



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Katie Eder & Kids Tales

Katie Eder has provided Kids Tales workshops for COA Youth & Family Centers since the summer of 2014. She's a student at Shorewood High School, and the founder of Kids Tales, a non-profit that teaches creative writing workshops to under-served kids ages 8-12. Each week starts with brainstorming, progresses to writing short stories, and ends with self- and peer-editing (which also teaches the students how to give and accept constructive criticism). After each workshop, she compiles the stories and uses Amazon's self-publishing service to print the books and sell them online (check out some of the books [here](#)). Katie also organizes a book signing party for the young authors and their families.

Katie is patient with the kids, and helps them to find their voice. She gets them excited about writing and keeping their brains active during the summer. During one of her workshops, she worked with an extremely shy young girl, whose parents were recently divorced. The girl was moving back and forth between her mom and dad, and it was definitely taking a toll on her. During the class, the girl confided in Katie that no one had ever given her the chance to tell her own story before. Through the Kids Tales program and Katie's instruction, the young girl was able to tell her story in a safe and supportive environment, and become more confident in her abilities as a writer. Katie says, *"Every kid has a story to tell, and every kid deserves to tell it, but not every kid gets the opportunity. That in itself is a reason to teach writing - to give every kid the gift of storytelling."*

The International Literacy Association recently honored Kids Tales by naming Katie to its Inaugural 30 Under 30 list of young leaders transforming literacy worldwide. There are young people from 13 different countries on the list, and Katie is the youngest person to be recognized.

Kids Tales was featured on the Malala Fund website as well (the teenage Pakistani activist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient) and also won AFS's Vision in Action Award, allowing Katie to travel on a full scholarship to teach writing to children in Colombia. In July 2015, Kids Tales also received the Milwaukee Business Journal's Eureka Award for creativity and innovation.

Katie is an extremely thoughtful, philanthropic and innovative young woman. She is a self-starter who figured out a way to provide a positive experience for under-served kids, by allowing them to creatively express themselves and realize their potential when it comes to writing. Katie is definitely an emerging leader in our community, and she has been a true pleasure to work with. COA is lucky to receive her time and talent each summer.



Thank you for your service, Katie!

GROUP PROJECT RECAP

2016 United Way Season of Caring: Each year, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County coordinates the Season of Caring initiative from August - December, and during that time corporate groups can be matched with non-profit agencies to complete volunteer projects. In 2015, over 4,900 individuals and groups across Milwaukee participated. This year, two separate groups from **Rockwell Automation** came to our Riverwest and Goldin Centers, and one group from **Johnson Controls** came to our Holton Center. These volunteers accomplished a lot at all three locations: They trimmed trees, painted, weeded our outdoor areas, and mowed our grass. Volunteers from **U.S. Bank** also came to our Goldin Center to remove old fence posts in our park, and a third group from Rockwell will be coming back this month to decorate our Goldin Center for Halloween. These volunteers allow us to complete several projects and free up time for our staff. And most importantly, they make COA a space that our families can be proud of!

Creation of the new Selig Field: We also built a new baseball diamond with volunteer power! Thank you so much to the group of 50 dedicated volunteers from **Kohl's, St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Dominican High School, St. Anthony on the Lake School, Marquette University, Pewaukee High School, MacCannon Brown, Executive Power, Cardinal Stritch University, and**

GE Healthcare that spent an entire Saturday at our Goldin Center creating the new Selig Field. COA will use this baseball diamond to help provide an instructional league where kids learn teamwork, healthy living and nutrition, and baseball fundamentals while building relationships with positive adult role models from the community. Most of the kids who will participate are low-income, and would not otherwise have the opportunity to take part in organized team sports.

Additional Volunteer Groups and Supply Drives in July, August and September:

**Best Buy
CH2M
CliftonLarsonAllen
Direct Supply
Grant Thornton
Joy Global
Marquette University IT Department
Molina Healthcare
PNC Bank**



Thank you to everyone who participated! Additional pictures from each project can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

Learn more about the United Way Season of Caring!

COA IN THE NEWS

[Bucks President Peter Feigin and Wife Natalia Honored by COA Youth & Family Centers](#)

[Can a Park Transform a Neighborhood?](#)

[A Message from COA on the Recent Events in Milwaukee](#)

CURRENT WISH-LIST ITEMS

Non-Perishable Holiday Food

Frozen Turkeys or Hams (or Vouchers)
Stuffing Mix or Mashed Potato Mix
Canned Cranberries or Vegetables
Packs of Frozen Dinner Rolls
Boxed Dessert Mix
Grocery Store Gift Cards

New Holiday Presents

Gift Cards, Clothing, Shoes, Accessories
Games, Sports Items, Action Figures
Dolls, Books, Activity Kits, Movies
Video Games, Electronics

New or Used Winter Gear

Coats, Hats, Mittens/Gloves
Scarves, Snow Pants, Boots



NEW VOLUNTEER SURVEYS

COA has created new surveys to continue improving the experience that our volunteers have with COA! Please take a moment to provide your feedback:

For one-time groups: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9DCPS2X>

For ongoing individual volunteers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9KTMSCS>





HOW TO STAY CONNECTED WITH COA

1. Fill out our [Group Project Interest Form](#) to schedule a one-time volunteer event with COA.
2. Become an ongoing volunteer. The first step is to complete our [Volunteer Application](#).
3. Donate new or gently used items to COA. You can find our complete wish-list [here](#). You can also support our mission through a financial contribution made directly to COA, or through your Workplace Giving Campaign.
4. Find out more about hosting your own [fundraiser](#) or "friend-raiser" for COA.
5. Attend our [Annual Hollywood Gala](#).
6. Like us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and check-out our [blog](#) for updates!



Donate Now!



www.coa-yfc.org

STAY CONNECTED:



COA Youth & Family Centers, 909 E North Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53212

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