

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.

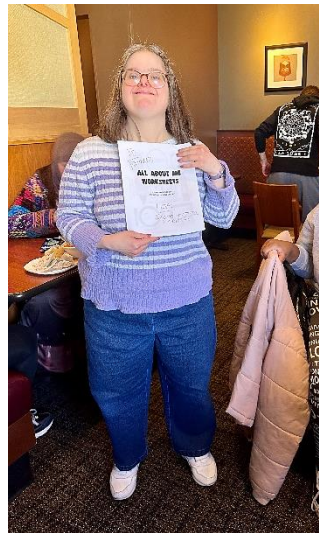
Finally, and with merit for sure, Spring is right around the corner. I can't wait to embrace the longer days, new sounds and colorful blooms. Have a wonderful time in March!

All the best to you and your families,

Dr. TaraColleen Macatee



Our very first in-person talent show since Covid! While we had many of these on Zoom, which were fabulous, being together was extra special. And, you just can't believe the talent this group has!

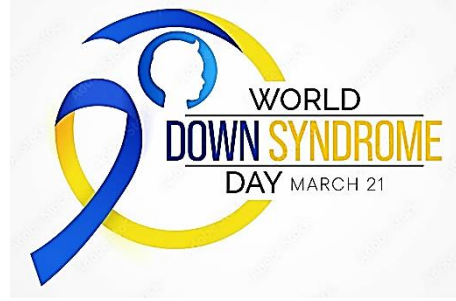


We were able to have a true peer support group while enjoying lunch. The Topic was "All About Me."



We experimented with coffee filters, color and water to make these tie-dyed snowflakes!





The **SPOTLIGHT** on Ammar!

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

Ammar loves sports. He is the first one we go to for information about our local sports teams. Other passions include video games, and movies – we could easily call Ammar a movie buff! He also enjoys identifying landmarks in the community, especially when public transportation can be involved. On trips, Ammar identifies bus numbers, regional rail lines and more.

Ammar lives with his dad in Norristown. Ammar volunteers at The Coffee Closet with Barista Jake Café where he helps with cleaning and organizing. Ammar makes a positive difference in this world and all of those who get to spend time with him! Enjoy the photo of Ammar with his good friend, Sara. They are bowling partners and can always be found laughing together.



The **SPOTLIGHT** on Rosie!

Rosie is the friend everyone loves to hang-out with! She is outgoing, funny, kind and super creative. You may have seen Rosie's artwork and projects in newsletters and social media throughout the years. Rosie lives with her mom and has a big family to keep her busy. She loves music, and happens to be one of the first to send in a song request for a KFS event. As a matter of fact, Rosie comes to all of our dances where she recently and officially became the Valentine of another group member.

Rosie stays fit through exercise and healthy eating. As a matter of fact, Rosie helps with meal planning and cooking on a regular basis. Her other hobbies include adult coloring books, and hanging out with friends and family. Rosie has one nephew and two nieces of which she happily spends a lot of time with. Look at Rosie with her boyfriend, Mikey.



Now, that's how you make a perfect heart!



Monsters at art class made us smile!





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 Oreo's 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!

WPA: Jasmine Utt has helped multiple individuals over the years. Jasmine has been with KFS since June 2021. Jasmine is currently working a full-time job, has two KFS individuals, and has 4 children of her own. She has learned to balance everything, and provide the best care for our individuals. Jasmine is currently looking at an additional ISP to help an individual with only a few hours per week. She also finished all of her DSP trainings for 2024 and qualified for the \$100 bonus! Thank you for caring as much as we do, Jasmine!

NEPA: Shawn Keller has been a DSP with KFS for about 10 years. He has been a consistent and dependable DSP since he started. The staff, ICs and individuals all love working with Shawn as he truly is a shining light. February is Shawn's last month with Kaleidoscope and he is going to be deeply missed!!!

CPA: Mona Bowser has been working with an individual who recently went through brain surgery, and has been scheduling all of her upcoming appointments and making sure that the individual has the best care. She has been getting the individual back to everyday life and striving to help her continue to live in her own apartment. We really appreciate your commitment, Mona!

EPA: Grace D'Angelo is being recognized for her creativity this past month with each of the individuals she supports. Since joining our team, Grace has gone above and beyond with the individuals she supports while engaging them in their goals in the community. Thanks for your efforts Grace!

Lancaster: Stephanie Martin ... Where do we begin? Stephanie has always been hard working and loyal to KFS. Due to recent position/staff changes in the LCPA region, Stephanie has really stepped up to the plate. She has great communication with myself and other DSP's. Most importantly Stephanie provides guidance and effective solutions where it's needed the most. Stephanie plans and runs all of the Lancaster events as well. Thank you for the continued support, creativity and dedication!

NEXT: Denise Houck is consistent and has been doing great with getting Edwin out into the community. She updates us on his progress weekly which includes achievements such as doing better with hygiene and feeling comfortable in his community. Denise's hard work does not go unnoticed.

What a great group photo of the Allentown team enjoying a special day at the Banana factory!



CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

- Dominique has been taking care of her health by walking more!
- Stephanie has been growing her hair to donate to Locks of Love! Stay tuned for before and after pictures.
- Jack performed with his band at Steamworks Creative! One of his songs was *Hit the Road Jack*!
- George is super committed to his fitness routine! He has been doing sets of 50 on various machines every day.
- Liaba took a trip to Tennessee toured many universities, as well as meet a potential new family member!
- Matt shoveled a foot of snow off of his deck!
- Jackie did a walk to support her church!
- Kelly got a new dog named Lilli! It's a boxer.
- Christian donated clothes to Goodwill!
- Sophie made wonderful gifts for her mom's birthday!
- Heather's artwork is a finalist for National Developmental Disability Awareness Month (see photo)!
- Sara lost three pounds, lowered her blood sugar, and as a result was able to lower her medication!
- Ian was a Honorary Captain for the Women's Basketball team at Arcadia University!
- Carolan has been swimming and walking on the treadmill!
- Prince celebrated his 7-year anniversary as a volunteer at Young Ones Store!



The Lancaster crew started out with a scavenger hunt at the mall and ended at the Fire and Ice Festival!



Heather with her artwork for NDDAM!



WPA ventured to Pin Mechanical to play games, do duck pin bowling and more!



Some Valentine's Day Dance fun!

Praise for Kaleidoscope

"Bruce was so kind and informative—it was a great parents' group! I'll be looking forward to the next one; and, again, encouraging parents to attend. The topics are so relevant; and, everyone always appreciates your kind and supportive meeting environment so very much!"
--Karen Straw, Clinical Coordinator

"We spoke to Cassie last night, and she is able to fulfill Kyle's hours! I am SO glad that she is able to because we love Cassie and Kyle LOVES going out with her. They have had so much fun together (especially yesterday!) and we are noticing improvement in his demeanor. Yesterday she took him to ImagiNation, and the way he interacted there made my heart so happy! I've never seen him ride on a little scooter (probably wrong word) before and go into a truck and play with the steering wheel. So much more than that, but she is amazing!!"
--Brianna, a Happy Parent



Kaleidoscope Family Solutions
Home Office
950 East Haverford Road
Suite 100A
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
P: 877-384-1729 F: 610-527-8672
www.kfamiliesolutions.org
www.facebook.com/kfscare
www.linkedin.com/company/kaleidoscope-family-solutions-inc
www.twitter.com/kfscare
www.instagram.com/kfscare