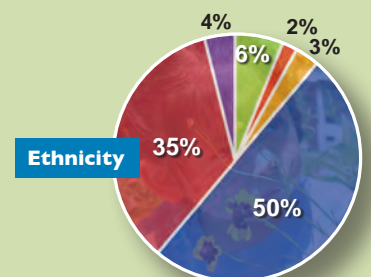
0-2 year – 21%
3-5 years – 19%
6-11 years – 26%
12-15 years – 16%
16-18 years – 10%
19+ years – 5%



Disability

ADHD – 12%
Autism – 20%
Intellectual – 5%
Deaf/Blind – 3%
Developmental – 18%
Emotional/Mental – 6%
Epilepsy – 2%

Hearing Impairment/Deaf – 1%
Multiple Disabilities – 1%
Other Health Impairment – 11%
Orthopedic – 1%
Specific Learning Disability – 5%
Speech/Language – 7%
Suspected/Undiagnosed – 4%
Traumatic Brain Injury – 1%
Visual/Blindness – 1%



Ethnicity

African American – 6%
Asian/Pacific Islander – 2%
Bi-Racial – 3%
Caucasian – 50%
Hispanic/Latino – 35%
Native American – 4%

Financials

Where does our money come from?

	2013
Federal and State Grants	\$921,525
Other grants and contracts	\$0
Donations	\$141,963

What makes up our program expenditures?

	2013
Parent Support Services	\$738,608
Training Support Services	\$146,912
Donations	\$141,963
Fundraising	\$3,866
Management and General	\$133,321



“Raising Special Kids was extremely helpful and a great starting point. When we received the diagnosis I did not know anything about how to help my child. Raising Special Kids support and materials taught me a lot!”

Community Outreach

- DES Conference for Foster Parents – Flagstaff
- Special Day for Special Kids – Scottsdale
- Workshops, training, and family support services were provided to meet the unique needs of vulnerable families in transitional housing with UMOM
- Maricopa Family Support Alliance Engaging Fathers Seminar – Tempe
- African American Conference on Disabilities – Phoenix
- Arizona School Social Workers Conference – Tucson
- Davis Monthan Air Force Base Outreach – Tucson
- Hopi Disability Conference – Kykotsmovi
- Back to School Blitz – Rio Rico
- Back to School BBQ – Rimrock
- WACOG – Western Head Start – Yuma
- Yuma County Health Department - Yuma
- Window Rock Transition Conference – Fort Defiance
- Partners for Transition – Lake Havasu City
- ADE Transition Conference
- Special Education Director’s Institute

At Raising Special Kids we are committed to using funds responsibly to ensure we help families today and in future generations.

\$135
Revenue
Per Family

Each workshop only required \$135 of revenue

2870
Donated
Hours

Donated goods and services - Total 2,870 hours would equal over \$60,000

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES (in thousands)



Our Supporters

2013 Donors

Friends \$1 to \$249

Karen Ross
Diane Dimmock
Diedra Freedman
Margo Himes
Kelli LeVasseur
Veronique Vaillancourt
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Jill West
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Melba Kolling
Maria Angelica Pimentel
Debra Trueax
Anna Burgmann
Diana Daffner
Jennifer Earl
Christine Friedemann
Bonnie Heal
Linda Hudnall
Claudia & Leon Igras
Eric & Jean Koeppen
Dick & Betty Kowalski
Diane Kudo
Anne Lalonde
Beth Marsh
Marilyn Cecelia Mead
Kathleen Millar
Eileen Mueske
Susan Murphy
Jodie Nebrich
Satya Sarma
Ronald Smith
Linda Stevenson
Julie Zimmerman
Al & Chaunacy Armstrong
Shirley Bentle
Jane Dalen
Robert Harbeke
Altaf Hasan
Chasity & Clinton Wellnitz
Christina Yomantas
Candee Eisenhart
Mary Pyles
Paulina Serna
Kathryn Goldberg

Eileen Fuller
Kylie Campo
Angela Nguyen
Linda Anderson
James Carvalho
Lani Angell Comp
Bob Cox
Lauren Daniels
Dean & Janice Dinner
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Wendi Howe
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Danielle & Richard Martinez
Shauna & Ronald Mattson
Emily Mayhew
Donna McSpadden
Dr. Raun Melmed
James Morris
Kim Morton
Gayle Nobel
Philip Pangrazio
Gwendolyn Parker
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Janice & Jeff Procter-Murphy
Harry & Mary Quinsler
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Denise Resnik
Mimi Rogers
Robin Roth
Robert Rouhani
Gabriela Sanchez Orozco
Sharon Shelley
Robin Smith
Jonni Snyder
Virginia Ward
Robert Waskowich
Stefanie Workman
Cynthia Zobrist
Chellappan Narayanan
Anh Toan Vu
Michael Sanderfer
Steven & Jane Carter
Enterprise Bank & Trust
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Michaelene Barlow
James & Christina Speros
Maria S. Padilla
Honeywell Hometown Solutions

Ellen Babby
Elsie Badger
Lorrie Bean
Beata Blank
Dr. Robin Blitz
Jim Cole
Jill Estep
Jerry D. Gerk
Lisa Glow
Christopher Goeman
Georgeanne Hanna
Daniel & Gladys Haren
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Lisa Aaroe
Leah Alger
Dr. Mary Allare
Susan Cannata
Anne Chase
Marilyn Coffman
Karim Diab
Alex Eckert
Michele Ferber
Hugh Foy
Michelle Gardner
Art Gode
Nancy Gretzinger

386
Community
Partners



7701
Families
Assisted



2870
Donated
Hours



“We really enjoyed the whole workshop – presenters and vendors. The information will help us go forward with planning for my son’s special needs with better understanding and resources.”

Thomas Halpern
 Brad Harper Trigon
 Ms Madelyn Harper
 Karen Hayenga
 Karen Hinds
 Ellen & William Leibow
 Jill Linden
 Richard & Joanne Masica
 Kathy McDonald
 Sharon Melton
 Zell Millard
 Heather Nassar
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 Tonya Price
 Kelly Randall
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 Binumon Sivaraman
 Michael Stanley
 Jo Ann & Gordon Watkins
 Claudia Weiss
 Leslie Williams
 Cherie Wright
 Cynthia Malbrough
 Lisa Baird
 Sheri Lehmann
 Wells Fargo - The Private Bank

Mentors \$250 to \$499

Emily Kile
 Jody Kris
 Gregory Lechowski
 Stan Morris Peoples
 Mortgage Company
 Jill Nico
 Scott Anderson
 Dixon Golf, Inc.
 Jill Hernandez
 Geraldine Kasten
 Joseph Errante
 Barbara Brent
 Great American Title Agency
 Laura Alger
 Sandy Bawden
 Walter Brown

Evangeline & Patrick Buckley
 Jeni Calkins
 Kathy & Yves Dumaplin
 Steve & Vickie French
 Steve & Diana Gruber
 Randy and Frymet Hare
 Nathaniel Hastings
 Gary Heinfeld
 Samantha Heinrich
 David Hesser
 Barry & Becca Hornstein
 Valerie Iwinski
 Potana Kumar Gupta Jamili
 Elizabeth Kearns
 Jennifer Kupiszewski
 Michelle Langan
 Mr Jack Larsen
 Andrew Martin
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 Nancy Meech
 Dr. Shawn Meyer
 Janet Moeur
 Janna & Mark Murrell
 James O'Connor
 Ndidiamaka Obiesie
 Joni & Tom Owen
 Kenneth and Bern Peterson
 Amy & Shaun Pressley
 Pam & Mark Remsey
 Chuck & Donna Riser
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 Maulik Shah
 Stephanie Smith
 Jon & Lisa Soeby
 Troy Stockstad
 Srikanth Surukuntu
 Gayle Taylor
 Tigran Unciano
 Marc Voirol
 Debbie Voll
 Jill & Michael Walker
 Patricia Winner
 Neil Wintle
 Rich Zawtocky
 Maureen Mills
 State Employees Charitable Camp
 Tim & Sally Watters
 Shelly Shaffer
 Aaron Shane Vernon
 Rob & Kelly Watson

Guardians \$500 to \$999

Nancy Allen
 Kevin and Amy Bonner
 Linda Cannon & Associates
 Carrie Curran Art Studios LLC
 Edward Diethrich, II - Arizona
 Heart Foundation
 Dr. Elaine Ellis
 Elizabeth Freeburg
 Nancy Gunderson
 Donald & Danielle Needham
 Kirk & Marilyn Peda
 Provident Partners Realty &
 Management - Bill Spain
 Nothing But Net
 Multi-Systems, Inc.
 Pediatrix
 Jacob Robertson
 Saddleback Roofing, Inc.
 - Joe Dirksen
 Sander Holdings Co., LLC
 - Blanca Esparza-Pap
 Chuck & Nancy Smith

Champions for the Cause \$1,000 to \$19,999

Advanced Business Learning, Inc.
 - Susan Morris
 American Fire Equipment
 Sales & Service
 Paula & James Banahan
 Thomas Batson
 The Bufka Foundation
 Casino Arizona
 Fennemore Craig
 Jodi Feuerhelm
 The Hannah B Foundation
 - Brad & Pauline Perkinson
 Eugene Huang
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 Michael M Peacock Foundation
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 Perkins Coie, LLP
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 Karin Smith
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 Debbie Voll
 Tim Watters



2335
Professionals
Trained

The “Parent Center of Excellence Award” is the highest award given to Parent Centers which achieve 100% of the “Required” indicators, at least 75% of the “Effective” indicators, and at least 75% of the “Best Practice” indicators.



Raising Special Kids Receives Award for Excellence

The Parent Center Standards for Excellence, developed by the National and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), consist of indicators that measure quality in nonprofit management and family-centered services. The standards reflect current best practices and federal requirements for OSEP-funded Parent Centers.

**Exemplary practices noted: office location and accessibility; the strategic use of an Advisory Council; fund diversification efforts; parent leadership practices, outreach to diverse populations and communities; and professional development opportunities.*



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info@raisingpecialkids.org

DONATE TODAY!

Boards and Councils Served by Raising Special Kids Staff

Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, - Public Policy Council	First Things First
Arizona Autism Coalition	Flagstaff Medical Center Patient and Family Advisory Council
Arizona Department of Education - Community of Practice on Transition - Special Education Advisory Panel - Rules Committee	Institute for Patient-Centered Design
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council	Inter-Agency Coordinating Council
Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition	Magellan Autism Spectrum Disorder Workgroup
Center for Parent Information and Resources	Maricopa Family Support Alliance
Dignity Health - Smooth Way Home	Parent 2 Parent USA
Division of Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council	Phoenix Children's Hospital - Family Advisory Council - Genetic Services Advisory Committee
Employment First	Positive Behavior Intervention Advisory Committee
	Promise/ASPIRE Initiative Rehabilitation Services Administration