

2016 Kennedy House ANNUAL REPORT

Changing
FUTURES,
every day.



When young people are faced with challenges, they need someone who can recognize their hidden potential and help them to uncover it.

Often, that's all it takes
to change a life forever.

For 45 years, Kennedy House has been committed to helping youth turn their lives around by offering the personalized care that truly makes a difference.



Message from our Executive Director

It's been another great year! Our recent growth as an agency has established Kennedy House as a provincial leader in youth services. We have spent the past 12 months ensuring that all our new programs are running smoothly. We've put the right processes into place in order to create success and throughout it all, we haven't lost sight of potential future growth. We are currently in discussions with our partners and stakeholders to identify additional ways we can help young people.

We couldn't be there for youth without the support of our amazing team. Everyone involved with this organization — from our board members, to our donors, to our frontline staff — have accepted the challenge of sustaining and maintaining our new programs. Everyone has committed themselves to doing whatever is required of them to continue to achieve successful outcomes. In many cases, this has involved putting on different hats than the ones they've been given. Our established culture of helping out and working together has allowed us to excel as a group.

The board and Senior Management team are currently engaged in an important strategic planning process. This dialogue will lead to us creating a plan for where we will go next. I'm looking forward to turning our past successes into more programs that will provide vital support for youth.



Thank you to everyone who has been there for Kennedy House in recent days. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you.

Shelly Jaigobin
Executive Director
Kennedy House Youth Services Inc.

Programs

Bailiff Transportation Services, Eastern Region

Day Treatment, Toronto

D-STAY Program, Pickering

Kennedy House After School Program, Toronto

Kennedy House Youth Centre, Ajax

Kennedy House Youth Shelter, Toronto

Residential Services, Toronto

Leadership

Board Members

Christopher Carew, *Chair*

Philip Longaphie, *Vice-Chair*

Joe Bettencourt, *Treasurer*

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Bert Bacchus

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Senior Managers

Shelly Jaigobin, *Executive Director*

Angela Moncada, *Human Resources Manager*

Ahmad Faisal, *Accountant*

Teresa Carroll, *Superintendent, KHYC*

Lisa Blanchard, *Residential & Outreach Manager*

Tracey Hardinge, *Shelter Manager*

Rosie Douma, *Clinical Manager*



Numbers with meaning!

We helped **665** youth through
our programs last year!

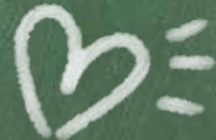


We provided **12,049**
nights in warm beds to young
people with nowhere to go.



Our bailiffs undertook **220**
runs to help young adults
in detention attend
necessary appointments.

We gave **1,594** days
of care to
youth in detention.



81 homeless
youth secured
employment or housing.



We served **36,100**
nutritious meals in
the shelter alone.

We're proud to report . . .

The students in our **After School Program** were surveyed and agreed that they love coming to the program most because of the games, activities and staff. "It is really, really fun here," said one child.

The **Kennedy House Youth Shelter** launched a new program called L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Future Employment) that gives homeless youth the opportunity to gain work experience and small incomes by working at jobs within the shelter.

Our **Day Treatment School Program** helped two students move into full mainstream schools and two students acquire full-time jobs for the summer.

The students' parents have also seen positive changes in their children's behaviour at home.



Staff members from our **Bailiff Program** recently went out of their way to find a drumming radio station for two First Nations youth who were being transported. The kids really appreciated this significant gesture and it helped them bond with one another.



Our **D-STAY Program** officially established itself by offering comfortable and compassionate care for youth with developmental disabilities at both our Galloway Road and Brock Road homes.

Our staff gave back to the community through events such as the **Community BBQ** at Storefront in Scarborough, the **Harvest BBQ** celebrating our community garden in East York and our very first **Diversity Day**.

Learning What Life's Really About

KENNEDY HOUSE YOUTH SHELTER

In May 2015, seventeen-year-old Tyanna* was kicked out of her family home. Her family situation was complicated and led to her being alone with nowhere to go. She felt discouraged but was only at the beginning of the incredible progress that would come next for her.

Tyanna found her way to the Kennedy House Youth Shelter. We gave her a warm place to sleep, nutritious meals and the space and solitude she needed to consider what she would do next. Shortly after admission, Tyanna worked with our staff to set personal goals for herself. Suddenly, there was hope! Tyanna would work diligently over the next year to turn her life around.

Tyanna was the first youth to be selected for the L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Future Employment) Program at the shelter. She worked in the shelter kitchen for 12 weeks with our chefs, where she gained work experience in the food service industry.

Before coming to our shelter, Tyanna's life was chaotic and she was having trouble

finishing high school. With the support and encouragement of our staff, she's been able to receive her secondary school diploma and was recently accepted into college to study biomedical engineering.

"Everyone here is like a family," says Tyanna.

"The amazing programs like financial literacy, meditation and creative arts have helped me achieve success while I've been here."

Tyanna is eager for the next phase of her life and is excited to now focus on securing her own housing and

transitioning out of the shelter.

She hopes to obtain a part time job that will support her while she attends college. "Kennedy House has helped me to mature and grow," says Tyanna. "They've taught me what life is really all about."

"My time with Kennedy House has allowed me to become more independent and find the motivation to accomplish my goals!"



**Her photo has been changed to protect her identity*

Turning Anxiety into Potential

D-STAY PROGRAM

In July 2015, Garrett* was placed in our Galloway Road residence. Garrett has a developmental disability and his mother needed help finding a safe place for him. His behaviour at home had become unstable and erratic. When he arrived at Kennedy House, Garrett was unable to communicate verbally but it was obvious that he was experiencing a lot of anxiety about the changes in his routine. This was the first time that Garrett had lived away from his mother.

Garrett's anxiety made it hard for him to sleep at night. He would also rearrange furniture obsessively and would sometimes clash with his peers in the house. Staff soon noticed however, that he was able to remain calm and focused in certain environments. He soon began going to school for a few hours each day with two Kennedy House staff members accompanying him.

Slowly but surely, his talents and strengths began to show themselves. He proved to have incredible writing and penmanship as well as hand-eye coordination. He was acutely aware of his environment and could form sentences when

motivated. Kennedy House staff began to create programming for Garrett that was tailored to his strengths, abilities and needs. From then on, his quality of life improved remarkably!

Garrett has come so far since he first entered into care with us. He is now flourishing in the program and is able to complete a full day of school without staff assistance. He takes the bus to school (by himself!) and expresses his needs using a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). He's sleeping better at night, is experiencing much less anxiety and has been having overnight visits at his mother's home.

Garrett's mom is extremely pleased with the care that her son has been receiving from Kennedy House. During one recent home visit, after eating dinner, Garrett stood up and walked his dishes to the sink. This was the first time his mother had witnessed her son do something like this on his own. She was very proud.

**His name has been changed to protect his identity.*

With the proper attention, Garrett's troubling behaviours started to decrease and his true self emerged!

Pulling Together as an Agency

BAILIFF PROGRAM

A young man with mental health issues was recently taken out of a treatment facility for assaulting a staff member. With nowhere else for him to go, he was put into detention as he awaited a court date. When that day finally came, it was Kennedy House bailiffs who transported him to make his court appearance. Once there, the charges against him were dropped and he was free to go. But to where?

We knew this young man had developmental disabilities that made it unsafe for him to be on his own. He had no family except for a grandmother who lived in a nursing home. She loved her grandson dearly, but could not give him a place to stay. Once the court released him, his grandmother waited patiently for someone to arrive and tell them where he would go next. If Kennedy House staff had not stepped in at that point, the young man would have ended up living by himself on the streets.

Over the course of the next several hours, the whole agency pulled together to help this boy and keep him safe. Our bailiffs drove him around and bought him ice cream while staff from our

D-STAY and Ajax programs put together a temporary solution for his well-being.

We converted a basement at our Manse Road residence into a temporary bachelor pad

for him.

Extra staff members were brought in to support him over the next few days. When a more permanent treatment centre had been located by the agency handling his case, our bailiffs transported him there.

Without the fast thinking and action of Kennedy House staff from many different programs,

this young man may have become homeless after his court appearance. This would have put himself and others in danger. There is currently a tragic gap in services for young adults with mental illness. They often end up homeless or in jail because there is nowhere else for them to go. Fortunately, this young man was one of the lucky ones.



Donor Recognition

"We are so honoured to support Kennedy House. They work tirelessly to better the lives of youth in our community and we are proud we can help them in any way we can"

- Home Depot Morningside

Thank you to our loyal family of donors for making such an incredible impact on the lives of youth in the last year. Your on-going compassion helps troubled and homeless young people to accomplish so much.

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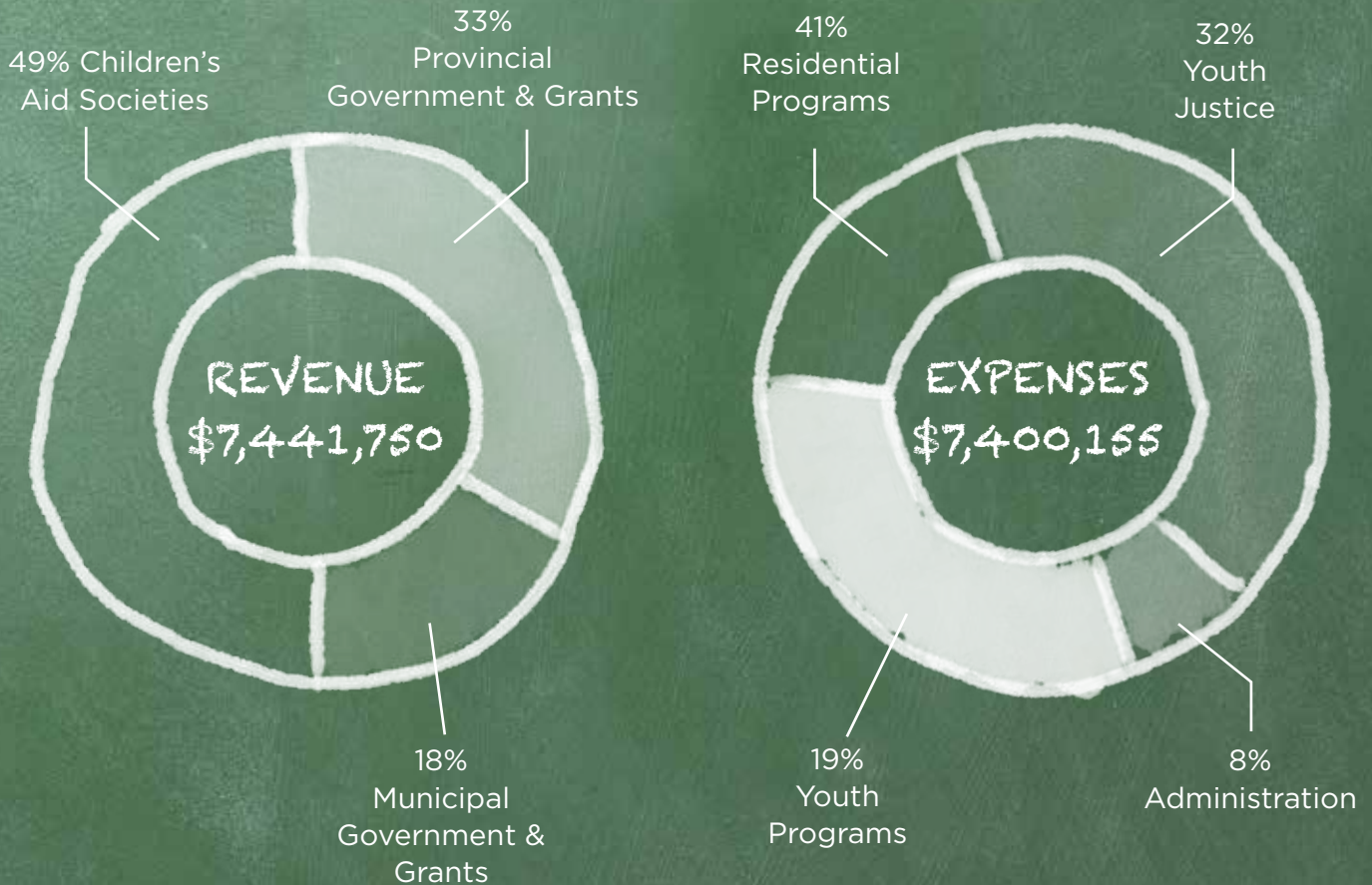
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To make a donation in support of the programs at Kennedy House, please visit www.kennedyhouse.org or call us at 416-299-3157.

Financials



To receive a copy of our full audited financial statements for the last fiscal year, please contact us at 416-299-3157 or info@kennedyhouse.org.

Charitable Registration # 10280 7245 RR0001



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