

Collaboration - The Solution to Increasing Respite, Recreation, and Healthcare Providers in Your State

Lynn Robinson
Meghan Baskett
Denver, Colorado



What is Discovery Club?

- Saturday respite and recreational program
- Kids of ALL abilities including children with extensive needs and their siblings
- Ages 6 -18 years
- Offered during school year across Denver Metro and Fort Collins (northern Colorado)



Early Phases

- Began in 2004
- Prompted by parents looking for recreation options for kids
- Realized families were desperate for a break
- Began looking for partners
- Started with one site to create affordable respite for parents



Early Partners

- Parents
- Easter Seals Colorado
- Volunteer providers – used camp counselors
- Church in Highlands Ranch, CO
- Local funder



Next Steps

- Slowly began expanding to other sites
- Searched for funding for each location (local, state and private dollars)
- Partnered with nursing schools to provide a one-stop, consistent care worker source and increase providers



Training Opportunities

- Nursing schools
 - Pediatric clinical hours for students
 - Exposure to a child first rather than as a patient with a disability
 - Exposure to range of disabilities
- Physical therapy schools
- Minimum 1:1 care

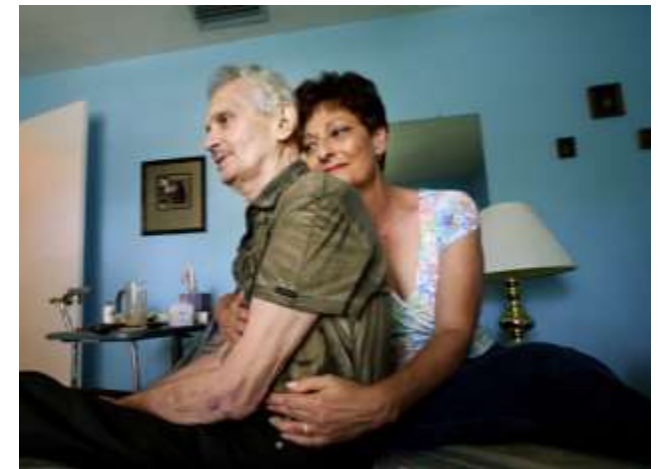


Current Status

- Five sites across Front Range
- 151 of families served annually via 5,240 hours of respite service (2013-14)
- 908 of students trained via 7,264 hours of training.
- 10 nursing schools, 1 physical therapy school
- Demand for expansion outside of Denver Metro Area and Fort Collins

How to Start In Your Community

- Identify need
 - Consider catering to different populations (i.e. older adults)
 - Find partners (building space, volunteers, students, funder)
- Develop fee structure
- Start operating with one site



Lynn Robinson

Easter Seals Colorado

President & CEO

lrobinson@eastersealscolorado.org



Meghan Baskett

Project Manager, Colorado Respite Care Project

mbaskett@eastersealscolorado.org

<http://www.easterseals.com/co/ourprograms/childrens-services/discovery-club.html>