



From L to R: Bottom: Luke Bryan, Alyssa Strange Holsworth, Olivia Worden, Liza Ward, JoAnna Rothwell Rush, Cody Fothergill, Katilyn Hayes Bryan; Row 2: Beckie Rorabaugh Berneking; Luann Herrrick, Karla Bender Leibham, Joleen Macy Thompson,, Kim Johnson Oatney, Claire Casselman, Marlene Cailteux, Stephanie White Rasmussen, Phil Figgs. Row 3: Cheryl Gleason, Linda Lugenbill Janzen, Kelly Patrick Garcia, Kacie Dunn, Abraham Pfannenstiel, Tami Foster, Carol Mader Lutz, Monte White, Angel Romero, Teresa Clouch, Chris Brown Fantasky, Stacey Clifford Merando. Row 4: Joleen Goodheart Peterson, Kinsey Stuewe, Hannah Gabel, Jennifer Luis Shaw, Jenny Wilson White, Trish Teel Bandre, Lexi Sigg Eastwood, Christy Thompson Hackleman, Randa Ray, Libby Sigg Hineman.



www.kayankansas.com

KAYAN PUMP

Preserve ● Utilize ● Maintain ● Promote

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"I believe that success and happiness is not found when you seek it, rather when you reach out to help other people, and then you find a meaning in life."

– Wanda May Vinson

A MESSAGE FROM OUR KAYAN PRESIDENT:

Spring is finally approaching in Kansas. It is an exciting time as we welcome warmer weather and new growth. While the landscape around us may have been dormant over the winter, KAYAN has continued to bloom and grow. Our Be the Spark grant program, a partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield, continues to provide opportunities for students to develop and promote a lifelong commitment to leading a healthy lifestyle. Beyond Differences, our partnership with Sunflower Health Plan, combats the challenges of social isolation, promoting a culture of belonging for all students in their schools.

This past year we have celebrated the power of one with the 75th anniversary of the KAY program. One person – one club – one organization – and the power to change lives and the world around us. With your help, KAYAN continues to preserve and promote the KAY program today for tomorrow. Our success is based on the words of our KAY founder as we continue to reach out to help others, bring a smile to their faces and lighten their load. I can't wait to see what blooms in the month ahead.

Marlene Cailteux, KAYAN President 2020-2022; Clifton-Clyde KAY program 1980-1984

KAY State Director Update

Annie Diederich, KAY Director

My first year as the KAY State Director has been one of learning and growth, but most importantly, one of building relationships with KAY students, sponsors and alumni. The theme, "The Power of One" has a special meaning for me as I reflect on this past year.

November hosted seven regional conferences and 932 students and sponsors. The middle school regional conference was very successful; therefore, we will host a middle school conference in Area 6 again. Abraham Pfannenstiel spoke about the 75th Celebration of KAY, and Katlin Bryan shared the Be the Spark grant opportunity. Stephanie Rasmussen promoted Beyond Differences at the middle school conference.

The Unit Conferences served as a mid-winter pep rally for KAY clubs. Despite two conferences canceled due to weather, the overall attendance was 1,200. These half-day conferences gave students a model for using a small amount of time to accomplish great tasks such as service projects, powerful speakers, teambuilding, and fun.

We welcome the following KAY clubs:

Abilene HS, Area 3
Bazine-Ranson Western Plains MS, Area 5
Hill City Junior High, Area 4
Holcomb HS (reactivated), Area 5
Lexington Trail MS, Area 1
Maize South MS (reactivated), Area 6
Mill Creek MS, Area 1
Olathe South HS (reactivated), Area 1
Paola-Holy Trinity, Area 1
Topeka West HS (reactivated), Area 1

The months leading up to KLC are exciting with preparations as we secure staff, register campers and plan for a week of leadership and learning. Check out the KAY website for the latest KAY Minute newsletter.

<https://www.kshsoo.org/Public/KAY/Main.cfm>

Visioning Workshops

The KAYAN board has been working through a three-part visioning process focused on realignment to purpose and role, ways to better support the state director and KSHSAA, team-building among board members and determining how best to support clubs and sponsors, expand and engage our alumni network, and continue the legacy of KAY into the future. The board will conclude this work in April by prioritizing goals and strategic pillars for the next fiscal year.

KAYAN Fund Development

Your Support Makes a Difference

KAYAN alumni like you continue to be generous with your support of our organization. So far this fiscal year, you have invested \$8,457.90 into the work of KAYAN! This includes a little over \$5,000 raised on Giving Tuesday alone—enough to send 14 kids to camp with a full scholarship!

There are a number of easy, but meaningful ways you can continue to support KAYAN year-round.

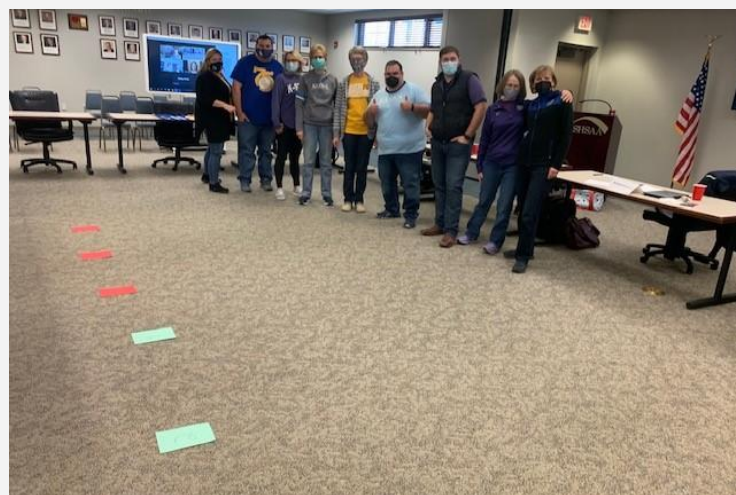
Gifts via the KAYAN Website: You may always make a donation safely and securely via the KAYAN website. kayankansas.org/donate

Dillons Community Rewards: With the swipe of your Dillons Rewards card at the check-out counter, Dillons will contribute a small percentage to KAYAN. All you have to do is set your card to benefit KAYAN. Go to <https://www.dillons.com/account/communityrewards> and search for "Kansas Association for Youth Alumni Network" or search for our code: JG813. After you've found us, click "Enroll" and you're good to go! Enrollment will not impact your fuel points.

Amazon Smile: Every time you shop on Amazon, you could be sending a small portion of your purchase to KAYAN. To enroll, go to smile.amazon.com and login with your Amazon username and password. Then you can set your account to benefit KAYAN.

Mud Love Bracelets: Looking for a fun way to show your KAY pride, while also benefiting KAYAN? Order your Mud Love bracelet today featuring a number of KAY sayings "Laugh Love & Lift".

Regardless of how you give, or how much you give, you can rest assured every dollar supports us in our mission to Preserve, Utilize, Maintain, and Promote the KAY organization!



KAYAN board members rank commitment statements at the January board meeting.

KAYAN hosted a KAY Leadership Camp Staff Reunion on September 25 and 26, 2021, at Rock Springs 4-H Center. There, we unveiled the inaugural class of the “Cheryl Gleason KAY Leadership Camp Staff Hall of Fame.”



Inaugural Inductees

KAYAN is proud to induct 20 KAY alumni into the Cheryl Gleason KAY Leadership Camp Staff Hall of Fame, named in honor of Cheryl Gleason's remarkable 50 years of service on the Kansas Association for Youth Leadership Camp Staff. To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, staff members must have either served 25 or more years on staff or been a past Camp Director in good standing.



The 2021-2022 school year officially marks the 75th Anniversary of the KAY program. KAYAN partnered with KAY to celebrate this monumental milestone by creating a new time capsule, supporting an alumni presence at all Regional Conferences, and publishing a 75th Anniversary workbook. This workbook provides clubs with ideas on how to archive their club history, reach out to alumni in their community, and celebrate 75 years of KAY. KAY clubs have hosted KAY birthday parties and banquets, interviewed alumni, produced club highlight videos, hosted KAY Trivia challenges, and raised awareness of the KAY program in their communities.

Inductee • Current City • Hometown • Years of Service

Wanda May Vinson • Posthumous • Topeka • 35
Maxine Sebelius • Posthumous • Alma • 29
Elizabeth Oyer • Posthumous • Arizona • 25
M. Dorothy Craig • Posthumous • Wichita • 25
E. Denise (Bray) Akins • Lawrence • Coffeyville • 35
Jackie (Leap) Smith • Iola • Iola • 31
H. Deana McClure • Olathe • Osawatomie • 26
Claire Casselman • Ann Arbor, MI • Hiawatha • 16
Phillip J. Figgs • Sabetha • Sabetha • 25
Kelly (Patrick) Garcia • Edmond, OK • Derby • 25
Teresa Clouch • Hays • Iola • 26
Chris (Brown) Fantasky • Grove, OK • Moscow • 31
Jenny (Wilson) White • Wilson, OK • Kiowa • 31
Trish (Teel) Bandre • Salina • Garnett • 34
Carol (Mader) Lutz • Richmond • Garnett • 34
Marlene Cailteux • Lenexa • Clyde • 38
Linda (Luginbill) Janzen • Burrton • Burrton • 41
Kim (Johnson) Oatney • Waterville • Concordia • 41
Karla (Bender) Leibham • Lenexa • Great Bend • 43
Cheryl Gleason • Topeka • Columbus • 50

KAYAN Grant Updates

Be the Spark

The next round of *Be The Spark* grants are in full swing of the first year of the two-year grant cycle. This is the third round that KAYAN has partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas to provide this exciting opportunity to KAY clubs.

Letters of intent were due March 1st and grant applications were due April 1st. The *Be The Spark* committee reviews the grants and asks for any additional information. The *Be the Spark* committee will make a formal announcement of all grant recipients in May.

For this round of grants, all applicants must include a component of physical activity in their proposal, but clubs can also include a focus on mental health or nutritional eating.

The *Be The Spark* committee is very impressed with KAY clubs' ideas to not only make a difference in their schools, but also in the lives of their communities. KAYAN and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas are excited to announce this year's grant recipients on May 9! Watch us live on social media.

Beyond Differences

KAYAN is pleased to partner with Sunflower Health Plan to offer *Beyond Differences* service project opportunities for junior high and middle school KAY Clubs. *Beyond Differences* is a national organization that offers structured projects for students to reduce social isolation. Service projects focus on three main areas: Know Your Classmates, No One Eats Alone, and Be Kind Online.

Sunflower Health Plan provided \$5,000 to KAYAN. This money will go to junior high and middle school KAY clubs that engage in service projects involving two of the three focus areas during the school year. A minimum of \$100 will be awarded to each junior high/middle school KAY Club that reports on two projects by April 15. Clubs may use the funds however they choose.

To date, thirteen KAY clubs have engaged in *Beyond Differences* projects! Clubs who still wish to participate, or need to complete another project, can find project information at www.beyonddifferences.org.

Cheryl encourages KAY members, sponsors, and alumni to embrace spring with a renewed excitement, enthusiasm & passion for leadership and service. Here are her suggestions on how you can make a difference.

STUDENTS:

- Sign up to be an officer or board member in your club.
- Register to attend KAY Leadership Camp this summer (July 25-29).
- Finish the projects/activities you have scheduled for the last 2 months of the school year.

ALUMNI:

- Join an area club as they participate in a service project.
- Contact your KAY club about a 75th celebration this spring.

ALL:

- Make a donation to KAYAN to send a member to KLC this summer.

We hope this finds each of you healthy as we look forward to the arrival of the spring season. As I enter the sixth month of retirement, I am blessed to have my companion Lizzie (a female cockapoo) by my side. Each day is an adventure as we learn more about each other and explore the neighborhood and community parks on our daily walks. Retirement adjustments continue to be the slower pace and missing daily activities & contact with colleagues, students, coaches, sponsors, etc.

The arrival of spring is always an exciting time for me as warmer days bring an awakening to so much around us. As we greet the change in landscape colors and familiar sounds, I have always found that springtime tends to add a renewed spirit – an extra spring in my step.

