



KenCrest

Your Dreams. Our Mission.



Spring 2021

Many count flowers in spring, but at KenCrest, we also count the best memories and moments we shared as a community this past season; especially birthday parties, dressing up for holidays, trips to the zoo, train rides, and other fun outdoor activities. This season is about looking forward to the warmth and happiness ahead, and we are definitely 'springing' into plenty of excitement!



The Vaccine is Getting KenCrest to “Green”



Supporting the health and well-being of those in our programs is KenCrest’s top priority, especially the hundreds of people in our residential programs. Throughout February and March, we hosted several vaccine clinics for Pennsylvania residents in Community Living, Supported Independent Living, and Lifesharing. Partnerships between Rite Aid, Pennsylvania’s Office of Developmental Programs, and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, made it possible for KenCrest to facilitate coronavirus vaccinations for over 850 Pennsylvania clients, residents, and team members. Throughout Delaware and Connecticut, staff and residents are receiving vaccine opportunities through their respective government human services departments.

While we’re far from the end of the coronavirus pandemic, the vaccine is affording not only an extra layer of protection to the KenCrest family, but also opportunities for us to engage more fully with the communities, activities, and people we love most. For more information on how KenCrest is combatting COVID-19, please visit

www.KenCrest.org/news-events.





Community Champions 2021

Every year, KenCrest gathers to celebrate the heroes who go above and beyond in helping to build inclusive communities. Even a global pandemic couldn't keep our Community Champions from serving the KenCrest Family. This year, we honored five past winners for their continued support, along with five new 2021 awardees. Read on for their inspirational stories.



Ruth Hursh

Ruth has been Shanisha's KenCrest Lifesharing provider since 2019. Her medical conditions are challenging at times, but Ruth fights to ensure that Shanisha receives the best care to help her live a full life, stay engaged in her community, and achieve her goals. The pandemic impacted her treatments and therapies, but Ruth continued to support Shanisha and, as a result, she is now more mobile than ever! Ruth found a monthly sensory box subscription that Shanisha enjoys and helps to improve her mobility. KenCrest believes in exploring possibilities, and Ruth continues to pursue every possibility to empower Shanisha's dreams.

Reformation Lutheran Church

The congregation of Reformation Lutheran Church in Media, PA shares many of KenCrest's values. They host inclusive church services, advocate for people with disabilities, and support fundraisers for our programs. When the pandemic hit, the Reformation Family sprang into action with knitted prayer shawls to bring warmth and comfort to those in our residential programs, donated classroom supplies for our Early Learning Center students learning remotely, and craft kits for adult clients to engage from the comfort of their homes. Even the youngest members of the Reformation Family got involved by choosing KenCrest as the beneficiary of their Vacation Bible School Compassion Camp, making "thank you" and "Bear hug" cards for our direct care staff. In times of challenge and change, it's incredibly difficult to focus on others, but the Reformation Family makes it look easy!



Senator Maria Collett

Creating inclusive communities doesn't happen without the support of elected officials advocating for legislation. Senator Collett has always been a champion of children, families, and people with disabilities. She is the prime sponsor for the Family Care Act, a bill that establishes an insurance fund to provide paid leave to all workers in Pennsylvania so they can care for sick or elderly family members, individuals with disabilities, and newly born or adopted children. Throughout the pandemic, Senator Collett fought for child care and early learning needs, the disability community, and nonprofits. She used her experience as a nurse to introduce legislation that provided support and protection for frontline workers, including Direct Support Professionals, and stood up for an equitable vaccine program. We can't accomplish all that we do without help from the Capitol floor, and Senator Collett has always gone to bat for the KenCrest Family on "the big stage."

Pfizer

Pfizer has volunteered with KenCrest since 2015, and their tireless efforts have helped strengthen our community. Over the years, Pfizer's volunteers have rolled up their sleeves to help with property maintenance, holiday decorating, and job training programs; as well as secure community grants to fund KenCrest's art therapy programs. The team—led by their fearless leader, Betty—is not just a fierce advocate for the KenCrest Family, but also a big believer in the power of kindness and giving back. The pandemic has changed many things, but not the importance of community.



PNC

For a decade, PNC has supported our Early Learning Centers and community-building work. When the pandemic struck and school buildings closed, they kicked their efforts into high gear. As students and families were trying to transition to remote programs, PNC donated 500 Learn-at-Home kits, full of supplies and materials to help every child succeed. PNC continued to support the KenCrest Family by hosting a book drive to restock our classrooms as well as the Little Lending Libraries, which the PNC volunteers built in 2019. While the whole world seemed to be grinding to a halt, the amazing folks at PNC went above and beyond to help our students continue to learn at full speed. They found creative ways to help our programs and students even when they could not be with us in person.



Play On Philly

Play On Philly (PoP) is a fellow nonprofit that provides music instruction for children in Philadelphia that visited KenCrest's Early Learning Centers in previous years. After the pandemic forced us to move to virtual classrooms, PoP stepped up for our students in a big way by donating weekly lessons. In the new world of remote learning, music lessons were critical to keeping morale high and improving attention and performance. In a year of many closed doors, Play On Philly saw an opening to help KenCrest's students when they needed it most.



Josie & Thomas Bachi

Josie and Thomas Bachi learned of KenCrest when their son joined one of our Community Participation Day programs. Over the years, they've become well-loved for leading a Christmas carol sing-along during holiday parties. Now Josie and Thomas host virtual sing-alongs to allow even more members of the KenCrest Family to join in the fun. After the pandemic hit and their son's program no longer had access to a music therapist, Josie and Thomas jumped in to ensure we never missed a beat! Music always brings us together to celebrate and show love despite communication barriers. Thanks to Josie and Thomas, that connection is stronger than ever.

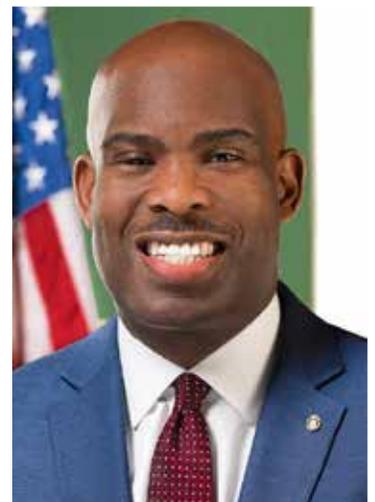


St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ardmore has been supporting the KenCrest Family for almost four decades! The congregation has embraced many programs over the years including job training, Early Learning Centers, and art and music therapy. When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in Philadelphia, the St. Paul's family was ready to help in any way possible. They held book, toy, and school supply drives that helped students at home and restocked our Little Lending Libraries. The congregation was the main force behind this year's Family Fund, which successfully provided gift cards to hundreds of families during the holiday season. Individuals can always make a difference, but communities like St. Paul's magnify that change.

Councilmember Derek Green

Philadelphia City Councilmember Derek Green chairs the Committee on Finance and Disabilities, and is a leader in the fight to make Philadelphia the first all-inclusive city in the United States. Councilmember Green has been a leading advocate for the KenCrest Family for years. Throughout the pandemic, he hosted hearings on the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities, Philadelphia's disability services, and ADA compliance. He also made sure that Direct Support Professionals (our "frontline troops") were included in the City's 1A group during the vaccine rollout. Councilmember Green advocates on behalf of those with disabilities to make certain that they are seen and heard on the journey towards inclusion.



Meal Delivery Crew

When KenCrest's Early Learning Centers had to close their doors temporarily due to the pandemic, our concern was more than just educating the students, but providing breakfast and lunch to the hundreds of children and families who relied on it. Over 65 volunteers, dubbed the "Meal Delivery Crew," sprang into action to deliver meals to our students' homes, allowing them to remain safe and healthy. In only one week, the volunteers organized and went on to deliver more than 55,250 meals to 525 families throughout the City over the course of two months! KenCrest believes in mobilizing resources for our community; there's no better example of that than the volunteers who jumped into full force to keep hunger out and hope first.



KenCrest Lifesharing Provider of the Year: Rhonda Moore

Each year, Community Champions has honored a Lifesharing Provider. These are special folks who decide to open their homes and hearts to a person who is looking for a supportive family environment as an alternative to other community living options. We're excited to announce that Rhonda Moore has been named the KenCrest Lifesharing Provider of the Year, a new award honoring Lifesharing Providers and their special place within the KenCrest Family. Rhonda has known Tom, the individual who lives with her, for over 20 years. She has a power to inspire connection and kinship, always energetic and positive. Tom can get frustrated when his routine changes, a challenge many are familiar with! Rhonda always goes the extra mile to make sure Tom understands why these changes are necessary and how they can cope with them together. In making Tom a priority, she also ensures he has the opportunity for social interactions and expanding his social network. Thank you, Rhonda, for being a Champion and an example of authentic inclusion for us all to follow!



**KenCrest congratulates the following nominees
as Honorable Mentions for our 2021 Community Champions Awards.**
Their kindness, dedication, and advocacy do not go unnoticed.

Agnes Collison, Quantum Inc.

**Michael Donovan,
Alliance of Community Service Providers**

Dover Community Pharmacy

Wanda Evans, Lifesharing Provider

KenCrest Mask Making Task Force

Cindy Koban, Lifesharing Provider

Christina Knotwell, Lifesharing Provider

Cindy & Ron Ryder, Lifesharing Providers

The Scervano Family

2021 Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors,
who continue to champion KenCrest's mission:

- **Champions Title Sponsor:** James & Mary Jane Brenneman
- **Champions Week Sponsor:** Barbara & James Beach
- **Meaningful Day Sponsor:** Arlington Heritage Group, Marian Baldini & Larry Filtz, CBIZ, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, Stratix Systems, Willits Pharmacy Services
- **Hero Sponsors:** BB&T now Truist, Carol Hammarberg, Mat's Pharmacy, Eric & Michelle Rahe, Ricoh, U.S. Medical Staffing
- **Additional thanks to:** A. Abramson Tire Company, A-1 Construction Specialty, Inc., Alvare Associates, Inc., Leigh Anne & Steve Bell, Lance A. Berger & Associates, Carole Chapin, Jesse Fells & Aurora Kripa, Frank & Gail Guthridge, JDB Service Group, Inc., Mazars, Carl & Lisa Rich, Doris Schoener, Brian Skinner & Barb Vanett, and David & Elizabeth Lexa Wilson



A Portrait of Professionalism



We've all heard that first impressions can make or break a career opportunity. In April, the KenCrest School-to-Career program—which supports youth ages 17-21—offered free headshots to help students make the best possible impression on prospective employers. Having a professional portrait is an essential tool in the competitive job market. KenCrest hosted three photoshoot sessions throughout Montgomery County in partnership with Karen L Photography, to support 60 students with portraits. Participants also received information on KenCrest's Employment program, tips on how to best utilize their headshots, and resources on resume building. We're grateful to the Child Development Foundation for funding this opportunity. Learn more about KenCrest's School-to-Career and Employment programs at www.KenCrest.org.



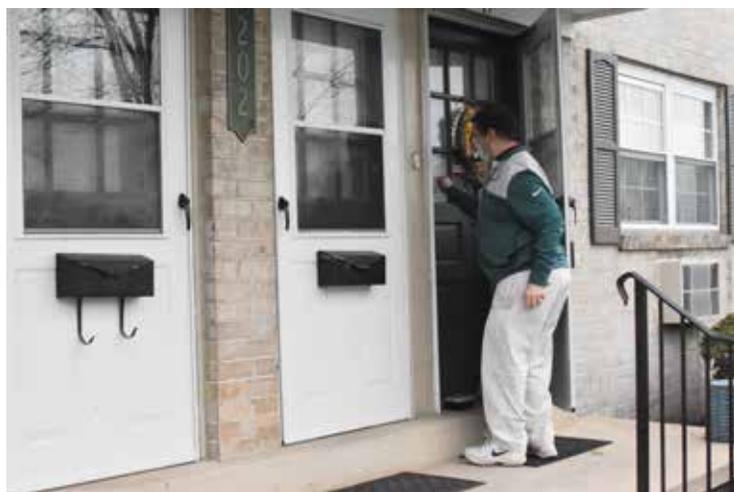
Volunteering Through the Pandemic

The pandemic can't stop the helping hands and hearts at KenCrest, especially those belonging to Jimmy! In late January as COVID-19 cases began to decrease and more of us were able to receive vaccinations, some of the KenCrest family members returned to their Community Participation volunteer activities. Jimmy, a long-time helper with Meals on Wheels, couldn't wait to return to his delivery route. Every Friday, Jimmy, along with his support staff, pick-up and distribute 17 meals to different senior citizens throughout the Pottstown area.



Rain or shine, Jimmy's dedication never waivers, nor do the relationships he's built with the seniors he supports. Over time he has learned their likes and dislikes: who prefers apple juice over cranberry juice, and which special diet meals to separate in his delivery bags for specific recipients. Delivery after delivery, Jimmy knows which clients' doors to knock on to deliver their meals directly and which meals he should quietly leave on porches in nearby coolers. Jimmy is a constant reminder to us all that while this hero may not have a cape, he still soars in his thoughtfulness and commitment to others.

For more information on KenCrest's Community Participation program, visit www.KenCrest.org/community-participation-opportunities.



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 in several programs and departments. For more information about our open positions and our culture of empowerment and inclusion, please visit www.KenCrest.org/careers



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

Sign up for KenCrest's E-news by texting **KENCREST** to **42828**, reply with your email and you are in!
KenCrest will not share or sell this information.



960A HARVEST DRIVE, SUITE 100, BLUE BELL, PA 19422 | 610.825.9360 | KENCREST.ORG