

Serving nearly
6,000 children,
adults and families
annually.

KDC connections

Summer 2014

A Publication of Kennedy-Donovan Center



*“Mary comes to KDC
with a wealth of
experience in developing
and managing human
services programs...”*

A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell

We're pleased to introduce Mary Valachovic as Vice President of Adult and Community Programs. Mary comes to KDC with a wealth of experience in developing and managing human services programs, along with strong clinical, leadership and administrative skills. We are excited about her joining the management team.

Mary will oversee a wide variety of programs and services provided to more than 1,000 individuals and families with developmental disabilities or family challenges throughout eastern and central Massachusetts. She will also be responsible for managing the agency's Quality Assurance program. Services under her direction include individual support, adult residential services, foster care and family services, family support and respite care, and transitional job supports. Mary is a resident of Princeton.



*Mary Valachovic,
KDC's new Vice
President of Adult
and Community
Programs.*

It was a bittersweet time for all of us when we bid farewell to 30-year employee, Dan Couet, Vice President of Children and Family Programs. While we are excited about the new adventures that await him and grateful for his years of service, we are saddened by his departure.

Dan was hired in 1984 as a social worker for Early Intervention, moved into the role of program manager in 1988, and became the vice president of Children and Families in 1999. He was extremely knowledgeable about his programs and served as a mentor for his directors. Dan possesses a wonderful wit and was always gracious and kind, even when faced with the challenges of state budget cuts, changing regulations, or the needs of children and families.

Dan engaged his family, especially his wife Kathy, with the happenings of KDC. Whether through cycling for the Rodman Ride for Kids in support of KDC, or attending any number of program and agency fundraisers, we could always count on the support of Dan and his family. We have been fortunate to have had him as a friend and colleague and wish him continued success on his journey. On behalf of our board of directors, families and staff, we thank Dan for making the difference in the lives of countless children and families.



*Dan Couet,
KDC employee
for thirty years.*



KDC Connections is published by Kennedy-Donovan Center for the agency's volunteers, families, supporters, and those to whom we provide services and supports of the highest quality.

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events calendar

SEPTEMBER 7th

Kid's Count 5K Trail Run to benefit KDC's South Central Early Intervention program. Event registration begins at 9 a.m. with the run at 10 a.m. Includes many fun activities for families. For more information, go to www.runsignup.com, or call 508-765-0292.

SEPTEMBER 24th

Board of Director's meeting, Foxboro office.

OCTOBER 7th

New Bedford Campaign meeting, New Bedford campus.

OCTOBER 17th

Matt Fraser, world renowned psychic medium, at Sky Room in New Bedford to benefit New Bedford Foster Care and Family Resources. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 508-997-5875.

NOVEMBER 1st

6th Annual Jennifer Lee Freitas Memorial Dinner at the New Bedford Sports Club to benefit the KDC Special Education School. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Heidi at 508-992-4756.

DECEMBER 3rd

Board of Director's meeting, Foxboro.

DECEMBER 6th

Holiday Bazaar and Crafts Sale to benefit KDC's Milford program to be held at the Milford Program center: 171 Main Street, Milford). Vendors/artists may purchase a table for \$35. Unique gifts, fun kid's activities, photos with Santa and more. For more information, call Maria or Deb at 508-473-5700.

JANUARY 28th

Board of Director's meeting, Foxboro office.

Please visit kdc.org/events.htm for additional information on these and other upcoming events.

Buckley's Recognized for Longstanding Support

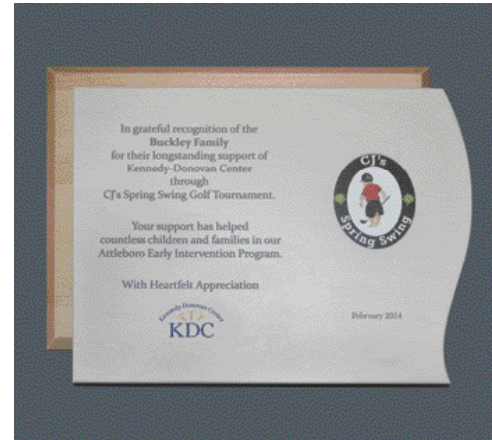
Kennedy-Donovan Center recognized Sean and Sandra Buckley and their extended family for the incredible contributions they have made to the Early Intervention program in Attleboro. Since 2004, they have donated over \$56,000 through their family tournament, CJ's Spring Swing Golf Tournament.

A plaque outside the children's group room at the Attleboro Programs Center, 25 Forest Street, was dedicated in their honor. Friends and family joined with KDC staff to recognize the Buckley's years of support to the program through their kindness, generosity, and gifts.

Ten years ago, the Buckley's started the golf tournament because they thought it was important to give back to their community and organizations that supported their son C.J. Kennedy-Donovan Center is one of many organizations that receives proceeds from the annual tournament. According Kevin Rodman Conare, President and CEO, "We are exceptionally grateful for their faithful support of the Attleboro Early Intervention program and KDC. They are an amazing family and have never forgotten the care they received when CJ was in the program."



The Buckley Family with Monica Quinn, EI Program Director, and the plaque dedicated in their honor.



New Bedford Expansion Coming Soon



Kennedy-Donovan Center's New Bedford South Campus at 385 County Street will undergo an expansion with completion expected in August 2015.

This location will provide the following services:

- Foster Care & Family Stabilization
- Healthy Families
- Family Resource Services

The expansion will enable services for all ages in a single location.

Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Generous Grants Awarded to KDC

Over the past six months KDC has received several grants to meet the needs of hundreds of children and families. A grant was received from the Roy T. Morgan Foundation for the purchase of adaptive speech language equipment for our Special Education School in New Bedford. Funds will be used specifically to purchase switches, activation buttons, and an iPad for use by the students.

A \$5,000 grant was received from Andrade-Faxon Charities for Children for our Healthy Families programs in Plymouth and Attleboro/Taunton. It will be used to buy supplies and educational materials for families such as books, videos, personal care items, and safety equipment. Healthy Families is a home visiting program for first-time parents age 21 years and under. This program improves the health of young families and children, while fostering self sufficiency.

Autism Speaks granted \$1,300 in swim and safety scholarship funds to toddlers with autism, or presenting traits of autism, from our Attleboro Early Intervention program in collaboration with the Attleboro YMCA. To learn more about the swim and safety class or the scholarship program, contact Edith Benisty, Occupational Therapist, at 508-226-6035.

Finally, we received another grant for the year from the United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton to continue our minority outreach program from our Attleboro Early Intervention program. Funds will be used to continue the outreach efforts to underserved populations, in particular the Hispanic and Cambodian families in the communities we serve.

Helping Hands at Attleboro Early Intervention

For the past three years, the Attleboro Early Intervention program has had a little extra help from Attleboro High School. Every week, two students from the special education classroom are sent to the program center with their para-professional, Jackie DaSilva. Their playroom cleaning duties include disinfecting tables, organizing items

in the room, vacuuming, emptying trash and performing office duties. The students are always focused, energetic and helpful. One staff member states, "They do a fantastic job and we really miss them when they are on summer break. We look forward to having them back in September."



Left: Joe Scales vacuums the play area; Right: Joe Scales, Jackie DaSilva and Carly Paras.



Many of KDC's programs now have Facebook pages. Connecting with us is a great way to stay current with what's happening at your favorite program and to interact with staff and others.

You can also find us on Twitter, Pinterest and LinkedIn.

[Facebook.com/KennedyDonovanCenter](https://www.facebook.com/KennedyDonovanCenter)



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.

Legacy Society



The Luella Hennessey Donovan Legacy Society was established in honor of our founder who passed away over ten years ago, to help ensure a brighter future for children and adults with developmental delays and/or disabilities, and their families.

Remember Kennedy-Donovan Center in your Estate Plan

To learn how you can leave a lasting legacy so that families will always have Kennedy-Donovan Center in time of need, please contact Ann Buono, Vice President of Development & Public Relations at 508-772-1215 or abuono@kdc.org.

Spring Celebration Celebrated Foster Care Services

It was an evening of inspiration for those who attended the Annual Spring Celebration held on Thursday, May 15th at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood. The event successfully raised over \$50,000 for Foster Care and Family Stabilization programs and brought much-needed awareness about these services provided by KDC.

Special guest speaker Shane Salter, a well-known child advocate, shared an emotional story of his experiences in foster care. Shane is President of Shane Salter for Kids Foundation and has dedicated his life as a national advocate, consultant, lecturer, and nonprofit executive. Shane's personal story captivated the audience and informed them of the struggles of children in foster care and the services needed to ensure children have a strong foundation.

Special recognition goes to event sponsor, Webster Bank, as well as speaker reception

sponsor, IneoQuest Technologies. KDC is both fortunate and grateful for the long-standing support from both organizations. Additional sponsors included: Bowdoin Construction Corporation; East Coast Benefit Plans; Mansfield Bank; Milford National Bank & Trust; Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart; Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation; Rotary Club of Foxboro; Sharon Credit Union; Technical Support International (TSI); Telamon; and the TJX Companies.

Each year, 25,000 children age-out of the foster care system without ever finding a caring family. Foster Care is a rapidly growing program at KDC, and we are always in need of safe, stable foster homes. To learn more about the program or becoming a foster parent, please contact Melissa Zeitz, Program Director, at mzeitz@kdc.org or at (508) 997-5875.



Guest Speaker Shane Salter (second from left) between board members Anthony Karamas and Joseph Hulbig; and KDC president Kevin Rodman Conare (second from right) next to board member Deb Felix.

First Annual Nopper Marine Poker Run



The first Annual Nopper Marine Poker Run held on August 16th raised \$10,000 for Kennedy-Donovan Center. A beautiful summer day was enjoyed by those who attended in 29 participating boats. Special thanks to Nopper Marine and the committee who helped make this event a tremendous success, exceeding everyone's expectations.

A Starry, Starry Night for KDC

With the success of last year's prom, it was evident that we needed to repeat. This year, the KDC Prom was held on Saturday, June 21st at the Holiday Inn Taunton for the adult clients we support, and their families. The ladies looked elegant, the gentlemen were dapper, and fun was had by all who attended this inspiring evening.

Attendees enjoyed formal and prop photo opportunities, great food, and a fabulous DJ who could barely keep up with the energy of the group. The dance floor was always full and a dance-off contest was held for best moves. Needless to say, the contest was the big hit of the evening.

The prom's success was made possible through support from the community. An overwhelming response was received when a call to action was made seeking donations, and volunteers to help with hair, make-up and nails for the ladies. Thank you to all who made the evening so memorable.



Jamie having fun with props at the prom.

KDC Welcomes Two New Board Members

We are pleased to announce the return of board member Kelly DiPersio, who is also an alumna parent. She served on KDC's board for six years, took a mandatory year off, but continued her involvement as a member of the Development Council and Fundraising Committee. Her new role during this term is Program Committee Chair. Kelly is a fundraising professional and lives in Kingston with her three children.

New board member Bradford "Brad" Pineault is an Investment Specialist at Fidelity Investments, where he has worked since 1998. Brad grew up in New Bedford, and he and his family have recently become residents of Lakeville. We are fortunate to have Brad's financial background and knowledge of the New Bedford area as we look to grow our services there.



Top: New board member, Bradford Pineault of Fidelity Investments is a resident of Lakeville.

Bottom: Returning board member, Kelly DiPersio, alumna parent and resident of Kingston.

BOARD

David Boucher, Chair
Longfellow Benefits

Ronald Carlstrom III, Vice Chair
BankRI

Anthony Karamas, Clerk
Fidelity Investments

Robert McGowan, Treasurer
Edward Wildman Palmer

Edwin "Ted" G. Carr
Rasky Baerlin Communications

Kelly Courtney
Pipeline Management

Brian Dierksen
Fernandes Lumber Company

Kelly DiPersio
Alumna Parent

Deborah Felix
TJX Companies

Patricia Forts
Fallon Community Health Plan

Richard Harwood
Baystate Financial Group

Joseph Hulbig
Providence College

Bradford Pineault
Fidelity Investments

Scott Scales
Milford National Bank and Trust

Kevin Rodman Conare
President/CEO, KDC ex officio

Programs Overview

ADULT FAMILY CARE

Finds adults with medical needs homes with families who have been trained to address their specific needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

Serves students 3 to 22 years of age with multiple disabilities.

DAY HABILITATION

Provides high needs adults with a comprehensive program of services in a supportive and caring environment.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Serves children, birth to 36 months, in the home, who have or are at risk of development delays.

EARLY INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Serves pregnant women whose children are at risk of poor health outcomes and delays.

FAMILY SUPPORT & RESPITE SERVICES

Supports individuals living with their families in receiving tailored services.

FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Works with families in crisis to prevent out-of-home placements; with children to place in qualified, caring homes; and with young adults transitioning to independence.

HEALTHY FAMILIES

Serves first-time parents age 21 or under until the child's third birthday.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Serves adults living on their own in the community by providing drop-in support for daily life management.

SHARED LIVING

Finds adults homes with families who have been trained to address their specific needs.

SUPPORTED LIVING

Provides direct on-going services and supports to adults with disabilities living independently in their own homes.

SUPERVISED LIVING

Provides 24/7 support to adults living in groups of two to four in neighborhood homes.

TRANSITIONAL JOB SUPPORT

Assists adults in finding and maintaining meaningful paid employment.

Well-deserved Recognition for New Bedford Healthy Families Program

Congratulations to Kennedy-Donovan Center's New Bedford Healthy Families Program for receiving the Documentation Award for outstanding documentation in Participant Data System (PDS). The award is based on quality, timeliness and comprehensiveness of documentation in PDS in comparison to the twenty-five Healthy Families Massachusetts programs. The program also received an award for Group Services for their training and implementation of new evidenced-based group services.

We are very proud of our staff, who have demonstrated outstanding performance as acknowledged by their strong showing at the

HFA Credentialing Visit and their recognition by Healthy Families Massachusetts. The Celebration Day event was held in June in Sturbridge for the Documentation and Group Services Awards.



Pursuing a Big Dream

Dream Designs is a business collaboration of three women with inspiring stories who have a creative eye for art. Together they have designed and created greeting cards, vases, unique key chains, paintings, tiled coasters, holiday ornaments and much more. "Creating a business has been a wonderful experience for these ladies and their ideas for Dream Designs continue to grow," Residential Director Carolyn Cosma proudly stated.

Katie, Karla, Ellen, Karen, and Jamie have had a lifelong dream to vacation in Disney and take a Disney cruise, so they decided to use their talents to raise the \$15,000 needed for their trip. While they are still a ways from their goal, Dream Designs provides art therapy, develops social skills, and makes it possible to share their diverse talents for others to enjoy.

These women create, inspire and bestow hope. Their creations would make a perfect gift for that special person in your life with the holidays not too far around the corner.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit facebook.com/dreamdesigns19, find Dream Designs on Pinterest or email dreamdesigns19@verizon.net.



Annual Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament

Golfers gathered to participate in the 11th annual Swing Fore the Kids golf tournament on a beautiful June morning. The tournament, which was presented again by lead sponsor, Top Tier Site Development, successfully raised \$40,000 for KDC's Greater Plymouth Early Intervention program. The exclusive Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston, Massachusetts served as the venue. A great afternoon of golf was followed by a cocktail hour, dinner, silent auction and raffles.

Additional sponsors this year included Kamp Construction, Metro Motor Group,

Plymouth Rehabilitation & Health Center, Vendetti Motors, and White Wood Kitchens. Heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and the hardworking committee members for another successful year.

The tournament has raised more than \$200,000 since 2004 and the funds have supported over 3,000 children and their families during those years. Specifically, funds raised are used to train staff, purchase specialized equipment, educate families and acquire assistive technology for children with developmental needs.



Left to right: Tom Tripp from Top Tier Site Development; Rich Harwood, KDC board member; and Arlene Tannenbaum, Director, Plymouth Early Intervention.

Meet Matthew Fraser World Renowned Psychic Medium



When: Friday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Sky Room, 651 Orchard Street, New Bedford
Cost: \$40, includes hors d'oeuvres and desserts

Matt is a gifted psychic/medium and author of the new book "The Secrets to Unlocking Your Psychic Ability." He has been featured on the NBC Morning News, CBS Radio, FOX News and more. Known for delivering heartfelt messages from the other side, he is truly gifted in bringing through validation with names, dates and places from loved ones in heaven.

Proceeds benefit New Bedford Foster Care and Family Resources. **For tickets, please call 508-997-5875.**



VISION

Kennedy-Donovan Center is committed to the full continuum of care for people with developmental delays, disabilities or family challenges in our region. We strive to provide this either by offering services directly to individuals of all ages and their families or by collaborating closely with community partners. Our growth will target programs that:

- Fill service gaps in the continuum of care for our clients
- Focus on individualized one-on-one services
- Are needed in our current service area or adjacent regions
- Build on our current expertise
- Respond to a need for innovative and flexible programming



KDC Locations



Attleboro, Foxboro, Kingston, Milford,
New Bedford, South Yarmouth and
Southbridge.

You Can Make the Difference

The holiday season is not that far away and each year KDC raises money through its Holiday Appeal. Help us get a jump start on this year's goal of \$60,000 with your tax-

deductible donation. Every dollar makes the difference, and funds raised go directly to our programs and services. Thank you in advance for your support.

I want to help KDC reach its \$60,000 goal.

I wish to make a difference with a gift of:

☐ \$250 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ other \$ _____

☐ I'd like my gift to be anonymous ☐ Company matching gift program; form enclosed.

This gift is: ☐ in memory of ☐ in honor of _____

Name _____

Street _____ City/Town _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Method of payment ☐ Check enclosed ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Cardholder name _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Please detach form and mail to: Kennedy-Donovan Center, One Commercial Street,
Foxboro, MA 02035. You can also donate online at kdc.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Exciting Summer News

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