

Kennedy News & Views

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A Newsletter from the Kennedy Child Study Center

Where Every Child Matters

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Our History

For nearly 50 years, the Kennedy Child Study Center has sought to make a difference in the lives of young children who are undergoing major difficulties in early childhood.

KCSC was established in 1958 to provide services to children with mental retardation and related disabilities. Financial support from the family of Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., for whom the agency was named, made it possible to purchase a building to accommodate the program, and we opened our doors at 151 East 67th Street in Manhattan early in 1960.

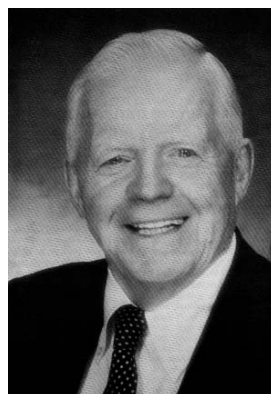
Initially, the Center was a small school for primary grade children; this was one of the nation's first programs of its kind. There were sixteen students enrolled when we opened our doors in 1958; 131 children were receiving other services. Enrollment gradually increased and 64 children were attending the Center's school by 1961.

According to the Center's Three-Year Report, published in September 1961, KCSC provided professional pediatric, psychiatric and psychological services to about 1,500 individuals during its first three years. At the close of 1961, the Center's budget was slightly more than \$220,000; today KCSC's budget is over \$16 million.

Under the sponsorship of Catholic Charities of The Archdiocese of New York, Kennedy Child Study Center has always made its services available to all New Yorkers. It is incorporated in New York State and is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The Center is licensed as a diagnostic evaluation and treatment clinic by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). It is also approved as a special education pre-school by the NY State Education Department, and as a day care center by the NY City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Today, we serve nearly 1400 children annually at our sites in Manhattan and the Bronx; all young children with developmental and related disabilities, who are primarily from low-income households.

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Lawrence F. Hickey retired as Chair of the KCSC Board of Directors and was honored for his long-term dedication and service to the agency at the May 17, 2007 Spring Benefit. (Please see the related stories on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.)

Breaking News!

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation awarded the Kennedy Child Study Center a grant in support of the Pediatric Screening Program.

From the Desk of the KCSC Executive Director, Peter Gorham



It is with pleasure that I present the first issue of *Kennedy News & Views*. Our intention is to report on the important activities that take place at KCSC, and to make our community aware of our day-to-day accomplishments. We will also provide small doses of service information to give you a sense of why KCSC's work is so essential to all New Yorkers.

More than just the news, however, we hope to give you many remarkable views of our children. And we will also express viewpoints that may spark your interest in the work of our very dedicated staff. Because we want this newsletter to respond to your curiosity and understanding, we encourage you to let us know what's on your mind.

It has been more than fifteen years since the Kennedy Child Study Center published a newsletter, so we thought it might be interesting to review our history and remark on who and what we have become over the past half century.

In the pages of this inaugural edition, we invite you to read about the significant events that have shaped the Center's existence and to review the current Mission Statement to see where we are heading. We want also for you to be introduced to our services and programs, and to some of our dedicated Staff and Board members.

Finally, we hope that you will consider ways in which you can give personal support to our children and their families in the future. Your interest will ensure that the Kennedy Child Study Center can continue to provide outstanding service in the decades ahead, and remain a place where every child matters.

Best wishes to all for the holidays.

2007 Kennedy Statistics

- Pre-school programs are at capacity with 375 children enrolled in the Bronx and Manhattan. Early Intervention programs have 115 children enrolled at both sites.
- The two-week Summer Respite program in the Bronx provided services for some 43 children daily; an increase of 13% over the previous year. We included several non-disabled siblings in some of the activities.
- According to the 2007 Annual Audit by Marks Paneth & Shron, the ratio of program expenses to total expenses is 94.5%.
- *Breakthrough to Literacy*, an early literacy program, was successfully introduced in Manhattan and expanded to include another classroom this year.



Our History *continued from page 1*

Approximately 65% of the children we serve come from Latino families; another 25% of the children are from African-American families.

As Early Intervention programs were found to be highly effective in reducing the consequences of disabilities, our attention shifted toward serving very young children. As this transition occurred, the introduction of a multidisciplinary approach to treatment allowed us to address a wider range of developmental conditions.

The need for the types of services we offer continues to grow at a substantial rate. Currently two groups of children are "at risk" of developmental disabilities who are not receiving proper attention: children who are victims of abuse and neglect; and children born with birth defects, extremely low birth weight, or infants born prematurely.

KCSC now can offer periodic screening for children at risk due to their life circumstances. The money raised at the 2007 Spring Benefit is funding a disabilities screening program which provides specialized pediatric assessments for pre-school age children with developmental disabilities.

Your comments are welcome.



*Please send them to:
Kennedy News & Views
Comments*

*151 East 67th Street
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*We look forward to
hearing from you.*



*Please note: our zip code
has changed to 10065*

2007 Spring Benefit



Photos (l-r): Robert Cunningham and KCSC Treasurer & Benefit Chair, Michael O'Conor; Benefit Co-Chairs & KCSC Board members Donna Stockinger-Kraus and Madalena Sheehan; and KCSC Board Co-Chair Michael O'Shaughnessy and NBC News Anchor Chuck Scarborough, who was the evening's emcee.

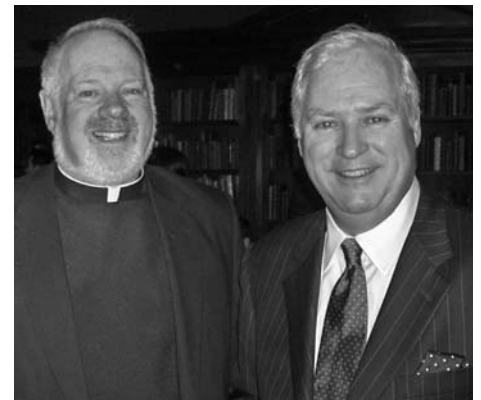
Nearly 300 guests attended the Annual Spring Benefit on May 17, 2007, which honored the memory of Patricia Kennedy Lawford, a longtime Board member, and William O'Leary, as well as the many contributions of retiring Board Chair, Lawrence F. Hickey.

Funds raised during the festive event supported the efforts of the Disability Screening Program, a project providing specialized pediatric assessments for pre-school age children with developmental disabilities. Protocols for the Disability Screening program were developed and its work began in September 2007 with a target of 30 screenings per month, for a total of 300 screenings during the school year.

Kennedy Child Study Center is deeply grateful to Morgan Stanley, the Event Grand Sponsor; The Charles H. Leach II Foundation and Martin L. Keating, Silver Sponsors; and Mark O'Friel, Interaudi Bank, and Cigna Corporation, who were Bronze Sponsors. Thanks are extended also to the many individuals and companies who made it possible for the screening program to move forward and to all our friends who helped to make this event a wonderful success.

Finally, we want to extend our gratitude to the hard working and dedicated Benefit Committee, led by Benefit Chair Michael O'Conor, and Co-Chairs Madalena Sheehan and Donna Stockinger-Kraus, and the evening's Emcee, NBC News Anchor Chuck Scarborough.

Remember to save Thursday, May 15, 2008, for another great event at the Racquet and Tennis Club of New York. See you there!



Photos (l-r): KCSC Board member Marian Burke, Michael Gulbin, Michael O'Conor, and Christopher Burke; KCSC Board Co-Chair Lawrence F. McGovern and his wife, Virginia; and Rev. Msgr. Kevin Sullivan and Martin L. Keating.

Who's Who at KCSC

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is an active and dedicated group of volunteers who offer their time and talents to oversee the work of the Kennedy Child Study Center. The Board's responsibilities include:

- determination of KCSC's mission and purposes
- assurance of effective organizational planning
- monitoring and evaluation of program services
- resource development
- assurance of effective financial management
- assessment of agency management
- advancement of KCSC's public image and standing

Lawrence F. Hickey has served with great distinction for nearly 30 years on the Board of Directors. He joined the Board in 1978 after he was approached for advice regarding a structural problem at the Manhattan facility.

Mr. Hickey became Board President in 1989; he was named Chairman Emeritus in 2006. At the past KCSC Annual Spring Benefit, Mr. Hickey was honored for his commitment and dedication to the agency (see page 3). Under his direction, the West Farms site in the Bronx grew from a satellite program to a school operating at capacity with some 250 children. He has always demonstrated his concern for his fellow man and given his time and energy to help those in need.



Currently, the KCSC Board of Directors is co-chaired by Lawrence F. McGovern and Michael W. O'Shaughnessy. Both men, along with the entire Board of Directors, are committed to continuing the KCSC legacy: to provide breakthrough service innovation that every child needs to meet their potential and successfully participate in our society.

For a complete list of the KCSC Board of Directors, please refer to page 1.

Agency Management

The responsibility for managing the work of the Kennedy Child Study Center is entrusted to a team of highly trained and experienced professionals skilled in the delivery of early childhood services to children with developmental challenges.



- Peter Gorham (MSW, MBA) was appointed Executive Director in 2004. Previously, he served in executive positions at the ARC of Essex County, Retarded Infants Services, the Montclair-West Essex Guidance Center and the Psychiatry Department of the Catholic Medical Center.
- Joan Dwyer (MSW, MBA) became Associate Executive Director in 2005. She has extensive experience in program development and quality assurance, having spent 20 years in management at the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).
- Laurence Perry (MS) and Diane Fitzpatrick (MS) are Assistant Executive Directors in charge of the educational programs and facilities in Manhattan and the Bronx, respectively. Both are long-term KCSC professionals with exceptional credentials and experience.

Kennedy Child Study Center Mission Statement

The Kennedy Child Study Center is dedicated to assisting young children who are undergoing significant difficulties in learning and other areas of early childhood development.

We accomplish this purpose through a coordinated system of evaluation and diagnosis, multi-faceted therapy, specialized pre-school education and partnership with families.

In addition, we provide direct services and supports to parents and other caregivers as they seek to provide a rich family life in which these children can thrive.

In conjunction with these services, we strive to communicate the needs of these children to the general public, train professionals from a variety of disciplines for work in the area of developmental disabilities, develop new service programs and facilities, and encourage positive public policies that benefit young children with disabilities.

KCSC 2006-2007 Honor Roll of Donors: A Giving Record

The Kennedy Child Study Center is pleased to honor the many individuals and companies who have generously contributed restricted and unrestricted funds during the past year. These gifts help to ensure that KCSC continue to provide exceptional services and personal support to the children and families whom we serve. The following list reflects actual gifts made to the Center during the last fiscal year: July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Thank you for your support.

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Bequests

Estate of Marie A. Herrmann

KCSC has made every effort to ensure accuracy and regrets any errors or omissions that may have occurred. If your name is not correct, contact the Development Office at 212-988-9500.

How You Can Make a Difference & Help the Kennedy Child Study Center

When you make a personal gift you can make a difference in the lives of very young children with developmental challenges and related disabilities. Your support will help to ensure that KCSC provides the highest quality services to young children with special needs. Help us fulfill our mission and continue our important work by making a tax-deductible donation today.

There are many ways to give to the Kennedy Child Study Center

- **Cash** Writing a check is the simplest way to make a gift. Make your check to Kennedy Child Study Center, and mail to 151 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10065.
- **Matching Gifts** If you or your spouse are affiliated with one of the many matching gift companies, you can double or even triple the dollar value of your gift. Please check with your company's Human Resources office.
- **Gifts of Securities** Gifts of appreciated securities are welcome and may offer significant tax advantages to the donor. If you would like to donate appreciated securities, please call the Development Office at 212-988-9500 for information.
- **Planned Gifts** Consider remembering KCSC in your estate plans. You can make a provision in your will for a cash bequest or a gift of real estate or property. You can contribute an insurance policy or name Kennedy Child Study Center as a direct beneficiary of a portion of your retirement resources or your IRA. Your contribution will have an impact for years to come on the many young children and families whom the Center serves.

The Development staff at KCSC will be happy to review planned giving alternatives and approaches with you. Please call us at 212-988-9500.

As with any legal or financial advice, please seek the counsel of a legal or financial advisor.

Please consider that your gift of:

- \$100 will provide a developmental screening for a young victim of child abuse
- \$200 will purchase warm winter coats for a needy KCSC pre-schooler and his or her siblings
- \$300 will help a family without medical coverage receive psychological services
- \$500 will pay for staff training in specialized areas of need, such as autism
- \$1,000 will help a family without medical coverage pay for a comprehensive clinical evaluation by a first-rate team that includes a pediatrician, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, and speech, physical and occupational therapists



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SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008
ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT
AT THE
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