

KANDU Connection



October 5, 2020



*A Message from
Julie Smith,
Client Services Director*

Here we are, 7 or 8 months into a world-wide pandemic. Who would have thought that COVID-19 would last this long and cause this much chaos in our world? With all the outside pressures we are facing, perhaps it is time to look inward and examine the “good that is within.”

“Good from within” can have many meanings. At KANDU, it might describe an employee who is thriving after years of hard work and counseling. It might refer to the inner beauty of someone’s personality or the true happiness when a smile comes across a face as a new task is mastered. “Good from within” could also describe the persistence put forth by the team of caregivers and employees that carry out KANDU’s mission. It comes in all shapes and sizes: from fairytale-like weddings and meeting customers’ deadlines as the delivery truck is loaded, to processing payroll, diligently cleaning doorknobs, and a well-planned fundraising event! This “good” is abundant at KANDU.

We have something special. Never lose sight of the “good from within” that we all have created throughout our organization and the community. Even amid a world-wide pandemic, it is all around us.



Let the Contest of Creativity Commence!

Calling all artists, musicians and creative minds! Starting October 1st, online registration opens for the month-long art and music competition, Dragons on the Rock: Contest of Creativity. Participants can enter up to 3 competitions including poster design, drumming and theme song production. The cost to participate in each contest is \$20. Artists of all ages are encouraged to enter!

Official Contest of Creativity

Site

Design a poster to advertise Dragons on the Rock 2021! The winning design will be used for all marketing materials including a Lamar billboard. Any medium is accepted and designs must include dragons or dragon boat racing, along with a statement that all proceeds benefit KANDU and our mission of providing opportunities for people with disabilities and disadvantages.

Anything goes with the drumming competition! We ask that drummers get creative and incorporate dragons or dragon boat racing into their video, whether it's with a costume, back drop or props. The winner will receive the opportunity to perform a drum solo and introduce the drumming competition at Dragons on the Rock 2021.



Song writers and producers! Compose a short song or jingle that embodies both KANDU's mission and our annual dragon boat race and festival! The winning song will be the official Dragons on the Rock theme, used for advertising and played during the event. The winner will also have the honor of awarding medals during the 2021 dragon boat race winners ceremony.

Check out the Dragons on the Rock 2019 Youtube playlist for inspiration!

[Watch Now](#)

Each first place winner will also receive \$500 off a dragon boat team registration fee in 2021 or VIP tent access, which includes lunch, snacks and soft drinks throughout the event. Second place winners receive \$250 off a boat team registration fee. If winners are unable to participate in next year's dragon boat race, they can choose to sponsor a client boat, receiving recognition on team T-shirts and signage.

Contest finalists will be chosen by the general public via online voting, so sharing on social media is crucial for victory! Votes cost \$1 each and are limited to 100 per person. Once contest submission and voting availability ends October 31st (at midnight), the final winners will be determined by 2019 Dragons on the Rock boat team captains. Winners will be announced Saturday, November 13th at 10 AM live on the [KANDU Facebook page](#) and contacted directly.

To coincide with this online event, KANDU will also be featuring short videos from individuals with different disabilities throughout the month of October. These individual stories and experiences will be shared on [KANDU's Facebook page](#), as well as on our website, as we encourage awareness and acceptance among people of all abilities.

We may not be able to race dragon boats this year, but we can still get creative! Visit www.kanduindustries.com/contest for more information and to get started on your masterpiece today! Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact Liz at lmenz@kanduindustries.com

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Flashback!



KANDU
Halloween
Party
2019



Halloween 2020

KANDU's annual Halloween Dance has been re-invented for 2020 and is now known as the Halloween Celebration. Client Services and Production worked cooperatively to create a safe and fun day in lieu of the dance, originally scheduled for October 23rd. On Tuesday, October 27th, the production work day will end early and clients will have time to make the final touches on their costumes. After returning to their workstations to allow for social distancing, Client Services will offer COVID safe activities from 1:30-3pm. There will also be Halloween themed activities throughout the week, including a staff costume contest. Clients will also have the opportunity to "guess the scary voice" as staff take turns making announcements disguised as spooky alter egos! We are all looking forward to this week of fun and festivities!



Canceled for 2020

We hope to see you at our Fish Fry events in the spring!



Halloween may be approaching, but at KANDU, we are thinking Christmas! Many are indulging in candy corn, caramel apples and chocolate-peanut butter pumpkins this time of year and we are too! Except during work hours, when our production team is busy focusing on Christmas trees and holiday cheer. Every year, KANDU production teams at both Adel Street and Barberry Drive locations sort individual bags of candy into variety packs, ready for stocking store shelves. This year, the target goal is a remarkable 1.8 million packages. If lined up end to end, the final number of packages would reach Chicago! Needless to say, everyone at KANDU is continually astounded by the work done by our production team.

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ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

KANDU is looking forward to hosting events again after the need for social distancing has passed. For questions regarding any upcoming event, please contact Liz Menz at lmenz@kanduindustries.com

KANDU Industries, Inc.

1741 Adel St.

Janesville, WI 53546

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