



The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming New Start Newsletter



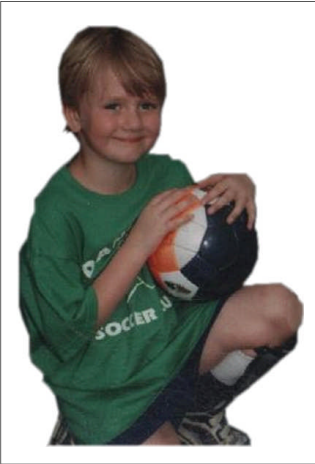
Helping to secure a new home for the children of KidStart

August 2009

Jackson's Team off to a Strong Start

Volume 1, Issue 1

In 1978, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming began a small preschool program that has since blossomed into **KidStart**. For more than 30 years, KidStart has served a growing mission to support families and the community in the joys and challenges of raising children in a healthy, nurturing environment where all can grow and function at their individual best.



Jackson Breen

KidStart is facing a major challenge. In 2011 our current location on the SUNY Geneseo campus, the Holcomb Building, will be demolished by the college to make room for future construction. In order to continue providing quality early childhood programs, the Arc is responding with a plan for a new KidStart site of approximately 30,000 square feet at a projected cost of about \$6 million.

Dr. David Breen, an Arc Board member, KidStart Committee member, and father of two children who have benefi-

ted from KidStart services, has created a group called **Jackson's Team for KidStart**. Jackson is Dr. Breen's son who spent many years at KidStart receiving services and is now flourishing in school. In his name, Jackson's Team strives to gather families, friends, and KidStart/Arc employees to help spread awareness and raise funds for the KidStart Building Project.

Jackson's Team first convened on Wednesday, July 29, at the Moose Lodge in Dansville. United through a common goal, many of the friends, family members, associates and KidStart/Arc staff who were present for that initial meeting have begun meeting on a regular basis at the Livingston County Complex in Geneseo.

Members of Jackson's Team plan to raise money, promote awareness, organize and assist with fundraisers, and act as a catalyst and support system for efforts throughout our communities in support of KidStart.

The group as a whole will hold a grand "kick-off" event in late September or early October, in addition to supporting smaller, localized events.

Members also plan to spread the Jackson's Team message through its own promotional materials and the use of all local media outlets.

Jackson's Team: "Why We're Here"

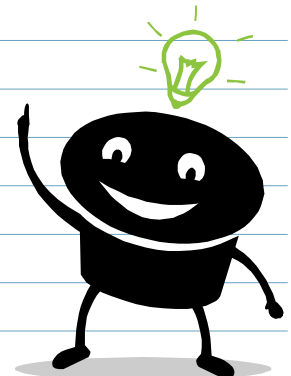
- ✓ To raise funds for the KidStart Building Fund.
- ✓ To promote awareness in our communities about KidStart, its impact on the community, and importance of the building project.
- ✓ To help KidStart families & friends organize fundraisers in their communities to benefit Jackson's Team for KidStart.
- ✓ To act as a "springboard" for smaller community fundraising efforts, as well as conducting larger, more county-based fundraising efforts.

Motivated? Get Involved with Jackson's Team!

There are plenty of ways that you can help Jackson's Team for KidStart in your own community. Members of Jackson's Team have already identified a growing list of possibilities to raise funds and awareness. Here are some of the suggestions from the first two meetings of Jackson's Team.

- Garage Sales
- Bottle Drives
- Bake Sales
- Car Washes
- 50/50 Raffles
- Penny Collection Drives
- Auctions
- Dances
- Walkathons
- Team with Rotary, Kiwanis or a Fire Department for Chicken Barbeques or Spaghetti Dinners
- **Your idea here!**

To get involved, call KidStart at 245-5688!



Arc Submits 4410 Preschool Program Request

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming has submitted a "4410 Preschool Program Request for Waiver" to the New York State Education Department. The request aims to help close an annual shortfall estimated at more than \$300,000 when comparing costs at KidStart's current location on the SUNY Geneseo campus to those for a needed new home.

At present, The Arc pays the college \$289,672 per year for rent, utilities, and maintenance of 31,376 square feet at the Holcomb Building. KidStart also receives use of hallways, a cafeteria/auditorium, gymnasium, and other amenities. The relatively low rent has created a cost structure that has been of great benefit to program funding sources that include federal, state and county dollars. An unfortunate by-product of the current cost structure is

that all building replacement scenarios are much more expensive.

To help offset increased costs, the 4410 Preschool Program Request for Waiver asks for a growth screen waiver that requires approval from the New York State Education Department, and by Livingston County. KidStart currently receives funding from the state and county for providing valuable preschool and evaluation center services to the



community. The waiver would allow for those rates to be adjusted at a higher-than-typical rate.

A "4410" approved provider is an approved private residential or non-residential school for the education of students with disabilities. The Arc's preschool is classified as 4410, and is the only 4410 provider in Livingston County and the surrounding area.

The KidStart program is regarded as a quality program staffed by dedicated professionals at rates to Livingston County and New York that are lower than many other providers.

One-time Funding Request for HeadStart

Without a new home for KidStart, demolition of the Holcomb Building would mean a loss of program for half of the children age 3-5 enrolled in **Livingston County Head Start**. Thirty-five out of 71 kids would lose the opportunity to attend a quality early childhood program.

In an effort to find funds to replace Holcomb, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming has submitted a one-time program improvement funding request to the Department of Health and Human Services, which funds Head Start through a federal grant.

The request is for \$1,012,000, to be used toward replacing Holcomb, which is scheduled for demolition by SUNY Geneseo in 2011 to make room for a sports stadium.

Additionally, in order to assist with integration of children with and without disabilities, The Arc has applied for a federal Head Start Expansion Grant for 18 more children. There is already a significant wait list for Head Start, and our present grant for 71 children is far below surrounding and similar counties.

The latest plans for the new building include classroom space for these additional students.



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Kim Daniel (KidStart employee)

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Christa Barrows (KidStart parent)

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Maggie Putman (KidStart employee)

