

Kingsway
COURIER
2nd Quarter 2017

MEET THE 2017 KINGSWAY GRADUATES

On Thursday, June 15th, 17 young men and women spent their last day as students and entered the world of adulthood as they graduated from Kingsway Learning Center's Secondary Program. More than 250 guests attended the ceremony which included speeches given by the Chief Executive Officer, the Board Chairperson, and two graduates.

Zach, who had been a student at Kingsway since ninth grade, spoke about the progress he made during that time. "I learned how to be more independent in my jobs and in my daily living skills. Now I can help my mom at home." Amber echoed that sentiment in her speech: "Kingsway taught me how to work. Lutheran Home was my favorite jobsite because it was different than all my other sites. I will miss my teachers and classmates." During the presentation of awards, Ms Megan Olsen, a Structured Learning Experience Coordinator presented the National Association of Secondary School Principals Citizenship Award to Robert for his willingness to help others, sense of fair play and respectful nature.

Mike Dabek, also a Structured Learning Experience Coordinator, presented Timothy with the CBI Employee of the Year Award. This award is presented to the student who takes his job seriously, takes initiative and is helpful and respectful. Eileen Coyne, also a Structured Learning Experience Coordinator, presented the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement to Sha-Ron. With this award from President Donald Trump, Sha-Ron was recognized for his exemplary academic progress at Kingsway.

While the staff at Kingsway is sad to see these fine young men and women leave, we are so very proud of their progress and wish them all the best in the future.

We've also created a *Meet the Graduates* video series on our Youtube channel. Each video highlights one of this year's graduates as they share their biggest accomplishments, special shoutouts and thoughts from several of their parents. The videos can be found on Youtube at tinyurl.com/KingswayGraduates.





We welcome you all to join us as Kingsway enters a period of organizational growth and program development to better serve the needs of the Greater Delaware Valley. I am proud to introduce you to **Kingsway Services, Inc. (KSI)**. KSI is a non-profit supporting organization that has been created to reinforce our position in the community serving individuals with unique abilities. This new organization will facilitate the creation of an expanded service delivery model and position us to provide an even broader spectrum of programs to support our expanding mission of service to children and adults in a variety of settings across our region.

While efforts remain focused on providing opportunities for individuals with unique abilities, Kingsway's vision includes expansion into service areas that have not been a part of our mission in the past. Expanding beyond our historical school-based educational programming, we will progress into new avenues for services and funding in the home and community for both children and adults. We are very excited to be taking our highly regarded and forward-thinking programs beyond the limitations of our school-based campuses and to the seriously underserved adult population.

What does this mean to you? If you are the parent or guardian of a child who receives services from our Early Intervention Program or at either our Moorestown or Haddonfield Campus, you really won't notice a difference. Your child will still receive the highest quality, individualized educational and clinical services that s/he needs. For our current community of children, students, families and partner school districts it is simply a name change. The "Kingsway" that you have come to know and trust will remain as such.

But going forward, "Kingsway" will soon begin to mean something larger and more diverse with programs and services that extend beyond the specific services currently being offered. In terms of the here and now, the changes will be mostly cosmetic. You will see some changes in

the way information is communicated. You'll see an enhanced focus on the acquisition of grants of various types. You'll see changes in the Executive Office structure along with a few title changes. These changes all illustrate a shift to a more diverse service delivery model beyond the relatively narrow educational school-based model. You can look to future communications as we begin to more specifically roll out the new programs and services that will be part of that expanded mission, and know that your continued support is greatly appreciated as we ensure the future of *Kingsway*.

Christine Robinson, Chief Executive Officer

FAMILY FUN WITH KINGSWAY

Our Early Intervention Program hit the road this past May, hosting Family Fun with Kingsway at We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym in Mount Laurel. Children enjoyed sensory-safe play at the indoor playground!



Gracyn



Kian



Aleena



Julian

Meet the 2017 Kingsway Graduates

3



Eddie

"The staff did a wonderful job showing me how to work. Thank you to all the job coaches and teachers for their help."



Jordan

"Thanks to Kingsway, I am able to do a lot more on my own and take initiative at home."



Sadie

"Kingsway has given me self-confidence and helped me achieve independence. I am going to miss the school and the staff that has helped me along the way."



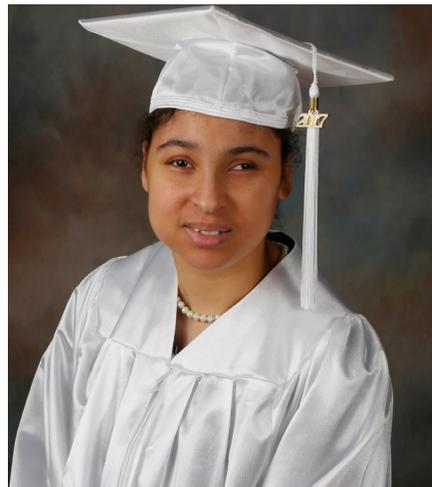
Mara

"Kingsway has taught me to be more sociable. I will miss WKLC and doing the news in the morning."



Sha-Ron

"I want to thank my mom for putting me in this school because I love the teachers here. I am going to miss them and this school."



Claudia

"I liked going to work and going to the gym. I will miss my friends and my teachers."



Nick

"I will miss going to the dances and going to work on the job sites. I had a fun time at Kingsway."



Amber

"Kingsway showed me how to work. If I ever needed help, Ms. Coyne would be there to help me and show me how to do things."



Benjamin

"Thank you Kingsway for helping me grow and making me more independent."



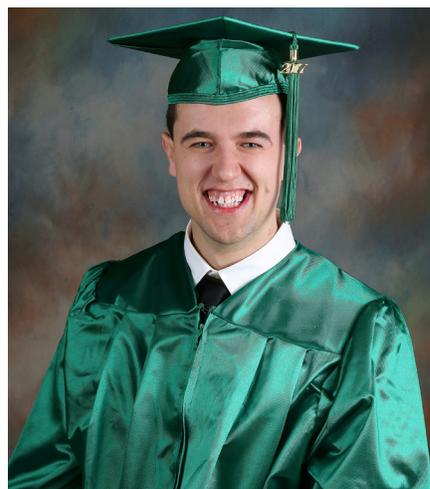
Chadd

"Kingsway has given me a safe place to learn. Because of Kingsway, I feel prepared to head out into the world."



Zachary

"My favorite memory from Kingsway was being selected to say the Pledge of Allegiance at last year's graduation."



Robert

"So many staff members have been kind and supportive and have worked hard to help me become as independent as I can be."



Ashley

"I am going to miss you guys. Kingsway had the best job coaches ever. I can't wait to come back to visit."



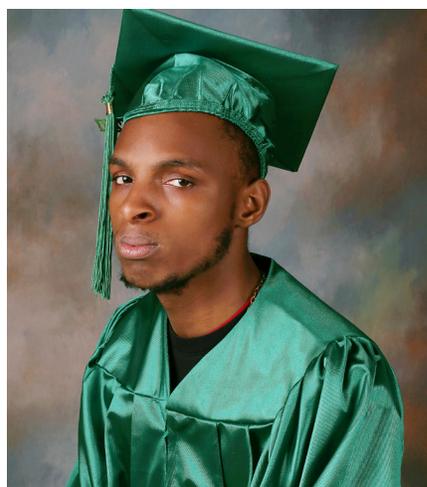
Tim

"I will miss the opportunities Kingsway gave me to go out and work in the community. I will miss the friends I worked with and the environment."



Sarah

"Thank you to all staff who have helped me along the way. I will miss the fun events like theater and chorus."



Allan

"I am going to miss all my teachers from Kingsway, especially Ms. Coyne."

*"You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!"
-Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places
You'll Go!*



Jacob

"Kingsway has helped me with my hand-writing and problem-solving skills. The teachers have helped me become comfortable with learning and have helped me grow up."

6

MEET THE BOARD

Stephanie Pratico



Stephanie Pratico, Board Member, with daughter Sara and son John

recognized for her accomplishments in the special needs and healthcare communities when she received the “Young Professional of the Year” award from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-Hamilton. Stephanie joined the Kingsway Learning Center Board of Directors in 2014 as a Parent Representative, and currently is a member of the Development Committee.

Stephanie’s oldest son John is now 23 and graduated from Kingsway in 2015. Her daughter Sara is currently enrolled in the Kingsway High School CBI program at Moorestown and will graduate in 2020.

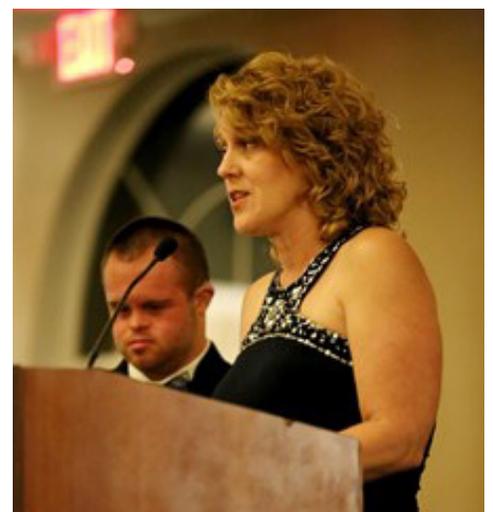
Stephanie saw first-hand how Kingsway staff prepared her son for a life after graduation and expects the same for her daughter Sara. As an active Board Member for the past three years, Stephanie sees a bright future for Kingsway.

“I think it is amazing how much Kingsway has grown over the past 50 years. I believe it is because of the courage and foresight of parents and Board Members that brought their dream to fruition.”

With her extensive education, professional background and experience raising two Kingsway students of her own, Board Member Stephanie Pratico has had a major influence on our organization.

Stephanie is the loving mother of two children with Down Syndrome and complex medical needs. In addition, she is guardian of her 70-year-old aunt with autism. Led by personal experience, she has been an avid advocate for over 20 years, consistently working to improve healthcare and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Stephanie was recently appointed Chairperson for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is a graduate fellow of the LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Program at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She manages the Trisomy 21 Program at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, which supports 1,200 families of individuals with Down Syndrome. She is also a former member of the Hamilton Township Board of Education. In 2008, she was



Stephanie Pratico speaks as her son John, a 2015 Kingsway graduate, stands nearby.

Kingsway Learning Center has received a \$2,500 contribution on behalf of TD Bank and the TD Charitable Foundation for our upcoming Adult Program.

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.

TD Bank through its charitable giving arm, the TD Charitable Foundation, carries a legacy of supporting non-profits and their important work throughout the region. Since its inception in 2002, the foundation has contributed over \$169 million in grant funding to non-profit organizations in the communities where they work, live and do business.

We wish to thank TD Bank for their contribution to our vision of providing the most comprehensive and effective services to adults with cognitive, physical, medical, behavioral and emotional challenges age 21 and over.

KINGSWAY RECEIVES \$2,500 GRANT FROM

7



Charitable Foundation

Mister Softee visits Kingsway

Students and staff at our Moorestown campus enjoyed an ice cold treat courtesy of Mister Softee on the last day of school!



LEADING THE WAY WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Kingsway Learning Center, in connection with the Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) hosted its first of five Assistive Technology workshops at the Haddonfield campus in May. The topic for the first workshop was Alternative Mouse Access such as a joystick, headmouse, touchscreen and more.

Two of our students who use alternative mouse devices, Jacob and Danny demonstrated how this technology helps those with the physical limitations of using a traditional computer mouse. The workshop was presented by Assistive Technology Specialists Madge Bradley and Tara Wohltman.

Four more workshops are scheduled this summer. Be on the lookout for more information:

- **July 12: Team Collaboration for Student Use**
- **July 31: Eyegaze Technology**
- **August 10: Switch Access**
- **September 13: Accessibility Options for Apple Mobile Devices**

Kingsway student Jacob demonstrates how Headmouse technology is used during the Assistive Technology Workshop



THE STAFF LOUNGE

Behind the scenes, we take a break with Job Coach Erik Yost

Job Coach Erik Yost has had a positive impact on Kingsway students, preparing them for employment in the real world after graduation.

Erik has worked at Kingsway for six years. After a year of working as a one-to-one aide, Erik transitioned into his current role as Job Coach within our Community-Based Instruction Program where learning takes place in real-life situations within our community.

During his role as Job Coach, Erik works directly with small groups of students in vocational and community settings. “Primarily, I work with these students to assist in their development of soft, hard, and life skills through their experiences at job sites,” Erik said. “I evaluate their progress through the marking period as they reach their relative goals by observation and in some cases quantitative data, usually through continued repetition and implementation of strategies,” he added.

Erik’s main goal while at Kingsway is to help the students become as independent as possible, whether that means completing tasks with minimal prompting, self-advocating for themselves, or even just recalling landmarks from their travels in the community.

Prior to working for Kingsway, Erik graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011, where he double-



CBI Job Coach Erik Yost manages Kingsway students at TJ Maxx in Mount Laurel. Here, he is shown helping Zach place products in the food section of the store

maored in journalism and psychology. He is currently enrolled at Rowan University where he is finishing up the first year of his Masters Program in School Psychology.

Erik says the best part of working at Kingsway has been the camaraderie among the employees. He also enjoys having a good rapport with the students and knowing he has a positive influence on their lives. “While some days are more challenging than others, it’s reassuring to know that we are all on the same team and can relate with each other.

Erik intends to be involved with special education, returning to school, and making it a part of his long-term career plans.



Job Coach Erik Yost sits with some Moorestown students during a trip to Riverwinds

Visit the Blogs section on our website, www.kingswaylearningcenter.org, to read more about our CBI program

GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!

\$31,753 raised for the upcoming Adult Program

Golfers couldn't have possibly asked for better weather for our 21st Annual Tournament! With the sun shining bright, and the temperature peaking at a warm 79 degrees, our guests enjoyed playing Deerwood Country Club's scenic Carolina-style golf course.

Once the golfers wrapped up their day on the links, they, along with Kingsway staff, parents and friends enjoyed a buffet dinner, a colorful silent auction and a rousing Live Auction and raffle. Long-time friend of Kingsway and former Mayor of Haddonfield, Jack Tarditi of Conner, Strong & Buckelew, was an energetic and persuasive auctioneer, and Susan Hodges moved our program along perfectly as the evening's emcee. Jason Avant, former Philadelphia Eagle and owner of Launch Trampoline Park in Deptford, chatted with guests and posed for photos. The highlight of the night was the announcement about the launch of Kingsway Services, an extension of Kingsway Learning Center that will provide an even broader spectrum of offerings to support our wider mission - for both students and adults - within our growing communities.

To see a video with more information on our upcoming Adult Program, please visit, our Youtube page! Visit our website for more photos of the event!



Jason Avant and Christine Robinson with Liam Brinkley and Brandon Ford from Tournament Sponsor, PNC



Jason Avant and Christine Robinson with Jeff LePage, Brian Partlow and Suze Risteski from Partlow Insurance



Former Philadelphia Eagle and Owner of Launch Trampoline Park in Deptford, Jason Avant poses with our Kingsway Staff and Student Volunteers



Scene from the tailgate at 1100 Social at Xfinity LIVE! before the game



Kingsway staff members Chris and Allie out at the game



Former Kingsway student Alex and her mom Tina at the tailgate



Thank you to South Jersey Young Professionals Association (SJYPA) for designating Kingsway as beneficiary of their “Night Out at the Ballpark” event. More than 200 people turned out for the cause to see the Phillies win against the Boston Red Sox!

Congratulations to Behavior Analyst Abbi Campbell for winning the Region IV Related Services Provider of the Year Award! Abbi has been working in the special education field since 2004. Abbi has played a critical role in developing our related services department. Abbi understands that even though the children she interacts with on a daily basis have certain behaviors and disabilities, they always have the right to be involved. She certainly acts as an advocate for providing opportunities for each student.



Text to Give

Text the word
"Kingsway" with
donation amount
to 50155

#SupportKingsway



Jane is retiring after working at Kingsway for 27 years

We extend a heartfelt “THANK YOU!” to retirees Jane Johnson and Peggy Jablonowski.

Both received a pen and ink of the building for their years of service.



Peggy is retiring after working at Kingsway for 13 years

KINGSWAY PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED AS NASET SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Both the Elementary and Secondary Programs at Kingsway Learning Center have been designated National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASET) Schools of Excellence. This is the sixth consecutive year that Kingsway’s Secondary Program has been honored and the third year for the Elementary Program.

Being named a NASET School of Excellence is the highest honor a private special education school can achieve through the NASET organization. Recognition as a NASET School of Excellence is bestowed on private special education schools that have met rigorous professional criteria and have demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education.

Do You Match?

Did you know that many companies will match employee donations? Ask your employer today and make the most of your donation dollars!

Thank You, from Kingsway

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

- Haddonfield Lions Club
- Mr. Richard Ackermann
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Catlin
- Ms. Lillian Cooper
- Mr. William H. Crescenzo, Jr.
- Ms. Sherryl Gordon
- Ms. Linda Interlante
- Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pantalone
- Nysul in Honor of Mr. Mitchell Rubenstein

- Mr. Richard Walker
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Thursday Night’s Men’s Basketball Society
- Waterford Township Woman’s Club

Memorials

- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Rizzote in Memory of Anthony J. Rizzotte, Jr.



Kingsway Learning Center
144 Kings Highway West
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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

Kingsway
COURIER
2nd Quarter 2017

Graduation

Meet the students
taking the next step into
adulthood

The Staff Lounge

Behind the scenes at
Kingsway, where we take a
break with Job Coach
Erik Yost

From the Chief Executive Officer

Introducing Kingsway
Services

Take a look
inside for these
stories and
much more.

SAVE THE DATE

**1st Annual Kingsway Kickoff 5K
Walk. Run. Roll.**

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Challenge Grove Park

Bortons Mill Road

Cherry Hill NJ 08034

More information coming soon!