

## A Message from our Executive Director:

Spring is in full bloom with essences of flourishing flowers, green grass and tons of tulips. It's a time of rebirth when the natural world wakes up to longer days, vibrant sunsets and the sounds of children playing. It's a wonderful time to appreciate life and the world that consistently gives us beauty.

This is an exciting month for me. First, I have to acknowledge Autism Acceptance and Awareness Month. There are not enough words to describe how much our individuals with autism mean to me, and us as service providers. We get the honor and pleasure to share their daily journeys toward independence and meaningful lives. Consequently, we will be spotlighting some of those who continue to make progress toward their goals in newsletters and on social media.

To continue, the Kaleidoscope April Vision Statement is Encouraging Excellence. Similar to the beginning of Spring, we are encouraged to find ways to blossom, thus inspiring a new level of excellence. What can you identify that might move you toward greater levels of success, or personal development? Meditation always comes in handy here. Looking within, we have the internal capacity to make things happen. The trick is to allocate some time, even just a few minutes to look inside and identify opportunities for growth. Perhaps it can be simple, such as being kinder in everyday acts, such as making sure to push your shopping cart back to its designated place; or baking a treat for a neighbor. You might want to go a bit deeper and take a college course in something you have always wanted to learn. Regardless of how you chose to embrace excellence, ponder the ideas that are available to you.

Finally, the next month of May is our Kaleidoscope 20 Year Anniversary! Stay tuned for lots of celebratory ideas, memories and future plans.

Enjoy this beautiful time to bloom,

Dr. TaraColleen Macatee

## Check it out!!!

### Upcoming events for families in New Jersey

#### Northern NJ:

**What & Where:** Cherry Blossom Festival @ Branch Brook Park- Essex County

**When:** Throughout the whole month of April

**Cost:** FREE (additional info on Branch Brook Park website)

#### Central NJ:

**What & Where:** Earth Day Volunteer Event @ Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Reserve- Mercer County

**When:** April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 10am-3pm

**Cost:** FREE (signup and additional info on Eventbrite. Search "Earth Day Volunteer Event")

#### Southern NJ:

**What & Where:** Burlington County Book Festival @ Burlington County Library- Burlington County

**When:** April 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm

**Cost:** FREE (signup and additional information on Eventbrite. Search "Burlington County Book Festival")

## April Monthly Themes 2024

**-Autism Awareness Month**

**-Earth Day (April 20<sup>th</sup>)**

**-National Garden Month**

**-National Grilled Cheese Day (April 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**-Siblings Day (April 10<sup>th</sup>)**

**-Stress Awareness Month**

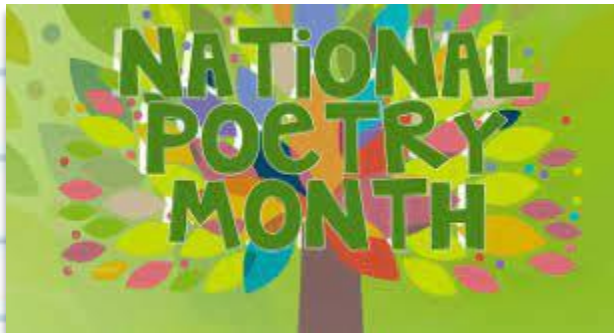
**-Keep America Beautiful Month**

**-Move More Month**

**KFSNJ SPOTLIGHT**

**The Month of April is National Poetry Month!**

This month's spotlight features KFSNJ's creative individuals! They wrote poems to celebrate! Please enjoy them below!



**My Cat Princess**

To describe my cat  
She's not just fat.  
She's soft and fluffy  
And so beautifully chubby.  
She will eat all day long but still begs for snacks.  
Then looks for a place to take all her naps.  
She naps in the window enjoying the sun.  
She also enjoys having lots of fun.  
Her favorite toy is a little mouse  
she runs around all day, playing in the house.  
It fills me with Glee when she sleeps with me!  
Goodnight!  
Written by: Ann and Cariann

**Games**

I like to play games  
Scrabble, Uno, and Simon  
My favorite is Uno  
I like to play with friends  
Games are fun.  
  
Written by: Keala

**Friendship**

A friend's embrace, a comforting hand,  
In times of need they understand.  
They inspire us to be our best,  
With their friendship, we are truly blessed.  
  
Friendship is a treasure, you see,  
It fills our hearts with joy and glee.  
Friendship is a gift that's meant to share,  
With love and support, it shows we care.

Written by: Beth

**A Gift of Acceptance**

In their journey, they light up our days, With  
their smiles and laughter, in countless ways.  
They remind us of the beauty in every soul,  
And the importance of acceptance as a whole.  
  
In the face of challenges, we lend a hand,  
Understanding and patience, our friendships  
withstand.  
Together we learn, we grow, and we thrive, In  
this beautiful journey, our spirits come alive.  
  
So let's stand together, hand and hand,  
Creating a world where all can understand.  
Where differences are celebrated, never  
ignored, And kindness and inclusion are truly  
adored.  
Written By: Katie



## UPSIDE DOWN CUPCAKE CONE BIRD NESTS RECIPE

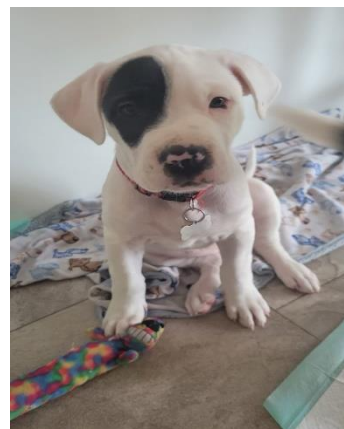
### INGREDIENTS

1 box of Pillsbury Funfetti Premium Cake & Cupcake Mix  
Additional ingredients to prepare cake mix per box instructions  
3-4 tubs of Pillsbury Funfetti Vanilla Frosting  
24 ice cream jumbo cake cones (about 2 ¾-inches tall with flat bottoms)  
Shredded wheat cereal  
Green food coloring  
Chocolate eggs



### PREPARATION DIRECTIONS

Step 1  
HEAT oven to 350°F. Prepare cake mix according to box directions.  
Grease cupcake tin with non-stick cooking spray.  
Step 2  
SPOON a scant 3 tablespoons batter into each cupcake cavity. (Do not overfill.) Place an inverted cupcake cone on top of each cupcake cavity.  
Step 3  
BAKE for 17-22 minutes. Cool completely. Carefully invert the cupcake cones and let cool completely.  
Step 4  
CRUSH shredded wheat cereal into small pieces. Tint one of the tubs of frosting with green food coloring. Stir the green frosting into the shredded wheat in a medium sized bowl and mix until combined.  
Step 5  
FROST the sides of each cupcake with an offset spatula or a butter knife with Funfetti Vanilla frosting. Add sprinkles from the frosting lid.  
Step 6  
SCOOP a small round teaspoon of the "nest" mixture onto each cupcake. Flatted with the back of a spoon. Add chocolate eggs.  
Serve and enjoy!



Jahmir and his family traveled all the way to South Carolina to pick up their new best furr-iend, Stormy! How cute!



Before and after!  
Stephanie donated her hair to Locks of Love!



Take me out to the ball game!

KFSNJ is ready for opening day of baseball season!



APRIL



## Happy Birthday!

The following individuals are celebrating birthdays in March. We wish them a very happy birthday!  
Have a great day!



April 4<sup>th</sup>- Laurie

April 5<sup>th</sup>- Alanah

April 12<sup>th</sup>- Julie

Kaleidoscope Family Solutions  
Home Office  
950 East Haverford Road  
Suite 100A  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
P: 877-384-1729 F: 610-527-8672

New Jersey Office:  
231 Clarksville Road Ste 2  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

[www.kfamilysolutions.org](http://www.kfamilysolutions.org)  
[www.facebook.com/kfscare](https://www.facebook.com/kfscare)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/kaleidoscope-family-solutions-inc-](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kaleidoscope-family-solutions-inc-)



**Mission Monday** is our space to thank providers who have given exceptional service to our individuals this month!

### New Jersey Recognitions:

**Emily Regan:** Emily continues to show an ample amount of kindness and understanding of the individuals she works with. She is always supportive of the individuals and is always a sturdy shoulder to lean on.

GO EMILY!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!

**Barry Sampson:** Barry has been with KFSNJ for a number of years now and continuously shows that he is a dependable asset of KFSNJ. The individuals he works with have shown time and time again that Barry helps them progress and evolve every day!

GO BARRY!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

**Chrys Geddies:** Chrys ceaselessly goes above and beyond with the individuals that she works with. Chrys continues to show the true aspect of what it is to be a DSP. Chrys consistently understands the wants and needs of the individuals she works with daily.

GO CHRYS!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

**Jennifer King:** Jennifer is one of most compassionate people around! Jennifer continues to show dedication and determination in the field. Jennifer is always open to accepting challenges and finding her way through them!

GO JENNIFER!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

