

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

Clinical Education Complex
1906 College Heights Blvd. # 11098
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098

Phone number: (270) 745-8903

Email: kellyautismprogram@wku.edu

Website: <http://www.wkucec.com>



Volume 2, Number 6, February 2006

Upcoming Events

The Valentine's Day Social will be held on February 24th from 6-8pm at the Jones Jagers Centertorium. The Alliance Awards will be held on April 13th.

High School and Middle School

Written by: Amanda Jochim and Crystal Martin

The middle school and high school participants have been working very hard this semester. We have several new participants as well as many returning from last semester. Everyone is trying to get to know each other while they are coming for tutoring and trying out new jobs. Jennifer and Theresa are busy at Greenview Regional Hospital stocking supplies. For the first time during the school year participants are practicing their job skills!

Postsecondary Program

Written by: Katy Behm

The postsecondary program began the spring semester with a great start. Currently participants are enrolled at WKU's main campus, South Campus, and Bowling Green Technical College. They are working hard independently as well as coming to the program for extra tutoring. The participants in the postsecondary employment group are working hard at their jobs as well coming to KAP for tutoring.



Lucas, a new participant, and Amanda bowling.

Cancellations: If participants are unable to attend their scheduled session please call the KAP office as soon as possible so staff can be notified.

KAP Community Participation

Written by: Katy Behm

KAP participants and staff were in the Christmas spirit as they delivered Christmas baskets to families in need during the holiday season. The baskets were stocked full of ham and all the trimmings for their Christmas dinner. It was a joy to give back to the community as well as a very humbling experience for everyone.



Participants and staff before delivering the baskets.

Another way that KAP gave back to the community this past holiday season was by adopting four students from schools in the area. Staff and participants went shopping to buy the gifts for the children and then wrapped them.

Clay Hall shared his feelings on this experience by saying "It made me feel good to help others with their problems instead of worrying about my own problems."

Jennifer Jones stated that "It was a blessing to help the children."

Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Frank Kersting

New Year, New beginning!! Out with the old and in with the new!!

Wait a minute! What was wrong with the KAP old? Nothing. In fact, several new initiatives have arisen from our comprehensive program last year. In the May newsletter I will give an update on how we did!

First of all, Dr. Boman and I crafted four goals, (well, actually ten but that is way too ambitious) for the Spring Semester. They are:

1. To write a federal and foundation grant
2. To develop research designs to quantify the vision KAP and parents have for their children
3. To expand the post-secondary program
4. To develop Person Centered Plans for at least 50% of KAP participants in collaboration with their families, friends, and teachers

Second, KAP has hired several new staff across disciplines. The new staff will represent the collaborative effort between Special Education and Communication Disorders. One of KAP's goals is 'cross-training' professionals so when they graduate and work in the schools, they will establish or strengthen a team approach for effective IEP writing and implementation. This is a critical KAP endeavor. Dr. Boman and I are committed to providing a Transdisciplinary environment so students can learn and grow professionally from each other while providing meaningful intervention to all of our participants.

Third, we are planning for our new freshman class. Dr. Boman, as Director of Transition, is responsible for this exciting, nationally important KAP program. I believe that next year, Dr. Boman's goal is to admit between 4-6 new students. Regardless of the number of new students enrolled in KAP, our number of post secondary participants will equal Marshall University's program. KAP's vision for a comprehensive post-secondary program is truly inspiring.

Dr. Frank Kersting
Director



Christmas Card Sales Were A Success!

Written by: Courtney Burge

The 2005 Christmas Card sales are now behind us, and we would like to thank everyone for their help and support in making this fundraiser a success. A special thank you to all the participants who created the beautiful designs for the cards, Mrs. Linda Kelly for her help in selling cards, Laurin Notheisin and the Print Club for supervising and coordinating the silk screening, and everyone else who supported the project through buying and selling cards.

This year we implemented new strategies to sell cards through targeting local businesses. We partnered with several businesses that bought KAP cards in bulk to send to clients, as well as other local businesses that allowed us to sell their cards in their shops.

We will continue to pursue these outlets for next year's project, and seek sponsorships for card designs as well.

Victoria Kelly proudly represented KAP during a dinner where A.L.I.V.E. presented the program with a grant.



Welcome New Staff Members!

Written by: Katy Behm



Our new staff from left to right: Krystal, Michael, Rebecca, Holly, and Amanda.

The Kelly Autism Program is proud to announce five new staff members!

Amanda Jochim is a junior at Western majoring in Exceptional Education. She will be taking on the responsibilities of the High School Program this semester.

Krystal Martin, also a junior, will be focusing on the Middle School Program. Like Amanda, she also is an Exceptional Education major at Western.

Michael Davis, a senior in the Exceptional Education Program, will be taking the responsibilities of after school tutoring and being a wonderful male role model for KAP participants.

Rebecca Smith is a junior in the field of Communication Disorders. She will be tutoring students after school as well as work with Courtney on public relations.

The newest edition to our KAP staff is Holly Conley who is a freshman majoring in Exceptional Education. We are thrilled to have someone that will be able to stay with the program for years to come!

We are so excited to have these five amazing students join our staff and cannot wait to see what all they have to offer! WELCOME!!

New Initiatives

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

As we start off the New Year, the staff will be implementing many new initiatives. The first of these will be their emphasis on writing goals for each of the sessions with the participants. This process will allow KAP to measure how everyone is progressing from week-to-week and month-to-month. Goals will be written in the following areas: academic, behavior, social, employment, and community participation. When an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is available from the school, the staff will focus on the specified goals. If KAP does not have a copy of the IEP, then the staff will work with the parent(s) to develop the goals. Parents, participants, and staff will all know what is expected during the sessions and the outcome for the semester, therefore making the time more productive for everyone.

Another initiative is the WKU Quality Enhancement Plan, which will focus on what can be done to develop staff to their fullest potential. As we grow in numbers, this will be quite an issue as we currently have nine staff, which are all focusing on the best outcomes for the participants and their parents. Staff will complete surveys and participate in focus groups so that issues and information can be shared to make the program the best it can be. This will also provide time for the staff to collaborate with each other and be more transdisciplinary in our work.

On another note, we are in the process of accepting new students to the *KAP Circle of Support Program* for the 2006-2007 year. The decision was made to complete this process earlier (similar to other college students) so registration and housing could be obtained.

As always, we are busy at KAP!

Dr. Marty Boman
Director of Transition

Thank you

The Kelly Autism Program would like to thank the generous contributors of the past for sponsoring these newsletters monthly. We would also like to thank in advance future sponsors. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the KAP staff.

KAP Services and Support

Written by: Dr. Kersting

The Governing Board has adopted a modest fee schedule for services provided by the Kelly Autism Program.

The Directors and the Board want to be very clear about our policy: **ANY FAMILY HAS THE RIGHT TO KAP SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCE.** No one will be denied services based on ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay.

These fees were put into action starting January of 2006. Letters will be sent to all families participating in the KAP program, and we will contact each family individually to discuss the new policy and how it affects them. These KAP fees do not cover the 'true costs' for services. The purpose of the fees is to provide some financial support and to make KAP accountable for the services provided.

These are individual fees and do not apply to a school or school system, which may want to "contract for services."

The approved fees for families and individuals are:

- \$300/semester for the Middle and High School Programs
- \$400/semester for the 12 week summer session
- \$2000/semester for the KAP Circle of Support program
- \$300/semester for the College Bound Postsecondary participants
- \$300/semester for the Employment Bound Postsecondary participants

Scholarships and Charitable Giving

As always, we ask that everyone remember KAP and the benefits that are being brought to the community. KAP has an endowment fund as well as the opportunity to consider us in estate planning or other forms of giving. KAP can grow through your free effort of time, talent, and treasure.

The Kelly Autism Program

Clinical Education Complex
1906 College Heights Blvd. # 11098
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098

