



# KenCrest

*Your Dreams. Our Mission.*

*Winter 2021*



We ended 2020 with an abundance of gratitude—not just for the people and families we support—but for the 2,100+ KenCrest staff who have relentlessly put their creativity and courage to the test to ensure everyone’s health and safety. While we had much to celebrate during the holiday season, we look forward to what 2021 will bring, especially many more opportunities to share the KenCrest family’s stories and achievements!



# Family Fund Continues Amidst COVID-19



Since 1999, the Rev. Harvey Davis Family Fund has aimed to help families and individuals in our community during the holiday season. This year, KenCrest wanted to ensure this tradition continued, despite facing strict health recommendations that would inhibit our normal gift drive. Instead, we asked for help sponsoring an individual or family with a monetary contribution to the Family Fund, which facilitated the purchase of gift cards.



Thank you to all of the generous donors who contributed to this initiative. To date, we have received over \$8,250 towards the Family Fund. Your contributions made a significant impact, supporting 53 families in our Early Intervention program, 147 families through the Early Learning program in Philadelphia, and 44 adults in the Supported Independent Living program. A special thank you to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Huntingdon Valley that donated 40 holiday meals for families at our Kensington Early Learning Center. This is their 12th year of generously supporting the KenCrest community.





## New Year, New Faces

The new year has brought exciting change at KenCrest. We're happy to announce the appointment of Colleen Kelly as KenCrest's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Colleen has been a long-time member of the KenCrest team, starting in 1995 as the Agency's Fiscal Director in our Children & Family services division. Since then, Colleen's role has expanded to Controller, and most recently, Vice President of Corporate Finance. In the fall, she was appointed to her new position and will continue to serve our community as Chief Financial Officer. Congratulations, Colleen!

## Rhonda Moore Wins The Excellence in Lifesharing Award

Rhonda Moore's passion for helping others began at a young age when her mother encouraged her to be of service to others. With her mother as an example of opening her home to children and people in need, Rhonda is following in her footsteps and making a positive difference as a Lifesharing provider to a



gentleman named Tom. The 8th Annual Pennsylvania Lifesharing Conference was held virtually in October during Lifesharing Awareness Month. Each year, nominations across the state are submitted for the Excellence in Lifesharing Awards. A winner is selected from each region based on commitment, advocacy, quality, and creativity.

Sue Bartholomew, a Personal Outcome Champion in Lifesharing, nominated Rhonda in the Southeastern PA region. Sue recognized Rhonda's commitment to welcoming Tom into her home and making him feel like part of the family. A true surprise, Rhonda was happy to have received the award, and she's proud of the special relationship she's built with Tom over the past 36 years, starting in 1984 at Pennhurst Center. She was more than just another staff member, including Tom in family events, activities, and holiday meals. He also developed a tight-knit relationship with Rhonda's siblings and mother.

When Tom moved out of apartment living and transitioned into Rhonda's home, he had one wish: to continue seeing friends and building personal relationships, including having the opportunity to visit his girlfriend. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Rhonda is planning alternative ways for Tom to get back in contact with his friends and girlfriend in the future. Tom knows he has friends, neighbors, and an extended family that are always there for him.

KenCrest congratulates Rhonda for her well-deserved award from the Pennsylvania Lifesharing Coalition for 2020!

# KenCrest Staff Recognized with Point of Transformation Awards



There are thousands of everyday heroes throughout the KenCrest community, and this fall four were recognized through the Pennsylvania Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHIDS) Annual Points of Transformation Awards.

Zoraida Figueroa, a Home and Community Early Intervention Special Instructor, has served families in KenCrest's Early Intervention services for over 30 years. DBHIDS recognized her with an Early Intervention Award of Excellence for her ability to be a true community connector, motivator, and advocate for young children and their families throughout Philadelphia. Fausto Fontil, a former Program Manager and Lifesharing Provider, was recognized with a Legend to Legacy Award for his 25 years of dedication to KenCrest in so many ways. Tragically, Fausto passed away after contracting COVID-19 in the spring. He served as a great mentor for hundreds of staff members. His advocacy and passion for creating inclusive environments for everyone supported by KenCrest were second to none.



DBHIDS also highlighted two additional Community Living staff members—Valerie VanKirk, a Program Manager and Karlyle Rafael, a Direct Support Professional—for their exemplary work and leadership supporting the KenCrest family. Congratulations to all our honorees!

# Tribute to Tonia McNeal



As we welcomed a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), we also paid homage to a team member who devoted decades of her life to the KenCrest mission. Tonia (Toni) McNeal served KenCrest for over 35 years and supported the Agency in a myriad of successes. Under Toni's leadership, KenCrest's annual revenue grew by \$123 million during the 18 years she served as CFO. She helped our programs grow from supporting 913 people to over 12,500 annually, and our workforce expanded from 549 to over 2,000. Toni's guidance and support not only positively impacted the KenCrest family, but the greater IDD community through her dedication to the Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network (LSA-DN) where she served as a two-term chair, producing the first-ever benchmark best practices survey for the organization group and representing Lutheran developmental disabilities services in 40 states. Toni was and continues to

be a stark advocate, supporting social justice within our community. Through these achievements and many more, Toni helped to solidify KenCrest's position as a respected leader in the human services industry in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Thank you, Toni, for your tireless service to KenCrest.



# Make a Difference, Join Our Team

Go home every night knowing you made a positive impact on a person's life.

KenCrest is actively hiring for Direct Support Professionals who encourage and support people with disabilities to live rewarding lives.

For more information on open positions, please visit [KenCrest.org/careers](http://KenCrest.org/careers)



## KenCrest Masters Goes Virtual

On November 5, KenCrest marked its 115th Anniversary with a special KenCrest Masters event through a variety of virtual videos, honoring our history of home, health, and happiness. Five videos featured glimpses of our programs, how we've adapted to the "new normal" during the pandemic, a look into our 115 years of service, and the vision for the future. All of the videos from our KenCrest Masters celebration are available on the KenCrest Facebook page, as well as on our KenCrest Services YouTube channel. With your support, we raised a total of \$166,048 to continue to explore possibilities, mobilize resources, and empower dreams of the KenCrest family!

*Thank you to our KenCrest Family for making the day a great success!*

- Title & Anniversary Sponsor (at \$25,000): NFP
- Anniversary Chair: Marie Becker, NFP
- Celebration Chairs: Angela & Colin Dougherty
- RiverCrest Sponsors (at \$10,000): BB&T, now Truist; Barbara & James Beach; Jerry & Sally Beil; Jim & Mary Jane Brenneman; CBIZ, Inc.



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

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