



# In the Family

KENCREST STAFF NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 27 • ISSUE 2, MAY 2008

## Letter from the Executive Director

It's not surprising that KenCrest, voted a Best Place to Work in the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, is filled with staff aiming for excellence. Whether striving on a personal level to be the best they can be, or figuring out ways to improve our services, KenCrest staff pursue excellence.

Dedicated CFS teacher Sonia Ortiz Robledo worked her way from associate to acting teacher while pursuing her degree. Busy Resource Management staff member Chad Erdney won 5th place at the U.S. National Snowboard Championships.

The River Crest Fund projects listed in this issue show that KenCrest staff members see problems as opportunities to

develop better ways to help the people we serve.

From individualized program plans transformed into instructional DVDs depicting proper methods of client care to an iPod-based software product for people with autism, your ideas and daily efforts translate into change for the better. I thank you and commend you for your commitment and perseverance.

*Bill Nolan, KenCrest Executive Director*



## Youth & Adult Services Staff Member Chad Erney Wins Big!

When Dale Beck asked Jody Erney what his son Chad was doing on vacation in March, Erney said the shocking phrase in a simple, humble way.

“He is competing in a National Snowboarding Championship.”

Chad, who is from Boyertown, PA, works on Resource Management staff for several KenCrest locations. He has been a part of the KenCrest family for close to three years.

He grew up only a short distance away from Bear Creek mountain, where he began snowboarding in his freshman year of high-school. Eight years later, he took his snowboarding skills to Colorado to compete in the National Snowboarding Championships.

Chad advanced through three local snowboarding competitions, enabling him to travel to Colorado to compete in the Championships.

“I practiced whenever I could, after school

everyday. I won fifth place, but I will continue to compete and see where it takes me next year.”

Besides being a local snowboard champion, Chad attends school and spends alot of his time working for KenCrest fixing heating and air conditioning problems for many Youth and Adult homes that KenCrest serves.

“KenCrest makes me feel good about myself. Meeting the people KenCrest serves makes me value my work more.”

Chad is studying heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration at Reading Area Community College, and hopes to work in the maintenance industry.

*Chad Erney*



## IN THIS ISSUE

Chad Erney profile.....	page 1
Sonia Ortiz Robledo profile....	page 2
River Crest Funded Grants....	page 3
Human Resources Update.....	page 3
Agency events calendar.....	page 4

Opportunity  
brings  
ability to life!



## News You Can Use... From our Human Resources Staff

If you are enrolled in health insurance through KenCrest, you may have noticed that the co-pay for inpatient hospitalization is very high, up to \$1500 depending in your plan.

But did you know that you don't have to pay it?! KenCrest will pay the inpatient hospitalization co-pay for you. And if you are admitted to the hospital directly from the emergency room, KenCrest will also pay the emergency room co-pay.

All you have to do is submit your hospital bill to your HR Representative, along with an Inpatient Hospital Reimbursement Form, which is available at any KenCrest office.

You can pay the hospital yourself, and be reimbursed by KenCrest. Just submit your receipt with the form.



HR Representatives for KenCrest:

Lois Johnston, YAS, 610.825.9360 Ext. 275  
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## Congratulations to Staff Projects Green-Lighted by River Crest Fund

In 1911, a tract of 152 acres in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania, were purchased for approximately \$7,000 by sister Maria Roeck and the Kensington Dispensary. The property, known as "River Crest", was used as a place for the children of inner-city tuberculosis patients, where they could receive medical care and gain strength to fight disease. In 1957, River Crest began serving children 4-12 years of age with developmental disabilities.

In 2001, the agency sold the property. Proceeds from the sale were endowed as the River Crest Fund. This is the fifth year of River Crest Fund grants. Since the River Crest Fund was started in 2004, there have been 67 innovative staff projects funded, and more than \$1.8 million made available to staff to try out their ideas.

This year, staff submitted 21 proposals. Of those, 14 were funded. They are:

**Friendship Connection.** The second phase of a project started last year to recruit, train, and connect community volunteers to serve as friends and companions with individuals served in KenCrest. Partnership Project: Peaceful Living.

**Medical Assistance Technical Support.** Secure Medical Assistance provider certification to gain access to a new funding source for serving people with autism.

**LifeSharing Expansion.** Provide a mechanism to expand the Life Sharing program. Position KenCrest to take full advantage of the state's priority for LifeSharing as

Pennsylvania's preferred residential service model.

**Electronic Individual Program Plans.** Produce instructional DVDs in the proper methods of client care taken straight from their individualized program plan. The DVDs will be part of the client's file in the home, available at all times to all direct care staff.

**Medicaid Entitlement Advocacy.** Position KenCrest as a viable resource for federal, state, and local legislators in the area of Medicaid entitlements. Use the connections of Lutheran Services in America to build and maintain relationships with key legislators.

**Strategic Business Plan Implementation.** Retain consultants to facilitate reorganization of the agency into a full enterprise structure. Determine the feasibility of growth opportunities in new geographic areas and new service lines. Identify promising candidates for alliances and acquisitions.

**Reorganizing Children & Family Services for Growth and Expansion.** Replicate last year's New Business Development Birth - 3 Services project for the entire Children & Family Services division. Enable expansion in the division by redesigning the infrastructure.

**KenCrest Cares.** Start-up funds for organizing community volunteer events for clients, staff, Board members, churches, and businesses. The events will provide agency visibility; positive image building.

*(continued on page 4)*