

POSSIBILITIES are endless...



Hope For Kids
Therapeutic Foster Care
& Adoption



Kidz Rainbow Center
Daycare & Early Learning



TRAININGS & EVENTS

Foster Parent Annual Training
Oct. 2

Foster Parent Support Meeting
Nov. 9 & 16

Hope For Kids Annual Foster Family Christmas Party
Dec. 11



Focus on Foster Care Adoption



This fifteen-year-old, green-eyed, basketball player and video game enthusiast never knew he would be helping to recruit his own adoptive family. Ryan entered foster care at age 12. Unable to return to his family, he still hopes of finding a family of his own.

Ryan is a serious but loving teen who values and loves the connections he has with the special adults in his life. His foster mother describes Ryan's impressive ability to rebound from setbacks, but Ryan can speak for himself:

What kinds of things do you like to do after school?

R: I like to play Xbox 360, go to football games, hang out with friends and play basketball.

If someone were describing one of your talents or skills, they might describe you as...?

R: Funny, smart, building things, basketball and playing Xbox 360.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy doing ?

R: Going to Amusement Parks, playing Wii, going shopping, riding golf-carts, camping and hunting.

What are your favorite subjects in school?

R: None. I'll pass on that one.

What job do you think you might like to do when you are an adult?

R: To be in the Secret Service or be a police officer.

What kind of music do you like to listen to?

R: Rap and Hip Hop

What are your favorite foods?

R: Chinese, Sloppy Joes, those biscuits at Red Lobster, spaghetti, Domino's Pizza, Beef Jerky, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream.

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Between Toftrees and University Park Airport
1.2 miles from PSU

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Helping Kids in a Sensory Filled World



Melissa Gett, OTR/L of Punxsutawney Area Hospital demonstrating Sensory Therapy with foster child, Esther. (Esther will be adopted in October!)

On Tuesday, August 24th, Melissa Gett, licensed Occupational Therapist and certified Sensory Integration Specialist from Punxsutawney Area Hospital, presented a workshop to staff, parents, and community members entitled "Helping Children in a Sensory Filled World". Melissa shared her vast knowledge of identifying and addressing symptoms of sensory processing disorder in children. She also emphasized how children's sensory needs must be met on a daily basis at home and at school – not just in the therapy room. Melissa provided helpful tips for participants about how common household items such as exercise balls, weights, and heavy blankets, along with everyday foods such as sourdough pretzels, ice, and fruit roll ups can be used to create a sensory diet for children. Her suggestions and "recipes" for how parents could adapt and re-create equipment found in the therapy room at home were invaluable. HFKs is excited about now having a regional specialty clinic where our clients' sensory needs may be met.

New Southeast Office

HFKs Adoption services are expanding to the SE region of PA. Jessica Kappes, our Adoption Program Coordinator has been promoted to develop and manage this new office. Jessica has worked diligently this past year with State Wide Adoption Network to establish HFKs as a SWAN affiliated agency.



**Congratulations
Jessica!**

★ High Fives ! ★

HFK recognizes our foster children's triumphs.

(Names have been changed to protect identities.)

- ★ Toby, age 11, was inducted into the National Honor Society in May 2010.
- ★ Eric, age 16, got a job over the summer and was chosen to design T-shirts for a local business. He also was a staff volunteer at a local children's camp over the summer.
- ★ Gloria, age 17, was accepted to the Early Childhood Development program at Pennsylvania College of Technology.
- ★ Hannah, age 8, earned her green belt in Taekwondo and also performed alongside her brother Tony, age 6 at the Spikes game this summer performing a difficult Taekwondo routine to music.
- ★ Esther, age 7, completed the therapeutic horseback riding course in May and has begun the new session.



November is National Adoption Month

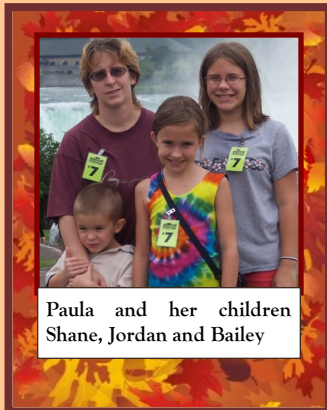
Hope For Kids will be participating in "Centre County Churches Radically Loving the Fatherless" event hosted by State College Assembly of God on Sunday, November 7 from 5:30 p.m. —7:30 p.m. This event will raise awareness of the needs of the fatherless locally and around the world and then provide opportunities for people to get involved.

November 7th is "Orphan Sunday"
www.orphansunday.org

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE AND SOON WILL HAVE PROVIDED PERMANENCY FOR A CHILD!



Meet Paula Rachael—Pre-K Teacher



Paula and her children
Shane, Jordan and Bailey

I am a 37-yr old mother of 3. I earned my Elementary and Kindergarten teaching degree from Penn State. I have had a wide variety of experiences that have helped make me a better teacher, Mom, person and Christian. I have been everything from a volunteer firefighter & EMT, a horse trainer and riding instructor, retail sales & stocking, factory worker, substitute teacher and even spent 12 years working as an Automated Logistics Staff Sergeant in the US Army Reserves. I have been teaching at KRC for the past 2 years primarily in the Pre-K class room.

In the Pre-K room, Ms. Millie and I try to prepare the 4- year olds (known as our “Funnybones”) to enter kindergarten the following year. When we begin in the fall, our primary concern is in socialization and following the rules. We work in using words to solve problems, taking turns, waiting patiently and using good manners.

As the year progresses we begin raising the expectations and adding more academic challenges. Much of our teaching is through center play. The centers are set up to automatically reinforce academic skills. Throughout the year we have weekly academic themes upon which we base our stories and crafts. We also focus on a different bible story each week, enhancing the experience with songs, crafts, and sometimes movies. I am hoping to add weekly bible memory verses this year.

My favorite parts of teaching this age group is when you see a child have that “ah ha” moment when they really begin to understand. It is also really cool when parents notice the things their kids have learned with us. It also makes me smile when a child spontaneously sees the relationship of our Bible stories to everyday life.

Jesus loves all the little children...if we are to be more like him, we too need to be more loving and understanding in all we say and do.
~Miss Paula

Upcoming Trainings & Events

KRC Staff Professional Development
Oct. 15

Early Childhood Summit Conference
Oct. 14, 15, 16

KRC Christmas Program
Dec. 17

KRC Wish List



- Sand Table
- 4 ft ladder
- PC's



From our Parents

We entrust Ms. Paula with one of the most precious things we have...our youngest son.

She is aware of his personal and medical needs and is open to receiving feedback. She was very patient with us during the first several weeks as our son was a bit nervous about attending preschool. Ms. Paula made sure that he was at the window waving goodbye. We needed that as much as our son did.

We attribute so much of our son's growth and excelled development to Ms. Paula. Our son often comes home remembering the songs and books he learned. Already he knows how to write his name and is identifying the alphabet. We know that he will be well prepared for kindergarten next year both academically and emotionally.

Overall, Ms. Paula has the ability to connect with young children and remains calm in stressful situations.

~Holly Reigh

State College High School Students Offer Summer Dance Workshop

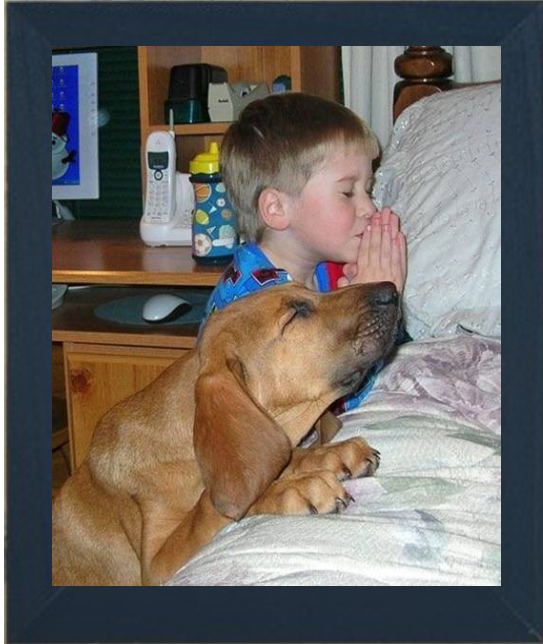
State College Area High School Students, Hadley Mitchell, Miya Matsui, and Lauren Randolph shared their time and talents with the pre-k kids by telling a story through dance. They are also students of the Arts Conservatory of Central PA and members of the Ballet Theater of Central PA. Lauren says, “Our goal is to share our love of dance with those who may not usually have access to it. It was truly a pleasure to work the kids and we had so much fun!”



Hope For Kids
POSSIBILITIES
Kidz Rainbow Center

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State College, PA 16803

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



For more information or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor: Patti A. Menges at pmenges@hopeforkidsinc.org

Thank you PSU Fresh Start Students!



2010 Day of Service: Hope For Kids

Going into this experience, I didn't know exactly what to expect; I didn't know what I would be doing, or if giving up my first Saturday at Penn State was worth my time. I came out of the experience with new friends, a sense of belonging, a sense of accomplishment and pride (that I had stained a whole wooden bridge!) I wouldn't take back this experience for anything in the world. It was incredible and I loved it. I hope I can be a student group leader next year.

(As posted on the Penn State Fresh START Volunteer Blog)