

Murals “add fun, inspiring elements” to new Health & Wellness Center

Lakeside officials usually don't like people to draw or spray-paint on campus buildings. But they made an exception this year for **Patrick Hershberger**. In fact, they encouraged him.

Patrick is a Kalamazoo-based multimedia artist and muralist whose work appears on interior and exterior walls of public and private spaces in New Orleans, Detroit, and across West Michigan. He signs his work as Bonus Saves, a pseudonym he adopted from the world of online gaming.

In Kalamazoo, his work graces the walls of the Vine Neighborhood Association, Water Street Coffee Joint headquarters, Veterans Memorial Bridge/Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Boardwalk, and GFM's Synergy Center, to name a few.

“We hired Patrick to paint murals on the hallway walls in the new Health & Wellness Center prior to its April 2017 grand opening,” said Lakeside for Children Board Member **Debra Mixis**.

“We wanted the walls to reflect what the building would be used for – athletic and performance activities in the gym, plus education and wellness activities in the classrooms.”

In preparation for the project, Patrick studied Lakeside's history and gathered some personal stories of Lakeside students past and present. He and a collaborative artist partner, **Ken Dushane III**, came up with a design. Using stencils fashioned offsite, they applied interior acrylic house paint and water-based spray paint (to avoid fumes) to create “elements of art that excite us all – bright colors and shapes, fades and silhouettes, with insets of alternate subject matter.”

The result, he said, are “murals that represent the action of exercise, the imagination that lies in our minds, and that pay tribute to Lakeside's natural setting.” Students are depicted in silhouettes as they read, give a public performance or presentation, and leap with a basketball and volleyball.

Debra said she and other Lakeside officials are very pleased with the artwork and encourage campus visitors to stop in the Health & Wellness Center to view the murals, as well as the gym and classrooms.

“It's a terrific building,” she said, “and Patrick's murals add fun, inspiring elements to its hallways.”

View Patrick Hershberger's artwork at www.gobonussaves.com.



3921 Oakland Drive
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269.381.4760
lakesideforchildren.org

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Lines from Lakeside

LAKESIDE FOR CHILDREN • FALL 2017

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Lakeside for Children

Providing at-risk youth an opportunity to learn new skills and behaviors in a caring hope-filled and supportive environment.



Lakeside for Children CEO, Don Nitz

Lakeside CEO Don Nitz to Retire

Search for New CEO Begins

Don Nitz, chief executive officer of Lakeside for Children since 2006, has announced his retirement, effective April 2018. A search for his replacement is underway.

“Don has been a great leader,” said **Rick Wordell**, Lakeside for Children board chair. “We thank him for his wisdom and guidance, and we wish him well in his retirement. He has set the bar high and given us a clear vision of what we want in the next CEO.”

Prior to taking over as Lakeside CEO, Nitz served as superintendent of the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home for more than 20 years. During his Lakeside tenure, the agency has expanded offerings on campus and enhanced its reputation as a sanctuary for troubled kids from the Kalamazoo area, throughout Michigan, and nearly a dozen other states. Lakeside is now licensed by the State of Michigan to have up to 124 boys and girls (ages 12 through 17) on campus, and the campus is usually at or near capacity.

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FOR SALE Clear Span Fabric Building

65 ft. wide x 100 ft. long x 25 ft. high
Metal truss 30/90 (round)
12-oz fire rated fabric cover
Helical anchors
Coil sheet garage door (12-ft. x 12-ft.)
3 pre-hung insulated swing doors (36 in. x 80 in.)
4 wall louvers (36 in. x 36 in.)

This structure is excellent for storage (salt, sand, equipment, hay, livestock, etc.) and activities (sports practice, horse riding, etc.)

For pricing and details, call Don Nitz:
269.381.4760 / dnitz@lakesideacademy.net.



New CEO Search Is Underway

The search for a new Lakeside CEO has begun with the expectation of having someone in place by early 2018. It will continue to be a part-time, exempt-level position reporting to the Lakeside for Children board of directors.

According to **Joseph Brogger II**, Lakeside board member and CEO search committee chair, candidates for the position should have experience negotiating vendor contracts and business relationships, experience with community and donor relations, and the ability to provide strategic leadership and to implement board initiatives. Experience with residential, educational, and/or treatment programs for adolescents is highly valued. A successful candidate must also be able to pass a background check by the Michigan State Police.

“We realize that not every candidate will possess all of Don’s core competencies,” Brogger says. “The person we select to lead us forward will be someone who demonstrates strong leadership skills, possesses the ability to work with a diverse group of stakeholders, and has a compassion for helping kids.”

Brogger said some key accountabilities for the position are to: serve as the primary liaison between the Lakeside for Children board and Sequel, as well as with the boards of the Lakeside Charter School and Lakeside for Children Foundation (the fiduciary partner of the parent board that accepts all financial gifts to Lakeside); perform in compliance with all policies established by the board, the State of Michigan, and the Joint Commission accrediting body; provide information and analysis to facilitate the board’s decision-making activities and strategic planning; provide administrative support to the board, assist in their development, and develop budgets and financial performance for their review; and oversee the appropriate preservation, care, and maintenance of Lakeside for Children assets such as real and personal property.

Brogger asks qualified candidates to submit a letter of application and résumé via email to apply@lakesideacademy.net, or by post to:

Lakeside CEO Search
Lakeside for Children
3921 Oakland Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008



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In 2007, Nitz helped Lakeside select Sequel Youth & Family Services to operate campus programs. Sequel operates programs across the country for children with behavioral and cognitive challenges. Its mission on the Lakeside campus is to prepare students to lead responsible and fulfilling lives by providing mentoring, education, living skills, and support within a safe, structured, dynamic environment. Through Lakeside Academy, its staff-secure residential program operating on campus, more than 140 Sequel staff members help students focus on the confrontation and redirection of negative behavior while recognizing desired, positive behavior.

Nitz also helped the Lakeside board establish Lakeside Charter School, a strict discipline academy on the Lakeside campus authorized by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency. Students attend year-round at the school that’s governed by an independent school board and adheres to all State of Michigan mandated educational policies. Lakeside teachers help students recover lost credits that will transfer to their home districts or earn enough credits to graduate from Lakeside or earn a GED.

Keeping Lakeside’s 48-acre, ten-building campus on Oakland Drive in Kalamazoo in top form has been one of Nitz’s top jobs as CEO. If he’s not hiring contractors to replace roofs, repair furnaces, install new windows or floor coverings, or carry out any number of other tasks, you might spot him with a small group of students pulling garlic mustard or other invasive weeds from the campus meadow or Whites Lake beachfront.

His campus improvement efforts reached a pinnacle in April 2017 with the opening of the Lakeside Health and Wellness Center, a \$2.3 million, 12,500-square-foot structure with a gym and three interactive classrooms. The building also sports a large room used for teaching, staff training, and meetings that the board of directors named the “Don Nitz Multipurpose Room.”

“I’ve loved my time at Lakeside,” Nitz said. “I’m grateful to the students, staff, board, donors, and other friends of Lakeside who’ve helped make my work so rewarding. I’m especially grateful to the greater Kalamazoo community for their continued support of this institution. Lakeside is a great asset to the community and the community is vital to its continued success.”

Our Lakeside Charter School

The behavioral, social-emotional, and academic success of each Lakeside for Children student relies on a thorough understanding of the student’s individual needs and a tremendous amount of specialized programming designed to meet those needs. In the academic realm, this effort is carried out by the teachers and administrators of Lakeside Charter School.

Authorized by **Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency** and governed by an independent school board, Lakeside Charter School is a strict discipline academy that provides an innovative educational model designed to integrate treatment plans with student goals and academic needs. The program serves students ages 12 to 18, representing grades six through 12. School is operated year-round, on our campus. All teachers meet State of Michigan “Highly Qualified” standards.

Our school follows the **Michigan Merit Core Curriculum** and offers core subjects including language arts, social studies, math, science, arts, music, physical education, and life skills. Each student is tested upon arrival on campus using **AIMSweb EdPerformance**, an evidenced-based standardized assessment designed specifically for this population. We also use the nationally respected **NWEA MAP** (Measure of Academic Progress) test to guide schoolwide decision-making, place students in the correct courses, and monitor individual student progress. This test monitors student achievement in reading, math, science, and language.

A **General Education Diploma** (GED) is offered to students who want to pursue this option. Test results and communication with parents and court workers determine whether a GED should be explored for a student.

We also offer **Read 180**, a program designed to produce growth

in students that test low in reading fluency and comprehension, regardless of grade level. Read 180 utilizes group and individual work, incorporating computer programs and intense reading drills.

Our **Special Education Department** follows a resource classroom model, with a teacher consultant employing speech, language, and school psychological and social work evaluation services specifically designated for each student on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). An IEP defines the individualized objectives of a child who has been determined to have a disability, as defined by federal regulations. Lakeside Special Education and General Education staff collaborate to achieve each student’s IEP objectives.

Credit recovery is another unique component of the Lakeside Charter School program. Students can recover credits in any subject and grade level, including enrichment courses, in order to help them catch up and complete the graduation requirements of their home districts.

Finally, through a partnership with Western Michigan University, Lakeside offers **Service-Based Learning Projects** that partner Lakeside and WMU students on projects for the community. WMU students mentor our students on topics such as achieving personal health, the many layers of self-care, and physical wellness. The curriculum includes reflection and presenting a tangible project that enhances the community.

Some of the most exciting days on the Lakeside campus are when students finish high school. They don caps and gowns and we hold a graduation ceremony with teachers, staff, other students and (when possible) their parents. Some Lakeside Charter School graduates go on to community colleges and universities



Five Graduates on One Day!

On Sept. 28, Lakeside Charter School held a graduation ceremony for FIVE students. This ties the record for the most students at one time. The ceremony was held in the Todd Cultural Center on the Lakeside campus in front of nearly 250 Lakeside students, staff, board members, community guests, and some very proud parents.

Lakeside principal **John Thompson** said that by graduating high school each of the five grads – **Alex, Dravyn, Kai, Keith, and Rebecca** – had made “a huge accomplishment” and each has “a bright future ahead.”

Each graduate addressed the audience, thanking teachers and staff members by name and pointing out the importance of the Lakeside education each had received.

Keith, a Michigan student who plans to attend college and perhaps become a physical therapist, was especially eloquent by quoting Aristotle to describe his Lakeside experience.

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all,” he said. “Lakeside did both.”

Kai, a student from California, said he came to Lakeside “with the mindset that it would be a waste of time.” Eleven months later, he intends to stay in the Kalamazoo area, attend college, and continue his involvement in the community (he refs rocket football and volunteers at more than one local nonprofit organization). “Lakeside taught me so much. I’m so glad I came here.”

Alex, also from California and who hopes one day to be a homebuilder or architectural engineer, said “I would be nowhere without my staff [members]. I want to help other people like people here helped me.

“I love you!” We love you, too, Alex! Congrats to you and your fellow Lakeside Charter School graduates.

Oshtemo Rotary Fun Days

Lakeside for Children students were up early on Saturday, August 19, to help the Oshtemo Rotarians with their 20th annual Oshtemo Rotary Fun Day, a daylong event that includes a pancake breakfast, live music, air show, animal petting zoo, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra musical “petting zoo,” pony rides, Oshtemo Fire Department bucket rides, and police vehicles.

“This is our fifth year helping Rotary with their big event,” said Lakeside Academy Program Director **Sam Mitchell**. “We get invited back every August to help. The students like getting off campus and helping out in our community.”

Students awakened at 5:30 to prepare for the big day at Flesher Field, a municipal park on 9th Street, west of Kalamazoo. This act of community service included directing parking, setting up barriers, assisting children on rides, and making sure that the site was clean and presentable for families. They stayed to help with teardown and cleanup when the event was over.

Tim, a Lakeside student from Michigan, said he was excited the day before the event when several Rotarians visited the campus and tutored a designated group of students on the type of work that was needed and the proper demeanor around young children and families.

“It’s pretty cool to have men from the community visit campus and prepare us for the big day,” Tim said. “We all work together with the adults to make everything happen.”

Come watch the Lakeside students in action at the Oshtemo Rotary Fun Day on August 18, 2018. Admission is FREE!

