A Continuum of Care 2016 Annual Report

Kennedy Donovan Center
Founded in 1969
Dear Friends,

I am very proud of the great work Kennedy-Donovan Center is doing in the community. We have continued to grow through the years and are now providing support to more than 6,500 children, adults, and families. Fiscal Year 2016 was a year of growth in people we support, launching new programs, and celebrations, which you can read about in the following pages.

The continuum of care that KDC provides people with developmental delays, disabilities, or family challenges to reach their potential and success in the community, makes a lasting impact on those we serve. The successes of this past year are impressive, and the future is bright, as we continue to strive for excellence.

Our circle of friends continues to grow, and we depend on you to help continue our mission and fill gaps in services needed for our families. We couldn’t do this work without you.

We are grateful for your support, and honored to have your trust in what we do to improve the lives of those we touch everyday.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Macfarlane
President & CEO

P.S. Please consider making a gift to Kennedy-Donovan Center today by visiting kdc.org. Thank you.

What We Accomplished in fy2016

• Launched Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder, as well as their families, to pursue their personal potential and success in their homes and communities.
• Successfully completed renovations on the South Campus in New Bedford, and exceeded the campaign goal by raising $535,000.
• Improved clinical support for current children, adults, and families.

Our Goals for fy2017

• Complete a new three-year Strategic Plan and begin its implementation.
• Complete the construction of new administrative offices in Foxboro to adapt to the tremendous growth experienced in the past ten years.
• Attain the highest level of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities with a three-year accreditation.
• Roll out a new and freshly-designed website to help families easily find resources to meet their needs.

Our Mission

Kennedy-Donovan Center supports people with developmental delays, disabilities, or family challenges to pursue their personal potential and success in the community. We provide a wide range of effective supports to individuals and families through prevention, advocacy, and intervention services that are person-centered, innovative, and compassionate.
**Applied Behavior Analysis Program (ABA)**

Autism Spectrum Disorder is the fastest growing developmental challenge in the country, and research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Early intervention for children is essential to minimize the impact of their social and communication challenges from childhood into adulthood. Many individuals need assistance developing social and communication skills.

Kennedy-Donovan Center has always provided services to individuals with Autism. In 2016 we launched our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program providing these services through insurance reimbursement. ABA is an effective treatment for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our mission has always been to fill gaps in services for those we support. We found that families were waiting anywhere from six months to a year or more to receive services to help their children, and launched the program to answer the call from the community.

The program provides support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as their families, to pursue their personal potential and reach adulthood. Individuals of all ages receive customized behavior services using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.

Kennedy-Donovan Center launched the program to answer the call from families to receive services to help their children, and it has only worked with the child, but with the entire family unit. As parent Phyllis said, “ABA isn’t something we take out to do, and then put away. It is always present, it’s how I communicate with Jordan, and it’s how he communicates with everyone else around him.”

**Phyllis with son, Jordan**
Annual Staff Appreciation Event

As we share our accomplishments in fiscal year 2016, we would also like to recognize our dedicated staff. Each year, Kennedy-Donovan Center holds a Staff Appreciation event where we gather in a relaxed, stress-free environment to build closer bonds with one another. During that gathering, four awards are presented to employees nominated by their peers. The following awards were presented at this year’s event.

**LUELLA’S LEGACY AWARD**
Presented to an employee who is dedicated to KDC’s vision of inclusive and individualized services, has compassion for others, and a passion for life-long learning.

**Dennis Carchedi, Senior Director, Early Intervention & Healthy Families**

**LEADERSHIP AWARD**
Presented to someone who serves as a role model for others to do their best, promote positive morale through their own behavior, and foster an environment of inclusion.

**Heather Alden, Shared Living/AFC Program Supervisor, Cape Cod**

We are deeply grateful for all of our dedicated, professional, and compassionate employees. They keep the legacy of our founder, Luella Hennessey Donovan in the forefront.

**SPIRIT AWARD (team)**
Presented to a team of employees who consistently motivate and encourage others to do their best, present positive morale through their own behavior, and foster an environment of inclusion.

**Heather Alden, Shared Living/AFC Program Supervisor, Cape Cod**

**Realizing a Dream**

We all have dreams, and that dream for five women in one of Kennedy-Donovan Center’s residential programs was a Disney World vacation. Their goal was to raise $5,000 for that dream vacation, and did it by pooling their talents, and selling the unique items created. With their own inspiring stories and a unique eye for art, these women collectively designed and created greeting cards, vases, key chains, paintings, tile coasters, holiday ornaments, and much more. The items were sold at conferences, craft shows, holiday bazaars, and other fundraising events under the business they call Dream Designs.

Dream Designs became the business collaboration of six women: Katie, Karen, Jamie, Karla, Ellen, and Jennifer. Although Jennifer passed away before their trip, the others kept her spirit alive throughout their efforts to realize their Disney vacation in her memory. The business experience not only helped them pursue their dream, but also helped them develop socialization skills and reveal talents they didn’t know they had. The house manager who watched each of them grow remarked, “Jamie could sell water to a whale, Karen is outspoken and works on money skills. Karla took amazing photos and her self-esteem grew in selling them. Katie sold water to a whale now! Karen is outspoken and works on money skills. The lesson learned: always believe, no matter how big or small your dream.”

They had a wonderful vacation and have memories to treasure for a lifetime. The lesson learned: always believe, no matter how big or small your dream.
Our Growing Foundation Support

It was nearly fifty years ago that Luella Hennessy Donovan, a private nurse for Joseph and Rose Kennedy, founded Kennedy-Donovan Center. Mrs. Donovan was inspired by her work to open one of the first community-based educational and therapeutic programs for young children. A generous three-year grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation made her dream possible.

Today, we continue to depend on the generosity of the community to help us continue our mission. Support from family and corporate foundations is extremely important because it allows us to develop new programs, and fill service gaps in the community.

We’ve received funding from many foundations, but would like to acknowledge two in particular: long-time supporter, Mansfield Bank, and one of our newest supporters, the Roy T. Morgan Foundation.

Mansfield Bank has been a generous supporter for over twenty years, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment. There are a number of ways in which they have supported our programs and their foundation has been a wonderful funding source for our Greater Attleboro Program Center. Their grant funding has allowed us to develop our autism service program, support our “More Than Words” and “KDC Therapists” pilot program, and provide new equipment, furnishings, and supplies. The focus of their charitable giving is to support the well-being of families, youth, and seniors living in our communities, and we are grateful to partner with them to enhance programs for those in need.

The support received from Rhode Island-based Roy T. Morgan Foundation has been growing steadily. Our Special Education School in New Bedford, the New Bedford Early Intervention program, and our Greater Attleboro Program Center have benefited from their support. The foundation has ensured that we can continue to provide early childhood intervention services to our early childhood intervention child group room at our New Bedford campus, provided speech and language equipment, and gate trainers for children in early intervention. They have visited our programs and understand the importance of giving back to the community and providing services that families would not receive otherwise.

All foundations who donated to KDC can be found throughout our 2016 Circle of Friends Donor List beginning on page five. Their commitment is just as important as that first grant received in 1969 from the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation.
According to the 2016 Satisfaction Survey Summary Report to the Board of Directors, the following programs received 95% or higher overall satisfaction.

**ADULT & RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Day Habilitation**
  Provides a daily, comprehensive program of therapies, developmental skills training, medical oversight, and assistance with activities of daily living for adults with developmental disabilities in a supportive, caring environment.

- **Intensive Flexible Family Support**
  Provides short-term, intensive case management to families of a child or adult with developmental disabilities, who are in crisis and at risk of out-of-home placements for their children.

- **Shared Living**
  Provides support to adults with developmental disabilities through highly individualized living arrangements in the homes of trained caregivers.

- **Transitional Job Support**
  Helps individuals with disabilities find community-based employment that they enjoy and that is suited to their skills. Training and support are provided to both the employer and the employee, and ongoing communication ensures that job expectations are being met.

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**

- **Early Intervention**
  Is certified by the Department of Public Health and provides services to young children (birth to 36 months) who have, or are at risk for, developmental delays. Kennedy-Donovan Center provides Early Intervention in four regions: Attleboro, New Bedford, Plymouth and Southbridge/Connecticut.

- **Healthy Families**
  Is a state-wide home-visitation program for first-time parents age 21 and under, that provides services from pregnancy through the child’s third birthday. The program is funded by the Children’s Trust of Massachusetts and provided by KDC out of two locations: Greater New Bedford and Greater Plymouth.

- **Intensive Foster Care**
  Serves infants through twenty-one years who generally have medical needs, developmental disabilities, or a history of abuse and neglect. For many, the goal is reunification with the birth parent(s). Kennedy-Donovan Center provides Early Intervention in four regions: Attleboro, New Bedford, Plymouth and Southbridge/Connecticut.

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- **Lives in Forward Transition (LIFT)**
  Is a voluntary program for young adults age 18-22, who are transitioning from foster care to independence, and choose to continue living in a private home setting.

- **KDC Special Education School**
  Provides the highest quality services to students 3 through 21 who have autism, developmental delays, multiple disabilities, neurological disorders, physical disabilities, behavioral challenges, or who are medically fragile.

For a complete list of our programs and services, please visit kdc.org/services.
Thank you for your support.