

*KEWA NEE HORIZONS
SPECIAL EDITION
DAY WITH DADS*



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

KEWANEE LSRC has agreed to allow us to engage in more **Restorative Practices**. In the Horizons newsletter you will see the terms **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE** and **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** very often.

The aim of **Restorative Practices** is to develop community and to manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships. **Restorative Justice** in general, is a process involving the primary stakeholders in determining how best to repair the harm done by an offense. The three primary stakeholders in **Restorative Justice** are: the victims, the offenders, and their communities of care; their needs are respectively: obtaining reparation, taking responsibility, and achieving reconciliation.

The **Kewanee Horizons** team believes creating a better community here is **Restorative**. By indirectly repairing damages and by giving back to our current community and with greater communities at large, we are engaging in **Restorative Practices**.

**Community: A group of people with a common characteristic
Or interest living together with in a larger society.**

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Eleventh Edition

MISSION STATEMENT

Kewanee Horizons has adopted the **Restorative Justice** and community theme. Partly because this has been the fight of our lives, those of us who have sought not only freedom in its many forms, but, also a way to give back, rebuild, and uplift our communities.

We give back because of what we have been given. We rebuild, by restoring back to a state of before our offenses. We uplift, by a conscious and consistent effort to better ourselves as well as those around us.

Kewanee Horizons will work to highlight the achievements of our community both on campus and off, inside facilities and outside. Whether individually or collectively and no matter the uniform we wear. We're going to look into the daily lives on our campus and across the state to other facilities on a regular basis. We are hoping to open the eyes to the limitless potential there is in our population, to advocate for more participation in programming, and to give recognition to those who succeed. We want to remain as interactive as possible so **Kewanee Horizons** will be picking your brains for ideas and accepting submissions to make this as interactive as possible. This publication is put together for the purpose of uplifting mind, body and spirit.

KEWANEE HORIZONS NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN EMAIL ADDRESS!

doc.kewaneehorizons@illinois.gov

**TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SCREENSHOT THIS PAGE
AND SHARE IT TO THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG:**

#KEWANEEHORIZONS



**AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON THE IDOC WEBSITE!
IDOC HOME PAGE CLICK "ABOUT" CLICK "NEWS"
THEN SELECT "KEWANEE HORIZONS NEWSLETTER"**

DAY WITH DADS

By: Melvin King @ K.L.S.R.C.

What's up KH fans? We have another special issue for you to look at and this one is really special. As you all know in Kewanee there's a lot going on, and once again we had our annual Day with Dad's event. Normally there's one day for this event, but this year we had two days of fun, yeah you read right, two days. How did we manage to pull that off, well there was more people that signed up this year and instead of cutting the list down, the Chaplin got an extra day approved. Having two days of Day with Dads was a blessing for me because I go out for work on Saturday's and normally that's the day set for Day with Dads, but having a second day allowed me to help out with this years event. It was nice to see the kids interacting with their dads and to see the dads with their kids. The only downer of the day I was there was the rain, yeah it rained the second day but I will say this, it did not stop the kids from having a blast with their dads. The kids were still out in the rain playing games, it was funny to me. Them having that time together was something special, them running around with smiles on there faces was even more special, those two days we were not in prison. Thank you to Warden Mason for allowing this event to go on and thank you to all the volunteers who helped pull it off, and thank you to K.L.S.R.C. Chaplin for putting everything together to make those two days what they were and that was **SPECIAL**.

MY DAY WITH DAD EXPERIENCE

By: Tyler Lovekamp @ K.L.S.R.C.

I would like to start off by thanking our Warden Ms. Mason, Chaplin York, The Volunteers, C/O Quigley, C/O Price and everyone that helped with making the June 6th Day with Dad happen.

Its been 5 years plus since I've got to see my son Carter and the anticipation on waiting for him to walk in the West Gym had my emotions on 10. From happiness to scared. I was a wreck, I couldn't believe this was really about to happen. I about to spend the day with my son! Waiting for what seemed to be a life time and I'm telling you I was a wreck during the wait, I didn't know whether to cry or smile or both, then it finally happened, the kids started walking in, my heart racing I'm looking for my kid and then here comes this 5'10 blondish brown hared kid looking like his mom and my face must have been of complete shock. I mean this kid was so big from the last time I seen him. He walked up to me and all I could do was grab him, hold him and close my eyes. I must say it was so hard to hold back those tears that wanted to pour out, but I kept it together thankfully. I looked and my son and asked if he wanted to go outside and talk, which he did, so we went. That was just the ice breaker cause after that we were off playing soccer, basketball which I lost at everything, well I let him think he won, what kind of dad would I be if I showed him how good I really am and he lose, couldn't do that to the kid. After that we went to the pick your nose thing and got some candy from Nick and Wall, checked out the fishing spot for more candy with Roach. By that time it was time for lunch, the guys grilled burgers, hotdogs, and had all the fixings. It was like being at the park or at a cook out. I mean it was mind blowing, but I couldn't take my eyes off my son. I was so proud of him, I introduced him to just about everyone and I mean everyone. The responses were, he is so well mannered, respectful, and then of course I carried on to them about how he's only 13 years old and the size of a giant oh and plays football. After we ate, we colored a T-shirt, went back played basketball with Scott and his 2 children, and Brad.

It was kids vs. adults, we gave it our all but I don't know how the kids won. Scott got crossed over by his son again, that was priceless because if you don't know, Scott thinks he's the best at everything, (all the guys in the camp go along with it, we don't have the guts to break it to him). As we were playing they called for all to come in because the moms had come back to pick up the kids, that's the only reason the adults lost that game. We were coming back, it was 7-0 the kids way, we had them where we wanted them, no worries. Then came the goodbyes, oh man that was so hard, here comes the tears, but I kept it together. I held my son and closed my eyes again as I had to say goodbye. I watched my son leave and felt so happy, but so sad, bitter sweet. It was by far the greatest experience I've had in the last 5 years plus. Seeing all the dads with their kids and grandkids, nieces and nephews was so amazing, it felt like we were all at a church event, park or cookout. The feeling was remarkable, I'll never forget it. I am so grateful and thankful. I must say thank to my son's mom for making sure this day could happen for Carter and I. To all the brothers that I got to share the experience with, thank you as well, to my son Carter, keep up the good work, I am proud of you and I love you son! Dad.



MY DAY WITH DAD EXPERIENCE

By: Nicholas V. Barfield @ K.L.S.R.C.

Today I got to introduce some of the people helping me change to the three people worth changing for. I was blessed being able to spend the day at a carnival Kewanee put on with my daughter and two youngest sons. Its where I played my 1st game of basketball with my youngest boys, its where I watched all three spin a wheel to win candy, its where I got to teach all three of them yoga sequence that the yoga instructor was kind enough to design just for us, its where all of us were to able to read a bedtime story together that we are sending to my grandson. That was just the beginning of Day With Dads.

Next came art and the art time was surreal, with a pencil my daughter drew free handed, a portrait of Harley Quinn for me. While she was drawing that, my middle son drew with a sharpie marker a peacock on the back of my T-shirt. Not to be outdone, my youngest painted a sunset over the mountains on the front of my shirt. Skills that had come from their grandma Cheryl. I cant put into words how much pride I had seeing what they accomplished.

All that being said the best part of my day was either playing miniature golf with my kids or when we ate a meal together on the patio table, that's where we could be fully in the moment while also fully in a conversation. Today was a day full of love, but those moments were definitely the heart beat.

It was not just a great day, but one with a powerful message for me too, I've been in prison for six years and its really hard sometimes to remember what real life is like. All those memories have kind of blended into something tainted by prison. When I close my eyes I'm more likely to see a chow hall table instead of a family dinner, not today though. Today I saw what my future can and will be again if I keep up what I'm doing here. I got a reminder of what real life is really like. So if questions like Why do I not quit going to peer led groups? Why do I continue going to AA when its beautiful out and the yards open? Or Why do I stay focused on changing when my outdates so far away? Those or any question that is really just an excuse to quit comes up.

The answer is simple, I continue because Kewanee gave me “Day with Dad” but for a “Life with Dad” I have put in the work and that’s something worth working for.

So to all the volunteers that helped put this together, Thank You! To my awesome aunt and brother who drove my kids here to see me, Thank You so much and I love both of you. To my 3 youngest, you guys were great, I had the best time ever. I love you and already miss you, Love Dad. To my oldest Duncan, I miss you man and cant wait until we get together to hang out again. Love Dad.



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS

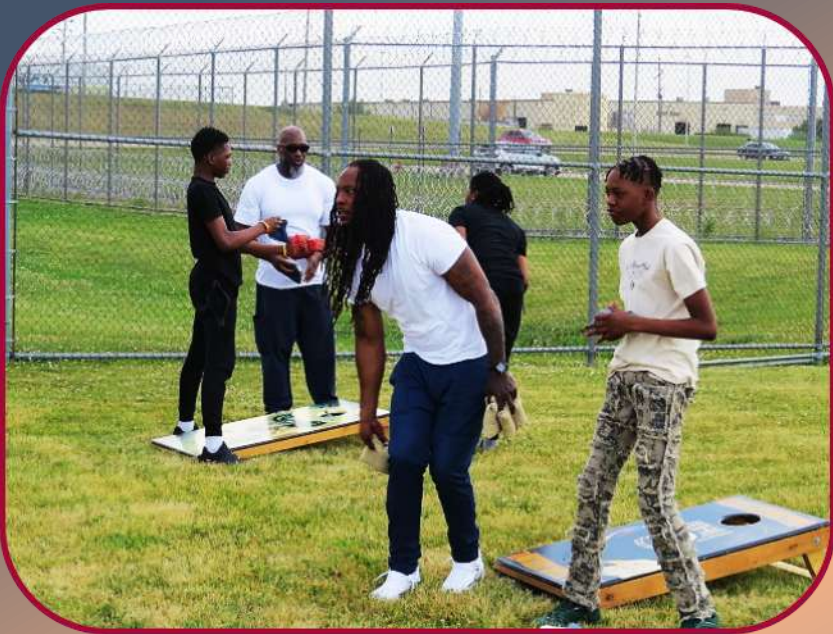




DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS

By: Edmond X @ K.L.S.R.C.

Today was a day like no other. A day I had the opportunity to spend a few hours with two (2) of my grandchildren: CJ, age 8; and Nee-Nee, age 5. Mind you, I had only seen my grandson one time six (6) years ago and I had never seen my granddaughter. So, as the day approached I had all types of reservations; how would they take to me, would they be nervous, would they recognize me, and so on. Then add to the reservations that there would be no parent or guardian that would escort them in and act as a buffer.

The moment of truth arrived, and as I waited for their arrival, sweating profusely, thinking to myself, “act natural.” In walk two (2) children I had only seen on pictures. I walked up to them and greeted them with a hug and words of love and they did the same. I thought to myself, “Well, this is going well.”

All those reservations disappeared and it was just me and my grandchildren sharing a moment as if we had always been around each other. Then after every bit of two (2) minutes of our heartwarming introduction, my granddaughter, Nee-Nee, looked me in the eyes and asked, “Which one of these men is my granddad?” Damn!

In my nervousness and reservations I had forgotten to properly introduce myself as their granddad. I laughed and said “don’t you see the family resemblance?” Thereafter, we had a beautiful day, me being a granddad and them being grandchildren running circles around the “old man.”

I learned much about their different personalities and character. My grandson is a natural performer. He loves to dance and be humorous. I found it a joy to learn those two (2) weeks before the visit he discovered the greatest performer of all time, Michael Jackson, and performed many of Michael’s classic dance moves, mainly the moonwalk. He loved to play basketball. And yes, I humorously beat him, 7 – to – 1, and he took the loss well and in good spirit. (Although he said I cheated, he wants a rematch)

My granddaughter was a bit different. She definitely had personality. She is a smart (aleck), witty, feisty, funny, intelligent, and in her own words, “the boss of everybody.” She also discovered Michael Jackson recently, and when we had the time to read a book together, she chose “Peter Pan”, that she informed me was Michael’s favorite book. It was amazing to me that she remembered and pointed out to me each part of the book that Michael loved. We played soccer together, and again, yes I did humorously beat her, 2 – to – 0, but she did not handle it well. Yet, it was a joy seeing her get fiery, kick the netted goal, try to storm off, get her foot caught in the net, and drag the net about twelve (12) feet before I caught up to her. She told me she was upset because she lost, and I pointed out to her that she can only lose if she is alone, but we are family and together we are all winners. That seemed to win her back over and taught me a valuable lesson; never beat your granddaughter in any game.

As a blessing that day was, it had to end. Saying good-bye to any family is difficult, it was that much more difficult when its children. So in letting them know it was about time to go. I was asked a lot questions: are you coming with us? Why can’t you come with us? Can we spend the night with you? And my granddaughter asked, “they let you out of jail to play with us and they going to take you back to jail? I said yes, and she cried and that made me painfully aware of the consequences of my actions and how it affects generations. We kissed and hugged and parted, but the memories will forever light a fire in me to be the best I can be to be the best for them.

I truly appreciate Chaplain York and Life Wide Open ministries for facilitating this event. Thank you all! Also, I’d like to thank Warden Mason and the correctional staff for making this event possible. To all the individuals in custody, thank you for bringing the energy to make all of us including our children feel comfortable. My grandchildren did not believe you all were in jail. Smile.



DAY WITH DADS

By: Tashon Boler @ K.L.S.R.C.

The best and most important day of my 5 ½ years of incarceration was the day I spent with you. I enjoyed every minute we spent together, moments like this I wish I can freeze time. Not a day goes by with out you crossing my mind. I know I missed and lost time that I can not get back, but I'm looking forward knowing that there are more memories to come and it's a blessing in itself. I can be having a bad day but that one call a day makes the pain go away. I love you always and forever. We enjoyed Day with Dads together, but as time pass its gone always get better. I love you son!



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS



DAY WITH DADS





DAY WITH DADS



AUNT MARY'S STORYBOOK





DAY WITH DADS



Day With Chanel

By Antonio Espino

Sitting in a gym decorated with art tables, & miniature golf, the finishing touches, caringly made by our volunteers, cannot undo the nervousness I have in my chest waiting for my Chanel Louise to come into the door. For some reason the excitement is surrounded in anticipation & concern of them allowing her to come in. I know that such a line of thought is delusional as well as based on past IDOC challenges. It gets undone **when they walk the kids in & I see Chanel mou** ([Greek] My Chanel) wrapped around & in the arms of her friend Genesis. As she hands her off to me we wrap each other in our loving embraces. I thank Jenny for bringing Michelena & Chanel to make this day happen for us.

I kiss Chanel mou adoringly on each cheek, & **she rests her head on my shoulder** as I let her know how much I love & have missed her. I start to show her around the gym. We set up after I introduced her to a couple of friends who are volunteering their time & energy to this event (Antonio Gentil & Marco Canas) allowing her to pick from some creative ornaments to be painted.

[Spoiler Alert!] Chanel never ended up painting her ornaments...lol!



As we were sitting with my friend Aaron Clarke & his three (3) hilarious children, Chanel was definitely wondering where her friends were, that she rode to this event with. So I take her to show her outside, & she FREAKED OUT! Lol! She was so amazed at the setup outdoors & started running around everywhere. As the games continuously relieved themselves of seemingly endless candy, Chanel mou had used me as a banking account for **every** piece she had collected.

Mini soccer, football, spontaneous foot races, Giant Jenga, Fishing with Nemo, Picking a giant Nickelodeon-styled nose that had candy inside, Frisbee toss, as well as so much more occupied our time.

Each time we went back into the gym, to paint the ornaments, & engage in conversation, she took off yet again running around like Will Ferrell in the movie Step Brothers....lol!

Carrying her around on my shoulders, the majority of the time, are such cherishable experiences, as she directed me around. Then Warden Mason, knowing my love of books, partaking in Aunt Mary's Storybook, & the reading nook, asked if I had partook yet. Such a beautiful addition to this event, was how they opened the library for us to read with our kids...**WITH** our kids, as well as pick out a book together. Beautiful.



Chanel's reaction to walking into our library was something akin to Bell in the movie *Beauty & the Best*! She was so amazed by the shelves of books, & we took to the piles of books on the tables. I shared a few from personal childhood favorites like Pokémon, & Spiderman. As we connected over our love of Spiderman, she wanted to read one from a show she loved called, "Vampirina". She showed Mrs. Mason her shoes with the horror character from *Scream*, "Ghost Face".



Us sitting down reading together is so beautifully precious to me. I look forward to these moments when I am home with her in my arms as we share books together. She even made adorable voices & described the characters to me as well as what she knew about them.

The story was about a surprise party, & I told Chanel how this was a huge party. She then adorably asked me if I had thrown it for her. She then followed with if all these people showed up for her...lol! She then proceeded to tell me how she loved the parties I throw.

As the day went by I realized that from moment to moment I was fully present, & was reminded that there were other people around us. This became a mirror I was looking at, that showed me how **invested in Chanel** mou I was.

We sat down as she worked together with my friend, Antonio Gentil, as he sketched what she wanted on the back of my shirt (Ghost Face), so that she could finger paint it. I was in my makeshift tattoo chair getting a back piece, as Antonio helped her mix colors & she added her own creative finishing touches. She then painted a picture on the front of my shirt of her & her Mom.

As I looked up, I noticed we had only 20 minutes left, & I realized our time was ticking away & had flown past us. We went outside for a final stroll, as she asked me to walk her to a park. We walked across the sidewalk, towards the housing units & I showed her the type of home I lived in. Time starts to slow down, & the world vanishes as I look down at her.

Yet again, the three (3) values, I hold dearly with my Family, (**Creativity, Comfort, & Connection**) permeated the gym, library, & outdoors, which is very endearing. This event reinvigorated constant sense of purpose & drive. **I deeply appreciate all involved**, & being able to be a part of this event, & seeing such a beautiful experience being brought thru IDOC.

Anthony Giovanni, my Son, I love you & continue to pray & meditate for you to inherit best in the world.

Genuinely,

Antonio





DAY WITH DAD

By Hugo “2 Short” Sosa

First & foremost, I want to give thanks to our Father God, Warden Mason, Chaplain York, the volunteers from church, the C.O.'s here is KLSRC who were present, the individuals in custody who were kind enough to give up their weekend to volunteer/help out. Last, but not least, my beautiful wife who took the time to bring our kids for the event. Without you all, “Day With Dad” would have not been possible nor a success. So for that, I will forever be grateful & cherished for this special day.

Day With Dad was the best day/Father's Day gift an incarcerated Father could ask for. Being able to play basketball, Jenga, Connect 7, Soccer, Volleyball, miniature golf, Frisbee, paint ornaments & a t-shirt, plus the opportunity to have my kids read a book to me & record it is priceless. It made my day & made me feel great. I'll have that recording saved for me for when I touch down (when I come home) & a memory for a lifetime. It made me feel like a human being, like I mattered, made me feel like a Father again, I felt loved. It made me happy & made my heart smile, which it hasn't smiled for a while.



It also made me sad & it hurt my heart as well for two (2) different reasons. Besides me missing them like crazy, it reminded me of the time I spent with my kids before my incarceration, & in the same token, it showed me & reminded me of who & what is waiting for me at home. A reminder of my goals & purpose in life.

Because of my kids, I want to do better. Because of my kids, I need to be better as a person, husband, & Father. They look up to me even when I am not present so I have to be a better role model. Their happiness is my happiness, their struggles are my struggles, their strength is my strength.

Although all my kids were not able to be present on this special day of mine, they are always in my prayers, my mind, & in my heart. Every single day I remind my kids that I love them with all my heart & all my strength.

#Sosa...Strong,





DAY WITH DADS

By: Andre Jackson @ K.L.S.R.C.

My name is Andre Jackson, I've been incarcerated for the past 6 years and I'm a father of 5 children, 4 beautiful daughters and 1 son, my Jr also known as my King. Recently, I was given the opportunity to physically interact with my son here at Kewanee Life Skills Re-entry Center, attending a special event called Day with Dads. This experience was deeply meaningful for me as it allowed me to share genuine time and contact with my Jr. Day with Dads was a very positive and emotional experience, one that brought me joy, hope and a renewed sense of purpose. I also believe that the connection and love we both shared was not just a moment to hold onto, but a glimpse of reality I hope to soon live everyday with my children. Furthermore, I appreciate the opportunity and thanks to the staff and those Individuals In Custody for putting a great event together.



DAY WITH DADS

By: A. Lane @ K.L.S.R.C.

Day with dads for me was such a wonderful day, it made me feel as if I was not in prison “even though being here at Kewanee doesn’t feel anything like a prison at al.” It was like me and my children was at an event with other dads and their children. I want to really, really give a thank you to Kewanee and the staff for treating me and the other Dads like Dads.

Thank you to the guys that helped out on that day.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.



WINGS OF THE JEDI

JEDI SAYS: "DAY W/DAY"

FATHERS LET THEIR INNER
CHILD OUT BEFORE
THE KIDS CAME!"



STATEWIDE CALLOUT



Everyone here at Horizons would like to take the time to express our sincerest gratitude for all of the viewers, supporters, and participants of Kewanee Horizons. Our approach is different from other material that has been of benefit to us all, especially in regards to highlighting the successes of our fellow peer's, as well as highlighting the fact that we have an outstanding amount of friends, family, and loved ones that contribute to our overall success. Horizons is more than just a platform for us to use to spread content throughout I.D.O.C., it's also valuable to us all to show that we are indeed a community made up of "real" people, striving to make it through this journey. With Horizons, we are experiencing amazing things. Things that weren't the norm just a few years ago, and that's the evolution of "US", (the incarcerated individuals), and our desire to spark an already contagious thing, which is a change in the utmost positive direction. Change begins with us, and that's exactly what's been shown, as well as proven.

STATEWIDE CALLOUT



Being able to see some of the Peer led groups is something that is a blessing for us all. For so long, some of us didn't have the courage to teach what we knew, and quite possibly, the issue was that we didn't know what we knew would help anyone. Kewanee doesn't make Horizons, we "ALL" make Horizons. It's about all of us. The things we do during this incarceration not only impacts us, but our community as well. If we want people to believe in us, we first have to believe in ourselves. The entire Horizons team is honored to be able to be a voice for some of those that feel that you don't have one. Our focus is on positivity and how any occurrence that you've encountered since being incarcerated has impacted you in a positive way. Our driving force is positivity with a Restorative Justice mind-set. We don't look to focus on anything negative, we don't want anyone dwelling on yesterday's bad decisions, we want everyone focusing on tomorrow's goal of productivity, positivity, and finding ways to help one another in the best way possible. Please don't shy away from submitting your article to Horizons. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!