



2006 -- 2007

# Annual Report



Celebrating the work of the  
Kennedy Child Study Center

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

- ❖ Autism affects some 1 to 1.5 million Americans.
- ❖ Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability with a growth rate of 10 to 17% annually.
- ❖ During the 1990s, while the U.S. population increased 13%, the number of diagnosed cases of autism increased 172%. Today, approximately one of every 150 live births will result in a diagnosis of autism.
- ❖ The Autism Society of America estimates that the annual cost of autism to society is \$90 billion, with 90% of the costs in adult services.
- ❖ It is estimated that the cost of providing services to adults diagnosed with autism will rise to \$200-400 billion by the year 2013.
- ❖ Research indicates that early diagnosis is associated with dramatically better outcomes for individuals with autism. The earlier a child is diagnosed, the earlier he can benefit from specialized treatment and education.
- ❖ It is estimated that the cost of lifelong care for people with autism can be reduced by two-thirds with early diagnosis and intervention.
- ❖ The American Pediatric Association recommends that all children under two years of age be screened for autism.
- ❖ Identification of a developmental delay before the age of three results in the best prognosis; delayed identification of a developmental disability can result in significant compromise to a child's maximum success.

## A Message from the Co-Chairmen of the Board of Directors



Michael O'Shaughnessy



Lawrence F. McGovern

**T**his past year was our first as Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors of the Kennedy Child Study Center. It has been a great year for both of us and for everyone associated with KCSC.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our colleagues on the Board for their support and guidance. We want particularly to express our deep appreciation to Lawrence F. Hickey, Chairman Emeritus, who has spent so many years at the helm of the agency and has helped to ensure a smooth leadership transition. The management and staff of the agency are to be commended as well for their continuing dedication and professionalism. During the past year, KCSC has provided services of the highest level to many special needs children and their families.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kennedy Child Study Center is fast approaching—the agency was founded in 1958. As many of you know, the Kennedy family made it possible to purchase the building on East 67<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan to accommodate our programs, and the agency was named for Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Looking ahead, we are planning a celebration during our 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2009.

The Center continues to focus on providing excellent programs such as early intervention, clinical evaluation and special education preschool, as well as family support, respite and counseling. The many friends of the agency who volunteer their time and offer financial assistance should be proud that they play an important role in the Center's success. As Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors, we value your participation and look forward to continuing our partnership with you. Stay involved. We appreciate it, and it makes a difference to the many children and families whom we serve.

We hope you enjoy this report, which outlines some of the important programs and projects that have taken place at the Center over the past year. Finally, we want to let you know that we are looking forward to another successful year.

With our warmest regards,

Michael O'Shaughnessy, *Co-Chair*  
Board of Directors

Lawrence F. McGovern, *Co-Chair*  
Board of Directors

## A Message from the Executive Director



Peter P. Gorham

It is my privilege to review the accomplishments and activities at the Kennedy Child Study Center during the past year. Since our founding in 1958, the driving force of our mission has remained steadfast – to assist young children with developmental challenges achieve their potential, and to provide support for their families.

Children with developmental delays are not identified early enough. Many young boys and girls have problems related to language, communication, motor activity, social relations, or other areas, which can impact on readiness for school. However, less than 50% of children with a developmental problem are identified before starting school, by which time significant delays may have occurred and opportunities for treatment missed. As a result, the United States Department of Health and Human Services reported recently that 17% of children have a developmental or behavioral disability.

In an effort to reverse this trend, we strengthened our pediatric assessment program for children enrolled in the KCSC preschool program during the past year. Our goal is to provide a total of 300 assessments at our Bronx and Manhattan locations during the current school year. In addition, we have plans to provide screenings for children who are known to be at risk of developmental disabilities. These include both children born prematurely and children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Looking ahead, we are putting together a screening program to identify early signs of autism among very young children. We want to include the toddlers in our Early Intervention program and siblings of children currently enrolled in all our programs, as well as children in the community at large. As always, special efforts will be made toward reaching young children whose families would not otherwise be able to access such services.

In addition to our commitment to early screening and assessment, we are proud that *Breakthrough to Literacy*, a pre-reading program which was introduced in the Manhattan Preschool two years ago, was expanded last year. Also, our respite services and family support services have grown substantially, as more families seek assistance.

Finally, it is particularly rewarding to report that the ratio of program expenses to total expenses was nearly 95% last year. The significance of this statistic is that the Center is spending 95 cents of every dollar it receives on important programs for our children and their families, and we resolve to continue to do so.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope you will share the pride that I feel about the important work that takes place here at KCSC, and my admiration for the staff members that make so many good things happen every day.

My best regards to all.

Peter P. Gorham

# Programs and Services at the Kennedy Child Study Center

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



The demand for specialized programs and services for very young children who have a developmental disability continues to grow in our Manhattan and Bronx communities. Over the past few years, we have stretched our facility space as far as possible to accommodate more preschool children. During the last school year, 484 children were served in our preschool programs. Any future expansion of service will require the acquisition of new facilities.

Our preschools provide a nurturing, safe and stimulating child-centered learning environment and offer many opportunities for very young children to explore and learn. Classrooms have developmentally appropriate learning materials to help children overcome challenges and develop the necessary skills for academic success. Among the many activities are singing, reading, painting, cooking, dramatic play, and center time.

Our teachers have been influenced by prominent educators, such as John Dewey, Maria Montessori, and Howard Gardner, and use numerous approaches in their classrooms.

Field trips play an important part of the preschool curricula and often reinforce concepts learned in classroom activities. Trips included the Manhattan Children's Theater, New York Aquarium, New York Transit Museum, Children's Museum of the Native American, and Green Meadows Children's Farm among others.

*Breakthrough to Literacy*, a curriculum published by the McGraw Hill Company, has been implemented in three Manhattan preschool classrooms to date. It has helped improve vocabulary, alphabet awareness and content understanding. A "Big Book" is featured weekly, emphasizing vocabulary and specific concepts; children complete tasks and participate in projects related to the book's theme. At the end of the week, each child receives a copy of the book to take home.

A parent workshop is conducted at the beginning of the school year to provide information about the program and to suggest ways in which the families can extend literacy at home. This year the parents participated in hands-on activities with the teachers, enhancing their understanding of the program.



## EARLY INTERVENTION

The Early Intervention program provides therapies for very young children, up to three years of age, with significant developmental delays. The program consists of two-hour sessions in which the children receive specific services, such as special instruction, speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy. During the last school year, 175 children were served in our Early Intervention programs.

Parent participation is an important component of the program. To facilitate involvement, each parent is offered a seat on the child's bus so that the parent can come to the center at any time. Monthly activities are given to the parent on a calendar created by the therapists to strengthen the skills developed in the program. The child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is reviewed with the parents every six months to ensure that the services are appropriate for the child.



## CLINICAL SERVICES

Our Article 16 Clinic provides diagnostic evaluations and assessments for children and young adults up to age 21 who have, or are suspected of having, a developmental disability. Individual counseling for children diagnosed with a developmental disability is available. Counseling is also available to family members to assist them in meeting their child's needs.

Our clinic team includes professionals in pediatric medicine, psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. They help parents put together meaningful plans that address both the current therapeutic needs and future developmental goals of their children.

The following services, diagnostic evaluations and assessments are offered:

- ❖ Pediatric developmental assessments (medical)
- ❖ Psycho-social evaluations
- ❖ Psychological assessments
- ❖ Psychiatric evaluations
- ❖ Speech/Language services
- ❖ Occupational & physical therapy
- ❖ Individual, family and group counseling

## RESPIRE PROGRAMS

For the second consecutive year, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) sponsored a summer respite program in the Bronx. The two-week program provided services for some 43 children daily; an increase of 13% over the previous year. This past summer, we were able to include several non-disabled siblings in some of the activities.

In addition, we continued to offer a Saturday respite program at both Manhattan and the Bronx locations. Services were provided to more than 70 children, who took trips to parks, plays, museums, movies, and other activities. Door-to-door bus service was provided as was morning snack and lunch.

Both services provide parents and caregivers with a break from the daily routine of caring for a disabled child. Respite services help maintain family stability by offering parents time for their own relaxation and personal growth.

The programs employ KCSC teachers and teaching assistants. We are pleased to report that parents are very satisfied with this program.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

At each of our locations there is a family support coordinator who offers parents counseling and training on topics such as speech and language development, autism, behavior management, nutrition, and child advocacy. Our family support coordinators also invited guest speakers from our own professional staff and from community agencies.

During the past year, about 185 families were served in such areas as sheltered housing, domestic abuse, immigration, and access to legal, social and health services in the community.

In addition, family support efforts included a clothing drive, distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets to families in need and Christmas toy donations.





## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

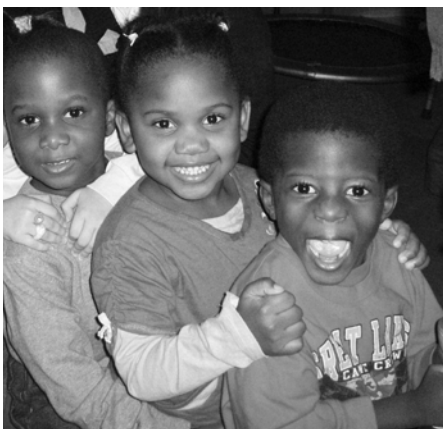
Professional Development is an important component of our educational programs. We have been offering Spark training, TEACCH, and PECS learning opportunities for our teaching staff. We offer mentoring and coaching for new teachers; provide staff with both on-site and off-site professional development; and have opportunities for teachers to observe other classrooms. In addition, we offer comprehensive behavior management programs to help teachers work more successfully with difficult behaviors.

We offer tuition remission to support the efforts of staff to pursue professional credentials. The tuition reimbursement program provides financial assistance toward meeting the cost of tuition for approved coursework that will enable teaching assistants to improve their effectiveness through education and training, to increase their competence and ability to carry out their job duties, and to further their professional careers in human services and special education.

In addition, there are two funds at KCSC that support teacher preparation and further training specific to the work of the agency:

- ❖ The Barbara Jean Schraft Memorial Scholarship, established by the Schraft family following the death of Barbara Schraft, a former KCSC teacher.
- ❖ The Elyse Sondra Lane Scholarship, established in her memory by friends of Elyse Lane, a parent of a child who once attended KCSC programs.

We are proud to support staff who are engaged in career development. There are a number of teaching assistants who have earned degrees and have successfully assumed teaching roles at the Center, and several more continue to work towards a teaching degree.



❖ *Proceeds from the 2007 Annual Benefit supported the efforts of the Disability Screening Program, a project that provides specialized pediatric assessments for preschool age children with developmental disabilities.*

❖ *During the current school year, the agency will provide 300 preschool children who have or are suspected of having a developmental delay with specialized pediatric assessments.*

❖ *The Kennedy Child Study Center serves some 1,400 children annually at our Manhattan and Bronx locations; all young children with developmental delays who are primarily from very low-income families.*

# Financial Highlights: July 1, 2006--June 30, 2007

## PROGRAM REVENUE

Service Fees from Government Contracts	\$ 14,243,894
Government Grants	<u>1,227,950</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 15,471,844</b>

## PROGRAM EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 9,260,508
Employee Benefits	<u>2,712,418</u>
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,972,926</b>

Contracted Health Services (Therapists, etc.)	<u>\$ 1,498,541</u>
<b>Total Direct Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,471,467</b>

Other	<u>\$ 2,250,956</u>
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 15,722,423</b>
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<b>DEFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (250,580)</b>
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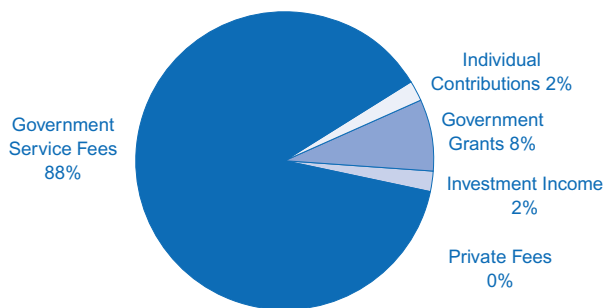
## NON-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Individual Contributions including special events	\$ 389,644
Investment Income	261,576
Private Fees	<u>556</u>

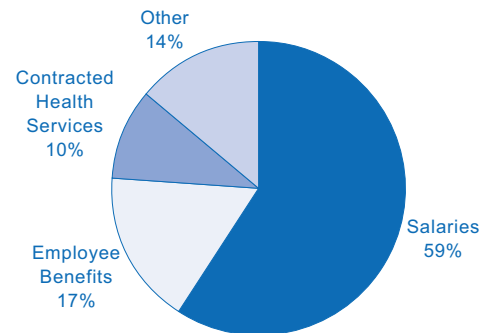
<b>Total Non-Government Support</b>	<b>\$ 651,776</b>
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<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 401,196</b>
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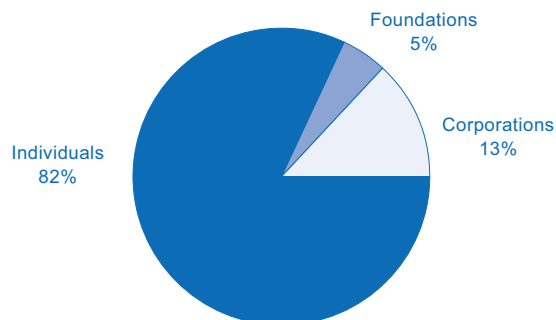
**KCSC Fiscal 2007 Revenues**



**KCSC Fiscal 2007 Expenses**



**KCSC Fiscal 2007 Contributions**



# 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 through June 30, 2007. Thank you for your support.*

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Steven Weinreich  
Katherine Westra  
Margaret Whelan

## Bequests

Estate of Marie A. Herrmann

## How to Make a Difference: Ways to Give to KCSC

When you make a personal gift to the Kennedy Child Study Center, you 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 donation today.

There are several ways to give to KCSC:

**Cash** Writing a check is the simplest way to make a gift to KCSC. For income tax purposes, the gift is deductible to the extent provided by law. Make your check payable to Kennedy Child Study Center and mail it to us at 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 annual gift. Please take a moment to check with your company's Human Resources office – it will make a difference.

**Gifts of Securities** Gifts of appreciated securities are always welcome and may offer significant tax advantages to the donor. For information on how to transfer appreciated securities, please call the Development Office at 212-988-9500.

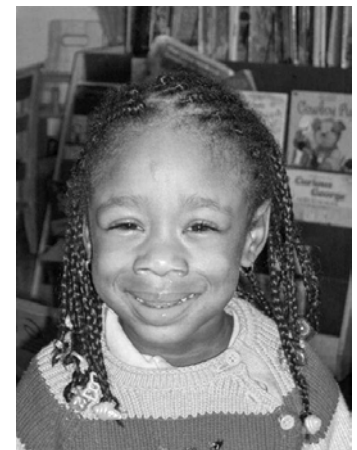
**Planned Gifts** You can help KCSC carry on its mission for years to come. Consider leaving a bequest in your estate plans. You can make a cash bequest in your will or make a gift of real estate or property. You can contribute an insurance policy or name the Kennedy Child Study Center as a direct beneficiary of a portion of your retirement resources or IRA.

Your contribution will have an impact on many young children and their families whom we serve each year. 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. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. The Kennedy Child Study Center is a non-profit registered under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.*



### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

*The staff at the Kennedy Child Study Center would welcome the opportunity to have our friends learn more about the agency. If you would like to schedule a visit to one of our programs, please contact the Office of Development and Communications at 212-988-9500, ext. 296. We will be happy to make the necessary arrangements.*



*The Kennedy Child Study Center is a not-for-profit agency established under Section 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code; certified by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Clinic; licensed by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Day Care service provider; approved by the New York State Department of Health and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as an Early Intervention service provider; and the New York State Education Department and the New York City Department of Education as a Special Education PreSchool service provider. Offering services to all New Yorkers, the Kennedy Child Study Center is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.*

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## **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 preschool 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.*

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

MANHATTAN  
151 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065  
212-988-9500



BRONX  
1028 East 179<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10460  
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PETER P. GORHAM  
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