

Raising Special Kids

families helping families



Our Mission and Purpose

Raising Special Kids provides parents of children with the full range of disabilities, from birth to 22 with parent support, training, information, and assistance to help families become effective advocates for their children. Our services are provided to parents free of charge, in English and Spanish.

Over 9,000 parents and professionals benefit from our programs each year, which include mentoring, special education training, health care information, parent leadership, and family advocacy.

Raising Special Kids is an organization of families helping families. Staff and volunteers are experienced parents of children with disabilities.

Our Vision

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.



Credo of Family Support

We believe that experienced families are a key source of knowledge and support to help new parents in becoming effective advocates for their children.

We believe that professionals are important allies for families. The shared wisdom, counsel, respect and support creates enhanced positive outcomes for children.

We value diversity and celebrate our commitment to serving families in many forms.

We believe in supporting the role of the family in establishing public policy, and promoting public awareness related to families and disabilities.

We believe that parents who model effective self-advocacy encourage a child's pursuit of his or her own dreams.

**“I am so happy I found you.
You gave me the tools I need to be
able to help my children.”**



Mission Highlights

- In the past year 10,098 families of children with disabilities and professionals who serve them were supported with training, information or individual assistance, an average of 841 each month.
- 94% of professionals in education, medicine, and social services reported feeling prepared to work more effectively with families.
- 91% of parents reported feeling better prepared to make decisions regarding their child's education, services, or care.
- 207 community organizations, state agencies, and medical centers referred families to Raising Special Kids.

Our Strategic Directions

Parent to Parent Support

The heart of our mission is supporting parents to become effective advocates for their children. 265 new families received one to one mentoring and consultation over an eight-week period.

Parent Leadership and Advocacy

Assist parents in making informed decisions, developing leadership skills, and participating in public policy and family advocacy opportunities.

Partnership with Professionals

Builds strong and effective family-professional relationships to improve collaboration, decision-making, and quality outcomes for children.

Families of Diverse Language and Culture

Family-centered care recognizes that cultural experience and family values are expressed in many forms, grandparents raising grandchildren, single parents, non-custodial parents, adoptive or foster families, and families who speak other languages and represent many cultures.



Raising Special Kids

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