



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020



Welcome Home!!

On Friday, September 4th four of our lovely female individuals moved in to their new residence! What a beautiful new place!!!

Unfortunate circumstances caused the need for the new home. Their previous residence was severely damaged by the major storm in April, so much so that it was beyond repair. Plans soon were under way to build a new home.

KCARC has had the foresight when thinking about future residential needs and purchased this land on Hart Street in the 80s. In 2018, the first home was built at this location and now we have added a second beautiful home for our individuals.

Today, our girls are reaping the benefits from that forward thinking! This 2,000 square foot home has 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. It is an open concept floor plan which allows the home to meet all American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. It is a step-free home, which makes it very safe for individuals with physical disabilities. Safety is important when designing our homes.

Knox County has in the past, and, continues to struggle with adequate and affordable housing. KCARC continues to strive to meet all the needs of our residents and individuals and will continue to do so in the future.

These girls LOVE their new home and can't wait to decorate for the holidays!



KC ARC

Improving the lives of individuals
with disabilities since 1972.
www.knoxcountycarc.com



President's Message:

My Turn to Brag 2.0



Imagine being locked away in a house with sick people. Imagine not being related to those people. Imagine knowing the illness they have, possibly, being deadly. Imagine not knowing how long you will be there. Imagine knowing those people have no family to take care of them. Imagine realizing your own family is home alone without you. Imagine knowing your family cannot visit you. Imagine you have made a conscience choice to be there. Do you have a commitment to serve others strong enough to voluntarily put yourself in this position?



That is exactly what Tabatha Bedell, Amanda Lewis, Andrina Sutton, Alexia Combs, Felicity Nielsen, and Hannah Lett have done! Yes, they put themselves into a KCARC home to care for people with disabilities during this COVID pandemic. They moved into the home and have not left! We have insisted they go home, but they refuse. Their calling to serve others is amazing! We are so blessed to have Tab, Amanda, Andrina, Alexia, Felicity, and Hannah!



And how about Nurse Stacey Wilson. My goodness, that lady has worked without a day off in weeks! She has taken every call from staff, family, case workers, and others providing advice and direction on what to do in numerous situations and working very long hours every day. Nurse Stacey phones me at home and apologizes for interrupting whatever I might be doing.

It is embarrassing to hear her apologize, because she never shirks from duty when others seek her help. It is amazing the stamina, perseverance,

commitment, assistance and continuous effort Nurse Stacey demonstrates daily. She is at the top of the list of those who do far more than expected!

KCARC operates residential services in more than 30 homes. Unfortunately, too many of those homes have seen COVID cases. Fortunately, KCARC has many staff who have accepted work assignments to work in those homes. They are Abby Jones, Amanda Russell, April Evans, Bailey Jones, Breanna Summers, Courtney Casper, Destany Chambers, Elizabeth King, Emily Witsman, Heather Davis, Kelly Sims, Kiley Sumner, Megan Fritzinger, Peggy Andrews, Robert Tester, Shyann Mason, Tommy Vernon, Victoria Worstell, and Zachary Nelson.



BRAG, you bet I will brag on our staff! Super people who make personal sacrifices for those folks we serve. The Board of Directors adopted the following as the KCARC mission in 1999:



“To advocate and provide opportunities in a dignified and respectful manner for the total well-being of individuals and families with special needs.” My goodness, how apropos. Our staff have done far more than I anticipated would ever be needed. And, brag I do.

Mike Carney

OUR MISSION

To advocate and provide opportunities in a dignified and respectful manner for the total well-being of individuals and families with special needs.

BOARD ADOPTED 1999



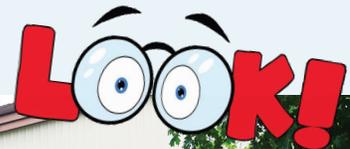
Summer Camp 2020

Once again this year our 1972 Community Center hosted a Summer Camp program. The staff put into place COVID safety procedures and did an incredible job of keeping all of the campers and staff healthy and safe this year! Although it was a different program than we have had in the past, nonetheless the kids and staff had a great time! From Water Wednesdays to First Responders to animals from the local Animal Shelter a great time was had by all! We are already planning our program for 2021! We hope to see you again next year!

Fresh New Look!

Our Civitan Children's Center held a Ribbon Cutting and Open House on July 30th to celebrate the remodeling and updating of the facility! Many visitors strolled through the halls checking out the fresh, new look! Teachers excitedly showed off their updated classrooms to students, former students, family and friends!

We are proud to announce that our Civitan Children's Center was recently awarded the Reader's Choice Award for Best Childcare Facility! Thank you to our community family in supporting us and making us your top choice for child care!



If you are considering a new child care facility or pre-school program, give us a look! Applications are currently being accepted at Civitan Children's Center and we are also offering new, reduced rates! Go to www.knoxcountyarc.com and click Civitan Center for more information and to apply!



Welcome to Our New Staff!!



We have had lots of growth and change within our organization this year and are excited to welcome our new smiling faces!! Not only do we have new staff, we are also offering new programs!!

Ashley Charleston – Ms. Ashley is the wonderful addition to our team as our new Day Programming Coordinator. She brings with her a background of Recreational Therapy and experience in this field from the state of Illinois. It did not take long for Ms. Ashley to inject her dose of enthusiasm into our programs and we are so pumped to already be seeing her impact at KCARC!

Shaun Smith – Mr. Shaun has been an integral part of our Residential program and has become our SGL Quality Living Coordinator/QIDP. Mr. Shaun has been with KCARC since early 2017 and we could not be more excited to see him grow. His friendly demeanor, Knox County work ethic, and passion for KCARC’s mission make him a wonderful fit for this role – we are so lucky to have him!



Lindsay Pinkstaff – Ms. Lindsay Pinkstaff has recently joined the team as our new Residential Training Specialist. She is currently working hard to ensure that KCARC remains compliant with all training requirements within our Residential and Day Programming departments and will continue to help drive our staff education forward!

Jana Yochum – Ms. Jana joined the team this year as our Waiver Quality Living Coordinator. Ms. Jana brings many years of experience within the Human Services field to the team and will be managing our waiver caseload. Ms. Jana advocates for individuals and families served by representing the KCARC Residential Department at Individual’s meetings!

Kate Schaller – As a new Program Assurance Specialist Ms. Kate will be assisting in the management of our waiver homes. She will be working as part of a team to ensure all goals and requirements exceed expectations!

Cory Fink – Mr. Cory is our Program Assurance Specialist and works diligently alongside his team to ensure our goals are being met. His dedication to the success of KCARC was clear when he immediately put his nose to the grindstone and has been working overnights in our residential homes. His willingness to jump right in has been greatly appreciated by the Residential team and we are all excited to see what all he can do!

Greyson Wallace – Mr. Greyson is KCARC’s Life Education Instructor at our incredible training facility, The Shop. His talents and skillsets gained while working as a teacher in the local schools have served him well. We are proud to have Mr. Greyson on board to serve the high school students in KCARC’s Pre-ETS program!





Brooke Nonte – Ms. Brooke recently joined the KCARC team to support the Civitan Children’s Center’s speech needs. As a licensed Speech Language Pathologist, Ms. Brooke brings lots of experience to our team and has been a most welcomed addition. Beyond supporting the Civitan Children’s Center and the needs of the kiddos there, Ms. Brooke will also be assisting the Residential Department with the needs of adults as well. There is no doubt that Ms. Brooke’s warm personality and expertise will be of great benefit to all individuals served at KCARC, regardless of age!

Shannon Zanandrea – Ms. Shannon has been one of KCARC’s dedicated employees since 2013 and recently took over our Life Services Day Programming group. Ms. Shannon’s pleasant personality and friendliness help illuminate one of the most important aspects of what we do at KCARC – relationships. Her ability to connect to individuals served and their families is an amazing skillset and we could not be more thrilled to have her here!



Tarakay Greenlee – Ms. Tarakay is the bubbly new personality that some have referred to as “the music lady” but she has us call her TK! Ms. TK has helped KCARC add a NEW SERVICE to our repertoire by bringing her talents as a board certified Music Therapist to the organization. KCARC looks forward to continuing to grow new opportunities for individuals and families with special needs within our community and the talented Ms. TK is helping us do just that!





At KCARC safety has always been a priority in all facilities, for employees, for individuals, for everyone! As 2020 began to change, we continued to work with local and state health officials as well as staying in tune with the recommendations from the national Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The photos in our Newsletter you may notice the individuals we

serve in groups, close to one another and not wearing masks. At KCARC our individuals live together and we use the same precautions as any family at home. When staff enter into one of our facilities they must use appropriate personal protection equipment including masks, gowns, shields, gloves.



We have attempted to keep life as normal as possible for our individuals during these unprecedented times all the while following all health mandates.

The photos you see of our individuals outside and without wearing masks are those individuals sharing the same residence.

Here at KCARC we will always practice the strictest of health and safety guidelines, not just for our individuals but for our staff as well!



Working Out and Staying Healthy!



WE LOVE ...



MISSION
To advocate & provide opportunity in a dignified and respectful manner for the total well-being of individuals and families with special needs.

Working AND Learning!

**Eating Healthy
to be a
Super Hero!**



Sweet Treats!



**Enjoying
the
Outdoors!**



...Did You Know...

During the months of April, May, June and July that KCARC served a total of 16,313 **FREE** staff meals. This was an added bonus to our employees during the pandemic, just another small way we wanted to show our employees how much we appreciated all they were doing during this time. And a special "Thank You" to Teresa Siewers and her staff in the kitchen for preparing and delivering these great meals!

For more information about any of KC ARC's services, contact:

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SUCCEED WITH US!
Our employees come from all walks of life, but they all have one thing in common...KC ARC. Browse our various career opportunities, and then consider joining our team.

Check us out!
www.knoxcountyar.com

Health & Wellness Tips

As we are seeing the leaves change and the temperatures drop, it is time to think about winter health safety! It is recommended everyone should receive a flu shot, especially those 65 and older or with compromised immune systems. This winter, things look different than before with COVID being a factor so we all need to be more vigilant in staying healthy!

The CDC recommends that you:

- Get a flu shot
- Drink plenty of water
- Eat fresh fruits and vegetables daily
- Take a multivitamin and Vitamin C
- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands frequently, especially before eating and after using the restroom
- Avoid large gatherings and social distance when possible

