“Reaching the Peak”
Innovative and Cost Effective Community Based Respite Programs
RESPITE CARE is a nonprofit organization that provides short-term care for children with developmental disabilities, giving respite to parents and enhancing the quality of life for the entire family. We believe that a child with a disability is a child first and his or her challenges are secondary. With this mission and philosophy in mind, Respite Care strives to create an interactive and safe environment that meets the physical and emotional needs of each individual child.
Define “Respite”

- to relieve temporarily, especially from anything distressing or trying; give an interval of relief from
- a break, rest, or reprieve

- Respite is important for everyone because it gives families an opportunity to recharge and reenergize, which increases positivity and productivity in the community

- creates an opportunity for parents to pursue school, further their careers, and spend more time with their families
founded by parents in 1981, doors opened in 1982
City of Fort Collins donated house, very affordable rent, **2003 land donated, decision made to build a new building**
5 families, 15 staff in 1982, **140 families, 38 staff in 2016**
goal was to provide 2,500 hours of care during the first year (achieved), **provided over 55,000 hours of care last year**
Open **24 hours, 7 days a week**
**Sliding fee scale** based on yearly income
**Minimal** State and Federal financial support
Our Respite Family

- Donors
- Volunteers
- Childcare Specialist Staff
- Administrative Team

Families
A few ways families use Respite

- Overnights
- Day Care
- Emergency Care
- Socialization

Staff Trainings

- Medications
- Seizure Management
- Lifting & Transferring
- CPR
- G-tube Feedings
- Toileting
- Special Diets
- First Aid

Important Extras

- 2-3:1 ratios
- Open 24/7
- Sliding Fee Scale
- Unique service in Larimer County
Enhancement

Prom
Wilderness Camp
Day Camp
Respitality
Slumber Parties
Field Trips
Day Camp

Day Camp is a Summer program at Respite Care that enables us to provide care for more kiddos offsite by partnering with volunteer groups. They spend the week one-on-one having fun on different community outings while freeing up space at Respite Care.
Day Camp Logistics

- 10 summer weeks
- 10 children, 2 staff, 10 volunteers
- Monday-Friday, 10 am – 2 pm
- 8 weeks in the community, 2 weeks of Horse Camp
- 1 week of Music Camp in summer 2017?! 
- Destinations include: Inspiration Playground, City Park Pool, Lee Martinez Farm, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Old Town, Denver museums, and more!
Volunteers

- 162 volunteers
- 2,477.5 hours
- = $22,297.50
- Partnerships
- Paired 1:1
Budget, Cost, and Evaluation

- Staff cost
- Supplies
- Activities
- Transportation

Evaluation Goal: parent survey
Respite Care partners with its local center board for developmental disabilities to host Respitalities. These are fun-filled afternoons or evenings where children with special needs *and their siblings* are invited to come participate in fun activities!
15 events each school year
22 children, 3-5 staff, 22 volunteers
Care for children with developmental disabilities and their siblings up to age 12
Saturdays from 1-5 or 6-10
Returning volunteer groups
Themes include: Disney, Football, Wizard of Oz, Candy Land, Frozen, Colorado, and many more!
Staff leadership opportunity
Volunteers

- 221 volunteers
- 813.7 hours
- = $7,323.30
- Partnerships
- Paired 1:1
Budget, Cost, and Evaluation

- Staff cost
- Supplies
- Activities
- Transportation

Evaluation Goal: parent survey
Board of Directors
Interns
Nursing Students
Tours
Volunteers
Sports teams
CSU

Community Impact
ToothZone

CSU Football

Community

Pi Kappa Phi

Story Time with Mary Ann
Launching a New Program

- Funding
- Timing
- Starting small
- Marketing to families
- Community involvement
Lessons Learned

- Too much too soon
- Donor designations
- Don’t be afraid to grow
- You can’t be everything to everyone
- Be flexible
- Have fun
- Strong, mission-based leadership
- Visionary leadership

“You are BRAVER than you believe, and STRONGER than you seem, and SMARTER than you think.”

A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh
Our Respite Care Garden
(Respite Before and After)
Questions or Comments?
What does the future hold?

- reach more families
- expand our programs
- spread awareness

Take Aways

- Increase awareness as community members
- Increase awareness as professionals
- Enroll more families
- Increase funding