

Kevin Joseph Heinzinger

Special Honoree 2019 Columbus Festivities

Kevin was born on March 28, 1989 and just celebrated his 30th birthday - with a room full of friends and family!

Kevin was born at United Hospital in Port Chester and was the first child for Marian and Ed Heinzinger. They were living on Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers at the time. Kevin started school when he was 6 weeks old. Early intervention for babies with developmental delays had just begun, and there were great strides being made. Even at this early age, Kevin started receiving speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy thru WARC. At 2, Kevin graduated from the infant school and advanced to the Alcott School in Scarsdale, a nursery school for kids with special needs. At 4, Kevin attended UCP in White Plains, a Pre-K for kids with special needs. In 1996 at age 6 (and with three graduations already under his belt!) Kevin started Kindergarten at Mahopac, the families new home. At the end of second grade, the Mahopac district saw that there was better programming available for Kevin in the Somers School District and they supported his placement until graduation from Somers High School in 2012 and for an extended three-year period where Kevin learned work skills and skills for independence.

Kevin currently attends a Day Program Monday – Friday for adults with special needs run by CBS Agency in North Salem – great people doing great work. His program is called WOW – Without Walls. He is picked up at home at 9AM and with a van-full of other young adults and staff, travel to do volunteer work at non-profits. These sites offer perfect work experiences for people who are developing job skills. Thru Kevin, CBS and St John the Evangelist have developed a relationship. The WOW group cleans at St Johns once a week. These are capable adults doing a job, and going it well. Bravo!

Kevin has made many friends through his participation in Putnam Recreation Program and Habitation for the Handicapped (PRPH).

At 3PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, Kevin's WOW van drops him at work at SPINS Bowl in Carmel when he does his maintenance job until 7PM. At 7PM, Kevin takes Putnam Paratransit home.

At 3PM on Monday, Kevin's van drops him at SPINS Bowl to bowl with his friends and then they head up to Route 52 for a group activity and dinner. On Thursday evenings Kevin goes to Special Olympics. He competes in Track and Field events in the Spring Games, to be held at West Point on May 4, 2019.

Kevin has a sister, Katie, who is 21 months younger than Kevin. Katie is single, and living in Stamford CT. Katie is a Doctor, just entering her third year of residency at Stamford Hospital.

Kevin's brother Michael is 7 years younger. Michael lives at home as well. Michael is working at Dicks Sporting Goods in the JV Mall, as 'the guy to see' in the Lodge.

Kevin's Dad is Ed, who is a drummer in local bands and Kevin is often called on stage to appear under his stage name "Lil Elvis"! Ed works at the Horace Mann School in Riverdale in the

facilities department as a carpenter. “The Mom” – Marian volunteers locally and works full time as the Business Manager for Ray Bloch Productions.

Kevin has Down syndrome. Genetically, it means he has three chromosomes (should be two) on his 21st chromosome. Practically speaking, it means Kevin has to work harder. He does have developmental delays, but he keeps track of his week and where he has to be – what he needs when he gets there – and how he will get there. He has an active social life and friends who he loves, and who love him. He texts and emails, and is often the first to spot a typo (Father Caruso will attest to this!).

Kevin loves his friends Linda and Giulio, and the other members he has come to know at the Italian American Club of Mahopac. He is honored to have been selected as a Special Honoree and represent PRPH.

Thank you

Marian Heinzinger, for Kevin