



# 2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



# 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 2024, we will continue expanding Kinetic Kids to other cities.

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## Key Staff Members

**Tracey Fontenot, PT**  
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CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Kacey Wernli, PT**  
CO-FOUNDER  
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Suzy Hill**  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS

**Janine Sauer**  
GRANT WRITER



# a message from our FOUNDERS

To sum up 2023, one word stands above the rest: impact. Impact on the lives we serve, the community we strengthen, and the team that makes it happen. As founders of Kinetic Kids, we feel truly blessed to be in the position to oversee an organization that so profoundly impacts lives. In 2001, it was hard to imagine the lasting impact of our nonprofit. But here we are, 22 years later. We now know the impact is NOT just short-term, but it truly lasts a lifetime. Through our programs, children with special needs develop confidence, pride and a sense of belonging which carries over into all aspects of their lives. Many Kinetic Kids graduates are now attending universities or working in the community. They moved from “what can I do?” to “what do I want to do next?”

It’s as though our first program was like a pebble dropped into a perfectly still pond. The impact of that single program is still echoing today. Our success drove us to continue engaging children in dynamic and meaningful activities, contributing to their emotional and physical wellbeing, and helping them build new futures. Look no further than the stands to see how the ripple effect resonates with families who are able to watch their loved ones embrace the opportunities we offer. Volunteers are changing lives by investing their time and passion to help our children succeed. Our amazing staff find their own joy and passion as they spend time with our talented athletes and artists. And in 2023, Kinetic Kids expanded our impact in San Antonio to surrounding communities including Castroville, New Braunfels and Boerne/Hill Country. So many families are able to



TRACEY FONTENOT & KACEY WERNLI

access programming closer to home and in their own community. Our programs in San Antonio have grown in size as well. We have added more children to each program and even doubled classes in order to help decrease the number we have on waiting lists to get more children with special needs off the sidelines and into the game.

But we know that above all, the biggest impact is YOU. Your generous support through your time, your talents and your gifts keep our mission in motion. Kinetic Kids stands on a robust foundation as a steadfast advocate for our special needs community. Thank you for your belief in our mission and your dedication to those whom we serve.

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

# recreational RECAP

In 2023, Kinetic Kids achieved remarkable strides by catering to a record-breaking 4,275 children with special needs. Our secure and nurturing environment continued to empower Kinetic Kids, fostering the development of courage, confidence, fitness and community. With a diverse array of 31 sports, fine arts and educational opportunities spanning 337 distinct programs, we truly have something for everyone!

Rather than investing in a central location for programs, we continue to forge partnerships with local businesses and other nonprofits, leveraging their

donated facilities when we can, thereby minimizing our expenses. We hosted programs at 47 different facilities in San Antonio and surrounding areas, ensuring that even more children with special needs could access top-notch programs on the same fields and stages where their typically-developing peers play.

On any given evening, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement as trophies and medals were triumphantly raised in baseball, flag football, and martial arts. Cheers of joy echoed as participants showcased their skills on skateboards, demonstrated swimming prowess, and executed flawless landings in gymnastics. Families gleamed with pride during our dance and musical theatre performances and the spirit of celebration reverberated through post-season parties, recitals and receptions.

We broadened our reach to neighboring communities in Castroville, New Braunfels, and the Hill Country. Our efforts gave ready access to even more athletes who got to hit home runs, dance with passion and swim to the finish line—all while fostering the sense of celebration and pride that emanates from all Kinetic Kids programs.







Watching her  
become more  
confident every  
practice was  
amazing!!!  
We looked  
forward to it  
every week!

— Kinetic Kids Parent



Specifically serving kids with physical disabilities only, our SA Xtreme division grew 27% in 2023. These athletes dedicate their time and energy to compete at para-style competitions locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally!

### **GOAL ORIENTED**

Two of our amazing SA Xtreme athletes were internationally classified while competing at a World Ranking Event for USA Archery this past summer. Like many other SA Xtreme athletes,

they have their eyes set on future Paralympic games. Their grit and determination are unmatched. Collectively, SAX athletes achieved 14 national records and EVERY athlete attained a personal record at various national competitions in their 2023 sport seasons.

### **AGILITYFIT**

SA Xtreme AgilityFit is our newest off-season, adaptive training that helps our athletes increase their strength, endurance and mobility. Our athletes even see gains in their therapies outside of our

programming. Kinetic Kids Executive Director and Physical Therapist Kacey Wernli sees the results in Mario. "AgilityFit is really the only thing that has changed in Mario's program. He works so hard in class and has shown increased trunk strength which has carried over with improved walking and other activities."

### **ARTIST & ATHLETE**

Artemis started Musical Theatre in January and now she also competes on three SA Xtreme teams! Her newfound confidence is evident and it is amazing to see her progression in less than a year. She is also making huge strides on her high school track and field team. At first, her mom, Lindsey, would play interference on the track because Artemis would be so far behind her typical peers as they approached the finish line. Then Artemis hit her first huge milestone—being only 100m behind as the other runners crossed the finish line. Fast forward just a few weeks, and she was keeping up with the runners in her heat. Within a couple months, she beat two other girls! Lindsey knows her daughter is a warrior, "Artemis does it, but y'all gave her the tools, so thank you."





## **NEW DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**

In 2023, we continued to grow our SA Premier Development League to fill a gap that existed for athletes in basketball, swimming, cheer and gymnastics who are just learning to compete. This appropriate pace and skill progression helps to develop the athletes' understanding of gameplay, to learn specific sport rules, and to prepare to participate in higher level competitions.

## **COMPETITION RAMPS UP**

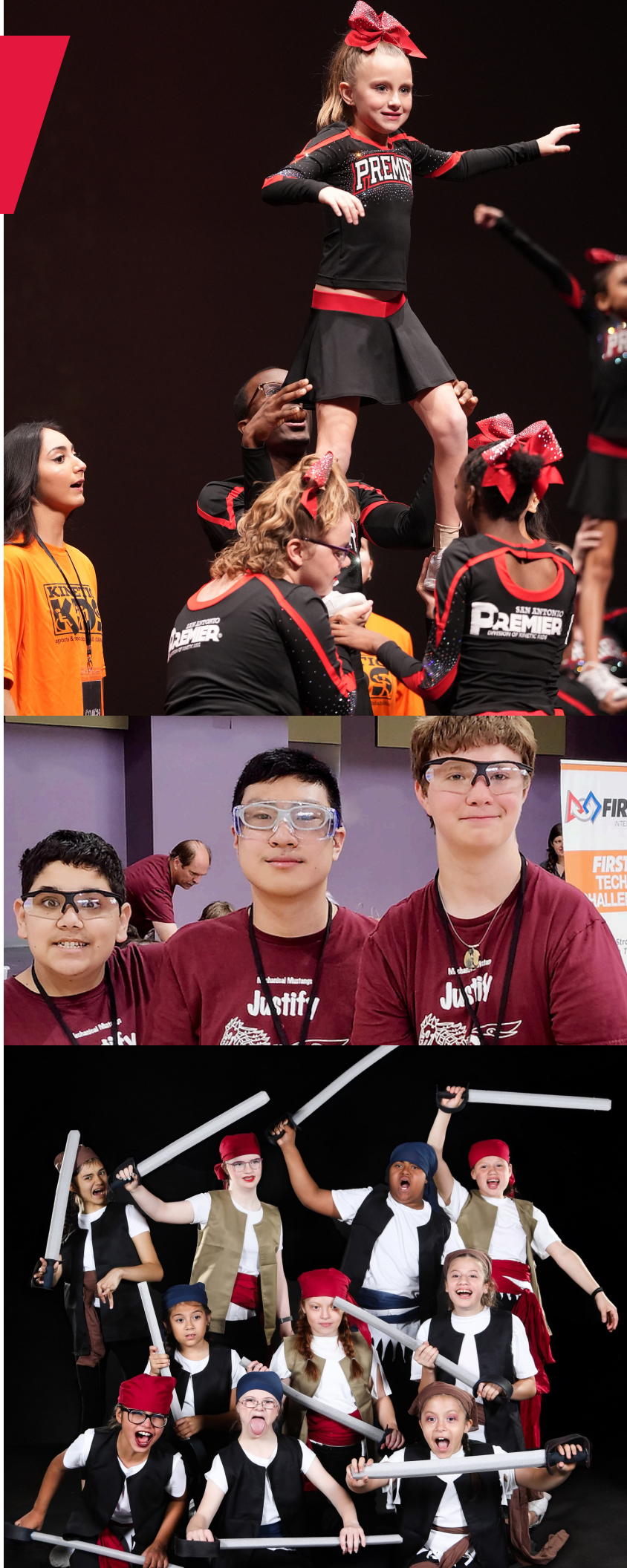
Our kids love to compete, so we added two new competitions to our Kinetic Kids hosting schedule—Swimming and AgilityFit. Alongside our Gymnastics, Basketball and Soccer tournaments, we hosted a total of five SA Premier competitions in 2023.

## **DANCE**

Our SA Premier Dance Team had a standout year with their two dynamic routines. They won multiple first place awards throughout their competition season, and the "Life of the Party" award, which couldn't be more accurate for this team.

## **ROBOTICS**

We are also excited about our Robotics Team taking their skills to the competition ring this year where they came out strong with a first place win! We are partnering with the Lutheran High School Robotics Team who help drive our success.





# RESOURCE FAIR SELLS OUT AGAIN!

In June, an impressive gathering of 730 enthusiastic learners attended the Kinetic Kids EXPO powered by Community First Health Plans. This sold-out event showcased a diverse array of 70 equipment and resource vendors from across the United States and Canada. Families, caregivers, and clinicians immersed themselves in a myriad of offerings, including home safety modifications, adapted equipment, mobility devices, orthotics, prosthetics, special needs camps, legal services, therapy clinics, dental services and much more! And, of course, our EXPO attendees loved snapping selfies with our celebrity ambassador and grand marshal—The San Antonio Spurs Coyote!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on June 14 at EXPO 2024 from 10a-2p at Cornerstone Christian Schools in San Antonio.



## We're all about F.U.N.

In 2023, Kinetic Kids introduced more F.U.N.! Family Unite Night is a unique gathering that provides a welcoming space for children with special needs and their families to come together and forge meaningful connections. Against the backdrop of a casual and joyous atmosphere, delightful food trucks and vibrant music, families socialized at seven F.U.N. events hosted by Josabi's in Helotes. Families especially enjoyed when we partnered with the SA Fire Department and District 7 Fire Rescue for a night of fire safety F.U.N.! Family Unite Night exemplifies our commitment to creating supportive environments that foster a sense of inclusivity and camaraderie.







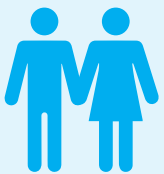
# OUR MISSION: INCLUSION

Our mission extends beyond our adapted environment through Discovering Disabilities Day events, where we aim to elevate the quality of life for children with special needs by fostering awareness and inclusion in their community.

In collaboration with field experts, we've developed several interactive activities tailored for elementary students, creating a safe space for them to explore special needs and disabilities. Recognizing the importance of educating children during their formative years, our dynamic approach helps to build understanding. Participants experience simulated challenges such as wearing vision-limiting dark glasses, playing volleyball while sitting on the floor, and taking shots at regular and adapted basketball hoops—all while experiencing the complexities of maneuvering in a wheelchair! We emphasize the significance of using adapted equipment and explore a variety of sensory items their peers may need for focusing in the classroom. All of these experiences are intentional—to show, for a moment in time, what life might be like for some of their classmates with special needs.

In 2023, we held Discovering Disabilities Day events at five local schools, providing awareness training to 2,500 students who now have even more options for how to actively include their classmates with special needs.

If you are interested in partnering with us to host a Discovering Disability Day event, please reach out to us at [info@kinetickidstx.org](mailto:info@kinetickidstx.org).



**2496**  
CHILDREN LEARNED  
ABOUT INCLUSIVITY

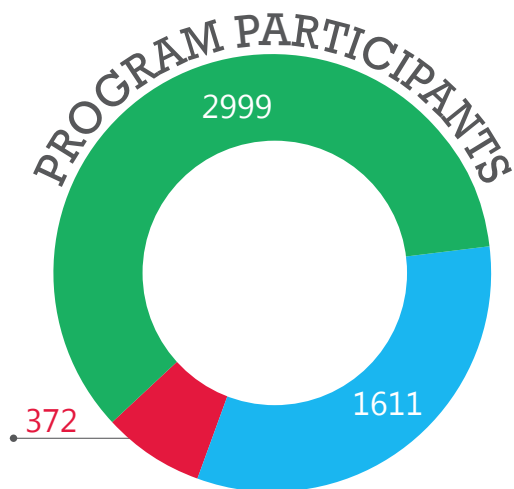


**4** LOCAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS INVOLVED

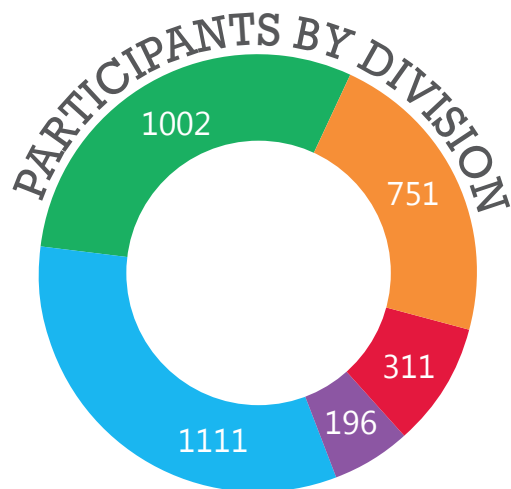


**5** ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS HOSTED

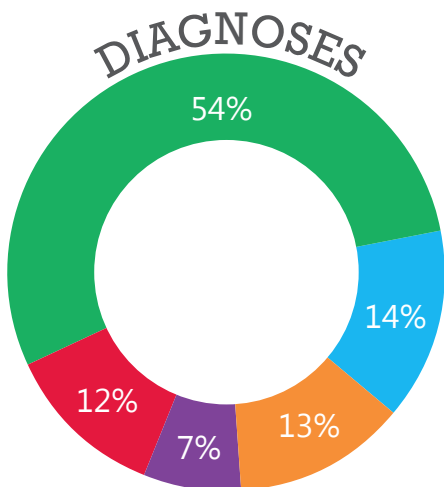
# IMPACT STATEMENT



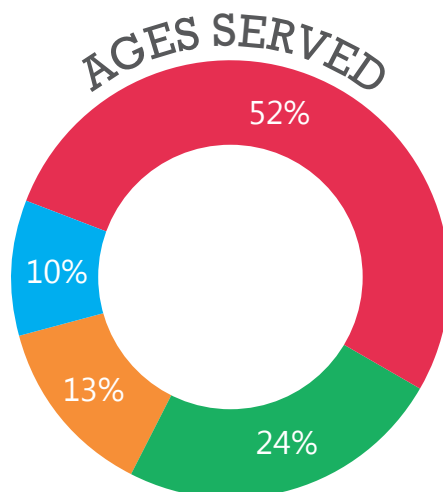
- 269 Sports Programs
- 28 Fine Arts Programs
- 35 Educational & Community Programs



- Parent&Me Recreational
- Allstars Recreational
- Champions Recreational
- SA Premier Competitive
- SA Xtreme Competitive



- Autism
- Physical
- Developmental
- Down Syndrome
- Other

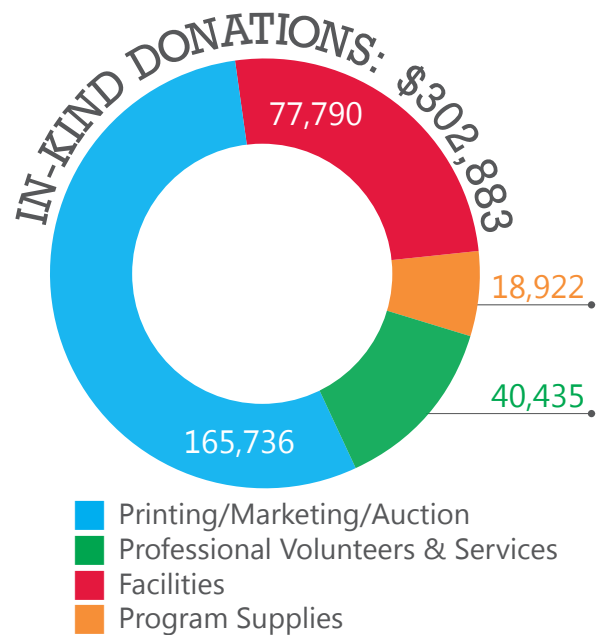
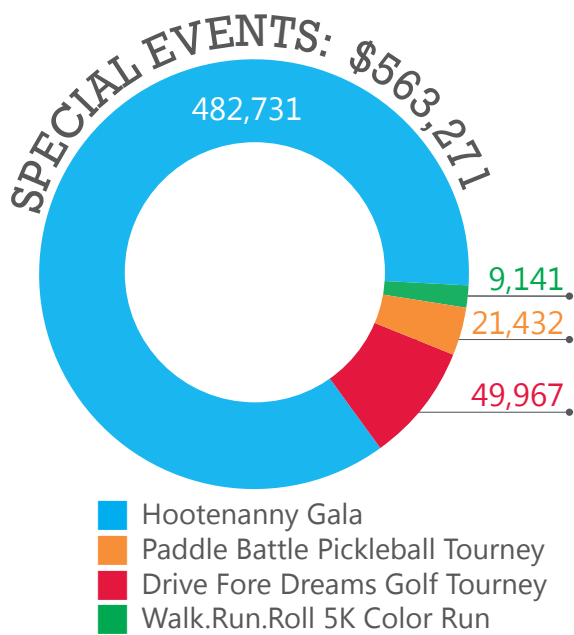
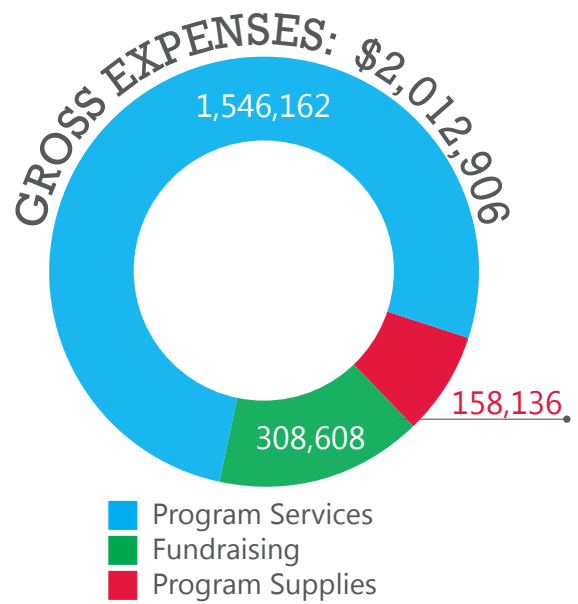
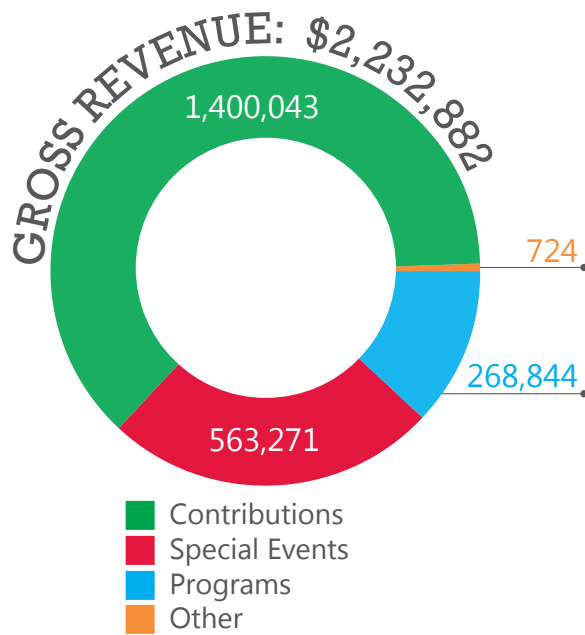


- Less than 5 years
- 5-10 years
- 11-14 years
- 15 years and older





# FINANCIAL STATEMENT



# KINETIC KID FOCUSES ON Crossing the Finish Line

Elizabeth was born with albinism, a genetic condition in which the person's body does not make melanin, which is responsible for production of pigment and the development of the eyes. As a result, Elizabeth is legally blind and her vision can not be corrected with glasses or surgery. When she was little, Elizabeth's parents refused to let her visual impairment prevent their inquisitive child from being an active kid. She began swim lessons as a toddler for water safety.

In 2017, when Elizabeth was in first grade, a friend introduced the family to Kinetic Kids. Elizabeth began with a dance class at age seven. Since she was already swimming, she quickly jumped into the SA Xtreme competitive division to swim freestyle and breaststroke. Then, even though **she had never done any type of track and field events**, Elizabeth still decided to give it a try. Soon, she was practicing sprints, long jump, discus, javelin and shot put. In her first season, she debuted at the Endeavor Games in Edmond,

OK where she loved competing alongside new friends who shared her passion for track and field.

By 2018, Elizabeth was ready for longer distances, and ran the 800m at the Lone Star Invitational. When the Endeavor Games rolled back around, she was ready for the 1500m. Elizabeth was only eight years old at the time, but the minimum age for the 1500m was U14. When Kinetic Kids requested permission for Elizabeth to run the 1500m, the request was approved as long as she entered ALL of her events in the the U14 age group. Not only did she qualify for the 1500m at Junior Nationals, she **also** qualified in the 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m, long jump, discus, javelin and shot put, **and** in short course 50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle **and** long course 50m breaststroke, 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke!!! **Yes, that is 15 events!** At the 2018 Junior Nationals, about six weeks after Elizabeth had run the 1500m for the first time at Endeavor Games, she took over a minute off of her

1500m time, finishing in 7:03 and **breaking the national record for U14 as an 8-year-old!** Since then, she has competed every year, continuing to break more records.

In 7th and 8th grades, she qualified to run the 1600m and 2400m for both track seasons at Garcia Middle School. And at the final meet of the season, she set a new school record in the 2400m.

Now a freshman at O'Connor High School, Elizabeth was the **only freshman to make the Varsity Cross Country team** and is looking forward to her first high school track season.

Elizabeth is far from done! She recently made the **US Paralympics Track & Field Emerging Team!** So, tune in for 2024 US Paralympic Track & Field National Championships and US Paralympic Team Trials.

Her mom reminisces, "It is truly amazing to look back on the past six years and appreciate all Kinetic Kids has helped provide for our family. Elizabeth has gained confidence, competitiveness and the desire to work hard. It has allowed her to continue to strive to be a better athlete and push herself to the next level in everything that she does, but especially sports."





HEAR ELIZABETH IN  
HER OWN WORDS:



# SPECIAL THANKS

*you keep our kids in the game!*

## **VOLUNTEER PARTNERS**

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

Apple La Cantera  
ATKG, LLC  
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Community Bible Church  
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Frost for Good  
Gray Digital Group  
Greystar  
HEB  
National Charity League - Stone Oak  
PepsiCo  
San Antonio Amputee Foundation  
Scholars & Athletes Serving Others  
Boys & Girls Chapters  
Studio Martial Arts  
Taurean General Services  
Texas Roadhouse (Alamo Ranch)

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

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

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5 Diamonds  
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Aid The Silent  
Airrosti  
Alamo Gymnastics  
AlphaGraphics  
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Big Brothers, Big Sisters of South TX

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Emler Stone Oak  
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club  
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Fischer Park Nature Center  
FIT High Performance Tennis & Pickleball Center  
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Landa Park  
Las Palapas  
Leading Edge Archery  
Steve Lennon  
Let's Play at Live Oak  
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Medina Valley Youth Baseball Fields  
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Raising Cane's  
Rawlinson Middle School  
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# CONNECTING BEYOND THE COURT

Our volunteers provide more than mere sports support. They also provide a sense of understanding and connection. Ember and Kayla are an inspiring participant-volunteer duo in our New Braunfels basketball program.

Ember's initial apprehension about joining Kinetic Kids basketball stemmed from a fear of standing out and being perceived as different due to her leg brace that she wears to address

impairments resulting from a traumatic brain injury. This smart and energetic young girl reluctantly joined the program, all the while being worried about how she would be accepted.

Enter Kayla Bogan, Ember's volunteer, who also was wearing a leg brace due to a recent knee surgery. Though their orthotic needs were different, their shared experience of utilizing support braces immediately bridged the gap for Ember on the court. Seeing Kayla confidently embrace her brace empowered Ember to do the same. In an extraordinary display of solidarity, when Kayla was given the all clear to remove her brace, she continued to wear it to practices.

Through their special bond, Ember's confidence flourished. She was soon wearing her brace proudly as she joined in on basketball drills with her newest friends.

The friendship between Ember and Kayla now extends beyond the basketball court. They still actively maintain communication, and Kayla consistently volunteers at various programs where Ember is involved. They are undeniable proof of the power of acceptance and inclusion.



Run Local  
SA Fire Department  
San Antonio Botanical Garden  
Andrew Schuetze  
Gloria Schuetze  
Shearer Hills Baptist Church  
Ski Apache  
Slim Chickens  
Soccer Central  
Southern Gymnastics Club  
Spec's

St Louis Braden Keller Community Center  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Spurs Sports & Entertainment  
Stars Vipers San Antonio  
Texas Roadhouse  
The Tribe/3F CrossFit  
Tiff's Treats  
Tiger Sanitation  
Tom Sessi Wine  
UIW Natatorium  
UIW Stadium

University Methodist Church  
UTSA Baseball  
UTSA Volleyball  
Szymon Wacławiak  
Ternell Washington  
Travis Watson  
Rachel Webb  
Wild West Ski Shop  
Robyn Wyland

# Special Events



The 2023 Hootenanny proved, once again, to be a night to remember! Over 660 guests helped raise **\$480,000** at The Mays Family Center at The Witte Museum.

Guests cheered on our very own Kinetic Kids Dancers who set the stage for an entertaining and impactful program that included emcee Meteorologist Bill Taylor, Impact Awards presented to The Kronkosky Foundation and long-time volunteer Nicole Nielsen, and a touching testimony by Kinetic Kids parent, David Stout. The night was also filled with a 250+ item silent auction, games, music and community.

We hope you'll plan to join us for Hootenanny 2024 on Friday, September 27!

## PRESENTING SPONSOR

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## GOLD STAR

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CDS in Texas  
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## BRIGHT STAR

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Trey & Vanessa Beasley  
The Bishop Family  
Eleanor Burg  
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Sharing the Love  
Spurs Sports & Entertainment  
Dr. Earl & Suzanne Stanley  
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Z Fuels

## SPECIAL THANKS

AlphaGraphics  
Alpha-Lit San Antonio  
Andrew Eickstead  
Bling It On SA  
ChurroStar  
Cured  
Dripping Springs Distillery  
Gorjana  
H-E-B



DAVID STOUT  
SPOKE FROM  
THE HEART



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Silver Eagle Distributors  
Spec's  
Ternell Washington  
Tiff's Treats  
Tito's  
Valero  
Walmart  
WB Liquors & Wine

## AUCTION COMMITTEE

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Stephanie Brockman  
Angie Cronin  
Megaly Diaz  
Amy Dowden  
Kathy Friend  
Amy Garcia  
Lisa Kingdon  
Adriana Martinez  
Kimberly Murphy  
Jennifer Naples  
Alpa Patel  
Jodie Sell  
Erica Soto  
Stephanie Thompson  
Addison Valdez  
Rachel Webb  
Diane White  
Sandy Winkley





The 2023 Drive Fore Dreams saw more teams than ever participating, 53 foursomes (that's 212 golfers!), requiring a new two-wave format. Teams braved chilly Texas weather on the links at The Quarry Golf Club. The event, sponsored by ATKG, LLC helped Kinetic Kids raise \$50,000 for programming. Join us at the 2024 event on March 18 at The Quarry Golf Course.

#### TITLE SPONSOR

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Kent Powersports  
Leading Edge Archery  
Perico's  
The Quarry Golf Course  
Raising Cane's  
San Antonio Jewelry  
Slim Chickens  
Tiff's Treats  
Tito's Vodka  
Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck  
Walmart  
Ternell Washington



Pickleball enthusiasts and Kinetic Kids supporters showed up big for our third annual Paddle Battle Pickleball Tournament. Sponsored by Petco Foundation, the event featured both recreational and competitive tournaments as well as a clinic hosted by Professional pickleballer Rommie Maxey. Over 200 competitors, fans, and volunteers attended and helped to raise \$20,000. Sign up early and come play with us again on April 19, 2024!

#### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Petco Foundation

#### PICKLE PARTY SPONSORS

Character House Homes  
Heying Orthodontics  
Naturesweet  
Pierson & Saunders  
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#### ACE SPONSORS

Image360  
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#### RALLY SPONSORS

Fit Tennis  
Kitch  
Frost

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Chicken N Pickle  
Crumb Cookies  
FIT High Performance  
Tennis Academy  
Dr. Rommie Maxey  
H-E-B  
Tito's Vodka

#### COMPETITIVE CHAMPIONS

First Place  
Szymon Wadawiak & Travis Wagner  
Second Place  
Reagan Lewis & Landen Talbert

#### RECREATION CHAMPIONS

First Place  
Kevin Seilhan & Anne Fryniarz  
Second Place  
Carl Womack & Terry Kenkel







Kinetic Kids, families, and fans traveled to Castroville for the first annual Walk.Run.Roll. COLOR RUN! Over 160 participants were doused in color while running around beautiful Castroville Regional Park. The race raised over \$8,500 and included festive medals, snacks and water play at the finish line. Mark your 2024 calendar for our Walk.Run.Roll. Color Run on Saturday, July 27!



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In its second year, Kinetic Kids paved the way for leadership by nurturing 27 enthusiastic and dynamic Ambassadors. This philanthropic leadership program provided a platform for Ambassadors to hone their skills in public speaking, presentations, goal setting, effective branding and communication strategies.

Our ambassadors used their new skills to champion our brand during check presentations, Kinetic Kids fundraising events and in meeting their own personal fundraising goals. From charming lemonade stands to engaging restaurant nights, our Ambassadors demonstrated unwavering commitment as together they raised over \$12,000 to serve a mission they love.







## STREAMLINING YOUR INBOX

We hope you noticed our new email formats that we launched last January. Our goal was to lighten the load we create by curating the content you need. And we think you like it! In 2023, we sent 28% fewer emails and our readership rate grew by 95%. Don't miss out! Let us know if you are not receiving our correspondence by dropping us a line at [info@kinetickidstx.org](mailto:info@kinetickidstx.org).



News for Everyone



Volunteer Information



Participant Resource



# thank you to our PARTNERS



Kym's Angels Foundation is a familiar name throughout the community that generously supports charities from Uvalde to France! Founders Kym Rapier Verette and Glenn Verette and Executive Director Yolanda Valenzula stepped up to the plate, offering \$100,000 as our matching donor for our July giving campaign. After 31 days, Kinetic Kids had surpassed Kym's Angels Foundation's \$100,000 incentive, raising \$152,420 for a grand total of \$252,420! We are so thankful that Kym's Angels Foundation believes in us. With their support, we are bringing *more* opportunities to *more* kids in *more* areas and providing *more* impact in the lives of families with special needs.



With a new van just out of reach, Kinetic Kids parent and pickleball coach Szymon Wacławiak suggested we apply for a grant from his employer, HDR Engineering. The HDR staff quickly stepped up to support our mission. Szymon and co-worker Mary Gimón helped to organize volunteer opportunities where the staff could all get involved while also still working to promote and guide Kinetic Kids through the grant process. Thanks to the amazing talents and dedication of Szymon, Mary and all of the San Antonio HDR staff members, we were awarded a \$53,000 grant to purchase our much needed new ride. Keep an eye out for our fresh, new graphics as we head to programs throughout our ever-growing service area, all thanks to the HDR Foundation!





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## for helping our kids dream BIG



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## Contact Information

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