Kidz Club – WKU angle

VFTH

2/16/17

For the past year, Bowling Green has been home to the Kidz Club, a pediatric medical day treatment facility.

Amy Bingham shows us how the facility has ties to Western Kentucky University in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s a medical facility but it’s run like a day care. WKU Nursing students come there for their pediatric rotation. WKU athletic teams volunteer their time to do activities and visit with the children. But for one WKU student, a job at the Kidz Club has totally changed the path of her future.

“These kids are like amazing.”

WKU Junior Payton Crace works as a caregiver at Kidz Club, a pediatric, nurse-staffed Day Care in Bowling Green.

 “This is really where my heart is.”

 “I get to teach this kid who has this issue or disability how to go beyond that disability while nurturing him or her back to health.”

“I invite anyone to walk through those doors because seeing is definitely believing.”

Open just over a year ago, the facility has gone from serving seven children to 34 with a wide range of medical issues.

 “We are staffed with registered nurses and CNA’s and they are the ones in the rooms taking care of the kiddos so that’s how we’re able to meet all of those medical needs.”

The ratio is one RN and one aid to six children. The staff is in constant communication with the children’s doctors.

 “We work with the child’s entire team, therapists, doctors to make sure they are involved with that child’s care.”

It was witnessing this interaction first hand gave Payton the push she needed to change her major from special education to nursing.

 “I’ve always been interested in the medical field and helping people but I scared myself out of it. I said no way, that’s way too hard for me.”

 “Then I got this job and started working with these amazing kids and amazing nurses and learning a lot about nursing and I fell in love.”

She says its made starting all over with her degree totally worth it.

 “You get to help these kids medically, emotionally, intellectually....it’s so rewarding. I love these kids so much.”

The Kidz Club serves children from birth through age 21. There are other locations in Louisville, Lexington, Northern Kentucky and St. Petersburg Florida.

The Bowling Green Kidz Club is located in Sugar Maple Square on Kentucky Highway 185. For information you can call 270-746-0333.

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

####