

Reaching the

PINNACLE

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF KETCH

DECEMBER 2011

Dear Santa: All I want for Christmas is a home of my own

The holiday season is a time for decorating, baking, and spending time with family and friends. In the coming weeks the same will be happening for many of the individuals who receive services at KETCH (Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped, Inc.).

This season has been especially festive for Kelly who just moved into the new KETCH 10th Street Apartments. Shortly after moving in, you could smell the aroma of roasted turkey coming from Kelly's apartment. He was excited to invite visitors to join him for dinner that evening.

Kelly's journey has not always been an easy one. The path to independence is different for everyone. Kelly encountered a hurdle in his kindergarten class when he had difficulty sitting still or concentrating for any length of time. He was soon diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and was placed in the Special Education program. Once in middle school, he was diagnosed with a developmental disability. At the age of 18, Kelly successfully reached a milestone and graduated from Campus High School.

Kelly was also diagnosed with bipolar disorder at the age of 20. When Kelly started looking at the possibility of moving out of his parents' home, he first moved into a group home for adults with developmental disabilities, but began exhibiting challenging behaviors and moved back home with his parents. Kelly was not able to excel in a group home setting because of the behaviors trig-

gered by having roommates. Kelly also needed support to help control impulses and be reminded to do daily living tasks.

The solution for Kelly's independence was to move into an apartment designed to provide independent living settings, constant staff support, and the proper environment to reduce the occurrence of behaviors. The opportunity to move into the 10th Street Apartments has allowed Kelly to reach yet another milestone. In this setting, Kelly is able to live as any other adult with real responsibilities.

Your gifts made Kelly's new home possible. During this holiday season we appreciate your support and hope that you will continue to promote independence and change the life of a person with disabilities, like Kelly.

About 10th Street Apartments

KETCH celebrated the opening of our newest apartment complex, 10th Street Apartments, on

October 6, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The 10th Street Apartments were developed to provide an independent living setting specifically for adults with developmental disabilities who exhibit challenging behaviors.

The project was funded in part by tax credits from Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, the Goebel Family Star Lumber Charitable Trust, Women of Wichita, Spirit AeroSystems Good Neighbor Fund, and individual donors.



Kelly enjoys living at 10th Street Apartments. Kelly also works at KETCH manufacturing air filters.

KETCH clients find ways to give back

Many of the individuals served by KETCH rely on services in their community to fill unmet needs. Some may need to utilize resources for finding a winter coat or need financial assistance for dental work. Whatever the need, the clients at KETCH want you to know they are grateful for those community services.

In day programs at KETCH the individuals make an effort to give back to their community by doing a volunteer project at least each quarter and sometimes more frequently. For the past three years one of those volunteer projects has been a car wash to raise funds for a local non-profit. Several clients from each program volunteer to wash the cars, make signs, and hold signs in front of KETCH advertising the car wash. This year the United Way was the recipient of the funds raised. The KETCH clients were happy to turn over a check to United Way for \$355.

Thank you for stopping by to get your car washed, helping the clients give back. Lieutenant Governor Colyer was among those who came to the car wash and was happy to have his car washed while he was on a tour of the KETCH programs.

Clients are also giving back by participating in the Nonprofit Chamber of Service's Fourth Annual Unified Food Drive.

At KETCH, day program staff are coordinating the food drive. Clients in the programs are labeling and distributing paper bags for staff to fill. The clients will then pick up the filled bags and deliver them to the Kansas Food Bank.

KETCH has participated in the food drive for several years. Last year 665 pounds of food were collected.



KETCH clients from the PACE program made signs and stood at the Washington and Waterman intersection to advertise the car wash.

"Clients were happy to turn over a check to United Way for \$355."

Your help makes an impact, empowering lives one person at a time

Achievements are often the result of hard work, dedication, and motivation. To recognize their achievements, two KETCH clients were recently presented with awards by InterHab, a statewide association of developmental disability service providers. Every Fall InterHab holds an Art and Awards ceremony to recognize amazing individuals who either work in, are served by, and/or support the developmental disability field.

Patrick Young received the Outstanding Personal Growth award in recognition of the hurdles he has overcome throughout the last several years. Charles Pasak received the Achievement in the Workplace award for successfully maintaining the same job for 15 years. Patrick and Charles' awards were original pieces of artwork created by children and adults with developmental disabilities.

"They didn't get where they are today without the help of caring, welcoming, and helping hands."

It is important to remember that sometimes, the achievements made by one are the result of the work of many. Patrick and Charles will both tell you they didn't get where they are today without the help of caring, welcoming, and helping hands along the way. Their success can also be credited to their staff at KETCH who make that extra effort to ensure their success; or that special person in the community who stumbled upon someone needing guidance and showed them the way; the employees at local businesses who provide a welcoming work environment; and the thoughtfulness of individuals like you, who take an interest and make an impact.



Charles (top) and Patrick (bottom) with InterHab President Maury Thompson show off their original artwork made by adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Plans for the Second Annual Palette to Palate, a wine tasting and art auction, are underway! Save the date and join us for this one-of-a-kind event on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Wichita's new Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview.

For a \$60 ticket you will have the opportunity to sample fine wine provided by Standard Beverage and amazing foods and sweets generously donated by eight of Wichita's best restaurants, caterers, bakeries, and candy makers.

At each of the eight stations Standard Beverage will pair wines with the foods provided. Don't know much about wine? Staff from Standard Beverage will be there to guide you. You won't be disappointed!

If you're the bidding kind, appreciate art and/or wine, you will have the chance to bid in both live and silent auctions. All of the art in the auction will be juried by Dr. Patricia McDonnell, director of the Ulrich Museum of Art. Wines will be donated from private

collectors and there will be something for everyone!

If bidding isn't your thing, stop by and take your chances at the Wine Pull. For a \$20 donation you will have the chance to win a \$100 bottle of wine. Now that's a good deal!

The event would not be possible without the generosity of the food vendors, sponsors, and committee members. Special thank you to Docuplex, Pratt Industries, Gardner Design, Herb Krumsick, Leslie Rudd, Tom Futo, Connie Simcox, Bonnie Bing, and Jamie Stratton.

Thank you for helping us raise over \$50,000 last year. We hope you'll come again and bring friends to help us grow that number!

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information visit www.ketch.org or call 316.383.8889.

Save the Date!

March 3 | 6 pm

\$60 Tickets

The Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview

400 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita

Co-Chairs

Herb Krumsick & Connie Simcox

Visit www.ketch.org for more details.

Invitations coming soon.



Our Mission:

To promote independence for persons with disabilities through innovative learning experiences that support individuals' choices for working, living and playing in their community.

KETCH, the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped Inc., is a private, not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Did you know that your donations promote choices, independence, and a better life?

\$50 pays for two weeks of gas to transport a KETCH client to and from work.

\$100 provides funding to purchase clothes for a KETCH client starting a new job in the community.

\$250 provides assistance for five persons with disabilities to enjoy community outings for one month.

\$500 improves the quality of food purchased for one month to feed at least four persons with disabilities living in a group home.

\$1,000 purchases furniture, kitchen supplies and other items needed for a person with disabilities to move into their very first apartment.

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