



2020 Annual Report

KIDS IN NEW
DIRECTIONS



Purpose & Mission

KIND's purpose is improving the lives of young people through Christian education and life experiences that encourage them to change the world for good. Our mission is to love, care for, and accept young people by guiding their development through the love of God, academics, life skills, health, and exercise.

What We Do

KIND offers programs for afterschool, summer, mentoring, neighborhood improvement, and family support. We focus on the whole child - mind, body, and spirit - seeking to fill their lives with positive relationships, lessons, and experiences.

How You Can Help

Your donations, volunteering, and partnership create life-changing experiences for children in Dayton and remove the potential barriers of cost, transportation, and food, making that support accessible to every child.



KIND is a safe place where kids know they will be accepted, loved, and cared for. For many children, it's among the most important parts of their life.

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Looking Back

A note from 2020 President, Keith Valiquette



In many ways, 2020 was our best year ever. COVID made it more difficult, but under the leadership of Tim Honchel and support from the Board, we found a way to continue to serve children. As you will read, we provided needed outreach during the first few months of COVID but in a virtual way. We were able to get food, supplies, and learning tools into the hands of KIND children and their families.

We discovered that the size of our organization mattered. We were large enough to survive the changes that were before us but small enough to be nimble in pivoting the requirements of the pandemic. In June we were able to launch our summer program in person. We continued to safely meet in person through year end. Our numbers were down from 2019 because we had to follow strict guidelines to keep everyone safe but I am so thankful of having the right people to support the children when they needed us most.

As we begin 2021, I am excited to witness the great programs that will transpire under our new President Dave Judson, Jr. Dave facilitated our Strategic Mapping process in 2018 with staff and leadership. He has a strong vision for KIND including how we can leverage the additional property we own at the corner of Findlay and Fifth Street, something we call the crossroads of East Dayton. I look forward to supporting our team through development efforts to continue KIND's success in Dayton.

Looking Forward

A note from 2021 President, Dave Judson



Proverbs 22:6 tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." For 30+ years, KIND has been partnering with Dayton area parents to do just this; positively impacting the lives of each KIND Kid and often that of their family. We will continue this in 2021 while being intentional by putting God first in all our efforts to fulfill KIND's mission and His will. The amazing staff and KIND Kids showed enormous heart and grit in 2020 as they weathered the impacts of a global pandemic. In short, they flourished in the face of great challenges and we will build upon that in 2021. We want each KIND Kid to fulfill God's purpose for them so they can go out and "change the world for good." In small ways they are already doing that at KIND and in the lives of their friends, family, and others.

I count it a great privilege to serve the KIND organization and work alongside our amazing staff and volunteers to guide every KIND Kid's development through the love of God, academics, life skills, and health/exercise.

Snapshot

62 kids attended KIND during 2020.

The average enrollment was **40** at any given time.

Because of COVID, options for numbers of kids and frequency of meeting decreased.

We focused on what we **could** do.

Below is a snapshot of **what each child received**:

47	Times at KIND in-person
16	Times at KIND on Zoom
57	Hours of academic instruction
28	Hours of active movement
47	Hot meals
180	Pounds of delivered food
Lots	That can't be easily quantified
1	Life changed for good



The KIND K-2 yoga group in February 2020

2020: A Year We Will Never Forget

COVID-19 brought normal life to a halt for KIND like it did for every person and organization. Fortunately, the team had a rough plan in place and quickly got to work when the schools closed in March.

No Child Goes Hungry

The kids had always received a small box of food to take home at the end of each week, but the warnings about job layoffs and increased food insecurity in the weeks ahead had everyone worried. Staff sent home all the food KIND had in storage, then reached out to the Dayton Foodbank about the possibility of receiving larger amounts of food to deliver to the families in the program. By March 23, staff began a weekly food delivery to 40 families, not only those enrolled in the program, but also those on the wait list. A donation from St. George's Episcopal Church helped facilitate this immediate response.

Thanks to a grant from the Dayton Foundation, KIND delivered approximately 7,000 pounds of food to the families from March to May, and was able to provide a \$100 Kroger gift card to each family to help with other needs.

12,382	Pounds of food delivered to KIND families in 2020
1,899	Hot and nutritious meals served onsite
\$2,000	Kroger gift cards distributed to families



The kids at KIND celebrated the news that school was closing, but little did they know that it would be a lot longer than three weeks.



Families receiving food delivery and Kroger gift cards

Just in Time for KIND Online

KIND began the transition from the KIND-at-Home Challenge (fun educational packets) to online learning. Based on a survey of families, many did not have home Internet or devices. Donations from the Mark Andrew Kreusch Memorial Foundation and others allowed for \$40 tablets to be loaned to each child in the program, to be used for school and KIND activities.

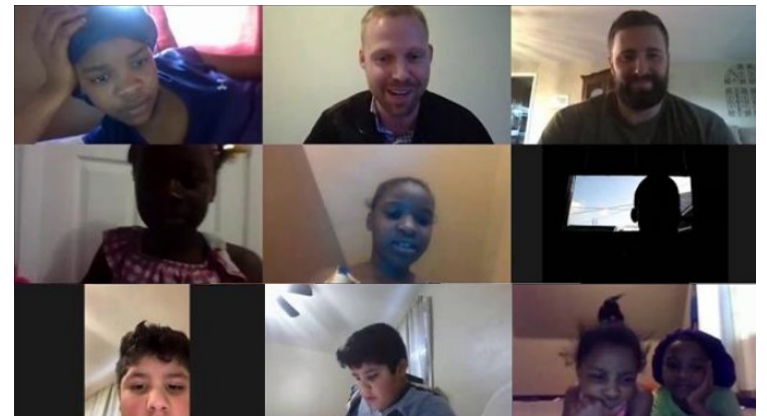
Before receiving their tablets, each family had to sign up for the new student and parent Facebook group. It made it easier to communicate important information to the group, including news that Spectrum was offering free home internet to families with K-12 students. Because the majority of families at KIND originate from other countries, all the information shared about vital community resources was translated into Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Spanish, and Arabic.

On April 1, the first students received their tablets. "So excited," wrote a staff member, describing the girls. "They ripped open their boxes. They immediately got into RAZ Kids (the online reading program that KIND uses). Cousins were very jealous." An extraordinary amount of work went into setting up each tablet with the necessary apps and parental controls.

By the end of April, all students had home Internet and a tablet. KIND Online was launched, featuring weekly Zoom meetings and a variety of activities the students could complete to earn KIND Ca\$h, the highly-coveted currency that could be exchanged for special prizes at the KIND Store. If they saved enough, the kids could even purchase their tablet.



The first tablet recipients



"KIND Zoom" as the kids like to call it

Secure Families, Healthy Kids

The Dayton Foundation grant also enabled KIND to provide additional forms of assistance to families. According to the survey, most parents had been employed prior to the pandemic, but nearly half had since been laid off or experienced a reduction in hours. Staff members reached out to every family to see how they were holding up and what they might need.

A staff member fluent in English, Kinyarwanda, and Swahili provided most of this support. “At first I didn’t know what kind of problems [the families] were facing,” she shared, “but as I got to know them I realized they have some big problems. When I contacted them, mostly they were frustrated because they didn’t know where to seek help. When I spoke the same language as them, they were like ‘Thank God,’ now I have someone who can help me.”

Submitting a claim for unemployment insurance, searching for new jobs, applying for SNAP benefits (sometimes known as food stamps), and Medicaid can be challenging enough for most people in normal situations. Imagine English being your second, third, or fourth language and having to now do all of this online, when you may not have a computer at home or know how to use one that well. “

Staff described the immense relief that families expressed when they were able to regain basic financial stability, which in turn protects their children.



Back to KIND for the Summer?

Summer was approaching, the stay home order was ending, and industries were beginning to reopen. Could KIND have a summer program as in years past or would it have to remain exclusively online? One of the challenges Dayton Public Schools reported was the number of students who never logged in for virtual learning in April or May or logged in just one or two times. Even with KIND Online, the number of students participating was limited. The problem was not just Internet and device access, it was technology know-how and home study habits, skills that may only be teachable in-person. With online schooling looking likely again for the fall, it would be critical to prepare the students. There was also the social-emotional component of kids needing in-person interaction and the ability to just be kids. One of the teachers explained, “We knew that we needed to see the kids. They needed structure. Having them be at KIND and being able to socialize was a big thing.”

Four teachers led the hybrid summer program. 44 students registered and were divided into four groups, keeping families and neighbors together. Each group attended in person one day each week and met online the other days. A grant from the Physicians Charitable Foundation made it all possible.

The kids were pretty quick to learn the new safety rules, like wearing a mask and staying six feet apart. Preparing them for virtual learning was the bigger challenge. It may sound simple, but many students needed instruction and reminders of how to navigate to websites, join a Zoom meeting, turn their microphone on and then off when they were finished speaking, speak clearly, upload files, submit assignments, and follow a schedule. Online learning was new and hard for everyone, including teachers and parents.

Summer was a blast. Everyone learned (and invented) new games that allowed for social distancing. KIND took field trips to Thomas Cloud Memorial Park, Art Van Atta Park, the National Museum of the US Air Force, Learning Tree Farm, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, SunWatch Indian Village, and John F Kennedy Park. What was the highlight of the past week, the kids were regularly asked? “Coming to KIND!” was the near-universal answer.



Boonshoft Museum, look out!



Learning Tree Farm



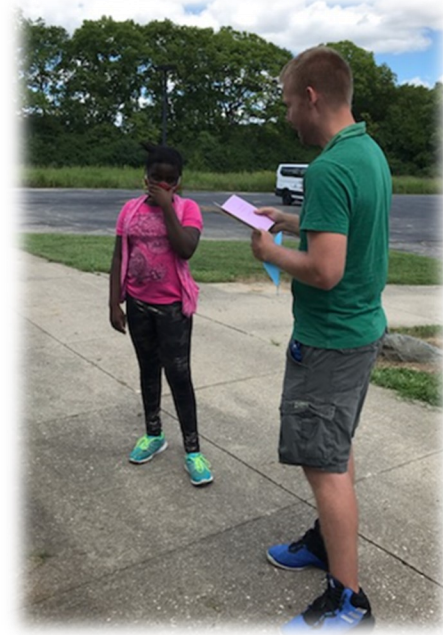
Noodle tag. Ms. Angela is about to be it!



Air Force Museum



Learning how to learn—virtually!



Mr. Tim H surprising the graduating 6th graders with public affirmation

Back to School Like Never Before

As summer came to a close, DPS announced that school would begin online-only. Despite the progress the kids had made, this would still be a challenge. Thus, the need for the Start School Right program.

The kids were divided into two groups on alternating days. During the first six days of the school year, staff picked students up from home, brought them to KIND and set them up in socially distanced workstations with their DPS-provided Chromebooks. KIND served breakfast and lunch, and helped them log in to their classes, providing support whenever technical issues arose. The students who attended every day were allowed to keep their headphone/mic set as a reward. "During the Start School Right program, the kids that had been with us [during the summer] were the ones who needed the least help as we were getting them rolling," one of the teachers observed.

A staff member recalled one family in particular that was excited to be picked up for their first day, even though it was not quite at school. "One of the parents was with them, they were all dressed up in their first day of school type clothes. As the driver, it was the first time I had been on that side of the first day of school pictures! They wanted to celebrate it."

KIND resumed the afterschool program, made possible by grants from the Frank M. Tait Foundation and George B. Quatman Foundation (Fifth Third Bank Trustee). Each group of students was allowed to attend in person twice per week. The same four teachers continued to provide academic instruction in reading, math, writing, and STEM and offer social-emotional support. Hot meals were catered by Picnk Dayton.

With COVID limiting the frequency that students could gather, KIND expanded to include weekend events. Charlie's Tractor children's author Katie Weyler read the series to the kids and provided books to each child. Day Yoga Studio and Funk Lab Dance Center each taught classes. The Boonshoft Museum led a series on water science and conservation. There was also Career Day, featuring guest speakers from the Dayton Police Department, ABLE Law, Infoscitex Software, and Miami Valley Interpreters. This was all made possible by a donation from our best friend Tom.

Another anonymous donation provided a HEPA filtration unit to make the KIND building safer. The Mark Andrew Kreusch Memorial Fund and Kettering Family Philanthropies supported a new van purchase and Miller's Collison Center helped us on countless occasions to keep all our vans running. A federal CARES grant covered substantial costs for food, technology, PPE, utilities, and a second HEPA unit. KIND was able to purchase 12 Chromebooks and better incorporate technology into the classroom. Students were also able to complete educational activities on KIND Online from home for KIND Ca\$h.



The kids were focused for Start School Right



Student enjoying a meal from Picnk Dayton



The Hydro Heroes Series. Careful not to get water on that computer!



The kids were transfixed by Officer Ramadhan at Career Day



Session with Day Yoga Studio

The Universal Language of Soccer

Thanks to a donation by Ralph and Donna Rolfe, 35 students were registered in an 8 week soccer league with Dayton Soccer. For most kids, it was their first time playing organized sports. KIND provided transportation and equipment was donated by SoccerPlus, Pass It Back, and Cristi Cooper McLellan. Soccer brought a lot of joy to the kids' lives, as well as instilling teamwork and discipline. A staff member shared a story about two girls in kindergarten and first grade. "The two girls had gotten to be friends at soccer. I had them spaced out [in the classroom] for social distancing. Every time I turned around, they were inching their desks closer to each other so they could hold hands because they had become best buddies."



Goal!

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

KIND finished the year with a Christmas celebration in two small gatherings, thanks to donations by the Dayton Masonic Lodge #147. The kids played bingo, freeze danced to Christmas music, and crafted a nativity scene with popsicle sticks. "It was awesome," said a staff member. "I think the kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

After the kids acted out the story of Jesus' birth, masked Santa made a surprise appearance and the children roared in delight. "What we wished for Christmas, they brought it!" exclaimed Jolly, 9. Indeed, every child received a present and their joy upon opening them was infectious.



What Will The Kids Remember About 2020?

As 2020 drew to a close, there were plenty of reflections to be shared.

“With the kids we have, the number one thing is consistency,” shared another staff member. “When life gets tough, you’re not just supposed to lay down. And it got tough for everybody. This was the time the kids needed us most. We needed to figure out a way to help the kids in more ways that we have actually ever done before. I hope they see that KIND is not going anywhere. KIND will always be there.”

“I will never forget the way that our staff stepped up when things got hard,” said director Tim Honchel. “They went above and beyond to be there for the kids. Years from now, I think the kids are going to remember what Ms. Paula, Mr. Tim, Ms. Angela, Mr. Thomas, Ms. Peggy, Mr. Joe, Mr. Iggy – everybody – what they did, how they cared.”

Parent Gloria Nolasco shared, “[My kids] have been going for two years. They began coming to KIND when they started school. I love that they go because you all help them so much and they are learning much more English when they go to KIND. KIND has helped my family a lot during coronavirus and I appreciate it so much. Thank you because you’ve helped not only my kids but all the kids.”

The kids shared some of their memories of the year, starting with the shutdown. “It’s boring to stay at home,” said Blessing, 9. “It’s not good to stay a lot of days inside, added Maudy, 10. “I felt bad because of corona. We can’t go to school, we can’t see our friends,” said Jolly, 9. “And we can’t see our teachers!” Chimed Goria, 7.

What was the best part of 2020? “Christmas presents!” said Maudy, without hesitation. “Coming to KIND,” said Blessing.

“I like KIND because we do a lot of things and make friends there,” said Janet, 12. “The teachers are really nice,” added Ungwa, 13. “When are we gonna come back to KIND? I miss it!” said Jolly, as the year came to a close. “I want to pray that we go back to KIND.”

**“I hope they see that KIND is not going anywhere. KIND will always be there.”
– staff member, reflecting on 2020**

Financial Overview

Category	Expense
Certified Teaching Staff	38,795
Support Staff*	8,718
Admin Staff	31,756
Building & Utilities	15,879
Food	9,482
Transportation**	38,563
Supplies	10,734
Admin	7,601
Other	1,139
Total	\$162,667



* Responsible for food and transportation

** Includes purchase of new van

Board of Directors

100% of board members support KIND financially.

Name	Role	Experience
David Judson	President	CEO of JJR Solutions
Jeff Evans	Vice President	President of Evans Energy
Nancy Hines	Secretary	Registered Nurse (retired)
Ralph Rolfe	Treasurer	Owner of Covenant Financial Concepts and CPA (retired)
Dr. Brian K. Hayes	Member	Senior Pastor of Engrafted Word Family Church
Dave Scarberry	Member	Superintendent of Fairborn City Schools (retired)
Keith Valiquette	Member	Account Executive at Energy Systems Group
Kenny Williams	Member	CEO of Astute Consulting

“I see every child as precious and capable of achieving their full potential. My aim is to expand our children’s access to education, experiences, opportunities, relationships, and support systems, vital to their positive development and future impact on their communities.”

- Tim Honchel, Executive Director of KIND



Kids in New Directions
2338 E 5th St, Dayton OH
937-938-1991

www.kinddayton.org
facebook.com/kinddayton
kidsinnewdirections@gmail.com