

Stone Soup Group ★

Stone Soup Celebrates 20 Years ...and no, we're not a soup kitchen!

You may be one of the many people who have driven by our Anchorage offices and seen our big green sign at the corner of Northern Lights Boulevard and Denali Street. Did you think we were a soup kitchen? Did you know we are Alaska's special needs nonprofit and have been supporting families for the last 20 years?

Our guess is probably, but not really!

Stone Soup Group (SSG) is an Alaskan nonprofit organization founded in 1992 by a group of parents with special needs children. At the time, there wasn't any help for parents of children with special needs. The challenges just to get basic care for a special needs child felt impossible. The founders of Stone Soup Group wanted to change that. With limited resources, SSG has grown from a few parents running a nonprofit agency on a shoestring budget, to a staff of more than 20 highly skilled parents, family professionals and volunteers.

So what about the name you say?

It's related to the children's fable *Stone Soup*. The ingredient each villager added to the soup mimics the skill and/or experience each founder used to create Stone Soup Group. This spirit of collaboration and sharing is the philosophy behind SSG.

Parents aren't alone. We can help.

Having a special needs child can be extremely overwhelming. Nobody expects to have a special needs child so when it happens, you aren't prepared. We work with families with special needs children from birth to age 26. Our services are



Photo by Neil Torquiano

available statewide and we help families with medical, disability, mental health and special education issues. Our programs focus on a specific need and are no cost to families.

For example, Stone Soup Group offers Parent Navigators (P.N.) who act as guidance counselors. We help parents navigate the intimidating and confusing system of services and resources. Our P.N.'s provide support and information to families during doctor visits and school meetings as well as connection to programs and people offering long-term care services. As parents of special needs children, we understand your family journey and want to help.

You can help us help local families.

SSG is funded by State grants, federal grants and donations. However, due to the current economic climate, grant opportunities are diminishing making our need for financial donations, business sponsorships and contributions greater than it's ever been.

If you would like to help support the Stone Soup Group mission, please contact us and make a charitable donation. With your support, our families will be empowered with the tools and knowledge to make their children's dreams come true.



For more information contact:

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