

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Abrazos Family Support Services

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



412 Camino Don Tomas  
Bernalillo, NM 87004

# Abrazos' Future

## A Letter from our Executive Director

Abrazos' Families and Supporters,

Since the founding of Abrazos Family Support Services in 1978 (originally named Southwest Communication Resources), we have grown lockstep with our expanding community. This year was a milestone for Abrazos as we celebrated 40 years serving families who have children with or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities. We are continuously grateful to be a part of their journey as they welcome us into their homes and lives.



This Annual Report (reflecting July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) allows a glimpse into our programs and services, the hard work of the staff, the leadership of the Board of Directors, and generosity of our supporters.

As we enter this new fiscal year, we anticipate continued growth in the number of families we serve, our programs, and our on-site facilities. All occurring while maintaining the core value of providing meaningful and dignified support to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Abrazos will continue to be a leader in the community and the state-wide initiative towards the betterment of services for families who have a loved one with a developmental disability. Thank you for your support!

Warm Regards,

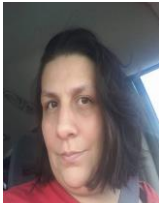
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April Spaulding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April Spaulding, Executive Director

# Leadership

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors govern the mission; monitor and strengthen programs; ensure effective planning and financial resources; and work directly with the Executive Director. All members of the Board of Directors serve as volunteers and receive no compensation.



Angel Trujillo, President  
Parent Representative



David England, Vice President  
Employer: Intel



Jill Brame, Secretary  
Employer: Southwest Aeronautics,  
Math & Science Academy



Ken Tager, Treasurer  
Employer: City of Rio Rancho



Dr. Kristina Gutierrez-Barela  
Employer: Lovelace Medical Group



James Jimenez  
Employer: NM Voices for Children



Tom Swisstack  
Employer: City of Rio Rancho



Veronica Torres  
Employer: Wells Fargo

# Who We Are

## Abrazos Family Support Services



Abrazos Family Support Services (aka Abrazos), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1978, has been providing care to individuals with developmental disabilities and delays for over 40 years in the counties of Sandoval and Bernalillo, New Mexico.

Abrazos is mission driven, utilizing evidence-based practices combined with the “person-centered” focus to achieve quality outcomes. We are committed to providing meaningful and dignified support services to every individual we serve.

## Service Footprint

Sandoval County is the primary service area for Abrazos which includes the cities of Rio Rancho, Corrales, Bernalillo, Placitas, Algodones, the entire Jemez Valley, Cuba and parts of the Navajo Nation, and the seven Indian Pueblo Tribes/Reservations.

Bernalillo County is the secondary service area which includes the west side communities of Ventana Ranch, Eagle Ranch, Paradise Hills and Taylor Ranch.



# Abrazos' Services



## Family Infant Toddler Program - FIT

The FIT program is a specialized service provided to families with children ages birth to 3 years who are experiencing a delay in development, disability or other condition that is impacting development. These services include developmental evaluations, screenings, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, infant mental health services, and respite services. FIT services are funded by Medicaid and the Department of Health's State General Funds.



**In this fiscal year, 614 children received FIT services. This was an increase of 15% compared to the prior year.**

FIT also offers two group sessions, throughout the year, to support families raising young children with or at risk of developmental disabilities.

The **Toddler Movement Group** focuses on improving muscle strength, coordination, and communication skills.



The **Preschool Readiness Group** prepares children,



ages 2 & 3 years old, for preschool and kindergarten by focusing on learning how to play and socialize with children their age. These group sessions are free-of-charge for families, as they are funded by

grants provided by BCBS of NM *Healthy Kids Healthy Families* and Los Alamos National Labs Foundation.

## Respite

Respite provides a flexible, short-term break for the primary caregiver who is responsible for a family member with a diagnosed developmental delay or disability. Respite providers care for the individual in the family home or other community location. Respite is funded through both the Developmental Disabilities Waiver and the Department of Health's State General Funds.

**In this fiscal year, 74 families received Respite services.**



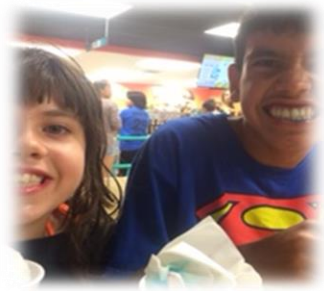
## Autism Services

For children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Abrazos offers two unique programs that combine educational and therapeutic services with teaching social skills and cultural enrichment at public locations. This has resulted in improved socialization skills for the individuals with ASD, as well as fostering more diverse and inclusive communities.

The **Autism Recreational Respite** program provides individuals ages 4 – 21 years the opportunity to participate in physical activities designed to improve muscle strength and motor skills as well as the chance to meet other children their age. These activities include swimming, jumping at trampoline parks, and gymnastics. This program is funded with grant support from BCBS of New Mexico's *Healthy Kids Healthy Families* and the Rio Rancho Community Foundation.



The **Autism After-School** program offers middle school students the opportunity to participate in activities designed to increase socialization and communication skills through group activities and community outings. These activities include cultural, science, and recreational trips to public locations like Explora, Museum of Natural History & Science, and Kiln It. This program is funded through grant support from Rio Rancho Public Schools, Washington Federal Foundation, and Wells Fargo.



**In this fiscal year, 41 individuals participated in Recreational Respite & the After-School program.**

## **Family Living**

The Family Living program was launched at Abrazos in February to expand much needed services of individuals with developmental disabilities. Family Living is a home-based program that provides 24/7 care to enable adult individuals to remain living in their own home, their family home, or a surrogate home to promote independence, community inclusion, and an enhanced quality of living. This program is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Waiver.



**The Family Living Program served 2 clients in the first five months of operating.**

## ABA Therapy

Recognizing the crucial needs of families raising a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Abrazos will be launching Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy (ABA) by winter 2019. ABA therapy has come to the forefront of being the most effective and successful treatment therapy for children diagnosed with autism. ABA brings about positive, meaningful changes in behavior, academics, communication, and socialization and offers these children the hope and likelihood to graduate high school and college and become independent and productive citizens. ABA therapy is used to improve behaviors like social skills, reading, academics, and communication as well as learned skills like grooming, hygiene, fine motor dexterity, and job proficiency. This treatment program is relatively new in the state of New Mexico and is severely lacking in providers. Only ten of the thirty autism service providers in the state currently offer the service. This causes tremendous difficulty for families having to wait long periods to receive the service (current wait of over a year) and even more difficulty for those living in remote areas that must travel long distances.



**Abrazos is committed to improving the greatly needed services for individuals diagnosed with ASD.**



## Abrazos' Staff

Abrazos strives to create a workplace that is supportive of our clients receiving quality services, while simultaneously providing growth for all employees. Our 29 staff members and 40 contracted providers have passed state background checks and training requirements. Our team of professionals includes state licensed/certified therapists, Family Service Coordinators, Respite and Family Living providers, and ABA Registered Technicians.



### Administration

April Spaulding, Executive Director  
Liza Bales, Administration Manager  
Amy Berman, Development Manager  
Richard Flores, Program Manager  
Katharine Harmeyer, ABA Manager  
Robin Laverow Kelman, Financial Manager  
Randi Malach, Program Director  
Rebecca Miera, Data Entry Specialist  
Anne Saladino, Administrative Assistant  
Donna Wienker, Administrative Assistant

### Early Intervention Specialists

Penny Hicks, PT  
Annie Huerta, OT  
Erika Summers, SLP  
Hillary Velazquez, SLP

### Family Service Coordinators

Emily Bihn, FSC Lead  
Shannon Almanza  
Kim Griffin  
Maria Jaramillo  
Chris Maxwell  
Breana Martinez  
Sandra Nemeth  
Regina Quintana

### Developmental Specialists

Lindsey Atencio  
Ashley Chavez  
Teresa Lara  
Nichole Legatzke  
Sofia Lucero-Sena  
Airth McCourt  
Elizabeth Sims

**Abrazos has been one of the top winners  
of Best Places to Work (2017 – 2019)  
and named a  
Family Friendly Business (2017-2019)**



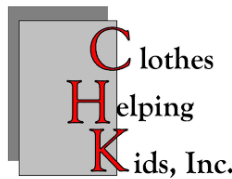
# Abrazos' Supporters

Abrazos Family Support Services is grateful for the foundations, businesses, and individuals that have supported our efforts of improving the lives of those with developmental disabilities and delays in this fiscal year.

## Business & Foundation Supporters July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



Atar Inc.



INS LLC



On Coors Blvd



Washington Federal  
invested here.



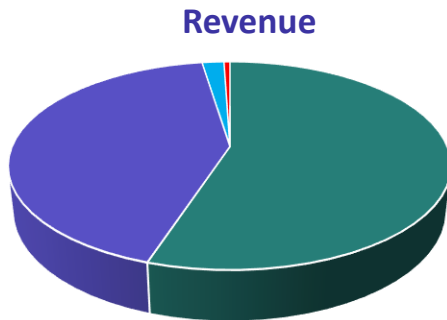
## **Individual Supporters**

### **July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

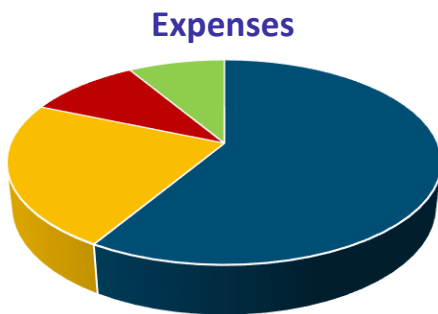
Laura Alberto	Shannon Almanza
Shawna Baker	Liza Bales
Emily Bihn	Jill Brame
Mark Brock	Mari Spaulding-Bynon
Ashley Chavez	Susan Crandall
Argen Duncan	David England
Cheryl Everett & Harry Gordon	Doris Fields & Anne Grey Frost
Richard Flores	Kimberly Griffin
Kristina Gutierrez-Barela	Kassie Guzzardi
Katharine Harmeyer	Penny Hicks
Annie Huerta	Maria Jaramillo
James Jaramillo	Ray Johnson
Sara Keller	Tara Lara
Nichole Legatzke	Don Leonard & Donna Wylie
Leonard Lopez	Sarah Love
Sofia Lucero	Randi Malach
Breana Martinez	Chris Maxwell
Don McCormick	Kathy McCormick
Linda McCormick	Yvonne McCormick
Airth McCourt	Rebecca Miera
Sandra Nemeth	Morgan O'Donnell
Regina Quintana	Valerie Rael
Frank Rivera	Melissa Roback
Sofia Lucero-Sena	Susan Sheridan
Elizabeth Sims	Renee Singleton
April Spaulding	Erika Summers
Tom Swisstack & Lisa Grover	Ken Tager
Benjamin Thomas	Veronica Torres
Angel Trujillo	Lisa Trujillo
Hillary Velazquez	Paul Vuchetich
Earl Waid	Bob Walton
Donna Wienker	

## Agency Financials

The below graphs represent Income & Expenses for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). Abrazos is proud to report that administrative expenses were 9.6% of the budget, well below the national industry average of 23-30%.



Medicaid & Medicaid Waiver	\$1,138,878
State General Funds	\$ 917,591
Contributions & Fundraising	\$ 84,449
Other Income	\$ 10,000



Early Intervention	\$1,718,648
Respite & Family Living	\$ 284,973
Administrative	\$ 201,678
Fundraising	\$ 61,832

