New Adult Education Classes Offered

Standing in a hallway at the Faith Community Church in Hopkinton, Maria Phillips, Individual Support Case Manager at KDC, looks in on her students and smiles with pride as they engage in various yoga poses. The class is part of an adult education series through KDC’s Milford program as a way to cultivate an environment where students can socialize and learn new activities. Last year, the weekly cooking and crafts classes garnered so much interest that Maria was able to extend the program into the spring and try out a couple of new classes. This January, students were able to participate in yoga, February featured a series of craft-making classes that were somewhat focused on Valentine’s Day, March will have Zumba, which is a dance-infused aerobic exercise, and April will have cake decorating classes. While there will be no classes during the summer, Maria hopes they will start again with a new round of activities in the fall, and she has no shortage of potential ideas for future classes. Listing everything from pottery to horseback riding, she’s clearly thrilled about all of the possible directions in which these classes could go. “I really want this to take off, and I would love for it to be its own entity,” she said excitedly. Considering the amount of interest from students, it seems very likely that the adult education program will continue to grow.

“I really want this to take off, and I would love for it to be its own entity.”

Individual Support Case Manager, Maria Phillips, speaking about the new adult education series.
KDC Purchases New Property in New Bedford

KDC is proud to announce the acquisition of the former Ahavath Achim Jewish synagogue on County Street in New Bedford for the purpose of expanding our existing location in order to meet the needs of the community. This is our largest area of services, assisting over 1,500 individuals in the city and its surrounding communities, and it offers nearly every program KDC provides, including our School, Day Habilitation, Early Intervention, Healthy Families, Individual Support, Adult Family Care, Shared Living and Foster Care services. While we currently have two separate locations in New Bedford, our new property is directly across the street from the existing one on Hawthorn Street, which KDC purchased in 1991. It will provide greater convenience and access for our clients and their families.

The synagogue is very historically rich, just like the city of New Bedford. It was originally constructed in 1828 as the home of Cornelius Grinnell Jr., a Revolutionary privateer and ship captain. In 1890, it was sold and converted into the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, serving the community until 2011 where it has since remained vacant. The property will undergo construction to make optimal use of the space for KDC’s needs, and is expected to be completed and operational in the spring of 2015. The new location will add 14,500 square feet to the existing 26,000 square feet, and the new location’s proximity to the current building will enable KDC to be able to accommodate the needs of the New Bedford campus, which serves almost a third of our 6,000 clients. The location holds a place of great importance in our organization as well as to the growing New Bedford community.

Mayor Jon Mitchell has been a great advocate for alleviating positive change to the downtown New Bedford area, and the city played a central role in supporting and assisting KDC with the acquisition of the property, which is listed on the city’s historic record. About 96% of the individuals and families served at this location are considered middle to low income, which is a factor KDC has taken into consideration with the new location’s proximity to the current building and the ease of access from bus routes and public transit.

A long time in the works, the acquisition enables KDC to be able to accommodate the needs of the New Bedford campus, which serves almost a third of our 6,000 clients. The location holds a place of great importance in our organization as well as to the growing New Bedford community.

Generous Grants Awarded to KDC

In the past six months, KDC has received a number of generous grants to support and enhance our programs and services. Relationships with community foundations and businesses allow us to continue to offer the highest quality of services and provide solutions to otherwise unmet needs.

Middlesex Savings Bank Charitable Foundation awarded KDC a $3,000 grant to support the development and implementation of a Nutrition Project at our Milford based After Club program. This project provides nutrition education, meal planning activities and hands on meal preparation for high school-aged program participants. This program was further supported by the John A. Scileppi Foundation whose $2,200 grant enabled the project to produce a picture-based cookbook for participants to keep for continued use at home.

Our Cape Cod programs received several grants over the past six months. The Edward and Eliza Kelley Foundation awarded $2,376 for transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in social and recreational events. The Palmer and Jane D. Davenport Foundation also granted KDC $5,000 for the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for our Cape Cod group homes.

KDC was awarded a $10,000 grant by The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the social and recreational needs facing Cape Cod residents with developmental disabilities who are age 26 and under. This project will provide KDC with a better understanding of the unique needs and challenges facing these individuals and allow a successful response of appropriate services.

Finally, for KDC’s Cape programs, an iPad was donated by Autism Speaks which will be used as a learning tool in one of our Cape Cod group homes.

KDC’s Attleboro-based Healthy Families program was the recipient of a $2,200 grant from the Edwin S. Soferenko Foundation. This award will purchase safety equipment for program participant’s children, including safety gates, appliance tethers and play yards.

Open House at Newly Renovated New Bedford Home for Transitioning Foster Care Participants

KDC was fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Luzo Club, New Bedford to benefit the New Bedford location. The Luzo Club has been a long-time supporter of KDC and its mission to benefit Plymouth Early Intervention.

The Luzo Club provided KDC with a $5,000 grant to support the purchase of a house in New Bedford. The new house will allow KDC to expand its services to more individuals and families in the area. The Luzo Club is committed to supporting KDC in its efforts to provide high-quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

With our banking partner on this project, seated from left representing Kennedy-Donovan Center, Shawn Albuquerque, Program Supervisor; Kevin Rodman Connors; President and CEO; and Melissa Zeitz, Program Director; standing from left are Bristol County Savings Bank representatives Michele Roberts, Executive Vice President and Community Relations Officer; Pete Sellew, Senior Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer; Pat Murphy, President and CEO; Lori Sallison, First Executive Vice President and Senior Loan Officer; and Paul Camille, Vice President and Loan Officer.

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Barriers to Social Recreational Opportunities—KDC to Conduct Community Needs Assessment

Socialization can have a lasting impact on individuals with disabilities that includes improved behavior, health and wellbeing. However, research has shown that individuals with disabilities do not socialize as frequently as their community peers without disabilities. Nowhere is this more evident than on Cape Cod where geography becomes an additional barrier. As a provider of community-based disability services for children, adults and families, we need to understand why.

With support from The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, KDC is conducting a comprehensive community needs assessment regarding the barriers to social and recreational activities on Cape Cod. Individuals with developmental disabilities under age 26, along with their families and caregivers have been invited to participate in this community assessment.

Information obtained through both mail-in surveys and community listening sessions will help us to better understand the existing barriers. KDC will use these results, expected in April, to develop services, programs and supports to more adequately overcome the challenges facing these families. We plan to update our readers on the results along with our plans to address this important issue.

Annual Jennifer Freitas Dinner 2013

Over the past five years, the Jennifer Lee Freitas Memorial Dinner has been an outstanding success for KDC, and the celebration this year was no different. Jennifer, a student at the New Bedford School, passed away in 1991, and her parents Berta and Luis, graciously decided to honor her memory by hosting an annual dinner to benefit the school. The Portuguese-style dinner was held at the New Bedford Sports Club on September 28, 2013. The event raised over $13,000, bringing the total amount raised since it began to an astounding $50,000.

A New Thank You to Old Friends

For thirty years, Bill and Ellen Goodchild and their friends have been an integral part of KDC’s Attleboro Early Intervention program. We were honored to dedicate the child group room and a plaque in memory of their daughter Lynn.

The Goodchilds were first introduced to KDC by a friend who had a positive personal experience with one of our programs. While searching for the best organization to support as part of the annual holiday gift donation at their church, St. Mark’s in Attleboro, they learned of KDC. Ellen, Bill, Lynn, and Ellen’s friends Karen Warchol and Audrey Friedman gathered every year to help collect gifts and donations for KDC.

After the tragedy of losing their daughter in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Bill and Ellen decided that they would find a way to remember Lynn by helping others in need, just as she would have wanted. So began the Lynn Goodchild Memorial Fund, which has contributed over $35,000 to the Attleboro program since 2002. In addition to the memorial fund, the Goodchilds have given their loving support to KDC through their efforts, which have helped countless families in the Attleboro area.

Save the Date!

Thursday, May 15th at 6 p.m.
Four Points by Sheraton
Norwood, Massachusetts

Annual Spring Celebration
Dinner, dancing, fund-a-need and presentation by a notable speaker and child advocate.
Jared DaCunha Dinner 2013

The Jared DaCunha Memorial Dinner was a wonderful gathering of friends and family to celebrate his life through his family’s commitment to the community of New Bedford and their support of KDC. Held at the Senator Da Pedra Club on October 26, 2013, the event proved to be greatly beneficial to our New Bedford program, raising $8,000 in its second year.

Anna and Victor DaCunha tragically lost their son in 2011 but have remarkably transformed their loss into something beautiful by helping KDC improve the lives of children and adults in their hometown. The DaCunhas chose to donate the proceeds of the dinner to KDC because of its outstanding reputation throughout Massachusetts, and particularly in their hometown of New Bedford. KDC is immensely grateful for the compassion and generosity we’ve received from the DaCunhas.

Take Time to Review Your Estate Plan

It’s a good idea to review your estate plan regularly, and what better time than Spring! Regular review ensures that it reflects any changes you and your family may have experienced recently. Use this checklist to determine if you are prepared for any unexpected that could affect the management or distribution of your assets after you are gone. Be sure to contact an attorney or a financial planning professional when creating or updating your estate plan.

• Review your will, check for any changes that may need to be made because of a change in your life or changes in tax laws.
• Be sure that the executor you’ve named is still the appropriate person you want to manage your estate, minimize taxes, and distribute the designated portions of your estate to your beneficiaries.
• Update your designated beneficiaries to be sure you haven’t named someone who is deceased or who no longer should be included.
• If you designated a guardian for someone under your care, review your choice and if necessary, make changes.
• If you haven’t already done so, include a healthcare Power of Attorney in your estate for when you are unable to make decisions for yourself.
• Be sure your current plan reflects your current assets and your wishes for distribution.
• Consider adding your favorite charitable organizations to your estate plan as a means of minimizing taxes and leaving a legacy in support of our shared values. Including Kennedy-Donovan Center is one way of assuring KDC’s continued services on behalf of individuals with delays and disabilities and their families.
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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
David and Joyce McDonnell
Advance Air and Heat
Joseph and Krissy McKenna
Thomas K. Bliss, Jr.
Viren and Amita Mehta
David and Kim Boucher
Sharon C. Mendonca
Elaine E. Boucher
Daniel and Julia Moniz
Jay and Eileen Boylen
Bob and Betty O'Hare
Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation
Robert Panesi
Walter and Denise Browell
Bob and Carol Paech
Ann and Ray Buono
Normand and Lucille Pepin
Mrs. Euridice Caldas
Steven Perry and Charles Berthelette
Edwin and Joan Carr
Maria Phillips
Claire and Anthony Catulo
Herbert and Caroline Reid
Mike and Kim Chevalier
Van and Roberta Ritter
CJ's Spring Swing, the Buckley family
Puma/Kendall Rodman Conare
John and Jean Conners
and R.M. Slimenan
Dan and Kathy Couet
Rodman Ford
Robert and Frances Couet
Rodman Ride for Kids, Don Rodman
Stephen and Kathleen Couet
Rotary Club of Foxboro
Robert J. Amelio
Linda B. Safe
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Dantona
Steve and Jill Sanford
Mark and Margaret Davis
Bob and Kendra Sangster
Kelly DiPersio
Scott and Lori Scales
Daniel and Cheryl Farley
Sicutate Federal Savings
Mrs. Frances Fern
Sensata Technologies
Friends of St. Patrick
Douglas and Eileen Stone
Toby Garten
Artene and Jeff Tannenbaum
Mr. and Mrs. Amo Gartzke
Francis and Regina Tate
David and Vanessa Garufi
Ann Taylor
Joseph and Josephine Gomes
Technical Support International, Inc.
William and Ellen Goodchild
Telamon Insurance Network
Steve and Robbi Grogan
Tichon Seafood Corporation
HarborOne Credit Union
Michele and Glenn Tower
Steve and Robbi Grogan
Bill and Linda Travers
HarborOne Credit Union
United Benefit Services, Stephen Peck
Rabbi and Mrs. Barry Hartman
USI Insurance Services
Mr. and Mrs. Amo Gartzke
Michael and Jane Vannata
Rich and Diana Harwood
Mr. and Mrs. George Vaughn
John Hyland
William and Phoebe Vernon
Thomas and Barbara Kelley
Edward and Erin Walter
Knuckleheads Bar & Grille
Robin and Nick Weber
John and Kathy Korona
Julie White
Richard M. Lamar
Van and Roberta Ritter
Roger and Barbara Lamy
Bill and Eleanor Woodson
Alan D. Lee, DDS
Irwin Yanowitz and Ellen Role
Joan Long

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Yes, I want to help Kennedy-Donovan Center reach its goal.

I wish to make a difference in the life of people with developmental disabilities or delays with a gift of:

- $250
- $200
- $100
- $50
- $25
- Other: $ __________
- I’d like my gift to be anonymous
- My company has a matching gift program; form is enclosed.

This gift is:
- in memory of ________________
- in honor of ________________

Name ________________
Street __________________________
City/Town __________ State __________ Zip __________

Method of payment
- Check enclosed
- MasterCard
- Visa

Cardholder __________________________
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!

Donor Spotlight: Club Madeirense

New Bedford is well known for its rich Portuguese heritage, and Club Madeirense has been a very important part of preserving that culture for many years. The club is the long time sponsor of the annual Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, which will be having its momentous centennial celebration this year from July 31st through August 3rd. In addition to organizing the largest Portuguese feast in the world, Club Madeirense is involved in charitable work in the community evident in its donations to KDC. Dan Couet, Vice President of Programs at KDC said, “Club Madeirense has been very generous to the mission and to the work of [our] programs in New Bedford. Over the past several years, they provided space for agencies such as KDC to share information about their services at the feast and increase awareness of the supports provided to children, adults and families in the Greater New Bedford area.” KDC looks forward to a continued friendship with Club Madeirense for the shared purpose of improving the lives of those in the community of New Bedford.

Update on Our Holiday Appeal

Over the holiday season, we shared some thoughts on our Facebook page by a mother with a child receiving our services. Her gratitude and success with our programs inspired us and inspired many of you, who generously donated through the 2013 Holiday Appeal. Our goal was to raise $50,000 to help meet the unfunded needs of those we support.

We are pleased to announce that we are only $15,000 away from our goal and continue to receive gifts, so if you’ve forgotten to send in your donation, there’s still time. Simply fill out the donation form below, and your tax-deductible donation will help us reach our goal. Here’s how your dollars make the difference:

- $25 will provide one week of healthy snacks for child playgroups in Early Intervention.
- $50 will set up a new bedroom with bed linens for a teenager entering one of our Independent Living Foster Care homes.
- $100 will enable five Day Hab participants to enjoy a day of recreation and fun while improving their social skills.
- $150 will provide six weeks of adult education classes. For a couple of hours each week, adults participate in creating greeting cards, making jewelry, cooking, and much more.
- $250 will purchase a Kettler tricycle for a child to explore their world. The design makes it safe to sit comfortably and ride with or without assistance.
- $500 will purchase three Go-Talk portable lightweight devices for use by students at our School.