

NEWS > EDUCATION

Broomfield couple joins growing trend in making desks for students learning at home



Janiro Kennedy carries a donated wooden desk back to his van with daughter Aliyah Kennedy, 5, a kindergartner at Aspen Creek PK-8, after school on Jan. 21 in Broomfield. (Timothy Hurst/Staff Photographer)

By [BROOKLYN DANCE](#) | bdance@prairiemountainmedia.com |

PUBLISHED: January 27, 2021 at 9:28 a.m. | UPDATED: January 27, 2021 at 9:28 a.m.

When Katie Kippenbrock saw an article about an Arvada couple making desks for students learning remotely, she sent it to her husband, Ross, thinking it sounded like the perfect opportunity.

The Kippenbrocks, newlywed Broomfield residents, were looking for a way to serve the community as the coronavirus pandemic is nearing the one year mark. They got the desk plans from the Arvada couple, and have since delivered six desks to Centennial Elementary school and eight desks to Aspen Creek PK-8.

"We feel super fortunate this year, and we were trying to find good ways to give back," Ross said. "This was a nice way to not just donate money, which is helpful, but (this project was) something we could do that could do some good for the community."



Ross emailed the Centennial and Aspen Creek principals and asked whether there were any students in need of a desk, and then coordinated dropping off the desks either at the school or at the child's home. Aspen Creek Early Child Community Liaison Stefanie Moriarty told Ross said she had a family ask for a desk at the beginning of the school year, and she and a teacher chipped in and bought them a folding table and chair.

Aspen Creek first grader Jadiel Lopez and kindergartener Aliyah Kennedy took home their freshly built desks Jan. 21.

When Jadiel's teacher saw him outside with his desk, Jadiel excitedly announced "I'm getting a new desk!"

Without a desk, Jadiel had been doing his school work sitting on his bed, his mom Alba Lopez said.

"I told him we were going to get a desk, and he was very happy," Lopez said. "He makes himself comfortable and works on his bed."

Jadiel said he's most excited about being able to put books in the cubby of the desk.

Aliyah, wearing a furry unicorn backpack, said she was going to decorate her desk with markers.

"It's going to be very special for her, she enjoys doing artsy things. This is right up her alley," said Aliyah's dad, DeShawn Kennedy. "We have several makeshift areas we've come up with, but they're shared areas. This is more personal for her."

Arvada resident Eric Janota started building desks for students last year, [the Colorado Sun](#) reported, and titled the program Desks for Kids. The program started in his garage and has spread to multiple counties, and as of Friday, Desks for Kids had distributed 566 desks to kids who need them, according to its Facebook page.

The Kippenbrocks reached out to Desks for Kids ready to help build desks, but Ross said that's when he learned there was no one building desks for Broomfield students.

So Ross and Katie took two days off in December and started building.

"Katie helped me with the first few, that was nice and we could tag-team it," Ross said. "I think I (built) like five a day."

Katie said the opportunity just made sense for Ross, who has taken up woodworking as a hobby the past couple of years.

"It's a perfect blend of his interests, and we had been trying to find something we could apply ourselves toward. I sent it to Ross and he jumped all over it," Katie said.

Ross said he's built 10 desks himself, and other desks were donated from others wanting to help.

"I tried to tell the people at Aspen Creek I'm not the only one doing this," Ross said. "There's a handful of other people in the area. It's good to see the community come together to support people that have needs, specifically around the pandemic."

For more information about Desks for Kids, visit facebook.com/DesksForKids.



Brooklyn Dance



Brought to you by Prairie Mountain Publishing

Get Started On Your Real Estate Journey

A conversation with Fred Smith, Realtor is a great way to get started on your real estate journey. Whether you...

Delicious Homemade Soups

A tasty bowl or cup of soup is perfect on a cold winter's day! You'll always find delicious homemade soups...

Consider A Tankless Water Heater

You can save on your utility bills all year long by changing the way you heat your home's water. Consider...

Local Craft Breweries And Distilleries



Twin Peaks Liquor is known for their incredible selection, friendly staff and great liquor, beer and wine specials. There is...

Memorable Granite Memorials In Colorado

Landmark Monuments has created some of the most memorable granite memorials in Colorado. They provide a wide variety of products...

