



Message from our Executive Director:

Fall is in the air with smells of warm apple cider, camp fires and evening hot cocoa. As much as I love the warm months, I treasure the cool breezes and falling leaves of October. As you may be aware, Kaleidoscope had a super busy September with camping trips, stadium tours, dance parties and even a performance at the Philadelphia Autism Speaks Walk. As we wind-down with a less hectic schedule, it is always our mission to offer an abundance of social connections throughout all times of the year.

This month, the Kaleidoscope Vision Statement reminds us to live inclusion and connection by “Opening Doors in the Community.” There are so many ways to connect with others both inside and outside of our work environments. At home, I try to share my strengths with neighbors and community members while being cognizant of what is important to them. In the workplace, we make it a priority to be all inclusive with programming and internal trainings that foster the ability to grow and develop.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Down Syndrome Awareness Month. We are super proud of how many individuals we support that contribute to their communities through employment or volunteerism. Additionally, we have the pleasure of supporting and learning from individuals with Down Syndrome. In our newsletters and on social media, we will proudly share some of the wonderful accomplishments they have made. They, too, are opening doors in their communities. As you enjoy this month of change, ask yourself if you are growing and emerging towards openness. Unlike nature, we have the ability to control our environments and make things happen – there is always an open door somewhere.

With the warmest of colors that fall can bring,

Dr. TaraColleen Macatee



We had the best time touring our Philadelphia Eagles home, Lincoln Financial Field. Fly Eagles Fly!



Speaking of Philly sports, look at these Philly pennants we made at our art group at The Upper Merion Library!

Disability Employment Awareness Month



Camping 2023!

Mission Monday is our space to thank providers who continue to go above and beyond when servicing KFS individuals. *Please help us salute our monthly winners!*

Western, PA: Colleen Wilson has done some amazing work with Jenna this month. Jenna has had a tough month, but Colleen has been able to provide additional support to ensure that Jenna receives the services she needs to make next month better! Colleen is dedicated to improving the lives of our individuals.

Northeastern, PA: Judy Gingrich has been a DSP with KFS for 2.5 years. She genuinely cares for the individuals that she works with and is so patient and kind. She always has a positive attitude and her individuals love working with her!

Central, PA: Destiny Gentry was filling in on a case until a new provider was identified. She then decided that she would like to take the case full time. She has been an amazing support to her individual, including making sure that her decisions and reasonings are validated and being heard. She is always putting the individual first and coming up with ideas to keep her busy while out in the community. She made sure to follow the correct protocol when the individual was not feeling well and needed to seek medical attention! Thank you for all that you do Destiny!

Eastern, PA: Jordy Labady continues to provide great support to everyone he works with. Jordy goes the extra mile getting the Individuals he works with to events they want to participate in. Jordy has taken one individual to his first Philadelphia Eagles game this past month and goes above and beyond making sure everyone gets to attend functions in the community. Thanks, Jordy, for Creating a Colorful Difference!

Lancaster, PA: Heather Wentzel has been working with us since 2021. She works so well with her individual even through the complicated and hard moments. She is always willing to do whatever it takes to help make her individual's life better. Thanks for all you do!





The SPOTLIGHT is on Winnie!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Our first honoree this month is Winnie from Delco. Winnie has been with Kaleidoscope for 7 years. She actively attends many of our events and activities so we have the pleasure of seeing her on a regular basis. On the topic of successful employment, Winnie works at Giant Markets in Aldan, PA where she has been employed since 2022 – a one year anniversary! At Giant, Winnie restocks shelves, helps with shopping carts and bagging groceries. Winnie shared with us that she loves being around customers and other employees.

Winnie has a solid network of both friends and family. Believe it or not, she is an aunt to 15 nieces and nephews, two of which are twins. With that said, you can imagine that she has lots of birthday and holiday presents to buy.

Winnie enjoys Special Olympics where she competes in many sports, including softball, volleyball and hockey. She serves on their Athlete Board as an Athlete Representative so she can support other athletes. Winnie is also a scholar. Although her degree at Widener University was put on hold due to Covid, she was able to complete two years and plans to return in the near future. Winnie's long-term goal is to work with homeless veterans. Seeing them struggle with homelessness and financial difficulties after years of service is of concern to her. She sees herself in a role to help them get back on their feet. One of Winnie's greatest memories is meeting Stephen Colbert on a trip to Washington, DC. Super cool! Thank you, Winnie, for all of your passion. You absolutely make a Colorful difference in this world.



Congratulations are in Order!

- ✓ Jacob got down to a weight of 273 and it's his lowest weight in a long time!
- ✓ Stephanie has been consistently doing yoga to get her strength back!
- ✓ Christian went to the dentist independently and didn't have any cavities!
- ✓ Lots of Special Olympics congratulations for championship wins: Winnie, Clair, Eric, Weronika, Jackie, Jill, Mike, Aidan!
- ✓ Heather was a speaker at the Arc Alliance dinner where she highlighted Kaleidoscope among other aspects of her life as an adult with Down Syndrome!
- ✓ Mikey got eight Golden Stars, a Bravo Award, a gift and balloon for his exemplary service as an employee at Home Depot!
- ✓ Nico won 1st Place in trivia at the Hops at the Reddock Restaurant!
- ✓ Lori celebrated her 24 year anniversary of working at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum!
- ✓ After a fun summer off, Brian returned to his job at Northampton Middle School!
- ✓ Sophia has been lifting weights and doing boxing!
- ✓ Lasa started a new activity called chair volleyball!
- ✓ Prince shattered the breaking record for most lateral pull-downs by an autism person at Three Strands Community Center in Hamburg, PA!
- ✓ Jack has been playing at local venues with his band! As we shared in the last newsletter, he is also an accomplished author and illustrator!
- ✓ Amy participated in the National Park Foundation America Walk on Team Hope!



Playing 'Hedbanz' and creating worry dolls together!



Brian back at work!

Pumpkin Ice-Cream Sandwiches

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons butter, softened
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 to 2 tablespoons milk
Red and yellow food coloring
48 round sugar cookies
72 raisins
Red and green decorating icing
1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened



Directions:

In a small bowl, combine the butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and enough milk to achieve spreading consistency. Tint orange with red and yellow food coloring. Frost the tops of 24 sugar cookies. Make pumpkin faces, using raisins for eyes and nose. Add a smile with red icing and stem with green icing. Let dry completely.

Spoon ice cream onto bottom of plain cookies; top with frosted cookies. Place in individual plastic bags; seal. Freeze until serving.

Recipe submitted by Bette from Allentown, PA.

Philadelphia Eagles Kelly
Green Block Party! Go Birds!

The NEPA crew has been getting around! The right-facing picture is them at the DaVinci Center. The below photo is a pose at the Easton Canal Museum.



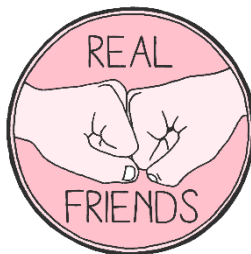
Amy and Liana get to
volunteer together at the
Surrey Center!



Look at those bowling scores!
Now, that's we call success!



Lasa cardio drumming!



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