

Help KETCH Celebrate Successes

As children all of your achievements are applauded and celebrated. That's how you learn to do things right. It's how you first become familiar with the amazing feeling of success. As we get older, though, it's sometimes easy to forget to celebrate how far we've come, and better yet, where we're going.

KETCH has made it a tradition to ensure success stories are shared and applauded at our Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. In May several persons served were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Community members were also honored for their impact on KETCH and our community.

Nominations for Individual Achievement Awards are made by KETCH employees based on each person's successes in the preceding year. A committee of non-direct care staff reviews the nominations and selects the award winners.

Please join us in celebrating Bruce's achievement for demonstrating increased independence in his residential setting.

Bruce came to KETCH in 1999. He lived in various KETCH group homes moving from home to home for one reason or another. In 2008, KETCH opened a group home named Choices and Bruce moved in. Choices was set up to assist individuals with behavioral needs. Bruce was not proud of his behavioral issues of physical



Bruce Cody, winner of the Achievement at Home Award, made sure to thank his KETCH staff in his acceptance speech.

aggression towards others and property damage, but he and his team had faith that he could overcome them.

In 2011, Bruce and his team met to discuss increasing his independence. Bruce had decreased all his negative behaviors to near zero. He was ready for a change. It was strongly recommended that the change should challenge Bruce to increase his independence as much as possible.

Bruce moved from a structured environment to a one-bedroom apartment with his own kitchen. Bruce increased his knowledge and independence by learning how to cook, clean and use appliances he had never used before. Along with the move the team was able to reduce the restrictions that had been put in place for his safety. Bruce seems very happy with his current lifestyle.

Bruce has learned to do his laundry

and care for his hygiene with minimal prompts. He learned from his previous home how to control his behaviors and has carried over the same teaching techniques in his new setting. Most of all Bruce is so much happier in his new home, knowing that he has more independence, makes more of his own decisions and follows them through to completion.

Bruce is now working on seeking community employment. He continues to learn how to cook different foods other than frozen pizza. He has become much more independent with his hygiene. He has learned to carry over the philosophy from the Choices program to insure his behaviors continue to decrease. Bruce is learning to address his behavior issues and make his own decisions, without relying on staff to make those decisions for him.



UPS Volunteers (from left) Ted Thulin, Dennis Davis, Travis Hinspeter, and Reuben Logan. Plans are underway to paint another KETCH property. Thank you to everyone from KETCH!

UPS: United as One, Making a Difference

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

That Margaret Mead quote became particularly resonating as a small group of volunteers from UPS stepped foot inside a KETCH group home, donning their brown *United As One* t-shirts.

This thoughtful minded group of four volunteered their time to repaint the kitchen, dining room, and living room of the home. The seven women in the home wanted green walls and that's just what they got.

KETCH looks forward to working with UPS on more projects throughout the year.

Some Gifts Are Simply Priceless

For years Bonnie Bing has been juggling her Wichita Eagle career with her charitable commitments, often times going straight from a photo shoot to a meeting.

For those of us at KETCH, we were honored to be one of the meetings she would race to. She was instrumental in making Palette to Palate, a wine tasting and art auction to benefit KETCH, so successful.

This summer, Bonnie decided to retire so she could stop hopping from meeting to meeting and start hopping around the world. To thank Bonnie for her invaluable service to KETCH, we wanted to give her a retirement gift. Nothing seemed more fitting than a one-of-a-kind gift from the students in the KETCH art class, lead by artist Susan de Wit.

De Wit typically works with four individuals in her art class on a weekly basis at KETCH. The projects vary from making purses, painting, working with clay, drawing, and the list goes on. For Bonnie, the students made a piece, pictured above, incorporating many of the skills and mediums they've already learned. The piece is a collaborative effort from everyone in the class.

When presented with the gift, Bonnie said she will place the piece in her home office.



Bonnie Bing, with the elephant piece created by KETCH art students, at the Wichita Eagle office.

Ketch Olympics A DAY FOR ALL STARS

On May 22nd the KETCH buildings echoed with silence, and the Exploration Place's festival plaza filled with laughter. If you weren't at this year's KETCH Olympics, then you missed out! On this sunny day, more than 250 of KETCH's clients and employees attended the event.

The stations included sack and egg races, ring and ball toss, putt-putt, soccer, and hula hoops. Drinks and snacks made sure everyone stayed hydrated and energized to showcase their skills. We all enjoyed a delicious sack lunch of chips, a sandwich, and macaroni salad prepared by students with autism at Wichita East High School.

The most popular station was the potato sack races, where both clients and staff stepped in and squared off against each other.

"Stations like this take me back to field day in elementary school," said Andre Kahmeyer, community relations intern.

Whether you were racing, kicking, jumping, throwing, or just hanging out; this year's Olympics proved to be a blast for everyone.



Daniel Schmidt demonstrates how pumped up persons served were at the KETCH Olympics. Persons served and staff had so much fun that the event will be held annually.

Retirement Doesn't Mean Goodbye

Mary Lou Bennett was working in special education classes over the summer of 1990 when she spotted a KETCH employment ad in the newspaper. Her current position as transportation coordinator, has her serving as the hub of KETCH, and overseeing the hustle and bustle of daily transportation needs. After more than two decades of service, Mary Lou is ready to retire and pass the keys to her successor, Bill Culpepper. As Mary Lou eases closer to her retirement destination, it seems fitting to take a look back at the journey she has traveled.

Mary Lou was hired initially as the supervisor of the janitorial training crew. She remembers very clearly that, at first, it was the persons served on her crew training her rather than her training them. As she recalls it, they wanted her to do everything the same way as their former supervisor. It took a while, but she won their total support when she was able to get them all donated uniforms.

"They were so proud to wear those uniforms," said Mary Lou.

In the 20-plus years that she has been at KETCH, her sons have grown up, married, and given her six grandchildren. KETCH was her anchor while one of her sons served in Desert Storm. She gets emotional remembering the good things, like when someone she trained got a job in the community and left her.

Mary Lou's fondest memory was witnessing the reunion of a mother and daughter, both of whom were receiving KETCH services.

"The clients are people, too," said Bennett. "They have their bumps in the road, with good days and bad days just like us."

For those who know Mary Lou, it was no surprise to hear she still wants to have a retirement job. Lucky for us, Mary Lou has chosen to stay at KETCH as a substitute bus driver and continue to build on her fond memories.



Mary Lou Bennett (left) accepting her 20-year service award from President/CEO Ron Pasmore in 2011.

Did You Know?

Individuals need transportation to get to and from their program or job at KETCH and/or job in the community each day. KETCH transportation is provided Monday through Friday with weekly morning routes beginning at 6:45 a.m. and returning by 9:30 a.m. The weekly afternoon routes begin at 2:30 p.m. and return by 5:30 p.m.

Q: How many individuals does KETCH transport?

A: KETCH transports approximately 200 individuals every day.

Q: What is the average mileage traveled in one month?

A: In one month, KETCH busses will travel approximately 26,491 miles.

Q: Does KETCH only provide transportation services for those attending a KETCH day or work program?

A: Transportation services are also provided to individuals who may not receive services at KETCH.

Q: How many rides are provided each month?

A: The average number of trips in a month:

- 2,156 rides provided for Community Integration activities
- 3,778 rides provided each month through the Community Living program for evening and weekend activities
- 7,489 rides provided each month for Day Program/Work Services routes or Employment rides
- 472 rides provided each month for medical related appointments

"The journey is the destination."

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.

KETCH is licensed by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and accredited by CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission.

Pinnacle is the official publication of:
KETCH

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NEW DATE

KETCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 24, 2012

Rolling Hills Country Club • Wichita, KS

Shotgun Start @ 8:30 a.m.

REGISTER AT KETCH.ORG TODAY!