

Kelly Autism Program
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Upcoming Events

January 3, 2011—WKU Winter Term

January 4-20, 2011—January Program held
Tues/Thurs from 3:00-4:40pm

January 24, 2011—WKU Spring Semester

April 17, 2011—Hot Rods Autism Awareness Game



Alliance Awards



Warren County and Bowling Green Schools Unite to Create Anti-Bullying PSA

On October 19th, KAP held its annual Alliance Award program. This event recognizes the different organizations, businesses and people who have helped make KAP a success. This year the program was enhanced through the use of personal video testimonies given by participants about what KAP means to them. The awards also showcased the efforts of Dylan Beckham and his anti-bullying efforts and raising support for KAP. Both Warren County Schools and Bowling Green Independent Schools were given awards for their collaboration with Dylan's project. KAP also recognized several WKU faculty and staff who have given tremendous support to the College Program. KAP presented the Altioria Award to individuals who have given major support. The award recipients for this year were Ms. Susan Free and Mr. Dylan Beckham and family. Susan is the KAP-O program manager and over the past year has obtained several grants. Dylan and his family started an anti-bullying campaign and received national recognition for KAP when CNN did a segment regarding his efforts.

2010 Altioria Award Winners

Ms. Susan Free, Program Manager for KAP-O (top) and Mr. Dylan Beckham and family (bottom) are presented Altioria Award by President Ransdall.



Lifeskills Walk/Run

On October 16, 2010 Lifeskills held their annual Run/Walk for Autism. Kelly Autism Program participants, staff, family, friends, and volunteers joined together to help raise money for Autism. KAP Kreations projects were sold by KAP participants and the SIFE partners. The first event was the 4 mile wheelchair race followed by the 4 mile run. People of all ages participated. After both races, everyone gathered for a 1 mile walk and finished at the Hot Rods baseball field for the awards and entertainment. Dylan Beckham led the efforts, hosting the Walk event. Greg Coleman helped to make sure the event included inflatable's, entertainment, and games. The Hot Rods donated the use of the facilities for the event. Brian Packard from the Bowling Green, Kentucky Kiwanis Club chaired much of the event preparation and worked with Dylan and his family throughout the planning stages. Awards were presented to the runners and the schools who raised the most donations. Dylan and Brian ended the day on stage presenting awards made from Louisville Slugger baseball bats. A special trophy was awarded to the local school who raised the most funds and it will be displayed at the school until next year. School winners from each year will be inscribed on the trophy as it is passed along from year to year.



College Program

This semester the college program has been very busy and productive. WKU can now claim it has the largest program in the nation for supporting individuals with ASD in their college experience. KAP is very grateful to the many individuals, offices and organizations on campus that have embraced our program to help it develop into such a success! During this semester KAP had participants take part in Band, Intramural Sports, International Club, Gamers Guild, Religious Organizations and various sporting events. One of the KAP participants was even named WKU's Biggest Fan because of his dedication to all WKU's sports. KAP is proud of all our participants and look forward to their continued success here at WKU!

College Camping Trip

On October 23, 2010 a number of KAP participants and staff members went on an overnight camping trip. Fun was had by all! The participants and staff loaded up that morning and headed off to Mammoth Cave for a tour through the cave. Everyone learned quite a lot about the history of the cave. Following the history lesson they trekked back to the cave entrance to embark on yet another journey... tent pitching. Staff and participants worked to set up camp which included a multitude of tents (some sleeping up to ten people!) and chairs as well as a fire pit and grilling station. The group sat around the fire as dusk turned to dark and told stories of every variety. Some preferred to tell scary stories while others shared funny stories about themselves or happy times at KAP. For dinner the group had hamburgers and hotdogs with chips and cookies. And of course they also devoured s'mores until they were nearly sick. Later a staff member shared the rules to Capture the Flag. Participants and staff alike were bedecked in camouflage or black clothes and black face paint. It proved to be a very interesting game, what with all the army crawling and tree climbing! Dr. Boman and her husband came to camp with their dogs. It wasn't long after all the running from Capture the Flag that most tuckered out and sat around the fire for a bit longer before retiring for the night. The next morning was a flurry of disassembled tents and campsite paraphernalia. Then it was off to the homestead after a quick breakfast. Camping KAP style is a very exciting experience and they hope to do it again soon.



Elementary Program

The after-school program continues to grow as families learn about the Kelly Autism Program and its impact on children with autism and their families. During the fall semester, the after-school program has studied pumpkins, leaves, bats, spiders and insects, different genres of art including pointillism, a unit on Thanksgiving and how planes fly. Participants even made balloon powered hovercrafts. During spring semester we will be working on units about the human body systems. This year the after-school program will offer a “mini-program” during the first three weeks of January. The idea is to provide consistency during the long days between Christmas break and the spring semester. Participants will enjoy the same social interactions and lessons over the six sessions in January. The after-school program will resume on January 31, 2011 with its regular schedule.

KAP Philanthropy

The participants at the Kelly Autism Program provided support this holiday season. With proceeds from sales of KAP Kreations, the participants purchased and provided food for the Hope House food closet. Participants also provided clothes, essential dorm items and personal care items for a new WKU student who will be a part of the Circle of Support this spring. Another person in need received clothes, personal care items and other personal gifts. The participants shopped, wrapped and delivered items to Hope House and the individuals. KAP participants understand the needs of others and want to support others in need. During the winter, KAP Kreations is planning to make “recycled sweatshirt” toboggans to give to children who need a warm hat. This project will be in conjunction with the area Family Resource Centers. The resource centers will help make sure the children who need the hats receive them.



KAP Kreations

The Ornament project this year is a new endeavor by KAP Kreations to broaden the product line. The participants cut out “puzzle pieces” from clay and stamping words of “hope” and “love” on them. Each ornament is then hand glazed by the participants, the SIFE student partners and the KAP staff. When ready, the Art Department at WKU fires the ornaments in the kilns on campus. The Art department and Lindsay Oesterritter have helped to make this project a success. Lindsay’s instruction and technique taught the KAP staff and participants the basics they needed. The



participant’s made over 400 ornaments for the 2010 holiday season. Ornaments have been sold as far away as Virginia. Proceeds from the project support summer supported employment for some of the high school age participants as well as the KAP Philanthropy project in December. Local partners and sponsors made the project possible.

Dylan’s Dream Update

Dylan Beckham continues to work on his goal to raise funds for the Kelly Autism Program. And he is well on his way to accomplishing his goal. He recently hosted the Lifeskills “Walk” for Autism. He continues to bring awareness to both autism and bullying with his public service announcement. The PSA has played in local Bowling Green Schools and Warren County Schools. The Kentucky State Department of Education is aware of Dylan’s efforts and is interested in sharing his public service announcement with school systems across the state. Dylan’s campaign has affected the way schools look at both bullying and those who are victims of bullying. Dylan is a hero in the eyes of many children with autism and other disabilities. They know how it feels to be bullied and Dylan’s campaign provides hope to many.

Director's Corner

Written By: Marty Boman

As 2010 comes to an end, I would like to thank every parent/caregiver for the honor you have given the KAP staff of working with your son or daughter. Each is so precious in many ways, and has become a part of our lives!

Every year, I marvel regarding the success of the Kelly Autism Program, and wonder what will be the next development. Then before I realize it, someone steps forward and impacts everyone's life. This year there have been many people, but a young man, Mr. Dylan Beckham is impacting individuals beyond KAP. We will continue to work with Dylan and his anti-bullying efforts throughout the state, and hopefully nationally. The KAP staff is so honored to have the continued support of the Bowling Green Community and Western Kentucky University. Thank you to everyone for your continued support as well as everyone who makes this program what it has come to signify. Happy Holidays to everyone from the KAP Family!



Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party drew a record crowd and brought many new and old faces together for the first time. Santa and his elf were on hand to provide some Christmas cheer and toys for the children. The Kelly's hosted the evening as families brought a variety of dishes to share. Families were able to visit with one another over dinner as participants worked on Christmas ornaments and Jonathan Somoza (one of our college participants) played favorite Christmas selections on the piano. The gathering brought KAP participants, families, staff and partners together to celebrate a season and a year of blessings. Partners present at the party included Dylan Beckham and his family. Dylan continues to focus on his dream of raising \$30,000.00 for KAP. Other partners included the Students in Free Enterprise officers Josh Shuck and Christina Kerulis. The night was a wonderful celebration for all.



Scholarships and Charitable Giving

As always, we ask that everyone remember KAP and the benefits that are being brought to the community and families. 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. Contact Dr. Marty Boman at 270-745-8833.