

# Kelly Autism Program News

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## New KAP Teen Council Formed

April 23, 2004 marked a historic day for the Kelly Autism Program. The first ever KAP teen council was formed at WKU's Downing University Center.

After a night of bowling and games, a meeting was called by Transition Director Dr. Frank Kersting to decide on KAP activities for the summer. At this meeting, Dr. Kersting decided a teen council would be essential for the KAP young

adults to have an input in the decision-making process. It was decided that Nathan would serve as President because he is the oldest member and Clayton would serve as Vice-President because he is only a year younger than Nathan.

The KAP teen council will vote on future activities they wish to participate in, and will prove to be an essential part of the Kelly Autism Program decision-making process.

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# From the Director's Desk

The year is over! Time to reflect on where the Kelly Autism Program has come in 12 short months. There were 6 goals proposed in September, 2004. KAP had a vision: program symmetry between our middle school, high school and post-secondary programs, and now KAP has a continuum of services! We have collaborated with two agencies: the Kentucky Autism Training Center and the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, Inc. The KAP program was presented in over 5 regional and state conferences. Also, over \$850,000 in grants have been written, and we received over

\$100,00 in additional gifts. In addition, I have helped Mrs. Vitale raise over \$100,000 for the CEC building.

Last year a new faculty member joined the program, Dr. Marty Boman, who is extremely valuable to the program's growth and vitality. Because of her efforts and dedication, the Governing Board approved a new position: Director of Transition. Most importantly, KAP has experienced a 400% growth. We started with 5 adolescents in August 2004 and currently there are 21 adolescents and young adults participating in our programs.

WHAT A YEAR! Thank you to all of the families, Western Kentucky University administrators, and faculty who have helped us grow.

Written by: Dr. Kersting



This newsletter is very important to us and to you. It is a way for us to communicate with each other. As we expand the readership, the costs increase. Both boards recommended that we ask for sponsorships to defray the costs. If you sponsor a newsletter edition, there are three recognition possibilities: 1) recognize your business, 2) recognize you, or 3) anonymous. We will honor which ever option you select. For an issue, the sponsorship cost is \$150.00. Please contact the Kelly Autism Program staff at (270) 745-8903 [kellyautismprogram@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyautismprogram@hotmail.com)

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