

Kreider Services Mission

To provide meaningful supports to persons with disabilities so they can live, work and participate in their communities.

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■ Dixon Chamber and Main Street randomly drew Kreider's name to win the net proceeds from their cookout in September.
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■ Crest Foods in Ashton recently partnered with KSI Production Area to hire teams of people to work at their facility.
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People Reaching Their Fullest Potential



500 Anchor Road, P.O. Box 366, Dixon, Illinois 61021
Phone: 815-288-6691 Fax: 815-288-1636
Florissa: 815-288-1905
www.kreiderservices.org www.florissacenter.com

KREIDER SERVICES focus NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019



(Left above) Day Services playing their annual wheelchair football game. They even had cheerleaders on the sidelines. (Center above) Arlene Frank was awarded a 25 year certificate at the Jo Daviess Workshop. (Right above) Kathy Baker and Teresa Otto both receive awards for 25 years of employment at Kreider Services. Great work ladies!

Mark your Calendars

Nov. 1	Human Resources Open Interviews	Dec. 24 & 25	KSI Closed for Christmas
Nov. 15, 16, 17	Penguin Project - Annie Jr.	Dec. 31 & Jan 1	KSI Closed for New Year 2020
Nov. 28 & 29	KSI Closed for Thanksgiving	Jan. 1 - March 15	Kreider Alliance Scholarship Time
Dec. 2	Kreider Alliance sing at select KSI homes	March TBD	Kreider Gala and Auction
Dec. 20	KSI DT Holiday Sing and Christmas Party	April 25	Florissa Family 5K and Fun Run

Comcast Media Lab: Now open to teach new skills

The creation of this new area at Kreider started almost two years ago with a \$10,000 donation from the Comcast Foundation. After spending about a year to plan the media center, the work began on it with the help of the KSI Maintenance Department and our Project Planning Team. It is now open and getting a lot of use. The classroom, which is located in the main Dixon building, has nine computer stations. We have several of the stations



COMCAST
MEDIA LAB

The Techno Titans meet weekly in the Comcast Media Lab.

equipped with adaptive equipment for people with limited limb use, wheelchair tables and large screens for poor eye sight. The two 72" screens mounted on the wall are used for instructions. A select number of Kreider staff are being trained on how to properly use the new media lab.

With any new program comes a wish list for additional equipment. The original \$10,000 has been used up so we are seeking donations of cash, large mice, several touch screens and adaptive pieces for a gaming system.

Our Employment Coordinator will be teaching clients how to look for outside employment and how to fill out an application. These are all skills that are necessary in this age of technology. The Dixon Delegates, a client advocate group, may soon begin to use the media lab to type up notes and create flyers to promote their activities. The uses are expanding as more and more people are using the lab. Let us know if you would like to help us get more needed equipment.

PLAN ON IT! Annual Appeal coming in November

It is that time of the year again when Kreider Services prepares for its Annual Holiday Appeal. Information will be mailed to you just before Thanksgiving. We target this week because we know a lot of families gather for Thanksgiving and they often discuss end of the year donations.

We hope that you will consider donating to Kreider Services to help people with disabilities. As in past years, we give the donor the choice of which program they wish to donate to. Again this year, we will have a dollar for dollar match of our donations so your gift will essentially double.

The Annual Appeal runs from the end of November 25 through February. Help us reach our goal of \$40,000 before the match!

KREIDER SERVICES NOW HIRING

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Jeff Stauter accepts a check from Dixon Chamber and Main Street for \$875 from their cookout held at Oliver's in Dixon. As part of Chamber Week, they randomly drew one local non-profit agency to win.

“The partnerships we build are crucial to our future.”

Kreider Services and Florissa have been very successful building partnerships with local businesses. These come in the form of event sponsorships, donations and support of programs. Florissa recently was able to build a new playground on their grounds with the support of the Dixon VFW Queen of Hearts, Dixon Community Trust, Jim Wentling and the IL Counties Association and select KSB Physicians and Administration.

The KSI Golf Open in July met our goal because of sponsors and participant's support. AFSCME donated \$6,700 to The Autism Program this summer following a golf benefit they sponsored. This support is crucial to our future.



Ronnie's Transplant Journey!

Ronnie Martin got a new chance at life in June after receiving a second kidney transplant.



Ronnie visits with his friend Diane following surgery and signs "I love you."

After 6 years of waiting on the transplant list, Ronnie Martin finally got the call that they had a match. It was his turn for another new kidney. Another chance for an extended life.

KSI had an action plan in place for the day this call would come. Kris Cardot-Goodwin met Ronnie at his home and signed to him "The call came in. We need to go." Kris said he really did not comprehend that he was getting his transplant until they were in Peoria at OSF Hospital.

Once they arrived there, he had to wait longer than originally told as the donor's family was donating multiple organs to several people. He was anxious, excited and scared.

Kris said, "it was funny because the nurse came into Ronnie's room beforehand and said he could eat anything he wanted." For many years, he has been on a very restricted diet of rice and bland hamburgers. "So he ordered chocolate cake, soda and gravy." He also wanted cheese-cake but I said to pick just one dessert.

This was Ronnie's 2nd kidney transplant. His first transplant was in June of 2005 while he lived at Mabley. He had renal issues since 1993. The first new kidney started to fail following Ronnie getting a BK Virus. He had to resume kidney dialysis 3x week for many years to maintain his health.

He often wrote notes to support staff stating his goal was to get a new kidney so he could eat anything he wanted and go to Imperial Chinese. Then he would sign "Party on."

Through the American With Disabilities Act, the team of doctors have a full autonomy to decide who gets a transplant. Ronnie was Mabley's first client that received an organ transplant in 2005 and he also was Kreider's first.

Ronnie came to Kreider in June of 2006 and since 2013 his staff had to learn about his food restrictions and his special diet. The staff at Davita Dialysis were wonderful in helping our staff understand what Ronnie could eat and how to keep his labs where they needed to be. He had to watch fluid intake, potassium, salts and phosphorus.

Once a year, he would meet with the Transplant Team in Peoria to evaluate whether he was still a good candidate for a transplant. And, every year, he remained on the list! The special care given by his DT and home staff, while monitoring his diet, was crucial to his future.

More than 116,000 people across the U.S. are on the organ transplant list. People with disabilities can, with support, successfully manage post-operative treatment and stay healthy for many years following their transplant.

The transplant was successful and today Ronnie is still being

monitored to insure his anti-rejection medication is working. Many staff contributed to his success. It took people to get him home from the hospital, people to stay with him at his home while he healed, people to take him to doctors appointments and people to monitor his medication changes.

Ronnie is thrilled he can eat what he wants now and he returned to work at Kreider's DT with only a few precautionary guidelines. Kris and Becky McKinnon said "he looks 10 years younger. He's quite spunky and has regained his energy."



Ronnie adding a "Spice to Life"

Because he now has a healthy young kidney, Ronnie has had to get used to frequent bathroom trips. For years, due to his limited fluid intake, he almost had to re-learn this."

The next few months following his transplant are kind of a waiting game to insure his body accepts his new kidney and that the BK Virus does not return.

Thank you to all the staff that have helped Ronnie through this journey.



Kreider's Flag Football team took 2nd Place in the Northwest District Games. Not bad for their first year of participation in this sport.

Flag Football anyone? And what a season it was for the new Kreider team. In July, the team was selected by Special Olympics to attend a clinic held at the Bears Training Facility. They got to throw the ball around with a few Chicago Bears. That day, this team took 3rd Place.

They continued to practice and found a few other teams in the area to compete with. They had a great season, winning 2nd Place at the District Games. It was a real learning year for the team and the coaches. Next is basketball. KSI has three teams this year.

Crest Foods Supports Inclusion

Earlier this summer, we were approached by Crest Foods in Ashton about employment opportunities for our clients. The KSI Production Manager met with Crest and looked at the jobs along with looking at individuals in DT that were capable of doing the job for Crest. Several work teams were formed that go to Crest Foods to work Monday - Thursday each week.

Some individuals work at Crest two days a week and some go only one time a week. They work the

balance of their work week in our Day Services production area. We want this to be used as a stepping stone and a new opportunity to be inclusive in the community.

Over the years, Crest Foods has been a great supporter and partner of Kreider Services. We thank Jeff and Steve Meiner and their family for looking beyond their walls and presenting this opportunity for outside employment to Kreider Services. The clients like receiving their pay checks!



Prior to their job assignment, the KSI Team gets an orientation from a Crest employee, along with a tour of the facility.



FROM THE director's DESK

Some People Make It Look Effortless

Some people make it look effortless. But what we should all remember is that the effort required to do this is extraordinary. There is a person who many of you know that is the best example of this.

Jeremiah Westart passed away this summer at age 30. This is nothing out of the ordinary, it will happen to all of us. The story here is the 30 years he lived, and his mother, Diana's difficult and extraordinary work to make sure he was part of the world he lived in. This took amazing effort by her and Jeremiah's siblings.

She made sure he went to school, even when the school did not necessarily want to provide the supports. He went on trips, and vacations, and to all the places we all like to go. And even to the routine places we have to go, but do not necessarily enjoy, like meetings and errands.

If you went to Jeremiah's visitation, besides all the people paying respects, you saw a lot of pictures. And Jeremiah went everywhere with his family. He was not isolated or hidden. He was there, just like everyone else. It looks effortless. But it took lots of effort.

The details are more than we need to know. But if you have children, or younger siblings, or parents who need lots of support, multiply that by ten times, twenty-four hours a day. The effort was Herculean. But this is not where the story ends.

Diana's efforts to pull systems, and bureaucracy, and move the hearts of people to accept and give her son the supports he deserved have helped all of us. You may not notice it, but when you see that people with disabilities are accepted, and respected, and not stared at, or asked to leave someplace, thank Diana Westart. The advocates like her who make accepting people with disabilities no big deal, are a big deal. It may have looked effortless, it was not.

JEFF

Jeff Stauter
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR