### **Financial Information**

The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation commits its resources to address research, awareness and educational opportunities in order to help millions of people whose lives are impacted by SPD every day.

### Revenue\*

Revenues in 2014 totaled \$920,230 and were generated primarily from our education programs, donations and grants. Our research program is supported in large part by grants from the Wallace Research Foundation.



### Expenses\*

Expenses in 2014 totaled \$991,035 and were committed to research, education and awareness programs.





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### Become a Champion of Change

Contact us to explore how you can help us through sponsorships, advocacy and volunteering.

"Our daughter would often become aggressive and start hitting. Other psychologists thought she had some horrific psych disorder, but I knew there was something going on related to her reactions to noise and touch. If it weren't for the SPD Foundation there would be no research. Give whatever you can; whether its volunteer help, letters of support or money."

– Jennifer Brout, PsyD

### **Board of Directors**

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Sheryl Benjamin, MA







# 2014 Annual Report

### **SPD** Foundation Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation

### Our Mission:

To improve the lives of children and adults with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) and their families through research, education and increased global awareness.

## Research, Education & Awareness

### About Sensory Processing Disorder

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a neurological disorder that disrupts the way an individual processes and responds to sensations. SPD affects daily activities and relationships impairing quality of life.

As the leader in Sensory Processing Disorder research, education and advocacy, the SPD Foundation offers an abundance of services and programs for professionals, parents, and anyone interested in knowing more about the sensory challenges that affect children academically, socially, and/or in their emotional development.

### **Education Innovator**

The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation provides online courses, webinars, seminars, symposiums and in-person workshops with the purpose of significantly elevating awareness about SPD in the medical community and among therapists, educators, early intervention specialists and families.





This year the annual 3S Symposium, held in Tempe, Arizona, was sold out, Attendees came to hear topics covering the evolving trends in the field of Sensory Processing Disorder and the latest on evidence-based treatment. Newly launched GOAL (Goal-Oriented Assessment of Lifeskills) Workshops were conducted in over twenty cities this year. The GOAL is an innovative new evaluation of functional motor abilities needed for daily living in children ages 7 to 17. The Foundation continues to host its unique Intensive Mentorships for professionals at its headquarters outside of Denver, Colorado. The SOS (Sequential Oral Sensory) Approach to Feeding workshops, developed by Dr. Kay Toomey, provide instruction on assessing and treating feeding difficulties and weight/growth problems in children.

#### Online Opportunities

The SPD Foundation hosts the SPD University which provides online curriculum with video education programs with 24/7 access. In 2014, courses included new Signature Series Lectures presented by prominent leaders and researchers in the field of SPD. offering helpful information for both parents and clinicians.



"We all have hope. That's the biggest thing. There's hope now and there wasn't hope a yearand-a-half ago.

We're driving along or just sitting in a movie theater and bam, one of those headaches comes on and he's needing to throw up right now. He's just miserable for hours and he can't control any of that.



Now he's a whole different strengthened kid, but its all positive and every time its time to come to Denver he's excited to come, and he's sad to go home, and he loves home, it's just that he knows he's getting the help he needs here. They get him. And there's a need for kids to be able to get help and have fun while they're doing it and it doesn't happen that way in most medical facilities. So I'm grateful to the Foundation for laying all the groundwork so that people can be aware of SPD and understand what's going on."

– Mckay's mom



### **Research Catalyst**

The SPD Foundation is committed to enhancing the quality of life for people with SPD and their families by conducting and collaborating in rigorous research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of SPD.

Today, the organization is recognized as a world leader in research for this disabling condition. The SPD Foundation's research team has recommended 50 researchers from prominent institutions that will collaborate on SPD research to further the development of effective treatment for this under-

represented and often misunderstood disorder. In 2014 senior researchers met in Arizona to discuss plans for multi-site studies and strategies for fundraising to support the group's research efforts.

The SPD Foundation is currently working on 14 studies and papers related to SPD with the goal of providing compelling evidence that SPD exists as a unique clinical entity and that treatment is effective. Our own research program and studies sponsored by the Wallace Research Foundation totaled over \$600,000 in funding for SPD research in 2014! A sampling of this year's research accomplishments include:

- SPD researchers Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, Dr. Sarah A. Schoen, and Dr. Jillian Sullivan published "Measurement in Sensory Modulation: The Sensory Processing Scale Assessment" in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy
- Two articles were published in the American Occupational Therapy Association Sensory Integration special interest section guarterly newsletter
- SPD researchers Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, and Dr. Sarah A. Schoen and Shannon Hampton, published "Occupational therapy in natural settings: Using playgrounds" in the Sensory Integration special interest section guarterly newsletter
- Dr. Lucy Miller and Dr. Sarah Schoen submitted a chapter for the revised textbook, Sensory Integration Theory and Practice

### Awareness Champion

The SPD Foundation actively champions global SPD awareness by reaching out to the media, participating as a presenter or exhibitor at conferences, updating our expansive library, and family support through volunteers in our Parent Connections group.

This year, the Foundation's founder, Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, presented at the 3rd European Congress of Sensory Integration in Finland covering topics such as validity of the diagnosis of SPD, prevalence and existence with other disorders such as autism and ADHD, and discussion of an enriched treatment

for SPD. She also presented at the American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting and Expo, speaking about playground design for children with developmental disorders.

The Foundation reached new supporters via several fundraising events including the annual Celebration of Champions, Golf Tournament of Hope, Playground Rock and a V.I.P. reception.







### 2014 Exposure

- Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, Founder, was featured on Media Planet's Disability Empowerment campaign with 450,685 copies distributed by *The Washington Post* with a reach of 1.3 million readers
- Fox 31 and KWGN Channel 2 featured the STAR Center Sensory Playground and how it's used in occupational therapy
- Fox 31 News and 9News did a segment on the Tournament of Hope reaching thousands of people in the Denver metro area
- Banguet of Champions mentioned in the Denver Business Journal with a reach of over 300.000 readers
- The Sensory Garden grant mentioned in the *Denver Business Journal* with a reach of over 300.000 readers
- Playground Rock mentioned in the *Greenwood Villager* with a readership of 35,000 people
- Denver Post Hub cover article with photo featured the Sensory Playaround with a circulation of over 25,483 readers
- Continual media outreach attained over 15 million print impressions and 3 million online impressions last year.
- Social networking accomplishments included doubling Facebook fans. Additional outreach included Blogger, Twitter and YouTube with a total reach of over 17,000 followers.
- The SPD Foundation's website saw a 45% increase in traffic over the prior year with a total of 39,793,372 views.
- Publicity and visibility increased throughout the year with 618,264 impressions from press releases sent to the media.
- Approximately 3.200 people participated in educational courses and lectures