

# our mission is at the core of WHO WE ARE

#### **MISSION**

To enrich the lives of children with special needs and their families through sports, fine arts and educational programs to foster the development of courage, confidence, fitness, pride, joy and community.

#### **VISION**

To be the premier and recognized leader for adaptive sports, fine arts and educational programming, serving children with intellectual and physical challenges, in our community and beyond, so that all children can achieve new possibilities previously unimaginable.

#### **REACH**

We currently serve San Antonio, Hill Country, Schertz, Castroville, New Braunfels and Fort Worth with seasonal recreational and competitive programs and one-day events. In 2023, we will continue expanding Kinetic Kids to other cities.

## **Key Staff Members**

Tracey Fontenot, PT CO-FOUNDER CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kacey Wernli, PT CO-FOUNDER CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jada Hallmark
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Tiffany Neal, PT, DPT, c/NDT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

David Valdez
SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Carrie Valdez, OTR, MOT ADAPTIVE SPORTS DIRECTOR

Jenna Malsbury ADAPTIVE SPORTS DIRECTOR

Suzy Hill

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS

Amber Cormier COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Shelby Hunemiller PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Janine Sauer GRANT WRITER

Alli Welch
CASTROVILLE SITE COORDINATOR

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# a message from our FOUNDERS

It's that time of the year where we get sentimental. Reviewing a whole year of progress is exciting, but we are more than humbled by the support we can see so clearly in these pages.

While Kinetic Kids had humble beginnings on a baseball field 21 years ago, nothing about 2022 was meek or mild. It was our best year yet—because of you. You have lightened burdens. You have brought great joy. You have encouraged inclusion. You have empowered our kids to improve their health. You have provided engagement in a world that often feels void of connection. You have played a key role on the Kinetic Kids team. And we are grateful.

We continually ask, "if not now, when?" Children with special needs are waiting for an opportunity to belong, to contribute and to be recognized. So in 2022, we expanded our program offerings above pre-pandemic numbers and introduced satellite programming in Fort Worth and Castroville. Our mission is spreading! And we are grateful.

Moving forward in 2023, we will continue to expand programming in San Antonio to reduce wait lists, especially for our most popular sport—swimming! At the same time, we are working to solidify an infrastructure that will help us serve additional cities where Kinetic Kids are waiting for their chance. A chance you will give them. And we are grateful.

With cohesive teamwork, strong leadership, effective programming and your support, we are able to pivot, evolve and adapt to meet our mission of getting ALL children off the sidelines and into the game! We have seen amazing strength and



TRACEY FONTENOT & KACEY WERNLI

commitment in our passionate staff over the past two years as they have eagerly sought solutions to a myriad of challenges and opportunities. And we are grateful.

It is hard to imagine where we would be without our Board of Directors. Our vision for Kinetic Kids has expanded over the years, largely due to their leadership. Our team of 17 board members provided generous support through their guidance, fundraising and strategic planning that were pivotal in helping us exceed our 2022 organizational goals! And we are grateful.

Hopefully you will share our joy and pride as you reminisce with us. You were here for this journey. And we are grateful.

Tracey Fontenot & Kacey Wernli Co-Executive Directors & Co-Founders

# recreational RECAP

Kinetic Kids returned to our pre-pandemic stride in 2022 by **serving 3,672 children with special needs** through 100% in-person programs. Our safe environment empowers our Kinetic Kids to build strength, confidence, skills and friendships. Offering 32 unique sports, fine arts and educational opportunities in 257 different programs means there is something for everyone!

Instead of building and maintaining a central location for programs, we partner with local businesses who often donate their existing facilities,

reducing our expenses. We hosted programs in 36 different facilities in San Antonio, New Braunfels Castroville and Fort Worth, which means even more kids with special needs have access to our stages, fields, gyms and studios!

All year long, spirit tunnels buzzed with energy at soccer, tennis, skateboarding, gymnastics, pickleball and golf! Participants shouted with joy after breaking boards in martial arts, diving for rings in swimming, and hitting new personal records at CrossFit! Cameras flashed and families cheered at dance and musical theatre performances. Families celebrated during post-season pizza parties as the not-so-secret magic of Kinetic Kids sparkled around them all.



#### THREE BRAND-NEW PROGRAMS!

We expanded our options for our participants with the addition of volleyball, disc sports and robotics! Plus, our drumming, pickleball and flag football one-day clinics were upgraded to multi-week programs! No surprise in Texas, but football was a fan fave! We put the cleats into action as Kinetic Kids learned drills and improved their skills. On a sunny, Saturday afternoon, players rushed the field for their final game. Black under-eye paint reduced the glare and increased focus. Flags were pulled, yards were rushed and the touchdown cheers reminded us why we do what we do.





We are leading the way in highlevel adaptive sports! Our SA Xtreme division serves kids with physical disabilities who compete in six different sports.

Our adaptive archery team boasts the most national record holders and classified athletes in the United States! Thanks to Leading Edge Archery and Coach Roger Koss who provide facilities, equipment and expertise!

SA Xtreme AgilityFit has doubled in size in its second season. Our partners at The Tribe opened the doors to their

CrossFit gym, giving our athletes access to functional fitness equipment that helps increase strength and agility for improved performance in city, regional and state performances.

SA Xtreme Swimming, Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball, and Track & Field continue to set high standards for themselves and their teammates. Our athletes dedicate ample time to their training and it is reflected in the national records they set and the personal records they beat.

We love how our athletes

exceed their own expectations, but we love the community they have built even more. One of our newest SA Xtreme athletes, Kirsten Brunson, sums it up nicely, "Being with my teammates makes me feel like I'm normal. I'm the kid who runs really fast, not just the kid who doesn't have a leg." Her mom, Sherri Brunson, says the competitive opportunity at Kinetic Kids changed her viewpoint, too: "It has helped me see what an amazing athlete Kirsten truly is. With the awesome coaches who know how far they can safely push her, she is doing things I never would have dreamed for her. The impact Kinetic Kids has made in our lives is truly a godsend."



# SAN ANTONIO ADAPTIVE YOUTH SPORTS

The SA Premier division of Kinetic Kids is growing so much that we welcomed 10 new sport-specific coaches in 2022. Now, we can serve more athletes who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities with safe and successful programming!

SA Premier Cheer took a positive turn as we began a new partnership with the nationally-ranked Stars Vipers. Our new coaches are full of energy, ideas, and plans for growth! In their first competition, they placed third in the Elite Division at the National Cheer Association All-Star National Championships!

We restructured SA Premier Gymnastics to provide development opportunities for athletes to learn the basics of gymnastics with the goal of joining competitions and **the program tripled in numbers!** We look forward to even more growth in 2023.

SA Premier Soccer and SA Premier Basketball both won first place at the 2022 Special Olympics State competition! We love watching these programs gain momentum each year.

Baseball became our **newest SA Premier sport** as we partnered with

Northside Suburban Little League to form

our first team with 11 players.



## LIGHTING THE PATH TO LEADERSHIP

We launched a new philanthropic leadership program in 2022—Kinetic Kids Ambassadors. Our inaugural class of 27 Ambassadors included current and past Kinetic Kids, siblings, parents, grandparents and supporters. They honed their skills in public speaking, fundraising and leadership to help increase their confidence as they shared their stories to help further our mission. From grassroots fundraisers, including lemonade stands and power washing, to partnering with corporate partners, their efforts were integral in helping achieve our organizational goal of raising \$100,000 in the month of July! We are grateful for the many ways they inspired others and promoted disability awareness as they championed our cause at local fundraising events and grant receptions. We are so proud of this team of future leaders who have a passion for Kinetic Kids' mission!



# a tecteation for

## Resource Fair Returns

After a two-year hiatus, 595 attendees helped us welcome the return of EXPO, our free equipment, resource and vendor fair. Participants, their families, caregivers and health care providers explored resources for those living with disabilities. The sold-out event featured 63 vendors from the US & Canada offering home safety modifications, adapted equipment, mobility devices, orthotics, prosthetics, special needs camps, therasuits, therapy clinics, and so much more! Kids enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, trying out adapted equipment and dancing with our Kinetic Kids performers. Join us for this free event on Friday, June 16, 2023, from 10a-2p at Cornerstone Christian Schools.



## OUR MISSION: INCLUSION

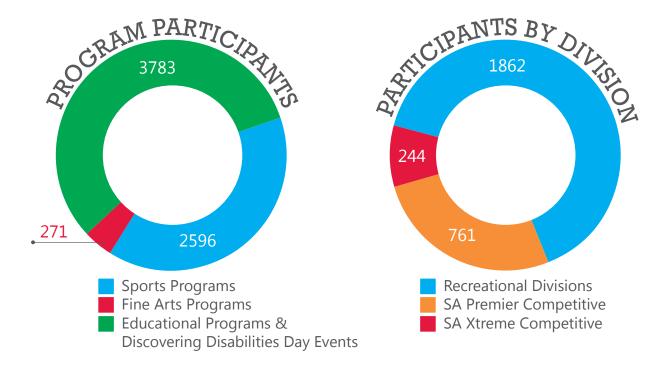
We work diligently to enrich the lives of children with special needs with sports and fine arts offered in a safe, understanding and inclusive environment. Through our **Discovering Disabilities Day** events, we seek to improve their quality of life outside of our adapted environment by increasing awareness and inclusion in their community.

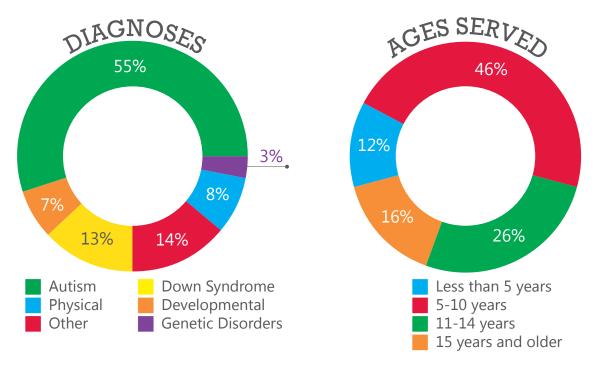
Field experts helped us design eight handson activities designed for elementary students to explore special needs and disabilities in an atmosphere where it is safe to ask probing questions. Educating children during their formative years is critical to developing understanding, and our dynamic training makes a difference. Children don dark glasses that limit their vision and learn to maneuver using a white cane. Certified American Sign Language interpreters teach basic sign language. We discuss the importance of helmets in preventing head injuries. They learn quickly that navigating a wheelchair is challenging. And sometimes they get frustrated trying to complete common tasks with limited hand function. But, that is the point.

In five Discovering Disability Day events at local schools in 2022, we delivered awareness training to 2,900 students who are now thinking of ways they CAN include others with special needs!

Our 2023 calendar is almost fully booked, but if you are interested in partnering with us to host a Discovering Disability Day event, please contact us at info@kinetickidstx.org.

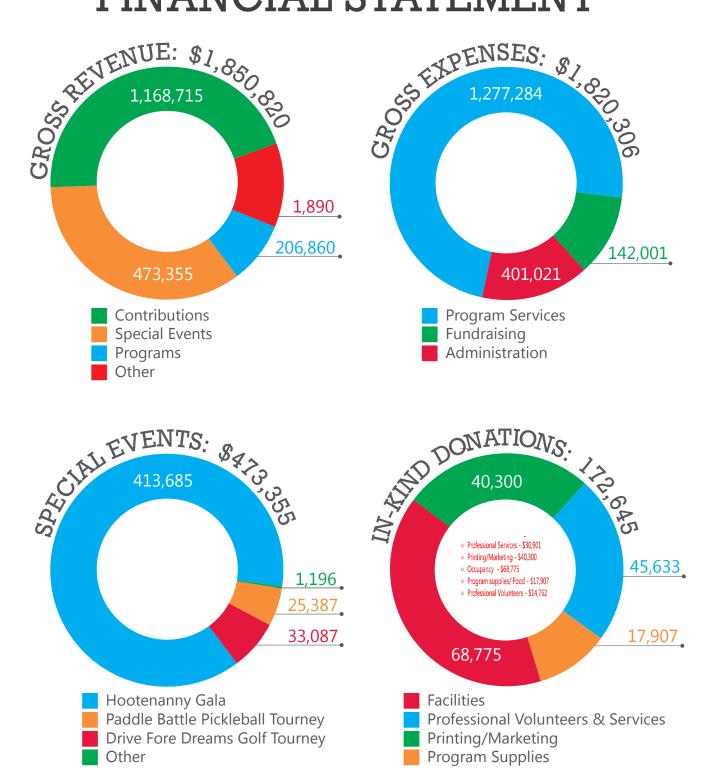
## **IMPACT STATEMENT**







## FINANCIAL STATEMENT





# SPECIAL THANKS you keep our kids in the game!

#### **VOLUNTEER PARTNERS**

Your tireless efforts to ensure the success of our programs and fundraisers makes a difference!

**ATKG** 

Brandeis High School Boys Basketball

Brandeis High School Cheer

**CAPTRUST** 

Cavender Auto Group

Concorde PTA Program

Frost for Good

Geneva High School Football

Greystar

Harlandale High School

**HDR** 

Health Careers High School

Lutheran High School of San Antonio

PepsiCo

Reagan High School

Roosevelt High School

San Antonio Amputee Foundation

San Antonio College

San Antonio Ultimate Community

Scholars and Athletes Serving Others (SASO) Boys Chapter

Scholars and Athletes Serving Others (SASO) Girls Chapter

St. Philip's College OTA Program

St. Philip's College PTA Program

Taurean General Services

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Texas Indo-American Physician Society's Junior Volunteer Program

Texas State University Kinesiology Program

Texas State University
Pre-Occupational Therapy
Organization

Texas State University Recreational Therapy Program

Trinity University Men's Basketball

Trinity University EDUC 1331 Course

UT Health Medical School

UT Health Occupational Therapy Program

UT Health Physical Therapy Program

UT Health Student Occupational Therapy Association

**UTSA Baseball** 

UTSA Honors College/Terry Scholar Student Organization

UTSA Kinesiology's Adapted Physical Activity Course

UTSA Pre-Athletic Training Society

UTSA Pre-Med Society

UTSA Pre-Occupational Therapy Society

UTSA Pre-Physical Therapy Society

UTSA Volleyball

UTSA Women's Golf

YMSL - Mission Chapter

YMSL - North San Antonio

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Your donations of your resources, time and expertise are appreciated beyond measure! Thanks for being part of our team!

5 Diamonds

Aerial Athletics San Antonio

Alamo Gymnastics

AlphaGraphics

Authentique Performing Arts

Balbolai

Brighton Center Gym

Eleanor Burg

Rudy Carielo

Castroville City Park

Castroville Elementary Gym

Chicken N Pickle

Chrissy's Dance Academy

Clark High School

Classics Elite

Community Bible Church

ConnectAbility at Warm Springs

Cornerstone Christian Schools

Curington Elementary School

Dance by Design

Das Rec

DC Martial Arts

The Dominion

Emler Swim School – Alamo Ranch

Emler Swim School - Huebner

Emler Swim School – Schertz

Emler Swim School – Stone Oak

**Endurance Elite** 

Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club

First Baptist Church of Castroville

First Tee of Greater San Antonio

Fischer Park Nature Center

FIT High Performance Tennis and Pickleball Center

Garcia Middle School

Leslie Gonzalez

Haynie & Company

Hills and Dales Pavilion

Image360

Jaws New Braunfels

Roger Koss

Leading Edge Archery

Little Cowboys Field

Lutheran High School

Magnolia Filling Station

Main Event

McAllister Park

McFarlan Tennis Courts

Mission Rd Developmental Center

Multicopy Printing Co.

Nellie Reddix Center

Nicole Nielsen

NISD Natatorium

## SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

Returning to full capacity in programs also meant full capacity for volunteers! And our volunteers answered the call, increasing 89% in 2022. Of the 735 volunteers that joined us this year, one couple has been coming back for six straight years! Steve and Alison Mormino have been volunteering to design sets for musical theatre for six years!

Our founders, Kacey Wernli and Tracey Fontenot first met Alison over 20 years ago when she

worked with them at Methodist Hospital as an occupational therapist. Alison later served as an occupational therapy professor at UT Health before retiring in 2019.

Steve is a retired medic and professor in the emergency health sciences at UT Health. He first volunteered as a soccer coach, but when he discovered our musical theatre program, he knew his passion for holiday decorating could be useful!



Steve and
Allison have been
the masterminds
and the muscle
behind numerous
sets! Imagining
and creating them
from start to
finish, their special
volunteering role
truly makes our
musical theatre
program shine!

Northside Suburban Little League

Olmos Soccer Fields

Pearsall Park

Rawlinson Middle School

River City Church

Robin Jansky Photography

Run Local

SA Table Tennis Club

Stephen Saenz/Saenz Media

San Antonio Jewelry

Pamela Sepulveda

Shearer Hills Baptist Church

Ski Apache Adaptive Sports Wild West Ski Shop

SoccerZone

St. Louis Catholic Church

St. Mary's University

Stars Vipers

The Tribe

UIW Henrich Center

UIW Natatorium

**UIW Stadium** 

UTSA

University United Methodist Church

Ternell Washington

of Axiom Photography

Travis Watson

Rachel Webb

Robyn Wyland

## **Special Events**

The 2022 Hootenanny gala set all kinds of new standards for Kinetic Kids! On a perfect night at the Mays Family Center at the Witte Museum, we hosted 672 guests—the most ever! And while we listened to great live music, enjoyed delicious food and beverages, and kicked up our heels with friends and family,

#### we raised a record \$413,685!

Thank you to our sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, staff, vendors and attendees! We can't wait for our next shindig on Friday, October 6, 2023. Mark your calendars and come Hoot with us at the event of the year!

#### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Donnell Ranches

#### **GOLD STAR**

The Greehey Family Foundation

#### **SILVER STAR**

Andrea & Karl Pichler Laura & Lew Moorman Valero

#### **BRONZE STAR**

**ATKG** 

The Children's Hospital of SA The Davis Family Davis Ranch Real Estate, LLC Gunn Automotive Group IBC Bank Ideal Precision Roofing Law Offices of George Salinas Leading Edge Archery Pediatrix Orthopedics of SA Security Services Federal Credit Union Weston Ventures

#### **COPPER STAR**

Capital Group Gray Digital Group Haynie and Company Image360 Peggy & Rick Neal Nu-Republic NuStar Energy Tracy & Will Roth - Angelman Syndrome Awareness Wave Healthcare Rachel & Matthew Webb

#### **BRIGHT STAR**

Eleanor Burg

Cavender Cares

Aveanna Healthcare

Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics

The Bishop & Leonard Families

Stephanie & Gabe Canales

CDS in Texas The Davis & Du Plain Families Disability Services of the Southwest Dykema Gossett, PLLC E.Q.U.I.P. Enterprises Inc. Dr. Mario Fierro Frost Grey Forest Utilities & HALFF Associates Hanger Clinic Jefferson Bank JW Littman & Airrosti Keith Zars Pools The Langas Family Little Spurs Autism Centers & Developmental Pediatrics Mavagi Enterprises Inc. Methodist Healthcare Ministries Friends of Amy Myers The Oliphint Family Alpa Patel Pizza Hut RiverKids Pediatric Home Health Southwest Children's Center, P.A. Spurs Sports & Entertainment Suzanne & Dr. Earl Stanley Jim & AnnDee Steidel Texas Kids Home Therapy/ Pediatric Home Healthcare

Therapy 2000

Walmart Store 1235

Veridicus Inc.



**SPECIAL THANKS** Alamo Distilling Co. Allianze Events AlphaGraphics Alpha-Lit San Antonio Bling It on SA Blue Bell Ice Cream ChurroStar Crumbl Cookies Dottie Marie Dripping Springs Distillery Andrew Eickstead Gorjana H-E-B Hill Country Distillers Image360 Inspirational PhotoBooth Multicopy Printing Co. Ojo de Tigre PepsiCo Republic National Distributing Co. Sign Gypsies – Alamo Heights Silver Eagle Distributors Bill Taylor Daniel Velasquez Tito's Vodka Ternell Washington WB Liquors & Wine

#### **AUCTION COMMITTEE**

Teresa Benke, Chairperson Lacy Bishop Stephanie Brockman Stephanie Canales Katy Davis Amy Dowden Kathy Friend Amy Garcia Lisa Kingdon Adriana Martinez Jennifer Naples Nathalie Ortega Alpa Patel Jodie Sell Cyndi Solis Erica Soto Stephanie Thompson Rachel Webb Alli Welch Diane White Sandy Winkley



#### **TITLE SPONSOR**

Security Services Federal Credit Union

#### **GOODY BAG SPONSOR**

Pediatric Home Healthcare

#### **BREAKFAST SPONSOR**

Perico's Mexican Cuisine

#### **LUNCH SPONSOR**

Aveanna Willie's Grill & Icehouse

#### **BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR**

Resonant Technology Partners

#### **GOLF CART SPONSOR**

Tiger Sanitation

#### SIGNAGE SPONSOR

Image360

#### **EAGLE SPONSOR**

Weston Ventures

#### **BIRDIE SPONSOR**

Cavender Cares
CDS in Texas
Gruene Road Pharmacy
PepsiCo
Usio
Wave Healthcare
IBC Bank
Jefferson Bank
NuStar

#### **PAR SPONSOR**

Matthew & Rachel Webb

#### **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Alamo City Popcorn
Canyon Springs Golf Club
Charity Golf International
Crumbl Cookies
Heaven's Door Whiskey
Pierson & Saunders Orthodontics
Adriana Martinez
Special Kids Care
Spice of Life
Tito's Vodka
Travelin Tom's Coffee Truck
Walmart
Ternell Washington



Over 120 Golfers braved the cold at Canyon Springs Golf Club in March to help raise \$33,087 at our third annual Drive Fore Dreams golf tournament sponsored by SSFCU. Congratulations to our top teams: Team Stanley and Townsend Rep Group. Get your clubs ready to join us for the 2023 event on March 20 at The Quarry Golf Course.



Our second annual Paddle Battle Pickleball
Tournament was BIGGER and BETTER than ever.
Sponsored by a11n Sports, the event raised
\$25,387 and featured three tournaments, 10
courts of all-day play, and over 150 competitors
and fans at Chicken N Pickle! Competitors
enjoyed a pickleball clinic with Professional
Pickleballer Rommie Maxey, goody bags, wine
tasting, charcuterie treats, Crumbl Cookies, silent
auction and more! Sign up early come Cinco de
Mayo with us on May 5!

#### **PRESENTING SPONSOR**

a11n Sports

#### **PICKLE PARTY SPONSORS**

Character Homes Heying Orthodontics No Mercy Pickleball Pierson & Saunders Orthodontics

#### **ACE SPONSORS**

Ability at Petco Jefferson Bank

#### **RALLY SPONSORS**

Anderson Renewal Champion Physical Therapy The Hanger Clinic Image360 PepsiCo Robin Jansky Photography Twang

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Chicken N Pickle
Crumbl Cookies
FIT High Performance
Tennis Academy
Dr. Rommie Maxey
Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits

#### **COMPETITIVE CHAMPIONS**

Szymon Wacławiak & Andrew Sowell

#### **ROUND ROBIN CHAMPIONS**

Chester Elizondo & Byron Frost

#### **HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS**

Travis Fontenot & Evan Kauhaahaa

# welcoming new PARTNERS

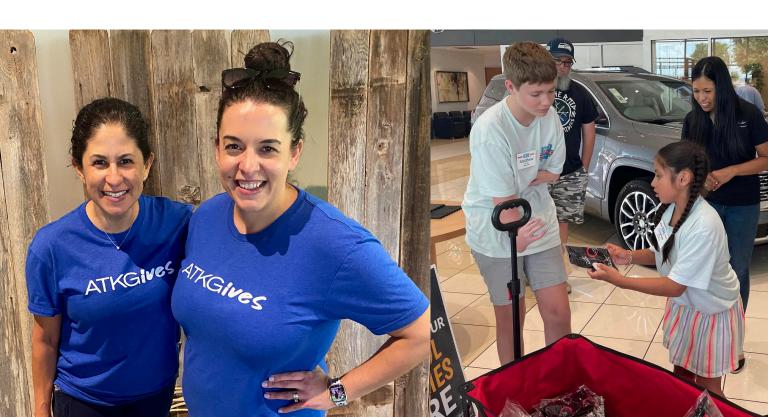


When San Antonio-based accounting firm, ATKG, decided to support Kinetic Kids, they had a game plan. First, they created a year-long, office-wide, gift-matching initiative for their employees to support Kinetic Kids events and programs. Then, they encouraged their team to get involved.

ATKG employees volunteered at EXPO, cheered for our athletes at program finales and served on the Hootenanny committee! Kinetic Kids hosted meetings and volunteer events in their dynamic office space. And, ATKG is the title sponsor for our 2023 Drive Fore Dreams golf tournament! We are so grateful for their generous approach to giving!



After hearing about our \$100K July Match Campaign, Cavender Cares jumped right in, creating branded socks to sell to their dealership employees and donating all the profits to Kinetic Kids! Each Friday in July, Kinetic Kids Ambassadors visited Cavender dealerships to share their success stories, help increase disability awareness and boost sock sales to over \$8,000! Cavender Cares also supported Kinetic Kids at the our Drive Fore Dreams golf tournament, Hootenanny gala and by supplying employee volunteers at events throughout 2022. Thank you, Cavender Cares, for partnering with Kinetic Kids, for supporting our Ambassadors and for embracing and helping to further our mission!



# THANK YOU for making a difference

#### **CORPORATE DONORS**

Alamo Afcea

AmazonSmile

**ATKG** 

Beelieve Pediatric Therapy

Black Rifle Coffee Company

Brighton Custom Builders

Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation

Captrust Community Foundation

Carabin Shaw

Cavender Cares

Central Park Lions Club Foundation

Community First Health Plans

Costco Wholesale #693

Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office

H-E-B Tournament of Champions

Hanco Enterprises Inc.

Hanger Clinic

Ideal Precision Roofing and Exteriors, LLC

Julian's Italian Pizzeria & Kitchen

Kidcreate Studio

Jennifer Lindberg Photography

ONEHOPE Foundation

Patriot Moving & Delivery, LLC

PayPal Giving Fund

PCSI

**RPM** Expedite

San Antonio Guys, LLC dba Kung Fu Saloon

State Farm - Steven Barber

Terry Enterprises

Texas Cavaliers

Therapy 2000

Upshift Enterprises, LLC

Valero

Valero Benefit for Children

#### **FOUNDATIONS & GRANTORS**

3M Foundation

Alamo Kiwanis Club Charities, Inc.

Anonymous

The Beadle Family Foundation

Believe It Foundation

Blue Bird Auxiliary

The Brown Foundation

The Charity Ball Association of San Antonio

Circle Bar Foundation

Elizabeth Huth Coates Foundation



Faye L. & William L. Cowden Charitable Foundation

Cressey Cares Charitable Fund

Frost For Good

Jaiden's Journey Foundation

James Avery Foundation

Jesse Jones Foundation

Betty Stieren Kelso Foundation

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

Mays Family Foundation

McKenna Foundation

Najim Charitable Foundation

William R. Neal Endowment Fund

Pulte Family Charitable Foundation

Wade Richmond Foundation

Rotary Club of New Braunfels

**RWM Foundation** 

David & Betty Sacks Foundation

San Antonio Junior Forum

Security Service Federal Credit Union

Stumberg Foundation

Texas Cavaliers

The Sundt Foundation

Warm Springs Foundation

Liz and Louis Weisberg Family Foundation

# KINETIC KIDS FOSTERS Strong Family Ties

Kinetic Kids mothers Wendy Abeel and Jessica Swadick have an unlikely story of friendship that began in the unlikeliest of places. They met while navigating their way through the San Antonio foster care system.

Wendy began fostering two sisters, Sabrina and Anne Marie, when they were just 10 weeks and five months old. It did not take long for the Abeels to fall in love with the precocious pair and finalized their adoption two years later. The day before they were due in court to sign the final papers, Wendy received a call asking if she would like to also adopt the girls' youngest sister, Ashley, who was just three weeks old at the time.

Caught completely off guard,
Wendy asked for additional time
to make a decision. That is when
Jessica and her husband, Jason,
agreed to temporarily foster
Ashley for about six months while
the Abeels grappled with whether
they could accept responsibility for
another child in their family.

Of course, families who foster understand the importance of keeping siblings together and know how much it can help with the transitions so many children in foster care face. So, both sets of parents wanted the sisters to know each other and grow up together. But, just as the Abeels had fallen in love with their daughters, the Swadicks fell in love with Ashley and adopted her at 18 months old.

It is truly a fairy tale ending to an unconventional sisterhood. Wendy and Jessica are focused on providing unity for the sisters as they all grow up together in San Antonio. The girls know they are sisters, and the Abeel and Swadick families have combined into one, big, extended family. The girls beg for play dates. They celebrate holidays and birthdays together. And they love to carpool to their Kinetic Kids programs!

Yes, all three girls are Kinetic Kids! They all have similar intellectual disabilities and personalities, so Wendy and Jessica are able to share experiences and parenting techniques that work best for the girls, including Kinetic Kids.

In addition to building their strength, skills and confidence, Kinetic Kids is another place the girls can build stronger bonds as they create memories together. To date, they have tumbled through gymnastics, jumped into swimming, twirled through dance classes, and now compete together on even bigger stages as members of our SA Premier division dance team

"Kinetic Kids has brought them closer together because they feed off each other. They feel like themselves and have such a strong bond as sisters and they flourish when they can do things together. Dance every Saturday gives them an outlet," says Wendy.

"Kinetic Kids provides a place for them to fit in. And having a nojudgment zone is the best! We love how it allows our families to just all fit in because other parents understand what life is like with special needs. At other programs, I feel like I always have to apologize, but the community that the Kinetic Kids family provides is unique and supportive. It's just such a blessing."





## **COLLABOROBORATION**

We are always seeking ways to provide new possibilities. In 2022, we added our most unique program yet—Robotics!

Our collaboration with Lutheran High School of San Antonio's robotics team, the Mechanical Mustangs, is small but mighty! We are fortunate to have Lutheran High School's STEAM Instructor, Andrew Schuetze, and his wife, Gloria, who donate and dedicate their time and experience to lead our team as they learn to build and code robots as part of the FIRST in Texas FIRST Access program. A group of LHSSA's robotics team members also volunteer after school to mentor the Kinetic Kids team as they diagnose and solve problems, stay on schedule, and get ready for the next meet. And, the indispensable support provided by 3M Foundation brings the whole team together!

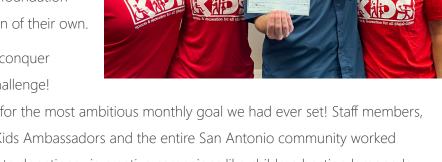
And yet, collaboration in this sport goes even deeper. At robotics competitions, opposing teams will help each other to ensure they are facing the very best. We love how this unique and challenging sport aligns with our mission—giving a helping hand is the expectation.



# SETTING A GOAL: Making the match

Early in 2022, The Wade Richmond Foundation selected Kinetic Kids to participate in a unique and generous fundraising challenge: If Kinetic Kids could raise \$100,000 in the month of July, the foundation would match it with a \$100,000 donation of their own.

Like the kids we serve, who face and conquer obstacles everyday, we accepted the challenge!



"St:111"

Everyone got involved as we stretched for the most ambitious monthly goal we had ever set! Staff members, Kinetic Kids Board of Directors, Kinetic Kids Ambassadors and the entire San Antonio community worked together to raise individual and corporate donations via creative campaigns like children hosting lemonade stands, Cavender Cares sock sales, social media campaigns and peer-to-peer connections!

We not only reached our \$100,000 goal, but smashed it! With the help of over 300 donors, Kinetic Kids raised over \$360,000 in those 31 days. While the Wade Richmond Foundation only sets a monetary goal, they also encouraged Kinetic Kids to use the fanfare of their challenge to attract new donors and spread our mission. We were thrilled to welcome 121 first-time donors to the Kinetic Kids team in July!

## IT TAKES TEAMWORK TO Level the playing field



The desire to belong, to find your people, to find your place in this world is a universal dream shared by everyone. Unfortunately, the opportunities to make this dream a reality are not so universal.

In 2022, Gatorade and Hudl partnered with Kinetic Kids to make these dreams accessible for all athletes. Both companies have a vested interest in sports. Gatorade is an industry leader in sports fuel and hydration and Hudl is a pioneer in video performance technology, video production, streaming and highlighting. Now, they are helping nonprofits level the playing field.

After a lengthy interview process, Kinetic Kids was awarded the partnership for our role in "Leveling The Playing Field" for all athletes. In July, a videography crew spent a week with us capturing footage. The resulting videos touch hearts and dynamically

demonstrate our mission of leveling the playing field for all athletes.

Scan the QR code or **visit www.kinetickidstx.org/ about-us/hudl-gatorade**for this must-see TV!



# THANK YOU for helping our kids dream BIG



#### \$2,500+ GIFTS

Anonymous Kenneth Betz & Patricia Brewer Lacy & Paige Bishop Hal & Tina Boylston Eleanor Burg Melissa L Croan Zach & Katy Davis Scott & Stephanie Dukatnik Julio Estevez-Breton & Ana Maria Mutis Brad & Ashley Gray Thomas & Trish Kauhaahaa Michael & Shirley Kivlin Roger Koss Greg & Rachel Langas William Leach Anthony & Elizabeth

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Clay Richmond

#### \$1,000 TO \$2,499 **GIFTS**

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Matthew & Rachel Webb

Kirsten Smith

Pattye Spezia

Anonymous Jefferson Bank Ray & Kari Bissmeyer Steve & Susan Butler Peggy Cannefax Raul & Valerie Cantu Matt & Karen Conlee Matt & Karen Conrad Alissa Davis Niranjan Desai &

Dabney Fletcher Lee & Stephanie Fletcher Dane Fuller Raúl E Gaona, Jr Jim Lazarus & Susan Gershenhorn Sue Gregory Jim & Sandy Hallmark **Bob & Yvette Hayes** Daniel Robert Hoffman Matthew Robert Lawrence Regan Lewis James & Brandy Lint Rhianna Little Raquel Lopez Mike & Val Lyons Greg Mansfield Carlos & Adriana Martinez Lee & Melissa Melton Kermit Nolan Trae & Erin Ottmers Alpa Patel Samir Patel Larry & Anabel Pearson Elisa & Lance Reinsmith Kim Romano Robert & Theresa Rosenheim Tom & Janine Sauer Louis & Nancy Scantland Jim & AnnDee Steidel Jamie Sullivan, Jr Susan J. Taylor Roy Terracina Jim & Alli Welch Kacey Wernli Jason & Cathy Wood

Lukena Karkhanis

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Mike & Cherri Bates Joleen Beltrami Todd & Mary Burchett Amber & Jorge Canseco Precious Coleman Brittany DiPietro Lucas & Amy Dowden Steve & Molly Dupnick

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Amber Keller
Kenneth Keller
Danielle Kendrick
Tara Kratke
Deborah Kristen
Mark & Ann Kucera
Kurt & Karen Kuzniczci
Jon Lanclos
George & Christine Lee
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We are filled with gratitude for the hundreds of gifts we received which fall under \$100. Although we are unable to recognize each individually, we are thankful for the generosity of so many!



## **Contact Information**

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We gratefully acknowledge all who supported us in 2022. While 100% accuracy is our goal, we apologize if your name has been omitted, misspelled or misplaced. Kindly report any oversight to 281.630.8711.

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