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Chris Smith Honored

Participant of the Third Quarter 2026 Chris Smith is honored for his work excellence.

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Early Bird Golf Savings

April 1-May 31 is the season of savings for the KSI Golf Tournament.

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History Comes Alive at KSI

Member of the Milford Seven Charles Hammond helped participants understand how he and others overcame challenges in the 1960s.

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Participants like Herman Paynter have gained the skills to be excellent workers in the community. KSI hopes to support him and others with every leg of their employment journey through Supported Employment.

Supported Employment Returns to KSI

KSI is announcing plans to expand its services and provide Supported Employment in the near future. This initiative is designed to empower individuals to achieve meaningful, competitive employment while fostering independence, confidence, and community inclusion. Supported Employment assists individuals in matching their skill sets with employment opportunities. KSI will work alongside individuals and provide personalized employment planning, job development and placement services,

onsite job training and coaching, and ongoing support services. KSI remains committed to promoting equitable opportunities for all and breaking down barriers to employment.

For many people with varied abilities, having SE services during employment can make the difference in overcoming barriers experienced on the job. Sometimes, one failure can make it considerably harder for people with disabilities to want to try employment again. It also often makes employers

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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.

Correspondence regarding KSI News should be directed to KSI News Editor:

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

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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

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 stumppn@ksiinc.org.

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A Message from KSI's CEO Heath B. Chasanov



Spring has sprung, and there is a lot at KSI starting to grow. We look forward to the renewal of our Milford Skill Development Center's north wing, for which the finished design touches and hard construction numbers are coming together. We're closer to launching the Capital Campaign that will fund the center's final renovations and help redefine how KSI delivers programming.

Speaking of funding, we're grateful to Gov. Matthew Meyer for including funding supporting a Direct Support Professional (DSP) rate increase in his recommended budget to the Joint Finance Committee. DSPs are the heart of the life-changing services KSI provides hundreds of Delawareans. This increase will be helpful in attracting and retaining the quality individuals who will provide compassionate service to our participants.

For our fourth season at Kamp Lenape, KSI is also helping Lake Forest, Milford, and Sussex Tech School Districts provide quality summer services and fun during the five-week camp season. The partnerships with these districts have created value for their students as well as revitalizing Kamp Lenape's legacy for serving Kent County families.

We are also excitedly looking forward to the 2026 Annual Dinner on July 9 at the Modern Maturity Center. This is such a positive celebration of the hard work and accomplishments of both our participants and staff, with presentation of Participant and Staff of the Year awards. It's a gathering of a few hundred business, legislative, and community leaders. See on Page 5 how to get involved as a sponsor, supporting the success stories around this wonderful event.

Heath B. Chasanov

KSI's Supporters Help with Do More 24 Fundraising

We're so grateful to the 15 generous supporters during the Do More 24 campaign March 6-7 who helped us raise \$1,425 towards our goal to create an enhanced activities center for our participants. The games and activities participants enjoy during their days open up opportunities for peer mentorship while teaching their friends games like pool. Those activities also help individuals have the chance to learn new skills and hone their abilities. You've helped provide crucial opportunities for growth in many lives.

Our full goal for the project is \$2,500. There is still time to be part of this effort. Contact Michelle Cain at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3009; cainm@ksiinc.org to donate to efforts that help people build better lives.



“Supported Employment” continued from page 1.

less willing to think outside regular HR models to accommodate varied abilities. That’s where SE can be an ongoing partner in helping build a successful experience for both employees and their employers.

KSI had a consummate Supported Employment program



Kayla Strohmeier is already a great culinary worker. She’s ready for the next step with SE.

for decades, which our accreditors hailed as not just preparing individuals for jobs, but preparing them for careers. When KSI discontinued SE in 2021, it was because governmental compensation rates for those services dropped by more than half in Delaware. KSI management believed that the organization couldn’t provide the level of services and staff time that our participants deserved on nearly one third of the funding.

The issue now is that when our Pre-Vocational participants are handed over to other agencies after investing so much into preparing for the workplace with us, we aren’t confident they are getting the level of SE services needed for success. Additionally, there is nothing more rewarding than helping an individual with whom you’ve worked for months or years

conquer what they thought were their limits to discover the abilities and confidence to find and keep a job and make meaningful income. Providing SE services again ensures that our participants are getting personalized guidance throughout the entire process of them finding their best lives.

The funding challenge has not changed. That now creates a significant pathway for members of the community to be part of life-changing workforce success stories. We’ve created the EmployXL sponsorship that provides an opportunity to become a dedicated partner in one individual’s employment excellence. An investment of \$10,000 can help bring an individual from Supported Employment vocational assessment to actual job opportunity as a productive employee in the community.

To learn more about becoming an EmployXL Sponsor and supporting a hard-working individual with their journey to employment success, contact Mark Reeve, 302-422-4014 Ext. 3019; reevem@ksiinc.org. Become part of the success stories.

Chris Smith Honored as KSI Participant of the Third Quarter 2026



Chris Smith (center) with KSI CEO Heath Chasanov and Chris’s supervisor at P&G Marge MacKenzie.

KSI recently honored Chris Smith as Participant of the Third Quarter 2026. He was a dedicated member of the Procter & Gamble crew for more than a decade and continually improved in his job during that time. He continued to learn new parts of the multi-pack operations at P&G, including pallet jacking product. Chris was also able to transfer the computer training he gained at KSI’s Milford Skill Development Center on his days off from P&G and learned to scan job tickets into P&G’s tracking system. He’s worked to grow his communication skills, supporting a safe work environment and strengthening his connections across his team.

He’s the person everyone loves to work with for his kindness and teamwork. His personality is warm and he always has a positive attitude, helping to create a productive consistency in his workplace. Chris is a remarkable individual doing more with his abilities each day to create a better life.

Early Bird Player Savings Opens April 1 for 2026 KSI Golf Tournament



Enjoy a day of fun and networking at the KSI Clifford T. Crouch Memorial 3 Club Golf Tournament on Friday, September 11, 2026, at Maple Dale Country Club in Dover. You can save a little money on that fun between April 1 and May 31 during the Early Bird Registration.

The event includes refreshments during registration from 8:30 a.m. to the shotgun start at 10 a.m. You'll also get lunch from two different food stations and plenty of prizes along with a great day of play on one of Kent County's finest courses. You'll be helping Delawareans with disabilities while you do.

Early Bird Registration is available from April 1 to May 31 for \$125/Golfer [June 1 and after the fee is \$150/Golfer (\$600/Team)].

Become a Sponsor and Win

There are also a number of Sponsor packages for you and your business to gain recognition for supporting better lives for people with varied abilities. Find easy registration for both player registration and sponsorship sign up by visiting ksiinc.org and going to the "About KSI" drop-down menu where you will find "KSI Events." Click on the icon for the Golf Tournament and hit "Get Tickets." Deadline to sign up as a tournament sponsor is Friday, August 21, 2026.

For more information, contact Michelle Cain at 302-422-4014 Ext. 3009; cainm@ksiinc.org

Here Is Some of What You Get as a Player

Each golfer receives great amenities, which include:

- > A Round of Golf with Cart
- > 1 Premium Tournament Gift
- > FREE Driving Range Balls
- > Play It Forward Hole
- > Team photo compliments of Mike Baker with C.M. Baker Photography

If that's not enough, on the day of the tournament, golfers can buy:

- > Special package of 2 Mulligans, 1 Putting Contest Chance, 1 Flamingo Fling Contest Chance, and 1 Golf Ball—\$25
- > 50/50 tickets—\$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10



KSI Participants Help Down Syndrome Supporters Rock Their Socks

KSI was proud to volunteer in support of the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware's Rock Your Socks initiative! Our participants and staff folded, added stickers, and bundled 2,334 pairs of socks to help prepare for this special awareness campaign. Dozens of participants and staff offered their time, teamwork, and excellence to pack up thousands of mismatched socks in a few days. It was both a chance for volunteerism as well as an excellent skill-building exercise.

Every year on March 21, people all around the world come together to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by wearing brightly-colored, mismatched socks. March 21 is symbolic because people with Down syndrome have up to three copies of their 21st



Left to right, Natasha Burton, Dr. Kris Failing, Kyheen Weaver, Judith Downing and Kayla Strohmeyer rocked the socks.

chromosome. The socks were chosen because the karyotype of Down syndrome chromosomes resembles socks! The Down Syndrome Association of Delaware started the Rock Your Socks program in 2014 and distributes more than 100,000 pairs of socks every year!

On Friday, March 20, KSI celebrated its own "Rock Your Socks" day in support of the national event on the 21st. KSI also had a team participate in the Run for the Buds 5K in Dewey on March 22 to support individuals with Down syndrome. We were proud to have been part of the effort in an even more meaningful way with the special project.



Be Part of the Annual Dinner Success Stories as a Sponsor

The KSI Annual Dinner returns on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. The dinner is by invitation only and is attended by hundreds of business, legislative, and community leaders. You and your business have ways to be part of this wonderful event as a sponsor at a variety of levels.

The Annual Dinner is an

opportunity to honor the accomplishments of our participants, staff, and community partners. This premium dinner event will include the first presentation of awards in six years to KSI Participant and Staff of the Year for their exceptional work in FY26. We're excited about being able to focus on the amazing stories of success that make our year special.

Being a KSI Annual Dinner Sponsor shows your partnership in these success stories. Take a look at the benefits of sponsorship and decide what kind of presence you'd like to have as part of the event. You can sign up as a 2026 Annual Dinner Sponsor online by visiting ksiinc.org and going to the "About KSI" drop-down menu where you will find "KSI Events." Click on the icon for the "KSI Annual Dinner" and hit "Get Tickets." Deadline to sign up as an Annual Dinner Sponsor is Monday, June 22, 2026.

There are a variety of levels from which to choose:

\$5,000 Presenting Sponsor

- 1 reserved table of 8 with signage
- 10-minute address to event crowd
- 1 full-page ad in Dinner Program
- Premium logo acknowledgment on event banner
- Acknowledgment in *KSI News*
- Logo acknowledgment on KSI Facebook page

\$2,500 Platinum Sponsor

- 4 tickets to the dinner
- Introduction of Presenting Sponsor
- 1 full-page ad in Dinner Program
- Large logo acknowledgment on event banner
- Acknowledgment in *KSI News*
- Logo acknowledgment on KSI Facebook page

\$1,500 Gold Sponsor

- 4 tickets to the dinner
- 1/2-page ad in Dinner Program
- Medium logo acknowledgment on event banner
- Acknowledgment in *KSI News*
- Logo acknowledgment on KSI Facebook page

\$750 Silver Sponsor

- 2 tickets to the dinner
- 1/4-page ad in Dinner Program
- Small logo acknowledgment on event banner
- Acknowledgment in *KSI News*
- Logo acknowledgment on KSI Facebook page

\$300 Bronze Sponsor

- 1 ticket to the dinner
- Text acknowledgment on event banner
- Listing in Dinner Program
- Acknowledgment in *KSI News*

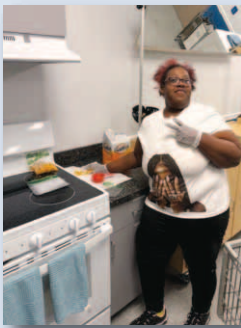
Recent Contributors February 1, 2025 - March 25, 2026

Ms. Debbie Beals	Mr. Conner Chasanov	Ms. Terry Susan Gantt	Milford Elks Lodge	Mr. & Mrs. Jesse and Amy Spampinato
Mrs. & Mr. Virginia and Edward Boutin	Mr. Heath Chasanov	Ms. Nancy Griffies	Mrs. Alta Pontius	Mrs. & Mr. Angela and Jeff Spishock
Mr. & Mrs. John and Judith Brink	Mrs. & Mr. Hanna and Chuck Conrad	Mr. & Mrs. Karl and Juanita Katz	Ms. Kathi Renzo	Ms. Gaillyn Wadkins-Berry
Ms. Michelle Cain in Memory of Mark E. Cain	Dover Lions Club	Dr. & Mrs. Thomas and Susan Kelly in Honor of Mark Kelly	Ms. Donna Robertson	Marsha and Harold Wyckoff
Ms. Jeanette Calimano	Faw Casson	Mr. Jeffery Larrimore	Rotary Club of Camden Wyoming	
Mr. Keith Carey	Mrs. Diane Flanagan in Memory of Doug Flanagan	Lord Baltimore Lions Club	Ms. Darlene Ruark	
	Frederica Spring Creek Lions Club	Ms. Nina Macki	Sharp Energy-Chesapeake Utilities Corp	

Life Skills Center Proves Value

KSI's recently-developed Life Skills Center is getting plenty of use lately. Using the center's kitchen, laundry, and bedroom set-ups, participants have the

opportunity to learn many of the skills they would need to be more independent and self-sufficient. Participants have been able to hone their cooking skills as well in support



of events happening at the Milford Skill Development Center. It's a valuable addition to the Milford facility.



Arin Warner Joins KSI as Nurse-Health & Safety Administrator

KSI recently added Registered Nurse Arin Warner for the position of Nurse-Health & Safety Administrator. She is responsible for management and oversight of health care for adults participating in all KSI programs. In her position, she will ensure KSI complies with all regulations, rules, and standards within its policies and practices regarding the health and well-being of KSI participants. She also monitors medication administration in conjunction with KSI staff members' state Limited Lay Administration of Medications certification to be able to provide medication assistance at KSI's various programming and work sites.

Ms. Warner comes to KSI with nearly 30 years of experience in healthcare, starting as a volunteer with her local fire company. She



has her Bachelor's in Nursing and has been a practicing nurse for 20 years, primarily focused on trauma, forensics, and pediatric medical services. She's well-seasoned in emergency preparedness and finds her best performance in times of emergency management.

Arin's contribution to KSI's participant services will make life-changing programs more safely-accessible to people with a wide range of health needs.

Charles Hammond Shared the Milford Seven's Story with Participants



Charles Hammond speaks to participants in LEP about the Milford Seven.

Milford community leader and KSI Board Member Charles Hammond took time with our participants in KSI's Life Enrichment Program to share his experience as one of the Milford Seven—a group of seven African American students who were part of the first integrated graduating class at Milford High School.

Charles Hammond and six other members of the Milford Seven became the first Black students to successfully integrate Milford High School in 1964. However, they weren't the first children to attempt that task. The Milford Eleven was a group of African-Americans that were expected to be the first black students at Milford High School, following the Supreme Court's *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision that ended "separate but equal" in 1954. However, it was eventually apparent to Delaware courts that the community was not ready to make that transition. After

nearly a month of pressure from school families and community members, the Milford Eleven group was relocated to William Henry High School in Dover.

Mr. Hammond and his schoolmates in the Milford Seven had a decade's worth of social progress to help bolster their success as students in Milford High School. Mr. Hammond added that he and other members of the Seven helped their cause by being high competitors on the school's track team, which won a number of



Mickey Clark



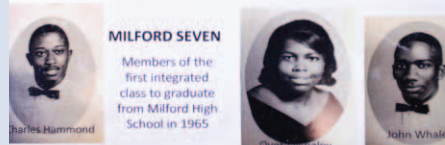
George Davis



Tim Duker



Greg Showers



All Milford Seven members kept moving forward to finish high school together.

championships during his tenure at Milford. The seven students overcame significant challenges and graduated together as the first African American class members, paving the way for generations to come.

It is very meaningful for the individuals with whom he shares his story to understand a part of their local history they might not have heard before. We're grateful to Mr. Hammond for his effort to make that history more personal for our participants in Life Enrichment.

Susan Winterbottom Hired as Director of Quality Assurance



KSI has hired Susan Winterbottom as its new Director of Quality Assurance, answering directly to the Vice President of Operations. In her position, Susan will be responsible for all program compliance, quality assurance, safety, and case management matters. Her position includes Program Director and dietary supervision at KSI's various service sites. Susan will also be presiding over the Case Record Review Committee, and being lead contact for all compliance reviews and program audits by accrediting agencies. Susan has accumulated more than fifteen years of managerial experience within Delaware to include long-term care, assisted and independent living, memory care, and day-hab residential/community facilities.

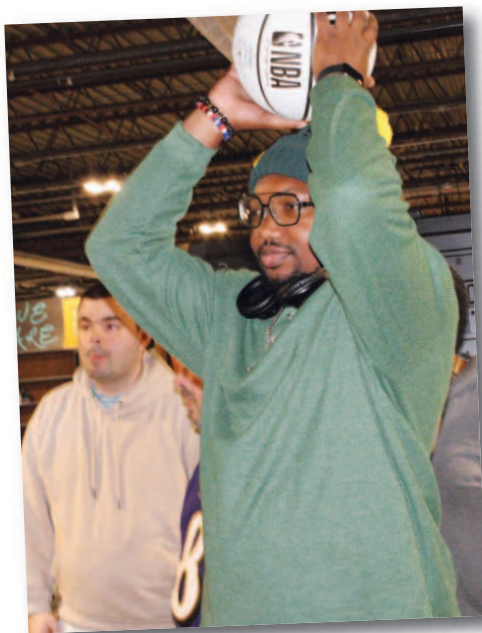
Participants Showcase Their Basketball Skills

Dozens of participants got to showcase their Special Olympics-based basketball skills training during a Special Olympics Basketball Skills Showcase in April.

athletes. The event also included a craft table with supplies that fans could use for creating items to cheer on their peers.

The event was the culmination of long-term basketball training and skills program. Moving forward, coordinator Dr. Kris Failing wants to add other sports under the Special Olympics umbrella, like cornhole and bocce ball. In the near future, basketball athletes who are interested in three-versus-three play will have the opportunity during a special game day at KSI's Milford Skill Development Center. To learn more about how you can help the effort, contact Dr. Failing at failingk@ksiinc.org.

80 participants dedicated themselves to improving their basketball skills during weekly practices. The training series was just the beginning of a continuing sports training program for those who want to safely push their limits and gain more skills for living.



The 80 participants, who have been diligently practicing for months, demonstrated their improved dribbling, passing, shooting, and other skills. Special Olympics Delaware (SODE), Milford Police Department members, and KSI participants and staff were there as “Fans in the Stands” to cheer showcase

