

In This Issue:



Tootsie Rolls Fuel Donation

The Knights of Columbus Brother Vincent Council supports KSI again through annual fund drive.

Page 5



KSI Women Support Veterans

A special group with a special project helps isolated veterans feel more included.

Page 7



FOKSI Car Show Shines

The Friends of KSI make the list of the state's best car shows.

Page 8

PLUS:

- Paige's Kindness Helps Kamp Lenape.....2
- KSI's New Text-to-Donate Number.....2
- Kamp's Legacy Reaches Back4
- Line Dance Creates Donations5
- Recent Contributors6
- KSI Calendar Sponsor Ads.....7
- KSI Unveils New Website.....8



KSI Kamp Lenape's First Season Full of Fun

Having just taken over the former Camp Lenape program at the beginning of 2023, KSI and a host of volunteers and donors made the massive sprint of renovations, repainting, cleaning, landscaping, program development and supplying to get up and running for campers on July 5th. And now, with that first season over, the organization looks forward to applying what it learned to make KSI Kamp Lenape even better for kids next year, as well as create a year-round community resource.

The efforts began with KSI's Shawn Bowman and Andrew Billings assessing the camp's buildings and grounds, as well as making many repairs and getting the pool in working order. One major issue was the integrity of the roof, which visibly sagged in various

places. Brendon Warfel Construction generously donated the structural fortification and support work to ensure the roof would hold. Then 56 volunteers, including State Senator Eric Buckson, showed up on June 3rd to do a sizeable amount of work in a day under the direction of KSI's Crystal Hughes. They set to work fixing and painting picnic tables and benches; rooting out, edging and planting flower beds around the property; cleaning out all the rooms; scraping gum off floors and decals off windows; cleaning chairs; and a host of other tasks.

In the weeks leading up to the July 5th opening, KSI staff and volunteers put the finishing touches on the camp so everything was ready for campers to

Continued on page 3.

KSI's Mission Is... to assist people with disabilities to live their best lives.

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



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KSI's United Way Member Agency Designation Number is 340

KSI is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

And as such, we are committed to providing equal opportunity in employment without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other protected class. If you have any questions about KSI's efforts in this area, please contact the KSI EOE/AAP Officer at 302-422-4014.

Accommodations—In compliance with ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), should you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a current open position with KSI, please call (302) 422-4014 ext. 3014 or email us at wilsonb@ksiinc.org.

Paige's Kindness Project Helps Kamp Lenape



Pictured with her (left to right) are KSI Program Director Jessica Adams, Paige Howell, and Nick Clauges of The Wireless Zone in Milford, who partners with Paige in funding her special projects.

Paige Howell, who heads up the Paige's Kindness Project community support initiative, donated \$200 to help Kamp Lenape participants enjoy their summers. Paige's objective is offering gifts, donations, volunteer time

or even words of support to numerous community efforts and random individuals. When Paige found out about Kamp Lenape, she wanted to be part of the success.

"I saw KSI was taking over Camp Lenape and I wanted to know what I could do," Paige recounted.

Living with autism and medical complications, Paige started her project four years ago when barriers to work had her looking for other ways to contribute. She wanted to help the homeless and children in her community. She has been prevalent in local news and radio communicating her mission, and even received a Governor's award for her work.

Funded through money procured from Verizon by way of Wireless Zone Gives, Paige donates money, gives special gifts and volunteers her time to numerous causes. Milford Wireless Zone's Nick Clauges applies to Verizon every fiscal quarter for charitable funds to support Paige's initiatives. Only certain stores are chosen to receive these funds based on the community impacts resulting from those donations. Paige's Kindness Project's activities have consistently motivated Verizon to fund them.

New Toll Free Number Makes Donating and More Easier Than Ever

KSI announced a new toll-free option to give, register and more through Network for Good. By texting 866-868-1258, users can donate directly to KSI, register for events, sign up for sponsorships and respond to invitations. For questions regarding this option, contact Michelle Cain at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3009; cainm@ksiinc.org

“Kamp Lenape” continued from page 1.

start their season of summer fun. And to make it even more enjoyable, dozens of community members donated thousands of craft supplies and other items to make sure there was plenty to keep campers busy for five weeks.

Days at Kamp Lenape were filled with lots of fun projects, sports, swimming, a magic show, ceramics painting with Go Paint Ceramics, reading to dogs, a petting zoo, bowling at Milford Lanes, a field trip to the Delaware State Fair, lots of special guests, and even a foam party. The dedicated staff and counselors did everything they could to make camp a positive experience for the 19 children, while the healthcare professionals from Integrity Nursing made sure everyone was safe and healthy during their day. August 11th was the last day of camp for campers and family members, with a catered lunch by Kay’s Kitchen ‘N Krafts, bouncy houses and a water slide from Party Time Rentals, popcorn bags from Mark Pena of Delmarva Popcorn, a fun photo booth with professional photographer Mike Baker, and more.

To make this accomplishment a success took a great amount of contributions from business and community members. Brendon Warfel Construction and Jerry’s Paving both donated thousands-of-dollars-worth of construction and paving services to support the property’s rehabilitation.

The 2023 Kamp Lenape summer session was defined by lots of fun activities.

There was a large group of generous donors who provided individual contributions in the hundreds of dollars to fund supplies, camper sponsorships and more. They included: The Adams and Elliott Families; Bally’s Dover; C. M. Baker Photography; Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club; Cheryl Doucette, Mary Kay Consultant; The Cieslak Family; The Covderdales and Sugar; Diamond State Dentistry; Embrace Delaware; Donors in memory of Robert “Bud” Faircloth; Frederica–Spring Creek Lions Club; Fulton Bank;

G&S Dairy-The Knutsen Family; The Greenwells; Matt, Jessie & Mason Haggerty; Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware; Integrity Nursing; Jennifer Lindell Century 21 Gold Key Realty; Kersey Home Improvements and Remodeling; Kip & Joe McDaniel; Lewes-Rehoboth Beach Rotary Club; Milford Lions Club; Party Time Rentals; R. Addington Co.; R. E. Calloway Transportation, Inc.; Lori Rogers Thompson; Dr. Donna

Smith-Moore; Barbara Wilson; The Price Automotive Group; William T. Wadkins Garage; and Hope.

And there were countless small dollar and in-kind donors who helped the camp staff amass enough craft and other supplies

to keep campers busy, cared for and safe. The community support was so encouraging to KSI and Kamp staff as they launched something that will hopefully be an integral part of Central Delaware families’ lives for many years to come.



Campers and KSI participants had the chance to enjoy the summer together.

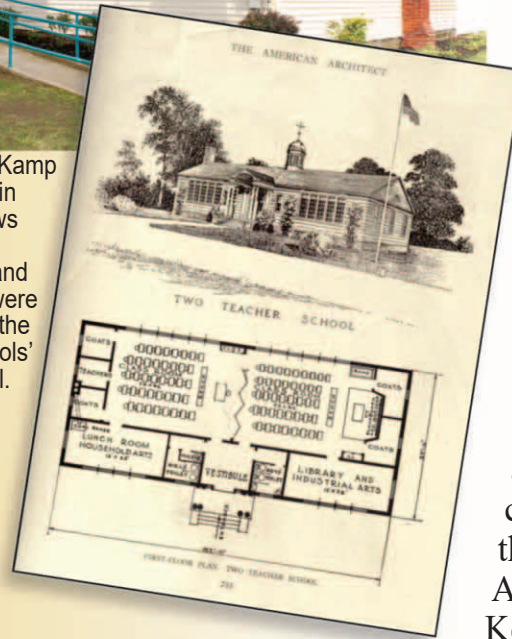
Kamp Lenape's History Reaches Far Back

Before Camp Lenape was the program for children with disabilities that it became in the 1970s, the main building actually served another purpose and population. As Union School, it was one of 90 schoolhouses built in the early 20th Century to help solve inequities of educational facilities and quality for African American children in Delaware.

There was a movement for progressive school reform nationwide from the 1890s to the 1920s to help bridge the educational quality deficiencies experienced by underserved communities. DuPont company president Pierre S. du Pont took these inequities to heart, seeing how behind Delaware was in fixing its educational system, which remained racially segregated well into the 1960s. In 1917, Mr. du Pont joined the state board of education and enlisted the Rockefeller Foundation to do a comprehensive survey of schools and education throughout Delaware. Among many of the issues uncovered was the heinous state of schools serving African American students.



The present Kamp Lenape's main building shows the surviving dimensions and portico that were hallmarks of the DuPont schools' design model.



Between 1919 and 1940, P.S. du Pont spent more than \$6,000,000 of his own money, and helped redirect millions of dollars more of taxpayer funds, to rehabilitate the state's physical educational network, particularly those serving students of color. Ninety school buildings were built throughout Delaware using the most beneficial architectural models available to serve students' needs. The Union School on Midstate Road in Felton was one of them, built in 1921 with the model's signature dimensions, portico and windowed walls on one

side. Each school had state-of-the-art heating utilities, indoor restrooms and other upgrades to create a better educational environment. The schools also were built on a minimum of two acres of land to provide plenty of space for outside exercise and play.

This investment in schools serving communities of color helped boost student attendance in those communities as well as citizens' personal commitment to preserving these schools for the future. African American students in Kent County attended Union School up until the 1960s. In the 1970s, United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware purchased the property to make it into Camp Lenape for children with and without disabilities. And KSI will carry on this nearly 100 year-old tradition of serving the community's families with support for quality lives.



With plenty of land around them to run and play, the DuPont schools like this provided safe places to learn and grow.

Love for a friend and for Line Dance Helps Kamp Lenape

Gregg and Stephanie Knutsen have been some of the biggest reasons for the revival and success of KSI's Monster Bash, hosting it in style the last two years at their wonderful family farm venue. However, they were also very good friends during the life of KSI's Ann Haggerty, who saw the vision of keeping Camp Lenape's presence in the community.

As KSI began setting up the new Kamp Lenape, the management team realized the need for a quiet space to accommodate children needing a moment to calm down. So the concept of a sensory room came about, along with a long list of items that would complement that room's purpose.



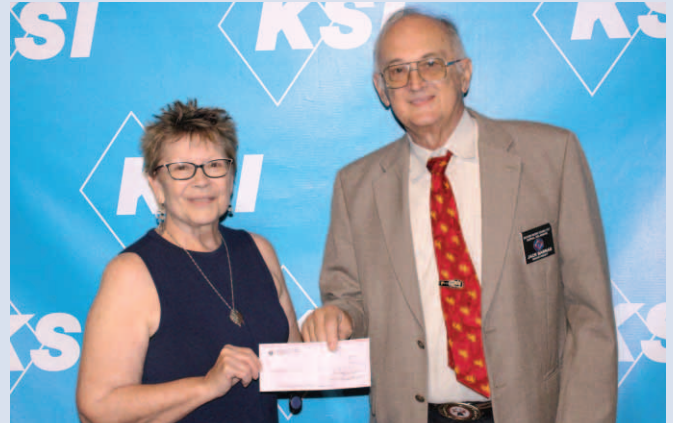
Stephanie Knutsen's free line dancing classes generated some personal donations to Kamp Lenape that helped make campers' experiences better.

The Knutsens saw the call for toys and furniture for the special space and decided to start a series of free line dancing lessons to help encourage those participating to donate to the cause. The funds raised from the lessons' participants helped purchase the entire shopping list for Kamp Lenape's sensory room in memory of their good friend Ann. The items included sensory toys, climbing toys, a bean bag chair, a soft indoor tent and other pieces.

According to Stephanie, "A good chunk of this is being funded by the generous donations that folks have been bringing when they come to the farm for the free line dance lessons."

It was a wonderful community response facilitated by the Knutsens' heart for KSI and its mission that was inspired by the passion and commitment Ann Haggerty had for people with disabilities.

Knights of Columbus #7517 donates More Than \$2,000 to KSI



Grand Knight Jack Barnas presented a check to KSI Director of Community Relations Alicia Hollis.

Jack Barnas, Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus Brother Vincent Council #7517 recently presented a check for \$2,054.10 to KSI as part of his Council's annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The Knights of Columbus have benefitted KSI with funds from their annual drives for several years, donating more than \$28,000 to date to help the individuals KSI serves.

The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive goes back as far as 1970, when a group from the Knights of Columbus Council in Chicago sought out a charitable mission that would impact their community. Since one of the members had a daughter with an intellectual disability, they were keenly aware of the underfunding programs serving people with disabilities suffered. So they decided on a two-day fundraising effort that entailed setting up a donation receptacle and offering a token product in gratitude for the solicited donations. But what product to offer? After a few options were considered, the group decided on something manufactured in their own city—the Tootsie Roll. The candy was well-recognized and had a long shelf life. The Chicago Council's first Tootsie Roll Drive in 1970 garnered more than \$30,000, making it a huge success. It spread to Knights of Columbus groups throughout the nation and is now responsible for tens of millions of dollars annually in grants and donations to programs serving people with disabilities.

KSI is grateful to the Knights of Columbus Brother Vincent Council #7517 for its continuing generosity to help makes lives better.

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KSI Women's Group Does Special Project for Delaware Veterans



Women of Empowerment pictured left to right are KSI participants Kim Strunk, Briana Carter, Sharon Henderson, Evelyn Moore, Emily Sharp, Jennifer Mullins, Gilliean Walsh, Natasha Burton, KSI Case Manager Nancy Warren and KSI Direct Support Professional Shelaine Wright.

When KSI Case Manager Nancy Warren helped a group of participants form the “Women of Empowerment,” the group wanted to create a project that would benefit another organization that had a relationship with KSI. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, Delaware Veterans Home in Milford was one of the volunteer sites KSI participants

used to visit on a regular basis to do dining room preparation tasks like rolling silverware. The women learned that some of the home’s residents were unable to eat in the dining room with their neighbors. So the Women of Empowerment decided to make custom placemats to give each of those individuals eating alone, helping make their meal times

a little more special. It was the women’s group’s way of thanking those veterans for their service.

The Delaware Veterans Home in Milford was established in 2007. With 150 beds, its mission is providing long-term care for elderly Delaware veterans that upholds dignity and respect while preserving veterans’ quality of life.

It's Not Too Late to Support KSI's 2024 Annual Calendar

The 2024 KSI Monthly Calendar Sponsors at \$500 get more than the usual logo acknowledgment. Now, you get a 10.5-inch wide, 1.25-inch high full-color banner advertisement on a calendar month spread.

Monthly Calendar Sponsor slots are limited, so reserve yours today by contacting Alicia Hollis at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3015; hollisa@ksiinc.org. Deadline for reservations is October 13, 2023.



Friends of KSI Make the List with Car Show



Not only does the volunteered Friends of KSI make the grade for KSI by raising much needed funds and disabilities awareness, it also raised the attention of car show lovers statewide.

Held on May 6th at KSI's Milford Skill Development Center, the show made a comeback after a three-year COVID hiatus. It drew in 80 car exhibitors, as well as offering music from DJ Missy Jo, breakfast and lunch by Uncle Bernie's Steak Shack, and edgy entertainment from Kiss My Axe. It also raised \$1,720 to help support KSI's programs.

Always full of fun and amenities, the FOKSI Car Show made the "10 Best Auto Shows in Delaware" listing from "Best Things Delaware." Located online at bestthingsde.com, the site has articles on oodles of activities and businesses that offer the best experiences in Delaware. It's part of AmericanTowns Media state-by-state listings of events, destinations and activities that stand out.

A hearty "Well done" to Friends of KSI and the Car Show for showing how it's done right.



Kiss My Axe (left) and Uncle Bernie's Steak Shack were on hand during the car show to offer participants even more than a look at the best show cars around.

KSI Has Launched Redesigned Website



Something new at KSI in 2023 was the organization's redesigned website at www.ksiinc.org. Thanks to web developers EvoGov, the new website is easier to navigate, full of plenty of useful features and better accessibility through most wireless devices for people on the go.

The new ksiinc.org has easy drop-down menus to find the information you need. There are online job application forms to immediately get in consideration for current openings. You can access hot topics on the site using action buttons on the home page, as well as get upcoming event information and links to register or sponsor those events. There are listings of family resources, news about KSI developments, current weeks' menus, and so much more. And the new KSI website is fully translatable to wireless devices such as phones or pads.

Check it out today.