



Building a World Where All Individuals Flourish as Valued Members of their Community

SPRING 2015

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APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

April is Autism Awareness Month and also a busy time at the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC). According to the Center for Disease Control (2014), 1 in every 68 children is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This month, in response to the need for early screening for ASD, the Renshaw Early Childhood Center, in collaboration with a number of community agencies, will offer ASD screening opportunities. Information and resources will be available to families at these events.

I hope you will find our newsletter enjoyable and helpful. You will discover some of the great things happening at the Suzanne Vitale CEC. Please check out the *You're Invited* page to learn about important upcoming April events. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 9th annual LifeSkills Run for Autism in September.

We are thankful to everyone who supports the Suzanne Vitale CEC and its programs. Without WKU, grants, and donors we would not be able to provide the variety of services and supports for children and families. Be sure to help us thank the organizations, individuals, and families who make our services possible because they chose to donate their time, money, and talents to help us provide supports to children, adolescents, and young adults with ASD.

Yvette

Executive Director

The 5 A's for Autism

Awareness **Attention** **Action** **Acceptance** **Advocacy**

Kabaki-Sisto, Karen. Excerpt from "Five A's for Autism." Retrieved April 2014, from www.iCanForAutism.com

Light It Up
Blue
April is Autism
Awareness Month

Visit wku.edu/wkucec for
Autism Awareness Month Events



Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex
at WKU

SAVE THE DATE

9.12.15

Mark your calendar, lace up your shoes and
begin training for the
9th annual **LifeSkills Run for Autism**



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The WHAS Crusade for Children, Inc. was established in 1954 by WHAS-TV. The mission of the Crusade is to improve the lives of children with special needs. In its first 61 years, the Crusade has raised more than \$160 million to help many agencies, schools and hospitals throughout Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The Crusade has provided grant funds to the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex for a number of years. The Crusade provided \$70,455.00 in 2014/15 to support the Suzanne Vitale CEC's Renshaw Early Childhood Center and the Kelly Autism Program. These funds make it possible for us to provide specialized instruction to children with developmental disabilities/delays and autism in more than 20 counties in Kentucky. The Crusade also provided scholarships for our WKU students interested in pursuing advanced degrees in the field of special education. More than \$276,358 has been provided for scholarships to enhance the education and understanding of working with children with special needs. Having a highly skilled workforce will have lasting benefit across our community. We cannot thank the Crusade enough. To learn more about the WHAS Crusade for Children and its efforts please visit their website at <http://www.crusadeforchildren.org>

RECENTLY AWARDED GRANT

CHILDREN'S CHARITY OF THE BLUEGRASS - \$10,000.00

If you would like to make an online monetary donation, you can click on the link below:



Contact us to learn about Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex programs and services.

**Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at WKU
104 Alumni Avenue
Bowling Green, KY 42101**

Phone: 270.745.4232 **Email:** cec@wku.edu **Web:** <http://www.wku.edu/wkucec>



YOU'RE INVITED

AUTISM AND ASPERGER SUPPORT
GROUP OF BOWLING GREEN

Autism Family Night & Free ASD Screeners for kids 1–5 yrs.



April is Autism Awareness Month. A group of volunteers & professionals from Lifeskills, WKU Renshaw ECC (Big Red School), Graves Gilbert Clinic, First Steps, the WKU Psychology Department and the Autism & Asperger Support Group of Bowling Green (AASBG) have come together to provide families with free autism screenings for children ages 12 months to 5 years old. **There will be a drawing for door prizes for all who complete a screener on site. It only takes a few minutes, and our children are worth it!**

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends autism specific screenings to be performed on all children at 18 month and 24 month well-child visits.
- 1 in 68 children are diagnosed on the autism spectrum.
- Boys (1 in 42) are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls (1 in 189).
- Evidence shows that **early intervention** improves long term outcomes for children on the autism spectrum.

Parent or legal guardian must be present for screener to be completed. For more information, call 270-535-6571 or Email shelleyygwen@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE!



April 21st, 2015

*4th Annual
Serving Up
Awareness Event
at Griff's Deli*

10% of proceeds from the day will be donated to the WKU Renshaw Early Childhood Center

- Activities and goodie bags for kids
- ASD screeners provided by WKU Renshaw Early Childhood Center staff
- Autism Awareness Merchandise will be available for sale



They're back at Spencer's Coffee: Lewis Latte & Owen's Orange Soda — both of these delicious drinks are featured throughout April for Autism Awareness Month. \$1.00 from each purchase of these drinks will be donated to WKU's Renshaw Early Childhood Center, which works with kids and families impacted by autism. The drinks are inspired by and named after Spencer's owners' two sons, Lewis (8) and Owen (6), both on the autism spectrum.

RENSHAW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



We're Roaming in the Rainforest at the RECC!

WKU Renshaw Early Childhood Center is exploring the Rainforest during the Spring 2015 semester. While exploring, we will investigate the different layers of the rainforest, the animals that live there, the rainforest climate, and its importance.

Some of our fun activities this semester include:

- Creating rain sticks
- Planting our own grass
- Painting with leaves

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KELLY AUTISM PROGRAM



(L-R) Katie Hicks, Grant Snowden, & Sarah McMaine-Render

KAP's Circle of



Support

KAP's Circle of Support has been in full swing this year with many new faces! This year we were able to add an additional full time staff as an assistant manager for the program. Grant Snowden has worked at KAP for two years and then was hired to fulfill this position. Grant's undergraduate degree is in Psychology and he will be continuing his education next fall actively pursuing a Counseling degree. Katie Hicks is the other assistant manager who has been with KAP for four years. Katie's undergraduate degree is in Communication Disorders and she is currently seeking a Master's in this same field.

In the fall we welcomed many new college students who have taken full advantage of the WKU experience. What a joy to see students embrace their new life at WKU! Additionally, several KAP staff and college students attended and presented at the national autism conference, OCALICON in November. The staff and participating students did an amazing job describing their experiences at WKU and KAP. We ended the fall semester by celebrating the graduation of three of our KAP participants. Each of these WKU graduates have moved on successfully to post college life.

As we move into the spring we are looking at our largest graduating class with eight participants who will graduate in May. It will be bittersweet to see them walk the line as it seems like just yesterday we were helping them move into the residence hall during Master Plan. We anticipate great things from these graduates and wish them well with their post-graduation endeavors! It has been a privilege to get to do life with this group of seniors and see them grow in so many ways!

-Sarah McMaine-Render, College Program Manager

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COMMUNICATION DISORDERS CLINIC

We've Moved! WKU Health Services Building 1681 Normal Drive

During the past few years, the number of participants in the Communication Disorders Clinic has increased significantly, resulting in a need for more space. The Communication Disorders Clinic moved its clinical facilities to the Health Services Building at 1681 Normal Drive on September 5th, 2014. The CDC program had been looking for additional space and was pleased when the opportunity arose to utilize the Health Services Building. The faculty, staff and students of the Communication Disorders Clinic are continuing to provide speech and language therapy several afternoons a week for participants at the Suzanne Vitale CEC.



WKU Communication Disorders Clinic therapy session using an AAC device

"We look forward to building more collaborative opportunities as we grow and develop into the bright future ahead." Dr. Moore, CDC Director

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FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAM

Mark your calendars!

The Special Needs Summit is Coming!

The date for this year's Summit is **Friday October 16, 2015** at the Knicely Conference Center.

Stay tuned for more information pertaining to this event.



A Painting Party was held the evening of Monday, March 23, 2015, at the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex as a fundraiser benefitting the Special Needs Summit. More than twenty people attended the party and everyone had a BLAST! There will be another Painting Party scheduled in August 2015, look for it and **SIGN UP!**

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TALLEY FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

We are here to help



A variety of counseling services are offered at the Talley Family Counseling Center. Individual, group, couples, and family counseling are available. Play therapy and expressive art activities are used with children and adolescents. There are two fully stocked play therapy rooms where children can work on counseling issues in a developmentally appropriate format. For parents needing extra support, we also offer parenting sessions to discuss issues such as positive parenting, discipline, or establishing routines. Parenting sessions can be held during the time the child is receiving play therapy sessions.

The TFCC provides services to WKU students, as well as community members. All services are provided at no cost to the client, and the TFCC does not report to any insurance companies. All client names, information, and sessions are confidential. The TFCC is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the school semester. Information or appointments can be obtained by calling 270.745.4204. TFCC facility is located on the first floor of Gary Ransdell Hall. More information can be found at our website www.wku.edu/talley/counseling or by contacting Imelda.Bratton@wku.edu



Imelda Bratton is a director at TFCC. She began her career as a bilingual Pre-K teacher in Texas. She later discovered an interest in working in counseling and became a bilingual school counselor. Imelda spent 15 years working in the public schools and developed an interest in using play therapy and sandtray with children and parents. After obtaining her Ph.D. in Counselor Education at Idaho State University, she focused on integrating play therapy and expressive art techniques in supervision and the counseling process. Her specialty areas include: play therapy, filial therapy, sandtray, expressive arts, parenting skills, and supervision. She is also exploring the Gottman couples and marriage training.

PRESTON FAMILY FOUNDATION ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY RESOURCE PROGRAM

The Preston Family Foundation Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program (ABIRP) offers information and support to individuals with acquired brain injury and their families. The program also provides support services for persons who have survived brain injury and are pursuing further education, including taking classes at WKU.

For more information, call (270) 745-4232 or email cec@wku.edu.

