The Kelly Autism Program
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Volume 2, Number 11, August 2006

Feature Student
Abrar Mohamed
As told to: Smit Chauhan

Our Student of the month for August is Abrar Mohamed. Abrar attends Drakes Creek Middle School. He is currently enrolled in the 8th grade and is 14 years old. He has been an active participant of KAP for the past several years.

He likes to go on the internet, play train simulators and skateboard. He also likes field trips, socials at KAP and watching trains. He collects details about trains especially pictures and videos. In fact, his favorite pastime is watching train videos on the internet.

He wants to become a Norfolk Southern Train Engineer and work for Chestas System. He enjoys black olive pizzas from Pizza Hut and hamburgers from McDonalds. He likes to talk about his trip to India last year and his recent trip to Florida with his parents.

He is good at Mathematics and likes to work on math. He enjoyed participating at KAP this summer and especially at the Humane Society where he got to play with the cats. He enjoys playing with Taylor, who is his best friend at KAP.

Abrar looks forward to participating in KAP during the fall semester.

Conference Planned for Parents
Written by: Dr. Marty Boman
KAP, Merrill Lynch, BEST Center for Independent Living, and Caveland Educational Support Center are hosting a first annual conference titled “A Solution for the Future.” This seminar is for parents and caregivers of transitioning students (ages 14 and up), and will feature Jackie Golden, advocate, consultant, and mother of a child with profound disabilities. Jackie will tell parents how she achieved personal and financial independence for Joshua.

Also, there will be a panel of experts in the field as well as organizations, which will support the parents in their role as an advocate for their daughter or son. The conference will be held 9/30/2006 from 8:00 to 5:00 at the Garrett Conference Center. There is no cost, and lunch will be provided. Please call Marilyn Mitchell for registration at 270-796-5992, LeAnn Marksberry at 270-745-3108 or Marty Boman at 270-745-8833.

Conference Recap
Written by: Krystal Martin
On June 15th and 16th four KAP staff had the opportunity to attend the Kentucky Autism Training Center 2006 Institute at the Galt House in Louisville. The sessions were incredible. The staff attended sessions about special interest areas, hygiene, and dating. We hope to bring this newfound knowledge back and put it to use. Additionally, the staff presented at both the Expo on Thursday evening which showcased all services available in the region, and in a session on Friday in which we told everyone about the Kelly Autism Program and our services. Dr. Kersting also presented at the Megaconference in Tennessee the following day. We are working hard to get our name out there as we become a quality, nationally recognized program.

Solution for the Future Conference:
September 30, 2006 @ 8:00-5:00
Garrett Conference Center

CEC Dedication: August 25, 2006 @ 10am
For the first time all of our participants who are 16 years of age or older were placed in a paid job position for the summer. We had students working at Greenview Hospital, Hillivue Heights Church, Camp Happy Days, Hughes and Coleman Law Firm, and Rivendell. Students gained valuable job skills, work experience and last but not least their first paycheck.

So I guess the real question is, “How will you spend your first paycheck?”

“…buy a cell phone” – Jennifer Jones
“…buy movies at Wal-mart” – David Essler
“…buy unlimited cell phone minutes” – Clay Hall
“…save it” – Joseph Thompson

Participants Receive Paychecks
Written by: Sarah McMaine and Krystal Martin

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Harley Poker Run Contribution
Written by: Krystal Martin

On Tuesday, July 18, 2006, Janice, Krystal, and Dr. Boman were invited to the monthly Cave Country Harley Owners’ Group (HOG) Meeting at Split Tree Barbeque. After eating dinner and visiting with the HOG members, the meeting closed with the presentation of a check for $1000 to the Kelly Autism Program. This money was raised at the Harley Davidson Poker Run which was held on June 10. After the meeting, many members expressed interest in working more with KAP in the future. We really appreciate the generous contribution from the Cave Country HOG Chapter.

Life Skills Sunset Run
Written by: Amanda Jochim

On behalf of the Kelly Autism Program, a heart-felt thank you goes out to all of those involved in the planning of the Life Skills Sunset Run. This event would not have happened without the help of Brad Schneider, Alice Simpson and many other staff at Life Skills. The proceeds from the run will be used to assist the participants in their activities within the community, at job sites and recreational events.

The evening was definitely a fun time for all. The planning was great with the refreshments, entertainment, door prizes, awards, and the race itself. Thank you also, to all of the sponsors and volunteers who so generously gave their time to this event. The KAP staff and several participants had a great evening of fellowship and fun.

Again, thank you to Life Skills for all of the support they have given KAP. We enjoy working with them and are grateful for everything they do for us.

Summer Donations
Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

Over $1660.00 was donated for the Summer Program. KAP would like to say “Thank You” to a number of businesses that supported us by contributing to our socials and other activities. Please support them with your business.

- Houchens—Water $65.00
- Domino’s—Pizzas $120.00
- Home Towne Suites—2 families $1157.00
- Suitable for Framing—Mat Board $50.00
- B & J Gallery—Mat Board $50.00
- Jimmy John’s—Sandwiches $78.00
- Print Media—Brochures $80.00
- Bar-B-Que Inn—Meat and buns $30.00
- Living Hope Vacation Bible School—Flowers
- Deanna Graves—Scrubs $20.00

KAP staff pre-race, by the end not everyone was this energetic and smily.

Sarah McMaine and Collin Tomes stretching before Collin participated in the 2 mile walk and Sarah in the 5 K run.
Very Special Arts
Written by: Sara McMaine
This summer several of our students participated in the Very Special Arts program. KAP was fortunate enough to have two separate art camps led by Mrs. Delaire Rowe. During these camps the students were able to draw and paint with various media. They were also able to create stain glass windows and sculptures.

Staff and parents experienced quite a few surprises through the art camp. After Collin’s VSA experience he now spends some of his free time drawing, which is something he has never done before. This was Nicolas and Lucas Littrell’s first experience with VSA and Nicolas thoroughly enjoyed painting. The biggest surprise came from Aaron Thomas. The staff had no idea how talented he was in art. Despite his visual limitations he created some of the best art that the staff has ever seen.

All VSA participants had a great experience and are looking forward to the side by side program that will be held this fall.

Group Operations
Written by: Dr. Marty Boman
This summer KAP ran a pilot program of three participants for the 7-11 age group. They met six times, and learned many skills. On their final meeting, they discussed what they learned from this experience. Their answers included: working together, taking turns, solving problems, helping each other, sharing with their new friends.

They concluded the sessions by working together to produce a mighty dragon. Watch for him as the fire-spitting creature will be on the walls of the KAP area soon!

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 or consider us in estate planning and other forms of giving. KAP can also grow through your effort of time, talent, and treasure.