

June₂₀₂₄



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Mark A. Cornetta: A Legacy of Leadership and Compassion

Mark Cornetta's career is a testament to dedication, leadership, and community service. Joining KUSA-TV (9News), Gannett's NBC affiliate in Denver, Colorado, in 1987 as an Account Executive, Mark quickly climbed the ranks. By 2005, he was President & General Manager, and in 2014, he was named Senior Vice President of Gannett Broadcasting, now TEGNA.



Beyond his professional achievements, Mark is a devoted family man and fitness enthusiast, enjoying golf, flying, and spending time with loved ones.

In 2013, Mark Cornetta was introduced to Firefly Autism through Jesse Ogas. A visit to the facility profoundly impacted him, witnessing the dedicated work with children on the autism spectrum. This visit ignited a passion in Mark to support the cause, aligning with 9NEWS's mission to serve the community.

Recognizing the challenges families face, Mark pledged a significant donation to Firefly

Autism, supplemented by matching funds from the TEGNA Foundation. His commitment goes beyond financial support, embodying the principle of "walking the talk" and inspiring others in the community to make a difference.

Mark Cornetta's contributions to Firefly Autism exemplify the power of leadership and philanthropy, demonstrating that true impact comes from a genuine desire to serve and uplift others. His generosity and dedication continue to inspire and pave the way for a brighter future for people with autism and their families.

Our partnership with 9News has significantly amplified our message and given us coverage and publicity we would never have had the budget to afford. This in turn has raised the level of leadership, board of directors, and services that Firefly offers.

Mark, on behalf of us all at Firefly Autism, we truly appreciate your compassion, philanthropy and partnership with us. We are better off today because of you.

FOUNDATION OF THE MONTH:



This month we are grateful to highlight the **Caring for Denver Foundation**, an organization dedicated to addressing Denver's mental health and substance misuse needs. Their mission is to develop community-informed solutions, dismantle stigma, and transform the community's desire to help into actionable initiatives.

Why We Chose to Showcase Them

The Caring for Denver Foundation has been instrumental in supporting our mission through a two-year grant aimed at enhancing our mental health services. This grant specifically focuses on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for individuals with autism, and it also addresses the anxiety, stress, and burnout experienced by caregivers and family members.

Grant Purpose and Impact

Expansion of Services: With the support of this grant, we were able to hire a therapist, significantly expanding our mental healthcare services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, their caregivers, and family members in Denver.

Year One Impact: In the first year, we reached 57 individuals. Now that the implementation phase is complete, we anticipate even greater reach and impact in the second year.

Outcomes and Improvements: Participants have reported significant improvements in their understanding and utilization of ACT strategies. Clinical observations and self-reports indicate substantial progress in implementing ACT among youth.

We extend our *heartfelt gratitude* to the Caring for Denver Foundation for their partnership and unwavering commitment to making a difference in our community. Their support has been crucial in enhancing mental health services and improving the well-being of our learners and their families in Denver.

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 atakelly@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.

LIFETIME CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 12 - COLORADO GOLF CLUB

We're thrilled to announce the return of the Lifetime Classic Golf Tournament, featuring an enjoyable and competitive 4-person scramble.

Gather your team or join as an individual to compete for fantastic prizes in contests such as Closest Putt, Longest Drive, Best Team Score, and more!



Kickstart your day with a Mimosa and Bloody Mary Bar! Breakfast and on-course lunch

are included, followed by cocktails, dinner, and a post-event prize ceremony to wrap up the day in style.

Don't miss your chance to bid generously on exciting items during our silent and live auctions!

Once again, our generous partners at Lifetime Windows & Siding are dedicating the proceeds of this charity golf tournament to Firefly Autism. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Peter Svedin and the entire team at Lifetime Windows & Siding for their unwavering support of our mission.

Register now by clicking here and we will see you on the green in August!

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

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR GARDEN SPOT

COME GARDEN WITH US!

WE HAVE PLOTS AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AT FIREFLY AUTISM

- 8'x8' plots open to all interested community members
 - Season begins May 1st
- The garden space is ready to go, with well-amended soil and ample water sources

For registration information, contact Dustin Bacon at elefireflycommunitygarden@dug.org or (417)840-1044.



DENVER URBAN
GARDENS

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 our newly curated wishlist [here](#).

Donate Supplies
from our
amazon  

Click Here

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 June!

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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