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Roger Arnell joins KSI as Director of Human Resources.

## KSI Announces Director of Human Resources Retirement/New Hire

KSI gets ready to say “Good-Bye” to its long-standing Director of Human Resources Barbara Wilson, who recently announced her retirement effective January 10, 2025. Ms. Wilson has performed exceptionally in her position with KSI since 2015. She helped navigate KSI through some of its most challenging years from an HR perspective, including dealing with staff benefits preservation during the COVID-19 shut-down, as well as start-up and staff reconstruction efforts necessitated as KSI reopened during the pandemic.

Ms. Wilson managed all hiring, onboarding, training coordination,

compliance issues and benefits for the more than 100 members of the KSI team. She initiated a number of enhancements to KSI’s employee benefits, including access to community and personal resources through the Employee Assistance Program, legal assistance access and sound retirement investment options, in addition to managing affordable healthcare options for those employees needing them.

Barbara Wilson found her nine years working with KSI’s staff and interacting with the organization’s participants as something very special. “My time here has been filled with lots of rewarding

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## KSI's Mission Is...

to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn and grow. Through training, education and supportive programs and services, we enable individuals to accomplish their personal and work-related goals.

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You can also read KSI News on the Web at [www.ksiinc.org](http://www.ksiinc.org).

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Selected programs have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities



KSI's United Way Member Agency Designation Number is 340

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And as such, we are committed to providing equal opportunity in employment without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other protected class. If you have any questions about KSI's efforts in this area, please contact the KSI EOE/AAP Officer at 302-422-4014.

**Accommodations**—In compliance with ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), should you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a current open position with KSI, please call (302) 422-4014 ext. 3014 or email us at [arnellr@ksiinc.org](mailto:arnellr@ksiinc.org).

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## A Message from KSI's CEO Heath B. Chasanov



I wish you all a Happy New Year. While looking back at the last fiscal year in the FY24 Annual Report, we say "Good Bye" with immense gratitude to two long-time members of the KSI team. We wish both Assistant Vice President of Operations Kristin Elliott and Director of Human Resources Barbara Wilson the very best in their future endeavors. And we welcome Sandra Hale as Assistant Vice President of Operations and Roger Arnell as Director of Human Resources in becoming new partners for the KSI mission.

The New Year is a time to look ahead. And we are excited about finalizing facility upgrades to KSI's Milford center that will essentially retool how we provide training to Life Enrichment and Pre-Vocational participants. We also are formulating plans for the third summer of experiences at Kamp Lenape to continue creating wonderful lasting memories for the children served by the camp. And there will be more on the horizon this year to enhance the programs and services from which hundreds of KSI participants benefit.

On a sad note, KSI extends our sorrow and support to the Crouch family of the loss of former KSI CEO B. Craig Crouch. The Crouch family's leadership legacy spanned decades and established KSI's foundation as a premier disability service provider. We are committed to continuing Craig Crouch's compassion for the people we serve as we move forward with the organization's growth.

*Heath B. Chasanov*

## Kent County Levy Court Awards Community Service Grant

KSI received a generous \$1,000 Community Service Grant from Kent County Levy Court. Kent County District 4 Commissioner Robert "Bobby" Scott personally presented the grant check to KSI CEO Heath Chasanov. The grant money has been allocated to help renovate kitchen equipment at KSI's Kamp Lenape.



Kent Commissioner Robert Scott (right) presented a check to KSI CEO Heath Chasanov.

*“Director of HR” continued from page 1.* experiences working with staff and getting to know the participants,” said Ms. Wilson.

In her new life chapter, she plans to get back into music and spend time with family and friends.

Roger Arnell has been hired as KSI’s Director of Human Resources to replace Ms. Wilson. Mr. Arnell comes with a career spanning more than 20 years of global human resource management that includes a focus on the medical device and pharmaceutical industries. He most recently was Vice President, Human Resources for medical device company ConvaTec, and subsequently was principal consultant and owner of Arnell Consulting. His experience entailed functional reorganization of HR departments, cost reduction, effective team building and management, and enhanced employee engagement.

Mr. Arnell earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Delaware State University and a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management from Wilmington University. He recently earned his Senior Certified Professional designation from the Society for Human Resource Management. The SHRM certification documents his expertise in strategic and policy making elements of HR management. It also highlights his commitment to HR excellence and keeping current with latest HR trends, practices and legal requirements affecting the workplace.

KSI wishes Barbara Wilson the best in her life and endeavors moving forward, and welcomes Roger Arnell as part of the KSI team.

## **KSI Adds Sandra Hale as Assistant Vice President of Operations**

KSI welcomed Sandra Hale as the new Assistant Vice President of Operations in late October. Working directly with KSI Vice President of Operations Linda Pearson, Ms. Hale will have primary responsibilities related to program compliance and quality assurance, health and safety of participants, transportation coordination, and development of initiatives that enhance the participant experience.

Ms. Hale replaced Kristin Elliott in this role, who was Assistant Vice President for more than three years and served exceptionally in program direction with KSI for many years prior.

As KSI Assistant Vice President of Operations, Ms. Hale will oversee and maintain compliance programs in accordance with funding standards as well as policy creation and revision. She will direct training, documentation and database maintenance in coordination with Case Managers and Direct Support Professionals to ensure compliance standards for all programs and participants. She will also supervise Program Directors at KSI’s Milford Skill Development Center and Georgetown

Southern Campus.

Ms. Hale most recently served as the Delaware State Long-Term Care Ombudsman from September 2021 to very recent. In that position, she advocated for systemic change affecting individuals residing in



long-term care facilities, as well as individuals receiving home and community-based services who needed advocacy related to long-term services and supports. Her office responded to, investigated

and worked to resolve complaints; improve quality of care; and prevent abuse and neglect among the population served. Prior to this, Ms. Hale worked for the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services with a focus on preventing abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, as well as ensuring individuals’ rights were prioritized in Medicaid waived settings. Ms. Hale has collaborated with legislators, as well as federal and state agencies in developing policies, strategic planning and training for promoting individuals’ rights and ensuring program compliance.

Sandra Hale’s addition to the KSI team will help the nonprofit better support the hundreds of individuals with disabilities it serves daily along with their families.



### KSI Participants Support the Boardwalk Buddy Walk

KSI worked up its own teams and put on an in-house Buddy Walk on October 9th in support of the 19th Annual Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk Buddy Walk held on October 12th to support those with Down Syndrome. Started by Dennis and Sharonlee Diehl, who were on hand during KSI's October 9th walk, the official 2024 Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk Buddy Walk raised in excess of \$76,525. KSI programs have been recipient of more than \$75,485 as beneficiary of Buddy Walk funds since 2006.

## Uncle David's Comes to KSI

Uncle David's Ice Cream came to KSI to be part of the participants' own Buddy Walk on October 9th. Started by Boardwalk Buddy Walk founders Sharonlee and Dennis Diehl, the operation was named after Sharonlee's brother David Samson, who had Down Syndrome. And it employs individuals with Down Syndrome to honor David's inspiration. The mobile ice cream parlor serves up Hopkins Farm Creamery ice cream.

In 2022, after years of planning, The Board of Directors of the Boardwalk

Buddy Walk Fund committed an investment towards the creation of Uncle David's Ice Cream Shop. With its grand opening in August of 2024 on Rehoboth Avenue in Rehoboth Beach, the shop is half of the floor space of Just Comfort Shoes, also owned by the Diehls. The storefront was preceded by the Uncle David's mobile ice cream operation that visited KSI. The son of Boardwalk Buddy Walk Executive Director Jim Watson is actually an employee with the shop.



Boardwalk Buddy Walk Executive Director Jim Watson (far right) joins the Uncle David's Ice Cream mobile unit's team at KSI.

## Pre-Voc Members Visit Bayhealth's Festival of Trees



KSI participants (left to right) Winnie Scott, Donna Berghorn, Deborah Hrupsa and Megan Behornar surrounded by the Festival of Trees.

A group of Pre-Vocational participants got a chance to step out December 13th and see something really beautiful at the Bayhealth Sussex Campus. The hospital put on a "Festival of Trees" at both their Kent and Sussex locations, featuring gorgeously-decorated Christmas trees from each of their departments' employees. Along with being able to vote for your favorite tree, the hospital hosted special events during the month of December. Children got to meet Santa and go on a holiday scavenger hunt on December 5th as just one of the fun activities.

## KSI Participates in Special Olympics Convoy

Three of KSI's busses participated in the Delaware leg of a national Special Olympics Truck Convoy to raise funds and awareness for the competitive sports program enjoyed by people with developmental disabilities. Some of the KSI family were on hand to help cheer on the convoy as it trucked around Kent County and continued on its route to the next state.

The Special Olympics Truck Convoy was created in 2001 by Norm Schneiderhan, a Corporal with the Orange County, Florida Sheriff's Department.



KSI participant An'Kha Matthews (right) and his mother Rosie Wilson (left)—a KSI Driver who drove one of the KSI vehicles that were part of the Delaware section of the Special Olympics Truck Convoy—were joined by KSI Southern Campus Direct Support Professional Pam Cannon, who was part of the convoy registration. They added to the crowd cheering on the truckers as they came through Kent County, Delaware.

Schneiderhan was inspired to create the convoy after participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and seeing the impact Special

Olympics had on his life. The convoy is a national celebration of the trucking industry that raises awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

In Delaware, truckers met at the Harrington Delaware State Fairgrounds and were escorted by law enforcement on a 29-mile route that looped all the way to the Maryland State line and then back to the Harrington fairgrounds.

The 2024 Truck Convoy had more than 200 trucks registered, and raised over \$50,000 for Delaware's Special Olympics athletes.

## Georgetown Southern Campus Full of Fun



Thurman Mason (left) and Matthew Joseph-Wingate admire the holiday model train display at Georgetown Public Library.

There has been no lack of activity at KSI's Southern Campus in Georgetown this past fall. There was Halloween costume day, a great trip to the Georgetown Public Library to see its seasonal display of model trains, cooking classes to help build up life skills and, of course, getting into the holiday season. One of the

neat activities the Southern Campus and Milford Skill Development Center does is a regular Pen Pal correspondence between participants in both centers. On December 5th, the two Pen Pal groups got together with each other at the Southern Campus and shared some fun making Christmas trees and getting to



Shannon Hickman (left) "mixes it up" during a cooking class at the Southern Campus—cookies were on the menu that day.



Billy Riddle "mails" a letter off to his pen pal at the Milford Skill Development Center.

know their counterparts better. There's always something going on at the Southern Campus to keep participants engaged and stimulated. If you have a fun, safe activity that could enrich and interest individuals in Georgetown, contact John Jennings at [jenningsj@ksiinc.org](mailto:jenningsj@ksiinc.org).



# KSI Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

By KSI CEO Heath B. Chasanov



Getting to know KSI as an organization and as a community during my first full year as CEO has been a uniquely-positive experience. I've learned much from the parents of the people we serve and our partners in the disability service sector. I've especially learned from the staff I have the opportunity to shoulder together with each day to deliver our mission to the hundreds of Delawareans with disabilities in KSI's programs. Through the many conversations I've had with people affected by KSI and what it does, I've found what a profound and distinctive impact this organization has on the health and well-being of Kent and Sussex families.

During 2024, I was privileged to work with the Board of Directors, staff and consultants to formulate a Strategic Plan that will help guide KSI's efforts for at least the next three years. [You can see a synopsis of the Strategic Plan in the *KSI News* Fall 2024 issue online by visiting [www.ksiinc.org](http://www.ksiinc.org), going under the drop-down menu for "About KSI" and clicking "News."] The plan involves initiatives that not only address enhancing organizational and programming quality and growth of team members' effectiveness, but also ways to manage its resources, real estate

and personal interactions to greater expand KSI's reach into the community.

As for the current state of the organization, the stats for FY24 certainly tell the stories of the times. Total revenue for the year dropped three percent from FY23, much of that due to the

It's a positive indication of the organization's financial management that, even with those challenges, KSI's budget still came out with a budget surplus of \$152,229.

One bit of good news was the fact that contributions to KSI increased from FY23 to FY24.



Part of the momentum of FY24 was the ability to get more and more participants out on community trips to give them increased exposure to activities that stimulate their growth.

discontinuation of funding support from the Cares Act and Payroll Protection programs due to COVID-19. Fundraising from events was also down in FY24, which contributed to the drain on KSI's finances. Add to that an increase of six percent in expenses, mostly in program operations that includes staff salaries, which also reflected general inflation in rates of pay seen throughout the country.

Seeing that community members, foundations and grant funders are making KSI's mission a priority in their giving plan is a good trend. As the organization moves forward, these kinds of donations and grants are going to make a significant difference in how KSI meets the needs of the hundreds of Delawareans with disabilities that are waiting for services to make their lives better.

*Continued on page 8.*

### FY 2024 Financial Statement

#### Revenue

Contributions	\$342,166	4.3%
Contributions In-Kind	\$43,915	0.6%
Fund Raising Events & Special Activities	\$67,289	0.8%
Federated Fund Raising	\$89,339	1.1%
Fees and Grants from Government Agencies	\$4,990,280	62.5%
Sales to Public	\$1,667,267	20.9%
Investment Income	\$628,835	7.9%
Rental Income	\$152,000	1.9%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,056	0.0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,983,147</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### Expenses

Program Services	\$4,919,695	62.8%
Transportation	\$1,512,985	19.3%
Development	\$141,271	1.8%
Management & General	\$1,256,967	16.1%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,830,918</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Excess/Deficit</b>	<b>\$152,229</b>	

### FY 2024 KSI Program Data

Total No. Participants *	205
No. Participants Served by Program **	
Skill Development Center Life Enrichment Services-Milford	52
Life Enrichment Services-Georgetown	24
Skill Development Center Pre-Vocational Services	101
Community-Based Pre-Vocational Services	19
Temp Work Crews	29
Explore Program	28
No. of Businesses Subcontracting to KSI	8
No. of Contracts Awarded	2
No. of Community-Based Work Crews	5
No. of KSI Cartridge Service Customers	62
Total Subcontract Income	\$1,668,019
Total Participant Wages	\$612,547
Total Unfunded Production Worker Wages	\$139,667
Total Participant/Unfunded Production Worker Wages	\$752,214
Total Staff, Including Drivers	94
Total Kamp Lenape Seasonal Staff	14
Total Miles Logged by Vans & Buses	622,447

\* Unduplicated Count—includes The Explore Program.

\*\* Some participants were in 2 or 3 programs.

Note: Total participant wages includes all disabled workers. Total unfunded production worker wages only includes non-disabled casuals.

### FY 2024 Specific Breakdown of Subcontract Income

#### Community-Based Work Services

Work Crews	81.72%	\$1,363,059
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#### Skill Development Center Rehabilitation & Training

Packaging	1.21%	\$20,115
KSI Cartridge Service	4.49%	\$74,822
Mailing	0.09%	\$1,502
Assembling	12.50%	\$208,522
Other	0.00%	\$ 0

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18.28%</b>	<b>\$304,961</b>
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<b>Total Subcontract Income FY24</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,668,019</b>
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A group from the KSI Explore Program for individuals recovering from acquired brain injuries had an opportunity for an outing and cookout thanks to KSI Transportation's lift busses. KSI's fleet is a crucial part of its services for people with disabilities. And many donors choose to support that service specifically with their funds because of its unique importance to the people we serve.

## Santa's Workshop Sets Up at KSI



Case Manager Nina Stump (center) shows Misha Sunny (left) and Josh Chaffinch how to assemble their holiday gifts.

Santa's Workshop came to life for Life Enrichment Program participants at KSI's Milford Skill Development Center, who had the opportunity to work on creating some fun holiday gifts. Making special ornaments and holiday decorations from kits also helped participants learn and hone their motor skills, which has great benefits for them in many applications. Thanks to Lowes in Seaford, Delaware for their donation of craft kits to KSI, which brought some holiday cheer and helped promote better skills for our participants.



*"Annual Report" continued from page 6.*



KSI Director of Funding Opportunities and Board Relations Michelle Cain offers a special class in cookie decoration to participants in the renovated Life Enrichment area at KSI's Milford center. The quiet, ordered space is perfect for all kinds of interactive instruction and experiences.

KSI and its peers in the disability community continue to advocate for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates to more appropriately fund our increasing costs. We were successful in realizing a small adjustment effective January 1, 2025 as well as a commitment to initiate a formal rate study that we are hopeful will lead to enhanced funding support.

Another exceptional aspect of KSI's advancement has been seeing the recently-renovated Life Enrichment Program area at the southern end of the Milford Skill Development Center come to life this past year. If you haven't seen the before and after of this space transformation, I highly recommend you schedule a tour of KSI. Just seeing the remarkable shift from a wide open and noisy warehouse atmosphere to the quiet calm of the redesigned wing, you realize right away what a benefit that environment is to helping individuals learn the skills that will make a difference in their lives. More recently, we secured the funding and

completed the bid process for the next leg of our renovation project. This continuation of the renovation process will create a more education-friendly space for Pre-Vocational Training participants. It will also provide space for a life skills training center that will have impact well beyond our facility.

2025 will be an opportunity for KSI to meet the needs of individuals and their families in more meaningful ways. And we will need your partnership even more than ever before. We will be having conversations with many of our extended family and community partners to find ways we can work together to help people with developmental disabilities live their best lives. If you would like to have a meeting with me or have a presentation about KSI provided for your community, business or legislative group, please contact me at [chasanovh@ksiinc.org](mailto:chasanovh@ksiinc.org). I look forward to getting to know the supporting KSI family that has helped this organization remain vibrant and relevant in Delaware for more than 62 years.



# KSI Recalls the Life of B. Craig Crouch

It was with sadness that the Milford community bore the passing of past KSI CEO B. Craig Crouch in November, 2024. Craig Crouch was so well revered as a leader of KSI by both those he worked with every day as well as by the community at large. He had been with the organization for 37 years and served as CEO from 2003 to 2020. His extensive personal involvement in community organizations and leadership in the sustenance and growth of KSI left a legacy of heart-felt contribution to hundreds of lives.

B. Craig Crouch started with KSI in May of 1983 as a Production Assistant. He worked his way to off-grounds Production Coordinator in 1985 at Scott Paper, now known as Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes, where he supervised members of the 150-person KSI crew at the plant. Among other positions, Mr. Crouch was promoted to Vice President of Support Services during a 1989 reorganization, a capacity in which he managed all transportation, purchasing, financial and other support services for the organization. After promotions to Executive

Vice President, President and Acting CEO, Mr. Crouch took the reigns as KSI's Chief Executive Officer in 2003 when his father Clifford T. Crouch retired as CEO.

Craig Crouch's leadership style was one of integrity and personal involvement in KSI's mission and the people it



Craig Crouch (right) with one of the 1999 KSI Employees of the Quarter Sheila Hickey, who was a long-time participant.

serves. He knew many of the organization's more than 250 program participants by name and always treated them with dignity and respect. He continually drove KSI to improve and adjust programming for the betterment of those it served. And Mr. Crouch strove to motivate his staff to always do their best, even going so far as volunteering to have his head shaved as incentive for the KSI staff to exceed their United Way fundraising goal in 2015. They did so, to the detriment of their CEO's hairstyle that year. His commitment to excellence led

KSI to become one of Delaware's best-regarded disability service providers and guaranteed the safety and security of each participant as they met their challenges to better independence and ability.

Craig Crouch's dedication went well beyond KSI into many aspects of community life. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Delaware Workforce Investment Board, and he also served on the Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities. He was past president of the Chamber of

Commerce for Greater Milford, was former president of the Mispillion Rotary Club and was a member of Milford's Economic Development Advisory Council. Mr. Crouch was the former treasurer of the Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (now known as Ability Network of Delaware), as well as serving on the board of directors for DANA (Delaware Association for Nonprofit Advancement).

He will be remembered by many inside KSI and in the community as a vital force for the betterment of people's lives. And his presence will be greatly missed.

## Recent Contributors October 1 - November 30, 2024

Mr. & Mrs. Len Anicola in Honor of Joey Anicola	Linda J. Cobb	Kathy & Robert Gravell	Silas Mow in Memory of Bonnie Twilley and in Honor of Michele Warrington	Dr. Donna Smith-Moore in Memory of Dr. George Frunzi
Chris & Jackie Argo	James Cohee in Memory of Tyson & Doris Cohee	Sue Grenier & Jim Speegle	H. William & Darlene Mulvaney in Honor of Ryan Mulvaney	Jesse and Amy Spampinato
Artesian Water Company, Inc.	Hanna & Chuck Conrad	Dr. & Mrs. Scott Hammer in Memory of Jane Kohler	Louis Nepa	Angela & Jeff Spishock
George & Rosalinda Bailey in Honor of	William Cooper	Dale Harr	Crystal Newcomb	Phil & Tommye Staley in Memory of Jamie Kish
Iglesia NiCristo (Church of Christ) Bowie Local & First State	Bobbie-Jo Corey	Harry Louie Laundry & Cleaners	Karen Nickerson	Shirley E. Steele in Memory of E. R. Steele, Jr.
Military Academy	Creative Financial Group	Alicia Hollis in Memory of Tina Hollis	Larry Passwaters	Leo & Peggy Strine
Ruth & Brooks Banta	Kylie Cross	Dorothy S. Hopkins in Memory of Randy Porter	Catherine Piper	Paul & Eilene Sweeney in Loving Memory of Sheila Hickey
Richard and Linda Barlow	Paula M. Davis in Memory of Michael McDonald	Deborah Horn	Leslie H. Pitts II in Memory of Annie C. Pitts	Mrs. Jo Ann Tester
John & Janet Bauer in Honor of Lord	Diamond State Dentistry, Inc.	Lana Carol Huff	Alta Pontius in Memory of Craig Crouch	Elizabeth E. Thomas in Memory of Robert R. Thomas
Baltimore Lions Club	Shelly Dillon	Wendy Hyland	Tom & Vivian Postlethwait	Joyce Voshell in Memory of Bob Voshell
Virginia Boutin	Drift Inn Bed & Breakfast	Inn at the Canal	Psychiatric Access for Central DE, P.A.	Scott R. Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Bradley	Mark & Debby Dufendach	Jason and Pamela James	Restorative Massage and Bodywork	Mary Lou Warren
Brent Adams Baseball League	Frederick & Delema Duffy in Honor/Memory of W. Brooks & Willie Mae Duffy	Erik & Jennifer Kaufmann	James & Marie Reynolds in Memory of Fay Reynolds	Dawn Welch in Memory of B. Craig Crouch
John & Judith Brink	Robin Elliott	Kenton Ruritan Club	Jack & Susan Riddle	Earlue B. Woodall in Honor of Betina Bonville
Michelle Cain in Memory of Mark E. Cain	Lois Finley in Memory of Clem R. Johnson Jr.	Richard and Marisa Klarich	Thomas and Kathy Roth	W. Eugene & Beatrice Wright
Bettie Campbell in Memory of Lambert & Viola Campbell and Peggy Lee Campbell	Diane Flanagan in Memory of Doug Flanagan	Knights of Columbus-St. Joseph	Jerry & Brenda Rutherford	Bonnie Yeomans in Memory of Stewart Yeomans
James Cannon	Forest View Nursery, Inc.	Kathy Kunkle	BJ Ryder	
Shelly Cecchett	Travis & Tamra Frey	L & W Insurance in Memory of B. Craig Crouch	Steve & Judy Schwartz	
George W. Chaloupka	Arthur & Colleen Ann Gilbert	Lions Club of Frederica- Spring Creek	Cindy Small	
Heath Chasanov	Ronald & Linda Gomes in Memory of Vincent Gomes	Jim & Lisa Loescher	Patricia A. Smith in Memory of Margie Bowers	
Chick's Harness & Supply, Inc. in Memory of Linda Chick		Van & Penny Milligan in Memory of Bobby Powell		

## The KSI Annual Awards Dinner Returns in 2025

KSI is bringing back its Annual Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. A mainstay of the year prior to 2020, the Annual Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate our participants' and staff members' achievements during the year. It's also a chance to highlight the partnerships we have within the community that provide employment and enrichment

opportunities that help our participants grow and thrive.

It will be held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. And this year, **sponsorship opportunities will be available** to highlight your community commitment. Look for more information as it becomes available by checking [www.ksiinc.org](http://www.ksiinc.org) and scrolling to the "Events" section.

# KSI Monster Bash Heats Up a Cold Night with a Lot of Fun



KSI Director of Community Relations Alicia Hollis (far right) joins event sponsor Daily State News's Ryan Conroy (center in crown) and friends at the KSI Monster Bash.

An enthusiastic crowd braved some brisk, windy weather to make the night perfect for the KSI Monster Bash on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Knutsen Farm in scenic Harrington,



Alicia Hollis honored DJ Missy Jo's generously-donated entertainment services for many years at KSI and Friends of KSI events.

Delaware. Music was provided by DJ Missy Jo, who was specially honored that night for all of her donated talents to numerous events benefiting KSI in recent years. A plentiful spread of smoked meats and sides prepared by The Farmer's Daughter BBQ provided attendees with plenty

of food. And craft cocktails were available thanks to The Alcohauled, powered by Easy Speak Spirits. We were privileged to have auctioneer J. T. Robbins to call the Live Auction and maximize the bidder participation.

The event contributed in excess of \$11,811 to support KSI's programs and services for people with disabilities. More than half of those proceeds came from generous bidders attending the event through the Live and Silent Auctions. And there were some really fine packages on which to bid, like two overnight hotel and dining packages at the beach, one of them including a dinner and show at Clear Space Theatre. There was a weekend getaway package to Chesapeake City, including a gift certificate for the historic Inn at the Canal and dining at The Chesapeake Inn,

*Continued on next page.*

## Save the Date in 2025

Be sure to mark these important dates on your 2025 calendar. And follow KSI at [www.facebook.com/KSIWorks](https://www.facebook.com/KSIWorks) to keep informed of new events as they develop.

### January

**20** KSI Holiday,  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### May

**26** KSI Holiday, Memorial Day

### June

**11** **KSI Annual Dinner** at  
Modern Maturity Center, Dover.

### July

**4** KSI Holiday,  
Independence Day

### September

**1** KSI Holiday, Labor Day  
**5** **KSI Clifford T. Crouch  
Memorial 3 Club Golf  
Tournament**, at  
Jonathan's Landing

### October

**17** **Friends of KSI  
Quarter Auction**

### November

**27** KSI Holiday, Thanksgiving Day  
**28** KSI Holiday

### December

**24** KSI Holiday  
**25** KSI Holiday,  
Christmas Day  
**26** KSI Holiday

*“Monster Bash” continued from page 11.*

along with other goodies from that destination. There were golf foursome packages to Maple Dale Country Club, special packages from Brimming Horn Meadery and Painted Stave Distillery, and so much more.



Auctioneer J. T. Robbins called the Live Auction, which featured 12 unique packages for bid.

Monster Bash sponsors' generosity is what really helped make the evening happen. Skeleton Sponsor was the Knutsen Family for donating the rustic and gorgeously-decorated event venue. Monster Sponsors were AT&T, Delaware Daily State News, and Integrity Nursing, who were major sponsors of the event. Zombie Sponsors were Bally's Dover and Community Heating and AC, Inc. And Ghost Sponsor was Wadkins Garage.

A big thanks goes out to some of the contributors that made Live Auction packages special: Benvenutos Restaurant in Milford for their three-hour cooking class with Chef Jesus; Michelle Cain for her jam-packed coffee basket; Big Fish Restaurant Group and SoDel Concepts for multiple gift cards

that fleshed out excursion packages; the Hyatt Dewey Beach Hotel for a night's stay; Brimming Horn Meadery for a mead tasting for four and special branded glasses; Maple Dale Country Club for two golf foursomes; John's Crazy Socks for a generous merchandise package; the Rehoboth Beach Drift Inn for a two-night stay; The Starboard Restaurant for a gift coin and various swag; 1776 Steakhouse for a gift certificate; Clear Space Theatre for a duo of two-ticket performance packages; Painted Stave Distillery and Taco Jardin

for special gift cards and a bottle of premium gin; Martuscelli Restaurant Group and the Chesapeake Inn for a gift card and swag; Lowes Seaford for their backpack and water bottle; Chick's Boutique for a free sweatshirt; and the Inn at the

Canal for a generous \$250 gift card for use at the inn—all part of “A Day in Chesapeake City;” Emmie Knutsen for a special ice cream social with her own mobile ice cream parlor; and Dorey Insurance & Financial Services for its donations to round out two golf packages.

Thanks is also due to the other contributors of Silent Auction items: Shelly Dillon; KSI Cafeteria's Amanda Barger for her cupcakes; Beaverdam Pet Food; Best Ace Hardware; Heath Chasanov; Hanna Conrad; Alicia Hollis; Crystal Hughes; Longwood Gardens; A.C. Lucas and the Black Pearl Party Bus; Restorative Massage & Body Work; Dr. Donna Smith-Moore; Paula Rainey; Walmart in Milford; and Mary Lou Warren.

KSI is grateful to all the attendees, sponsors and contributors to this event for making it a magical evening of fun and fundraising.



KSI CEO Heath Chasanov (far left) awarded the best costume prize to KSI's Director of Facilities Management Shawn Bowman (center) and his wife Patricia, for their “old couple” costumes—no, that's not how they really look.