



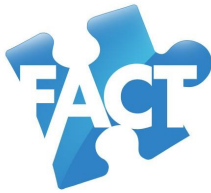
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NEWS YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO... and that's a FACT!



Families of Autistic Children in Tidewater Because children with autism are children first



The Kellam grant supports programs like bowling, karaoke, cooking, and more.

Donors and Granters

Anne G. Kellam

Anyone who lives in Virginia Beach knows the Kellam name. The Kellams are a well-known political family accented by judges, philanthropists and our long time Commissioner of the Revenue. Judge Floyd E. Kellam was a judicial court judge until his passing in 1958. The original Kellam High School on Holland Rd. was named in his honor and remains his namesake in its modern new iteration on West Neck Rd.

Another of Floyd E. Kellam's legacies is a family foundation that awards college scholarships to Kellam seniors. The foundation is also a donor advised fund that allows his family to take an active role in awarding grants. We are truly grateful that Anne G. Kellam recommended our programs for a \$5,000 grant. Her support and generosity allow FACT to continue offering quality social and recreational programs for individuals with autism in our community.



This is Miss Sheri's license plate. Honk if you see her out in the community.



Movers and Shakers

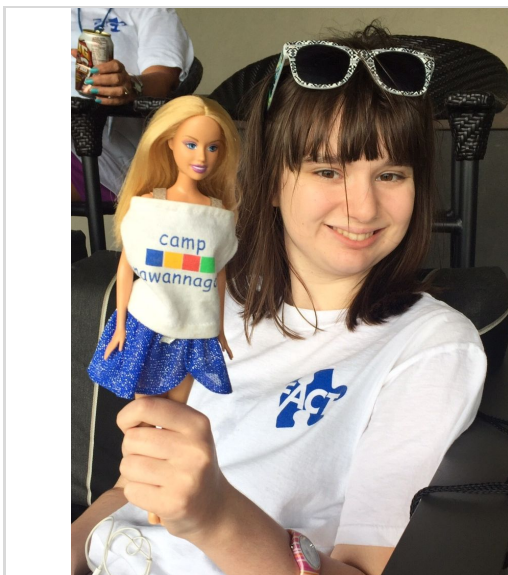
One Special Peer Volunteer

Last week FACT submitted a grant requesting funds to support the peer volunteer component of camp. Peer buddies are a crucial component of camp offering acceptance and companionship to children who are too often ostracized or bullied. Volunteers benefit from the experience too. Beyond the fun daily field trips, peer volunteers really enjoy helping. We watch them become more confident and compassionate. Year after year, volunteers return and many become counselors working through their summers of college. Last year more than a third of our staff were former volunteers. It's been our privilege to watch them become the outstanding people they are.

Our Mover and Shaker this month is one of those die-hard dedicated volunteers. Sheri Hess began volunteering in 2004 when she was 11 years old. She hasn't missed a year of camp in 15 years! Miss Sheri, as we call her, is actually Mrs. Bragg now. She has a degree in special education and will earn her master's degree soon. Sheri has a special place in her heart for people with autism, which has really worked in our favor. She seems incapable of declining a job that involves kids with autism. Sheri has been our Bowling Coordinator, Teen Time Supervisor, Drama Club Director, and Assistant Camp Director. That's what we call a 'mover and a shaker'!

Recently, the small but mighty FACT admin team welcomed Sheri as our Program Director. She has great ideas and big plans.

Congratulations, Miss Sheri, and welcome to the team!



Gotta Love this Kid

Highlighting Success in the ASD Community

During the summer of 2007, a 9 year-old girl named Ashley registered for camp. She arrived with an entourage of stuffed animals and dolls. She has always been a sweet, beautiful girl with a gentle demeanor and an infectious enthusiasm for camp activities, *especially karaoke*. Ashley will turn 21 this month, and hasn't missed a single summer at Camp Gonnawannagoagin' since she was 9. Her parents wouldn't consider skipping a year at camp. Ashley's mother Cheri told us, "That would be against Ashley's law!" She looks forward to camp months in advance and begins planning which of her dolls will be accompanying her to camp. These days, they too come sporting their custom-made camp shirts.

Despite her challenges, Ashley has many strengths beyond her amiable personality. Like many of her peers with autism, Ashley



easily adopts routines and enjoys being given responsibility. This summer at camp, Ashley lead morning group each day. This included reviewing the daily picture schedule, reciting the camp rules, and leading her group in singing the camp song. Ashley's parents are fun-loving folks and big supporters of FACT. They never miss a Lawn Party fundraiser, so I wasn't surprised to see them last month at the Rotary Oyster Crush that benefits many local charities including FACT. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Ashley has a job! She's working at Applebee's doing kitchen prep and dining room set-up five mornings a week. Kudo's to Applebee's and Ashley. We couldn't be more proud and look forward to seeing her at Karaoke Club later this month.

COMING UP...

[Tidewater Autism Summit- October 26th](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO YMCA JT'S CAMP GROM

TIDEWATER AUTISM SUMMIT 2019

Join us for our Eleventh annual 2019 Tidewater Autism Summit!

Free admission and the best autism service providers in Virginia. Kid friendly with a de-stress area available. If your life or the life of a loved one is affected with a ASD diagnosis this is a day you will not want to miss.

FREE ADMISSION & FREE TOYS FOR ALL CHILDREN !

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
from 11:00 to 3:00

YMCA JT'S CAMP GROM
1181 PROSPERITY ROAD VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

De Stress Area - Petting Zoo - Bubble Land - Bounce House
Break Out Sessions - Free Grants for Project Lifesaver Bracelets
FACT Summer camp & KelsKids Swim Lessons
provided by the Virginia Autism Foundation



Registration Melanie Miller 757-567-9805
melanie@virginiaautismfoundation.com

Sponsor Info Mark Llobell 757-572-5412
mark@virginiaautismfoundation.com

This event is free and open to the public. We encourage you to invite family and friends.

Programs and Events



Hobbies and Leisure Programs



Social Programs for Teens and Adults



Volunteer Opportunities



What: Karaoke Club
Who: Individuals with ASD ages 8 and older
When: Sundays, beginning 11/3/19

What: Holiday Baking Class
Who: Individuals with ASD 8 and older
When: Wednesday evenings beginning 11/16/19

[Register for these programs!](#)

***Coming soon:**
 "Gonnawanna-needabreak-agin"
 Monthly caregivers night out, begins in November.

More programs offered

Teen Time and Social Club:



What: Haunted Hunt Club Farm
Who: Teen Time (ages 13-18) and Social Club (ages 19-30)
**please read criteria before registering*
When: Sunday 10/13/19

[Register for this program!](#)

Out -n- About



What: Zoo Boo- Halloween celebration at the Va Zoo
Who: Out-N-About
**please read criteria before registering*
When: 10/26/19

[Register for this program!](#)

***Coming soon:**

- Million Bulb walk at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens



What: GonnawannaKICKagin'-kickball on Saturday mornings
 GonnawannaBOWL agin' bowling on Sunday afternoons
 GonnawannaSINGagin' Karaoke club on Sunday afternoons
 Family Fun Day- Halloween Spooktacular Sunday, 10/27/19
Who: Volunteers ages 14 and older
**please read criteria before registering*

[Register to volunteer](#)

***Coming soon:**

- November Teen and Social outings

More about our sports programs

Program info
and registration

Visit our Website

Stay in touch!

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