

July 2024



TEE TIME!

LIFETIME GOLF CLASSIC - AUGUST 12

Announcing the Return of the Lifetime Classic Golf Tournament!

We can't wait to hit the links with you next month (August 12 to be exact!) for the return of the Lifetime Classic Golf Tournament, featuring an exciting and competitive 4-person scramble.



Event Highlights

- Team or Individual Participation: Gather your friends and form a team, or join as an individual to compete for fantastic prizes.
- Contests: Test your skills in various contests, including Closest Putt, Longest Drive, Best Team Score, and more!
- Shotgun Start at 10am

Schedule of Events

- 8-10am Morning Kickoff: Start your day with a Mimosa and Bloody Mary Bar!
- Meals Included: Enjoy breakfast and an on-course lunch, followed by cocktails, dinner, and a post-event prize ceremony to cap off the day in style.
- Auctions: Don't miss your chance to bid on exciting items during our silent and live auctions.

Supporting Firefly Autism

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous partners at Lifetime Windows & Siding. All proceeds from this charity golf tournament will benefit Firefly Autism. A special thank you to Peter Svedin and the entire team at Lifetime Windows & Siding for their unwavering support of our mission.

Register Now

Don't miss out on this fantastic event! [Register now](#) and join us on the green in August! We look forward to seeing you there!

HONORING OUR DEDICATED DONORS:

Travis Plakke and Leigh Sullivan

We are privileged to have supporters who go above and beyond in their commitment to our cause. This month, we spotlight two exceptional individuals whose dedication and contributions have significantly impacted our organization: **Travis Plakke and Leigh Sullivan.**

Travis Plakke: A Pillar of Community and Professional Excellence

Travis Plakke is a seasoned expert in commercial real estate development and the Principal Broker of The Sullivan Group. With over 20 years of experience, Travis has honed his skills in project management, from restaurant build-outs to large commercial spaces. His work ethic, grounded in honesty, transparency, and integrity, has made him a valuable asset to both his clients and our community.

Travis's involvement with Firefly Autism spans six years, during which he has served on our Board of Directors and even stepped in as Executive Director in 2022. Currently, he leads our Finance Committee, ensuring that our organization remains financially healthy. Beyond his professional achievements, Travis is a proud father and first-time grandfather, a true family man who loves skiing, paddleboarding, and, of course, spreadsheets.



Leigh Sullivan: A Legacy of Entrepreneurship and Advocacy

Leigh Sullivan's entrepreneurial spirit blossomed at a young age, inspired by her father's ventures in real estate and restaurants. In 2001, she transitioned from real estate to launch several successful restaurants in Denver, including nine75, emogene, and Oscar's Steakhouse. Leigh's expertise extends beyond the culinary world; she co-founded TAG restaurant and later established Leigh Sullivan Enterprises, a consulting firm that has helped over 100 clients achieve their business goals. In 2023, Leigh returned to The Sullivan



Group to spearhead business development and client relations, continuing her father's legacy with her husband, Travis. Leigh's dedication to community service is evident through her board memberships at Firefly Autism and Peppers Senior Dog Sanctuary. She is a proud mother and grandmother, whose love for family and animals is unwavering.

A Shared Commitment to Firefly Autism

Travis and Leigh's personal and professional lives intertwine beautifully, creating a powerful partnership dedicated to giving back. Their company, The Sullivan Group, generously contributes a monthly financial pledge to Firefly Autism, supporting our mission to unlock the potential of individuals on the autism spectrum. Travis, being on the autism spectrum himself, brings a unique and valuable perspective to our board,

advocating for an environment where everyone's "superpowers" can be revealed. We invite our readers to join Travis and Leigh in making a difference. By pledging your support, you can help us continue providing vital services to the autism community. For more information on how to contribute, please contact our Director of Development, Craig Baldwin, at cbaldwin@fireflyautism.org.

Together, We Can Illuminate the Future

Travis Plakke and Leigh Sullivan exemplify the spirit of generosity and dedication that fuels Firefly Autism. Their unwavering support and tireless efforts inspire us all to strive for a brighter future for those we serve. Thank you, Travis and Leigh, for your incredible contributions and for being champions of our cause.

FOUNDATION OF THE MONTH:



KENNETH KING FOUNDATION

This month we are privileged to highlight [Kenneth King Foundation](#), an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for Coloradans to reach their fullest potential for self-sufficiency through access to entrepreneurship, meaningful employment, basic needs, and an improved quality of life.

Why We Chose to Showcase Them

The **Kenneth King Foundation** generously awarded Firefly a grant to expand our Vocational Training & Transition Program. This program focuses on training and preparing our young adult learners for independent living, job placement, and improved social determinants of health.

Impact

- **Enhanced Vocational Training:** Firefly successfully established a computer recycling room at our center. This facility provides hands-on training for our transition learners, equipping them with essential skills before they work independently at our partner facilities. Through this initiative, learners develop time management skills as well as enhance their task completion abilities.
- **Community Partnership Expansion:** We were able to extend our outreach efforts and have formed new partnerships with We Don't Waste, The Action Center, APEX Recreation Center, Blue Star Recyclers, Wheat Ridge ARC, and Project Angel Heart. Additionally, we continued to maintain strong ties with Greenwood Mtn ARC, Arvada ARC, PCs for People, TACT Denver, and various grocery stores. These partnerships have expanded our resources and opportunities, allowing us to offer a wider range of placements and vocational training for our learners.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Kenneth King Foundation for their invaluable support!

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Meet Craig Baldwin, Director of Development



We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to our leadership team, Craig Baldwin, as our Director of Development. With his extensive experience and passion for nonprofit work, Craig is poised to drive our mission forward and strengthen our community impact.

Hello! My name is Craig Baldwin, and I am the new Director of Development at Firefly Autism. I could not be more excited to join this community! I come to Firefly with seven years of professional fundraising experience and look forward to furthering our growth by partnering with our key stakeholders and new donors to advance the mission of Firefly Autism. I am passionate about creating positive change in the world through philanthropy, and I am eager to collaborate with others who share this vision.

Craig's commitment to creating positive change through philanthropy aligns perfectly with Firefly Autism's values and mission. His expertise in building strong donor relationships and developing innovative fundraising strategies will be invaluable as we continue to expand our services and reach more individuals on the autism spectrum.

Get in Touch

Craig is eager to connect with members of the Firefly Autism community. You can reach him by email at cbaldwin@fireflyautism.org or directly by phone at 720-614-0939. Please join us in welcoming Craig to our team and supporting him as he helps us brighten the future for those we serve.

Welcome aboard, Craig- We look forward to achieving great things together!

GIVE SMART

Smart Giving for a Lasting Legacy

Did you know individuals aged 70 1/2 and older can contribute directly from a traditional IRA account to Firefly Autism without triggering federal income tax? These contributions, known as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) or Charitable IRA Rollovers, offer a unique opportunity to support Firefly's mission while benefiting from significant tax advantages.

Key Benefits of QCDs:



- **Generous Giving:** You can contribute up to \$100,000 each calendar year.
- **Tax-Free Contributions:** You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, benefiting you even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- **Minimum Distribution Requirements:** If you have minimum distribution requirements, QCDs count toward that amount, reducing or eliminating the need to claim unneeded income on your tax return.
- **Lower Medicare Premiums:** Since the gift doesn't count as income, it may lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

This smart giving strategy allows you to make a profound impact on the lives of children and families at Firefly Autism during your lifetime, creating a lasting legacy of support.

For more details, please reach out to Amanda Kelly at akelly@fireflyautism.org.

PATH TO SUCCESS

Pave the Way to a Brighter Future



At Firefly Autism, we believe that every step forward is a step towards success. Our "Path to Success" campaign offers a unique opportunity for you to make a lasting impact on our community. By purchasing a personalized paving stone, you can contribute to the growth and enhancement of our services.

How It Works

For a donation starting at \$250, you can purchase a paving stone that will be laid in our beautiful garden. Each stone can be personalized with a name, an engraved message, or a dedication in memory of a loved one. This is a meaningful way

to leave a lasting legacy while supporting our mission of providing exceptional autism therapy, advocacy, and treatment.

Make Your Mark

Your personalized stone will be a permanent fixture in our garden, symbolizing your commitment to helping children with autism reach their full potential. Whether you choose to honor a family member, celebrate a milestone, or simply show your support, your contribution will make a significant difference.

Get Involved

To learn more and purchase your paving stone, visit [Firefly Autism - Path to Success](#). Together, we can pave the way to success and create a brighter future for

those we serve.

Thank You for Your Support

Every donation helps us continue our vital work, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity. Join us in making a lasting impact and walk alongside us on the path to success.

Contact Shea Ross at sross@fireflyautism.org for more information.

GROW WITH US



Now Accepting New Clients

Firefly Autism's Lakewood location is now accepting new clients for full and half day clinic services. Ages 3-6 years old.



For more details, please contact Elyse Murrin
emurrin@fireflyautism.org.

www.fireflyautism.org

MAKE A WISH COME TRUE!

You can support Firefly Autism by helping to provide our center with niche items our

regular funding does not provide. Curious about what we need? Check out or newly curated wishlist [here](#).

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/VYCKZA9PXIN7>
#DonateForAutism #AmazonWishlist #FireflyAutism

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HAVE A GREAT MONTH!

DONATE NOW
ColoradoGives.org 

Thanks for being part of our community. We truly value our supporters, or readers, our staff, our community.

We hope you have a great month and we will check in again with you in August.

As always, you can make a one-time or recurring donation to Firefly at through our giving partner, [ColoradoGives](#) anytime! Thanks for everything.



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