KAP Information:
The Kelly Autism Program
Clinical Education Complex
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Recognition for our Community Partners
Written By: Holly Conley

KAP would like to recognize the businesses that supported the summer program by providing jobs for our participants over 16. These businesses include:
• Bandy Bedding Inc.
• City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Dept
• Buckhead
• Greenview Regional Hospital
• Hillvue Heights Baptist Church
• Holiday Inn University Plaza
• Mariah's
• Rivendell Behavioral Health Services
• State Beauty Supply
• WKU Center for Gifted Studies

Another "Thank You" goes to several businesses for providing volunteer positions to our participants under the age of 16. These businesses include:
• Bowling Green Humane Society
• Helping Hands Inc.
• St. Vincent De Paul
• Life Ministries

This summer wouldn't have been the same without the help of the community, and we are very appreciative of their continuous support.

Donations for KAP!

KAP is currently asking for any musical instrument donations. We especially need percussion type instruments. Such as drums, tambourines, or maracas. If you would like to donate to KAP, please contact us at (270) 745-4KAP, or email us at kellyautismprogram@wku.edu.

Deborah Renshaw Parker Races with KAP!

Deborah Renshaw Parker & Marty Boman at the Nashville Speedway.
Please see article on last page.

Upcoming Events:

August 19th  New incoming college students arrive
August 25th  Returning college students arrive
August 27th  WKU students begin classes
September 4th  After-school sessions begins for fall
September 15 South Central KY Down Syndrome Society "Buddy Walk" 9:00 am to 11:00 am
September 17th-October 26th Elementary VSA Art Show -- 515 E. 10th St.
September 21st  Elementary Open House at VSA
October 1st  Alliance Awards -- 6:00 pm at the Cupola Room
The summer has come to an end at the Kelly Autism Program, and will be remembered as one of the most rewarding sessions to date! Our participants grew in number as well as needs as new categories of disabilities entered the program. At the same time, the staff witnessed major changes in many of the participants as they developed new skills. There was much excitement when the first paychecks were distributed! And let’s not forget the last day as everyone was hugging good-bye as if they would not see their new friends for some time.

The staff is commended for the great job that they displayed this summer with all of the changes. They offered an academic program in a fun, hands-on manner while at the same time, worked with limited materials and furniture for most of the summer.

The community participation increased greatly for all age groups. Their dedication to the participants is always amazing, and we salute everyone.

KAP thanks Ginny Miller and Rowe Delaire from VSA for a successful two weeks. Everyone who took part in the sessions also completed their Side-by-Side art work with a community artist. The Elementary program will have their exhibit at the new VSA offices in September, while the middle and high school groups will participate in the January Art Show at the Kentucky Museum. It is always such a pleasure to work with VSA and the talented artists.

Also, the staff is getting organized for the fall as in one week, the new “KAP Circle of Support” group will be here with classes following closely behind. This will be another big year for KAP!

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**Director’s Desk**
Written By: Dr. Marty Boman

**Very Special Art**
Written By: Sarah McMaine

Participants had the opportunity to join with the Very Special Arts program again this summer. This was the first time for the elementary students to participate and it was a great success. All students created group murals and several individual projects. The highlight of the camp was the collaborative piece done by local artists and the participants. Through these magnificent works of art, it became very evident that our participants have a strong interest in art and many have real, natural talents. These pieces will be displayed in a showcase during the fall and spring.
Special Thanks
Written By: Sarah McMaine

This summer KAP was very fortunate to have a daily volunteer to help with our participants and program. Nick Gilbert returned once again to help run our summer program. Nick has a very special way of reaching some of our participants through his musical talents. He would bring his guitar and teach the participants how to play. He was also a good peer role model for our community outings and social skills time. Nick might be looking into the field of exceptional education when he enters college. We wish him all the best, and the staff as well as the participants look forward to seeing him again!

Our New Home
Written By: Sarah McMaine

This summer KAP has seen numerous changes and improvements. One of our greatest changes is the completed move to our new area in the Clinical Education Complex, as well as all of the new furniture and appliances. KAP participants will greatly benefit from the new amenities offered. We will be able to focus heavily on transitioning and daily living skills thanks to the kitchen and laundry room. We have already taken advantage of these many new additions by preparing, cooking, and eating various snacks and healthy treats. The participants have also taken advantage of our two new sensory rooms: the dark room with black lights and an underwater theme, and the white room that can be made bright or dim with several types of lighting. Also, we look forward to using this space with our college students for study tables and socials. If you have not had the opportunity to see KAP's "new home" please take the time to come by and check it out!

Summer Program Wrap Up
Written By: Felicia Wells

Wow! This word best describes KAP’S summer program. These weeks have been an amazing and exciting time for the participants. When they first walked through the new KAP doors, everyone was very curious about the new building. They had many questions such as: "Why did we leave the old KAP?”, "Are we going back to the old building?” and "Is this the new KAP from now on?” I just loved our “Curious Georgies”. These were great questions to ask and the KAP staff did their best to answer each of them. The participants settled into the new environment rather quickly. Each day we had schedules for our elementary, middle school, and high school participants. Our elementary group enjoyed cooking activities, art sessions, and visiting the local parks including Basil Griffin and Covington Park. Our middle school group participated in academic themes such as researching different countries and cooking a dish from that particular country. Some of the countries included: Japan, Ireland, Italy, and France. They also did a fun solar system activity, volunteered at the Humane Society, Helping Hands, and St. Vincent DePaul’s. We had eight high school students participate in the summer job program with their coaches. They worked at several businesses in the community and enjoyed themselves. This experience was instrumental in improving their job skills as well as their social skills.

I feel honored to be a part of this year’s summer program. These participants were, with out a doubt, exceptional individuals. We would like to thank the parents as well as the participants for giving us an insight to a world full of possibilities and hope for our future KAP participants.
Cancellations: If participants are unable to attend their scheduled session, please call the KAP office as soon as possible so staff can be notified.

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**Press Release**

Deborah Renshaw Parker, in an effort to help raise awareness for autism, not to mention drive a top-notch racecar, was reunited with Bob Schacht Motorsport at Nashville Superspeedway for Saturday's running of the ARCA RE/MAX Series Toyota 150. "Friday night a great deal came together," explained Renshaw. "Bob Schacht called and offered a deal I couldn't refuse to get back to the ARCA RE/MAX Series. I'm driving his car for the Nashville race. It's the No. 75 Ford and will be carrying The Kelly Autism Program decal on the hood to help raise awareness about Autism."

This cause hits close to home for Renshaw, whose two nephews are affected by Autism. "Autism is affecting more and more of our population," Renshaw added. "My two nephews (Danny and Rush Renshaw) are autistic and I am proud to say that they are both a blessing to our family. To see how they both have progressed with early intervention is amazing. As they grow into adulthood, the challenge will be to create transition programs that support their needs, while being part of the community as well. The Kelly Autism Program (KAP) is committing the people, resources, and infrastructures to develop the programs that will help my nephews and others affected by Autism meet their potential and I am so happy to help spread the word."

Dr. Marty Boman, Director of The Kelly Autism Program and Assistant Professor at Western Kentucky University, explains, "Community involvement is essential for the development at any age, from young child to adults, diagnosed with Autism. We are very fortunate to have support from Western Kentucky University, the community, the families, and local businesses. Since Deborah's two nephews are diagnosed with Autism, she knows the importance of creating awareness for these special individuals."

**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.

**The Kelly Autism Program**

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Deborah Renshaw Parker with her son Jagger, her mother Vickie, and her nephew, Danny.