



After
the
Bell

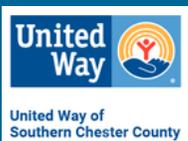
25th ANNIVERSARY

HAPPY 25th
ANNIVERSARY



Kennett After-School Association
www.afterthebell.org | 610-268-5889

Annual Report 2022-2023



The Kennett After-School Association is a 501(c)(3) independently-funded organization. The After-The-Bell program is housed at Kennett Middle School as an in-kind donation from the Kennett Consolidated School District. The program receives no funding from the school district or any other government source.

25 YEARS AND COUNTING

Mission Statement:

After-The-Bell provides a supervised after-school program of recreational, social, and academic skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students. The program is led by community volunteers and provided without charge.

Vision Statement of the Kennett After-School Association:

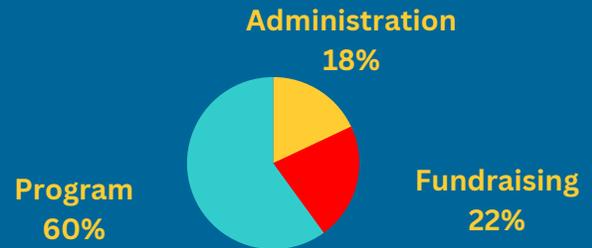
All middle school children will have a safe, enriching environment to go to after school.

Values:

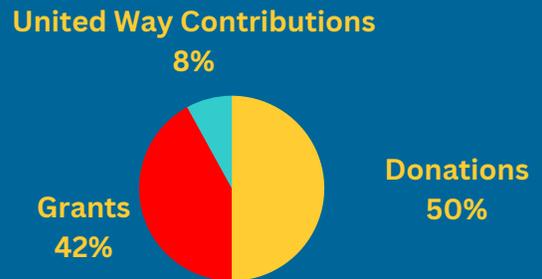
- Respect for self and others
- Caring relationships with adults
- Improved interpersonal & social behaviors
- Appreciation for volunteerism
- Exploration of varied opportunities

FINANCES: JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Operating Expenses: \$223,945



Operating Revenues: \$244,122



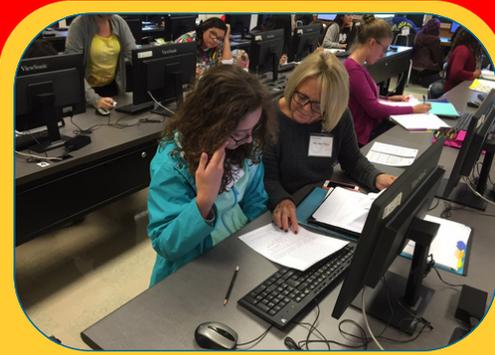
BY THE NUMBERS 2022-23

7 STEM activities	344 Students participating in 2022-23	74 High School volunteers	38 Community Partners	12 Foundations supported ATB	18 Sports activities
20 Art activities	84 Adult volunteers	*7,145* Total students since the start of After-The-Bell		37.9% of Kennett Middle School students attended ATB	4134 Vists to ATB website
7 Cooking activities	139 Total activity sessions offered	1741 Healthy snacks served	615 Facebook page Likes	168 Individual and Family donors	3720 Volunteer hours
37 Business and charitable financial supporters	11 Off-site activities	PAGE 2		41 Unique activities	

VOLUNTEERS

Adult & College Vounteers

Maricela Ayllon	Lynne Filion	Virginia McGarvey	Mary Salomaki
Deputy Barbone & K9 Dexter	Marilyn Garthwaite	Dian McKinney	Judge Matthew Seavey
Jean Baiardi	Jennifer Gatnarek	Jim Mellon	Tim Sheppard
Phyllis Beitler	Vicki Gehrt	Camille Morrison	Dorothy Siegfried
Hanne Blau	Bob George	Erika Netzorg	Bonnie Smith
Donna Brown	Megan Greener	Scott Nichols	Judy Sokol
Mindy Brown	Chief Joseph Greenwalt	Suzi Nichols	Sue Soraruf
Ruth Clark	Jin Han	Jean O'Neil	Ava Sorensen
Bonnie Corrado	Dolores Horvat	Joyce Parrett	Linda Southerling
Catherine Courreges	Elizabeth Huntley	Fredda Pennock	Officer Stephen Syska
Nancy Cusick	Jeanne Hutton	Andrew Pogonyi	Frank Trubiano
Amanda Daley	Ken Hutton	Suzanne Pusey	Maryanne Uhl
Carol Davidson	Becky Huzar	Offr. Mario Raimato	Sgt. Joseph Versagli
Kaity Dempsey	Sydnee Iglesias	Kelly Rasero	Janice Washington
Dave Dickens	Melissa Keer	Audrey Reith	Shana Welch
Marie DiGiulio	Carol Kenton	Sue Reno	Charles Weed
Roger Dillow	Mary Ann Knechtel	Charlene Richardson	Drew Widemann
Jorge Duchini	Kelly Kuder	Larry Rigler	Andrew Wiedemann
Natalia Duchini	Sharon Livesay	Laura Robidoux	Ron Wilson
Dawn Doherty Kohl	Pattie Mancuso	Gene Rodgers	Pamela Woodford
Susan Engberg	Jon Martin	Dana Rogers	
Baylee Fee	Christine McDonald	Marilyn Romenesko	
		Craig Rybinski	



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Deb O'Brien, a dear friend to the After-The-Bell community. A lifelong educator, Deb was a tireless volunteer who donated her time to provide one-on-one support to students in our *Brain Base* activity while also serving as a valuable member of our Program and Fundraising committees. Deb had a smile that would light up any room. She will be missed but never forgotten.

High School Volunteers

Alessandra Aranton	Andrea Cordova	Eduardo Gonzalez Zarate	Emma Javor	Summer Lucas	Ivan Semian
Trevor Austin	Marvin Cordova Ortiz	Easha Gundecha	Grace Jiang	Jayden Magana	Elissa Stoop
Yasdamy Bautista Pena	Katerina Darlington	Keyla Guzman-Almanza	Brayan Juarez Ibarra	Molly Main	Mia Sypherd
Yeily Bedolla Vazquez	Kevin Delgado Ojeda	Lexi Gwynn	Hailey Kahrs	Navya Nadkarni	Kiera Taylor
Geovanni Bernabe	Jesus Delgado Ojeda	Elaina Habtemicael	John Kinsley	Alondra Perez Zurita	Charlie Teloh
Graham Bragaw	Grant DeWilde	Alex Hall	Colin Kipp	Brooke Phillips	Lucy Van der Mooren
Jack Caruso	Edison DeWilde	Derrick Han	Alexa Kitay	Luscinia Quance	Nick Waltz
Justin Caruso	Sean Dominguez- Almony	Aydan Heilman	Victoria Lara Matos	Claire Rawlins	Matthew Wilson
Brandon Castano	Rolando Eligio	Jack Henderson	Keiry Lemus Zavala	Katherine Reno	Elizabeth Yeh
Camila Cedomino Diaz	Julissa Gama	Anika Herce-Duchini	Emma Li	Lupe Reyes Bernabe	Yeismi Yopez
Gianna Coleman	Alonzo Gazoli	Itzel Hernandez	Gareth Liu	Jeffrey Salmeron Alvarez	Jessica Zavala
	Soleil Genereux	Darena Ho	Roxann Llaguno Hernandez	Ben Schmidt	Azucena Zavala Guerrero

High School Volunteers attend
Kennett and Unionville High Schools.

2022-2023 MILESTONES AND MEMORIES

STUDENT ENROLLMENT INCREASE

2022-2023 was a wonderful and very successful year at After-The-Bell. As students and their parents became more comfortable with in-person activities following the height of the pandemic, **we experienced a 72% increase in student population in Fall 2022, compared to Fall 2021.** We provided 42 unique activities to 344 students during the year. A total of 37.9% of Kennett Middle School students attended After-The-Bell, the highest percentage we have seen since our 2004-05 program year.



NEW LEADERSHIP

Our **new Executive Director, Paola Rosas**, came on board in August 2022 and served as Co-ED with outgoing Director Dawn Doherty Kohl until October 2022. We experienced a seamless transition and **Paola has proven to be a strong and compassionate leader** who cares deeply about our children. As a new American herself, Paola has a keen understanding of the challenges many of our immigrant students face. She has created activities and services to help all our students have a memorable and rewarding experience at After-The-Bell.



JUNTOS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Started by Kennett High School student Matt Wilson, the Juntos Cultural Exchange is a club activity dedicated to learning and inclusivity. The mission of Juntos is to bridge language barriers among high school and middle school students and build a more interconnected community. **Spanish and English-speaking students spend time together, helping each other** to learn their language while forming friendships and cultural bonds.



4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE

Our **students have always loved animals** and over the years, many have expressed an interest in careers in animal care. This year, we were pleased to partner with 4-H to create **an activity that provides our students with a hands-on and immersive introduction to veterinary science.** Participating students have the opportunity to focus on the care, ownership, health and environments of a variety of animals.



TASTE OF KENNETT



After a three-year hiatus, we were thrilled to bring back After-The-Bell's signature event, **A Taste of Kennett**, on May 12, 2023. The event was held as the kick-off of our 25th Anniversary Celebration at the place where it all began, the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square.

As in past years, **A Taste of Kennett** featured food and libations provided by a wide variety of local establishments, many of whom donated their culinary creations and beverages, while others provided items at a substantially reduced cost.

We were pleased and honored when the event sold out, and thanks to our generous guests, **we were able to raise approximately \$23,000** in direct support of our After-The-Bell students. We offer our sincere thanks to all of the businesses, organizations and individuals listed below that provided financial sponsorship or contributions to our event.



Gold Sponsors

*Corrado Construction
Kennett Education Foundation*

Silver Sponsors

*Episcopal Church of the Advent
MaryBeth & Steve Verget*

Bronze Sponsors

*Chuck Weed State Farm
Doe Run Properties
Hrabal Creative
Phillips Mushroom Farms
Bill & Lynne Seligman*

Friends

*American Mushroom Institute
Baccellieri Family Dentistry
Ganley Vision Care
George Krapf Jr. & Sons
Greico Funeral Home
Kennett Area Democrats
Lester Water
Manfredi's Cold Storage &
Distribution, Inc.
Taylor Oil & Propane
Total Environmental Solutions
The TRI-M Group
Umbreit, Wilczek & Assoc, PC*

Donations of Food and Libations

Braeloch	Honey Baked Ham	State Street Grill
Country Butcher	Jersey Mike's	Sweet Caroline's
Floga Bistro	Landenberg Store	Trattoria La Travola
Genuardi	Las Alondras	Victory Brewing
Giant Foods	Letty's Tavern	Wasabi 3
Grain	Lily Asian Cuisine	Waywood Beverages
Greek from Greece Cafe	Produce Place	Wegmans
Guadalajara Express	Sang Tong Thai	1906 Restaurant at Longwood Gardens
Hank's Place	Sovana Bistro	



In Retrospect ...

... the fact that After-The-Bell was created, and continues to thrive after a quarter century, is something of a miracle.



It all began in the early 1990s when two energetic and civic-minded people, **Denise and John Wood**, moved from their home in Pasadena, CA to the Kendall Community in Kennett Square. They joined the Episcopal Church of the Advent where they met **Marshall Newton**, who shared their passion for community engagement.

Denise and John told their fellow parishioners about a listening study they had participated in at their church in California, designed to better understand issues facing the local community and to find potential solutions to identified problems. The decision was made to conduct such a study in Kennett.

A TIME TO LISTEN was published in the mid-1990s and identified the problem of middle school students home alone after school to be a key problem facing the Kennett-area community—one that could be addressed. And so Denise, John and Marshall set out to create an after-school program for students who reside in the Kennett Consolidated School District (KCSD). Marshall's wife, **Peg Newton**, fondly recalls countless early morning meetings in her kitchen, with many members of the Church of the Advent volunteering to help.

The group approached KCSD Superintendent **Dr. Larry Bosley** with a proposal to create an independently-run and financed after-school program to be housed at Kennett Middle School (KMS). Meetings were immediately held with KMS Principal **John Carr** and other school staff members, resulting in great enthusiasm about the program. The decision was made to offer a wealth of diverse, meaningful and fun activities in the program. In July 1998, the School Board unanimously approved the proposal for the program to be housed at KMS.

Working together, the planners came up with the following guidelines about how the program would be operated:

- **No cost to students attending the program.**
- **Program would be independently run and privately funded.**
- **All activities would be facilitated by volunteers.**

"I truly believe these guidelines, which remain in effect to this day, are the reason why the program has continued so successfully for 25 years," Dr. Bosley said.

The Kennett After-School Association (KASA) was created to govern the program. Funds were raised from generous foundations, businesses, organizations and individuals, ensuring the program could continue to operate and grow without a burden on taxpayers.

Having volunteers facilitate the activities proved to be a particular benefit. The dedicated people of the Kennett area are always looking for ways to serve the community and After-The-Bell proved to be the perfect fit. Over the years, thousands of volunteers have donated not only their time but also their expertise and passion to help students have fun and stay safe, and they have introduced students to activities that have truly expanded their horizons and, for many, led to exciting career trajectories.

On January 19, 1999, After-The-Bell first opened its doors to 90 excited 7th and 8th grade middle school students. It was initially run by **Jill Amey and Liz Anderson**, two committed and enthusiastic KMS teachers who believed in the potential for ATB to make a difference in the lives of adolescent students. After they successfully got the program off the ground, Jill and Liz stepped back to focus on their teaching careers, and **Sue Woodward**, a member of the Church of the Advent, then became Director. She served for two years and continued to expand the program and its offerings.

In 2002, the program faced its first big challenge following the death of founder, Marshall Newton, who had served as Chair of the KASA Board. At the same time, KMS was relocating from downtown Kennett Square to Landenberg and expanding to include 6th graders. To continue to survive, the program would need to accommodate the larger school population of students and would also need transportation to bring the students home.

Happily, Sue Woodward agreed to come back to lead the program. At the same time, **Dr. Rudy Karkosak**, who had replaced Larry Bosley as KCS D Superintendent just as the program was starting, focused on the transportation problem. While KASA would pay for the service, he was able to arrange for the district's transportation provider to bus ATB students home at the same discount rate given to the district.

After-The-Bell flourished in its new Landenberg location and grew to approximately 350 students per year.

Over the years, the program faced financial challenges due to economic downturns. However, the creation of a robust reserve fund by the organization's first treasurer, **Aaron Martin**, and the careful stewardship by successive financial managers, ensured that the program would continue to operate in good times and bad.

The next real challenge for the program occurred in the spring of 2020 when the world—and Kennett Middle School—shut down due to the pandemic. The chances of an after-school program surviving for more than a year of pandemic-related restrictions were slim.

However, the day after the school closed, Executive Director **Dawn Doherty Kohl** got on the phone with former ED **Kathleen Do**, who had become Grant Coordinator, along with Board Member **Sydney Iglesias**. Together, they brainstormed, not so much about how to save the program but how to meet the needs of students who were facing isolation and anxiety

TIME SELECT SECOND CAREERS

the one that had failed the hapless women. But in 1992, budget cutbacks forced its cancellation. Friedman quickly countered by launching ACE, a consortium of six agencies that agreed collaboratively to close the gap in services the county would no longer provide. Trained by the agencies they work for, volunteers perform many tasks—from phoning shut-ins to assisting in the mediation of disputes or investigating allegations of abuse in board-and-care facilities and nursing homes.

Though too few in number ("The agencies tell us they could easily make use of 300," says Friedman), ACE volunteers enjoy a reputation for being well screened and well prepped before they are placed. Public confidence is likely to grow even more now that five-year-old ACE has procured its first grant. Last month, with \$23,879 from a local foundation, ACE began offering its recruits 15 hours of professional training in how to identify physical and mental-health problems in the population they serve.

The Gang of Three

Their free time will help fill kids' after-school hours

WHILE MOST PEOPLE ARE MAKING lists of gifts to buy kith and kin this holiday season, three generous souls in Kennett Square, Pa., have been reviewing final plans for a brand-new after-school program, scheduled to open in January. John and Denise Wood, both 81, and Marshall Newton, 66, have been recruiting fellow retirees, along with high school and college students, to serve as volunteer instructors in a range of after-school activities—including computer sciences, drama, entrepreneurship, sewing, sculpture, chess and dance—for the greater Kennett community's middle school children.

The need for such a program in Kennett Square, home of a thriving mushroom industry that has drawn an ethnically diverse population of 22,000, was revealed to Denise Wood and Marshall Newton while they were working on a three-year community quality-of-life survey sponsored by their church. One of the recurring laments heard on taped interviews conducted by Newton, a former financial manager for DuPont, was the lack of activities for children between the end of the school day and the time parents return home from work.

"The time of greatest danger and needs for youth in Kennett, as in other communities across America, is between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.," says Denise, a former dean of students at a college-preparatory school in Los Angeles. Joined by Denise's husband John, Newton and Wood launched plans for an after-school program, to be based at the Kennett Middle School, whose population of 540 students (18% Hispanic, 7% African American, 2% Asian and remainder white) was a microcosm of the community itself.

The three designed their proposal last winter and presented it to the school-district superintendent in May. Within three months, the district had approved it. This fall, the triumphant triumvirate filed for nonprofit status and formed a board of directors. The board appointed Liz Anderson, an eighth-grade teacher and hockey coach, as executive director. Anderson, 27, is technically young enough to be the Woods' granddaughter. "From the first time they met, Liz and Denise have been clicking," says Kennett Middle School principal John Carr.

"The beauty of the program is that it won't cost the school board or taxpayers anything," says John Wood, who headed fund raising at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles before he retired. The trio has tapped foundations and private donors for the \$50,000 they have budgeted for 1999—mostly to pay the salary of Anderson and a program coordinator. The rest is a gift from one generation to another.

The Woods and Marshall Newton, right, run an after-school program for kids in middle school

TIME, DECEMBER 14, 1998

due to the pandemic. Together, they came up with the idea to temporarily turn After-The-Bell into a virtual program.

This was only possible due to another small miracle. A new, interactive website went live only one month before the shutdown. Dawn and her staff were able to use the new website to create more than 40 on-demand activities for students to participate in from the safety of their homes. As the pandemic continued into the fall of

2020, live Zoom sessions were added and Dawn, along with staff members and volunteers, drove to the homes of participating students to drop off activity supplies.

The virtual program made it possible for After-The-Bell to continue to thrive and when the restrictions were lifted in the fall of 2021, the program came back and has continued to grow stronger than ever. **In our 2022-23 year, almost 40% of KMS students attended After-the-Bell.**

Here are
just some of the
hundreds of
activities we have
offered in the
last quarter
century.



Ultimate Frisbee *
Math Games & Puzzles *
Longwood Gardens
Adventures * Fall on the
Farm at Coverdale * 4-H Pony
Partners * Horseback Riding *
Kennett Library * Unexpected
Art at La Comunidad Hispana *
Chess Club * First Aid * 4-H STEM
Challenge * Tennis *
Hands on, Boots in the Water *
YMCA Physical Fitness *
Juntos Cultural Exchange *
Sweet Shop * Martial Arts *
Brain Base * Guitar *
Paint Your
Own Masterpiece



...ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS



Fishing *
 Science Experiments *
 Model Rockets *
 Underground Railroad *
 Floral Design * Junior
 Engineers * Friends Home *
 Cops/1st Responders * 4-H
 Veterinary Science * Jewelry
 Design * Dia de los Muertos *
 Art with Mrs. Uhl * Reading
 Olympics * International
 Cooking * Drama Improv Club *
 You're the Author * Mystery
 Tour * Fluffy's Blankets *
 Red Cross Babysitting *
 Running Club



Giving Garden *
 Brandywine River
 Museum * TCHS Career
 Tour * Lego Robotics *
 Environmental Classroom *
 Lollipop Factory * Swim Club *
 Amazing Animals *
 Dance Fever * Awesome Autos *
 Yoga * Let's Make a Movie! *
 Warm Heads, Hands & Hearts *
 Soccer * Drones - Team Flight
 Control * Photography *
 LGBTQ+ Alliance Club * Girls
 Who Code * Basketball *
 Wilderness Survival
 Skills



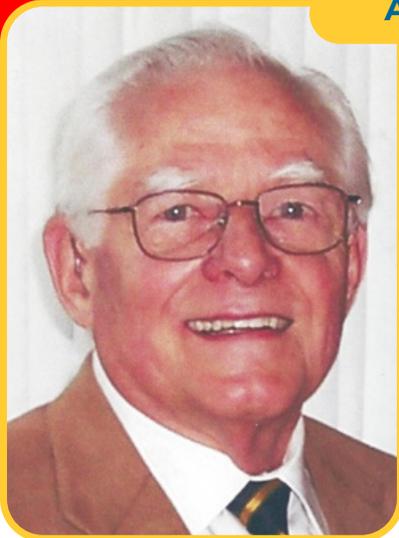
After-The-Bell Heroes

Everyone involved with After-The-Bell is forever grateful to our founders, **Denise Wood, John Wood and Marshall Newton**, for their insight, compassion and drive to create a program that has made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of students in the Kennett community.

So many people who were inspired by their vision made it possible for After-The-Bell to take off and soar and to continue to evolve as a program to meet the needs of adolescent students in our changing world. In this section, we pay tribute to some of the other heroes of After-The-Bell.



AARON MARTIN



As KASA's original treasurer, Aaron established the organization's financial policies and practices that we continue to follow to this day. It is without a doubt that his sage advice and shrewd financial planning helped to guarantee the long-term financial health of the organization. Current Board member George Amoss, who also served as a KASA Treasurer, said of Aaron: "When there was a difficult problem, his advice was sought and Aaron always seemed to have a practical well-thought-out response. He had the human touch when handling personnel matters." Board member Sue Soraruf, who served as Finance Chair, said simply, "His

kindness and quiet generosity were his hallmarks." Aaron and his wife, Jean, generously supported the After-The-Bell program, helping students to grow as individuals and become better citizens in the community. When Aaron passed away in 2021, he left a legacy that will continue to touch the lives of young people for generations to come.

ORIGINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are the **original members of the Kennett After-School Association (KASA) Board of Directors**. It was their steadfast resolve that laid the framework for the program that would come to be known as After-The-Bell 25 years ago.

Board Officers:

E. Marshall Newton, *Chairman*
Peg Baker, *Secretary*
Aaron J. Martin, *Treasurer*

Board Members:

Andy Augustine
John E. Carr, Jr.
Sandra H. Lee
Lynn Pantazes
Loretta Perna
Carol A. Wendel
Denise Wood
John Wood



We also note with gratitude the work of dozens of other people who served with distinction on our board during the last quarter century, particularly

James Orsini, Randy Schofield, Lynne Seligman, Collis Townsend, Susan Woodward and Sue Yocum.

SUE WOODWARD AND TATY JIMENEZ

Both separately and together, Sue Woodward and Taty Jimenez (aka Mrs. J) served as a driving force to ensure the success of After-The-Bell in the early years. Sue took over the reins of the program from Jill Amey and Liz Anderson and stayed for two years, until she stepped down for medical reasons. Two years later, in 2002, the program was facing a challenge following the death of founder and Board Chair Marshall Newton and the resignation of the program director. With her medical issues resolved, Sue agreed to come back to run the program.

In the words of Marshall Newton's wife, Peg Newton, "Sue was a true heroine. If she had not come back, I'm not sure the program would have survived." When she returned, Sue met Taty Jimenez who had been hired as an

administrative assistant. Sue immediately saw in Taty a person who cared deeply about the children in the program and clearly possessed untapped leadership qualities.

The two worked very closely together to grow the program as it moved to its new home in Landenberg and added 6th grade students to its population. When Sue was finally ready to step down again a few years later, she knew that Taty was prepared to take the reins. "Thanks to Sue, I was able to discover what I was capable of," Taty said. "Sue taught me to fly!"



DR. RUDY KARKOSAK

Editor's Note – It may seem unusual to include our current Board President on this page. Rudy is a man of great humility and would likely have vetoed this tribute, had he known about it. However, as we prepared this special 25th Anniversary edition of our annual report, every person we spoke to said the same thing: After-The-Bell would never have reached the 25-year mark without the tenacity and stewardship of Rudy Karkosak.

Rudy began as Superintendent of KCS D just as After-The-Bell was first opening its doors in January 1999. He quickly realized the unparalleled value of the program to the district and particularly to middle school students. Rudy understood how important it was for the organization to remain independent of the district and so he provided his total support without ever attempting to interfere in the operation or policies of the program. When Kennett Middle School—and After-The-Bell—moved to Landenberg in 2002, Rudy negotiated a deal for the district's bus company to provide transportation home for ATB students at the same discounted rate that the district paid. Without that arrangement, which continues to this day, thousands of students of working parents and those without transportation would not have been able to attend ATB.

Shortly after retiring as Superintendent in 2010, Rudy was invited to coffee by then-Board Member Sue Woodward who implored him to join the KASA Board. Having just agreed to become President of the Kennett Education Foundation's Board, he was reluctant to take on another challenge. However Sue could be quite persuasive. At his very first meeting, his fellow board members elected him President of the KASA Board, a position he has held to this day. As President, he fought to maintain and honor the mission set forward by the founders. He has hired committed staff members and recruited hands-on, hardworking board members who all share his love for After-The-Bell. In describing the continued success of the program, he said "Strong people make all the difference."

When asked why he loves ATB so much and has agreed to stay at the helm for 13 years, Rudy explained: "Middle school kids are so goofy, but they are almost always positive and eager to learn. They have a special place in my heart. I think After-The-Bell is a fantastic program and I'm really proud to be a part of it."



25th ANNIVERSARY

AFTER THE BELL...

DOING IT ON THE FLY!



Imagine being a first year teacher, fresh out of college, and being approached by your principal and district superintendent to run a brand new, unique, and totally untested program for dozens of middle school students? “How could I say no to such an opportunity,” **Jill Amey Schumacher** recently recalled after she and her colleague, second-year American History teacher **Liz Anderson Moffett**, were asked to become the first directors of After-The-Bell. Now in her 27th year as a Kennett Middle School Special Ed teacher, Jill marveled at the incredible energy of the program’s founders and the growing number of people in the school district who strongly supported the program. “I was amazed by something that people felt so invested in.”

Jill and Liz worked as a team and ran everything together. “The truth is, we didn’t know what we didn’t know. We literally did it on the fly!” Jill fondly remembered almost daily shopping trips to pick up last-minute supplies, creating a color-coded crate system to keep track of the materials needed for the various activities, and wearing many different hats to make sure that attendance was taken, the rooms were ready to go, and that the students had everything they needed to have a safe but wonderful experience.

In particular, Jill and Liz both appreciated the kindness and generosity of the volunteers. “It was so interesting to meet some of the older volunteers and see the unbelievable skill sets some of them had.”

Jill and Liz got the program off the ground and stayed for about a year before turning over the reins to future directors so that they could each concentrate on their teaching careers. But they are justifiably proud of the rolls they played in the early days. “I heard the regular announcement today, reminding students that After-The-Bell would start in five minutes,” Jill said. “It’s kind of nice to realize that that’s what we started.”

BREAK DANCING



Peg Newton, wife of founder **Marshall Newton**, often volunteered as a Desk Lady but was frequently asked to fill in when another volunteer could not make it at the last minute. One day, the director told her that the volunteer who teaches the *Break Dancing* activity had just called in sick and there was no one else to teach the class. Peg agreed to run the activity and spent the hour teaching the students the Charleston.

CAREER INSPIRATION

Berenice Reyes, a KHS Senior, wrote a letter to former Executive Director **Dawn Doherty Kohl**, talking about her experience volunteering at ATB. She told Dawn that the most rewarding part of the experience was being able to really talk to the students and maybe help them with their problems or just be there to listen. "I loved helping students feel better and that helped me know what I want to do in the future. I want to study to become a mental health counselor!"



HAPPY TO HELP

As Program Manager, **Taty Jimenez** (aka Mrs. J.) worked long hours and often took work home with her. All of her children (she had seven at the time!) pitched in to support their Mom. In the evenings, the younger kids sorted out the name badges on the kitchen table while the older kids helped her enter information into the database. The school would let her use their printers for the ATB registration brochures at night. So she would come back to the school with 2-3 kids in tow who would help her with the massive printing job. "To them, it was fun. They were happy to help."



CHEERING PEERS

A staff member at our long-term partner, the Kennett YMCA, called to tell us what had happened in his ATB *Basketball* activity that day. A young man with special needs desperately wanted to sink a basket and was becoming frustrated after several missed attempts. All 12 students in the activity stopped what they were doing and turned their attention to the young man, providing advice and encouragement. It took several minutes, but on his own, with his peers cheering him on, the young man finally got the ball through the net. And the place erupted. The staffer told us the other students "celebrated like they had just won the NCAA Championship. It is a day this young man will never forget."



FUTURE BOARD MEMBER

Rosendo Mata, one of our first students, felt he was destined to "hang out on the streets," until a teacher told him about After-The-Bell and encouraged him to sign up. He loved the experience and credited After-The-Bell with "putting me on the right path." He came back as a high school volunteer and later worked in a part time position in the program before accepting a job as a manufacturing engineer at Boeing. So when former Executive Director **Kathy Hrenko** was thinking about people who could really add value to the organization's Board of Directors, she thought of Rosendo. "He was humbled by the request but agreed to serve if we thought he could be of assistance. I told him it was truly our honor." Rosendo served on the KASA board with distinction for many years.



INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY DONORS

Carillon Donors (\$1,000+)

Elaine & George Amoss
 Anne Humes
 Gail & Rick Jones
 Rudy Karkosak

Jennifer & Robert McNeil
 Anne & Michael Moran
 Bill & Lynne Seligman
 Mary Beth & Steve Verget



Chime Donors (\$500-999)

Teddi Barclay
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 Jeanne & Ken Hutton
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We are deeply grateful to all of the organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals listed on this page. Through in-kind or financial support, collaboration and friendship, those represented on this page share our mission and are vital to our success. The Foundation, Corporate and Community Supporters provide financial support so that we can offer this program to the children of the Kennett area. We offer our heartfelt thanks for all who made the last year so successful!

2022-23 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

4-H Penn State Extension-Chester County Office
Anchor Life+Fitness
Anson B. Nixon Park
Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art
Bridging the Community
Casa Guanajuato
Center for the Creative Arts
Darlington Arts Center
DEA Youth Dance
Delaware Nature Society
Coverdale Farms

Delaware Swim Club
Design Design
Episcopal Church of the Advent
Four Seasons Garden Club of Kennett Square
Friends Home in Kennett Square
Kennett Area YMCA
Kennett Consolidated School District
Kennett Copy & More
Kennett Design
Kennett Education Foundation

Kennett High School After-The-Bell Club
Kennett High School Walk in kNoledge
Kennett Library
Kennett Middle School Admin and Faculty
Kennett Run Charities
Kennett Square Golf & Country Club
Lincoln University Athletics & Recreational Services
Longwood Rotary Club
National Youth Foundation

New Garden Flying Field
Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network
Southern Chester County Regional Police Dept
Technical College High School-Pennock's Bridge Campus
The Crimes Victims' Center of Chester County
Unionville High School After-The-Bell Club
Unionville Flaming Phoenix FTC Team 7423
West Chester University

2022-23 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND CHARITABLE SUPPORT

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Kennett Education Foundation
Kennett Friends Meeting
Kennett Run Charities
Lester Water
The Lions Club of Kennett Square
Longwood Rotary Club
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Marshall-Reynolds Foundation
The Mushroom Festival, Inc.
Neil Joines Foundation

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Phillips Mushroom Farms
Saint Michael Lutheran Church
SHS "70" Football Team
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Taylor Oil and Propane
Total Environmental Solutions, Inc.
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The late Marshall Newton
The late Denise Wood
The late John Wood

From the Board

Margaret Mead once famously said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." As After-The-Bell embarks on its 25th year of providing safe, unique and extraordinary activities for thousands of adolescent students in the Kennett area, I've found myself thinking about just how right Ms. Mead was.

It was a small group of caring and committed members of the Episcopal Church of the Advent, led by Denise and John Wood, with their friend, Marshall Newton, who decided that they wanted to make a difference in the lives of young people. To date, more than 7,000 students have benefitted from their dedicated efforts. I hope you will take a moment to read about the history of After-The-Bell and the contributions of our three founders contained in the pages of this special 25th Anniversary issue of our Annual Report. As a former Superintendent of the Kennett Consolidated School District, and now as President of the Kennett After-School Association Board of Directors, I have been deeply honored to help carry forward the mission of our founders. Under the leadership of some amazing directors over the years, and with the unwavering devotion of thousands of volunteers, community partners and staff, along with legions of generous donors, After-The-Bell evolved from an idea to a successful program to a thriving and cherished institution in the Kennett school community.

As we look toward the future and consider all of the challenges we have faced and triumphs we have realized, I am more confident than ever that After-The-Bell will be around for another 25 years—and beyond—providing future generations of children with memorable, meaningful and fun activities in a safe and nurturing environment. Thank you to all who have supported our mission during the last quarter century. Please know that you have helped to make a real difference in the lives of the children we serve.

- Rudy Karkosak, Board President, Kennett After-School Association

www.afterthebell.org | Phone: 610-268-5889 | Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org
Kennett Middle School, 195 Sunny Dell Road, Landenberg, PA 19350 | Business Location: PO Box 1068, Kennett Square, PA 19348



The Kennett After-School Association is a 501(c)(3) independently-funded organization. The After-The-Bell program is housed at Kennett Middle School as an in-kind donation from the Kennett Consolidated School District. The program receives no funding from the school district or any other government source.