

SEPTEMBER 2020 | Vol 1, No 2

# The Adventurist

A Kid Again's very own magazine about Adventures!

## **Soaking Up Summer!**

Adventures in a Box  
p. 4

Virtual Time Out  
p. 7

Orion Lifts Off!  
p. 8

**A Kid Again.**  
Giving illness a time out







Dear friends,

Welcome to the second edition of  
The Adventurist Newsletter!

2020 has been quite a year for us all, and especially for our kids and families dealing with life-threatening conditions. In this issue of The Adventurist, you'll find stories of inspiration, hope, and healing.

When COVID-19 first arrived, there was only a momentary pause before A Kid Again staff, supporters, donors, board members, and volunteers stepped up to take Adventures and events virtual and on the road through Adventures in a Box! We are continuing to innovate as I write with more new programs coming soon. Don't miss the article on page 10 announcing our new Gaming format through "Streaming for Adventures!" We recognize how important Adventures are to our families and the struggles they go through on a daily basis. Inspired by the resiliency of the children we serve, we worked together to begin delivering Adventures in a safer, virtual format. The stories in this issue highlight this and feature tales of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and the strength of our kids and families.

Enjoy!

Oyauma Garrison,  
President and CEO

#### CELEBRATE 25 YEARS WITH A DONATION!

Use attached envelope or  
visit [akidagain.org/give](http://akidagain.org/give)



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

(Our Adventures are marked in  
bold, we'd love to see you there!)

##### CENTRAL OHIO:

- 9/20 Ricart Automotive's Half Mile of Smiles for A Kid Again
- 9/21 Full Throttle Open
- 9/25 **DreamNight at the Columbus Zoo**
- 10/11 **Kings Island Adventure**
- 10/17 OSU Tailgate with Greg Oden
- 10/25 **Drive Thru Halloween Party**
- 11/12 **Butch Bando Fantasy of Lights Adventure**
- 12/5 **Holiday Party**

##### NORTHERN OHIO:

- 9/19 A Rock and Roll Adventure Virtual Gala
- 10/1 **Cedar Point Adventure**
- 12/5 **Holiday Party**

##### SOUTHWEST OHIO:

- 10/11 **Kings Island Adventure**
- 11/6 Flight Night In a Box
- 12/13 **Newport Aquarium Holiday Adventure**

##### INDIANA:

- 10/11 **Kings Island Adventure**

Watch for A Kid Again to light up downtown buildings in October, thanks to Indianapolis Power & Light!

##### GREATER PHILADELPHIA:

- 9/9-11 **Jurassic Quest Drive Thru Adventure**
- OCT **Fall Fun Adventure in a Box:**
- 10/31 **Halloween Virtual Bingo**

\*All events subject to change.  
Check our website to confirm details.

## EASTON SUPPORTS A KID AGAIN

### Change for Charity initiative raises over \$20,000



Have you ever wondered where your parking meter money goes? At Easton Town Center, the answer is: to those who need it.

20 years ago, A Kid Again was the first Easton Community Foundation Change for Charity program recipient. The program donates funds received from Easton park-

ing meters to local non-profit organizations, and A Kid Again was recently chosen again in honor of the Easton's 20th anniversary and A Kid Again being their first recipient. It's only fitting that 20 years later in 2020, this initiative **raised \$20,000** to make Adventures happen for local kids and families.

Thank you to Easton Community Foundation for your support of the A Kid Again Mission!

**EASTON.**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# In This Issue



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## Get Social...From a Distance

Follow our social channels for feel-good moments and the latest Adventures with our families. You'll also stay connected with event announcements and opportunities to get involved! Thank you for helping us with shares and likes! Check us out on Facebook – Twitter – Instagram

**FB:** akidagain

**IG:** a\_kid\_again

**T:** @akidagain

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**CELEBRATE 25 YEARS  
WITH A DONATION!**

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“We were so happy and relieved to know we had A Kid Again on our side for help and support through this crazy time!”

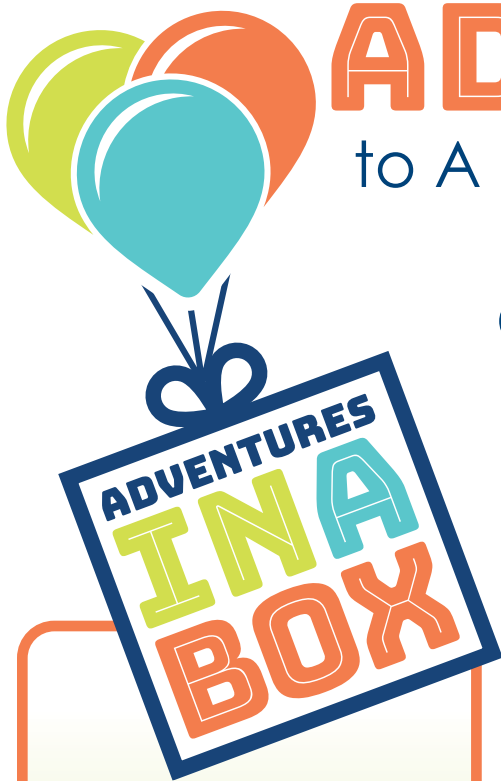
– Annie's mom



# BRINGING

# ADVENTURE

to A Kid Again families,  
one doorstep  
at a time



**During these challenging times, a sense of community is more important than ever.**

When COVID-19 first entered the scene earlier this year, everything seemed to stand still. Everyone stayed indoors, events were postponed, people went home to work, and unfortunately for our families, Adventures were cancelled.

But A Kid Again supporters and staff were working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure Adventures, in one way or another, wouldn't be cancelled for good.

## Enter "Adventures in a Box!"

While we couldn't be together for traditional in-person Adventures, that didn't mean the hope, happiness and healing stopped. A Kid Again staff and supporters were inspired by the resiliency of our families and worked together to bring a new and exciting form of Adventures so they could continue to feel the joy and togetherness that Adventures bring.

**With the help of donors and sponsors, Adventures in a Box were held across every region** – Central Ohio, Northern Ohio, Southwest Ohio, Indiana, and our newest chapter, Greater Philadelphia.

**In Central Ohio**, thanks to the City of Columbus, families like the Garcia's participated in a "pick-up party parade" where they received treats from our friends at Johnson's Real Ice Cream, said hello to the Columbus Crew Mascot and others, and took home their 3-month supply of Adventures in a Box.

For the Garcia family, Adventures in a Box are a welcomed distraction. Camdon's mother remarked, "We have to be extremely careful to not expose Camdon because this illness could be very dangerous for him considering his life-threatening conditions. So, he continues to be



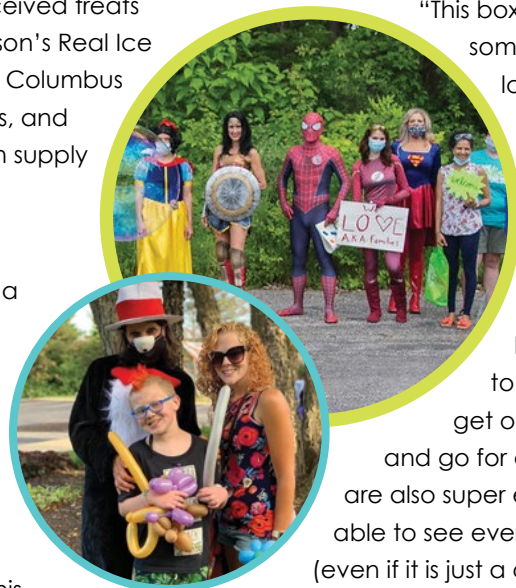
Camdon Garcia and his dad enjoying the Adventures in a Box pick-up party

quarantined at home while other families are able to ease up a bit on restrictions. It also causes our family a lot of anxiety and worry that typical families probably don't face as much."

**Our Northern Ohio event** was supported by Kaulig Companies. Kids and families were greeted by princesses and superheroes at their pick-up parade! Annie and the Taggart family were grateful for the Adventures in a Box outing, sharing,

"This box is going to be something our kids look forward to and they need/deserve that so much now more than ever. We are truly looking forward to an excuse to get out of the house

and go for a drive. We are also super excited to be able to see everyone in person (even if it is just a drive by event) and to be able to say thank you for everything they have done to make





our family feel so special during all of this."

**In Southwest Ohio,** the Tudor family enjoyed the Adventures in a Box pick-up party too, saying it was a much-needed outing! "Leaving the house for something that is for them, as well as having a fun activity for them to do is going to bring them a lot of happiness and allow us to do an activity together." Thanks to Matthew 25: Ministries for supporting this event.

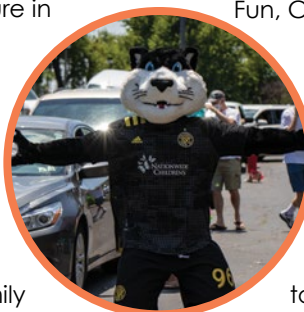
**The pick-up parade at the Indiana Chapter** featured Kona Ice, bubbles, yard games, and families and kids getting festive for the occasion wearing their favorite costumes!



Thanks to the Koorsen Family Fund for sponsoring our first Adventure in a Box for 80 families!

**Greater Philadelphia** took a personal (but socially-distanced!) approach with home deliveries of Adventures in a Box. New to A Kid Again, Ciarlo's family welcomed the Adventures with open arms (figuratively speaking, of course!). His mom shared, "It's so important to us to let Ciarlo know that he is not alone, and he's not the only child facing what he does."

Together, we can bring joy and smiles back into the frame for our families. The Adventures in a Box program sends each family a kit packed full of activities they can do together, at home. It's like a bunch of mini Adventures all in one box –



Gardening Fun, Movie Night, Outdoor Fun, Craft Time, and more!

Because many of our kids are immunocompromised, our families often live in a world of constant worry of what their child or another family member might be exposed to when out in the community. COVID-19 heightened that concern. Adventures in a Box are designed to bring a family together, without leaving their home, to laugh, smile and allow their kids to feel like kids again!



**Adventures in a Box is only possible because of our generous donors and partners.** ♥



## OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE HERE FOR WHAT KIDS LOVE BEST



During COVID-19, many of us have been thinking about the things we take for granted in life. For kids, that often means adventure, fun-filled events – and the simple joy of being a kid. Clint Berry understands the difference these things can make in the life of our families. In addition to utilizing his connections within Messer Construction for financial assistance, Clint has been a valuable asset in ensuring that more families experience a time out. As an advisory member for A Kid Again, he's been instrumental in helping us stay true to our mission.

*"Our current global pandemic has caused me even more to think about the little things we take for granted and has me*

*longing to get back to 'normal' life. For the many families affected by critical illness, this feeling of living day-to-day, often in isolation and needing hope in their lives, can be the norm. What I love about A Kid Again is the way they use Adventures to restore that sense of normalcy, letting the whole family be a kid again."* ♥

**CELEBRATE 25 YEARS WITH A DONATION!**

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# Time Out Gala Goes Virtual

After transitioning the Time Out Gala to a virtual event, donors and sponsors succeeded in raising over \$450,000

While the event may have been virtual, the dollars raised are real! On August 15th, A Kid Again donors, sponsors, staff, volunteers, and families gathered virtually for a spectacular evening celebrating the A Kid Again mission at Virtual Time Out presented by Interim HealthCare. A Kid Again set a goal to raise funds to make more Adventures happen for local children dealing with life-threatening conditions. Many supporters held small gatherings to make the evening even more special, and longtime partners like Cedar Fair and Safelite Autoglass were honored for their dedication to the A Kid Again mission. The event featured an online auction, celebrity appearances, and of course, the chance to hear how A Kid Again brings hope, happiness and healing to our kids and families.

Thanks to the support of donors, sponsors, and in-kind supporters, the Virtual Time Out raised over \$450,000. ♥

PRESENTED BY:

**Interim**  
HEALTH CARE®

HONOREES:

**Cedar Fair**  
Entertainment Company

**Safelite**  
AutoGlass

VIRTUAL  
**TIME OUT** 2020

**HONORARY CHAIRS** Lori & Chris Holtmann **IN-KIND PARTNERS** Mills James • Middle West Spirits • Griffin Hollow Studio  
**ADVENTURE SPONSORS** Barbasol/Perio **HOPE SPONSORS** Greif, Inc. • White Castle • TrashCab • Columbia Gas of Ohio, a NiSource Company **HAPPINESS SPONSORS** Modular Assembly Innovations • Kimball Midwest • Nationwide • Encova Insurance Co. • Timmons/Adler Family • Timmons & Edwards Co. • Kunduru Foundation • **HEALING SPONSORS** Huntington Bank • Grange Insurance • Morgan Stanley • Linda & Larry Abbott • Judy & Pete Miller • Danbert • Sullivan Staffing Strategies **MEMORIES SPONSORS** BIG LOTS! • Scott's Miracle-Gro • Keep Financials + GBQ • Nationwide Children's Hospital • Sbarro • Carrie & Trond Smith **HOST COMMITTEE** Theresa Bennett • Sue Buller • Ann DiMarco • Michelle Galligan • Sacheen Garrison • Lori Hamrock • Sheela Kunduru • Celia Monnin • Kristi Miller-Nunn • Nila Whitfield • Michele Zapata



## Slider Saves the Day!

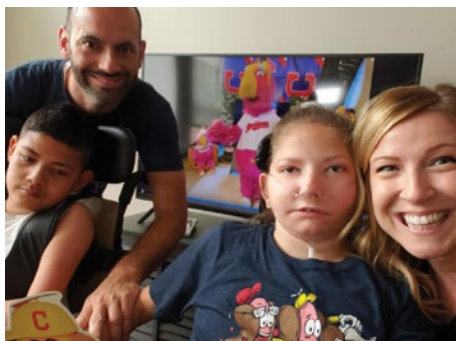
Cleveland Indians Mascot Slider hosts virtual dance party.

What better way to bring smiles to our kids' faces than with a virtual dance party? Each year, A Kid Again partners with the Cleveland Indians Major League Baseball team to offer an Adventure to local families at one of their games. When

the MLB season was delayed earlier this year, A Kid Again staff worked with the team to come up with an alternative Adventure.

Team mascot, Slider, was happy to step

in to save the day! In May, Slider hosted a Virtual Dance Party via Facebook where A Kid Again kids and families joined in on the fun and got silly! The Nemet family (pictured left) and Taggart family stepped up to the plate to show other A Kid Again families just how fun a virtual dance party could be. ♥







# 3...2...1... #Orion Lifts-off!



You could feel the excitement in the air. Roller Coaster enthusiasts from around the country flocked to Kings Island to take part in this first ever Adventure. The stage was set, the day was finally here. There was a countdown, the journey was about to begin. Liftoff was at 5pm sharp. Orion, one of only 7 giga coasters in the world, would launch for the first time ever and our First Rider Auction participants would be the first ever to ride.

3-2-1, it's Go-Time! The donations were counted, the riders were on board. Two things were certain in these very uncertain times, one of the

fastest coasters ever was about to embark on its maiden voyage and our A Kid Again kids would surely benefit from this thrill of a lifetime.

When COVID-19 first made its debut, A Kid Again staff and supporters needed to adjust their approach to Adventures, so we innovated new programs for mission delivery like Virtual Adventures and Adventures in a Box.

But one 2020 Adventure couldn't be put in a box. Originally slated for April, the "Orion First Rider" event was rescheduled for July. Our long-time partners at Kings Island were dedicated to making sure A Kid Again

families could experience the park before opening day and put miles of extra effort to implement special safety measures to keep everyone safe. A Kid Again families

and roller coaster enthusiasts alike were able to enjoy one of the world's newest giga coasters, Orion. (A giga coaster is one with a height or drop between 300-399 feet!)

Thanks to the Orion First Rider Auction Presenting Sponsor, Interim Health-Care, and the countless donors who put their bids in to ride, this event raised over **\$160,000** – breaking previous Kings Island First Rider Auction records!

It should come as no surprise, as Orion is only the seventh giga coaster in the world and only the fourth in the USA. The first drop on Orion took riders down the length of a football field (300 feet!), tying for the 7th longest drop on a roller coaster in the world!



“As a mom, Chloe being physically able to enjoy this experience means more to me than I can express in words. I think everyone needs a bit of a break and we are very thankful to be experiencing this!”



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Southwest Ohio Board Member and volunteer Tim Rieger enjoys the challenge of endurance competitions. Recently, he saw an opportunity to combine his love of racing with his passion for helping A Kid Again kids and families. Recognizing the struggles that our families go through on a daily basis, he decided to

honor their daily battles with his “All Out Challenge.” This campaign raised funds and awareness as he completed a 24-mile run. But that’s not all! At every mile interval, he completed 7 push-ups and 365 crunches.



### CELEBRATE 25 YEARS WITH A DONATION!

Use attached envelope or visit [akidagain.org/give](http://akidagain.org/give)

Thanks to Tim’s efforts, his All Out Challenge raised more than \$22,000 to make Adventures happen for local kids and families! ♥



## The Fam Highlight

### We’re grateful for our Family Ambassador Members!

A Kid Again’s Southwest Ohio Chapter launched a new initiative in 2019 to build awareness for A Kid Again and the journey that our kids and families go through.

Family Ambassador Members (FAM) stepped up to volunteer and share their stories with us so we could easily share them with donors, volunteers, and other supporters to help raise more funding for Adventures.

In the first year of the program, 12 families signed up to lend their experiences and time for news stories, fundraisers, and other events in support of A Kid Again. Family Ambassador Members receive t-shirts, lanyards, and other limited opportunities as a Thank You for their participation.

#### Meet the FAM:

Joseph Gaffey, Ahna Freeman, Mackenzie Feltner, Farrah Tudor, Mattisyn Lee, Brody Heinrich, Morgan Furman, Quinn McGuire, Bonnie Noj, Josephine Sloan, Calvin Underwood, Chloe Luster

Interested in being part of The FAM?

Learn more:

[customerservice@akidagain.org](mailto:customerservice@akidagain.org) ♥



## Virtual Capes & Crowns 5k GOES GLOBAL to Raise Funds!



For the first year ever, the Central Ohio Chapter expanded the Capes & Crowns 5k to be held as a virtual

event! By taking the event online, the possibilities to celebrate were endless!

The event virtually hosted over 450 participants from 23 states and four countries! Since runners were able to enjoy the event from wherever they wanted, all A Kid Again chapters were represented – showing off their superhero and princess costumes right in their own neighborhoods.



Thanks to the support of the A Kid Again family, more than \$30,000 was raised to make Adventures happen for local children dealing with life-threatening conditions. ♥





# VOLUNTEERS DELIVERING SMILES



When Adventures in a Box launched this past summer, each local chapter took it upon themselves to make the program unique to their community. In this issue, we highlight the Indiana Chapter and the A Kid Again supporter efforts to make this new Adventure special. **The Carmel High School A Kid Again Club decorated and painted every box so no two are alike!**

**The Koorsen Family Charitable Fund stepped up to sponsor Indiana's first-ever Adventure in a Box.** More than 80 families RSVP'd for the pick-up party event that featured Kona Ice, music, games and prizes, chalk art, and car window decorating!



**Adventure Planning Committee Members Brittany and Jamie, from McGuire Sponsel,** volunteered to deliver boxes to families as well as to kids in the hospital. ♥



A Kid Again is proud to partner with 2021 NBA All-Star Host Committee to expand the playground equipment offered at Independence Park.



## Play, stream, or create to give families a time out from illness

The world is changing, and community is more important than ever.

That's why we're thrilled to be launching a new initiative that will bring a sense of togetherness online through "Streaming for Adventures" while raising funds to make more Adventures happen for local kids and families!



Streaming for Adventures gives kids and adults the opportunity to play a favorite video game, bake a cake, or stream your own comedy show to raise money and help give families a time out from illness.

Our online Toolkit makes it easy to promote your Streaming for Adventures fundraiser!

If you or someone you know enjoys gaming, check out our new online Toolkit to help support your efforts. You don't have to be a gaming pro to make a difference.

**Why fundraise through Streaming for Adventures? Because our kids and families need the hope that Adventures bring!**  
Learn more: [akidagain.org/streaming](https://akidagain.org/streaming) ♥







# THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY



- Van donation from **Hylant!**
- **ReVision Lasik & Cataract Surgery** – ReVision Gives Back program – During the entire month of June a portion of the proceeds from

each LASIK procedure performed were donated!

- **Frank & Carl's** – 100% of the proceeds from all cookies sold during the first two weeks of June were donated to our Central Ohio Chapter!
- **Comedy on the Rocks** – Virtual comedy show hosted by Dino Tripodis of Whiskey Business about the funny and crazy side of parenting with Comedians/ Parents Bobby Dodds and Sarah Boosh! Local Bartender Jesse Hubbard taught us how to make the bright and refreshing "Sweet Summertime" cocktail he crafted especially for this fundraising event!
- **Westerville Sunrise Rotary** - \$1,000 donation to A Kid Again from their Making a Difference program! ♥



WHISKEY BUSINESS  
PRESENTS  
*Comedy on the  
Rocks*  
A KID AGAIN CHARITY  
EVENT



## amazon smile

**Did you know you can support A Kid Again through Amazon Smile?** At no cost to you, simply select A Kid Again at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate based on qualifying purchases. You can track your impact throughout the year at your My Impact page!

## Partners in the News

### Coke Consolidated - announces new partnership!

#### For Coke, A Kid Again is It!

A Kid Again is grateful to have national partners like Coke Consolidated!

As part of their partnership, Coke Consolidated designed a Coke bottle that spread awareness for A Kid Again.



### We've Been Cleaning up with Barbasol for more than 20 years!

Barbasol has always believed in supporting charitable foundations, and has long been an amazing partner of A Kid Again. Look for our logo on limited edition Barbasol cans in Giant Eagle stores in October. A Kid Again is grateful for this long-time partnership and for Barbasol and Giant Eagle's dedication to supporting our mission. ♥



# BINGO!



In July, our friends in the Greater Philadelphia Chapter held Virtual BINGO Night for A Kid Again kids and families.

The evening featured family, friends, fun and prizes – all without leaving the living room! Each round of the event included new prizes and highlighted a unique theme that the whole family could enjoy.

And of course, everyone joined in on the fun when it was time to yell, "BINGO!" ♥







**A Kid Again.**  
Giving illness a time out

777-G Dearborn Park Lane  
Columbus, OH 43085

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COLUMBUS, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 8350

## COMING SOON!

### Trick-or-Treat Adventures!

Stay tuned for details.

## LOOK INSIDE!

We've had so much fun celebrating summer with our kids through our Adventures in a Box program!



## 25TH ANNIVERSARY DRAWING CONTEST!

This year marks 25 years of Adventures with A Kid Again! In celebration of this milestone, A Kid Again hosted a Drawing Contest where enrolled kids had the opportunity to submit a drawing of their favorite Adventure!

The entries from across our chapters were reviewed and winners were selected. Prizes included a 25th Anniversary Swag bag, coins, \$25 gift card to use at the next Adventure, and more.



Paige



Alvin

### Our Northern Ohio friends ran a contest to celebrate Cedar Point's 150th Anniversary!

Participants were encouraged to draw a picture of their favorite part about Cedar Point. Congratulations to our winners!



Caleb M. (8 & under)

Romagn W. (9-15)

Ryan M. (16-20)

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