

# NEWSLETTER



Group Category Winner:  
"101 Dalmatians"  
Boumiea Family

## KINERA COMMUNITY NEWS:

### 8TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT & "KINERA-CON"

More than 300 community members came out to Kinera's 8th Annual Trunk or Treat to enjoy the beautiful fall day and the Halloween-themed fun! There were lots of activities and displays and entertainment, including local fire department trucks, cookie/pumpkin decorating activities, Step 1 Dance 2 performances, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center's rescued birds of prey, the local QAC Mobile Library, QAC Team Autism, and the first Kinera-Con Costume Contest!

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

"Every day at Kinera is a special day. Having the opportunity to see our clients reach their therapy goals is truly amazing. I am beyond blessed to work alongside such talented and skilled professionals." --  
Kate McCloskey,  
Executive Director



The two words that come to mind for 2023 are "opportunity" and "growth." Kinera worked diligently this year to extend our offerings and support in the community with opportunities such as: aquatic therapy and in-person speech therapy services, along with welcoming new interns and staff. Kinera Foundation will onboard two new therapists at the start of 2024, which will increase availability for speech and OT services. We are inspired by the children and families we serve and all the donors and volunteers who do so much to support our nonprofit.

## MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER:

### Alexis Milham Brenner MS, OTR/L

Alexis is one of Kinera's newest therapists to join the OT team. Alexis not only provides occupational therapy to our clients at the Kent Island facility, but also in the water at the Club One pool. The water acts as a calming tool, while Alexis works with our clients to improve their: body awareness, motor planning, sensory processing, fine and gross motor skills, safety awareness and impulse control, self-regulation and executive functioning.



Alexis is happy to  
join Kinera's  
Team and be part  
of a nonprofit:

"I am so excited to be  
able to do what I love  
while making an impact in  
my local community."  
--Alexis Milham Brenner

Kinera's  
Mission:

Kinera Foundation will enhance the quality of life for children, youth and adults with disabilities and special healthcare needs, and their families, across the lifespan.

Kinera Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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## SPIRIT WEEKS: JULY- SEPTEMBER JULY 4TH & THE DOG-DAYS OF SUMMER!

Kinera Foundation recognizes donors and event sponsors throughout the year with special "Spirit Week" celebrations. This past July, we celebrated Aqua Swimming & Training, and in September we celebrated Genesis K9 Training. Both Spirit Weeks included activities, crafts, games and food. For all of the activities, therapists made sure that therapy skills were incorporated throughout, and engaged all of the senses. The children had fun while working on their therapy goals! And thanks to BayDog for a "surprise" dog visit!

## DONORS' CORNER

Generous support from our donors helps Kinera reach more families who have children with disabilities and special health care needs, who need OT, PT and Speech therapies. Your contribution also provides much-needed parent navigating services, therapy equipment and adaptive furniture. We'd like to give a "shout-out" to two of our generous donors, whose contributions have funded over 800 hours of Parent Navigating Services:

Queen Anne's County LMB  
and  
Kathy & Jerry Wood Foundation



*Thank You, Donors!*

## Partnership Highlights

**Aqua Swimming & Training** was started by Elise Thomson, in 2003, to help prevent drownings in the local QA's County region, which includes 660 feet of waterfront. Elise is passionate about water safety and providing safety training to children and adults of all ages and abilities. Her team provide swim lessons to many Kinera families!



*Thank You,  
for your service!*

**Hometown Heating and Cooling** is a local residential and commercial HVAC company, who has been serving Maryland's Eastern Shore and surrounding areas for over 25 years. HHC is supportive of many community organizations, including Kinera Foundation. Thank you for serving our community!



*Thank You,  
for your service!*



*As a 501c3 non-profit organization, Kinera relies on the local community to support our mission. Kinera would not be here without the generous support of people like YOU. Please consider donating to Kinera's mission by volunteering your time, sponsoring a Kinera event or making an end-of-year donation by December 31, 2023.*



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## IMPACT OF DONATIONS:

### DONOR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Every gift, in any amount, makes a difference at Kinera Foundation. Some donors give monthly and some make a large yearly donation. Gifts this past year have funded many projects, including:

- Parent Navigating Services
- Speech Therapy Evaluation Materials
- Therapy Gym Improvements/Upgrades
- Interactive Audio/Visual Equipment for Telehealth Therapy

Donations can be made online, through our secure website or by calling us or post mail.



Ashley Thompson, QACPS, CNA Program, Student Intern

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Kinera Foundation embarked on two new internship programs this past year: one with the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) degree program at Wor-Wic Community College and the other with the local Queen Anne's County Youth Program. There were 14 OTA interns, who came to Kinera and fulfilled their hours at our therapy gyms. We also had six high school and college students, who interned at our facility and gained valuable experience doing a variety of jobs, including assisting therapists with setting up activities and obstacle courses for our clients. We enjoyed sharing our mission with the students, and we look forward to a new group of interns for the 2024 year!

## WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING...

*"I am so grateful for Kinera! After moving from out of state to Maryland, we were unsure if we would be able to replicate activities, social opportunities and therapy services for our adult son, who has autism. I was referred to Kinera and they helped us find age-appropriate and meaningful activities for our son. He is now in a swim social group and getting OT. We couldn't be happier." --Laurie S.*

## FALL SCREENING DAY

We hosted our FREE Developmental Screening Day this past fall, on Sunday, September 17, which was sponsored by the **Kent Island Running Group (KIRG)**. Each scheduled child and their family met with an occupational therapist, and each child received a screening to determine if therapy would benefit them. Meal cards were provided by Kent Island's Chick-fil-A. Stay tuned for our next FREE screening day in January 2024.



Donate supplies  
from our  
**amazon** wishlist

Check out our **Amazon Wish List** of much needed items to help Kinera. It's a great way to support Kinera and make a focused, local impact! A BIG Shout Out to the Washington Family and the Doran Family for their recent donations of therapy gym materials and office supplies. We appreciate your kindness and generosity!

*Thank You!*

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## ACTIVITIES WITH A PURPOSE:

### "BRACELETS WITH A PURPOSE"

This is a new fundraising initiative for Kinera. The bracelets are designed and handmade here at Kinera, with the help of some of our clients. When our clients work on the bracelets, the activity is part of their therapy goal, such as for fine motor skills. All proceeds go directly to help serve more children and families in need of therapy services and informational resources. We also have some bracelet "collections" named after the children who help make the bracelets.

## SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS:

**January 2024**

(day & time TBA)

**"FREE Developmental  
Screening Day"**  
Kinera Foundation

**January 17, 2024**

**"Kinera Connect"**

Parent Meeting, 7 PM  
Topic: Special Needs  
Planning, with  
Kelly McCrea, KMC Law

**April 28, 2024**

**"Walk This Way"**

**5k Walk & Autism  
Awareness Day**  
Autism Speaks and Kinera



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

### ABIGAIL BRANNON-HORNEY

Abigail ("Abby") joined Kinera this past May as our new Office Coordinator. In just six months, Abby has helped to improve and streamline the front office day-to-day operations of our "small but mighty" nonprofit. She has quickly become a special employee of our organization, taking care of tasks big and small. Abby is also a grad of Towson University and just recently earned her SLPA license. Congratulations, Abby!

**Special "Thank You"**  
to BAYDOG for  
bringing Maverick to  
visit our friends on  
September 7!

**BAYDOG**  
CANINE ADVENTURE GEAR



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