

KEYS NOTES

February 2008

2007-2008 KEYS

2007-2008 KEYS Members

Front Row, L to R: Liesl Schroedl (LMS), Erica Sasso (WCHS), Lindsey Franks (TVHS)
Second Row, L to R: Keely King (LCA), Sena Muta (WCHS), Jayna Winegarden (WHS), Adam Reneker (LCA)
Third Row, L to R: Jordan Satoski (TVHS), Kayley Herbruck (LCA), Anna Wilcoxson (LCA), Brette Ayres (WMS)
Fourth Row, L to R: Cassady Palmer (WHS), Kate Denlinger (WCHS), Scott Smyth (WCHS), Josh Foster (TVHS)
Fifth Row, L to R: Josh Silveus (LCA), Jacob Collins (WHS), Joel Hogle (WHS), Ethan McDonald (TVHS)



This is our first newsletter for the 2007-2008 school year presented by Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services (KEYS). KEYS is comprised of 20 students: one student from 8th grade through the 12th grade from each of the four school corporations in Kosciusko County: Lakeland Christian Academy, Tippecanoe Valley, Wawasee and Warsaw.

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation, the Dekko Foundation and the school corporations support KEYS. KEYS meets monthly through the school year.

KEYS has had a busy year thus far. We have welcomed our new members, conducted our October grant cycle and December Head Start project, volunteered at community events, and attended a retreat in Alabama.

Read about these activities and more in this newsletter!

October Grants

Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services (KEYS) has completed our October grant cycle. KEYS received 41 grants for review and KEYS recommended funding to 23 of the grant applications.

Some of the grants that were funded this cycle included:

- Edgewood Middle School - \$667.25 to purchase a freshwater aquarium, plants and animals for 7th grade science class.
- Lakeland Christian Academy - \$500.00 for materials to conduct forensic activities in science classes.
- Lakeview Middle School- \$264.75 to purchase materials for 7-8th grade students to publish individual "Studentales."
- Mentone Elementary School - \$199.00 to purchase one set of encyclopedias for 5th grade classroom.
- Northeastern Center- \$560 to purchase educational and therapeutic materials to teach life and social skills to young male residents.
- Wawasee Middle School - \$735.00 to purchase "Kids Discover" educational magazine for 7th grade students to study historical civilizations.

KEYS recommended funding of over \$11,400 for educational projects in Kosciusko County during this October grant cycle. KEYS grantmaking fulfills our mission statement: "To work together to impact and improve education in our community by providing aid, now and for future generations. This October grant cycle is an excellent example of young people involved in their community and furthering education in creative and resourceful ways.

By: Jordan Satoski



**Kosciusko
Endowment
Youth
Services**

KOSCIUSKO ENDOWMENT YOUTH SERVICES (KEYS)

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Warsaw, IN 46580

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www.kcfoundation.org/keys
and
www.youthpods.org

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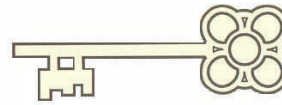
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**Kosciusko County
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
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Lin Hutton



KEYS bid goodbye to one of our Adult Guides this school year. Lin Hutton was our Warsaw Schools volunteer but relocated to Virginia at the end of 2007.



Lin Hutton

Lin Hutton has spent most of her life serving our country and her community. We knew that Lin had shown true compassion and leadership by risking her life to defend our country. For example, Hutton was the seventh woman naval aviator, commanded the Atlantic Fleet Carrier Aviation Squad, was Second Fleet staff officer and assumed the command of the naval air station in Key West, Fla. She has also won many medals of Honor in her service for her country including two Legions of Merit, three Meritorious Services, a Joint Service Commendation and a Meritorious Outstanding Service Volunteer medal. However that is not where her serving stopped when she retired from the military in October 2001.

When Lin relocated to Kosciusko County she served on the Kosciusko Literacy Service Board, became vice president of the Kosciusko Association of Female Executives and became a mentor for KEYS members for three years. During her years with KEYS she helped with

the grant committee and assisted KEYS members with making difficult decisions in their grant making. Lin often helped us see the broader view of the grant requests and guided us in logically reviewing and prioritizing the requests.

We thank Lin for all the help she has given KEYS and our country. We are grateful for the time she gave to KEYS. We know she impacted our lives.

By: Scott Smyth

2007-2008 Officers

Co-Facilitators

*Kate Denlinger
Joel Hogle*

Treasurer

Jayna Winegarden

Secretary

Sena Muta

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Keely King

Jayna Winegarden

Jordan Satoski

Liesl Schroedl

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Ethan McDonald-co-chair

Adam Reneker—co-chair

Jacob Collins-co-chair

Kate Denlinger

Brette Ayres

Endowment Committee

Cassady Palmer-chair

Sena Muta

Scott Smyth

Kayley Herbruck

Ryan Phillips

Community Service Committee

Lindsey Franks— chair

Josh Foster

Joel Hogle

Erica Sasso

Josh Silveus

Adult Volunteer Guides

TBD—Warsaw

Cindy Law—TV

Lori Mark—Wawasee

Deb Wilcoxson—LCA

Navigator

Lori Masur

Festival of Trees

Every year around Christmas I make one of my favorite recipes. All it takes is a little hard work, a giving heart, and the following ingredients: 2,000 people, 52 Christmas trees, *The Santa Claus* and many worker elves.



L to R: Jordan Satoski, Ethan McDonald, Josh Foster helping with the train rides

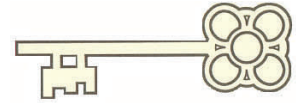
Put this all on a simmer for about 6 days and what you get borders on a Christmas miracle. If you haven't picked up on what I am hinting at, I'm talking about the Annual *Festival of Trees*. The Festival of Trees is a six-day festival that focuses on raising money for local organizations while also boosting quite a bit of Christmas spirit. One organization that is helped is B.A.B.E., a community organization that raises money to support mothers with young children.

The Festival consists of many events during the week, the busiest being Family Day, which was held on Saturday, November 10th. On this day the community was welcomed to tour the Rodeheaver Auditorium in Winona Lake which was transformed into a yuletide hall that included *(the)* Santa Claus, a children's choir, 52 trees individually decorated and donated by prominent community members and one feisty reindeer. Other activities included holiday face painting, a snack and beverage area, and multiple train rides across the

town of Winona Lake. Fourteen KEYS students volunteered to help that day. All told over the six day event, the Festival of Trees entertained more than 2,000 people and raised over \$42,000. KEYS students were pleased to share their time and talent for this worthwhile event.

By: Lindsey Franks

Taste for Adventure



Do you have a “Taste for Adventure?”

“Taste for Adventure” was designed by Jenna Ott and Suzanne Johnston of ESP (Education & Support for Pods) to work with youth pod members, to keep an intentional record of their youth pod experience. KEYS elected to participate by inviting all 8-9-10 grade members to participate. As KEYS members we are being guided in setting goals, journaling, and creating our own personal KEYS portfolio of our years and experiences in KEYS.



Scott Smyth working on his portfolio

In April and August, 2007, an initial training was held with the participants to get to know each other, learn about the 40 Developmental Assets in youth and to conduct a self inventory. On September 12, 2007 the KEYS members and one member of a fellow youth pod, called PULSE, came together and we learned more about this exciting program and completed a second training.

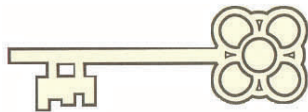
At the second training Suzanne Johnston, ESP, further explained the 40 Developmental Assets. She stated that the more of these assets we have, the more successful we can be in life. Along with telling us about all of the assets, she lead the group in a fun filled game to understand why the assets are important in the lives of youth.

The results of the self inventory were given individually to the students. We could review our areas of strengths and the areas which we can build upon in our KEYS experiences. The training concluded with each of us receiving a portfolio to begin creating our record of our KEYS experience. Scrapbook materials were made available for KEYS students to begin to create our own, individual creative portfolio of all that we have done in KEYS and our planned activities. Our portfolios will give us wonderful memories and a record of KEYS. We will participate in one additional training this school year and continue to work on our portfolios through out this year.



Cassady Palmer and Brette Ayres at training event

By: Brette Ayres



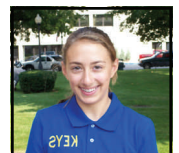
New KEYS Members

KEYS welcomed the following new members:



Brette Ayres joins KEYS from Wawasee Middle School. She likes to draw. She participates in basketball, soccer and track and PE is her favorite class.

Liesl Schroedl is our new member from Warsaw Community Schools. She is an 8th grader at Lakeview Middle School and she enjoys ballet and playing tennis and piano. Her favorite class is Math.



Josh Silveus joins KEYS as the 8th grader from Lakeland Christian Academy. He plays basketball and soccer. Josh enjoys reading and bike trailing and his favorite class is American Republic.

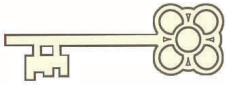
Ryan Phillips (no picture available) is the 8th grader from Tippecanoe Valley Middle School. Ryan enjoys football, basketball and baseball.



Josh Foster is the 12th grade representative from Tippecanoe Valley High school. He is a member of FCA, plays tennis and is the manager for the TVHS Girls Tennis Team.

Keely King is our new 12th grade member from Lakeland Christian Academy. She enjoys basketball, soccer and playing the piano. Keely's favorite class is Psychology.





Head Start



Ethan McDonald and students from Mentone Head Start.

On Wednesday, December 12th, members of KEYS visited the four county Head Start locations to deliver educational gifts to children at these centers. The Head Start program allows disadvantaged children to get a “head start” before entering kindergarten. Many of the children have difficulties with their language development or are not native English speakers.

After delivering and helping the children open their gifts, KEYS students stayed to interact with the Head Start students, getting to know



Sena Muta at the Warsaw Head Start location.

them. This Head Start project is one of the most popular annual KEYS activities. The other activity is “Read Across Kosciusko,” which is similar to “Read Across America,” to encourage reading to young students. These favorite activities allow the KEYS students to see how their efforts impact their community. These events are greatly anticipated and planned each year by the KEYS students and enjoyed by all the participants!

By: Cassady Palmer

KEYS Mission:

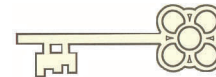
“To work together to positively impact and improve education in our community by providing aid, now and for future generations.”

Quote:

“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.”

Beverly Sills

Bell Ringing



KEYS, as members of the philanthropy program at the Community Foundation, try our best to give our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our community. Some of the ways we do this are by granting money to improve education within the community and volunteering in various community service projects.

One community service opportunity we participate in is ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Kmart. This is one of my favorite ways to do community service because everyone is bright and cheery as they pass through the store’s doors knowing that the holidays are coming up. Bell ringing for the Salvation Army is a great opportunity to impact the community because the money that goes into the kettle goes to those who need it most in the community.

During the week of December 17th, 16 KEYS students volunteered during 3 evening hours. This was just one way the KEYS students show their philanthropic spirit in their community!

By: Erica Sasso



Jordan Satoski and friend bell ringing at K-Mart

Please consider making a gift to the KEYS Endowment to sustain the future of Youth Philanthropy in Kosciusko County!

Make your check payable to:
Kosciusko County Community Foundation—KEYS.

Special thanks for Jacob Collins (WHS), Ethan McDonald (TVHS), and the Public Relations Committee for their work on this newsletter.