



 **STAR Institute**

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# STAR INSTITUTE



## ***Leaders in Sensory Processing***

STAR Institute is the international leader for research, treatment and education related to sensory integration and processing. The STAR philosophy on sensory integration and processing incorporates an intentional focus on regulation and relationships. The STAR Frame of Reference is relevant across the lifespan, and applicable to developmental and behavioral diagnoses. STAR educational programs are dynamic, interactive experiences offered face to face, live online and as pre-recorded webinars. STAR professional development courses build on foundational knowledge of sensory integration and processing by incorporating relational and regulation awareness into existing interventions. STAR Research ensures the components the frame of reference and the educational programs are evidence-based.

## ***Our Mission***

To improve quality of life across the lifespan by promoting sensory health and wellness.

- Generating research that helps us understand sensory processing and attributes of effective, evidence-based intervention,
- treatment that pioneers and provides best-practice interventions throughout the lifespan, and
- education that shares what we know with practitioners, educators, advocates and parents.

## ***2019 Board of Directors***

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## ***Executive Director of STAR Institute***

Virginia Spielmann



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# STAR INSTITUTE

## ***Treatment Center***

STAR Institute is recognized as an epicenter in the field of sensory processing. The experts and partners of STAR Institute help individuals and families benefit from a treatment journey that positively impacts children, adolescents, and adults, from diagnosis to successful intervention. Our focus includes impacting sensory processing and daily life functioning in a variety of behavioral and developmental disabilities or disorders. Among areas of focus are early intervention /early childhood development, feeding, attention deficit disorder, autism, neurodevelopmental disorders, trauma, mental health, anxiety, and more. There is no one-size-fits-all approach at STAR Institute. Each and every individual brings unique strengths and challenges to treatment, and therefore, each person deserves an approach to intervention tailored to their specific needs. At STAR Institute, treatment reflects the core philosophy: sensory processing, relationships, and regulation are inextricably linked and underpin health and wellness, participation, and function.

## ***Education Center***

Dedicated to increasing global awareness of the importance and role of sensory health and well-being, STAR Institute's Education Center focuses on developing and delivering the most up to date information on research and treatment to professionals, families, and individuals impacted by disordered sensory processing. In 2019, the Education Center launched a School-based Intensive course. Developed specifically for the school-based practitioner to provide a comprehensive understanding of the application of sensory processing theory and intervention in schools. As part of STAR's online learning opportunities, the Education Center added a subscription program allowing for ongoing access and unlimited CEUs. The Education Center continues to strive to increase accessibility to information by utilizing both online and in-person platforms for courses, webinars, seminars, symposiums, and trainings.

## ***Research Center***

The role of the research team at STAR Institute is to conduct and collaborate in rigorous research into sensory integration/processing and treatment effectiveness, with the overarching goal of enhancing health wellness and quality of life for children and adults and their families. The STAR Institute is recognized as a world leader, educator, and advocate for this research. We are uniquely positioned to fulfill this mission because the clinical education and research programs are all housed under the same umbrella organization.

# 2019 INSIGHTS



## **Awareness Outreach**

- Held 4 free in-person community workshops
- Developed two online trainings for ICDL's DIR certification pathway which will be used for all trainees.
- Executive Director presented 3 keynotes at major international conferences: Sensory Integration and Processing in Autism · International scientific-conference. Innovations in Autism Interventions (Russia, April 2019) The 6th European Sensory Integration Congress (Greece, June 2019), Greater and Greener Exploring Natural Connections (Colorado, July 2019), International Sensory Integration Congress (Hong Kong, October 2019)
- Participated in external events and programs with schools districts, organizations, groups including:
  - Capable Kids, Growing Healthy Children, National Autism Congress, Denver Adam's Camp, Kean University, The Quad Foundation, KidzSPOT Pediatric Therapy, Sensational Hope, ESIC, Heidi Soussan Therapy, Rejoicing Spirits, Compass Montessori School, High Hopes Development Center, Bramblett Group, Iona College, Northern Arizona University, SPOT South Island, Occupational Therapy Consulting, LLC, Iliff Preschool, Centar za rehabilitaciju Silver, Denver Zoo

## **Grants**

- Bethany Lutheran Church
- Developmental Pathways
- Landscape Structures
- Rocky Mountain Alliance Children's Foundation

## **Treatment Achievements**

- 742 clients were served in 2019
- World-renowned treatment with 60% of 2019 clients from Colorado, 34% out of state and 6% International
- Introduced a sliding scale for payment options for families based on household income
- Markers of increased socioeconomic representation and inclusion



# 2019 INSIGHTS



## **Education Successes**

- Educated over 1,700 individuals across all our educational courses and trainings
- Launched new School-Based Intensive course
- Certified over 40 professionals through our STAR Proficiency Certification 1 & 2
- 150+ professionals were trained through our Mentorship programs
- Launched a Learning Platform subscription program
- Increased International Outreach with courses designed for Croatia, China, Turkey, South Africa

## **Research Accomplishments**

- Schoen, SA, Lane, SJ, May-Benson, T., Smith-Roley, S., Parham, D., Mailloux, Z., Schaaf, R.C. (2019). Systematic Review of Ayres Sensory Integration. *Autism Research*
- Schoen, S.A., Miller, L.J., Camarata, S. & Valdez, A. (2019). Use of the STAR PROCESS for children with sensory processing challenges. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 7, 4, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1596>
- Schoen, S. A., Eink, C., Valdez, A. Spielmann, V. & Miller, L.J. (2019). A trampoline group: Feasibility, implementation and outcomes. *Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 17, 58-86 doi:10.17759/autdd.2019170205.
- Flanagan, J., Schoen, S.A., and Miller, L. J. (2019). Early Identification of Sensory Processing Challenges in High-Risk Infants. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*
- Lane, S.J., Mailloux, Z., Schoen, S.A., Bundy, A., May-Benson, T., Parham, L.D., Smith Roley, S., & Schaaf, R.C. (2019). Neural foundations of Ayres sensory integration. *Brain Sciences*, 9, 153. doi:10.3390/brainsci9070153

## **Publications**

- Schoen, S. A. , Spielmann, V. & Miller, L.J. (2019). Introduction to sensory integration methods in autism. In E.M. Sokhadze & M.F. Casanova (Eds), *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Neuromodulation, Neurofeedback and Sensory Integration Approaches*. Murfreesboror ,TN: FNNR Publishers
- Hollenbeck, J., Spielmann, V., & Miller, L. J. (2019). Motor Skills to Enhance Participation. In G. J. Frolek Clark, J. E. Rioux, & B. E. Chandler (Eds.), *Best Practices for Occupational Therapy in Schools* (2nd Ed, pp. 473-480). AOTA Press

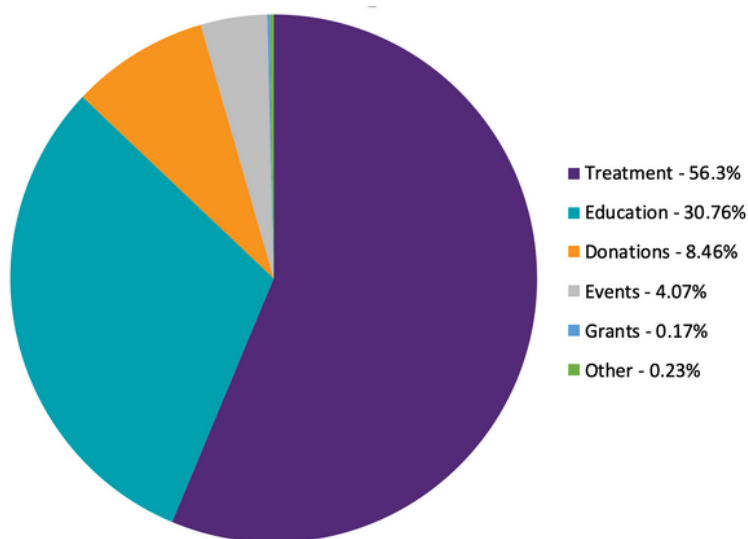


# FINANCIAL INFORMATION



STAR Institute commits its resources to treatment, education, and research opportunities in order to help millions of people whose lives are impacted by sensory processing challenges every day

Revenues in 2019 totaled \$2,884,742.97 and were generated primarily from treatment, education, events, donations, and grants.



Expenses in 2019 totaled \$3,132,502.04. The expense total includes expenses for the purchase of our new building (moving expenses, closing costs, utilities, mortgage payment, additional liability insurance for the new building, and the lease buy out of 5420 S. Quebec St).

