We’re Turning 50—
Proud of our Past, Focused on our Future

Our founder, Luella Hennessey Donovan, was the private nurse for Joseph and Rose Kennedy. Their daughter Rosemary had developmental disabilities and their wish was for her to have a typical life. Mrs. Donovan was inspired to open one of the first community-based educational and therapeutic programs for young children. This would not have been possible without the generous three-year grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation.

Kennedy-Donovan Center turns 50 in October 2019, but festivities leading up to it will officially kick-off this October! We will celebrate our founder, Luella Hennessey Donovan, as well as the amazing growth we have experienced during these past 50 years. She had incredible insight for people with disabilities and we continue to be in the forefront for the children, teens, adults and families we support annually. She started in 1969 with four children in the basement of Blessed Sacrament School in Walpole. Today we support over 10,000 individuals and families in more than half of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Our celebration will begin with Founder’s Day at our Foxboro Administrative Offices on October 25th. The town of Foxborough will be presenting Luella’s great nephew, Ted Carr, with a Proclamation declaring October 25th as KDC’s Founder’s Day. Individual programs will also be conducting their own celebrations to showcase the incredible growth, strength and support to our families as well as the community. We hope to draw old and new friends as we commemorate this momentous occasion.

A few days later we will commemorate Mrs. Donovan’s birthday by celebrating her innovative forward-thinking, and perseverance in building a community where those with special needs and their families had a place to turn to when faced with challenges.

Another special day will be our 50th Anniversary Gala to be held on June 1, 2019 at Avenir (formerly Raffael’s) in Walpole. We are bringing it back to where it all started! We are pleased to announce the family of Luella Hennessey Donovan as the Honorary Chair, and our Tri-Chairs are Brad Pineault, KDC Board Member, Anthony Karamas and Deb Felix, past board members and long-time friends. The event will reflect on our growth and major happenings over the years, and will honor those who have been extraordinary advocates of our mission.

We hope you follow our very special celebration! We are deeply grateful for the support of our community; it’s because of you that we continue to make an impact on the individuals we support.
Fourth Annual Mother’s Day Tea

Our Day Program participants and their families had a great time at the 4th Annual Mother’s Day Tea! The event is put on every year for the adults in our Day Program and over 40 people were in attendance. This year’s theme was bumble bees and sunflowers, with small jars of honey provided as favors. Everyone was able to take portraits with their loved one—a tradition that is now in its second year. But the event would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and vision of Lisa Melo, who is a staff member at the Day Program. Lisa has been the driving force behind the vision and success of the Mother’s Day Tea for four years. She’s come up with different themes, decorations, games and much more. A HUGE thank you to Lisa for her efforts in making this day so special for our adults and their families!

Generous Grants Awarded to KDC

Since our last newsletter KDC has received eleven generous grants to help enhance our programs and services. With the support of community foundations we are able to grow our existing programs and build new services to reach more people in need.

The Roy T. Morgan Foundation has been a huge supporter of KDC’s mission for many years, and this year was no different. The foundation provided KDC with a $25,000 grant to build a community deck at our New Bedford Campus. Their continued support has helped KDC to grow and develop new initiatives. The new deck will benefit over 3,000 individuals and their families we serve annually. The deck project will be completed by the end of 2018 and we will share photos and updates in our next newsletter.

KDC is grateful for the support of other foundations, who provided several program grants including: $5,000 from the Penn National Gaming Foundation for outreach initiatives at our Attleboro Early Intervention Program; $2,000 from Mansfield Bank to support a wellness program for the adults in our Attleboro residential homes; $2,000 to support our Cape Cod Programs from the Cape Cod Foundation; $5,000 from the Partners in Patriotism for our ‘El on Wheels’ Program for our Attleboro Early Intervention Program; $8,200 from Bristol County Savings Bank to support our Healthy Families Program by providing financial literacy courses; Country Bank for their $500 donation to support the playground at our Southbridge Early Intervention Program; the United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton for $4,200 towards outreach and translation services at our Attleboro Early Intervention Program, and $2,000 from South Shore Playhouse for social and recreational activities for our Healthy Families Programs.

The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation has been a generous supporter of Kennedy-Donovan Center for over six years, and we are so appreciative of their continued support to our mission and vision in the community. The foundation granted KDC with $60,000 (to be spent over two years) to fund our Info Sessions in Social Settings program, which will provide education workshops for our families on the Cape, while also providing a social activity for their child. Thank you to the Tower Foundation for supporting KDC and the families we serve on the Cape!

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.
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.

MISSION

Our Annual Spring Celebration Gala held on May 5th raised more than $125,000 from a sold out crowd of 260 attendees. Co-hosts Anthony Karamas and Brad Pineault, KDC board members and longtime supporters of our mission, were able to get the crowd excited with their Cinco de Mayo conversation and outfits. Webster Bank returned as the Event Sponsor and the TJX Companies was the Advocacy Sponsor.

KDC offers an array of human services and this year’s event focused on the continuum of care we provide in the community. One of the programs in that continuum is the Foster Care Program, which provided Julie Cabral with the guidance she needed to lead a happy and successful life. “Julie is just amazing,” began Eileen Dugas, KDC’s Foster Care Program Director, “She participates in all of our peer mentoring group meetings, and is an excellent role model to the other participants in the program. One of her greatest strengths, understanding what it takes to have a good relationship, friendship and how to treat people. Julie follows the ‘Golden Rule’ and that is a quality not many young adults in her situation would know how to be.”

The great nephew of Luella Hennessey Donovan, Ted Carr, was also at the Gala and was featured in the video shown at the Spring Celebration Gala this year and spoke highly of his love for his great aunt, Lu. “Lu left a strong legacy and I am honored to continue fulfilling her vision for the individuals KDC serves,” said Ted. “This year’s Gala is leading up to the 50th Anniversary of KDC, which was founded in 1969, and the organization has grown tremendously. What started out as a program serving only four children, now serves over 10,000 individuals, children and families annually.”

We are very appreciative of the enthusiasm and generosity from all involved in making this another successful KDC event!
First Rally 4 KDC a Big Success

Saturday, April 28 was our first Rally 4 KDC fundraising event, raising over $13,000 for KDC’s Programs and Services! The event took place in New Bedford, Attleboro and Southbridge, with each location adding their own twist. KDC was fortunate to have so many employees, families and friends help out at the event. Sponsors and donors are below.

A & T Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical
In memory of Albert and Claire DeRovers
Amy Lee and Maria Amaral
Kayla, Ryan, Cameron, and Logan Alfers
Christina Andrade Gracia
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Arbella Mutual Insurance Co.
Joan Arp
Stephanie and Kevin Avila
In honor of LillieLee Marie
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Anne M. Lynch
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In memory of Robert Lynch
Arthur and Kathleen Lyons
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North End Stereo
In honor of Tiago Teles
Norton Permanent Firefighters Association
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David Pereira
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Leon and MaryLou Plaud
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Susie Pontes
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Deb Weinstein
Samuel Lyons
Tanya Kettell
Kid Power Gymnastics
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Jonathan and Gina Lafrance
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We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list and apologize for any errors. Please let us know of any omissions or incorrect information at 508-772-1216 or mbarbosa@kdc.org.

In August, we kicked off our new #meetKDC series so you can learn about all our programs and staff. Did you know that Kennedy- Donovan Center serves over 50% of the Commonwealth, and provides programs and services to over 10,000 individuals and families every year? Over the next year, leading up to our 50th anniversary, we will be highlighting every program KDC offers to the community, including the amazing staff that makes our services and programs possible, along with upcoming events and a bit about what makes each program special. Each month will feature one particular program. Be sure to follow our social media pages for the latest videos and photos throughout the #meetKDC campaign!

Follow us!
We’re now on Instagram! Check us out at https://instagram.com/kennedydonovancenter.

Facebook
Instagram
Twitter
LinkedIn

Above: New Bedford staff at Rally 4 KDC. Right: Team Grace.
KDC Welcomes Two New Board Members

Alyssa Laplante joined the KDC Board in July after serving as a volunteer member to the Board’s Finance Committee. She is currently the Director of Accounting at BJ’s Wholesale Club and is transitioning to a Controller position with Starter-Fluid LLC this Fall. Alyssa earned her CPA during her years as a manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Her 15 years of financial accounting experience includes 501c3 financial statement and 990 tax preparation and review, which will continue to help the Finance Committee. Alyssa is an alumna parent who lives in Wrentham with her husband and two children.

David Boucher also joined the KDC Board in July. He finished his 16-year employee benefits career when he left Longfellow Benefits in 2014. David started the development of the New England Sports Village in Attleboro and the Braintree Athletic Center in 2014, and continues the role today. In 2018, David joined Solex HCM in an executive role leading strategic growth initiatives for the payroll and human capital management firm. David resides in North Attleboro with his wife Kim, daughter Alyssa, and son Ben.

We wish to thank outgoing board members Anthony Karamas and Joe Hulbig for their many years of service on KDC’s board of directors.

KDC’s Early Childhood Classroom

We are excited to announce the opening of our new Early Childhood Classroom which is located inside the KDC School at 19 Hawthorn Street in New Bedford. KDC’s School is a Chapter 766 approved private day school offering full day, year-round special education to students ages 3-22 years old. In spring 2017, KDC began a project to remodel a side room at the school to create an active classroom specifically for preschool and early childhood aged children.

This new Early Childhood Classroom will provide special education services for students ages 3-7 years living in communities within a one-hour driving distance to KDC School. After many months of hard work and team effort, this older room once used as a Transportation Department Office, informal meeting place, and storage area is now transformed into a bright learning space for young children.
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICES
24/7 support for those with acquired brain injuries in a staffed community residence.

ADULT FAMILY CARE
Finds homes for adults with medical needs with trained host families.

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
Customized services for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families.

DAY HABILITATION
Provides adults with high needs a comprehensive program of services.

EARLY INTERVENTION
Home services for children birth to 36 mos. with, or at risk of, developmental delays.

FAMILY SUPPORT & RESPITE SERVICES
Supports individuals living with their families in receiving tailored services.

FOSTER CARE SERVICES
Works to prevent out-of-home placements; places children in qualified homes; and aids 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 by providing drop-in support for daily living.

SHARED LIVING
Finds adults homes with host families trained to address their specific needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL
For ages 3 to 22 with multiple disabilities.

SUPERVISED LIVING
24/7 support for adults living in groups of two to four in neighborhood homes.

SUPPORTED LIVING
Provides on-going supports to adults with disabilities living in their own homes.

TRANSITIONAL JOB SUPPORT
Assists adults in finding and maintaining meaningful paid employment.

1. KDC Direct Support Professionals
September 9-15 was Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. KDC is fortunate to have a wonderful staff that goes above and beyond every day. To show appreciation, our Day Hab Program was treated to a special continental breakfast.

2. New Bedford Ballet
New Bedford Ballet has donated a number of tickets to our KDC School students and Day Hab Program participants who enjoy experiencing the music and performance by the Ballet’s young talent. We are grateful for the wonderful partnership we have with the New Bedford Ballet.

3. Sharing Talents
KDC Shared Living participant, Peter, has been painting since he was a child. He enjoys painting by numbers and has generously donated more than fifteen paintings to our Annual Spring Celebration. Attendees look forward to seeing his work which are always a big seller. Some of his favorite subjects are outdoor scenes, animals and cartoons. Peter stands over six feet tall and is considered a gentle giant by his friends. We thank Peter for sharing his love of painting!

4. OneDigital Health and Benefits
Employees of the local office of OneDigital Health and Benefits participated in the Annual Digital Dash 5k Road Race and Fun Run in August. We are fortunate that they selected Kennedy-Donovan Center as the recipient of the funds raised by their employees, totaling $1,050. Special thanks for being one of KDC’s longtime supporters!

5. American Girl, Natick
Thank you to American Girl for donating 500 books to Kennedy-Donovan Center. They were a huge part of last year’s Book Campaign and we are so fortunate they have supported us again this year. The books will be distributed among all of our programs. Thanks to Ashley Newhall and Edward Galante who made the delivery that will add many smiles our families. (no photo)
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

VISION

Summer Highlights

1. Play Ball!
WB Mason donated two Boston Red Sox tickets to KDC in May. It was an amazingly fun day for Elaine, one of the individuals served through our Individual Support Program in New Bedford. Elaine was able to attend the game with her case manager, and was a little star struck when she met former Sox player Fred Lynn, who signed a baseball and took a photo with them!

2. Tee Time
The 15th Annual Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, May 31st at Pinehills Golf Club. It was a perfect day of golfing on a PGA championship courses designed by Rees Jones and Nicklaus. Special thanks to our Title Sponsor, Atlas Innovative Service, for their continuous support of Kennedy Donovan Center. The event raised more than $35,000 and all proceeds benefitted KDC’s Greater Plymouth Early Intervention Program.

3. KAMP Cup Golf Tournament
Thank you to all who took part the Tournament held on July 27th. Special thanks to Kim and Paul Rodrigues, their family, KAMP Foundation and KAMP Construction Co. for putting on another successful event. Thanks to Kristal for coordinating the event logistics. The proceeds of more than $15,000 will continue to help the families who turn to us in their time of need.

4. Self-Advocates Cookout
Our Milford Program held their annual Self-Advocates Cookout in July. at West Dam Hill is a perfect location with a large picnic area, grills and plenty of room for our adult clients to play games. It was a great opportunity to see old friends and develop new friendships. Special thanks to our Milford staff for putting on another great event.

5. Aloha from our Special Education School
The School took a break from its usual schedule to put on a great Luau Party. Staff worked hard making sure the students really got into it with island music, yummy food, dancing and games. Some even tried to show their talents with a little guitar playing! We are already looking forward to doing it again next year!

6. Summer Kick-off with Cape Cod Beer
On Friday, June 22, KDC held its first Summer Kickoff event with Cape Cod Beer with over 150 attendees! There was live music by the Digney Fignus Band, door prizes, raffles, dancing and much more. Everyone had a great time while raising money for a good cause. (no photo)
Yes, I want to support KDC’s 50th Anniversary!

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!