



## program highlight: aspire

Aspire is a recreation program for children on the Autism Spectrum where children enjoy activities that encourage development of communication and social skills through modeling and practice. This spring, children in our Aspire Program visited the Lebanon Police Department as part of our Special Needs Information Program (SNIP). At the visit, we met the K9 Unit, explored the station, and most importantly, **supported positive relationship development between emergency responders and community members with disabilities.**

SNIP is a free safety tool. Families or caregivers can voluntarily provide information about individuals with special needs in the secure, confidential online database. The information is available to emergency responders when needed to help people with special needs during an encounter with emergency responders. The information can save precious time in an emergency and help improve the safety of people with disabilities.

**138% increase**  
in Aspire participation!

## program highlight: happenings

Happenings is a monthly social activities program for adults with special needs. Activities include dances, music fun nights, apple picking and other events throughout the year. People with disabilities in our community are prone to isolation, loneliness, and social difficulties which has significant impact on their happiness, health, and overall well-being. **Happenings offers a different approach to the provision of services with an emphasis on the development of relationships, friendships, and joy.**

Over the years at least 8,000 adventures have been enjoyed by adults with special needs. By supporting these vital programs, you are supporting lifelong friendships with peers while creating a sense of belonging which improves self-advocacy and social relationships.



**61% increase** in  
Happenings Participation



## program highlight: art lab

**“Art Lab is just one small expression of my ultimate hope—that my daughters will live in a world where they are accepted, appreciated, and welcomed. As long as I am here, I will work to surround them with people who love and accept them and experiences that fill them with happiness and joy.”**

Sylvia Dow is the mother of two adult children with significant special needs. She has always hoped for them to have a place in our community, to have friends, and to enjoy happiness. While all of their necessary therapeutic services fill hours, days, and years, the professionally focused nature of the medical and social services left her children still alone and lonely.

To help fill this gap, Sylvia worked with SNSC to develop Art Lab, a weekly creative art making class implemented collaboratively with AVA Art Gallery.

Art Lab was enjoyed on **1,142** occasions

## program highlight: pesap

Parent Educational Support and Advocacy Program (PESAP) supports parents in all aspects of the special education and Section 504 process to promote understanding of the relevant state and federal rules, regulations while supporting parents in clarifying their ideas and concerns regarding their child's education.

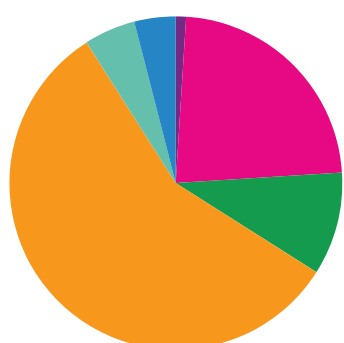
Additionally, in response to parent requests, we are providing emotional and informational support through a peer to peer support group. **Parents, with the shared experience of disability in the family, provide a unique form of support that only another parent who has “been there” can provide.** Peer support from families with years of experience is often the most valuable way to provide emotional support and practical information to parents in need.



**39% increase**  
in PESAP Participation

### Operating Revenue by Source

- In-Kind Gifts  
\$2,700/1.28%
- Individual Giving  
\$47,947/22.77%
- Special Events  
\$20,290/9.64%
- Foundations  
\$121,825/57.84%
- Corporate Sponsors  
\$9,800/4.65%
- Municipal Allocations  
\$8,030/3.82%



### Operating Expenses by Program

- Aspire  
\$58,300/25%
- Happenings  
\$46,675/20%
- Art Lab  
\$58,300/25%
- Education Advocacy  
\$46,675/20%
- Admin  
\$23,300/10%



**Board:** Jo-Anne Unruh, *President*, Rose Marie McCullough, *Vice-President*, Sherry Sousa, *Treasurer*, Meg Seely, *Secretary*, Allen Abendroth, Alexis Alston, Paula Fernandes, Sue Hagerman, Vince Mennona, Barbara van Hoff

**Staff:** Laura Perez, *Executive Director*, Jayne Wolfe, *Program Director*, Carmen Champney, *Program Assistant*, Nicki Thrall, *Administrative Coordinator*

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# 40 YEARS STRONG AND GETTING STRONGER



The Special Needs Support Center we see today reflects the determination, aspirations, and pioneering innovation of its founding leaders. Their enduring legacy – **leading by example, mentoring, striving for excellence, and taking a genuine interest in families** – is firmly entrenched in the SNSC ethos. SNSC is proud of its community of people where relationships are valued and overall well-being of the children, adults, and families that we serve remains central to our daily decision making.

**4**  
Staff

**75**  
Volunteers

**200**  
Individual Donors

**34**  
Business & Foundation Supporters

**442**  
Individuals Served

**2,647**  
Times people were served

## DEAR FRIENDS OF SNSC,

The last 40 years have been awe-inspiring as our community and our nation have journeyed towards equal opportunities for children and adults with special needs. Back in the seventies, having your child with a high level of special needs stay in your home, access public schools and other community resources was a new concept. Before that, 1.75 million children with disabilities were completely excluded from public schools and there was little awareness or acceptance of their needs in the community. People with disabilities did not have ready access to public transportation, telephones, bathrooms, and stores. Buildings with stairs offered no entry for people with certain physical disabilities, and attitudes created even tougher barriers and a sense of isolation, not just for people with disabilities, but for their families too.

**Today, we are indeed on the cusp of being able to affect wide, deep, and sustained change.** Drawing on our broad and diverse experiences as parents, professionals, disability rights advocates, and community members, we are positioned to effectively transform the culture of our community. We are integrating consciousness about people with disabilities in all of our actions in the community. As we celebrate 40 years, we hope you feel as inspired as we do by the critical work happening for families in our community.



Thank you for making SNSC a vital part of our community today and for decades to come.

Most sincerely,

*Laura & Jo-Anne*

Executive Director & Board President



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**Celebrating  
40  
Years**

**2019 ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
FY 7/1/18-6/30/19