



Kingsway Learning Center

COURIER

1st Quarter 2017



From the Executive Director



"It was tough graduating. Usually graduation is a happy time... but it's tough because at age 21, the help seems to stop. We're trying to change that though with the adult program. Life is going to go on. Things can go back to the way they were." – Tina, mother of Kingsway graduate Alex

Students like Alex, a 2015 Kingsway graduate, *need* programming that will guide them into the later years of their lives. Alex thrived while attending Kingsway, developing language skills, learning a large vocabulary and excelling at our Community Based Instruction (CBI) job sites. With additional programming, there's no telling how much more she can accomplish in her life.

When looking ahead in life, sometimes it is important to take a few minutes to look back at how far you've come. Some may think about their successes and what they have learned from them. Some may think about the people who have helped them along the way. Some do both! While the entire Kingsway staff is proud to look at our accomplishments over the past fifty years, as well as the smiling faces that have supported us along the way, we set our sights on new goals and expanding our presence within the community.

As you may have heard, Kingsway is in the process of expanding its mission by developing a program for adults with special needs. This program seeks to bridge individuals from their high school years to independent community involvement by focusing not only on facilities-based programming but especially vocational supports for individuals working in the community.

Kingsway is known to be in the forefront of Community Based Instruction and meaningful transition programming for students with special needs. Given Kingsway's expertise and experience, including job coaching and behavior and therapeutic support in supported employment settings, it is most beneficial for our graduates that Kingsway to continue to serve them beyond their educational years. The adult service world needs innovative programming that Kingsway is well-versed in providing.

Closing the Gap

Presently, there is a gap in services between intensive facilities-based day programming and supported employment opportunities in the community. In order to be effective, adult programs need to be able to meet the individual needs of each client. Through the development of authen-

tic community-based employment sites, Kingsway has solidified professional relationships throughout the community that lead to employment opportunities after graduation. There is a tremendous need for community-based providers that offer innovative vocationally-oriented programming coupled with safety, support and supervision, and Kingsway is best positioned to provide those services.

Our Vision

The Kingsway Adult Program will be the most comprehensive and effective provider of services to adults with cognitive, physical, medical, behavioral and emotional challenges age 21 and over. An emphasis will be placed on building person-centered programs that reflect individual needs, as well as utilizing specifically-designed programs and supports that reflect those needs. The Kingsway Adult Program will provide a myriad of services with the intention of promoting activities that facilitate independent participation in the community, especially with respect to employment opportunities and where necessary, family support. Finally, the Kingsway Adult Program is committed to working closely with like-minded organizations to accomplish our vision.

Individualized Programs

The Kingsway Adult Program will offer a wide variety of individualized options in both natural community settings and facilities-based programs. A primary component of the program's vision is the knowledge that all participants *can* work, and so an emphasis is placed on vocational training and employment opportunities. Wherever possible, the program will establish community-based business partnerships to maximize potential for employment. Recognizing that not all participants are ready for full-time employment, day habilitation programs will be offered that focus on improving such important skill sets as activities of daily living, socialization and communication, as well as increasing participation in recreation and leisure opportunities. All participants of the Kingsway Adult Program will be able to access our full range of services to best meet their individualized programming needs.

KINGSWAY ADULT PROGRAM

Expanding our mission to serve adults with special needs

1.



VISION

CLOSING THE GAP

The Adult Program will be the most comprehensive and effective provider of services for adults with cognitive, physical, medical, behavioral and emotional challenges age 21 and over.
- ### PROGRAMMING

PLACING AN EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUALIZATION

Participants in the Kingsway Adult Program will be able to access our full range of services to best meet their individualized programming needs.

2.


3.



FUNDING

STATE, FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Along with state and federal funds, It is our hope and expectation that other community resources in the form of grants, monetary donations, in-kind donations, legacies and bequests will be procured to support these services.

To contribute to the upcoming Adult Program, visit www.kingswaylearningcenter.org and click on the DONATE button on the top of the page

How Can You Help?

Funding for the Kingsway Adult Program will come from a combination of state and federal funds through Medicaid, The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities and the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, but that will only cover a portion of the full cost of the program. It is also our hope that other community resources in the form of grants, monetary donations, in-kind donations, legacies and bequests will be procured to support these services. (Please see page 3 for information on grants Kingsway has recently received!)

In order to fully support this program and its infrastructure, significant funds and donations are needed. If you or someone you know has a connection with a foundation or granting entity, please let me know!

We are also seeking items to fully furnish our program. These include, but are not limited to:

- Furniture (classroom, office, lounge, collaboration and peer mentoring areas, simulated apartments)
- Kitchen equipment
- Therapeutic equipment (gym equipment, sensory motor room)
- Career Center Partnerships (Opportunities for local companies to set up a scaled down simulation of their business so that program clients can access career experiences and training, but within Kingsway's walls)



From left: Robert, Chadd and Sadie posing for a photo at their job site at Barclays Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Cherry Hill

As we proceed with our operational planning process, you will be hearing more about our adult program, as well as other expansion opportunities that we have projected as part of our future. In the meantime, if you have questions or are interested in discussing donation options, please feel free to reach out to me directly at: crobinson@kingswaylearningcenter.org

Christine Robinson, Executive Director

Kingsway Receives \$5,000 in Grants to Support Upcoming Adult Program

Investors Bank Foundation and Roma Community Bank each presented Kingsway Learning Center with a \$2,500 grant for the development of the upcoming Adult Program. Kingsway applied for the grants, which both support non-profit organizations that enrich the diverse communities served by both banks. Roma became part of Investors Bank in 2013.

Investors Bank Vice President for Business Lending, Michael Penk, noted that Kingsway's 50 years in creating innovative programs able to meet the individual needs of each client makes for a perfect foundation for the Adult Program.

"Investors is committed to the communities we serve, particularly those programs which aid in the education of our children, the enrichment of our communities and the support of families." In presenting the check to Kingsway, Investors Bank Assistant Vice President and Mount Laurel Branch Manager, Pedro Figueroa, said, "Investors Bank supports the expansion of Kingsway's program to include adults aged over 21. The expertise and programming experience

of Kingsway made it the perfect entity to assist its own students and other persons with disabilities make the transition from school to community life."



From left: Investors Bank Vice President for Business Lending Michael Penk and Assistant Vice President and Mt. Laurel Branch Manager Pedro Figueroa present Kingsway Learning Center Program Director Philip Rodriguez, Executive Director Christine Robinson, and Transition Coordinator Lynda Altdonna with a check for \$2,500 from the Investors Foundation

MEET THE BOARD

Rob Edwards, Board Treasurer and Finance
Committee Chairperson



Graham and Rob Edwards

Rob Edwards has over twenty-five years experience as a financial executive officer and quite a large resume to show from it. He has worked for several large international companies and start-up businesses. As a former CFO of Synova Healthcare Inc., Rob raised over \$15 million of private equity capital. Now, he specializes in restructuring and turnaround services.

Above all his professional experience in the financial world, Rob is a father first. The Arizona State University accounting major who attended Harvard Business School Executive Development Program has served on the Kingsway Learning Center Board of Directors since 1998. When his oldest son Bryan attended Kingsway, Rob served as parent representative and eventually became a member. He now sits on the Board as Treasurer and Financial Committee Chairperson.

His son Bryan first attended Kingsway at the age of 6. According to Rob, the Cherry Hill School District recommended that he enroll in the Kingsway elementary program. "As a result of him getting transferred here, there was an opportunity to become involved," Rob said.

Rob explained why he has been committed to Kingsway for close to thirty years. "When Bryan came to Kingsway, the school had a very nurturing environment. The one thing we wanted was to make sure that his self-esteem and self-worth was always preserved. The nurturing aspects of Kingsway have been able to provide the things that I don't necessarily think a public school could provide."

Prior to Kingsway expanding services into a Secondary Program, Bryan moved to Atlantic County

Special Services to receive the assistance he needed upon aging out of the Kingsway elementary program. Rob says launching the Secondary Program in 2004 to help students continue their education and develop social and vocational skills was a vital part in his history with the organization.

"That was one of the things we got behind at Kingsway. We wanted to build the next step for the kids who came out of the elementary program and transition them into another program. I've always been committed to Kingsway. It was a great environment for Bryan," Rob said. Bryan graduated in 2010 and now works at Whole Foods in the maintenance department.

What does Rob expect from Kingsway in the near future? "Right now, we're currently faced with the issue of launching an effective adult program for Kingsway students and continue to build on their work and life skills and have the opportunity to continue a support system for them," he said.

For me, being a member of the Board is just a simple way I can give back to an institution that did a really great job with my son," he said.

"I'll continue to support Kingsway in any way I can."



The Edwards family: Bryan, Graham, Carla and Rob

THE STAFF LOUNGE

5

Teacher Assistant Sharon Thornton lends a helping hand

When Sharon Thornton joined the Kingsway family as a Teacher Assistant nineteen years ago, she found out pretty quickly that she had landed the “perfect job.”

After graduating high school from Cherry Hill West, Sharon attended nursing classes and worked as a Medical Secretary for an OB/GYN office in Marlton. Although she had a passion for nursing, friends and family spoke highly of Kingsway. After hearing about the great staff and positive environment, her interest piqued.

“I heard about Kingsway through my cousin,” Sharon said. “His son was enrolled in the Early Intervention Program back in the early 90’s.” The Early Intervention Program provides individualized services for children and their families from birth to age three. Practitioners work together with parents and other caregivers to increase the family’s understanding and ability to guide their child’s developmental progress. Primary educational services may include teaching, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

“My cousin and his wife spoke so highly about the care their son had received and how wonderful the entire Kingsway staff was.”



Teacher Assistant Sharon Thornton with student Rebecca

In 1998, when her children were going to school full time, Sharon took the opportunity to search for employment in the school system. “I felt this would be a good opportunity, the hours would be ideal and it wouldn’t interfere with my children’s after school activities.” She applied to a few jobs and was hired by Kingsway.

As a Teacher Assistant in the Junior High Transition Program, Sharon assists the students with copying, laminating, filing, collating office material, mail sorting and supply delivery to classrooms among other duties under the instruction of Ms. Eileen Sullivan.

The things Sharon says are most important to her in her current role are the same now as they were when she was hired almost twenty years ago – the welfare and concern for the children.

“I try my best to teach each student new things, let them experience new opportunities as they begin to approach High School and try to make a positive impact on their lives.”

Thank You, from Kingsway

We want to thank every friend, parent, family member, former student or parent, local business, and staff member for their generous donations we have received during the last quarter. These donations help Kingsway Learning Center students reach their fullest potential.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Atkins Denise Bouyer-Hargrove Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brenek James R. Brownlow Mr. and Mrs. William Caldes Thomas L. Cerino Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Corbin Mr. and Mrs. Jim Coyne Elizabeth Dalzell Mr. and Mrs. Scott DeMurguiondo Peter N. Gagliardi Caroline Garzotto Mr. and Mrs. John Gaspari Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Jones Mr. and Mrs. Carl Letizia Marcia Levy Michael Malady Wayne Martin Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McElroy Frances Mitch-Radcliff Mr. and Mrs. Jack Montesjardi Virginia Passante Mr. and Mrs. Alex Poulathas Ravitz Family Markets of Cherry Hill Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Roberts Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Rohner Lisa Rubenstein Gene W. Sharpless Randy Shepard Jaime Snyder Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tarditi Mr. and Mrs. John Vandenbos Mr. and Mrs. PJ Waicus Marie Walker Mr. and Mrs. John Wenner Mr. and Mrs. Robert Worthington	William Yorio Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ziemba Maryann Romanowski Jonathan Cass Jacquelyn Caridad Faith Presbyterian Church of Bucks County Joseph Sipala Subaru of America Kristen Lutz Katina D. Carter Bruce Goldhagen Donna Laird Charles P. Lally, Jr. Timothy Phillips Barbara Mitchell Roma Bank Foundation, Inc. Investors Bank Foundation, Inc. In memory of Dorathy P. Brandt: Elizabeth Dalzell Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rovino Zonta Club of Trenton Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Signorella Donna Thorpe Mr. and Mrs. Charles Breingan Mr. and Mrs. Walt Cottee Mr. and Mrs. David Bradley Mr. and Mrs. William Dillon and Family Marie Clauser Mr. and Mrs. Lou Rulli Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eckardt Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tucker Mary Signoretta and PNC Bank Heart to Hearts, Lawrenceville, NJ In memory of Reid Trager: Drs. Donald and Francine Rebhun
--	---

Kingsway Learning Center

21st Annual Golf Tournament!

Teeing off to support our upcoming Adult Program

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Deerwood Country Club

Special Guest: Former Philadelphia Eagle and owner of
Launch Trampoline Park, Jason Avant

Presented By:



- Individual Golfer/\$195
- Foursome/\$700
- Dinner Guest/\$50

Seeking sponsors, donors and participants!

Register online at kingswaylearningcenter.org/golf-event

Questions? Contact Matt Flowers, Community Relations
Specialist at MFlowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org

We look forward to seeing you there!



KINGSWAY
LEARNING
CENTER





Kingsway Learning Center
144 Kings Highway West
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1540
Bellmawr, NJ
08099

Kingsway Learning Center

COURIER

1st Quarter 2017

Kingsway
Receives
\$5,000 in
Grants

The Staff Lounge

Behind the scenes at Kingsway, we take a break with Sharon Thornton

From the Executive Director

Learn about our upcoming Adult Learning Program

News on our
21st Annual Golf
Tournament!

Get Social and #SupportKingsway!

Connect with us on social media to stay updated on everything happening at Kingsway:



Opt-in to receive the electronic version of the Courier.

If you would like to *only* receive the electronic version of the Courier, please let us know. Emailed newsletters help reduce printing and mailing costs. Email your preference to 50years@kingswaylearningcenter.org.