



KenCrest

Your Dreams. Our Mission.



Summer 2019

This summer was filled with barbeques and beach trips, pool parties and picnics, and of course lots of fun in the sun! From day trips to overnight vacations—summer 2019 was filled with plenty of enjoyment and excitement!





Janice Goes to Jamaica

For many, the vacations we take with our families are some of our most memorable experiences, and it's equally true for KenCrest's families. During the summer, Janice, who receives support through KenCrest's Lifesharing program, traveled to Jamaica with her Lifesharing provider, Elaine. Elaine has been Janice's provider for nearly two years, and the opportunity to introduce Janice to her mother and other family members finally presented itself in May. This was Janice's first international trip, and she was ecstatic to spend time with her new extended family. While Janice is still relatively new to Elaine's family, she's been a part of the KenCrest family for over 50 years, first as a RiverCrest (KenCrest's original property) resident when she was only eight years old. When the Lifesharing team started to apply for Janice's passport, they discovered that KenCrest's most tenacious Executive Director, Sister Grace Jones, had signed her Social Security card!

Although the discovery of Sister Grace's connection with Janice was nostalgic, it also brought several new challenges for the Lifesharing

team as they started Janice's passport process. The signatures on Janice's Social Security card didn't match up, and she needed a new one. After many calls, a trip to the Social Security office in Harrisburg, PA, and many hours of advocating for Janice, the Lifesharing team successfully obtained her passport. A few weeks later, Janice boarded her first flight with Elaine to sunny Jamaica!

Janice enjoyed every minute of her trip—from gazing out at the clouds high above the water on her flight to the many mangoes she picked off the trees and snacked on. She loved all of the smiles and hugs she received from her new extended family members. Janice even participated in a major community outreach project with Elaine and her family—giving away food, clothing, and toiletries to those in need. Her trip to Jamaica was definitely one for the memory books, and she's looking forward to adding a few more stamps to her new passport very soon!



To learn more about KenCrest's Lifesharing program, contact Lifesharing@KenCrest.org.

KenCrest Masters is Back!



The third annual KenCrest Masters will take place on Monday, October 14th, 2019. Renowned for its unique experiences, this year's event features 18 holes of golf, axe throwing, and succulent terrarium gardening at Blue Bell Country Club, followed by cocktails and a dinner celebration at Normandy Farm. Mark your calendars now!

Each year, this event helps raise critical funding for KenCrest programs that support infants, children, and adults. We are proud to share that 75% of the net proceeds from KenCrest Masters go directly into our programming.

Whether you prefer to swing a club, an axe, or a trowel, or just relax with a signature cocktail, we hope you will join us for a wonderful day of raising awareness and funds to help those we serve.

Online registration is now open. Please visit www.kencrest.org/masters for more information about the event and a list of our sponsors.



Project SEARCH Prepares George for His Dream Job

For ten years, KenCrest has partnered with local businesses and organizations to help young adults' aged 17-21 gain valuable work experience through the Project SEARCH program. Project SEARCH, a national school-to-work internship program developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, provides job training and work experience with one-to-one job coaching for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism diagnoses. KenCrest

operates two nine-month Project SEARCH programs in conjunction with Phoenixville Hospital in Phoenixville PA, and at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals in Collegeville, PA. Several students obtained gainful employment as they graduated the program—including George.

George loves gardens and dreamed of working for the University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum, one of the larger public gardens in the region. With the support and training he received through his Project SEARCH program at GlaxoSmithKline, George applied for a guest services position at Morris Arboretum. While he was invited to interview, the guest services team moved forward with another candidate. George was encouraged by his job coach through KenCrest to apply to other positions at the Arboretum and obtained a second interview for a facilities position. George knew everything there was to know about the Morris Arboretum property and truly impressed the team.



Now he serves as the Custodial Assistant—setting up chairs and equipment for events, using the leaf blower to maintain the public areas of the garden, and helping with other tasks to upkeep the property for guests and special happenings. The facilities team was so impressed with George and his work ethic that they started training him on other tasks. He's on the verge of a promotion and recently obtained his driver's license, enabling him to work more independently at Morris Arboretum and drive the golf carts around the property. Like many graduates of Project SEARCH, George is a rising star because of the organizational, communication, and job skills he gained through the program.

KenCrest is growing the Project SEARCH program and looking for businesses in the Bucks County area to partner with. For more information and any leads, please contact Tawana Skipper, Assistant Director of Employment at Tawana.Skipper@KenCrest.org.

ELCs Get Some TLC from Volunteer Groups

It was a busy summer at KenCrest Early Learning Centers! While class was out for our students, volunteer groups were in, getting schooled about our programs and giving back in the best way possible.

On June 6th, staff from PNC Bank delivered hand-crafted Little Lending Libraries to our Centers. Each library was stocked with books that ELC families can borrow and read together at home and were installed near the sidewalks for our neighbors in the community to easily access, too! All of the Little Libraries are hand-decorated with our children's favorite story book characters;



students in the summer programs even had the opportunity to add their own creative touch and decorated the posts with PNC volunteers.

On June 18th, volunteers from Mazars USA visited our Lehigh Early Learning Center to help clean up classrooms, sanitize toys and supplies, and get them organized for the teachers and students who will return in the fall.



Thank you to all of our volunteers and EITC (Education Income Tax Credit) donors! Your support raised over \$203,000 for the Early Learning program and will ensure that all our students, families,

and teachers kick off this school year dreaming high and shining bright! For more information on becoming an EITC donor or joining us as a volunteer group, please contact Barbara Kochard, Senior Development Manager at Barbara.Kochard@KenCrest.org.



A New Ride for New Opportunities



Earlier in the summer KenCrest's Community Participation Wyncote Program got some new wheels—four to be exact! This program received a brand new sprinter van through a grant from PENNDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation).

Having a larger, more diversified fleet of accessible vans is a huge need throughout all of KenCrest's programs, especially as individuals are



spending more and more time volunteering and working in the community. The new van can accommodate two clients with wheelchairs and four ambulatory individuals, along with their support staff, and features a rear wheelchair lift and a stereo system with front and rear speakers for lots of our favorite car karaoke! Thanks to PENNDOT for mobilizing our family member's dreams and further empowering our mission!

New Business Ideas at KenCrest

In June 2019, KenCrest launched a grant opportunity to fund new business ideas, service delivery, and innovations in technology. Open to all, the New Business Ideas (NBI) initiative encourages the development of new models and products to benefit KenCrest's clients, programs, and stakeholders.

Join us for our next NBI informational session on September 12th at 12 p.m. at our Eisenhardt divisional office (Conference and Educational Center, 6952 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119) or via GoToMeeting; lunch will be provided for all who attend in person. Register for the informational sessions, learn more about the initiative, how to apply, and complete the application at www.KenCrest.org/NewBusinessIdeas or contact NewIdeas@KenCrest.org.

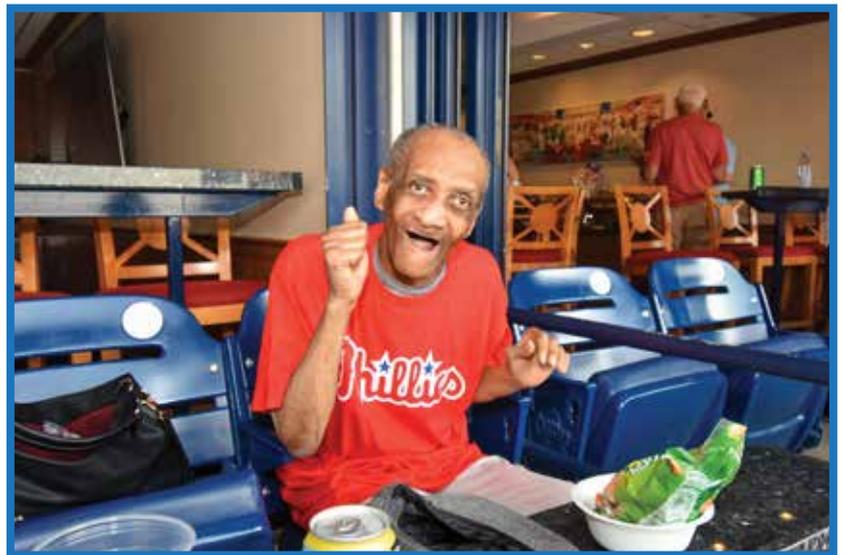


A Home Run for Those We Serve! Thanks to NFP



On Saturday, July 27th, eight KenCrest consumers and eight staff members traveled to Citizens Bank Park to cheer on the Philadelphia Phillies as they played the Atlanta Braves. The KenCrest family enjoyed the game from a box suite right behind home plate courtesy of NFP, a community partner who has supported our mission for over 20 years. Thanks to additional donations, the suite was stocked with delicious ballgame dining selections, and each attendee received their own Phillies t-shirt and hat!

Although the Fightin' Phils weren't able to pull out a win, it was an amazing day full of smiles and cheers. Our family members—who are all diehard fans—enjoyed their first ballpark trip, the roar of the crowd, the crack of the bats, and the many antics of the Phillie Phanatic (especially his disco fever dance) in person. A special thank you to NFP and to all of our private donors for making our Phillies fans' dreams your mission! If you are interested in supporting other special experiences for members of the KenCrest family, please visit www.KenCrest.org/Donate.



KENCREST'S MISSION IS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BY:
exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams.

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