



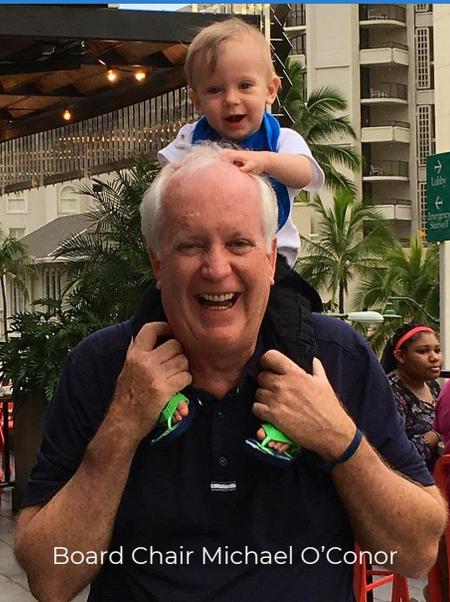
Kennedy
Children's Center

2018

Annual Report

Where
Children, Families &
Communities
Learn Together





Board Chair Michael O'Connor



Executive Director Jeanne Alter

60 Years and Counting...

May 2018 marked the 60th anniversary of the Kennedy Children's Center (KCC). Established in 1958 as the 'Kennedy Child Study Center,' our organization was one of the first to recognize that children with special needs deserved the same opportunities as typically developing children – to learn, grow, and develop their unique abilities.

In our six decades of service, we have transformed from a small private school run by the Daughters of Charity, to an NYCDOE-contracted provider serving nearly 400 public preschool students. We continue to draw on our rich legacy as one of the nation's first providers of special education services, while celebrating our growth. Rather than 'studying' young children with special needs, we are now able to apply the evidence-based practices and differentiated curricula that our founders helped develop.

As we enter our next decade of service as the Kennedy Children's Center, we are proud to recognize that while names, titles, and buildings may change, at our heart we have stayed true to the mission that led to our creation: providing high quality education services to young children with developmental delays, in partnership with families and communities.

Thank you for being part of our story – and part of our future!

Michael O'Connor
Board Chair

Jeanne Alter
Executive Director



Staff took their KCC hats on vacation in summer 2018

Our Mission

Kennedy Children's Center (KCC) is dedicated to providing high quality education services to young children with developmental delays, in partnership with families and communities.

We accomplish this through child-centered, evidence-based instruction that prepares each student to enter the New York City public school system in the least restrictive environment possible.

We seek to support families with training, guidance, and advocacy, and strengthen our school community through professional development and collaborations with local human service organizations.



As a publicly funded nonprofit organization, KCC serves public school children who are placed in our program by their local New York City Department of Education school districts. KCC is:

- Approved by New York State Education Department as a Special Education Preschool.
- Approved by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Day Care provider.
- Incorporated in New York State and registered as a 501c3 charitable organization.
- Accredited by the Better Business Bureau (BBB Accredited Charity Seal program).
- An affiliated agency of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Our Students

100% of our students are public school children who are referred to our program by the New York City Department of Education's Committee on Preschool Special Education. We measure our success in the progress that each of our students make — both in our schools and beyond.

Who We Serve

- 386 Enrolled Students at Two School Sites
- Nearly 40% Come from Bilingual Homes
- More Than 50% Exhibit Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- More Than 85% Come from Families Who Receive SNAP or Medicaid Benefits
- 100% Make Progress and Have Fun Learning!

After Preschool

Our goal is to prepare our students to enter Kindergarten in the least restrictive environment possible. Our 2017-18 graduates went to the following NYCDOE placements:

63% - Self-Contained Programs

Of those:

35% - Community Schools

28% - NYCDOE District 75

30% - Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

6% - Kindergarten with Related Services



Preschool Services

Special Education Preschool: Lessons to Last a Lifetime

We serve 386 public school children between 3-5 years old annually. Children are referred to our program by their local school districts and grouped into classes of 6, 8, or 12 children depending on each child's individual needs. Classes are led by one special education teacher and two teacher assistants. Our year-round program runs Monday to Friday, 9AM-2:30PM.

Our curriculum focuses on purposeful play and learning experiences that invite participation, encourage social and emotional relationships, and engage the senses. Goals are aligned with the NYS Pre-Kindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.

Related Therapy Services: Developing Core Skills

KCC provides comprehensive related therapy services in all areas of development, including individual and group speech, occupational, and physical therapy, and psychological counseling. Related Services are part of each child's mandated Individual Education Plan (IEP), and services are recommended as part of the overall approach to assisting each child to reach, retain and maintain skills in all areas of development.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services: Evidence-Based Practices

Our teachers are trained in the latest ASD techniques, such as TEACCH and PECS, and address the specific intellectual, social and emotional needs of our students through the use of visual learning aids and other methods shown to improve behavior and outcomes in school and at home.

Nutrition: Establishing Healthy Habits

Our on-site kitchens provide home cooked meals twice daily to our students. We create menus that reflect the culture of our families, and the appetites of preschoolers. Our licensed nutritionist consults with families on picky eating, feeding issues, and other health concerns.



Family Support Programming

Our **Family Services Program** provides support and training for parents and caregivers to help them meet the unique demands of raising a child with special needs. We provide parents with opportunities to participate in their child's education, help them understand their child's needs, and support them through their parenting journey.

Family workshops: KCC offers family workshops in English and Spanish on a range of topics, as well as specialized training for parents of children with autism. Our workshops are led by KCC staff or by outside professionals.

Family Support Coordinators (FSC's): Our FSC's are an integral part of family services, helping parents with individual needs, referrals to community resources, and an array of special disability services and benefits.

45

Parent Workshops
or Special Events
held last year

93%

Of KCC Parents
have attended at
least one event

Kindergarten Application Assistance Program: Our FSC's helped over 75% of our Turning Five parents apply for kindergarten this past year, using additional computers designated exclusively for parent use.

Special Programming for Families

Spotlight: Saturday Play Program



"We lost 110 pounds total, and it was from that Saturday Program ... the Program really touched us when we were asked – 'do you want to be healthier?', and it just snapped and I said yes, of course, we have to. We have a child."

2018 Saturday Program Participants

Launched in 2018 with support from the FAR Fund, KCC's Saturday Play Program helps to address a widespread need for weekend activities that are safe and appropriate for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

While children are engaged in social, gross motor, and art activities, parents participate in group discussions and instructor-led activities like nutrition classes and yoga. Parents are able to observe our staff and model techniques that help them interact with their child at home, at play, and out in the community.

Between January 2018 and December 2018, we provided 9 play sessions that each engaged 24 children and their adults.

Parents of young children with special needs often feel alone and overwhelmed. By acting as a "neighborhood playground," our Saturday Play Program has created a safe and supportive community where parents and families can come together.

Community Partners

KCC partners with local organizations to enrich the academic and social experience of our students, and build a strong support network for their families.

- **Alvin Ailey** dance classes help students practice gross motor skills and engage in creative expression.
- **Bent on Learning** provides certified yoga instructors who train students and staff to build awareness of body movement, self-regulation, and breathing.
- **Center for All Abilities** engage students and families using music and song.
- **Gigi's Playhouse** hosts special events for parents of children with Down's Syndrome.
- **New York Therapy Animals** allows children to interact with trained therapy dogs, learning a sense of responsibility and empathy.



Exploring Music with Center for All Abilities

Growing Our Own: Workforce and Professional Development at KCC



Grow Your Own program graduates

Kennedy Children's Center is working to design thoughtful solutions to help passionate educators become certified teachers. With the right training and support, all of the teachers we need are already in our schools, working as teacher assistants and aides – or in our community, just waiting for the opportunity to fulfill their calling.

Executive Director Jeanne Alter

Speech delivered at KCC's 60th Anniversary Celebration, May 2019

In the face of an ongoing teacher shortage that disproportionately affects the low-income, bilingual, special education communities we serve, KCC's professional development program was designed to support and train staff who have passion for our work, but often lack experience or formal training.

Through a range of programs, we work hand-in-hand with our staff members to support them through every step of their career — from joining us as a Teacher Assistant to achieving full certification as a Special Education Teacher.

- **Grow Your Own Workforce Development Program (GYO):** Launched in 2018 with support from The Robin Hood Foundation, GYO provides on-the-job training and placement assistance for low-income individuals seeking to become certified Teacher Assistants. By preparing up to 80 participants per year for careers in special education, the program seeks to address an urgent shortage of Teacher Assistants in special education preschools, improve the educational experience of our students, and help lift families in our home communities out of poverty by providing a pathway to a stable career in education.
- **Tuition Assistance:** KCC is proud of the fact that nearly 25% of our teachers began their careers with us as Teacher Assistants. We take staff development seriously, and provide encouragement, guidance, and tuition assistance to staff members interested in pursuing their Bachelor's and Master's Degree in education.
- **Model Training Program:** KCC is committed to becoming a leader in the field in supervision and staff development. We have created a pioneering supervision model that prepares new teaching staff for the rigors of the job, while rewarding and incentivizing experienced staff members to remain in the non-profit field.

The Bronx is Building: Capital Improvements at Our Largest School Site

Environment speaks loudly to children and families, and directly impacts our ability to provide quality services to our young students. The Bronx is our largest school, serving 236 children annually through 21 classrooms.

We purchased the 40-year-old building in 2014, after more than 20 years of providing services there. In the past year we began an extended renovation—much of it made possible through the generosity of our donor community—that is bringing our vintage building into the modern era.

- **Roof Renovation:** After more than a year of construction work, we completed a replacement of the building's upper roof in spring 2018. We plan to replace the building's lower roof within the coming two years.
- **Windows:** Thanks in part to the generosity of Kelly Windows and Parish Property Management, Inc., we replaced every window in our Bronx school this past year. Windows provide protection from noise and air pollution, which is critical for our students with sensory sensitivities and health concerns.
- **Classroom renovations:** Thanks to the generosity of our donors, every one of our Bronx classrooms will be renovated in the upcoming year. New lighting will be installed over the coming year as well.

With so much going on in the classroom, it makes a huge difference being in a fresh, new space. It gives a sense of calm even on the craziest mornings, and it lets me focus on the kids – which is why I'm here!

Brian, Teacher



A renovated Bronx classroom

Thank You to the Following Donors for Making Our Classroom Renovations Possible!

Silver Classroom Sponsors

Randy and Ann Amengual
Bill and Julia O'Connor
Michael and Pam O'Conor
Parish Property Management

Classroom Sponsors

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York
Corporate Synergies
The Hallen Construction Company
Interaudi Bank
Andrew and Donna Kraus
Lisa and Ken Lohsen
Terrence Mullin
TD Bank

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2018 Leadership & Staff

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Board Chair Michael O'Connor at KCC's 60th Anniversary Celebration

Senior Staff

Jeanne Alter, Executive Director
Mary McKillop, Assistant Executive Director
Bhupendra Shah, Finance Director
Kristy Chau, Education Director (Manhattan)
Carolyn Cleveland, Operations Director
Geraldo Feliciano, Education Director (Bronx)
Diane Fitzpatrick, Quality Assurance Specialist
Khadijah Grant, Curriculum Director (Manhattan)
Nancy Hirsch, Family Services Director
Ashley Lahoud, Development Director
Bridgid McCrory, Curriculum Director (Bronx)
Victorio Milian, Human Resources Consultant
Joseph Spanberger, Information Technology Director

Financials

July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018

Agency Revenue

Service Fees from Government Contracts	\$ 18,664,883.00
Government Grants (IDEA)	\$ 409,002.00
Catholic Charities Capital Funding	\$ 33,044.00
Contributions	\$ 548,466.00
Corporate Donors	\$47,070.00
Foundation Grants	\$ 123,400.00
Government Grants	\$ 93,755.00
Individual Donors	\$ 151,294.00
Spring Benefit	\$ 132,947.00
Investment Income	\$ (2,370.00)
Total Revenue	\$ 19,633,025.00

Agency Expenses

Salaries	\$ 9,806,406.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,389,180.00
Contracted Health Services	\$ 880,434.00
Rent, Utilities, Program & Other Supplies	\$ 1,335,885.00
Other Expenses	\$ 2,595,384.00
Total Expenses	\$ 17,007,289.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,625,736.00

A Special Thank You To Our 2017-18 Foundation Supporters:

The Edith Glick Shoolman Foundation
Nutrition / General Operating Support

The FAR Fund
Saturday Play Program

The Lorraine Greene Lee Memorial Foundation
General Operating Support

The May Foundation
Nutrition

The Robin Hood Foundation
Workforce Development

The Ron Darling Foundation
Capital Funding





Kennedy

Children's Center

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Kennedy Children's Center is a proud affiliate of
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York

