

# YLF NEWS



Dreamnight is an international event, held each year on the first Friday evening in June. The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens is the only Oklahoma zoo participating and the Developmental Disabilities Council has helped to design and sponsor this event since it began in 2005. In addition to providing access to families of children with disabilities, the Council funded disability awareness training for zoo employees that is now part of new employee orientation. Additionally, the zoo wrote and published a Dreamnight at the Zoo manual, working with zoos from across the country to compile important information. This has been disseminated to all Councils on Developmental Disabilities and has been presented at national conferences of zoo professionals.

This year's Dreamnight at the Oklahoma City Zoo will be Friday, **June 4!** To receive an invitation, call the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council at 405-521-4984 or 1-800-836-4470!

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

**LOOK!**

**VISIT: <http://okylf.pbworks.com>**



People First is a statewide self-advocacy group run by and for people with disabilities. There are 13 chapters within the state of Oklahoma.

This is a great place for you to get involved and learn more about self-advocacy, leadership, and educating communities.

## OKLAHOMA PEOPLE FIRST, INC CHAPTERS

### **ADA PEOPLE FIRST**

Natasha Perkins, Advisor  
19940 CR 1543  
Ada, OK 74820

### **ALTUS PEOPLE FIRST**

Henry Love, Advisor  
201 S. Main St.  
Altus, OK 73521

### **ANADARKO PEOPLE FIRST**

Linda Halsey, Advisor  
PO Box 804  
Anadarko, OK 83005

### **BROKEN ARROW PEOPLE FIRST**

Brooke Andrews, Advisor  
1507 E. 16th st., #16  
Tulsa, OK 74120

**I'd love to see everyone join a chapter. If there is not a chapter near you, then call me. HOW COOL WOULD IT BE FOR YOU TO START ONE?!**

### **EL RENO PEOPLE FIRST**

Wilma Goodman  
1207 W. Pine St.  
El Reno, OK 73036

### **GREEN COUNTRY PEOPLE FIRST**

Leanne Hill, Advisor  
501 S. Elliot  
Pryor, OK 74361

### **LAWTON PEOPLE FIRST**

Jeryldine Edgar, Advisor  
312 NE Wichita Meadows Lane  
Fletcher, OK 73541

### **OKLAHOMA CITY METRO PEOPLE FIRST**

Stephanie Lackas, Advisor  
2337 SW 42nd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73119

### **PEOPLE FIRST OF SHAWNEE**

Carolyn Jenks, Advisor  
16107 Econtucka Rd  
Earlsboro, OK 74840

### **TULSA PEOPLE FIRST**

Amie Farinella, Advisor  
16 E. 16th St., Suite 405  
Tulsa, OK 74104

### **BARTLESVILLE PEOPLE FIRST**

Gretchen Moser, Advisor  
918—338—4363

# Why do I volunteer?

Check out how a few YLF Alumni and Staff feel about volunteering.

"Because it gives me a chance to help people, the same way that others have helped me. And it's great to see little kids faces when you do things with them." - Jennifer Baker, YLF 2004

"I volunteer because I enjoy helping others, and I think I get more out of it than the people I volunteer for do. It gives me joy." - Lauren Allison, YLF 2005

"Because I like to help people." - Kyle Brannon, YLF 2009

"There's nothing like knowing that I can make someone's life better." - Lauren Morrison, YLF 2009

"I volunteer because the experiences have added to my advocacy and leadership skills. Volunteering has helped me develop friendships that I otherwise would have not had the opportunity for. I also enjoy volunteering because both people feel good about the interaction." - Meredith Oliver, YLF 2009

"I volunteer because I like to do things to help others and it can be such a great experience." - Marta Seitz, YLF 2009

"I volunteer because I thoroughly enjoy seeing how thankful and excited someone becomes just by doing the little things that I take for granted every day." - Blake Evans, YLF Staff

"I volunteer because with a little bit of time and a lot of effort a single person can work with another single person and another and make all the difference in this wonderful world." - Kiley Smith, YLF Staff



**MISSION:** Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) is created by youth with disabilities for youth to educate society about issues that concern youth. KASA believes in self-determination, creating support networks and self-advocacy for all youth with disabilities in our society.

KASA is a national network of youth with disabilities and our friends. We are leaders in our communities, and we help spread helpful, positive information among our peers to increase knowledge around various issues related to transitioning from childhood to adulthood. We also help health care professionals, policymakers and other adults in our communities understand issues that affect youth with disabilities.

KASA is led by a National Youth Advisory Board of Youth between 13-24. Other ways to be involved include the KASA Task Force of youth ages 12-18 or by becoming a KASA member.

Anyone who wants to learn more about youth disability issues can join KASA! **To join** KASA only requires a small fee - OR - **FREE** for youth! This fee gives you lifetime access to our listserv, discounts on materials, and more! Go to <http://fvkasa.org/join.php> to join!

KASA offers information and resources on the following topics: Civil Rights & Advocacy, Disability Culture & History, Dating & Relationships, Education/School, Health Care, Art & Poetry, Current Events, Recreation, Technology, Staying Safe, Transportation, Work, and more! **CHECK IT OUT!**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

## April Birthdays

Kyle Brannon - YLF 09  
 Smiles Halpainy - YLF 09  
 Shelbi Lonkerd - YLF 09  
 David Blose —YLF 07  
 Ben McFarland—YLF 07  
 Jack Minor -YLF 07  
 Laura Bogle—YLF 06  
 Jamie Bugg —YLF 06  
 Angela Cantu—YLF 05  
 Julia Brown — YLF 04  
 Whitney Reid —YLF 04  
 Glen Adamson—Staff

## May Birthdays

Steven Bay—YLF09

Mindy Blaser—YLF 09  
 Jennifer Karner—YLF09  
 Zechariah Molden—YLF09  
 'Shay' Adams—YLF 08  
 Cody Sword—YLF 07  
 Kimberly Peter—YLF 06  
 Kalei Kirkendall—YLF 06  
 Cory Higgins—YLF 05  
 Brooke Kerr — YLF 05  
 Betty Ramirez—YLF 05  
 Destiny Sheridan—YLF 05  
 Dustin Edwards—YLF 04  
 Jesse Marquez—YLF 04  
 Hillary Allen—Staff  
 Kiley Smith—Staff

Heather Caram—Staff

## June Birthdays

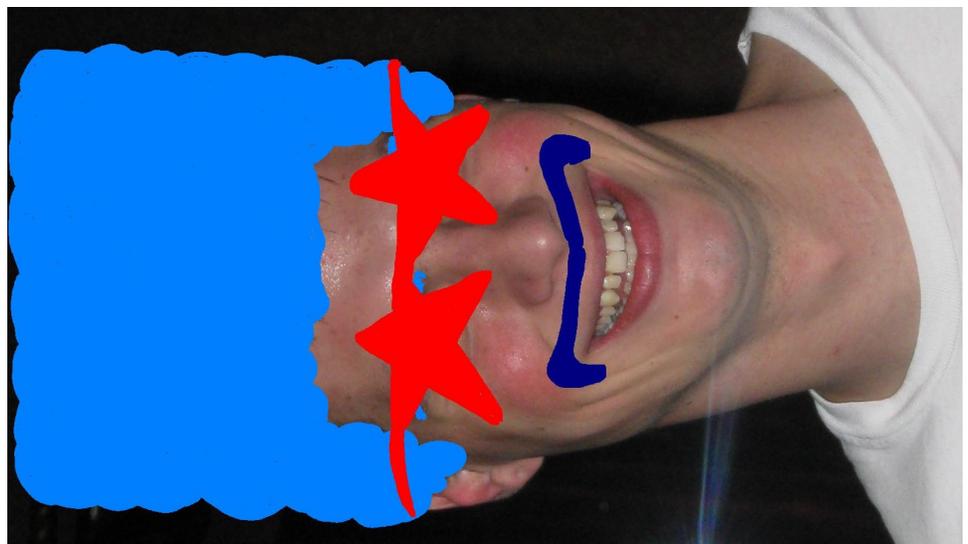
Olivia Molden-YLF09  
 Marta Seitz-YLF09  
 Haley Evans-Staff  
 Andrew Webb—YLF 08  
 Ty Loftis—YLF 07  
 Jeri Hubble—YLF 05  
 Candice Russell—YLF 05  
 John Barton—YLF 04  
 Sharon King—YLF 04  
 Melissa Langley—YLF 04



## GUESS WHO!

Several alumni and staff called in the correct answer from the January newsletter. If you were stumped, it was 2006 YLF Graduate Rikney Johnson!

The YLF Alumni featured in this newsletter contest got a new hair-doo, and it forced me to turn the photo sideways to show it all! Good Luck to everyone! Remember—call or email me your answer! -jen



## YLF ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT CARDS

Congratulations to those Alumni who have sent in one or many "BLUE CARDS"! Since the latest reminder, the number of blue cards increased by leaps and bounds... Continue to share! Here are our blue cards turned in by YLF Alumni, as of June '09

YLF 2004: **1** blue cards  
YLF 2005: **28** blue cards  
YLF 2006: **35** blue cards  
YLF 2007: **15** blue cards  
YLF 2008: **6** blue cards  
YLF 2009: **228** blue cards

(NOTE: Those alumni who mailed in surveys were given a blue card for each survey mailed in):

Give yourselves a Pat on the Back!  
You guys are making a difference in your communities!

**\*Remember: If you need more blue cards, write us a letter, e-mail us, call us! We'll send them to you!**

## WEBSITES FOR YOU TO CHECK OUT

<http://www.gocollege.com/>

<http://www.fyitransition.org/>

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

<http://www.okddc.ok.gov/>

<https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm>

<http://www.ok.gov/abletech/>

<http://www.fvkasa.org/index.php>

<http://okylf.pbworks.com/>

<http://www.ucango2.org/>

<http://www.hsri.org/leaders/>

<http://www.yellowpagesforkids.com/help/ok.htm>