



# Firefly Autism

## August Newsletter

### 2025

#### Welcome to the August Newsletter!

This August, we're honored to share more of the incredible impact happening at Firefly Autism. From milestones to upcoming events, our newsletter is filled with stories that reflect the strength of our community. Thank you for standing with us and supporting the individuals and families who inspire our work every day.





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## From Colorado to Oklahoma: Building Autism Services Together

By: Dr. Amanda Kelly

On August 18, 2021, we received a copy of the *Chickasaw Times* at our home in Colorado. Since my husband is part Chickasaw and originally from Oklahoma, the *Chickasaw Times* is a regular source of news for us. An article discussed significant gaps in services for Native American children with autism, noting that they are often diagnosed later in their development compared to other groups. I found a generic email address and reached out in the hope that we could help.

That same day, I received a response from Dr. Shannon Dial, then Executive Officer of the Department of Family Services for the Chickasaw Nation. It took some time and lots of discussions and work across both teams, but by January of 2022, we had our partnership solidified – Firefly would be the first autism service provider to partner and deliver comprehensive training, education, consultation, and direct services to health providers and Chickasaw families.

Nobody could have predicted how incredible the relationship would be. Firefly has now directly served almost 250 Chickasaw families, and hundreds of Chickasaw health system providers to ensure autistic children and their families get the best care possible. In partnership with Firefly, the Chickasaw Nation built out a brand-new referral and services system, with families and providers reporting significant satisfaction with the process from referral to diagnosis and then to appropriate treatment. We are so incredibly proud of this partnership and thankful to the Chickasaw Nation for trusting Firefly Autism.



Dr. Amanda Kelly  
President & CEO of Firefly Autism

Amanda D. Kelley

# Firefly Success Stories



## A Journey Toward Independence🌟

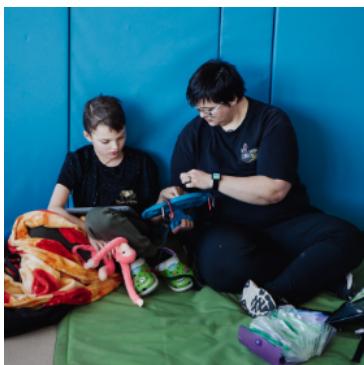
One of our Denver learners has been making remarkable progress toward independence, and his journey is truly inspiring. With a combination of home-based services, parent training, and the support of a dedicated Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), he's gaining confidence and building important life skills.

In recent months, he has successfully transitioned to a parent-training model, meaning he no longer requires direct therapy services. Instead, his parents now receive training and support, equipping them with the tools they need to help him continue developing essential skills at home.

With the support of his communication device, he's engaging in more meaningful conversations, creating his own schedules, and practicing safety skills. Once a member of a social skills group, he's now thriving with this tailored support system.

His growth is also extending into the community: he has been partnering with DIRT Coffee Shop, where he's gaining hands-on experience and confidence. Looking ahead, he's preparing to begin an adult day program and vocational job training this summer.

His journey reflects the power of teamwork, family involvement, and individualized support—and we couldn't be prouder of the steps he's taking toward a bright future.



## Upcoming Events



# Firefly Autism's 3rd Annual Summer Garden Party

Mark your calendars for Firefly Autism's 3rd Annual Earl Lee Evans Sensory & Community Garden Summer Party on September 3rd at 5:30pm! Join us in our beautiful garden for an evening of live music, delicious food and drinks, yard games, and community connection.

This event is free and open to all, and optional donations are welcome in place of a ticket. Every contribution directly supports the programs and services that empower our learners and their families.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY, COMMUNITY, AND IMPACT OF FIREFLY AUTISM.**

**September 3rd, 5:00-7:30 at Firefly Autism**

**2001 Hoyt St. Lakewood, CO 80215**

**Use the QR code to register now!**



**Register HERE!**



# Bricks will be available at the garden party!



## The Path To Success

All families, friends, community members, and alumni are invited to be a part of our Path to Success project. This project will honor the past and present members of Firefly Autism.



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT  
[FIREFLYAUTISM.ORG](http://FIREFLYAUTISM.ORG)

[Buy Bricks HERE!](#)



## Celebrating Our Community Partners

At Firefly Autism, we are incredibly grateful for the community partners who make our programs possible. Their support gives our clients real opportunities to build skills, confidence, and independence. Together, these partners help ensure that Firefly clients not only learn and grow, but also find a sense of belonging and purpose.



## Get Involved

Every person deserves the chance to thrive—and at Firefly, we're committed to making that possible through donor support. Many of our learners face up to a \$2,000 monthly gap between the cost of care and what insurance covers. Thanks to generous donors, children who arrived nonverbal and overwhelmed are now communicating, regulating emotions, and engaging with the world.

Monthly gifts of \$50, \$100, or \$250 help us continue delivering this life-changing care, regardless of a family's financial situation. Your support powers programs like Transition to Work, our sensory garden, and community-based adult services. Help turn barriers into breakthroughs—one Firefly at a time. Donate to Firefly today by following the link below:



[Donate HERE!](#)



# 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 wish list.

[WISHLIST](#)

## HAVE A GREAT MONTH!

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

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

As always, you can make a one-time or recurring donation to Firefly through our giving partner, **ColoradoGives**, anytime. Thanks for everything!

[DONATE](#)

Firefly Autism | 2001 Hoyt Street | Lakewood, CO 80215 US

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