

Don't forget to celebrate National Snack Day on March 4<sup>th</sup>!! Yummy!

## A Message from our Executive Director.

It's all about loyalty this month at Kaleidoscope! I just can't stop thinking about how proud I am of our internal and external teams and their ability to selflessly dedicate themselves in such a wide variety of areas. Within the agency, we are constantly looking for ways to help our individuals achieve goals and dreams. In addition, we look to each other for guidance, support and encouragement to ensure we are free to do what needs to be done. We are truly a team in every aspect, from methods to execution; it's a true team approach. On the other hand, when I get the pleasure to observe providers and individuals in action, I am thrilled to see endless accomplishments, many of them only possible because they have each other.

March is also a month to be celebrated because we have both Down Syndrome Awareness Day on March 21st and National Developmental Disability Awareness Month (NDDAM). To keep this in the forefront, we will be highlighting individuals throughout March to make you aware that we can see that anything is possible. The accomplishments and milestones made by individuals are endless. Having a label might deter some, but we never allow that. We consider NDDAM as a powerful message to defy stigma. First, we raise awareness and acceptance; then we take action. That may be one of the main reasons I value this field. Through the power of collective collaboration, we are able to watch miracles happen.

Finally, and with merit for sure, Spring is right around the corner. I can't wait to embrace the longer days, new sounds and colorful blooms. Have a wonderful time in March!

All the best to you and your families,

Dr. TaraColleen Macatee

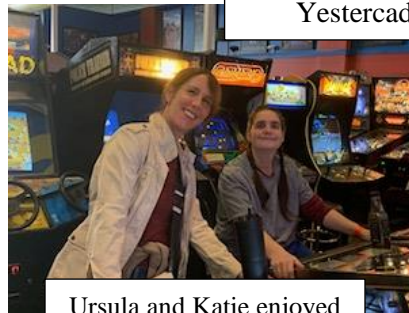


We had our After-the-Holidays holiday party! KFSNJ played Uno, did holiday themed crafts, and some of us even got our dancing shoes on! After working up an appetite we enjoyed a pizza dinner together! YUM!



Arcade games? YES PLEASE!

KFSNJ took pleasure in attending Yestercades in Red Bank!



Ursula and Katie enjoyed playing pinball at Yestercades!



Margaret and Tracy used teamwork to complete a cute kitten puzzle!



## **KFSNJ SPOTLIGHT**

### **The SPOTLIGHT on Cassie!**

We are so excited to share about Cassie. She has been with Kaleidoscope for almost six years, and has been actively involved in the social programs since day one. Cassie loves to be with others and has made many solid friendships throughout the years. It has been super fun to watch her grow and flourish.

Cassie loves pop culture. She is the first one we go to for information about any TV show or movie. Other passions include music, movies – we could easily call Cassie a movie buff! Cassie enjoys going to look at art. She is so excited to visit Grounds for Sculpture, in Hamilton, for her birthday this summer! She also enjoys talking to others! She always makes everyone in the room feel welcomed and comfortable! Cassie is our social butterfly!

In addition, Cassie enjoys a good game, and likes to be a bit competitive! Though, all in good fun!  
Enjoy these pictures of Cassie enjoying activities through KFS!



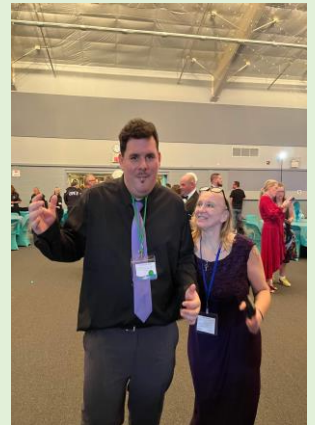
### **The SPOTLIGHT on Keala!**

Keala is the friend everyone loves to hang-out with! He is social, funny, kind and super creative! Keala lives down the shore with his mom and dad. He loves music, and especially loves to dance! As a matter of fact, Keala went to Night to Shine with Jamie and danced the night away! Jamie and Keala have gone to Night to Shine together for SIX years!  
Talk about a dance partner!

Keala thoroughly enjoys games, shopping at the mall, and attending Zumba lessons to practice and keep his dance moves sharp! Keala attends Wonderfully Made events. He looks forward to Wonderfully Made gatherings each week! Keala has gained SO much independence and enhanced social skills over his duration at KFSNJ and Wonderfully Made! Keala is extremely talented in trivia! If you ever need to know an answer to a trivia question, Keala is your man to ask! Keala's favorite musical artists are Taylor Swift and Aerosmith! He loves to jam out and sing some karaoke!

#### **Rock on Keala!**

Enjoy the pictures of Keala and Jamie enjoying Night to Shine!





## ST. PATRICK'S DAY BROWNIE TRIFLE

### Ingredients

- 1 box Brownie Mix \*plus ingredients on box, 8x8 pan size
- 3.5 oz Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix
- 8 oz Cool Whip
- Green Food Coloring
- Mint Oreo's \*crushed

### Instructions

1. Cook brownies according to directions. Allow to cool completely.
2. Make pudding according to directions. Once pudding is done, add in a few drops of green food coloring, or until desired shade of green is reached.
3. Take a Ziploc bag and place a few Oreos' inside. Seal the bag and smash the bag to crush the Oreo's.
4. To assemble trifle; layer cut up brownie, a layer of pudding, a layer of cool whip, another layer of cut up brownie, a layer of pudding, and a few crushed Oreo's on top!!
5. Chill in refrigerator until ready to serve!!



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

### New Jersey Recognitions:

**Tina Cavezza:** Tina has been with Kaleidoscope since October, and has shown nothing but determination and commitment. Tina has worked extremely hard with her individuals to ensure they reach and exceed their goals!

**GO TINA!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**

**Jamie Smith:** Jamie has worked with her individuals for a number of years now. Jamie is one of our longest and consistent providers. Jamie shows loyalty, kindness, and has a huge heart! She makes sure her individuals live life to the best, and to the fullest.

**GO JAMIE!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**

**Katie Bender:** Katie shows up every day with a contagious smile on her face. She truly makes the best out of every situation. Katie has shown her individuals the positive aspects of life! She has been so flexible, and has taken on new cases if needed!

**GO KATIE!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**

**Freddie Burgess:** Freddie is celebrating SIX years with Kaleidoscope in June! Freddie consistently goes above for his shifts! He enjoys going to basketball games at the local high school with his individual, even participating in historic "Lucky" events with him! Freddie is continuously kind, caring, and light hearted! We appreciate your dedication to Kaleidoscope!

**GO FREDDIE!! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**



HAPPY  
**St. Patrick's**  
DAY

## Happy Birthday!

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



March 4<sup>th</sup>- Elizabeth

March 5<sup>th</sup>- Narda

March 14<sup>th</sup>- Michael

March 15<sup>th</sup>- Sarah Jane

March 27<sup>th</sup>- Thomas

March 31<sup>st</sup>- Edwin

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## Meet our NEW Clinical Coordinator: Julie Higgins !



### **Q: What made you want to work for KFS?**

A: I was drawn to KFS because their company-wide motto is what I follow for myself on a daily basis. I've worked in the field for 5 years, and decided it was time to try the administrative side of the field! Though, I do miss being in the field sometimes, I love my position at KFS!

### **Q: What do you find most rewarding about your position?**

A: I find that by communicating with the families and the providers, I become aware of the progress that our individuals have made. It makes my heart full to hear the progress our providers help our individuals learn!

### **Q: What would you say to others who want to work for KFS?**

A: This field is for those who have a huge heart and patience. It is a super rewarding field! You must be empathetic, understanding and professional!