



Kingsway Learning Center and Services
COURIER
1st Quarter 2018



From the Chief Executive Officer

At Long Last, A Dream Comes to Fruition

It's been years in the making, but it's finally coming to fruition... Kingsway's school programs will be relocating to a new facility... one that will better serve our students and our programs.

When Kingsway started over 50 years ago, the student population was drastically different than it is now. The beautiful building located just moments from downtown Haddonfield was a perfect fit for the elementary aged students who had learning disabilities but did not require modifications to the facility in order to successfully participate in a school program. Now, decades later, our students' needs are much different, and a three-story historic facility does not serve to provide the best program for our students.



More than two years ago, we began the search for a building that could meet the needs that were no longer supported by the Haddonfield Campus. The ideal building, however, proved to be less readily available than anticipated. “We could make this work,” was not an option for Kingsway, which strives to provide the BEST for our students. So the search continued.

The building which we will soon call home was quickly eliminated as an option because it was too large to house only the preschool and elementary programs. It had every other aspect that we were seeking in a building: single story, suburban setting, access to public transportation and local businesses, easily accessible from major highways and a welcoming community just to name a few.

As we continued our unsuccessful search, however, we encountered a new issue with our Moorestown Campus... we were at capacity and could not accept new students. One might say this is a good problem to have, however, we believe we should be providing services for every child and family for whom Kingsway is a good fit. We don't want to turn away families in need.

So back to the drawing board we went. Was there a way to work with this large but otherwise perfect building to address the concerns for both of our campuses? The answer was, “YES,” which brings us to today.

The future of Kingsway is right before us. Both Kingsway Campuses will be relocating to our Voorhees, NJ facility at 1000 Voorhees Drive in the fall of this year. We are beyond excited for the opportunities this facility and location have to offer.

With all of our educational programs located in the same building, transitions for students will no longer exist. Those who require private placements for the extent of their educational journey will receive their services in the same location. Our “community” will grow stronger as students, staff and families are able to get to know each other better with the increase in longevity in the same location.

Clinically, the opportunities for the staff are endless. Collaboration within and across fields of expertise is assured.

We anticipate the next question to be, “What will happen to the Haddonfield and Moorestown Campuses?” If you have been reading our publications over the past couple years, we have shared our vision for the development of an adult program. One of the barriers to opening this program was the lack of available space. With the relocation of both school programs, we now have options for a facility to house our adult program, which is set to open in the fall of 2018.

This program will essentially offer the same services as our secondary program - a wide variety of individualized options in both natural community and facilities-based settings. A primary component of the Kingsway Adult Program vision is the knowledge that all participants can work, and so an emphasis is placed on vocational training and employment opportunities.

As a part of the Kingsway family, we hope you are as excited as we are to embark on this new chapter in Kingsway's story. We would love for you to remain part of the story. Please reach out to me directly if you or your business are interested in supporting our new endeavor in some way.

You can keep up with news regarding our relocation by following us on social media. We will be posting #KingswayOnTheMove video updates as well as adding a FAQ page with questions from the public on our website. Have questions? Send them to 50years@kingswaylearningcenter.org.

Stay tuned!

Thank you for being a part of Kingsway's history, and we hope you will be a part of the future. A new chapter begins now.



Christine Robinson, Chief Executive Officer

KINGSWAY WINS NON-PROFIT AWARD

The Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce (GCCC) Foundation proudly announced Kingsway Learning Center as the winner of the Non-Profit of the Year award at the 14th Annual Community Service Awards in February.

Winners of the 14th Annual Community Service Awards are chosen from an extensive list of nominees. These individuals and organizations have made exceptional differences in the communities where they live and work throughout South Jersey.

Congratulations Kingsway!



Kingsway CEO Christine Robinson receiving the GCCC Award for Non-Profit of the Year



Left to Right: Kingsway CEO Christine Robinson, Community Relations Specialist Matt Flowers, Chief Operating Officer Philip Rodriguez, Business Manager Rae Cooper and Director of Human Resources Michelle Jablonski pose with \$15,000 check from the NJBIA

NJBIA GRANT IS BIG DEAL!

Kingsway continues to receive support to better meet the needs of individuals with special needs across New Jersey. In January, representatives from Kingsway were awarded a \$15,000 check and free consultation services thanks to the New Jersey Business & Industry Association's Big Shot contest. "We're extremely happy to present this prize to Kingsway Learning Center. Throughout this contest, we learned about the amazing work that takes place in both of Kingsway's locations, and we saw that drive and entrepreneurial spirit to take their nonprofit to the next level," said NJBIA President and CEO Michele Siekerka. NJBIA's Big Shot contest launched on Oct. 3. Entrants had until Nov. 30 to upload a short video to www.bigshotnj.com explaining why their business deserves its own Big Shot at the winnings. Kingsway impressed the committee enough to win the grant. More information on can be found online at www.bigshotnj.com.

NEW TRANSPORTATION

Kingsway was awarded \$15,000 from the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation to fund new vocational transportation for students in our Community-Based Instruction program. Our new Camry will help transport our students to and from our partnering job sites across New Jersey. Interested in partnering with Kingsway? Email mflowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org!



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KINGSWAY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MEET JAIME SNYDER AND HER DAUGHTER ABBY



From left to right: Aunt "Ro Ro," Jaime, Abigail and Kyle

Welcome to our new Courier article highlighting some of the community members who have supported Kingsway throughout the years. Our first edition highlights a family that has watched their daughter prosper in the four years she has attended our school.

Meet Jaime Snyder of Winslow, New Jersey. Jaime and her husband Kyle run their own family business, Phase III Trucking and have supported many of Kingsway's annual events including the Golf Tournament and 5K Run, Walk and Roll.

Jaime and Kyle are the proud parents of Abby, a 10-year-old fifth grader who loves the color blue, salty foods, swimming and attending Kingsway Learning Center. Abby was born with lack of oxygen to her brain and was diagnosed with seizures and cerebral palsy. She has difficulty with her fine motor skills but has overcome many of the obstacles she faces on a daily basis. While attending Kingsway, Jaime says Abby has blossomed into a caring and kind young lady despite her diagnoses.

"We chose Kingsway because she needed all the extra help she could get," Jaime said. "She was falling behind in the public school setting and needed more attention. Her seizures are controlled with medicine but because of her need for medicine, she has to be closely monitored to make sure they are still working for her. We are so grateful to have Kingsway Learning Center teach our daughter."

"The staff has been great to Abby," Jaime added. "They seem to have the right techniques to get her through the day. Abby enjoys seeing her teachers and we know she is very safe there and we couldn't be happier."

Outside of school, Abby stays quite busy. If she isn't learning new things on her iPad, she can be found helping her father and sister Alexis work at their trucking company at night. Her grandparents Susanne and Carl live two houses down and she enjoys the time she gets to spend with them and looks forward to them watching her. Her Aunt "Ro Ro" is a huge part of her life and has helped take care of her since she was a baby.

Not only does Jaime support Kingsway, but she encourages other families in South Jersey to as well. "I always tell other families how great this school is and how they need to look into it because they have so much to offer children with disabilities," Jaime said. "The staff is great and they make you feel like you're part of one big family."

For the past two years, Jaime and her family have been members of the **Bergmann Society**, Kingsway's lead giving circle named after founder Elfriede Bergmann, who are committed to providing the greatest quality of life for those most in need.

"Our family donates to Kingsway because they do so much for our children and we want to help them as much as we can," Jaime said. "They are very appreciative and make sure it goes to great use for the school. They are always in need of equipment for the children and knowing that we can help achieve that is great!"

You can automatically enroll in the Bergmann Society by donating \$1,000 or more. Donate online at www.kingswaylearningcenter.org/donate.

Do you have a story to share about how you support Kingsway? Let us know! Email mflowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org and we can highlight your story in the next Courier!





Candi pictured with Kingsway CEO Christine Robinson in San Antonio at the 2018 NAPSEC Conference

I recently had the honor of being chosen for the NAPSEC (National Association of Private Special Education Centers) National Direct Care Worker of the Year. When I found out that I would be receiving this award, I automatically thought of all my coworkers who could have easily taken my place. Working at Kingsway Learning Center, I've stood shoulder to shoulder with some of the most giving and compassionate people in this community. Coming to work every day and seeing them makes me feel good knowing we are working together to help the students at Kingsway find their way.

After receiving the news of this honor, I was invited to attend the NAPSEC Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I accepted and I was able to participate in many engaging and informative meetings. Being there helped me realize that the special needs community is eager to grow within a diverse community of like minded and dedicated people. It was powerful and encouraging. Toward the last days of the conference was the award ceremony and I quickly realized that I would indeed have to say a few words. I was unsure on how to approach it, so I went with my feelings and spoke about how I came to find this community. Somehow, I mustered the courage and spoke. I cried but I got through it. I wanted to share what I said on that day to express how I feel about my job, the students and the people I work with.

"I would humbly like to thank NAPSEC for choosing me and honoring me with this great gift of acknowledgment. I would also like to thank my administration, Christine Robinson and Phil Rodriguez for all of their encouragement and support. I could easily be standing here with 20 or more of my colleagues who are a group of dedicated, warm and enthusiastic people who are committed, like myself, to our school and our students. Both of which greatly benefit from them. I would not be standing here today without their help and support as well. I would like to briefly tell you how I found my way into this community. While raising my children, I was fortunate enough to attend culinary school in the evenings where I earned my degree. That's

where I found my "culinary" inspiration, Alice Waters, for her edible school yard movement and her philosophy, "the students learn by doing".

Prior to this, before coming to Kingsway, I would often think about the children and adults I would encounter in my own community who were specially challenged, and thought I would like to work in that environment and find a way to give back.

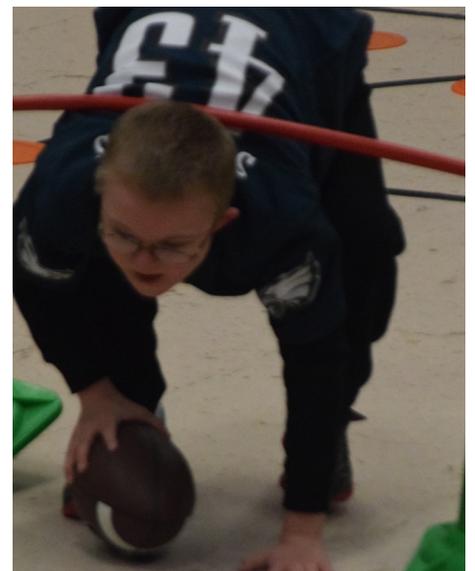
So as it worked out, on my first Halloween night in my newly purchased home, I was ready for my first "trick or treat" experience. My doorbell rang and I opened it to find a little girl in a wheelchair dressed as a princess. When she left, I was reduced to tears, as it touched me in a way that I never experienced before. Needless to say, I would think of her often.

Years later when I was ready to return to work, I knocked on Kingsway's doors and thankfully they took me in. As it turns out, on my first day in our secondary school, I was awaiting the arrival of my classroom students, when in rolled that same little girl I first met at my door years earlier. She was now a teenager. My heart leapt as I realized at that moment I was where I was supposed to be. A few years later I sat with her parents, with an open heart as I watched her graduate.

I feel very blessed to be able at this time in my life to be working at Kingsway Learning Center, among our community doing the two things I cherish the most - cooking and helping our specially challenged students in the place that warms my heart and soul..... the kitchen.

EAGLES PEP RALLY!

Before Super Bowl LII, staff at both Kingsway campuses held pep rallies for students to give the Philadelphia Eagles some encouragement before playing the New England Patriots. I think it's safe to say it paid off, as the Eagles had a little extra pep in their step as they defeated the Patriots to become World Cahmpions! Check out some photos fom both campuses!



CANDY LAND SENSORY EXPERIENCE

Staff at our Haddonfield campus turned the Sensory Room into a Candy Land sensory experience for our students! The staff did a great job recreating many of our favorite parts of the popular board game to incorporate them into the room. Take a look!



HADDONFIELD WINTER CONCERT

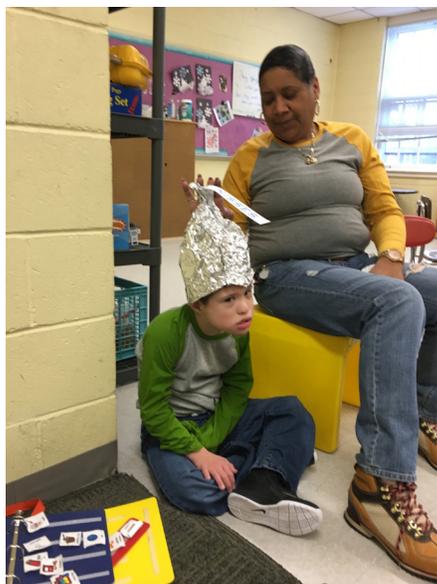
Talented is certainly one word to describe our students! Check out some photos from our Haddonfield Winter Concert as students sing and dance to some of their favorite songs!



DR. SEUSS WEEK

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Held annually on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss Day is a holiday that celebrates the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel – otherwise known by the pen name by which he authored children’s books: Dr. Seuss. During the 1990s, the National Education Association advocated for a day to celebrate reading all over the United States. On Dr. Seuss Day it is customary to read a favorite book with your child. It could be one of Dr. Seuss’s books or it could be another children’s book author. The concept of the day is to engage children in reading and to get them to read on a regular basis. Check out some of the photos from students engaging in Dr. Seuss Week at our Haddonfield Campus.

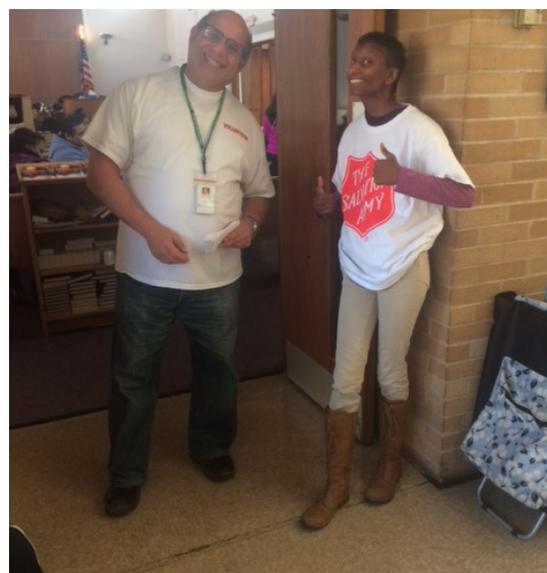


PARTNER WITH KINGSWAY

Community Based Instruction (CBI) at Kingsway involves the use of sustained and repeated instructional activities that take place in partnership with local businesses that provide authentic job placements. Research suggests that a student can benefit from the opportunity to learn through a real occurrence, and our experience confirms this.

A partnership we recently developed is with The Salvation Army of Trenton. Every year Salvation Army of Trenton hands out 200-300 Thanksgiving baskets, and several Kingsway students were able to help this past November! Students worked alongside employees of The Salvation Army as well as some NJ State Troopers to hand out the baskets to families in need on Thanksgiving.

Interested in partnering with Kingsway or learning more about our CBI Program? Contact mflowers@kingswaylearningcenter.org.



Pictured left: Job Coach Neil Plasky and Kingsway student Elisabeth.

THE STAFF LOUNGE

A Q/A With New Adult Program Manager Jason Bintliff



Kingsway's New Adult Program Manager
Jason Bintliff

Q1. Give us a little information about your background. Previous work experience, education, etc.

I attended Rowan University where I graduated with a BA in Sociology. I then earned my MA in Administration of Human Services from Wilmington University. Currently, I sit on the Human Services Advisory Board for Rowan College at Burlington County, where I have been a member since 2011. I began my journey as a Certified Nurses Assistant, however, after working with the geriatric population for two years, I decided to switch gears and began my career working with adults with developmental disabilities. It was

here that I found my passion. In the 12 years I have worked with this group, I have held many different roles, including that of a direct support professional, program manager, and program director.

Q2. Explain your new role and what you hope to accomplish.

In my current role with Kingsway, I am tasked with the responsibility of opening and overseeing the operations of the forthcoming adult day program. I truly believe that Kingsway's vision for offering educational and enriching day and employment programming is unique and innovative.

Q3. What made you want to come to Kingsway and what do you think so far?

My decision to come to Kingsway was made after I walked out of my first interview. After hearing the team's vision for what they believe day and employment programming looked like, it mirrored so closely to my own that it seemed to be the perfect fit. My only hope was that the people in the room that I interviewed with would agree. There is a tremendous need at this moment for day and employment programs in the state that provide the same quality of services that Kingsway Learning Center provides in their school. Being able to align a day program with the reputation

and foundation that Kingsway has developed over the years makes my job as the leader of the day program that much easier.

So far, the thing that has jumped out at me since I've started is how much Kingsway is a mission and values driven organization.

Q4. Any fun hobbies or personal interests on the side?

I am an absolute fanatic when it comes to the Phillies, Eagles, Union, and Liverpool FC (English Soccer). I have played soccer my entire life, playing at the collegiate level, so a lot of the lessons in leadership that I have learned, I have through team sports. I also run (although I wouldn't consider that a "fun" hobby) and love hanging out with my wife and crazy kids.

Q6. What do you see in your crystal ball?

I see the adult program at Kingsway absolutely flourishing. Currently, the state is undergoing changes in how programs are provided, offering the consumer more autonomy as it comes to personal choice. Given the vision and values that Kingsway has for its adult program I fully expect us to be a top destination for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, when choosing who and where they would like to receive their services from.

Eagles Giveaway Winner

We held a special contest, giving away an autographed football signed by Philadelphia Eagles Defensive End Brandon Graham. We asked our online community to donate \$25 or more for our programs. We are pleased to say we raised \$1,700! The lucky winner, randomly selected by the donor list, was Duke Braun. Congratulations Duke! Thanks to all who donated and a special thanks to Brandon Graham for signing the football!



Pictured: Contest winner Duke Braun with CEO Christine Robinson

CARE TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF?

Register for Kingsway's 22nd Annual Golf Tournament!

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Pennsauken Country Club

Seeking sponsors, golfers and
volunteers!

Register online at
www.kingswaylearningcenter.org/golf-tournament-22/

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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 during the last quarter. These donations help Kingsway students reach their fullest potential.

Annual Fund

Bill and Beth Caldes
Mr. and Mrs. David Panner
Pamela Powers
Lorraine M. Reustle
Marcia and Stephen Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Rohner
Marc and Lori Rollo
Kathleen Rollo
Gene W. Sharpless
Barbara Vandenbos
Shirley Wenner
Subaru

Eagles Giveaway

Linda Altadonna
Ann Marie Bauman
John Bigos
Duke Braun
Jamie Brickner
Maryann Condi
Lisa Davis
Joan Eckart
Justin Emery
Carol Esposito
Brandon Graham
Tanya Hinds
Rebekah Krick
Thomas Licata
Nancy McStay
Ginger O'Malley
Richard Weldon
William Yorio

Memorials

In Memory of Thomas Arenth:
Elizabeth Dalzell

In Memory of Liana Raday:
Charles and Kathleen Pinto
Joan Conlan Mistie
Shaw Family
SanFilippo Family
Joanne M. Rispo
Gina M. Rispo

In Memory of Reid Trager:
Sandra H. Brown





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Kingsway Learning Center and Services

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4th Quarter 2017

New to Kingsway

Meet our new Adult
Program Manager Jason
Bintliff

Donor Highlight

Meet Kingsway parent Jaime,
Snyder and her daughter
Abby!

From the CEO

At Long Last, A Dream
Comes to Fruition

Take a look
inside for these
stories and
much more.

Stay
Social!



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