New Bedford Campus Groundbreaking

In our summer newsletter, we announced the expansion of our New Bedford South Campus at 385 County Street to include the following services: Foster Care and Family Stabilization, Healthy Families and Family Resource Services. This new campus will consolidate all of our programs and services onto one area at the gateway to downtown New Bedford. It will allow us to meet the growing and changing needs of our clients, and address the challenges of growth in current programs.

We were delighted by the community support at the groundbreaking ceremony held on October 7th. Those in attendance learned more about the expansion project from KDC board member and Chair of the capital campaign, Ted Carr. They also were able to tour the building prior to the start of renovations. Kevin Rodman Conare, KDC President & CEO, said, “With this project we are continuing to invest in the individuals and families whom we support, and in the city of New Bedford.” KDC was fortunate to have as guests, U.S. Representative William Keating, City Councilor President, Joe Lopes, as well as councilors Steve Martins, Kerry Winterson and Paul Schmid.

A goal of $500,000 has been set for the expansion project, the Building a Brighter Future campaign. With the support of the KDC board, foundations, along with new and old friends, we have successfully raised $270,000.

We have a strong and enthusiastic campaign committee, led by Ted Carr, dedicated to ensuring the needs of families will be met, not only today, but for the future. Campaign committee members are David Alves, New Bedford City Councilman; Kristin Carvalho, President of Milford National Bank and longtime resident of New Bedford; Dan Couet of Criterion Child Enrichment; Berta Freitas, alumni parent; Barry Levine, Barry’s Fine Wine & Spirits; Peter Nopper, Nopper Marine, Heidi Pereira, KDC’s community liaison in New Bedford, and KDC board members David Boucher, Kelly Courtney, Kelly DiPersio, Richard Harwood, Joseph Hulbig, and Anthony Karamas.

Over the next several months, we will continue to share the exciting stages of the campaign and construction project. If you would like to learn more, please call Ann Buono at 508-772-1215.
Tower Foundation Grant to support Access Cape Cod

KDC is proud to announce the award of a three-year, $281,000 grant from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation. This grant will support Access Cape Cod, a new effort to improve community accessibility for individuals with developmental disabilities ages 26 and under on Cape Cod.

KDC’s Cape Cod staff currently operates the Family Support Center serving all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families living on Cape Cod. We support approximately 250 families each year and many are very isolated due to the nature of their child’s disability. “Access Cape Cod provides us an opportunity to have long lasting impact on the lives of individuals living with disabilities”, said Kevin Rodman Conare, President and CEO. “The Tower Foundation has made it possible for KDC to take the vision of community participation and make it a reality for families on Cape Cod”.

Access Cape Cod will run this year through December 2017 and include region-wide social events, family support groups, and education. “Uniting families and businesses in an effort to improve accessibility on the Cape is a unique and exciting opportunity,” explained Dan Sprout, Cape Cod Program Director.

The $281,000 grant is the largest in KDC’s history since its initial startup grant, and will greatly expand the volume of services we provide on Cape Cod. For more information, email KDCinfo@kdc.org

Additional Grants to Support Programing and Capital Needs

KDC has been the beneficiary of many generous foundation grants in the past six months. Many of our programs depend on grant funding to help support their need for supplies, program growth, or specialized programming.

Our Foster Care program has received a $5,000 grant from the TD Charitable Foundation to provide a year-long Financial Literacy Course for our transitional programs during 2015. Weekly sessions will address financial topics such as credit, employment, taxes and banking, and help prepare young adults for independence as they transition out of foster care.

Our Cape Cod Family Support Center was recently awarded $5,000 from the Palmer and Jane Davenport Foundation and an additional $1,500 from the Joan Bentinck-Smith Charitable Foundation. These grants will provide fifteen families with a 12-month scholarship for SafetyNet by LoJack. This is the first grant of its kind for KDC and will provide potentially life-saving services to children at risk of wandering.

Our South Central Early Intervention Program was awarded two grants to create a Sensory Therapy Room at our Southbridge Programs Center. The Edwin S. Soferenko Foundation provided a $2,000 grant, and the Southbridge Savings Bank awarded a $1,500 grant in support of this project, which is currently underway.

KDC’s Building a Brighter Future campaign has been the recipient of three recent grants. The Milford National Savings Bank Foundation has provided a $3,000 grant in support of this effort, the Massachusetts Bankers Association provided $2,500, and the Community Foundation of Southeast Massachusetts has awarded a $50,000 three-year grant to fund this important capital project.

KDC Announces New Vice President of Children and Family Programs

KDC is excited to announce the new Vice President of Children and Family Programs, Aubrey Macfarlane. She holds a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) degree. Aubrey comes to KDC with 18 years of experience in health and human services, leading a diverse range of programs at multiple sites. She had previously worked at The May Institute for over four years. Her expertise in programs, ranging from early childhood and developmental delays to adult disabilities, behavioral health, and foster care will have a positive impact on KDC and the families we support.

Literacy Month Celebration

The Greater Attleboro Early Intervention program celebrated Literacy Month in November with a week of activities. One activity included inviting community leaders to be guest readers during the children’s playgroups. Children and their families truly enjoyed the enthusiasm of the story tellers. Special guest readers included Congressman Joseph Kennedy, Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas, State Representative Paul Heroux, Attleboro City Council and KDC alumni parent, Heather Porreca, and Attleboro Superintendent, Ken Sheehan, along with others. Sincere thanks to all for taking time out of their busy schedules to light up the faces of children in the playgroups.

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 the creation of services that are person-centered, innovative, and compassionate.
New and exciting changes are on hand for our Annual Spring Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 18th at the newly renovated Lombardo’s in Randolph. We are pleased to announce Webster Bank as the event sponsor for the second year. Their commitment to giving back to the community and Kennedy-Donovan Center is remarkable.

The program focus for this year’s event will be KDC’s many Adult Support Services including Transitional Job Support, Day Habilitation, Individual Support, Family Support Center, Self-Advocacy Groups, and Adult Education Classes.

Our theme, Celebrating the Journey, is fitting for this year’s event. At the event, you will hear of the inspirational journeys of many of our clients. One in particular is that of our guest speaker, Justin O’Connell. Justin is a young man who participates in our Transitional Job Support program and is employed at Red Robin in Foxboro. In 2006, Justin underwent extensive surgery to correct a curvature of his spine due to scoliosis. During his recovery, everyday was a fight to walk, but he was determined to overcome his physical challenges. With hard work, his walking got stronger and soon he decided to try running. After completing a few road races, Justin set his sights on the Boston Marathon! Today, Justin is a three-time marathoner, successfully running the 2013 and 2014 Boston Marathons, and most recently the New York City Marathon in November.

Justin’s energy, optimism, and dedication to helping others positively impacts everyone he meets. His incredible outlook on life has led to radio appearances and interviews with USA Today, New England Cable News, and Fox Philadelphia. He now dedicates each race to another person who is facing a hardship. Justin says “I run for those who cannot.”

A cocktail hour will feature artwork and designs from several of the individuals we support. Artwork on display will also be part of a silent auction and available for purchase. These inspirational artists will be in attendance and readily available to meet, greet and sell their work. The evening will also include dinner, dancing, an auction, as well as a fund-a-need presentation. Watch for your invitation in the coming weeks. For more information or to become a sponsor, please call 508-772-1216.

Open House for New ABI Home a Success

On Thursday, December 18th, the residents of Quaker Meeting House Road in East Sandwich welcomed the community into their new home. This newest KDC service supports people living with an acquired brain injury (ABI) in a residential setting. Four men have moved into the home from various other nursing care facilities.

Open House attendees included State Representative Randy Hunt, a neighbor, who was excited to hear that these individuals were moving nearby. Other attendees included KDC staff members, representatives from the Department of Developmental Services, and neighboring families.

KDC was able to fulfill this particular need in the community by working with its funding partner and building upon past program development experience. We look forward to opening additional residential homes for people with a brain injury.

New Bedford Whaling Museum Showcases KDC Special Education School Artwork

KDC’s Special Education School in New Bedford created a colorful piece of art which is currently on display at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The project was part of the students’ weekly Sensory Group. Using voice-output communication aides (VOCA’s), students greeted one another and asked to be included in the project. The artwork was used as a part of the curriculum and learning, as well as to improve student socialization skills.

The hands-on multi-media ocean scene features a humpback whale, colored textures, and photographs of the work in process. The project took three months to complete. In November, students and staff toasted the Whaling Museum and proudly unveiled their artwork. Students were not only excited to present their artwork, but enjoyed the social outing to the museum as well.
Blackstone Valley Self-Advocacy Group

As an agency, one of the most powerful things we can do is provide a voice to people with disabilities or those who are vulnerable. Self-advocacy is the ability to speak up for yourself and the things that are important to you, allowing for choice and self-expression. In the Milford region, one special group is helping many individuals with developmental disabilities use their voice effectively.

Meeting monthly, KDC’s Blackstone Valley Self-Advocacy Group helps individuals develop their ability to express their needs.

For more than five years, Personal Best Karate Studio has donated Thanksgiving dinner to KDC’s Attleboro/Taunton Healthy Families program. Families who are in need are provided with a large turkey and the fixings to celebrate the family holiday. This past Thanksgiving, sixteen baskets of food were donated to ten families. Since 2010, they have provided Thanksgiving meals to nearly fifty families who otherwise would go without.

Many thanks go to Personal Best Karate Studio, Stacy Aron, who organizes this effort, and the many karate school students who donate money, food, time, and hard work to make up and deliver the baskets. Theirs is a true act of selflessness and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

Participants benefit from socialization, friendship, and emotional support as they improve their ability to make life decisions that are best for them. Through dialogue, guest speakers, and community resources, this group has changed and empowered many people with disabilities. New members are always welcome. You can learn more by hearing first-hand from participants in our new program testimonial at www.youtube.com/KennedyDonovanCenter.

Top Tier Site Development presents
12th ANNUAL SWING FORE THE KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 22 | 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

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
Rick Bornstein
David and Kim Boucher
Eilane E. Boucher
Elizabeth E. Boucher
Bowdoin Construction Company
James and Mona Bowies
Jay and Eileen Boyten
Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation
Ann and Ray Buono
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Dan and Kathy Couet
Robert and Frances Couet
Stephen and Kathleen Couet
Robert J. ‘Diemel
John and Joyce Dantona
Mark and Margaret Davis
Kelly DiPersio
Daniel and Cheryl Farley
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Friends of St. Patrick, Walpole
Rose Gallagher
Toby Garten
Arno Gartzie
Joseph and Josephine Gomes
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Steve and Robbi Grogan
HarborOne Bank
Rabbi and Mrs. Barry Hartman
Rich and Diana Harwood
John Hyland
Barbara Kelley
Knuckleheads Bar & Grille
John and Kathy Korona
Roger and Barbara Lamy
Marion Lane
Alan D. Lee, DDS
Arthur and Kathleen Lyons

Facebook.com/KennedyDonovanCenter

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.

For more information: 508-747-2012

John and Kathy Korona
Mansfield Bank
David and Joyce McDonnell
Viren and Amita Mehta
Daniel and Julia Moriz
Donna Noll
Elizabeth O’Hare
Robert Panesesti
Norman and Lucille Pegan
Van and Roberta Hitter
Herbert and Caroline Reid
Anita Robertson
Purna/Kevin Rodman Conare and R.M. Stineman
Rodman Ride for Kids, Don Rodman
Madalena M. Rodrigues
Rotary Club of Foxboro
Scott and Lori Scales
Scituate Federal Savings
Sensata Technologies
Douglas and Eileen Stone
Arlene and Jeffrey Tannenbaum
Francis and Regina Tate
Ann Taylor
Technical Support International, Inc.
Talamon Insurance Network
Tichon Seafood Corporation
Michele and Glenn Tower
William and Linda Travers
United Benefit Services, Stephen Peck
Michael and Jane Vannata
Donna Wallace
Edward and Erin Walter
Julie White-Wronska
Irwin Yarowitz and Ellen Rol

John Hyland
William and Linda Travers
United Benefit Services, Stephen Peck
Michael and Jane Vannata
Donna Wallace
Edward and Erin Walter
Julie White-Wronska
Irwin Yarowitz and Ellen Roln

John and Kathy Korona
Roger and Barbara Lamy
Marion Lane
Alan D. Lee, DDS
Arthur and Kathleen Lyons

TICKER TOP TIER SITE DEVELOPMENT

V I S I O N

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

Arlene and Jeffrey Tannenbaum
Francis and Regina Tate
Ann Taylor
Technical Support International, Inc.
Talamon Insurance Network
Tichon Seafood Corporation
Michele and Glenn Tower
William and Linda Travers
United Benefit Services, Stephen Peck
Michael and Jane Vannata
Donna Wallace
Edward and Erin Walter
Julie White-Wronska
Irwin Yarowitz and Ellen Rol
Our 2014 Holiday Appeal featured the inspirational story of Justin, a participant in our Transitional Job Support program (read his story on page four). Many were obviously touched by his story as we have raised 75% of our goal. And, it’s not too late to give—just fill out the form below to help make the difference for people like Justin.

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 ____________________________
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!