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A Special Valentine

The Women's Club of Milton makes participants feel special.

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KSI Women Get Involved

A participant community service group empowers women to make a difference for others.

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Alicia Hollis Retires

KSI's Director of Community Relations starts a new chapter in her life.

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KSI participant Lorraine Routh, who was a valued Kraft Heinz crew member prior to the pandemic, is one of the dozens of workers who are part of the rebooted crew at the Dover plant.

Kraft Heinz-Dover Foods Resumes KSI Crew

January 23rd marked a momentous occasion for KSI—the restart of a working relationship with Kraft Heinz-Dover that had been suspended since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. The opportunities it creates for Pre-Vocational Training participants are significant.

From 2005 to 2020, KSI participant crews had operated in the Kraft Heinz-Dover plant performing product salvage. KSI workers helped reclaim many tons of product, mainly stuffing mix,

along with powdered desserts and beverages, which may have been mis-packaged. In turn, the crews saved the host company significantly in lost product.

In the fall of 2024, Kraft Heinz initiated discussions on bringing the KSI workers back into the plant. Starting with a four-person crew plus supervisor in January 2025, the restart at Kraft Heinz has been long-awaited for some of the individuals who used to be on the crew prior to the pandemic.

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KSI's Mission Is...

to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn and grow. Through training, education and supportive programs and services, we enable individuals to accomplish their personal and work-related goals.

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You can also read KSI News on the Web at www.ksiinc.org.

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KSI — be the possibility

A Message from KSI's CEO Heath B. Chasanov



There is a lot that has happened this winter. As you can see from the front of this newsletter, we're very excited about having work crews operating at Kraft Heinz-Dover again. KSI workers haven't been in the Kraft Heinz work site since the beginning of the pandemic. This creates important opportunities for employment training and confidence building for a number of our participants seeking independent jobs in the community.

We're also excited about beginning the next section of renovation at the Milford Skill Development Center to create beautiful spaces for Pre-Vocational Training program participants, as well as a new Life Skills training center that will impact a wide range of individuals. We'll soon be setting our sites on updating a majority portion of the north end of the center. And that will mean raising more funds.

On that subject, we're very grateful for the swell of financial support coming from community organizations and individuals in recent months. The funding support for KSI from local service organizations and businesses has been critical to making meaningful experiences for the people we serve, whether adding technology to make access easier or creating unique growth experiences. With insecurity about Medicaid moving forward, which provides a large part of the funding for Delaware disability services, growing more community-based support for what we do is a larger concern than ever before.

This winter, we also bid our Director of Community Relations Alicia Hollis farewell. Her dedicated 27 years of service to KSI and compassionate sharing of our mission did much to build the healthy community relationships that translated into support for our participants. We wish her the best in her retirement, knowing how well she's earned it.

Heath B. Chasanov

Kamp Lenape Clean-Up Day Scheduled for June 7

You can help Kamp Lenape get ready for kids this summer by being part of a camp clean-up day on Saturday, June 7, 2025, 9 am. to 4 p.m. at 3249 Midstate Road, Felton, Delaware. Volunteers can help with painting, weeding/mulching, brush clearing, and cleaning that will make Kamp Lenape more inviting and enjoyable for campers.

You can sign up to volunteer on June 7 by going to www.ksiinc.org and clicking on the "Kamp Lenape" photo quick link and then clicking on the "Sign Up for Kamp Lenape Clean-Up Day." Or you can notify us you're coming to help by emailing KampLenape@ksiinc.org. Rain date is Saturday, June 14, 2025.



Kraft Heinz continued from page 1.

“Some of them loved it so much that they didn’t want to work for any other contractor until Kraft came back,” shared KSI Director of Community-Based Operations Randy Wroten.

While a few mainstay workers will be on the crew five days a week, the opportunity also provides a rotating list of Pre-Vocational participants some real work experience in an operating plant a few days a week. This is crucial to acquiring the necessary skills to thrive as an independent employee in the community. Additionally, moving crew members from other community-based work sites to service Kraft Heinz opens up slots other participants can access for valued experience.

The partnerships at work sites like Kraft Heinz-Dover, Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes, Dover Air Force Base and Merck Animal Health offer dozens of KSI participants the best introduction to real work experiences that will prepare them for independent employment. KSI looks forward to building more partnerships like this that are beneficial for both the people KSI serves and the companies that gain unique staffing solutions from KSI work crews.

Participants Get a Special Valentines Treat



KSI Assistant Vice President of Operations Sandra Hale (far left) stands next to Women's Club of Milton members Mary Kay Williams, Betty Ann Dawson and Nancy Trask, with KSI CEO Heath Chasanov at far right.

Members of the Women's Club of Milton, Mary Kay Williams, Nancy Trask and Betty Ann Dawson, came by KSI in February to bring a special gift for our participants. The club members hand-made Valentine's Day cards

for each of our individuals to make them feel special for the holiday. The Women's Club of Milton has also donated funds annually to support KSI's mission. We're very grateful to them for their generous support and kind hearts.



Participants Annie Brown and Xavier Roberts (above) and Ashley Webb (right) show off their Valentine's Day cards from the members of the Women's Club of Milton.



Lewes-Rehoboth Beach Rotary Club Makes Donation to KSI



Rotary Club President Kate Millard (right) presents KSI CEO Heath Chasanov with a \$2,000 grant.

KSI received a \$2,000 grant from the Lewes-Rehoboth Beach Rotary Club to bring music programs to participants at KSI's Georgetown Southern Campus. The funds are part of the club's "Flags for Heroes" campaign that sells \$50 medallions that are attached to each of more than 500 American flags to honor veterans active military, family members, teachers, doctors, nurses, firemen, police and others who are heroes making their communities better. The Lewes-Rehoboth Beach Rotary Club distributes tens of thousands of dollars to area nonprofits annually. In 2023, the club granted \$97,000 to more than 55 community programs and nonprofits.

Bailey Cain Exercises His Good Citizenship for KSI

Bailey Cain, a little black canine emissary of good will, has been on regular rotation each Thursday at KSI's Milford Skill Development Center. The

so participants can also work on their reading skills by reading to Bailey as a non-threatening audience.

Ms. Cain has helped extend her furry friends' reach well



Michelle Cain (left) and Bailey have a nice moment with Southern Campus participant Matthew Joseph-Wingate.

beyond their leashes. She created a series of elementary-level books about her past dog called "Silly Sadie Stories."

Written for children in her family, there are nine of the Sadie books

that focus on the antics of the little dog. And now she's bringing Bailey into his own as a sharer of joy to many people. companion of KSI Director of Funding Opportunities & Board Relations Michelle Cain, Bailey has been on his journey to become a therapy dog. He passed his Level 1 and Level 2 Obedience Training, as well as Therapy Dog Skills Acquisition. Now he's applying his skills and getting experience as a special visitor for KSI participants.

For Bailey, being a therapy dog means creating a soothing experience for participants through interacting with them. He's also part of the LEAP (Literacy Education Assistance Pups) Program,

that focus on the antics of the little dog. And now she's bringing Bailey into his own as a sharer of joy to many people.

"The looks of pure joy on participants' faces just melt my heart," she related. "This is why I did this."



Participant Kristin Ford (left) gets a chance to do some dog obedience training with Bailey.

Sussex County Council and DFRC Help Bring the Arts to KSI

Two generous entities are helping to bring directed art experiences to participants at KSI's Milford and Georgetown locations. The Sussex County Council recently granted \$1,600 to bring a visual Artist Residency Program to the Georgetown Southern Campus, taking the opportunity to provide a different kind of beneficial experience for participants there. Additionally, DFRC, which has provided funding to KSI since its founding, also granted \$4,000 to continue the same type of visual arts programs enjoyed at the Milford Skill Development Center for some time.

The visual arts program will be brought to KSI participants through "Art Works for All,"

an organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities through the arts for children and adults with disabilities. Art Works for All has provided KSI Milford participants with Artist Residency Programs onsite that encompass visual arts projects helping individuals realize creative skills they may not have known they possessed. The programs follow an eight-week cycle of multiple 45-55 minute sessions to groups of 20. The cycles usually culminate in a special project or exhibit built from participants' artworks. Adding an arts program to serve the

Georgetown Southern Campus participants will help more individuals access communication and interpersonal competency through uncovering creative abilities that will benefit them in many ways.



Milford and Georgetown participants will get the chance to enjoy quality visual programs thanks to a special grant.

KSI is grateful to the Sussex County Council and DFRC for helping create more growth opportunities for people with disabilities.

Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Brings Touchscreens to Georgetown Campus

KSI CEO Heath Chasanov joined representatives from six other nonprofits who were grateful recipients of more than \$19,000 in grants from the Rotary Club of Georgetown-Millsboro during the club's March meeting. KSI received \$2,500 that will go towards purchasing touch screen computers for the KSI Southern Campus participants in Georgetown. The touch screens help more people



Rotary Club of Georgetown-Millsboro President David B. Jost (far right) and KSI CEO Heath Chasanov (second to right) stand with other recipients of the Rotary Club's generous grants to support community programs.

of varied abilities access technology easier.

The funds were generated from the club's annual Flags

for Heroes project, which honors veterans, active military, doctors, nurses and first responders. The fundraiser culminates in flying purchased American flags at The Circle in Georgetown, the Del Tech Owens Campus and other locations in Millsboro.

KSI thanks the Rotary Club of Georgetown-Millsboro for their committed support of programs serving their communities.

Recent Contributors December 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025

Mr. Frank Alberio	Coastal & Estuarine Research, Inc.	Mr. James Greenwell and Mrs. Linda Tuttle	Mr. & Mrs. Randy and Linda Marvel	Ms. Pamela Shahan in Memory of B. Craig Crouch
Mrs. Ann Alexander	Mr. James Cohee	Mr. James Haile	Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Betty N. Mater	Mr. & Mrs. F. Gary and Debbie Simpson
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Mr. Heath Chasanov	Goshen United Methodist Church Women	Legates Ventures LLC	Ruritan Club, Bi State, #2151	Mr. & Mrs. William and Faye Yonker
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Clayton Lions Club			Ms. Denise Santa Barbara in Memory of B. Craig Crouch	
			Mr. Larry Savage	
			Mr. & Mrs. William and Maureen Schab	

SOUTHERN CAMPUS PARTICIPANTS STEP UP FOR FOOD DRIVE



In February, participants from KSI's Georgetown Southern Campus dropped by the Milford Skill Development Center with food items they collected as part of a Food Drive highlighting overdose awareness. KSI staff member Crystal Hughes organized the drive to commemorate her late son Jake's February 28 birthday. The food will be donated to local pantries to help community members with food insecurity. And Southern Campus members were enthusiastic about supporting the cause. Pictured are Billy Riddle, Crystal Hughes, Leon Ayers and Southern Campus Direct Support Professional Matthew Powell.

CARROLL MOTOR FUELS SUPPORTS KSI TRANSPORTATION



Michele Laux (right) presents a check from Carroll Motor Fuels to KSI Director of Transportation Ron Harris.

Carroll Motor Fuels' Michele Laux recently stopped by KSI to present a check for \$500 to KSI's Director of Transportation Ron Harris. The funds will help support KSI's Transportation Service and its mission to get participants safely to and from home and opportunities awaiting them.

Family-owned Carroll Fuel Company started in 1907 provid-

ing retail and commercial fuel supply. In 2021, Carroll Fuel merged High's retail locations under one umbrella and now operates 54 High's stores as well as supplying their fuel pumps. Additionally, Carroll supplies numerous other locations with fuel in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Ms. Laux's relationship with KSI spans back years through her time with the organization's previous fuel supplier. Having joined Maryland-based Carroll Motor Fuel when her previous employer changed hands, she wanted to make sure KSI enjoyed the same level of fuel service and support the organization has come to know.

Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville Donates to KSI

KSI CEO Heath Chasanov had the opportunity to share dinner and the KSI story with members of the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville during their March 3rd meeting at Union Church. Some of the club's members knew Heath from his prior life as a Bridgeville resident and educator. And some knew of KSI from previous experiences. But for many, it was their first exposure to KSI's mission of helping people with varied abilities live their best lives. The next day, the club informed Heath that they'd voted to donate \$250 to help that mission. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville for their generosity of attention and funds to support people overcoming their challenges to reach their goals.

KSI's WOMEN OF EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Recently, some of the ladies from KSI's Women of Empowerment participant group had the opportunity to give back to the community. The group's motto is "To Accept, Support and Encourage." So during a scheduled trip to the local Dollar Tree on January 30th, the group bought essentials such as toiletries, socks and hygiene products to donate to a local veterans' shelter called Home of the Brave as one of their service projects. In the process, KSI Direct Support Professionals also taught them how to get the most out of their money by being smart shoppers. DSPs Jehnna Moore and Shelainie Wright showed which brands had more product inside them for the same price compared to others. This act of kindness for Home of the Brave doubled as a learning opportunity that allowed the ladies to learn skills they could use in their day-to-day lives.



Pictured left to right are Annie Brown, Kristin Ford, KSI DSP Jehnna Moore, Annie Momot, Darlene Murray, Natasha Burton, Evelyn Moore, Na'Shauna Johnson, Ashley Webb and Emily Sharp.

ALICIA HOLLIS RETIRES FROM KSI



Alicia Hollis (center in white sweater) has a special "Good-Bye" from participants at the Milford center.

KSI's beloved Director of Community Relations Alicia Hollis retired on Friday, February 28 after 27 years of dedicated and compassionate service to the organization. She is so highly regarded by not only the participants, staff and Board of Directors at KSI, but by so many in the community who know her unwavering passion for helping people.

Alicia's generosity and dedication to others had a significant impact on KSI's reputation in the community. Her involvement in community groups and her expert management of KSI public events like the annual golf tournament made her one of the most well-known people in Central Delaware.

The organization had a dance party on the 28th to give many of the KSI family who've shared her life over the years the chance to express their appreciation and say goodbye. While we will miss the incredible part she played every day in making KSI alive and vibrant to the public, we wish her the best of enjoyment in her much-earned retirement.

Milford Center Transformative Re-Design Continues

KSI commenced the next stage of it's Milford Skill Development renovation in March. It's an ongoing process of transforming the center into a more effective skill education environment. The changes will help participants get fuel for improvement in an atmosphere of dignity, quiet and comfort. The latest stage includes development of a life skills training center that will have far reaching implications beyond the organization. Keep an eye out for updates later this spring.

Pre-Vocational Training Area



Life Skills Training Center



Check Out KSI's New Commercials on WBOC & Fox 21

Tune into WBOC and Fox 21 TV stations to get a look at the latest KSI 30-second commercials, featuring participants successes from (top to bottom) Darlene Murray, Gilliean Walsh and Skyler Winder.

