

SKYE'S THE LIMIT! FOUNDATION

January 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I'm guessing most of us are welcoming 2021 with open arms. Last year certainly was not one most will look back on with fondness. Despite the challenges 2020 brought, it did not slow Skye's the Limit Foundation down. We built new partnerships and accomplished so much worth sharing and celebrating.

In March, we honored the birthday of our namesake, Skye Gina Pilato, with our annual "Get your heART on!" event. People from across the country created masterpieces and shared their creativity as inspiration to others.



Rock art in honor of Skye's 25th birthday

Then in the spring, we engaged people from across the country in a free, five-day webinar series, "Trauma-Informed Community: A call for action". In the fall, we hosted another well-attended, five-day webinar series entitled "A Cultural Shift: Understanding trauma and rethinking the way we think about, engage and treat individuals through the trauma-informed lens".

Trauma Responsive...

It's not a checklist... we don't do trauma

It's not just for the "trauma kids"

It does not let kids off for their behavior

It's not a weak approach

This... becomes our culture and our identity

Trauma Responsive is who I am as a person

Its Best Practice... for all students

It holds students at a higher level of accountability

This is the foundation for developing caring adult relationships... that bring hope, healing, and resilience

Jim Sporleder

Jim Sporleder's Zoom presentation during our webinar



Scholarship Recipient,
Cendy Coronado

In June, we announced our first round of "Follow Skye's Dream Nursing Scholarships" recipients. Three aspiring nurses were each awarded \$500 to help cover the cost of school supplies. (In 2021, we will award FIVE \$500 scholarships! The application is open now through April 2, 2021 at skiesthelimit.org/programs).

Then in July, we sponsored 42 non-clinical care professionals to attend Arizona Trauma Institute's two-day, virtual training. Through this, 35 people became Certified Trauma Support Specialists, one of whom has since stated this training changed her life and helped her better understand herself.

In October, participants from Washington, Arizona, and Pennsylvania joined “Catharsis through Storytelling and the Therapeutic Power of Creativity”, our online collaborative art project with artist Elody Gyekis of Spring Mills, PA. Each person created a masterpiece which were then merged to form the collaborative art piece on the right. Here’s what one participant had to say about the experience: *“It (seeing the final image) definitely lifts my spirits. I do not do much visual art, so I really loved just a simple coloring project that could get as complex as I wanted... Having no idea what to expect about the finished piece, it was so exciting to see the final collaboration and to see my little panel as part of a greater whole. When you can see the bigger picture of all the panels together, you can also see how the diversity and uniqueness of each piece has a place amidst all the others. Deep! I love feeling the connection to others I have never met who also participated.”*



Finished Collaborative Art Piece, made up of 54 individual 8x11 pieces

December was a busy month! Founder Keiko Ratcliffe was invited to participate in a Trauma and Resilience Life Coaching beta program. She also attended the Phoenix Indian Center’s annual Suicide Prevention Convening and became a “Gatekeeper” by attending the “Question, Persuade, and Refer Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention”. Lastly, Skye’s the Limit was honored to participate in Neighborhood Ministries’ community Christmas light parade, where we set up a booth and distributed 150 God’s Eye kits that we had made for Phoenix families. See photos from this fun event below!



All of this was made possible by grants and the generous support of friends like you. In 2020, we held five virtual fundraisers, including on Arizona Gives Day and Giving Tuesday. We also secured \$15,000 in foundation grants and were the sub-awardee on a collaborative, youth substance abuse prevention grant from the Arizona Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family! This grant will support a new program we call “It Takes a Village” and will fund trauma-informed art courses, substance abuse prevention activities, kayaking outings, mindfulness activities (art, yoga, and meditation), and trainings on trauma-informed care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and substance abuse. Skye’s the Limit Foundation is now working alongside Neighborhood Ministries, Arizona Trauma Institute, Kaity’s Way, Arizona Recovers, Arizona ACEs Consortium, and artist Elody Gyekis to ensure the success of this exciting new program.

We cannot wait to see what 2021 has in store! We will certainly need your help and support. While grants cover many program-specific expenses, we rely on generous individual donors like you to help cover crucial operating expenses. Thank you for spreading your wings and flying with us! We cannot do it without you.

Always in Skye’s Love and Spirit,

Keiko Ratcliffe

Keiko Ratcliffe and the Board of Directors

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