



## GET TO KNOW KDC'S PRESIDENT & CEO



KDC's Board of Directors proudly announced in March N. Paul TonThat as President and Chief Executive Officer of KDC after being the interim CEO since September 2018. Having come to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1975, Paul recognized how

personal public policies impacted his own life and committed himself to work on the behalf of those whose lives have been marginalized. He has deep knowledge in the fields of human services, beginning at Bay Cove Human Services with a tenure of nearly a decade, including implementing and creating bilingual, bi-cultural homes for homeless and the mentally ill; which became a national model.

Paul has a bachelor's degree in Economic-Finance from Bentley College and an M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. In 2011, he completed the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management (SPNM) Program at Harvard Business School.

**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.

## Focused on our Future

### KDC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SUPPORTING FAMILIES

**L**uella Hennessey Donovan believed in the inherent dignity and rights of all but particularly those with developmental disabilities. Seeing little of that in the way individuals with developmental disabilities were treated in their communities, Luella started a community-based program for four young children with special needs in the basement of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Walpole in 1969.

Luella was the family nurse for three decades of Kennedy family children and she helped the family support Rosemary. Now she focused on changing what people with developmental disabilities could do, and the opportunities they could experience.

What began as one woman's vision 50 years ago, evolved into Kennedy-Donovan Center- a nonprofit organization that today supports more than 10,000 families, like Rosemary, in over 50% of Massachusetts.

And today, KDC's President and Chief Executive Officer N. Paul TonThat, is focused on keeping Luella's vision alive for the next 50 years. "It is a privilege to lead KDC at this time, during a year of honoring our legacy," said TonThat. "Working together with the leadership team and all those who believe in a bright future for those we support- we will empower individuals and families through comprehensive and innovative services to reach their full potential in their lives."

To honor the legacy of KDC, there will be a 50th Anniversary Gala held on Saturday, June 1st at Avenir in Walpole, MA- back where it all began. The family of Luella Hennessey Donovan are the Honorees for the evening, including Luella's great nephew and KDC Board Member, Ted Carr. Longtime supporters of KDC- Deb Felix of The TJX Companies, Anthony Karamas and Brad Pineault from Fidelity Investments- will be the Tri-Chairs for the evening. There will be a cocktail reception, a delicious plated dinner, live auction, and a guest speaker. To purchase tickets, please visit our website: [kdc.org/50-anniversary](http://kdc.org/50-anniversary).



## Programs

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICES  
ADULT FAMILY CARE  
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS  
DAY HABILITATION  
EARLY INTERVENTION  
FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESPITE SERVICES  
FOSTER CARE SERVICES  
HEALTHY FAMILIES  
INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT  
SHARED LIVING  
SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL  
SUPERVISED LIVING  
SUPPORTED LIVING  
TRANSITIONAL JOB SUPPORT

## Building A Community

### FOUNDATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**The Roy T. Morgan Foundation have been wonderful supporters over the last five years to KDC.** With their most recent gift, the Foundation has allowed KDC to build a Community Deck at their New Bedford North Campus, along with a large shade structure to ensure shaded and protected use for our individuals and families.

The new Community Deck will be officially unveiled this summer and will allow the children, students and adults at our New Bedford North Campus a safe place to gather and explore the outdoors. The Deck will incorporate handicap accessible ramps, a therapeutic sensory garden and comfortable areas for enjoying the outdoors.

## Tee Time

### SAVE THE DATE- SWING FORE THE KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT



Swing into golf season with KDC! On Monday, June 24, KDC & Atlas Innovative Services will host The 16th Annual Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament to benefit KDC's Greater Plymouth Early Intervention Program at the prestigious Plymouth Country Club, in Plymouth, MA.

Since its inception, the golf tournament has raised nearly half a million dollars for KDC's Plymouth Early Intervention Program, and all of that has been possible thanks to Jill Tripp, a KDC Board Member, and her husband, Tom.

"Taking part in the Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament has been important to us for almost two decades," says Jill. "Being involved not only gives us a chance to spread awareness of the importance of the programs offered by KDC and how they positively impact children and families within on our communities, but it also allows us to enjoy a fun day and event with our friends, colleagues, KDC staff and families."

Tee off is at noon and golfers will be able to enjoy a cocktail hour, plated dinner and a variety of silent auction items. To register, please visit: [kdc.org/swing-fore-the-kids-2019](http://kdc.org/swing-fore-the-kids-2019)

## Cook For Good

### CAPE COD PROGRAM RECOGNIZED AT DDS RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

KDC's Cape Cod Programs participated in the Annual Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Recognition Breakfast, held on April 12. At the breakfast, John Read, the Family Support Coordinator at the Cape Cod Program, was recognized for his excellence in service for the individuals and families that he works with by the Cape Cod & Islands Citizen Advisory Board.

"John has been a true asset to KDC- in particular for our Cape Cod Programs," said Glenn Loomis, Program Director of KDC's Cape Cod Programs. "John always has the best interest of those we support in mind and we are fortunate to have John as part of our team."

KDC's Vice President of Adult Services, Scott Fitzgerald, and Glenn Loomis and members from the Cape team were tasked with cooking breakfast for all attendees. Afterwards, they visited the Yarmouth Police Department and delivered breakfast to them as well. The Yarmouth Police Department was commemorating the one-year anniversary of Sergeant Sean M. Gannon's tragic passing. Thank you to the Yarmouth Police Department for all you do to keep our Cape Cod communities safe.



## 1969-1970's

The Kennedy Center for Handicapped Children founded in 1969 with a three-year grant received from The Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation, with four young children initially served.

New and innovative community-based educational and therapeutic services offered for young children with The Kennedy Center Nursery program and Development Day program, eventually known as Early Intervention.

120 children served in 1977.

## 1980's

Community-based adult Respite Services and Specialized Home Care established with funding from DMR, now known as the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Community-integrated Residential Services for adults with developmental disabilities opened in Cape Cod, Mansfield and Milford.

Community-based Respite Services and Foster Care for children established with funding from DSS, now known as the Department of Children and Families.

Agency name changed to Kennedy-Donovan Center upon Mrs. Donovan's retirement in 1987.

750 children and adults at 11 sites served in 1988.

## 1990's

Residential Services expanded with opening of new homes in Milford and Cape Cod.

Early Intervention Programs expanded to South Central region to support children ages 0 to 3, and their families through contract with the Department of Public Health (DPH).

FirstSteps and Healthy Families Programs established to support young families through new Children's Trust contract.

Transitional Job Supports Program in Milford offered as a new service for adults with developmental disabilities.

New Special Education School building opened in New Bedford in June 1991, and Early Intervention in 1994.

3,400 children, families, and adults served in 1997.

## 2000's

Intensive Foster Care Program expanded to provide additional homes to children with special needs.

Individual Support Services for adults with developmental disabilities established in Nantucket and New Bedford.

Early Intervention Partnership Program in New Bedford and Southbridge established with award of new DPH contract.

Pilot transportation program at New Bedford facility established with award of GATRA contract.

Day Habilitation Program for adults with developmental disabilities established in New Bedford.

5,000 children, families, and adults served in 2006.

## 2010's

New Family Support models established with Centers in Cape Cod and South Valley East and Intensive Flexible Family Support (IFFS) on Cape Cod, Plymouth, and Taunton/Attleboro.

Specialty services for children in Foster Care Established: Lives in Forward Transition (LIFT), Independent Living, and Complex Medical Foster Care.

Services for individuals with acquired brain injuries launched on Cape Cod and New Bedford.

Clinical Support for adults and children with behavioral needs expanded.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services launched for children and youth with autism spectrum disorder in Foxboro.

\$5.75 million bond issued from MassDevelopment to support a new program center in Kingston, renovations for KDC's Greater Attleboro program center and seven additional properties for Residential Services.

Synagogue across from New Bedford Special Education School purchased and renovated to become KDC South Campus as services increased in 2014-2016.

Successful \$500,000 capital campaign launched to renovate New Bedford South Campus.

Proclaimed October 25th as Kennedy-Donovan Center's Founder's Day.

10,000 children, teens, adults, and families served in 2018.

## Opportunity

### INCLUSIVE SWIM PROGRAM



KDC partnered with the YMCA of Cape Cod and Lisa Drennan of MERGE Inclusion Consulting to host a Pilot Swim Program- which created an opportunity for individuals to receive aquatic instruction in an inclusive model.

Classes were led by inclusion trained instructors for swimmers ages 4-16, who were paired up with a similar aged swim peer buddy from The Cape Cod Swim Club and the community. Instructors and peer buddies had been trained on inclusion strategies and were introduced to MERGE's Inclusion Tool Kit. The class structure guided swimmers with and without disabilities through techniques that focused on water acclimation and basic aquatic skills in a safe environment while promoting peer socialization, cooperative interaction and sensory exploration. The swim sessions were funded through a generous grant from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation.

## Autism Awareness Month

### MEET A FAMILY IN OUR ABA PROGRAM

Meet Kelly. Her five-year-old daughter, Daphne takes part in KDC's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program.

"Daphne participated in a variety of therapies since she was four-months-old, and KDC's ABA Program has proven to be the most organized, structured and professional program we have been a part of," said Kelly. "And more importantly- it has been the most beneficial program for her. That is why I decided to focus her time solely on that." And Kelly is very glad she did so.

Daphne participates in KDC's ABA Program four days a week, totaling 10 hours. She is able to work with KDC's Board Certified Behavior Analysts and other direct support staff, including licensed Behavior Technicians, to work on therapies to help her with her autism diagnosis.

Now, with KDC's care and expertise, Kelly's daughter is in an integrated Kindergarten classroom.

"I don't know if she would be in an integrated classroom if it wasn't for KDC," said Kelly. "They have changed her life, our lives."

And today Kelly stresses how important the at-home services are to her and her family. Daphne is in school all day and instead of having to go elsewhere for services, she can come home and have services right in the home, all while Kelly is making dinner, and dealing with tasks around the home. "It is so convenient for us- and for her, especially for her well-being. To be out of the house for eight hours a day and then to have to go somewhere else right after- that's a lot for anyone, especially a 5-year-old," said Kelly. "I am so grateful for the ABA team at KDC."





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# KDC CONNECTIONS



KDC's founder, Luella Hennessey  
Donovan, with President Kennedy,  
Jackie and their son John, Jr.

## Community Support

### PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The Foxborough Police Department sported an extra badge for the month of April, as they raised funds for KDC during Autism Awareness Month. They sold limited edition Autism Awareness Patches as part of their public awareness campaign, with all the proceeds donated to KDC.

"The Foxborough Police Relief Association is grateful to have had the opportunity to support such a worthy cause," said Detective Patrick Morrison with the Foxborough Police Department. "Thank you to those who purchased a patch and helped support this project." Throughout the month of April, they had received an overwhelming response from the community.

April is World Autism Awareness Month, and it is always used as an opportunity to educate others, promote inclusion and hear success stories of those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. KDC has an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program out of their Foxboro Offices, which provides support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as their families, to pursue their personal potential and success in their homes and community. Individuals of all ages receive customized services using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, which is scientifically proven to be effective in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. To learn more about the ABA Program, please visit: [www.kdc.org/applied-behavior-analysis](http://www.kdc.org/applied-behavior-analysis)

