Down Syndrome Group – WKU Support

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5/2/13

This spring’s opening of the Buddy House highlights a big year for Down Syndrome of South Central Kentucky.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks at the overwhelming support WKU students provide to the group.

The Future is Bright. That’s the motto of the group known as Down Syndrome of South Central Kentucky. With a brand new headquarters and a huge support system from WKU, there is a LOT to be excited about.

 “The idea of having a Down Syndrome Headquarters in South Central Kentucky where we could help everyone with down syndrome maximize their full potential and contribute to society just grew.”

Founding member Jane Tichenor says a series of “raise the roof” concerts is what got the ball rolling on fundraising for a center, and it was WKU students who approached her with the idea.

 “We depend on Western, we depend on the students, their talents and their energy and just their joy of being with our children.”

That connection grew even stronger a few years ago when WKU started a chapter for Best Buddies International.

 “Best Buddies is a friendship organization. We are paired one on one to special needs people in the community.”

WKU sophomore Katherine Devine and her buddy Brittany Hunt are just one of many Best Buddy pairs.

 “Brittany brings a lot of joy to my life that’s for sure.

Brittany

 “She means a lot to me.”

A One Hundred Dollar Solution class at WKU asked what they could do to help and were given the task of transforming this room at the Buddy House into a Teen/Adult Tutoring Room.

They looked to Big Red and the group’s logo for inspiration.

10:48 “We took the state of Kentucky and put the words down syndrome in the middle, have sun shining on it and we have heart showing all children have a special place in our heart.”

The Rockerz, a dance group coached by WKU students, now have a place to practice and the group can gather for banquets like they did earlier this week.

 “This has been something I’ve seen in the works since high school. “

 “There’s been so many people that say how can I help? How can I hang out with these awesome people.”

For more information on Down Syndrome of South Central Kentucky, log onto dssky.org.

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

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