



## Summer, 2011 Newsletter

### 2011 National Conference

The 2011 national Kids' Chance of America conference was held in Gulfport, Mississippi the weekend of April 8, 2011. Each year, Kids' Chance of America holds a national conference where representatives from current and prospective Kids' Chance Organizations gather to network, share ideas and best practices, and learn about the latest innovations for non-profits. The agenda was packed with useful information and ideas for state organizations to take back to their home states. KC representatives were at this year's conference from Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Company reps from NCCI and Paradigm also joined the conference.

At the 2011 national conference, Kevin Turner was voted onto the Board of Directors of Kids' Chance of America. Kevin brings with him a commitment from his company, Paradigm Management Services, LLC, to make a donation to Kids' Chance for every new case they receive at Paradigm. Kevin states "Paradigm has teamed up with Kids' Chance to focus on creating better outcomes for injured workers and their families."

Kevin explained that Paradigm "provides the best results for people with complex medical needs. As the only company designed and built specifically to assist those with catastrophic and complex injuries, Paradigm delivers outcomes. As a catastrophic specialty company, Paradigm acts as a

medical hub that connects severely injured people to medical experts, high quality providers and a clinical support infrastructure. Achieving five times better medical results than the industry, Paradigm's model employs experienced nurse case managers, nationally recognized doctors and specialists, the best network of care facilities in the country, and a custom built infrastructure featuring nearly 20 years of clinical data and proprietary Paradigm Analytics to guide decisions. Ensuring the highest level of care leads to better medical outcomes."

Paradigm associates pairing with Kids' Chance as one more way to help the families of catastrophically injured workers, which in turn creates a better outcome for the injured workers and their families. We welcome Kevin Turner to the board of Kids' Chance of America and look forward to building our relations with Kevin and with Paradigm.

John Goldwater was also present at this year's conference. John is the recent founder of Kids' Chance of Virginia. John brought with him great enthusiasm for his new organization in Virginia and we look forward to helping and watching them succeed in providing scholarships to the children of Virginia.

Michelle Smith, a representative of NCCI attended this year's conference and brought with her great insight and ideas for helping to move KCOA forward in their endeavor to grow and to get organizations set up in every state in the USA. We welcome Michelle and look forward to working with her and growing our relationship with NCCI. NCCI has been a strong supporter of Kids' Chance of America for many years. NCCI (National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc.) is the largest provider of workers' compensation and employee injury data and statistics in the nation.

After a weekend of meetings, everyone in attendance at the conference gathered at Mary Mahoney's Restaurant for a dinner and celebration of Kids' Chance accomplishments.

Thanks to Byron Carter, Kids' Chance of Mississippi for putting together a great event for the 2011 National Kids' Chance of America Conference.



### **Letter From the Founder of Kids' Chance Robert M. (Bob) Clyatt**

Never are we taller in the eyes of God than when we kneel to help a child. Volunteers, donors and supporters of Kids' Chance all across our Nation give time and money to help children and families, who themselves are genuine victims of Workers' Compensation accidents. There are many reasons "why" so many volunteers from such diverse backgrounds unite together to help these special children and families of Workers' Compensation. There are those who support Kids' Chance because they were once involved in some way in a serious or catastrophic injury to a parent, which resulted from a work-related accident. These supporters have seen up close the devastation that on-the-job accidents have on innocent children and families of injured and deceased workers.

Many people become Kids' Chance volunteers for religious reasons. Like in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Kids' Chance supporters stop to render financial aid, and they do so in order to ensure that the dreams of these special children become reality. These supporters stop by the roadside of life. They render direct, compassionate assistance to benefit the children and families disastrously injured by the terrible accident of a parent. They truly realize that "the greatest achievements [in life] are those that benefit others."

Other Kids' Chance supporters earn their living in jobs involved in or related to the Workers' Compensation process. They find that contributing to Kids' Chance is a direct way of "paying back" to the very system which provides their own personal jobs and gives them a living for their families.

Additional volunteers are convinced that by helping the special children of Kids' Chance to fulfill their dreams of further education, that they are making this a better world for all of us. Undoubtedly, this is true! There are many reasons "why" our volunteers support the goal of providing educational scholarships to the children and families of killed or seriously injured workers. Indeed these supporters make a real and genuine contribution to the betterment of our fellow man. While the reasons that each of us give of ourselves to Kids' Chance is personal to each supporter, there seems to be no doubt that Kids' Chance volunteers are all indeed very passionate, very caring, and enthusiastic people. Scholarly experts have studied the traditions of ancient Greece. These researchers have discovered that when a person during that time period died, questions were not asked about this person's accomplishments, about how much money he made, or even how successful the person was. Instead, the key question that was asked about the deceased was: "Did he live his life with passion?" Another word for "passion" is "enthusiasm." Christian author Joel Osteen states that "enthusiasm" derives from two Greek words... "en theos." These two words mean "inspired by God."

Many of our volunteers feel “inspired by God” to perform their selfless and charitable work of helping others. Truly the volunteers of Kids’ Chance are enthusiastic and passionate people. Each supporter in his or her own way has the passion to make a real difference in the lives of others. And, we do!

Today, those of us who support Kids’ Chance must not only work hard for Kids’ Chance within our own home states, but we must also turn our passion in other directions. Our “passion” for Kids’ Chance, and the children and families we seek to protect, is not being fully used in those states who are without Kids’ Chance, or without similar programs. I submit that we must direct our passion not just within our own states, but we must look outside of our own states’ Kids’ Chance programs. We must look to see if neighboring states have Kids’ Chance programs. If they do not, then we must act and act quickly! We must find “passionate” people in those states and help them to start their own programs. We must realize that time is so fleeting and precious. We must realize that with each passing day opportunities are being lost to help children and family victims of Workers’ Compensation. We must know that without providing Kids’ Chance scholarships to these victims that we will most likely never have the chance to help these special individuals. Their dreams of additional education would be lost forever. Each and every day all across the USA, workers are being killed and severely injured in Workers’ Compensation accidents. Their children and families will soon see their educational dreams vanish into thin air, as a result of their family’s misfortune. Those children and families who live in states who do not have a Kids’ Chance program will most likely never achieve their educational goals. It is our duty, our responsibility, our commitment, and our “passion,” to spread the good news of Kids’ Chance into those states without our program, so that these victims of tragedy do “have a chance.”

Read the words of this article. Then, just for a few seconds close your eyes and imagine the faces of the children and families who are

devastated by the death or serious injury of a mother or father. Imagine if those faces were the faces of your children or your family members. Those of us who support Kids’ Chance do not have the luxury, or the right, to sit back and congratulate ourselves on what we have *already* done. We must focus on “what we have not yet done.” We must look outward to other states. We must ask if there is a state bordering our own that does not have Kids’ Chance?

Each and every day there are children and families who exist for whom Kids’ Chance could help fulfill their dreams of higher education. But, unless we act and act now, they will almost certainly never be helped. Let those of us who have experienced the life-changing effects of Kids’ Chance on the lives of others, turn our passion towards those states who do not have a Kids’ Chance program. Unless we do so, these unfortunate children and families will be left as they are now. They will only have their dreams but they will not have the further education they need to make their dreams a reality. Remember, never are we taller in the eyes of God than when we kneel to help a child. - **Robert M. (Bob) Clyatt**



## **KCOA Hires a New Executive Director**

Jen Lavin, our Executive Director, submitted her resignation September, 2010. In the 1 ½ years that Jen was with KCOA she did a great job and we appreciate her dedication to our organization. We wish her well in her new adventures and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and time spent organizing and moving KCOA forward in their mission to put scholarship money into the hands of children of injured workers.

Peggy Hassler came aboard as the new executive director in April, 2011. She joined us at the national conference and is excited to be a part of KCOA and helping to make the national organization grow, get more states involved and raise funds to help states give out more scholarships.

Peggy has worked at Keefe and Griffiths, P.C., a St. Louis Missouri Workers' Compensation plaintiff's firm since 1986. She has been involved with Kids' Chance of Missouri for many years and brings to us a wealth of organizational skills and non-profit and fund-raising experience. Peggy has a degree in Business Administration with a certificate in paralegal studies.

Since coming on board, Peggy has worked with Paradigm, IWP, Lexis Nexis, and Workerscompensation.com in building sponsorship relationships. She is currently working on putting together new member packets and building relations with all of the executive directors of the various kids' chance organizations across the United States. She would like to engage each state organization and share ideas and help them to raise funds and reach the ultimate goal of providing as many scholarship dollars as possible to deserving young students.

Peggy jumped right in and helped to judge the essays of the scholarship applicants for

the University of Phoenix full ride scholarships that were recently offered to Kids' Chance recipients across the country.

Peggy is also working on making sure KCOA is well-represented at the AASCIF conference in South Carolina in June and also at the National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference and Expo in November, 2011, in Las Vegas. These will be great opportunities to get the word out about Kids' Chance throughout the United States.

If you have questions, suggestions, or ideas, please feel free to contact Peggy at any time.

Peggy Hassler at [execdir@kidschance.org](mailto:execdir@kidschance.org)



## **Membership Committee Report**

The membership committee has been working hard to ensure that they reach out to each and every state to offer ways to help them start Kids' Chance Organizations in their states. They are currently working with Hawaii to establish their 501(c)3 status and bylaws. They hope to have Hawaii up and running and raising funds for scholarships by the end of the summer.

South Carolina and Washington have recently renewed their commitment to be part of the national KC organization. Virginia has filed for their 501(c)3 status, and has already raised substantial funds to be given as scholarships to the children of Virginia.

***Welcome new members!***

## **Workers' Memorial Day - 4/28/11**

Several of our Kids' Chance representatives spoke at various events across the country for Workers' Memorial Day. The following article was written by Peggy Hassler, our new Executive Director and Bob Keefe, Secretary to Kids' Chance of America. It was posted on the Workers' Compensation section of LexisNexis.com in honor of the Memorial Day.

### **Kids' Chance of America - Protecting the Dream**

Every mother and father, no matter where in the world, no matter what culture, no matter what background, has at least one thing in common. All parents want things to be better for their kids than things were for them. They want their kids to be smarter, to live in a better house, to have a better job, to be healthier, to live longer, and to be better educated. Every generation dreams of better things for the next. We dream of a better life for them. But tragedy can strike.

*There are approximately 4,000,000 workplace accidents each year in the U.S., resulting in approximately 1,000,000 disabling injuries and 5,000 deaths.*

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Web Site, 2007 data*

Sadly, our modern, media-saturated world takes little notice of work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths. Workers' Memorial Day is an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of workplace accidents and illnesses and to promote campaigns and organizations in the fight to improve workplace safety and the quality of life for workers. The slogan for the day is Remember the Dead - Fight for the Living. When a family is robbed of an income because mom or dad was killed or disabled on the job, the quality of their lives inevitably declines in a hundred different

ways. They often lose a car, or have to move to a smaller house or apartment. Perhaps the cruelest, most insidious loss after a work place accident is the loss of the dream. With death or disability comes the depressing realization that maybe the children won't finish their education. And without education maybe their children's lives won't exceed their parents. The dream of a better life for their children can die.

### ***Kids' Chance Scholarships***

Robert Clyatt, a workers' compensation attorney from Valdosta, Georgia, founded the first Kids' Chance organization in 1988. Through his work he had witnessed the life-shattering impact that a serious workplace injury had on the children of seriously or fatally injured workers, who were now faced with the difficulty of having to fund their own education. With the assistance of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Georgia Bar, Bob Clyatt incorporated Kids' Chance of Georgia and began raising money to fund educational scholarships for the children of injured Georgia workers so that they could finish their education. Kids' Chance of Georgia assisted other states to create their own Kids' Chance organizations. In 2001 a national organization, Kids' Chance of America, was formed to create, assist and support organizations throughout the United States with this simple purpose: raise money to provide scholarships for the children of workers seriously injured or killed on the job. Thanks to the efforts of Kids' Chance of America and Kids' Chance of Georgia, twenty-five states have organized Kids' Chance programs that provide scholarships to the families of seriously injured workers, and new Kids' Chance organizations are being formed each year. The work of Kids' Chance makes a significant difference in the lives of children affected by workplace

injuries by helping them finish their education. But the effect of their work goes beyond sending scholarship checks each fall and spring. With the help of an army of contributors and volunteers Kids' Chance helps protect the dream. For hundreds of parents Kids' Chance preserves the dream of better lives for their children.

Every Kids' Chance organization wants to give out as many scholarships as possible. They want to find all the children they can help. If you know of any child whose parent was killed or seriously disabled in a work injury please visit our website at [www.kidschance.org](http://www.kidschance.org) or contact:

Peggy Hassler, Executive Director  
Kids' Chance of America  
[execdir@kidschance.org](mailto:execdir@kidschance.org)

## **IWP – Injured Workers' Pharmacy**

Peggy Hassler, KCOA Executive Director, has been working with Christy Beram, the Director of Marketing at IWP. In the past IWP has sponsored several Kids' Chance programs at the local level, both in Arizona and Maryland, as well as other territories. Because IWP represents national entities, Christy and Peggy are working on ways to broaden IWP's sponsorship so that they can open up more opportunities for their reps across the country to get involved with Kids' Chance. If you have an upcoming event and would like to see what options are available for you with IWP, please contact: Peggy Hassler at [execdir@kidschance.org](mailto:execdir@kidschance.org)



## **Upcoming Events**

Kids' Chance of America will be at the **AASCIF 2011** in Isle of Palms, South Carolina in June, 2011.

For more information, please visit [www.aascif2011.com](http://www.aascif2011.com)

Thank you to [Paradigm Management Services](#) for sponsoring the KCOA booth.



Kids' Chance of America will also be at the **National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference and Expo** in Las Vegas in November, 2011.

For more information, please visit <http://www.wconference.com>

Thank you to [Healthsystems](#) for sponsoring the KCOA booth.



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