

# POSSIBILITIES are endless...



**Hope For Kids**  
Specialized Foster Care  
& Permanency Programs



**Kidz Rainbow Center**  
Daycare & Early Learning



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## Upcoming Training & Events

KRC Spring Program  
May 13

KRC Pre-School Graduation  
June 3

UW Trash to Treasure  
June 4

HFK Annual Foster Parent Training  
October 1

Annual Foster Family Christmas Party  
December 3

Wishing U A  
HAPPY SPRING!



## God Lives Under The Bed



My brother, Kevin, thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped to listen, "Are you there, God" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed..."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He is mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor and apart from his size, 6'2", there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old. He'll probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Clause delivers presents every Christmas and airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme is laundry, which he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn.

And Saturdays, -oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculates loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights. And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple.

He'll never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure.

He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God.

Not confined by intellectual reasoning, Kevin seems to know God—to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap. I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances—they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lives under his bed. Kevin won't be surprised at all!

~Unknown

God Bless,  
Brenda Goldman, CEO/President



## April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

*“On my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday, my Mom’s boyfriend will rape me”*



*“On Tuesday, my Dad is going to break my arm”*



I recently met a woman who spent nearly 40 years as a second grade teacher, and had been trained both to spot and report cases of child abuse. One day a boy was standing by his desk and told her he couldn't sit down, so she asked him why not? He said because it hurt. She asked him what hurt, and he replied he wasn't supposed to tell anybody. That's one of the first signs that something is wrong. She asked if he could tell the school nurse, and he said no, but she took him down to her office anyhow. After much cajoling the nurse finally got the boy to pull his pants down, and she found cigarette burns on and around his rectum. There were at least 100 cigarette burns or scars where the parents had burnt the boy as punishment. The system was notified, the boy was protected and the parents were arrested.

~Larry Wohlgemuth

This is a heartrending story. And the suffering of this boy and his extended family cannot even be imagined. Or minimized. But not all child abuse is so dramatic. Sometimes the signs are subtle. A little bruise, with a claim that a parent did it. Or with a story that doesn't match the injury. A child who seems fearful of a parent or caregiver. Sometimes, a situation that just seems off. Learn the signs and symptoms of child abuse. And be alert to them in children you meet. Pay attention to what your children tell you about another child. Often, a child will tell another child what they wouldn't tell an adult. Report your suspicions. I cannot stress that enough. And even if your first report doesn't give visible results, continue to report any further suspicions. Sometimes it takes a pattern to show the whole picture. Do not be afraid to get involved. Agencies will not disclose who reports the abuse. And isn't it worth a child's life? There are too many children who suffer from abuse in this country. Be a part of the solution. Be aware, report, save a child. All year round.

## 10 Signs of Child Abuse

- 1. Unexplained injuries.** Visible signs of physical abuse may include unexplained burns or bruises in the shape of objects. You may also hear unconvincing explanations of a child's injuries.
- 2. Changes in behavior.** Abuse can lead to many changes in a child's behavior. Abused children often appear scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn or more aggressive.
- 3. Returning to earlier behaviors.** Abused children may display behaviors shown at earlier ages, such as thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, fear of the dark or strangers. For some children, even loss of acquired language or memory problems may be an issue.
- 4. Fear of going home.** Abused children may express apprehension or anxiety about leaving school or about going places with the person who is abusing them.
- 5. Changes in eating.** The stress, fear and anxiety caused by abuse can lead to changes in a child's eating behaviors, which may result in weight gain or weight loss.
- 6. Changes in sleeping.** Abused children may have frequent nightmares or have difficulty falling asleep, and as a result may appear tired or fatigued.
- 7. Changes in school performance and attendance.** Abused children may have difficulty concentrating in school or have excessive absences, sometimes due to adults trying to hide the children's injuries from authorities.
- 8. Lack of personal care or hygiene.** Abused and neglected children may appear uncared for. They may present as consistently dirty and have severe body odor, or they may lack sufficient clothing for the weather.
- 9. Risk-taking behaviors.** Young people who are being abused may engage in high-risk activities such as using drugs or alcohol or carrying a weapon.
- 10. Inappropriate sexual behaviors.** Children who have been sexually abused may exhibit overly sexualized behavior or use explicit sexual language.

*“Tomorrow I'll be shaken so violently, I'll suffer brain damage”*



### If You Suspect A Child Has Been Abused...

#### DO

- Keep calm.
- Tell the child you believe them.
- Show interest and concern.
- Reassure and support the child.
- Take action. It could save a child's life.

#### DON'T

- Panic or overreact.
- Pressure the child.
- Confront the offender.
- Blame the child or minimize the child's feelings.
- Overwhelm the child with questions.

If you suspect a child is in danger, call **911**. If you have read the signs of child abuse and believe a child is being abused, call ChildLine at **1-800-932-0313**



## Meet Mrs. Allison, Director



I am a 30 year-old mother of two. I have a 3 year-old son and a 3 month-old daughter. I am blessed that I get to spend everyday with my own children, along with 85 of the Lord's other children at Kidz Rainbow Center.

I attended Widener University for four years, where I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Elementary Education. My love for teaching children over the years has led me in many different directions. I spent nearly two years working for the "Happiest Cruise Line to Ever Sail the Open Seas", Disney. I helped children varying from ages 5 to 12 to use their imaginations and soar to new heights with a little help from "Pixie Dust"! Once leaving my sea legs behind, I taught Pre-K for one year, followed by two years of sixth grade Science and Social Studies in a Catholic school. My marriage brought me from the Philadelphia area to State College, leading me back to working with younger children once again. I never dreamed that I would be where I am today.

I began working at Kidz Rainbow Center during its infancy, in September 2006. Over the last four and a half years, I have "worked my way up the ladder" of this wonderful agency. I was lead teacher for preschool when I first walked through the doors of KRC. I soon began planning the curriculum and guiding the staff through observation and trainings as the Senior Lead Teacher. I never imagined that I would enjoy anything more than teaching children, but I love the relationships I have built with my fellow staff at the center and sharing what I have learned through professional development with them! As director, I try to balance my time between paperwork and classroom observation. My favorite part of the day is bouncing from classroom to classroom to visit with the teachers and especially the children. It is a wonderful feeling knowing the children still get excited to see us each and every day!

~Mrs. Allison Newlen

## More Reasons To Invest In Early Childhood

The last edition of the ECMH update (April 2010) provided several compelling reasons for quality early childhood programs. Here are some more: America's Edge, an organization that works to strengthen businesses and the economy through proven investments in children, recently issued a report on *Strengthening Pennsylvania Businesses Through Investment in Early Care and Education: How Investments in Early Learning Increase Sales from Local Businesses, Create Jobs and Grow the Economy*, February 2011. The report asserts that "early care and education should be a critical component of Pennsylvania's economic recovery" because "for every \$1 invested...,an additional \$1.06 is generated for a total of \$2.06 in new spending." The full report is available at <http://bit.ly/i949PA>.


## Early Childhood Mental Health

**Tuesday, May 3, 2011 is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This year's event will focus on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma.


More information, including how local communities can observe Awareness Day, is available at [www.samhsa.gov/children](http://www.samhsa.gov/children).

## KRC Needs & Wish List

### Small Items

- Construction Paper (assorted colors) for 6 rooms
- Washable Tempera Paint (brown and all primary colors) for 6 rooms
- Gallon school glue
- Bulletin board backing paper (any colors, but white)
- Google eyes (all sizes)
- Large crayons
- Individual boxes of crayons
- Easel paper
- Sidewalk chalk 
- Stickers
- Pipe Cleaners (assorted colors)
- 6" x 9" felt sheets (assorted colors)
- Foam Sheets (assorted colors)
- Small toys for prize box

### Large Items

- 6 passenger Van
- White board easel (Priority)
- TV/DVD combo for 6 rooms
- TV stands for 6 rooms
- Tricycles 
- 6-8 person baby buggy
- "I Am The Boss" Baby Sit in Toy



Hope For Kids  
**POSSIBILITIES**  
 Kidz Rainbow Center

1400 Fox Hill Rd,  
 State College, PA 16803

Non-Profit Org.  
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 Permit No. 213



Special thanks to the Bicycle Shop, State College for generously donating these three bicycles to the children at KRC for "Bike Day." A Big thanks to Joe Fedeli, HFK Advisor, for donating two Raleigh, adult road bikes for our foster children.

Never Deprive a Child of Hope  
 It Might Be All They Have



For more information or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the

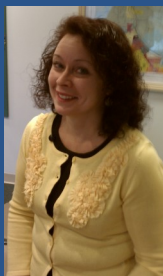
**May is National Foster Care Month**



Each May, we salute the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers.

Thanks to these unsung heroes, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families. **Hope For Kids would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated foster families for the work they do with children and families.** By opening your home and sharing your heart, you offer help to children and families in crises and help promote the

**Pennsylvania's New Adoption Amendments**



Denise Bierly, Fellow, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys presented a training on March 21st updating Hope For Kids staff and resource parents on the amendments to the Adoption Act that will be effective April 25, 2011. With the new amendment birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings and the child will be given written notification about contact after an adoption takes place. If the adoptive parents do not agree to contact after the adoption then there will be no contact between the child and the birth family. Pennsylvania has started a new information registry called PA Adoption Information Registry or PAIR. PAIR will allow for medical records, and social histories to be submitted electronically for easier access for when medical information is need or when the child is of age and looking for information on their biological family.



[www.hopeforkidsinc.org](http://www.hopeforkidsinc.org)

**DONATE ONLINE**

Yes, I would like to support Hope For Kids with the following:

- A One Time Gift  \$100  \$250  \$500 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regular Monthly Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_/Month

Hope For Kids is a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit. All donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: Hope For Kids

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