

2024 Calendar

living our best lives



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KSI



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The mission of KSI is to assist people with disabilities to live their best lives.

Living better takes opportunities to grow



So many of the stories you'll read in this calendar speak of how individuals gain skills they never knew they had just by having opportunities to grow. And there are so many partnerships that make a difference in our participants' lives, from providing crucial employment exposure to just making individuals feel more like members of their communities.

You're the partner that empowers progress.

There are so many ways you make a difference in the lives of people with varied abilities. Through individual, community, state, county, municipal and foundation support, KSI has made great progress in delivering the opportunities that help individuals succeed. It spans from opening a Southern Campus in Georgetown to serve elder and higher-needs individuals, to taking over a Kent County summer camp and family resource in Kamp Lenape for serving children with varying abilities, to taking the first steps to create a more comfortable environment in which to learn and grow with the renovation of KSI's Skill Development Center.

It all happens because of you. And we value your partnership to help us continue serving people with disabilities at the highest level of quality and respect.

If you're looking to contribute financially to help people live their best lives, contact **Alicia Hollis**; 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015; hollisa@ksiinc.org to learn how.

If you have community opportunities or sites that could enrich participants' lives:

For the Milford Skill Development Center, contact
Jessy Adams; 302-422-4014 Ext. 3110; adamsj@ksiinc.org.

For the KSI Southern Campus in Georgetown, contact
John Jennings; 302-422-4014 Ext. 4116; jenningsj@ksiinc.org.

**For Information
About KSI Services,
Please Call (302) 422-4014**

To speak with someone regarding specific services KSI provides, please contact:

Service: Contact: Ext:

Program Admissions

Regina Bumbrey 3104

Work Crews & Contract Production

Mark Reeve 3019

KSI Presentations & Donations

Alicia Hollis 3015

KSI Cartridge Service

Cartridge Sales 3126

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Selected programs have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities



KSI's United Way Member Agency Designation Number is **340**

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Our calendar patrons are listed on the inside back cover.

Become part of the success story. *Donate now!*

The best way to contribute to the success of KSI participants is with your generous donation to support the organization. There are many ways to contribute financially to our mission:

- **Direct donations** are always welcome, either through check anytime (see the convenient envelope included in this calendar), or online donations by hitting the "Donate" hand icon at www.ksiinc.org.
- **Designate your financial gift to meet a specific need.** Often donors will opt to support a particular aspect of KSI's funding needs, like transportation vehicle purchases, cafeteria equipment upgrades, technology enhancements, facility improvements or other choices that might match the donor's own focus. To identify a specific need to support, contact Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015; hollisa@ksiinc.org.
- **Making a planned giving donation** through your personal estate is another great way to keep KSI's mission strong. Planned giving can include retirement plan assets like IRAs and CDs, trusts, and stock interests.

There are plenty of options with which you can help KSI financially, and all are tax deductible. To learn more about ways you can contribute to help people with disabilities embrace their best abilities, contact Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015; hollisa@ksiinc.org. You can also "Like" us on Facebook at "KSIWorks" to see about fundraising activities like the Paths to Possibilities 5K Run/Walk, KSI Annual 3 Club Golf Tournament, Monster Bash, the Friends of KSI Quarter Auction, product sales fundraisers, GoFundMe campaigns, and more.



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Be the possibility!

KSI can help you succeed!



KSI offers a variety of person-centered services to help individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) find opportunities for success, whether their goals include community-based employment or simply finding more independence and participation in their community.

From day one in KSI's programs, individuals are assisted in defining and attaining their choices to help them create their success story.

Pre-Vocational Training

KSI's Step-by-step training to increase employment and personal skills for the workplace includes:

- Volunteer opportunities to reinforce work skills

Features include:

- Peer support from others dealing with disabilities
- Socialization and reintroduction into the community
- Volunteer opportunities to participate and contribute
- Support to reach assistive meetings and resources during programming hours

KSI's Southern Campus

Located in downtown Georgetown, the Southern Campus offers more intimate and service-intensive programming that can help aging and high-needs individuals with disabilities gain and maintain skills while socializing with their peers and having access to community experiences.

Embrace Abilities in your workplace & community. KSI Can Help You Succeed.

Contract with KSI to get your work done. KSI performs large-volume contract production work for businesses at its Milford Skill Development Center, including light assembly, kit making, packaging, labeling and more. And KSI's supervised full-time and part-time work crews are able to handle a wide range of projects at your operation site. Call Mark Reeve at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3019 to learn more.

- Real-world work experiences, either in KSI's Skill Development Center or on community-based work crews
- Conditioning for the expectations of desired employment

The ultimate goal of Pre-Vocational Training is community-based employment as a direct hire. Supported Employment offers training and assistance needed to attain and acclimate to a new job. When individuals are ready for that step into community employment, KSI is able to help them access the resources available.

Life Enrichment Program

Individuals can achieve increased independence in the community using KSI's non-employment Life Enrichment Program, which includes:

- Gaining and maintaining ability for self-care, safety, socialization and participation
- Self-discovery through inclusion in community trips, clubs, classes, cultural engagements and other lesson-centered activities
- Community volunteer opportunities to gain skills and contribute

The KSI Life Enrichment Program is also accessible for activity-based retirement.

The KSI Explore Program

KSI offers a specialized Adult Day Services program tailored for those with an acquired brain injury or other disability that may limit their social interaction. The program offers person-centered plans for secure experiences at KSI's Skill Development Center or expanding activities in the community. It's up to the individual's personal choice.

Kamp Lenape

KSI's Kamp Lenape offers summer day programs during July and August for children with and without disabilities. Located in Felton, Kamp Lenape offers activities campers will enjoy, including crafts, sports, onsite swimming, community trips to fairs and events, and more. To learn more, email KampLenape@ksiinc.org



More from KSI

KSI Food Service Program

KSI's cafeteria provides healthy daily breakfasts and lunches free of charge to each KSI Skill Development Center participant. It ensures their bodies are well-nourished, provides important socialization opportunities when possible and offers employment training opportunities.

KSI Transportation

KSI's fleet of vans and busses guarantees Pre-Vocational, Life Enrichment and community-based participants can reliably access employment and program opportunities. Our vans and busses travel hundreds of thousands of miles annually throughout Kent and Sussex Counties.

Don't Miss Any of the Great News & Events in 2024.

Sign up for KSI's e-news and information emailing list by registering your email at <https://ksiinc.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/ksi-eneews-signup>

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KSI offers a wide array of imaging supplies to meet your needs, with significant discounts and KSI's 100% guarantee. Call 302-422-4014 Ext. 3126 or email ksicartridgesales@ksiinc.org to start saving today.

Provide community volunteer and enrichment opportunities.

Community-integrated volunteer and enrichment activities reinforce participants' skills and abilities while helping them access community resources for richer lives. Contact Jessy Adams at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3110; adamsj@ksiinc.org with your nonprofit's opportunities.

Learn More About KSI. You can schedule a presentation anytime at KSI's Skill Development Center, or at your place of business or community group meeting, to learn about our participants' accomplishments in the community. Just call Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015 today to schedule your presentation.

KSI's mission is accomplished with many important partners:

- Our referring agencies, which include: The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS), the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), The Columbus Organization, the Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI), Highmark Health Options Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delaware First Health and AmeriHealth Caritas.
- Our dedicated Board Members.
- Generous donors who provide financial support.
- Community-based businesses providing jobs.
- Service groups providing volunteer and enrichment opportunities.
- Community partners providing inclusion sites.
- KSI staff offering compassionate training, encouragement and guidance.
- Families and providers who are personally involved.
- **And the participants** themselves who find motivation and confidence to reach higher every day.

Learn how to Embrace Abilities.

Contact KSI today.

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january

Annie Brown



Annie Brown came to KSI in 2018 with a lot of personal growth ahead of her. With guidance from KSI's Case Managers when Annie first started, and a strong partnership between KSI and Annie's parents, the young woman is really getting on track.

"She has a good support team with mom and dad," said Annie's current Case Manager Brigitt Wyatt. "Any time there's a problem, they can be called. Because of that, she's really grown. I feel she's embraced the expectations upon her as an adult. It takes a team to help these guys."

One of the experiences that helped her rise closer to her personal goals was accessing paid work opportunities at KSI's Skill Development Center. As part of its Pre-Vocational services, KSI contracts with community businesses who need production tasks performed that could match KSI participants' abilities. Annie was eager to be part of that because it gave her an important purpose to her life path as well as the personal power of having her own cash to manage. So she pushed for inclusion on jobs like assembling fastener kits and erecting cases, and has become a great asset to the team working production jobs at KSI.

"She cares about doing a good job and not losing the privilege to work," said Mrs. Wyatt. "She is more in touch with what it means to make a paycheck. And that really came alive while she was on a community trip to a Goodwill retail store and saw some of the good things she could afford."

The growth and responsibility learned by working encourages Annie to expand her horizons. "Ever since I started with KSI, I have learned a lot and learned to do different things," related Annie. "I have learned how to handle money better and how to focus on myself and not stressing over small things."

Along with the ability to learn through working and preparing for an adult life, Annie also has developed healthy relationships that make her life richer and give her a greater sense of belonging. "I love the staff and I like my new friends at KSI," Annie stated. "KSI is my home town."

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December 2023						
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February 2024						
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January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 KSI Holiday New Year's Day	2	3 Last Quarter Moon 🌖	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 New Moon ●	12	13
14	15 KSI Holiday Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17 First Quarter Moon 🌖	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Full Moon ○	26	27
28	29	30	31 KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.			



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KSI

february

Kayla Strohmeyer

Kayla began receiving services from KSI in the summer of 2018 as a dual Life Enrichment/Pre-Vocational participant. She gained a lot of work-related experience on production jobs at KSI's Skill Development Center, learning to follow directions and gaining valuable skills. But during her off hours, her Case Manager Shronnda Gray noticed she had a real passion for something in particular.

"She enjoys writing and many times that included food recipes or a list of foods she would like to have for an occasion. Kayla has often told us that she loves baking cookies & cupcakes with her Nana and with her stepmother Leslie Huss," Mrs. Gray shared. "I saw her enthusiasm when she talked about baking and how bright and excited her voice would be when she related experiences cooking at home. Pre-Covid, Kayla also had the chance to make cupcakes for a few birthday parties and even a wedding, doing the majority of the work herself."

"Information about the Food Bank of Delaware's Kitchen School came across in an email, so I asked Kayla if she would like to apply," Mrs. Gray remembered. "I completed the application online and within a couple of weeks, the Food Bank contacted me about a tour with Kayla and her father, Mr. Josh Huss. Kayla already had the experience around a kitchen, just not in an official setting. So the Food Bank Kitchen School gave her the education she needed to work in a food environment."

The Food Bank of Delaware's Kitchen School is a new, 12-week food service training program designed for adults with disabilities. Students gain skills at the Food Bank kitchen learning kitchen safety, sanitation and cooking skills, then make the transition to professional cooking opportunities. For Kayla, it was the beginning of a whole new life linked to her passion.

"I love it. I like everything about it," she related. "It feels good, like being in a master class."

Kayla graduated in July 2023 from her initial training, which included working at area restaurants to get hands-on experience with actual busy food operations. Now she's focused on working with Harrington Raceway and Casino's food and beverage department.

"I feel fabulous, like I can learn more new things," Kayla shared. "I have gained confidence and respect for other people."

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January 2024						
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March 2024						
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February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Last Quarter ☾	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 New Moon ●	10
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 St. Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15	16 First Quarter ☾	17
18	19 Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday	20	21	22	23	24 Full Moon ○
25	26	27	28	29		

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march

Jermachel Deshields

Jermachel Deshields is a strong-willed man intent upon doing everything he can for his family. But when, at age 36, he was shot in the head protecting his daughter, the injury took away his power to walk, work and provide for that family. Since then, it's been his sheer will and determination that has driven his journey back to walking, talking and relating to the world around him. Now 43, he has such a positive outlook on life, despite the incredible trials he's endured. And he shares that everywhere he goes.

A number of years ago, he enrolled in KSI's Explore Program for individuals with an acquired brain injury who are looking for peer support and socialization experiences. In addition to his own individual strengths, he's able to draw from the camaraderie with others going through similar journeys as his. He also has chances to share experiences in the community with them and visit places where he can grow the interpersonal skills he seeks, along with continually increasing his motor skills.

"My goal is rehabilitating," said Jermachel. "And the main thing coming here is exercising and meeting people every day. Talking to different people helps me with my social skills and helps my brain and speech to become clearer."

He's increased his mobility and speech abilities incrementally month to month by maximizing every possible opportunity to strengthen himself mentally and physically. And the results have been amazingly impressive. Within little more than a year he went from using mobility assistance devices to just using a cane to being entirely independent of any assistance whatsoever.

With Explore Program groups, Jermachel regularly visits Dover Mall, the Salvation Army soup kitchen in Seaford, The Frederica Senior Center, and other sites all over Kent and Sussex County. People at a lot of these sites, especially Frederica Senior Center, get to know Jermachel and other Explore Program participants, pal around with them and make them feel like regular members of their community. They recognize Jermachel's resolute strength of character, his perseverance and his genuine compassion for others. And they are drawn to him because of that. Those relationships help Jermachel in significant ways.

His spiritual strength drives his journey to healing. "I've only gotten where I am thanks to the grace of God," Jermachel shared. "If it were not for the grace of Jesus and my faith, I wouldn't have made it. I'm very grateful to be alive."

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Our mission is to create remarkable health experiences, freeing everyone to be their best

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February 2024						
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April 2024						
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March 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Thursday

Friday

Saturday

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month					1	2
3 Last Quarter ☾ Moon	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set clocks ahead one hour) New Moon ●	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day First Quarter ☾ Moon	18	19 Spring Begins	20	21 World Down Syndrome Day "Rock Your Socks"	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter	Full Moon ○		KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.		Good Friday	



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april

James Hynes

As a KSI Direct Support Professional (DSP), James is solid as a rock. And that means a lot when he's trying to sift through a participant's anxieties and disabilities to find the connection point that opens everything up for them. Being a person that participants can trust and with whom they can be consistently comfortable makes the process of working together for progress all the better.

"He has this very calm presence that is so helpful with our participants," Case Manager Kathleen Shirey observed. "A lot of our guys can be very wound up. James is very easy going. He knows their personalities really well. And he's not intimidated by strong personalities. He's had a lot of training and he'll let you know what seems to be working and what isn't with participants."

Because of his particular personal strengths, James often takes on mentoring and accommodating some of the more complicated cases among his participant group. Working with one young gentleman, Sammy, presented difficulties because his disability made him very introverted and he had a number of obsessive behaviors that were easily triggered.

"Part of the challenge was Sammy not communicating or participating in other ways," James said.

Sammy's father and Case Manager Regina Bumbrey discussed ways Sammy could get involved in something. His father suggested that manual tasks like assembling something might be a good idea. After some attempts with various options, his father sent in a set of large Legos®, with which Sammy started building tall towers. After a while, a kit of regular Legos® with an instruction book was introduced. James took plenty of time helping Sammy build things with the smaller Legos® like flowers, guitars, a house and other figures.

While he was still keeping to himself, Sammy was much more self-motivated with the Legos®, eventually getting them off the shelf himself unprompted to start working with them and putting them back when it was time to clean up. And that was a big step in the right direction.

"I want to help them to a point. Then at some time let them do what they can on their own," James said. "Part of it is being a familiar face they see regularly and feel comfortable with. The knowledge that I'm helping someone is a good thing."

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March 2024						
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May 2024						
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April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Last Quarter ☾ Moon	2 World Autism Awareness Day "Go Blue"	3	4	5	6
7	8 New Moon ●	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 First Quarter ☾ Moon	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 First Day of Passover Earth Day	23 Full Moon ○	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	April is Autism Awareness Month			



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may

Winifred Scott

For the longest time, Winnie Scott was a typical young person who needed prompting to stay on track, and maybe liked socializing more than doing anything else. But one opportunity gave her the chance to find out the kind of adult she had the ability to become.

Winnie's participation on a two-person community-based work crew with her KSI Supervisor Robin Cox at Merck Animal Health has made a huge difference for her. She has developed focus on her assignments. She has put a lot of effort into learning and following all the rules at the worksite, which is so paramount to workplace effectiveness and safety. Even more valuable is the winning attitude she brings with her on the job.

"Winifred shows up at work each day with a positive and compassionate attitude," said crew supervisor Robin Cox. "She's very sociable and has won the hearts of all the employees at Merck. She has a smile for everyone she greets."

Winnie showed growth in a number of instances when her fellow crew member at Merck couldn't make it to work. On those days when it was just her and her supervisor, Winnie really showed up with her dedication and stayed right on task to keep up with expected workflow. In addition to that, she's paid much more attention to required safety practices to reduce risks of injury or accidents. And she's developed a willingness to dig into whatever task is presented to her.

On October 10, 2023—Winnie's 40th birthday—her Merck workmates surprised her with a heartfelt appreciation of what she meant to their team. They gave her a lunchtime birthday party, complete with cake and a lovely gift basket to celebrate the milestone. For Winnie, it was a really big deal to feel like one of the crew—one of the Merck "family." It's these genuinely healthy relationships within community life that give participants like Winnie incentives to keep doing well.

"Everyone here at Merck has seen how much Winnie has grown and is staying more focused on her job," Ms. Cox shared. "Things like this are very positive and make our guys want to continue to work."

For Winnie, it's all about continuing her improvement and being a better part of that Merck team. "Winifred has grown to be more aware that being on the job means focusing on her job," Ms. Cox shared. "She is a rising star and will continue to grow as an asset to the company."

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April 2024

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May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep an eye out for details on KSI's Paths to Possibilities 5K Run/Walk happening June 8. Check Facebook at KSIWorks and www.ksiinc.org for registration details.			1 Last Quarter Moon 🌖	2	3	4 Friends of KSI Car Show at KSI Skill Development Center, Milford
5	6	7 New Moon ●	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15 First Quarter Moon 🌖	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.	23 Full Moon ○	24	25
26	27 KSI Holiday Memorial Day	28	29	30 Last Quarter Moon 🌖	31	

ARTISANS' BANK

Small Business Expertise



june

James Johnson

James had relocated from another state several years ago, and his family shared with KSI staff that he hardly spoke at all when he first arrived in Delaware. It was part of his program goals when he began at KSI to develop friendships. And while he was drawn to KSI staff, he was also being encouraged to socialize with his fellow KSI participants. At his group home, the residential manager did a lot to help him create connections with his peers as well. The manager planned trips and outings with James and residents from other group homes where they had the opportunity to hang out with each other, go to dinner together and just get to know one another. With the efforts of his home manager and KSI working in tandem, it wasn't long before James was being much more adventurous in his relationships among KSI participants. And he started sharing the charming personality that had always been there but didn't have an outlet.

"It was a big leap for James to come out of his shell," said Case Manager Nancy Warren. "When he first got to KSI, he was very quiet. Now he's very outgoing and talkative. I've noticed such a big difference since he came here. He's done a real 180 degree turn."

James also discovered something meaningful in having access to work experiences. He was a real star on KSI custodial crews prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, helping maintain a healthy environment at area community centers and nonprofit sites. And since then, he has been working two or three days a week on production jobs at KSI's Skill Development Center. James is part of a team of participants working on various kit-making, assembly, product rework and other jobs that KSI does as contract work for other companies. He's a focused worker and takes pride in doing a really good job. And it empowers him with his own income to manage and use for bettering his life.

KSI strives to create a safe place that allows James to discover and share the abilities he possesses that can help him progress. "He's comfortable with the staff and feels at home. And he's found purpose," Ms. Warren relayed. "Getting to know the staff and his peers, and having a place where he feels like he belongs means a lot to him."

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May 2024

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July 2024

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June 2024

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2	3	4	5	6 New Moon ●	7	8 KSI Paths to Possabilities 5K Run/Walk at Milford Industrial Park
9	10	11	12	13	14 First Quarter ☾ Moon	15
16 Father's Day	17	18 Autistic Pride Day	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Begins	21 DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star Football Game 6 p.m. U of D Stadium. Call (302) 454-2730 Full Moon ○	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Last Quarter ☾ Moon	29
30						

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july

Louis Octavio

Louis Octavio is an earnest young man who likes to do things that make others happy. And being with KSI has provided the options he needs to develop into the person he wants to be.

Louis started with KSI in 2014 on the Pre-Vocational side of programming. But with the flexibility KSI offers, he was able to transition to Life Enrichment skill-building experiences for better independence. However, in a large facility with lots of personalities to please, as is the case in KSI's Milford Skill Development Center, Louis felt uncomfortable. Happily, part of the choices available to him was the more intimate setting of KSI's Southern Campus.

"Louis is a shy person and wants to make everyone happy," said Southern Campus Assistant Program Director Maureen Yocum. "He has benefited from being at the Southern Campus. He is content here because we reassure him and he is able to make choices and advocate for what he wants."

Louis has a personal need for people to be proud of him. He also has a real love for the Marvel comic books collection of superheroes. Having the opportunity to be a Meals On Wheels volunteer through KSI has helped Louis be a hero in his own way. He has gained more confidence and feels like he's accomplishing something important. He gets to be part of the team that picks up meals from the Georgetown CHEER Center and delivers them personally to seniors and shut-ins who depend on those meals for daily sustenance. And Meals On Wheels provides opportunities for Louis to be more vocal and relational with the people to whom he delivers food. With those recipients' gratitude for bringing them something so dear as nutritious meals, it's a positive experience for both them and Louis. He gets to be the kind of hero to which he aspires.

"I like helping people," Louis said. "And I feel happy doing it."

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Proudly supports KSI in the work they do to assist people with disabilities to live their best lives here in Delaware.

Helping to fuel Delaware's economic growth and enable higher standards of living for all.



June 2024

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July 2024

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Saturday

	1	2	3	4 KSI Holiday Independence Day	5 New Moon ●	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Full Moon ○	22	23	24	25	26 National Disability Independence Day	27 Last Quarter ● Moon
28	29	30	31 KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.			



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august

Ashley Benson

Ashley is one of KSI's Direct Support Professionals (DSP) working with the Explore Program, which includes people of varying abilities and health issues. She has developed a heightened sense of responsibility within her job that has made a big difference to the people around her every day.

"She transitioned from Life Enrichment to the Explore Program when it was going through a complete staff changeover. She had to learn really quickly and hit the ground running," said Case Manager Regina Bumbrey, who manages the Explore Program. "But immediately she brought a sense of stability. She's always been eager to learn and has always been about the participants."

What she also had at her disposal was the intensive training KSI provided her as a DSP. "I've never been in the field before," Ashley related. "The training definitely made me more alert and responsible. And it's come in very handy."

Ashley has proven twice that she's ready to react. The first time happened when she and a group of Explore participants were at the Salvation Army soup kitchen in Seaford. One of the meal recipients, a young girl there with her grandmother, began losing consciousness and was heading for the floor. Ashley caught the girl and stayed with her until help was able to come.

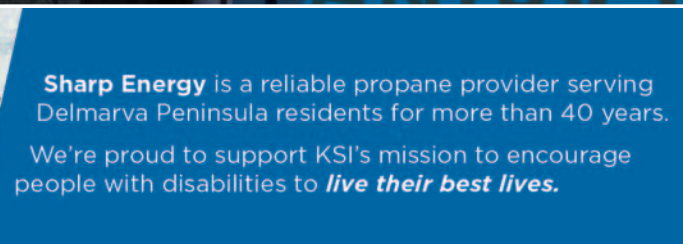
"I had my eyes on KSI's guys and her at the same time," Ashley remembered.

The second time was when she had a group of KSI participants in the community elsewhere. While sharing lunch together, DSPs are tasked with watching everyone to ensure they are safely eating with no complications. When one of the participants started choking, she quickly jumped in to perform the Heimlich maneuver, cleared their airways and saved the participant from serious consequences.

"It speaks to the level of training each DSP gets," Ms. Bumbrey explained. "Whether or not someone pays attention to training in CPR and emergency response decides if they have the presence of mind to react in a desperate situation."

It was obvious Ashley paid that attention to her training, like most of KSI's DSPs. Because, in reality, people's lives depend upon them.

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July 2024

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September 2024

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August 2024

Sunday

Monday

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Saturday

Contact Alicia Hollis, 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015 to access sponsorship of KSI's Annual 3 Club Golf Tournament on SEPTEMBER 20, 2024.				1	2	3
4 New Moon ●	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 First Quarter ☾	13	14	15	16	17 National Nonprofit Day
18	19 Full Moon ○	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Last Quarter ☾	27	28	29	30	31

WSFS Bank is committed to doing what's right and helping the communities where we live, work and play. That's why we're honored to support KSI.



september

An'kha Matthews

Being understood and feeling connected to others requires the ability to communicate yourself, your needs and desires. For An'kha Matthews, that was something frustrating for him and the staff at KSI when he initially joined as a dual Explore Program and Life Enrichment Program participant.

"He is mostly nonverbal. When he first came to the Explore Program in 2021, it was extremely hard for us to understand him and An'kha to understand us," said Case Manager Regina Bumbrey. "He would talk by hand motions and point to what he wanted. And it took a while for him to be comfortable with staff to be able to do that."

Case Manager Lisa Feddman had the idea to create a communication board for An'kha and others who had difficulties with verbal communication. The communication board became a library of pictorial representations of things An'kha wanted, had to do or was scheduled to enjoy. With a visual symbol for everything from the need for restroom breaks to potential community trips in which he could participate, An'kha had a way to get his message across to Direct Support Professionals and they had ways of engaging him. He was also able to build his verbal vocabulary little by little to identify things like certain colors and objects.

"We can keep him advancing in his communication skills by using the board to tell where he's going and what he's doing," Ms. Bumbrey reported.

Having a place to securely grow as an adult means a lot to An'kha. With KSI, he found a safe place and a staff that was intent on giving him the tools he needed to participate as fully as he could. And even though An'kha was funded for the Explore Program, which is more geared towards helping acquired brain injury victims re-socialize, being at KSI gave him access to the Life Enrichment Program tailored to his particular cognitive abilities. The flexibility and personal attention KSI is able to offer him helps An'kha get the most out of his life.

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August 2024						
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September 2024

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1	2 KSI Holiday Labor Day New Moon ●	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 First Quarter ☾	12	13	14
15	16	17 Full Moon ○	18	19	20 KSI Annual 3 Club Golf Tournament, Maple Dale	21
22 Autumn Begins	23	24 Last Quarter ☾	25 KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.	26	27	28
29	30	KSI Monster Bash is coming back on October 26th Contact Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015; hollisa@ksiinc.org to find out how you can still get involved.				

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october

Tony Donahoe

Raymond Donahoe likes to go by "Tony" when he's around his friends. He was a work superstar during the 1980s and 90s at the KSI Skill Development Center. Tony was best known for his speed, which mainly referred to how fast he could walk out of site when you weren't looking.

"They used to have to run after him quite a bit when he was in Milford. And he used to be a speed demon in here," Southern Campus Program Director John Jennings related.

But as he aged, his mobility and agility changed dramatically, as did his confidence walking after he had a few mishaps. According to Mr. Jennings, "He's definitely slowed down after several falls have made him fearful of walking."

With a need for more personal care, Tony was able to really benefit from services at KSI's Southern Campus in Georgetown, where an older group of his peers are able to thrive and maintain their life skills with guidance from trained staff and as many community experiences as participants choose to enjoy.

"Being at the Southern Campus is more accommodating of his personality as a 'loveable grump,'" explained Mr. Jennings. "He's able to be taken care of at a greater level. But part of that plan is people being able to advance more because of that extra attention."

Keeping Tony moving as much as possible is a real priority with Southern Campus staff. They want him to preserve as much of his mobility as he can. "We have him walking regularly so he doesn't lose that ability," said Southern Campus Assistant Program Director Maureen Yocum.

Tony has definitely improved upon his social skills being at the Southern Campus, where he has plenty of interaction with his peers and staff members. He likes to be a shining star when it comes to learning new things and remembering things like people's birthdays. And he's working on becoming better organized with his personal spaces, especially managing the many magazine clippings he loves to collect. Whatever he wants to accomplish in his later years, Tony has the safety and support to help him live as richly as possible.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024 AT KNUITSEN FARM IN HARRINGTON, DELAWARE

Go to ksiinc.org and see the "Events" section for information & ticket sales.

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AUCTIONS



September 2024						
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October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month		1	2 Rosh Hashanah New Moon ●	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day First Quarter ☾	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17 Full Moon ○	18 12th Annual Friends of KSI Quarter Auction	19
20	21	22	23	24 Last Quarter ☾	25	26 KSI Monster Bash at Knutsen Farm, Harrington, DE
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	October is also National Down Syndrome Awareness Month	



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november

Anastasia Kellam

Annie Kellam is a young woman learning more about herself and her abilities every day. One of her assets is that she has a very creative personality, making bracelets and doing Diamond Craft® pictures, a kind of paint-by-numbers using colorful faceted beads glued to canvas.

And like many creative personalities, one of Annie's challenges is managing her moods. In addition to living in a group home, working and socializing with other people at KSI gives her opportunities to try out her interpersonal skills and learn to steer her emotions around outside influences. She has also found partnership with KSI's Direct Support Professionals when she's working through conflicts.

When she got to KSI in 2019, right out of school, the most dynamic trait she shared was her fervor for working on any job she could. And being part of Pre-Vocational production work at KSI gave her an outlet for her positive energy and hunger to learn more.

"From day one working here, we put her on production and she never stopped," said her Case Manager Brigitt Wyatt. "She never had any experience. She just hit the ground running. Anything you ask her to do, she does it and she excels at it."

Seeing Annie on any job, she's focused and serious about keeping up her pace and production. But she's also very friendly and upbeat throughout her work day. You can tell that she likes keeping busy and being part of a team that's getting something important accomplished. It means a lot to Annie that people can rely on her.

"She's here for the right reasons—to work and further herself in employment," said Mrs. Wyatt, noting that one of Annie's main goals is getting her own job in the community.

Annie likes looking attractive and loves buying fashionable clothes. Working and making her own income is important to Annie because it provides her with purchasing power. That fact gives her daily activities a different kind of attraction.

"It makes me feel excited to be learning skills and new things, and helping out," she related. "I want to be more successful. And making a paycheck makes me happy. I can budget my paycheck for fashion and paying bills."

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October 2024						
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November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November is Nonprofit Awareness Month					1 New Moon ●	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends (Set clocks back one hour)	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9 First Quarter ☾
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 Full Moon ○	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Last Quarter ☾	23
24	25	26	27 KSI Board Meeting 8 a.m.	28 KSI Holiday Thanksgiving Day	29 KSI Holiday	30

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CONTRACTOR december

Steven Forshey



Steven was a little rough around the edges with his communication and general attitude in his younger years. But when he had the opportunity to join the community-based work crew at the Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes Plant, he found an incentive to be part of something bigger than himself. And that made him want to work harder on increasing his abilities.

"Steven is constantly trying new things," said his crew supervisor. "His strongest asset is his ability to focus on his assignments and get the job done right."

Steven's ability to pick up new skills on the job has made him invaluable on the P&G multipack crew. Since starting on the job, he's learned pallet jacking for moving product around the work area, tracking pallets by scanning bar codes and inputting numerical data, operating a case erector, and operating an automatic feeder and sealer for bags.

Additionally, Steven learned and was certified for lock out/tag out processes for shutting down power to unjam machinery when needed and change tape rolls on case erectors. Lock out/tag out is a multi-step process meant to safely shutdown systems or equipment to ensure there are no hazardous accidents while making changes to them. It avoids issues like unexpected start-ups that could cause injuries or fatalities.

"He's one of our premier lock out/tag out techs," said Director of Community-Based Operations Randy Wroten. "He had been in training for some time and was continually getting better."

And Steven is always looking for more skills to learn. Recently he advocated for learning brand changeover procedures when case configuration and product types change for specialized packaging. The process entails adjusting width and height specifications, inputting codes into machinery, and changing tape. It's a complicated procedure with lots of pieces, and Steven takes care of everything from start to finish.

"He really takes pride in what he does," Mr. Wroten shared. "And now he's a professional industrial employee in his communication and his work processes."

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Call Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015
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November 2024						
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December 2024

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1 New Moon ●	2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities Giving Tuesday	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 1941
8 First Quarter ☾	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Full Moon ○	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Begins
22 Last Quarter ☾	23	24	25 Chanukah Begins KSI Holiday Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa KSI Holiday	27 KSI Holiday	28
29	30 New Moon ●	31 New Year's Eve				

In Loving Memory of Ann M. Haggerty

November 3, 1970 - May 7, 2023



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Delawarean's with disabilities.
Your enthusiasm, love and compassion
have enriched many, many lives.

2025 At a Glance

January 2025

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of Bonnie Twilley
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Ryan Mulvaney and in
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of Joan Passwaters
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of Annie C. Pitts
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Charles Robinson
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memory of Robert Thomas
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appreciation of the KSI Staff
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Bonnie Yeomans

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