

The Kelly Autism Program

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Barnes & Noble Fundraiser for KAP

Silent Auction for Birdhouses

Written By: Lauren Torger

The WKU Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team has had a rewarding experience working with the participants of the KAP. Last spring, SIFE and KAP worked together to build birdhouses which are now creatively painted by the participants. It's SIFE's pleasure to host a silent auction for the birdhouses at Barnes & Noble on Saturday, April 12, from 1-5 pm, benefiting KAP. In addition, SIFE and Barnes & Noble have arranged a book fair starting Friday, April 11 through Sunday, April 13. A portion of all profits that weekend will be graciously donated to KAP. Please come out to Barnes & Noble to help us celebrate National Autism Month. From book readings to bidding on birdhouses with your support it's sure to be a great success for KAP!

(at right): Aaron Thomas worked hard to complete the construction of his birdhouse last Spring. Look for the finished product at the silent auction!

Kite Flying

Written By: Srinivasa B Gokarakonda

Quite a few sunny days in the last few weeks inspired staff to plan some outdoor activities for the middle and high school participants. The participants decided that kites and parachutes would be a wonderful idea, so they made parachutes and successfully launched them. All the participants loved it and were very excited. Since they were so successful they decided to make kites. The participants came up with some brilliant models and designs. Afterwards they ventured out on a bright sunny afternoon to fly the new creations. It was a fun filled activity and everyone had a great time. Soon everyone will be outdoors in the wonderful weather.

KAP is in need of:

- Puzzles
- Fun Construction Materials (ex.: Small Legos, Lincoln Logs, model cars, etc.)
- Rocking Chair

Please keep us in mind when sorting through supplies in your house. We're always willing to accept donations!

REMEMBER!!!

**Autism Festival is April 19th @ WKU
Kick Off @ 1:00**



Upcoming Events

- *Birdhouse Auction: April 12th*
- *Autism Festival: April 19th*
- *Middle/High Canoe Trip: April 23rd*
- *Last Day of KAP for Spring Semester: April 25th*
- *Parent Support Group: May 2nd*
- *Summer Sessions: June 2nd-27th*
- *July 7th-Aug. 1st*
- *Guest Speaker—Temple Grandin: September 4th*

Director's Corner

Written By: Dr. Boman

April is National Autism Awareness Month which is an exciting time for our family at the Kelly Autism Program. This is the time to reflect on where our community has come in such a short time. Four years ago, KAP was a middle and high school program comprised of less than 20 participants. We were housed in a single room at Jones Jagers. The Clinical Education Complex was a dream that was developing quickly, but with limited funding. Now KAP has grown to over 88 participants, including the elementary and college programs. We have a beautiful home which is fully paid for through generous contributions from our community members. The four classrooms are bustling with energy as the participants learn new skills. The wonderful dream continues to grow beyond our local community as the participants come from long distances. The true energy of this movement is the connection that has developed in so many ways to bring people together to gain an understanding of autism as well as to get involved with these wonderful individuals. All of this started as a dream of a few families. We have so much to be thankful for and can only imagine where KAP will be in another four years from now! Join us in our celebration!

Staff Spotlight: Tara McDonald

Tara is one of KAP's Graduate Assistants this year. She is a Communication Disorders student and hopes to be a Speech-Language Pathologist in Louisville one day. She has been working at KAP the past two years and really enjoys being with the children. She grew up on a pig farm in Evansville, Indiana with her parents and two brothers. Tara has also been a part of the childcare staff at Living Hope Baptist Church the past three years. She is currently working with classmates and professors on research concerning assistive technology in Kentucky schools. When she isn't busy with working, classes, research, or homework, she loves to take road trips to visit friends and family, read, watch baseball (she is a HUGE New York Yankees fan!), and babysit.

Staff Spotlight: Holly Conley

Holly Conley is a Junior at Western Kentucky University, majoring in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. She is from Evansville, Indiana. Holly joined the KAP staff in February 2006, and currently works with our elementary participants. Holly is involved with Baptist Campus Ministries and the Deaf Ministry team on campus. She likes to travel, work-out, and spend time with her family outdoors when she is not at school or work. After graduating next December, Holly wants to teach Special Education in an elementary school, or continue her education in Occupational Therapy.



Holly celebrates her birthday at KAP with participants Morgan Douglas, Will Sutkowski, and Briana Rone.

Applying for Social Security Disability Online

Applying for disability benefits from Social Security is easier than it's ever been before. You can save time and file in the convenience of your home by completing your application online and sending it electronically. If you are applying for disability benefits on your own behalf, you can complete the online disability report at the following link:
www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityreport

Tara stops to pose for a picture with participant Matthew Vincent at the KAP Christmas party.



Spotlight On: Jonathyn Wynne

Jonathyn is a spirited 9-year old boy that came to the Kelly Autism Program for the first time last summer. The staff has seen great improvements in him this past semester. He has made leaps and bounds in his reading abilities and often enjoys helping staff read to the other students. He is also very knowledgeable about sign language. He likes to help the staff teach the other participants different signs. Some of Jon's favorite activities while at KAP include music time when we sing "If You're Happy and You Know It," working on the computer, story time during group, messy art activities, and singing along with the "Signing Time" video. Last summer, he enjoyed time spent outside on the playground or in the pool, and he looks forward to it again this upcoming summer. Jon is an asset to have in the classroom and the staff always looks forward to seeing him get off the bus to come and join the rest of the group.



Jonathyn sings and dances along to music while at KAP, one of his favorite times!

James works diligently on construction of a model while at KAP.



Spotlight On: James Townsend

Written By: Srinivasa B Gokarakonda

James is a high school participant at KAP who has been coming since Jan 2008. He is a resident of Glasgow and goes to Barren County High School. He is well mannered, soft spoken and treats everybody with respect. He has excellent imaginative and writing skills. To date he has written five fantasy and science fiction novels. He is eagerly waiting for his novels to be published. During his presence at KAP, James showed interest in building castles and paper planes with art paper. His creativity using clay and tin foil is outstanding. James likes children and prefers to interact with them. He is fond of Japanese cuisine and loves Sushi. It is a pleasure working with James at KAP.

KAP Canoe Outing

On Wednesday, April 23rd from 1-5PM, seven middle and high school KAP participants will be enjoying an afternoon of canoeing on local waters. They will be joined by certified American Canoe Association (ACA) instructors and students from Western KY University's Outdoor Leadership Program. These WKU students have completed canoe instructor certification over the course of the semester and will be paired one on one with KAP participants for a fun-filled afternoon. KAP participants should expect to develop paddle skills and learn how to conduct water quality sampling.

We look forward to an action-packed afternoon and we thank Dr. Steve Spencer and his students from the physical education and recreation department at WKU for providing this opportunity for our participants.

Ethan Pritchard enjoys goofing off in the pool with the other participants.



Pizza and Swimming!

Written By: Jessie Waggener

On March 28th, KAP hosted a pizza party along with swimming fun! Beginning promptly at 5:30pm, the participants and their families happily entered the room in the Downing University Center where the pizza and drinks were being served. The kids could not wait for the paper plates to arrive and began digging into the pizzas and used paper towels for plates. The KAP staff did a great job circulating the room getting drinks for everyone, helping them get their pizza, pouring drinks, and simply talking with the parents.

There was not a lot of time spent eating, as it was obvious that everyone was ready to swim. Everyone walked to the Preston Center. They went to the locker rooms. After swimming trunks and bathing suits were on, the Preston pool became the hot spot. Most of the participants jumped into the pool while some were a bit unsure of the water. After some coaxing by parents and staff members, those that were unsure joined in the pool fun.

The pool was full of smiles and splashes. Some participants played in the shallow end of the pool while only a few ventured to jump off the diving boards. Several KAP staff joined them in the pool to assist if needed. Splashes were flying everywhere. The laughing and playing continued for roughly an hour before it was time to get out and dry off. The water was a bit chilly, therefore it made exiting the pool easier.

Everyone changed out of their swimming trunks and bathing suits. With wet swimming gear in hand, the participants and staff gathered at the entrance of Preston. Everyone said their goodbyes and left the Preston Center. The staff was excited about the good turnout they had for the social and how well everything went. What a good feeling to know that everyone who attended the pizza party and swimming had a good time!



Participants Nick and Luke Luttrell take time to enjoy their pizza before heading to Preston for swimming.



Participant Collin Tomes took advantage of the opportunity to splash staff members with water at this social!

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.

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