

KDC connections

Winter 2016

Supporting over
6,000 children,
adults and families
annually.



A Publication of Kennedy-Donovan Center

*Dream Designs was
established with
the tagline: Create, Inspire
and Bestow Hope.*

A Dream Realized

"If you can dream it, you can do it." is one of Walt Disney's famous quotes. We all have dreams, and the dream for five women in one of Kennedy-Donovan Center's residential programs was to vacation at Disney World. They shared their dream with staff, but knew their financial limits for the trip would cost over \$5,000. Carolyn Cosma, Residential Director at the time, suggested the women start a business to raise money for the trip. While there would be many challenges, they strongly believed they could do it.

Dream Designs was established with the tagline: Create, Inspire and Bestow Hope. The business is a collaboration of six young women: Katie, Karen, Jamie, Karla, Ellen and Jennifer. Although Jennifer passed away before they made it to Disney, the others kept her spirit alive throughout their efforts to realize their dream vacation. With their individual inspiring stories, and unique eye for art, these women collectively designed and created greeting cards, vases, unique key chains, paintings, tiled coasters, holiday ornaments, and other items.

The women took their business on the road, selling their work at KDC's Spring Celebration, conferences, craft shows, holiday bazaars, and other fundraising events. The business experience not only helped them pursue

their dream, but helped them develop social skills and unveil talents they never knew they had. Carolyn watched as each of them grew and remarked: "Jamie could sell water to a whale now! Karen is outspoken and works on money skills. Karla took amazing photos, and her self-esteem rose by selling them. Katie loved clay beads and vase making, and was so proud to tell everyone she made these items. Ellen was able to share her energy and encourage the others to continue working hard."

We are pleased to report that they realized their dream in January and still can't stop talking about the adventure. It was the first plane ride and trip to Disney for two of the women. They felt like royalty in their suite with three bathrooms, kitchen, and a balcony with a view of the Animal Kingdom. The week was filled with lots of walking, shows, presentations, socializing, braving the rides, and their favorite activity, shopping. It was a well-deserved vacation after all their hard work, and they returned with memories they'll always treasure.

Always believe, no matter how big or small your dream. Dream Designs thanks everyone who supported their efforts and believed in them. "Have a magical day!"



*Left to right: Paige,
Katie, Karen, Jamie,
Sue, Ellen, and Karla
pose with Minnie and
Mickey Mouse.*

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

MAY 14

CJ's Spring Swing Music Bingo Night. 6 p.m.; North Attleboro Elks Club. For more information, call Judy at 508-342-3431.

JUNE 8

Grand Opening reception for New Bedford South Campus. 3 to 6 p.m.; 385 County Street, New Bedford. For more information, call 508-772-1215.

JUNE 20

13th Annual Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament at Indian Pond Country Club, Kingston. 12 p.m. Presenting sponsor, Atlas Innovative Services, Inc. Proceeds benefit Plymouth Early Intervention. For more information, please call 508-747-2012.

JUNE 22

Board of Director's meeting, Foxboro office.

AUGUST 23

Annual Rock-a-thon at New Bedford School, North Campus. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Benefits Day Habilitation, School and Early Intervention.

AUGUST 27

Charity Golf tournament, hosted by Joe and Mary Bonanca. 12 p.m.; Whaling City Golf Course, New Bedford. Registration fee: \$125 per golfer. For more information, call Kim at KDC's New Bedford Foster Care and Family Services: 508-997-5875.



Creating a Legacy of Opportunities For People with Developmental Disabilities

Steve Keenan and Jackie Venner moved to Chatham from upstate New York over a decade ago. The move to Cape Cod wasn't about the beautiful beaches, the quaint towns, or the many activities available; it was to benefit their son, Courtney, who has developmental disabilities. They felt Courtney had outgrown the services available in New York and hoped for better opportunities in Massachusetts.

Courtney was enrolled in a day program, but Steve and Jackie realized that he needed more. He was more independent than many other participants, and they were concerned their son wouldn't be able to reach his potential.

In 2008, their coordinator from the Department of Developmental Services suggested Kennedy-Donovan Center as an option. Since then, Courtney has been a participant in KDC's Cape Cod Individual Support program. Today, Courtney is more independent, outgoing, and enjoying life. He lives in Chatham, close to his parents, volunteers at a local church, and shares life with longtime girlfriend, Merry. Courtney is part of the community which is just what Steve and Jackie wanted for him all along. They are happy with his progress and appreciative of the services KDC has provided.

This positive experience with Courtney inspired Steve and Jackie to include Kennedy-Donovan Center as beneficiary of their charitable remainder trust. This trust, once

realized, will provide social and recreational opportunities for adults on Cape Cod. It is an important need for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jackie and Steve have seen the impact the social activities have had for Courtney. Jackie says, "Independence, social skills and communication, and active friendships are the result of these opportunities for Courtney."

KDC will manage the fund and ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities living on the Cape have access to social and recreational opportunities. For more about a remainder trust, planned giving, or including KDC in your will, please contact Ann Buono at 508-772-1215 or abuono@kdc.org.



Steve Keenan and Jackie Venner.

North Devil's Pee Wee Hockey Team

As part of the North Devil's Hockey Association's "Christmas for Kids" events, the Devils Pee Wee Black team honored Joe M., who is a Kennedy-Donovan Center participant. Joe is a sports enthusiast and was a special guest at the team's December 27th game at Lynch Arena where he was presented with the basket of gifts by the team and their coach, Dave Boucher. "I'm

proud of the spirit these players bring to the ice and to their community. They are generous, giving kids and I am impressed by their efforts to spread joy during the holidays," Boucher said. Dave is KDC's Board of Directors Chair person, and his passion for sports and human services were united for the benefit of both organizations during this holiday effort.



Dave Boucher and the Pee Wee Hockey team honor Joe M. (center).

Building a Brighter Future Campaign Update

Over the past two years, Kennedy-Donovan Center has been providing updates on the purchase and renovations to our new South Campus at 385 County Street, New Bedford. The addition of the South Campus will consolidate our programs in New Bedford to one location while preserving an important historic building. This new center will add 14,500 square feet to the existing 26,000 square foot property across the street at 389 County Street, allowing programs and services to operate from a singular, more centralized location.

New Bedford represents our largest area of services, assisting nearly 2,000 individuals in the city and its surrounding communities. New Bedford offers every program KDC provides, including our Special Education School, Day Habilitation, Early Intervention, Healthy Families, Individual Support, Adult Family Care, Shared Living and Foster Care services. This purchase and renovation was necessary to meet the growing needs of our programs and the individuals who turn to us for support.

Renovations are nearing completion, with just a few more final touches needed. The following programs moved in at the end of

April: Healthy Families, Foster Care Services, and Family Resource Services. A Grand Opening reception to officially unveil the new space will be held on June 8th.

To help support these renovations, KDC embarked on a \$500,000 Capital Campaign. We reached out to the community and have received wonderful support. We have raised 92% of goal and our momentum continues until we reach 100%. There are additional naming opportunities remaining so if you are interested in supporting this project, please contact Ann Buono: 508-772-1215 or abuono@kdc.org.



KDC Announces a New Director of Finance

We are pleased to introduce our new Director of Finance, Mike Gattoni. Mike was employed by Bay Cove Human Services for five years, and has 17 years of experience in diverse industries that include biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, distribution and manufacturing. A graduate of Providence College, Mike has held positions such as Vice President of Finance, Director of Finance, Controller, and Auditor. His extensive background in both for-profit and non-profit fiscal management, and as a CPA will benefit us significantly. Mike lives in Attleboro with his wife, four children, and their one-year old beagle.



Mike Gattoni

Support KDC When You Shop Online

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization at no additional cost to you. When you use smile.amazon.com, you'll get the same low prices, selection and convenience, but Amazon.com donates a portion of the purchase price to the organization of your choice. Make KDC your charity of choice at smile.amazon.com.



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.

Holiday Donor List

We are grateful to the many businesses and individuals who donated gifts of time, talent, and treasure this past holiday season. Your generosity made the holidays a little nicer and brighter for the hundreds of families and individuals we support who were in need this year.

Barry's Wine and Spirits
 Bayside Restaurant and Lounge Toy Drive
 Bishop Feehan High School
 Boy Scout Troop One
 Bristol County Agricultural High School
 Christmas is for Kids
 Cymry's Wish List
 John and Audrey Friedman
 Good Deeds Ministries, Ken Sylvia
 Bill and Ellen Goodchild Family
 Holy Family/Holy Name Parish
 Joseph Witt Salon
 KIDS Do Count 5K Participants
 Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute
 Margarita Navarro, Hispanic Outreach Team, Karl Storz, Inc.
 New Bedford Firefighters Union Toy Drive
 Personal Best Karate
 Plymouth Public Library
 Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
 Pop's Fine Wines
 Rapp Literacy Program
 Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center and Elementary Parent Association
 St. John Newman Church Youth Group
 Toys for Tots, Cape and Islands branch, Mary Ellen Harrington
 United Way of Greater New Bedford
 Karen Warchol and Family
 West End Grille

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted, or incorrectly listed your organization or name. Please call 508-772-1216 with any questions or concerns.

New Home, Same Mission

Kennedy-Donovan Center's administrative office is operating in a temporary location at 33 Commercial Street, Foxboro, during the demolition and rebuilding of its new home at One Commercial Street. In February, the building was razed and the lot cleared. Several employees watched while the excavator tore down and crushed the old building. It certainly was a bittersweet moment for those with a long tenure at KDC.



Original Administrative Offices building



Demolition day

Over the last decade, we have experienced over 15% growth in programs, services and support staff. We simply outgrew the space, and renovations would not have met current or future needs. The growth is exciting, and we remain focused on our mission. We anticipate being back at our new home later this fall, and will keep you posted on the progress.

Grants Update

In the past six months, several foundations have supported the work of Kennedy-Donovan Center. Two foundations supported our efforts to celebrate National Family Literacy Month during November. The Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation provided \$2,200 to help purchase age-appropriate books for each child participating in KDC's four Early Intervention programs. The effort was also supplemented with a \$1,700 grant through Amica's Employee Community Grant Program, as well as an online Giving Tuesday Campaign. In total, this program provided more than 1,500 books to the children in Early Intervention.

The Middlesex Savings Bank Charitable Foundation provided KDC with a \$5,000 grant to provide educational programming as part of our After Club/Social Connections Program based in Milford. This grant will boost the educational efforts of this program with weekly fitness classes, cooking and nutrition instruction, art education, and music lessons. These sessions will run through the 2015-16 school year.

Over the past year, KDC has raised funds in an effort to provide at-risk individuals with SafetyNet units by LoJack. These bracelets help to locate adults and children who

become lost. With a recent grant of \$5,000, from the Edward Bangs Kelley and Elza Kelley Foundation, we were able to raise the total number of units provided to 27, and significantly reduce the risk of injury or harm in the event of a wandering incident.

Support from the Ida Ballou Littlefield Trust in the amount of \$2,500 helped us to reach the milestone of raising 90% of our capital campaign goal. Our Building a Better Future capital campaign is raising funds for the renovation of property located at 385 County Street, New Bedford. The renovation of this historic property and the associated campaign are a multi-year effort. More information can be found on our website.



SafetyNet tracking unit by LoJack helps locate those who wander or become lost.

Fund-A-Book Campaign Success

November is Literacy Month and last year Kennedy-Donovan Center set out to purchase 1,500 books for its four Early Intervention programs: Greater Attleboro, Greater New Bedford, Greater Plymouth and South Central. We reached out to our faithful supporters and received an

overwhelming response, even exceeding our goal by 300 books! We were able to acquire some of their favorite childhood books.

Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy effort! Once again, our success is possible because of supporters like you.

Some childhood favorites from our supporters:

- Are you my mother?
- Cat in the Hat
- The Day the Crayons Quit
- Nancy Drew Series
- Fletcher and the Falling Leaves
- Heidi
- Make Way for Ducklings
- Monkey Jumping on the Bed
- The Velveteen Rabbit
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Where the Sidewalk Ends



SAVE
THE
DATE

Atlas Innovative Services
presents
13th ANNUAL
SWING FORE THE KIDS
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 20 | 12 p.m. Tee-off
Indian Pond Country Club
Kingston, MA

Benefits KDC's Greater Plymouth
Early Intervention Program

For more information:
508-747-2012

Registration:
kdc.org/2016golf

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Programs Overview

ADULT FAMILY CARE

Finds adults with medical needs homes with host 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 host 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.

Annual Spring Celebration Raises \$90,000

Autism Spectrum Disorder is the fastest-growing developmental challenge in the United States, and research shows that it's partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. The considerable emotional challenges come with additional financial costs of up to \$60,000 a year for families on average. Autism has no cure. Many individuals require assistance finding a job, living independently in the community, developing social skills, and receiving ongoing therapy services. Kennedy-Donovan Center is enhancing clinical supports to fill the gap in services needed for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder.

Our Annual Spring Celebration, held on Saturday, April 23rd at Lombardo's in Randolph, supported the enhancement of autism services at Kennedy-Donovan Center. Because those with autism wait from six months to a year for services, KDC announced the launch of Applied Behavioral Services (ABA). This is the only approved treatment for individuals with autism.

This year's Spring Celebration was a record breaking success, raising \$90,600! Our guests were moved to tears by guest speaker, Phyllis Cook, who shared the story of her son, Jordan, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of two. Like any parent, she was overwhelmed, and at a loss for what she, and more importantly, Jordan would endure growing up, and the challenges he would face. She wasn't sure her son would ever be able to learn or communicate. After many hours of services, including ABA, Phyllis watched Jordan learn and develop skills

she was told would not be possible. ABA services continue to this day and are integral to everything Jordan does. As Phyllis states, "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."

Auctioneer John Terrio of Auction Knights, generated enthusiasm from the emotional crowd. Guests donated generously during the Fund-A-Need and Live Auction segments. They bid on terrific trips that included an Ireland Adventure, a Charleston Getaway and a Punta Cana Escape. Phyllis' heart-warming story, and an inspiring video by Maverick Productions, worked together to elicit donations that surpassed the original fundraising goal of \$80,000.

We are most grateful to our event sponsor, Webster Bank, for their commitment to giving back to the community. Additional sponsors included: IneoQuest Technologies, The TJX Companies, Bowdoin Construction, East Coast Benefit Plans, Mansfield Bank, Robert Panessiti of UBS, Rotary Club of Foxboro, Technical Support International, Ted and Tanya Carr, and TribalVision. We would also like to thank Steve Bishop, Men of Many Hats, who donated his time and talent to provide the evening's entertainment.

Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors and attendees who made the event a major success. It was a night to remember for all who learned about "Jordan's Journey."



Left: Phyllis and son, Jordan
Top: Event sponsor, Webster Bank group
Bottom: Display of auction items

Loyalty Donors Club

We would like to pay tribute to our Loyalty Donors. These supporters have made a donation for six consecutive years or more. We are honored by their commitment to KDC and their vision of continued services for some of our communities' most vulnerable people.

William and Meredith Adair

Advance Air and Heat

Nancy Allison, Newbridge Architects

Rick Bornstein

David and Kim Boucher

Elaine E. Boucher

Elizabeth E. Boucher

Bowdoin Construction Company

Jay and Eileen Boylen

Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation

Ann and Ray Buono

Ron and Marcy Carlstrom

Ted and Tanya Carr

Eugene and Edna Carroll

Casey Law Offices

Coastal Heritage Bank

John and Jean Connors

Dan and Kathy Couet

Robert J. D'Amelio

John and Joyce Dantona

Mark and Margaret Davis

Kelly DiPersio

Darlene V. Dymsha

Daniel and Cheryl Farley

Mrs. Frances Fern and family

Fernandes Masonary, Inc.

Rose Gallagher

Toby Garten

Arno Gartzke

Joseph and Josephine Gomes

William and Ellen Goodchild,

Lynn Goodchild Memorial Scholarship Fund

Steve and Robbi Grogan

Patricia Grugnale

Rabbi and Mrs. Barry Hartman

Rich and Diana Harwood

Robert and Alice Heaton

Susan Hurley

John Hyland

Thelma Janock

Barbara Kelley

Knuckleheads Bar & Grille

John and Kathy Korona

L. Knife & Sons

Arthur and Kathleen Lyons

Iwona Maliszewska

George and Kathryn Manchester

Kenneth and Diane Mandile

Mansfield Bank

Rich and Karen McGuinness

David and Joyce McDonnell

Milford National Bank & Trust

Donna Noll

Robert and Carol Peecha

Steven Perry and Charles Berthelette

Pizzeria DeMarco

Van and Roberta Ritter

Anita Robertson

Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation

Rodman Ride for Kids, Don Rodman

Madalena M. Rodrigues

Rotary Club of Foxboro

Steve and Jill Sanford

Scott and Lori Scales

Sensata Technologies

Douglas and Eileen Slone

Arlene and Jeffrey Tannenbaum

Francis and Regina Tate

Ann Taylor

Technical Support International, Inc.

Telamon Insurance Network

Tichon Seafood Corporation

Violet Tracey

William and Linda Travers

Michael and Jane Vannata

Edward and Erin Walter

Warrior Fuel Corporation

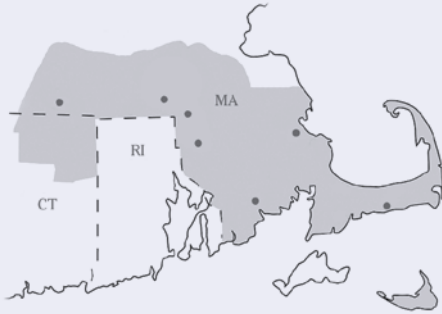
Webster Bank

Irwin Yanowitz and Ellen Role



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



Attleboro | Foxboro

Kingston | Milford

New Bedford | So. Yarmouth

Southbridge

Holiday Appeal: Enhanced Autism Services

We are still \$10,000 away from reaching the Annual Fund goal of \$60,000. This goal is also the average annual cost incurred by a family with a child on the autism spectrum for treatment and other expenses. It's not too late to give to help families in need, and your gift is an investment in KDC's enhancement of autism services. Thank you!

Yes, I want to help Enhanced Autism Services

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 _____

☐ I would like to speak with someone about putting KDC in my will.

Please detach form and mail to: Kennedy-Donovan Center, One Commercial Street, Foxboro, MA 02035. **YOU MAY ALSO MAKE A SECURE DONATION AT KDC.ORG.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Exciting KDC News

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