

DECEMBER 2021 | Vol 2, No 3

# THE Adventurist

A Kid Again's very own magazine about Adventures!





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

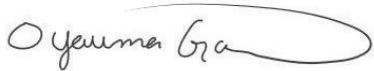
Happy Holidays!

As I take a look back at this past year, I'm reminded of all of the smiles you've helped put on our families' faces at Adventures and beyond. I'm also filled with anticipation for all that we can accomplish together in 2022.

A Kid Again is growing fast...and we're providing more Adventures each month for our families. Exciting times are coming and you'll learn more as you read through these pages. We're enrolling more families, venturing into new territories, growing our staff and partnering with more organizations to ensure that A Kid Again has a strong foundation no matter where we go.

I'm grateful for each and every one of you, and how you'll continue to support our kids and their families. May the new year be filled with hope, happiness, healing and more for you and your family.

Best wishes!



Oyauma Garrison,  
President and CEO



WinterFest in Virginia was a blast!  
Our DMV families enjoyed so many fun activities and holiday themed excitement!



# A Kid Again.

Giving illness a time out



### Cedar Fair chooses A Kid Again for NY Stock Exchange Tree

The 98th annual lighting of the New York Stock Exchange Christmas Tree will include a special ornament this year. Thanks to the generous support of Cedar Fair, who chose A Kid Again as their charity of choice, a commemorative, custom A Kid Again ornament will adorn the beautiful tree at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets this holiday season!

This amazing opportunity will help A Kid Again become a household name as we continue to enroll families and expand into homes and hearts across the United States.

## A Kid Again wins BBB Torch Award

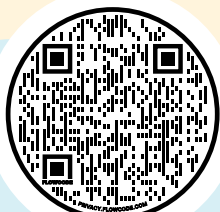
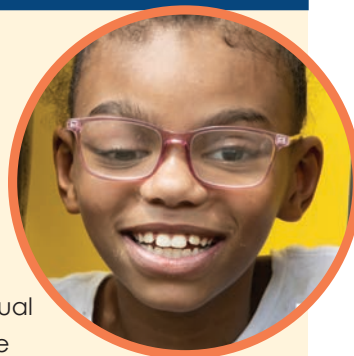
We have exciting news! A Kid Again has been recognized with the esteemed and prestigious 2021 Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics in the Community category and we're so grateful for our kids, families, volunteers, donors and staff who made it possible.



BBB serving Central Ohio established the Torch Awards for Ethics as an annual awards program to publicly recognize local companies that have practices in place that elevate their commitment to ethical business.

The Torch Awards for Ethics is designed to not only promote the importance of building trust, but also the willingness and efforts made by outstanding businesses to help contribute to an honorable marketplace.

Here's to more wonderful ways to spread the A Kid Again message in 2022.



As the year comes to a close, help make a difference for our kids! Donate today.

### Welcome Steve Stevenson!

A Kid Again is excited to announce Steve Stevenson is joining the national leadership team as Vice President of Field Services.



In this role, Steve will oversee the growth of A Kid Again's current and emerging regional

chapters as A Kid Again continues to grow.

We're excited to see how Steve will help our chapters find more families to experience the Adventures A Kid Again offers!

Welcome to the team, Steve!

# GROWTH. GRANTS. GIVING.

2021 has been a year filled with exciting possibilities and growth for our A Kid Again chapters. In the last few months, several chapters have been awarded grants from foundations that will help provide Adventures and support for our kids and their families.

Franklin County Public Health in Ohio generously presented the Central Ohio chapter with a \$1-million grant that will encourage enrollment throughout Franklin County. This will help A Kid Again reach more families who might not have otherwise known how we could positively impact their child.

And through the hard work of our Central Carolinas chapter, a grant was recently awarded from Dabo's All In Team Foundation. The foundation supports organizations that are working hard to positively impact communities across South Carolina. Our Central Carolinas chapter will now be able to

provide financial assistance to A Kid Again families in South Carolina who need extra support in getting to Adventures.

Our Indiana Chapter also received a \$100,000 grant through Kohl's A Community with Heart Program. Kohl's store teams and leaders across the country identified and nominated organizations near and dear to their hearts. The gift will be used to provide more Adventures for Indiana families, giving them the chance to make memories together and get a timeout.

A timeout from medical conditions for families raising children like Mila, who was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. She loves attending Adventures like bowling, seeing Christmas lights at the Zoo, and going to a Colts game.

These are exciting times for our kids and families and we're so thankful for the generosity of our donors! ♥



## Get Social...From a Distance

Follow our social channels for feel-good moments and the latest Adventures with our families. Thank you for helping us with shares and likes! Check us out: Facebook – Twitter – Instagram – LinkedIn – TikTok.







Scan to donate and help us  
make moments that matter  
for families like Logans!

Between all the appointments, therapies, and everything else life throws at us, it's certainly nice to know that there is a 'family' I can turn to for support. It makes me feel not so alone.  
– Logan's Mother, Jinah



# Meet Logan

## and help kids like him!

Like many families raising three children, the Buzzell's lives are hectic. Their days are filled with work for Mom and Dad and school for the kids. But what many families often don't add to their busy lives is occupational, physical, speech and feeding therapies. The Buzzell's, however, have this on their to-do list to support their five-year-old son, Logan.

And while Logan is one of the happiest, most easygoing children you will ever meet, there are many difficult days. With a rare syndrome that remains undiagnosed, several medications and other diagnoses like a chromosome deletion, congenital abnormalities, kidney disease, a heart condition, ear, eye and GI issues, Logan's parents were looking for time to simply be a family with him and his siblings, Connor and Lyla.

Then they found A Kid Again.

"A Kid Again gives me and the rest of the family something to look forward to during such a hectic life," said Logan's Mom, Jinah. "Between all the appointments, therapies, and everything else that life throws at us, it's certainly nice to know that there is a 'family' I can turn to for support. It makes me feel not so alone."

To help families like theirs feel less alone, the Buzzells are sharing Logan's story this holiday season to show others why moments at A Kid Again Adventures matter and how those moments impact their family for the better.

"A Kid Again and their mission is so important for families like ours because we need that hope and healing more than ever. Our children need experiences that give them a break from their medical difficulties and challenges," said Jinah.



Connor, Logan and Lyla don't get as many opportunities as other kids to enjoy fun activities with their whole family but A Kid Again provides something that no other organization does.

"A Kid Again gives brave children and their families an opportunity to have the 'normal' experience that neurotypical children and their families have. Children like mine need to know that even in a life of challenges, pain, and sadness, there is always hope and joy in this world and A Kid Again provides that."

The Buzzells are so excited for their next Adventure as a family and the time they'll get to spend together.

"The memories we make as a family are the best part because we will always be able to share these memories, and know that it was because of A Kid Again."

Are you ready to help families like Logan's make moments that matter together?

Visit [www.akidagain.org/moments](http://www.akidagain.org/moments) or scan the QR Code to give the gift of Adventure this holiday season. ♥





# A Kid Again Esports: A Digital Adventure

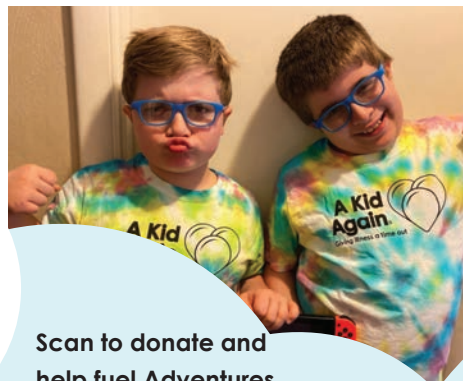


Trying to find unique ways to engage families across all 50 states has been an Adventure! Through the generous support of AT&T, A Kid Again is launching an Esports team for our kids and their families to increase connectivity and community throughout our organization.

With the help of the GYO Score platform, and the AT&T Foundation's priority for Digital Well Being, our Esports team will provide a safe, fun environment for families raising children with life-threatening conditions while reinforcing responsible use of technology and online safety for kids in grades K-12.

Because many of our kids and families must remain socially distanced due to health concerns, Digital Well Being

education is very important. And Kid Again's Esports team will allow ALL enrolled families the opportunity to build community, stay safe in the digital realm and enjoy video games together, even when they're living miles apart.



Scan to donate and  
help fuel Adventures  
for our families!

Team members will be grouped by chapter and can connect, play and chat with any A Kid Again kid in our system for free. The platform will be a positive and safe space for A Kid Again families to connect with others, just as they do at more traditional, in-person Adventures.

Team members will also receive a special Esports Swag Bag with all kinds of goodies and resources to make their experience fun, safe and memorable!

We're so excited for this collaboration with AT&T and the ability to help our families find friends who understand what it's like to live with a life-threatening condition. ❤️





# KIDS HELPING KIDS...Kenston Students Honored for their support of A Kid Again



What started as a lock-in to help raise donations for A Kid Again families in northern Ohio, quickly became an amazing partnership with high school students who are looking to make a difference.

Since 2016, students from Kenston High School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio have been supporting A Kid Again through a variety of uniquely themed fundraisers called the Kenston Bomber Bash. Through their hard work, almost \$40,000 has been raised to help provide Adventures, gifts at the holiday party and more!

For Kenston juniors, Emily Kratzert and Trent Krueger, the annual Bomber Bash has impacted how they live their lives.

"The Bomber Bash has taught me to be appreciative of what I have. These kids and families struggle every day, and it really makes me appreciate everything that I am able to do," said Emily.

"The longer I have been involved, the more I appreciate the good that we do. After seeing the different families over the years from A Kid Again, I feel like it is my responsibility to get involved and help fundraise for them. The events are a

very good time too which makes it enjoyable," said Trent, who has volunteered since the summer of 2019.

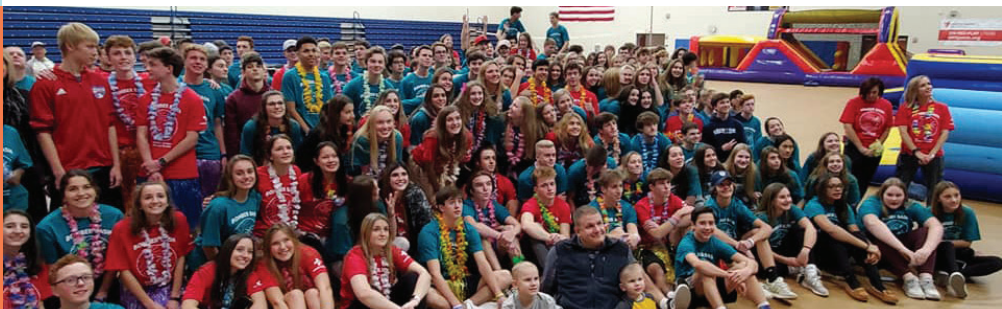
Both students (as well as several others from Kenston High School) have volunteered at A Kid Again events, so that they could make an even greater impact on A Kid Again kids and families.

"I love seeing this group of students realize what an impact can be made by a relatively small group of individuals," said Bomber Bash Parent Advisor and volunteer, Marcy Gurd. "My hope is that by having this Bomber Bash experience, these students will grow to be young adults that continue to get involved in their communities by seeking out non-profits that could use support."

Thanks to the hard work, compassion and dedication of everyone involved in the Bomber Bash, Kenston High School is being honored with The Medical Mutual Pillar Award for Community Service. This prestigious award encourages the creation of a charitable environment and demonstrates the importance of the ties between for-profit and nonprofit worlds.

"These students receiving The Medical Mutual Pillar Award is a wonderful tribute to kids helping kids, one that perhaps can inspire other schools and students to make a difference in their community" said Northern Ohio Executive Director, Christine Bucknell.

Keep up the great work, Bombers! We can't wait see how you'll continue to provide Adventures for kids with life-threatening conditions and their families. ❤️







“As an A Kid Again Adventure Guide, seeing the sheer joy that crosses kid's faces when they arrive at an Adventure is the moment that matters most to me.”

– Lacie, Adventure Guide





# Adventure Guides...

## a new way to volunteer

They may have a new name, but they are still the heartbeat of A Kid Again. That's right, you'll start hearing us refer to our amazing volunteers as Adventures Guides – the people who are bringing fun and excitement to an A Kid Again experience. Whether that's in one of our office settings or out at an Adventure, this unique name supports the mission of A Kid Again and embodies the spirit of the important role.

"Volunteering with A Kid Again has been an incredible experience," said Blake Bacevich, who is attending the University of Cincinnati and is an

Adventure Guide in our Southwest Ohio chapter. "Having the opportunity to be a part of the mission to provide hope, happiness, and healing for A Kid Again families has left as lasting impact on me and made A Kid Again an organization I look forward to being a part of for years to come."

Referring to our volunteers as Adventure Guides will enhance the experience for those helping support our Adventures AND will set us apart.

"As an A Kid Again volunteer, the moment that matters the most to me really happens at every single

Adventure that we go on, and it's that moment when the families arrive," said Adventure Guide Lacie Kern. "The sheer joy crosses the kid's faces and they're excited and they're smiling and they're giggling and their parents are relieved because for one night, they get to worry about something other than illnesses. Just knowing that for that night, it's a night of family fun. That's why we do what we do and that's the biggest moment that matters."

Are you ready to become an Adventure Guide? Visit [akidagain.org/volunteer](http://akidagain.org/volunteer) to sign-up today. ❤️





# ADVENTURE

is coming to **all 50 states!**



2021 has been an exciting year of growth and expansion for A Kid Again. With the recent launch of our Michigan chapter, the first in-person Adventure at Cedar Fair's Michigan's Adventure and the holiday party at Potter's Park, our A Kid Again family is growing in the Great Lakes!

We're continuing to build a team for DC, Maryland and Virginia to ensure that Adventures can be offered in our nation's capital. And thanks to our partnership with Cedar Fair, a Kings Dominion Adventure kicked off the holiday season!

Just as 2021 has been filled with opportunity and excitement,

2022 will be focused on bringing more Adventures to more families across the U.S.

We're excited to announce that Adventures are now available in all 50 states! And while Adventures may look different in each state, the A Kid Again focus of providing hope, happiness and healing to families raising children with life-threatening conditions won't change.

Adventures include in-person, virtual, and/or Adventures-in-a-Box. The opportunities are endless as we look toward giving as many smiles as possible. ❤️



Scan to donate and help fuel Adventures for our families!



# Planes, Safaris and Farms... OH MY!

Spooky season might be over but the memories made during our Fall Adventures will last a lifetime!

Giraffes? Zebras? Buffaloes? Our Central Carolinas families participated in a wild Adventure at Lazy 5 Ranch this October as they enjoyed a carefree day filled with animals and fun. One family shared that this Adventure gave them and their daughter, Rosy a break from her progressive kidney disease.

"A Kid Again gives Rosy and other kids with life threatening conditions, as well as their siblings and parents and caregivers moments in time throughout the year to just 'be A Kid Again.' This was our first Adventure and I am so grateful!"

Indiana families experienced the opportunity to take flight at LIFT Academy and Republic Airways. This unique Adventure allowed families to climb into an airplane, enjoy pizza, a movie in the hangar and so much more.

Safaris? Planes? What else could A Kid Again possibly come up with for our families to enjoy an Adventure? Greater Philadelphia and Southwest Ohio fall Adventures were down on the farm! Hayrides, apple picking and costumes were all a part of these festive autumn activities.

Central and Northern Ohio also hosted their own unique Adventures! Over 1,100 people joined the Central Ohio Chapter at Scene 75, a local indoor arcade, game center, to celebrate Halloween with some of their favorite costumes.

Northern Ohio's first ever Fall Festival Adventure was a success with costumes and an all-inclusive playground with sensory equipment and zip-lines!

With so many wonderful Adventures this fall, we can't wait to see what our chapters do to celebrate winter. ♥





## Meet Logan and Help Kids Like Him!

Learn all about Logan on page 4



## In This Issue

**2**

A Message from the CEO  
A Kid Again Wins BBB Torch Award  
Cedar Fair Chooses A Kid Again for  
the NY Stock Exchange tree  
Welcome Steve Stevenson

**3**

Growth. Grants. Giving.  
Get Social...From a Distance

**4**

Meet Logan and Help Kids Like Him!

**6**

A Kid Again Esports – A Digital Adventure

**7**

Kids Helping Kids...Kenston Students  
Honored for their support of A Kid Again

**8**

Adventure Guides...a new way to volunteer

**10**

Adventure is coming to all 50 states!

**11**

Planes, Safaris and Farms...oh my!

