



COURIER

a publication of KINGSWAY SERVICES, INC.

Summer, 2019

Many "firsts" in Voorhees

Making a house a home

You would never know that Kingsway Learning Center set up shop in Voorhees, NJ only eight months ago. The roomy, wide-open spaces are filling in with equipment, supplies, signs--all the earmarks of being settled in. Long corridors are adorned with artwork and projects. The building meets every need: space, light and function. Clearly, students and staff are making great use of their new home

In May, a student art show brought the massive blank walls to life with smiling cows, giant ice cream cones, puffy butterflies and psychedelic flowers created by our students. Just a few weeks later, some of those same blank walls were permanently covered with professionally created murals--brilliant scenes of underwater sealife, bucolic landscapes, whimsical villages--created to soothe and inspire.

In June, the big, bright, bustling cafeteria was unrecognizable once



transformed into a scene celebrating accomplishments and saying goodbyes: graduation--the first in this building. Our preschoolers and junior high students took the spotlight just a few days prior, as they advanced to the next stage of their education at Kingsway.

This building was ready for our students in January, perfect in so many ways. Each day after that, the Kingsway community has created a string of "firsts," making it truly their own. ♦



Above, one of several murals lining the hallways of the Elementary Program; left, student artwork on display at the "Art with Sprinkles" art show/ice cream social in May. More about the murals on page 8, and more photos on 4 and 5.



From left: Principal Megan Avery presents Danny M. with his diploma; Parker T. receives his preschool diploma from teacher Olivia Shreeves; one of many walls filled with student artwork at the annual open house Art with Sprinkles event.

A message from Kingsway's new CEO

During my first few weeks at Kingsway, I've been overwhelmed by the warm welcome from students, clients, families, staff, and partners. I'm excited to continue getting to know each of you and looking forward to working together to serve the Kingsway community.

As I've started to get acclimated, I'm really digging in and listening to staff, parents, and partners to learn about Kingsway and to dream together about the ongoing opportunities for our students, clients, and Kingsway as a whole. Here are a few of the themes I'm hearing as I spend time with members of the Kingsway community:

Resilience: Whether you're talking about our students and clients or the staff's persistence in the face of change,



by Rachel Chan

Kingsway is a place full of resilient learners and doers who look for creative solutions and don't take no for an answer.

Community: More than a team, it's already clear that Kingsway is a family and the whole is greater than the sum of our parts.

Potential: In addition to a rich history, I'm inspired by the opportunity around every corner at Kingsway. I'm looking forward to working together to realize that potential and turn the opportunity into reality.

In the weeks and months ahead as I meet and talk with more of you, I hope you'll share your hopes and dreams for Kingsway and ideas you have for how we can continue to deliver on our mission. Please introduce yourself--I'm looking forward to meeting you! ♦

Adult Program update: We are there!

Kingsway Services, Inc. (KSI) is pleased to announce that the KSI Adult Program is now officially open as a fully approved NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities Medicaid-funded facility. It has been a long journey, but well worth it.

The KSI Adult Program is patterned on Kingsway Learning Center's (KLC) highly successful Community Based Instruction Program, which includes a unique blend of facilities-based programming, and both business and recreational partnerships in surrounding communities.

The Latest

- Transportation routes have been established with a pick-up/drop-off location for individuals who reside outside of our 10-mile catchment area.
- Staffing continues to move forward. Once complete, training sessions begin for new staff and the Program continues to roll out and grow.
- Enrollment is on the rise, with several Kingsway alumni joining us.



Pat Horgan
Adult Program Director

Help From Our Friends

With KLC graduates and other clients, the KSI Adult Program operated a pilot project in early 2019 that provided individualized programming while allowing KSI an opportunity to develop programs, policies, and procedures. We selected these families because of their familiarity with KLC and because we knew they would be honest in their comments and critiques. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to Kingsway and their candid and thoughtful input.

We have also been fortunate to

recruit Pat Horgan as Program Director. Pat comes to us with a wealth of experience in areas including program start up, ongoing operations, and engagement with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities.

"This has been a very busy, but very exciting few months," says Ms. Horgan. "We look forward to expanding our program offerings. We recently added Book Club to our activity calendar, and it's quickly becoming a client favorite."

For enrollment information, contact Elizabeth Dalzell at 856-545-0800. ♦

Keep tabs on what's going on at Kingsway!



www.kingswaylearningcenter.org

Junior High Transition:

Learning new skills, preparing for the next step

Beth Adams, Jessica Fehr and Eileen Sullivan are teachers in Kingsway's Junior High Transition Program (JHTP). Their job: prepare students for the transition to the Secondary Program, ensuring the smoothest changeover possible by introducing students to skills they can use as they mature and move forward.

"My favorite aspect of helping students transition from junior high to secondary is the amount of growth we see in each student," says Ms. Sullivan. "As their skills and their independence develop, so does their self confidence."

The program exposes students to skills found in functional academics, activities of daily living, and pre-vocational tasks. These may include social skills during community outings, following a recipe, or learning how to fill out a supply order form. Skills are taught in the most functional environments possible, which may include the classroom, learning lobbies (flexible, open areas), cafeteria, gym, and in the community. Working in a variety of environments allows students to apply skills they are learning in real time.

The skills that are the greatest challenge are those that require more

time to complete, such as dealing with money. "It takes a number of steps to understand not only the coins and bills, but how and why we use it," explains Ms. Sullivan.

"It's important to break skills down to more manageable chunks of time so that the students experience success, as well as independence in completing the task," she continues.

JHTP utilizes positive behavioral strategies, differentiated instruction, and functional communication skills to help students learn. The integration of individualized communication needs, which may include a picture exchange system, Augmentative & Alternative Communication, sign language, or another type of communication, is infused within the daily educational program.

Social skills and communication skills are developed through small group activities, games, and art.

"My students like keeping busy with work tasks that involve any kind of movement. They enjoy exploring the community and going on community outings," says Ms. Sullivan. "They also enjoy our weekly song time (karaoke). They get to express themselves through music and, of course, it's fun."



From top: Ms. Sullivan works with Connor as he completes his morning journal; below, Cameron starts the day by posting the date for the class.

The Junior High Transition Program plays an integral role in supporting students to make a successful transition into Kingsway's Secondary Program. ♦



Abbi Campbell and Issai C.: then and now.

In the blink of an eye

Abbi Campbell, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, worked at Bankbridge School back in 2007, her last year as a teacher. Little 10-year-old Issai C. was her student back then. "He was energetic and affectionate and had a smile that lit up the room," says Ms. Campbell.

Imagine her surprise when, years later, she landed at Kingsway and found that Issai landed here too! Ms. Campbell proudly stood with Issai for a graduation photo in June.

Hard work and learning are sometimes disguised as fun!



Graduation 2019!



Our littlest grads



Jr. High Move Up



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Annual Golf Tournament Raises nearly \$30,000

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Students
Gabrielle B., Zach E.
Guy H.



Thank you!

EVENTS	APPRECIATION	FUNDS RAISED
Paisley Pickles Performance	Art with Sprinkles Goodie Bags	Applebee's / LuLaRoe - \$500
DJ & Photo Booth - Prom	Sunshine Committee's Bagels and Staff Gift Cards	Gertrude Hawk Chocolate - \$2600
DJ & Food - Fall Dance	Yearbooks for all students	Move a Thon - \$2900
DJ & Food - St. Patrick's Dance	Bench for new location	Box Tops - \$200
Staff Appreciation Luncheon for 200	\$10,000 towards Playground Equipment	Donations - \$500
Goldfish Bar / Sensory Bottle Craft Activities	400 shirts for Kingsway Carnival	Red Robin Dine Out - \$100
Holiday Shop	Kingsway SpiritWear	SpiritWear - \$700
		Wawa Hoagie Coupons - \$700
		KidStuff Books - \$1100
		Membership Dues - \$600
		Avon Fundraiser - \$700

Kingsway thanks the Executive Board for many years of service, and welcomes new Board members for 2019-2020

Jeanne H. Whalen, Board Chairperson, has served on the Board of Directors since her son was a Kingsway student 32 years ago. She has been the Board Chairperson for 15 years. Before retiring, Ms. Whalen worked in the field of education as a teacher, administrator, and consultant for 45 years.

Michael T. Byrne, Board Vice-Chairperson, is both a brother and a father to individuals with disabilities. He began on the Board as a Parent Member, and currently serves on the Development Committee. He has been a financial planner since 1987.

Gracanne Hinski Ryan, Board Secretary, is the Executive Director/Superintendent of HollyDELL School and Adult Programs. She joined the Board in 1982.

Robert L. Edwards, Board Treasurer, has been on the board since 1993. When his son attended Kingsway, he served as a parent representative before becoming a member. He is the current Board Treasurer.

Ellis I. Medoway, Board Member, has been an attorney with Archer & Greiner since 1987. Prior to joining Archer & Greiner, he served as Deputy Attorney General with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

Brandon Hamilton, Board Member, is a Senior Software Engineer at Wells Fargo Bank and has developed financial systems for large corporate banks for nearly 30 years. He joined Kingsway Learning Center's Board in 2013 as a parent representative.

David O. Costello, Board Member, worked for Lockheed Martin's Mission Systems and Training (MST) business area as the Director of Program Operations before retiring. Prior to becoming a board member, Mr. Costello spent many years working with Kingsway to adapt toys and build a variety of customized switches which enable children with physical disabilities to interact with these toys.

John J. Colaianni, Board Member, was raised in Haddonfield and has served on Kingsway's Golf Committee since 2006. A residential remodeling Designer by trade, John joined Nuss Construction Company in 2014 and has worked in construction for a decade. ♦

Welcome!



NICOLE LANDAU

Over the last 20+ years, starting in public accounting at Arthur Andersen, Nicole gained experience in auditing and running all aspects of the financial process of various companies. She elevated through several financial roles over the next 10 years at Medical Broadcasting Company, which later became Digitas Health in Philadelphia. She then had another 10-year term at Direct Image and Design where she built and managed the accounting and finance department and served as a member of the Senior Management Team. She is currently working as a CFO for Your Outsourced CFO. She partners with CEOs of various small- to medium-size businesses on developing and executing financial process and growth strategies. Nicole's 17-year-old son, who has autism, has attended Kingsway for three years. Nicole and her husband, Adam, felt Kingsway was a great fit from the first time they visited the Moorestown campus. Their son is thriving in the program and is about to start participating in the Community Based Instruction Program. Nicole is excited to contribute to an organization that has been so beneficial to her son, and looks forward to developing more opportunities for the special needs population.

JASON BREIG, MD

Jason received his medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and has recently returned to his native South Jersey after completing his residency in Northern Virginia. He is Board certified in Family Medicine and a member of Virtua Physicians Partners and Virtua Medical Group. Jason is long familiar with Kingsway Learning Center and during his residency actively consulted with schools of a similar type helping to improve clinical protocols and direct service to children. Jason has already made interesting suggestions on bridging to family medicine practice groups.



DEBBIE COMEAU

Debbie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and worked for over a decade at a public accounting firm. She has used her education, experience, and organization skills to benefit several volunteer organizations. She is the Treasurer of the Kingsway Home and School Association and the Bordentown Regional Middle School PTO. She has organized a number of successful fundraisers, providing funding for school improvements, as well benefits for staff and students. Debbie has also been a leader in both Boy Scouts and a special-needs Girl Scouts troop. Debbie and her husband, Dave, live in Bordentown with their three children. Vivian will start her 14th year with Kingsway in the fall, and her twin brother, Daniel, will be starting his second year at TCNJ. Vivian's younger brother, Matthew will be a freshman in high school. Debbie is excited to bring the voice and perspective of current parents to the board, along with her passion for special needs children. ♦



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Colorful murals create a sense of wonder, creativity and calm



Bright colors, friendly critters, silly-looking cars, stunning fish. These are the things that spark imagination along the Elementary Program corridors. Inspired by the murals on the first floor hallways of the Haddonfield Campus, a division of Corporate Interiors, Kingsway's furniture vendor, designed these serene scenes, working closely with Kingsway's administrators. "Parents loved the Haddonfield murals," says Megan Avery, Principal. "We wanted to recreate various aspects of those designs in our new space. We are beyond thrilled with the results."

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