



KATHY'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS Newsletter

SUMMER ISSUE | 2022

Kathy's Circle of Friends is continuously growing, our current membership is 360 FRIENDS! We look forward to seeing everyone at our various themed events on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Our mission is to encourage socialization, friendship, and sense of community. We are committed to engaging with each member individually, making a positive impact, all while growing our circle of friends.

We host various themed events in person as well as virtually. Our surprise mailings include greetings, gifts, and activity packs! We are inspired and find great joy in giving and bringing smiles to all our friends.

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Executive Director's Note

Giving back has been in Kathy Phillips' heart since the very beginning of Primitives by Kathy, her wholesale gift company. The partnership with Goodwill Industries more than 20 years ago is what made Primitives by Kathy possible and the desire to provide opportunity occupationally to adults with varied limited abilities has been a part of who we are ever since. Fueled by this innate passion for providing opportunities to those with varying limited abilities – in 2017, Kathy's Circle of Friends was created.

“ WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR WARM, SMILING FACES. ”

Kathy's Circle of Friends is ready for some Good Times in 2022! We were finally able to plan a full year of exciting events for our members. KCOF has grown to over 360 members, with new friends signing up weekly. It's been such a joy to see everyone in person again and offer the ability to host events where everyone can come together and have fun. This year we've grown into our fourth "home" due to our ever-growing attendance.

We are hosting our first ever bingo fundraiser on October 23, 2022, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to KCOF. Please visit www.kcof.org for more information.

We'd like to thank the many volunteers who help make each event special and memorable for our friends. We could not make it happen without their support. Reading the many thankful emails, and hearing the appreciative stories from the caregivers and members warms our hearts.

We look forward to seeing KCOF grow with the help of your donation dollars and time. Thank you for your generous support of our mission.

Sincerely, [Dustin Sload](#) - Director of Kathy's Circle of Friends



Meet the KCOF BOARD

Kathy Phillips • CEO & Founder
Dustin Sload • Director of KCOF
Annie Schickel • Board Member
Lori Miller • Board Member
Michael Warren • Board Member



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friend@kcof.org

Connect with us on Social Media!
Keep up with events and join the fun!



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ANNIE SCHICKEL

As a little girl, Annie carried her pencil box full of crayons, pencil nubs, and paper everywhere she went. She designs products for Primitives by Kathy. You will most likely see Annie at our craft table leading the next fun project



Kathy's farm fun

A year ago, I found a new home that had the potential to be the perfect little farm I had dreamed of.

The house was just the right size, as I didn't need as much space now that the kids are grown and gone. This property had a beautiful pond and enough acreage for me to add some fences to create a few pastures to start my hobby farm! A pair of mini-donkeys started it all!! They were a birthday present! Gracie is the white & gray spotted one and George is the little brown one. They are very best of friends and super friendly. My next addition to the farm were three very cute sheep! The farmer I purchased them from delivered them on the day after Christmas!

“ WHAT A FUN CHRISTMAS PRESENT! ”

These are Valais Blacknose Sheep (shown below), known as the cutest sheep in the world due to their curly fleece and dog-like temperament. I asked the 4 year-old Amish neighbor, KatieAnn, to name the sheep. She named them Joy, Faith, & Chase. We also call Faith “Curiosity” because she is into everything! Chase was in reference to the Paw Patrol books that KatieAnn reads. The best de-stress after a long day is to just sit in the middle of the pasture and give lots of love to my farm animals that have very unique engaging personalities. I have added many more fun animals but will share those in future newsletters!!

Contributed by [Kathy Phillips - CEO & Founder](#)



Words of appreciation

RECEIVED FROM A CAREGIVER IN MARCH 2022

Kathy,

I just wanted to personally thank you for all of the events that you run each month. My individual that I work with excitedly talks about them days before each event.

As I'm sure you're aware, so many of these individuals live isolated lives. These events are a chance for them to make connections and friendships outside of their living situations. I know in our case; this is the only time that she really gets to mingle with her peers as there aren't many opportunities for her to do so. From a Caregiver point of view, these events are extremely important to the positive growth in our relationship with our individuals. They say the activity of "play" in any relationship is very important for positive bonding. Your events give us a chance to "play" and bond in a way that's different from any other work that we do with them. This alone is priceless and I don't know how to thank you enough for this.

// CREATING POSITIVE, SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
WHERE EVERYONE WHO **MAYBE FEELS DIFFERENT**
IN OTHER SETTINGS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES,
AREN'T DIFFERENT HERE. WE ARE ALL THE SAME. //

When I attended the first event, this really touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes. I thought wow, here's a place where everyone who might feel shy out in the world can come to a place and totally be themselves, autistic tics and all. Nobody is judging or looking because if you have an environment where everybody has disabilities, all of those disabilities disappear and all you see is the spirit. The person inside a disabled body or mind that they of course want to be seen as, an abled person. They are not their disability.

I know of all people, you know this. Please know how many lives you have affected in such a beautiful way. You share love, peace, and inclusivity. For the individual and for the Caregivers, we so look forward to these events. Care-giving burnout it's something I try to avoid, your events really help the Caregivers to take a break by having fun with their individuals. It always feels like a beautiful gift.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, **M.K.**



FUNDRAISING FUN

KCOF BINGO BENEFIT

Kathy's Circle of Friends will be holding a Benefit Bingo on Sunday October 23rd, 2022, from 1-4PM, at the Knights of Columbus. Doors open at 11:30AM. All proceeds will benefit KCOF. Please visit: www.kcof.org for more info. or use the QR code below



Events for adults with special needs
in Lancaster...
www.kcof.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG 03 • Grease Sing-Along
- AUG 17 • Member Talent Show
- SEPT 07 • Muttville Amazing Dogs
- SEPT 21 • Prom Night
- OCT 05 • Western Hoedown
- OCT 19 • Harvest Costume Dance
- NOV 02 • Paint Pottery in Your PJ'S
- NOV 16 • Friends-giving
- DEC 07 • Matt Cadabra Magic
- DEC 21 • Holiday Celebration

MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

ASHLYN SHAFFER • Graduated from Hempfield High School. Congratulations Ashlyn!



ALANE DECHEUBELL • Recently, Alane moved to a residential group home with Holcomb!



She is so excited to be “out on her own”. The staff have been terrific. They even painted her room “Dodger blue”, for her favorite baseball team.

Please share your special events with us at: friend@kcof.org

Volunteer spotlight

WHY WE VOLUNTEER

Elliott Galebach (Pictured Right), both an employee of Primitives by Kathy, is a KCOF member, and a Landisville native. A graduate of Hempfield High School's class of 2010, Elliott went on to the School-To-Work Program and from there he learned job skills through Goodwill.



Elliott loves to be around dogs, read, watch movies, play games, and listen to music. He is also an artist at the Friendship Heart Gallery where he recently helped with a house art mural on N. Mary St. in Lancaster. Elliott is part of Special Olympics as well and participates in basketball, volleyball, bocce ball, skiing and snow shoeing.

KCOF is always the highlight of the a week when he can see his friends and enjoy whatever theme is going on there! It is always a fun time! Elliott has recently transitioned to the Lititz community where he is learning to live independently and meet new neighbors and make more friends as he enjoys decorating and rearranging his condo.

“There are no words to describe the pure happiness participation in KCOF events helps bring to others. You leave feeling you’ve been given a very rare & precious gift that far surpasses the time and effort you’ve invested.” – Tracey Breckenridge

“Volunteering with KCOF makes my heart so full. When I see the smiles on their faces, it is the greatest feeling ever!” - Starr Schickel

DID YOU KNOW?

FUN FACT #1 • KCOF has grown through four different venues since 2017:

- American Legion- Top Left
- Emerald Center - Top Right
- Farm and Home Center - Bottom Left
- Reality Church - Bottom Right



FUN FACT #2 • KCOF membership has grown to 361 members since 2017

FUN FACT #3 • KCOF members range in age from 18 - 88

MEMBER SAYS

Mac & Cheese vs Grilled Cheese?

- Mac & Cheese – 68%
- Grilled Cheese – 32%



Favorite Season - Summer or Winter?

- Summer – 90%
- Winter – 10%



Facebook or Instagram?

- Facebook – 100%
- Instagram – 0%



Game of the Quarter

SUMMER FUN EDITION

There are 10 differences between these images. Can you spot the difference? Circle each spot.
Hint: Look for color or shape change and added or missing items.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

AARON ACRES

Aaron's Acres is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides year-round recreational programs to children and young adults, ages 5-21 with disabilities in central PA. Since 1998, no child has ever been turned away because of his/her disability. We can accommodate all children due to having the following: professional supervisory staff (usually special education teachers), a nurse who can address any medical needs that might arise and a 1:1 or 1:2 staff to child ratio which ensures that we can meet each child's needs immediately and appropriately.

// ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN FUN FILLED ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR PEERS, SEPARATE AND APART FROM A SCHOOL SETTING.

During the summer, at our camp program, our participants ride horses, go swimming, engage in fitness activities, create crafts and visit with reptiles, a petting zoo and a magician. During the school year, monthly activities are scheduled either out in the community (for our older participants) such as going to Hershey Park or bowling or at Millersville University (for younger participants) and engage in recreational activities including dinner and a snack.

In the 24 years that we have been in existence, we have never turned away a family who is facing financial constraints. Scholarships are available so that all children can be accepted into our programs, regardless of the family's financial situation. We love having families join us at Aaron's Acres.



VOLUNTEER or donate

HOW CAN I HELP?

Kathy's Circle of Friends is always looking for volunteers to assist with event set-up, help during the event, and breakdown. Donations are also appreciated, no matter how small, helps fund the special events and programs we offer the community.

If you would like to VOLUNTEER or DONATE please use the QR codes by using the camera on your smart device or go to our website at: www.kcof.org



Volunteer - Kathy's Circle of Friends
www.kcof.org



Donate to Kathy's Circle of Friends
www.kcof.org

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

UKRAINE AID DRIVE

KCOF members donated over 300 items for the Ukraine Aid drive that was held over two events. Everyone who donated received a sunflower as a "thank you".



FREQUENTLY ASKED Questions

Q&A

1. Is there an age requirement to become a member of KCOF?

Everyone must be 18 or older to join.

2. When and where are the events?

KCOF events are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

All events will be held at: Reality Church, 2301 Harrisburg Pike Suite 100, Lancaster, PA from 6PM-8PM - except for special events held at an alternate venue, which will be advertised.

3. When does an event start?

Event times are from 6PM-8PM, different times for special events will be advertised.

4. How can I volunteer with KCOF?

Visit www.kcof.org to fill out the Volunteer Interest Form.