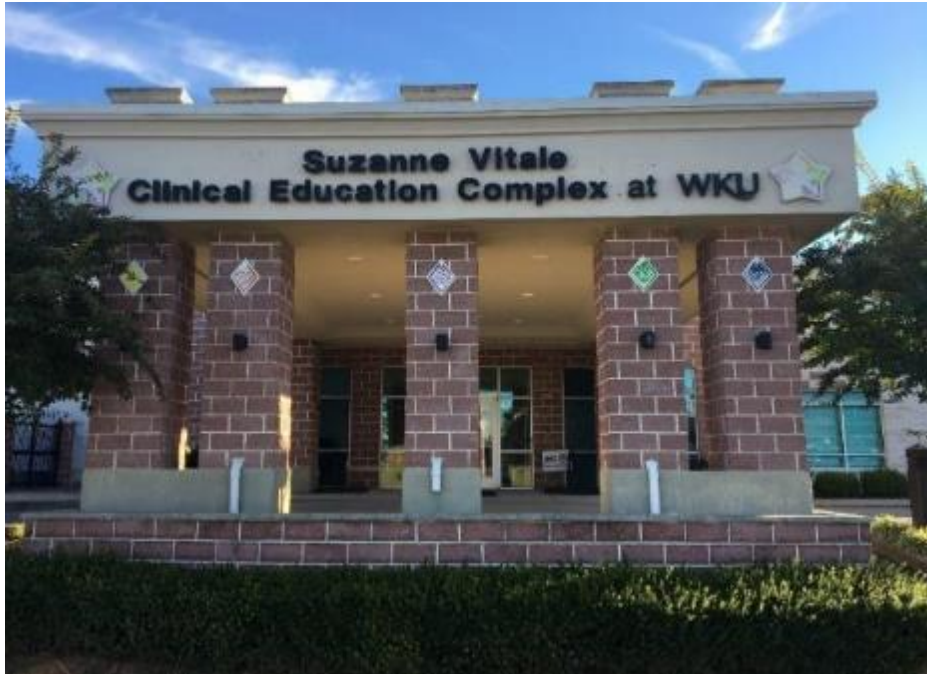




LifeWorks @WKU[®]
Bridging gaps.
Building relationships.

lifeworksatwku.org



Purpose: To provide a seamless curriculum of education and support across the lifespan for individuals and families with autism while providing evidence-based best practice training for students.

Suzanne Vitale Clinical
Education Complex

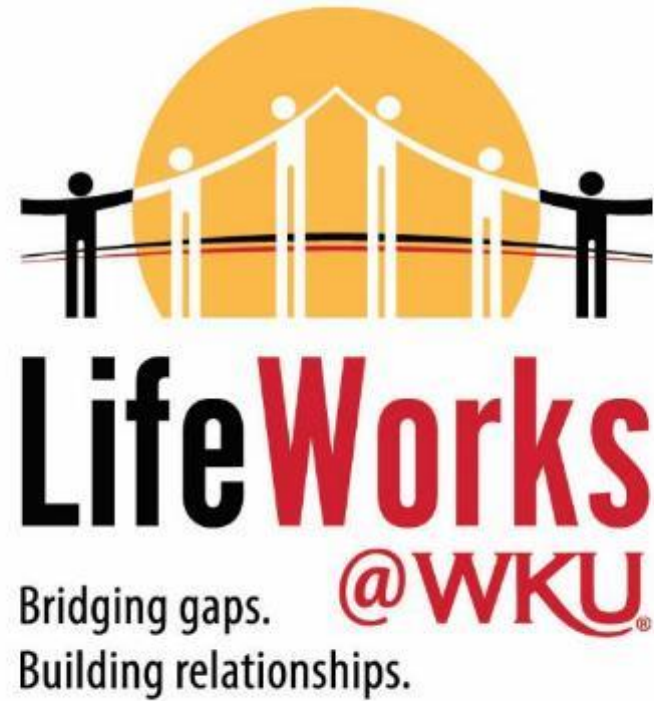
Family Resource Program

Communication Disorders
Clinic

Renshaw Early Childhood
Center

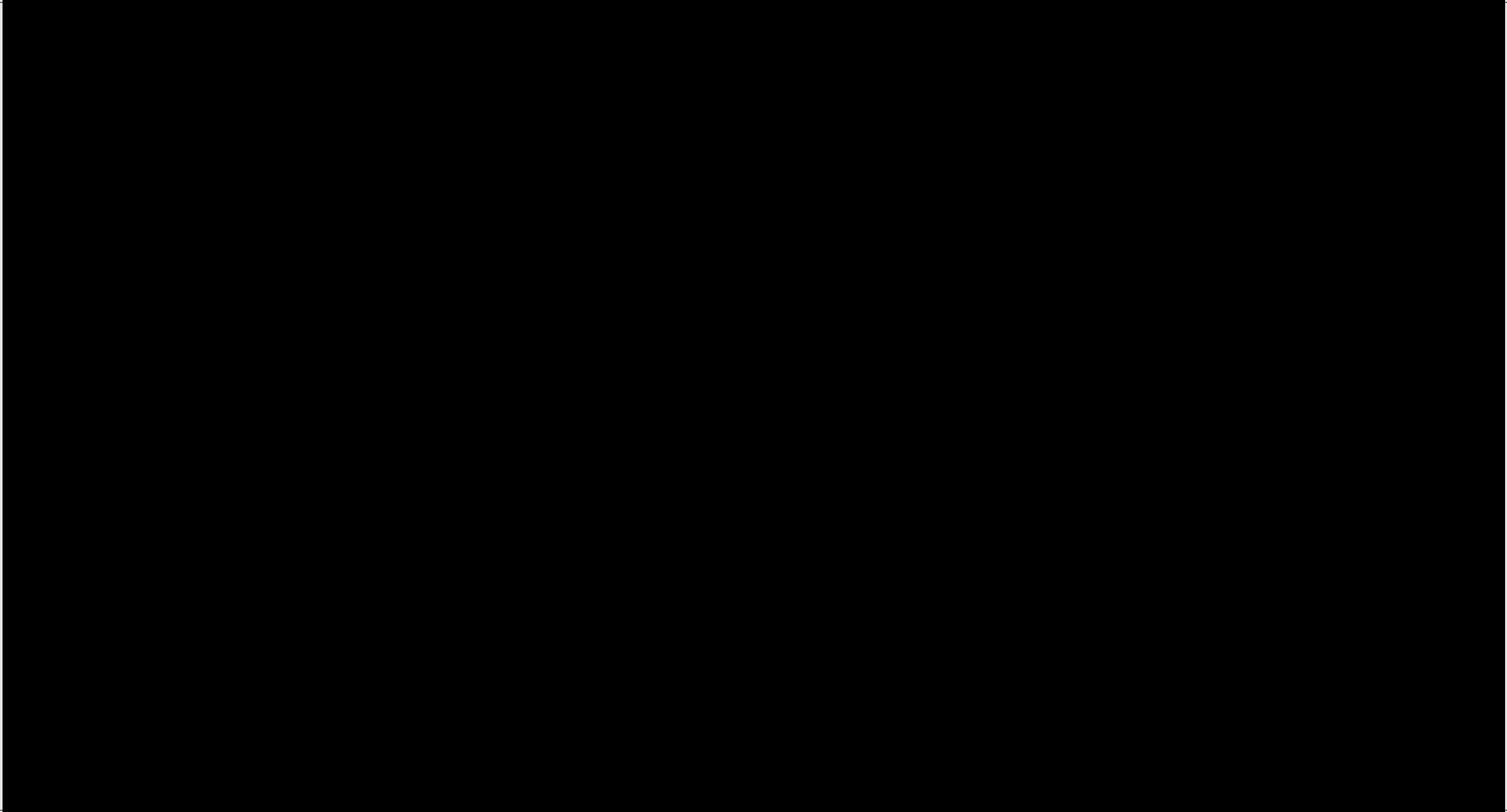
Kelly Autism Program

- Prime Time Program
- Circle of Support College Program



Kentucky's Only Living & Learning Transition Program for Young Adults with Autism

lifeworksatwku.org





Participant Profile

- Young adult ~ typically ages 21-30
- Autism or other learning difference
- Low-average to high intelligence
- Variety of education levels and backgrounds
- Personally motivated with the ability to maintain personal safety
- May be experiencing something commonly referred to as “failure to launch”



Joy, age 29

- Diagnosed with autism and anxiety
- Struggles with executive functioning
- Graduated from college in 2015
 - Returned home
 - No Job
 - Few personal relationships
 - Low self-confidence

Enrolled in LifeWorks in September 2020



Joy...twelve months later

- Living on her own (with her cat)
- Employed 25 to 35 hours a week
- Making new friends
- Driving independently
- Serving as a role model
- Pursuing her art

Graduating from LifeWorks in 2022 and transitioning to independent living

Program Goals

Participants work toward achieving successful outcomes in the following areas:

- Employability
- Housing & Transportation
- Health, Wellness & Nutrition
- Life Skills
- Relationships
- Financial Management
- Adaptability
- Personal Safety
- Social Skills
- Leisure Activities



LifeWorks Transition Academy

Bridging gaps. Building Relationships.



Structured, two-year postsecondary certificate program



On-site apartment housing



32-course independent living skills curriculum



Pre-employment and supported employment training services



Service learning and community engagement



Social and leisure activities





LifeWorks Bridge Program

Offers classroom
instruction only

Utilizes the
Learn4Independence®
curriculum

Participants enroll in
up to eight courses on
a semester basis

Focused on valuable
life-skills and career-
readiness



A BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE

David Wheeler

1328 Adams Street ▪ Bowling Green, KY 42101

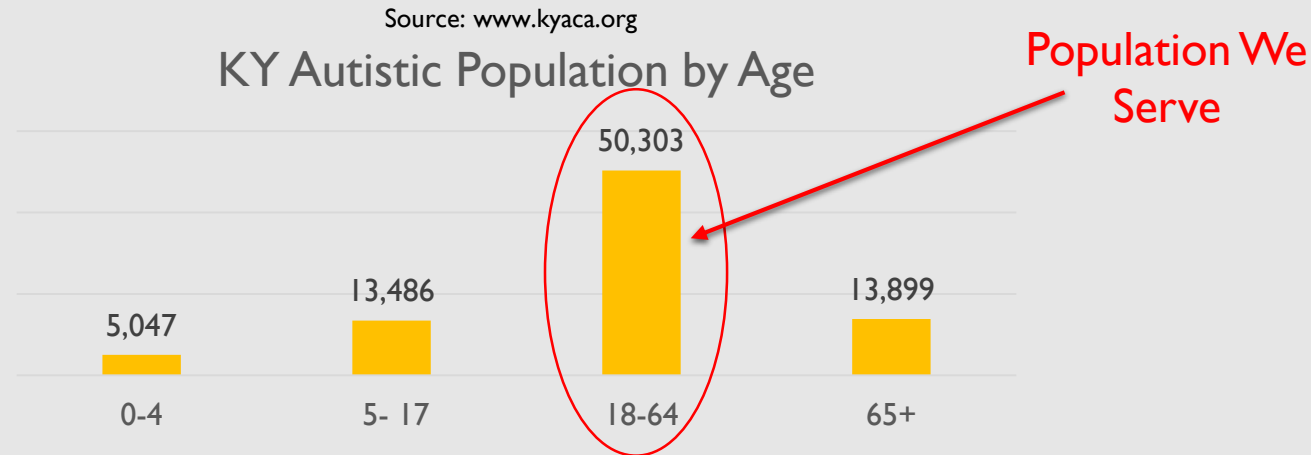
(270) 745-4380 ▪ david.wheeler@wku.edu

lifeworksatwku.org

Facts to Keep in Mind:

1 in 54: The incidence of autism according to the Centers for Disease Control.

82,735: Estimated number of people who are diagnosed with autism in Kentucky.



\$3.5-5 million

The lifetime costs for individuals diagnosed with autism.

30%

Families who have children diagnosed with autism earn 30% less than other families.

\$50,000

Individual therapy costs per year for children with autism who are under 8 years old.

According to Autism Speaks the majority of costs for autism supports in the U.S. are for adult services. This is an estimated cost of \$175 to \$196 billion a year for adults, compared to \$61 to \$66 billion a year for children.

“There will be 500,000 adults on the autism spectrum aging into adulthood over the next 10 years. Yet 85% of college graduates affected by autism are unemployed, compared to the national unemployment rate of 4.5%.”

- Nicole Lyn Pesce

**Average Annual Cost of HCBS Waiver Services by
State, 2009 According to the National Council on
Disability**

State	Home and Community Based Waiver
Kentucky	\$48,831

Budget

Note: The facility is paid for by generous support from Mr. Bill Gatton and Mr. Garry Watkins. The budget costs are operational only.

◦ Personnel Expenses (18 staff)	985,752
◦ Non-Personnel Expenses	401,788
	<hr/>
◦ Total	1,387,540
# of participants = 28	
Actual cost per participant	49,555
Tuition	50,000

Cost of Transition Programs for Individuals with Autism (2021 data)

Name	Cost
Chapel Haven West (Tuscon,AZ)	\$93,500 – per year
ScenicView Academy	\$80,000 – per year
Mansfield Hall (Burlington,VT)	\$75,950 - Total
Project 1212 (Chicago, IL)	\$72,000 – per year
Berkshire Hills Music Academy (Hadley, MA)	\$69,500 – per year
FirstPlace (Phoenix,AZ)	\$66,000 – per year
Live Oaks (San Marcos,TX)	\$63,875 – per year
CIP Amherst (Amherst, NY)	\$62,500 – per year
29 Acres (Dallas,TX)	\$57,336 – per year
Horizons School (Birmingham,AL)	\$50,000 – per year
LifeWorks @ WKU (Bowling Green, KY)	\$50,000 – per year

Cost of Funding a Participant – 2 years @\$50,000/year	\$ 100,000.00
Less:	
State Income Tax Creation from Successful Participants,	
Average Salary \$36,000/year x .05% x 42	\$ 75,600.00
(State tax rate for 42-year work life, assumes 90% of Participants work)	<u>\$ (7,560.00)</u>
Total Lifetime Reduction in Cost/State Revenue Generated	\$ 68,040.00
 Total Cost	 \$ 100,000.00
Reduction in Cost	<u>\$ (68,040.00)</u>
Net Cost of Funding a Participant	\$ 31,960.00

Lifetime Support Cost of not funding a Participant

Average Life Span 60 years from age 18

Cost Per Year \$40,000 (public support for chronic homelessness, healthcare, etc.)

60 years @ \$40,000/year	<u>\$ 2,400,000.00</u>
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LifeWorks Expected Success Rate - Reduction in Above Cost:

10% of Participants unsuccessful, savings	\$ -
30% of Participants 50% successful, savings	
(\$2,400,000 x .5 x .3)	\$ 360,000.00
60% of Participants 100% successful, savings	
(\$2,400,000 x .6)	<u>\$ 1,440,000.00</u>
Total Reduction in Cost to Public	\$ 1,800,000.00
Less Net Cost of Funding a Participant (from above)	<u>\$ (31,960.00)</u>
Net Cost Savings for Funding a Participant in LifeWorks	<u><u>\$ 1,768,040.00</u></u>

LIFETIME COST SAVINGS

Cost Savings per class, 28 participants
Total Savings for 3 two-year Budget Periods
Savings Per Net Dollar Spent for Lifeworks
Participant

\$49,505,120

\$148,515,360

\$56.32

LIFETIME COST SAVINGS

Savings Per Net Dollar Spent

ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY

- Participant Tuition Contributions
- OVR Funding (for some)
- Michelle P. Waiver (for some)
- Charitable Gifts (Corporate/Private)
- Grants



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