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!”
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.

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 14,508 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 is embarking 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.

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.

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.
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. Seifert Foundation provided $2,800 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 Eliza 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 Ballos 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.

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
- Make Way for Ducklings
- The Velveteen Rabbit
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Where the Sidewalk Ends

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.

Barr’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 Warhol 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.

KDC’s Greater Plymouth Early Intervention Program provided more than 1,500 books to the children in 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.

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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.

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 33 Commercial Street, Foxboro. 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.

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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 6 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 needing respite 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 gaps 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 a service, KDC announced the launch of Applied Behavioral Analysis 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 we communicate with Jordan, and it’s how he communicates with everyone else around him."

Auctioneer John Territo of Auction Knights, generated enthusiasm from the emotional crowd. Guests donated generously during the Fund-a-Need and Live Auction segments. They bid on trips that included an Ireland Adventure, a Charleston Getaway and a Punta Cana Escape. Phyllis’ heart-warming story, and an inspireing video by Mavrick 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: IneroQuest Technologies, The TIX Companies, Bowdoin Construction, East Coast Benefit Plans, Mansfield Bank, Robert Panesuti 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.”

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
Barbara Kelley
Advance Air and Heat
Knuckleheads Bar & Grille
Nancy Allison, Newbridge Architects
John and Kathy Korona
Rick Bornstein
L. Knife & Sons
David and Kim Boucher
Arthur and Kathleen Lyons
Eline E. Boucher
Iwona Maliszewska
Elizabeth E. Boucher
George and Kathryn Manchester
Bowdoin Construction Company
Kenneth and Diane Mandle
Jay and Eileen Boylen
Mansfield Bank
Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation
Rich and Karen McGinnness
Ann and Ray Buono
David and Joyce McDonnell
Ron and Marcy Carlstrom
Milford National Bank & Trust
Tedy and Tanya Carr
Donna Noll
Eugene and Edna Carroll
Robert and Carol Pechta
Casey Law Offices
Steven Perry and Charles Berthelette
Coastal Heritage Bank
Pizzeria DeMarco
John and Jean Conners
Van and Roberta Ritter
Dan and Kathy Court
Anita Robertson
Robert J. D’Amelio
Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
Tanya Carr
Rodman Ride for Kids, Don Rodman
John and Joyce Dantonio
Madaele M. Rodrigues
Mark and Margaret Davis
Robert J. D’Amelio
Rotary Club of Foxboro
Kelly DiPersio
Steve and Jill Sanford
Darlene V. Dymaza
Scott and Lori Scales
Daniel and Cheryl Farley
Sensata Technologies
Mrs. Frances Fern and family
Douglas and Eileen Stone
Fernandes Masonary, Inc.
Arlene and Jeffrey Tannenbaum
Rose Gallagher
Francis and Regina Tate
Toby Garten
Ann Taylor
Arno Gartzie
Technical Support International, Inc.
Joseph and Josephine Gomes
Telamon Insurance Network
William and Ellen Goodchild
Tichon Seafood Corporation
Lynn Goodchild Memorial Scholarship Fund
Violet Tracey
Steve and Robbi Grogan
William and Linda Travers
Patricia Grugnale
Michael and Jane Vannata
Rabbi and Mrs. Barry Hartman
Edward and Erin Walter
Rich and Diana Harwood
Warrior Fuel Corporation
Robert and Alice Heathon
Webster Bank
Susan Hurley
Irwin yansowitz and Ellen Role
John Hyland

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

I wish to make a difference with a gift of:

- $250
- $200
- $100
- $50
- $25
- other $ __________

I’d like my gift to be anonymous.

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!