Ronda Talley Feature/Autism Awareness

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Autism Awareness month, which begins tomorrow, is getting an extra push this year with an effort to raise 20-thousand dollars for the Kelly Autism Program.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham explains how the fundraiser will work and introduces us to the new director of WKU’s Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex.

The 20 thousand dollar campaign is just one of many components to bring awareness to autism during the month of April. And the newest face at the CEC is excited about the future.

 “They’re so creative and so hands on, the more we can get them active and get them doing things they love it.”

It’s bird house painting day at the Kelly Autism Program.

 “They are going to be sold at a silent auction to help raise money for autism awareness in Bowling Green.”

KAP is also selling cards the students created with the help of SIFE members, which stands for Students in Free Enterprise.

 “We try to teach them about business and we try to teach them about marketing and they’re really good at all those things.”

In addition to selling products, SIFE has come up with another fundraising idea this year and it involves help from all 20 thousand WKU students.

 “We’re not asking for big donations from everyone just a dollar from each person and that can make a big difference.”

A big difference indeed for KAP which is one of the six programs housed in the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex.

Just six months ago, the CEC welcomed a new director, WKU graduate Ronda Talley.

 “WKU has held a special place in my heart, the friendships I’ve made here, the knowledge I’ve gained here, professors that have influenced me, I’ve carried them with me through all these years.”

Talley says it’s exciting to be part of a center that’s poised for new growth.

 “With the passion the community brings to the CEC and the dedication of the staff, really wonderful staff here and the commitment from the university to continue it’s growth and development, it was just a package I couldn’t resist.”

Those bird houses will be auctioned off at the Hot Rods game on April 17th. And be on the lookout for collection jars all around Bowling Green throughout the month of April.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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