

Creating a Community of Support for Youth



Annual
Report
2018





Helping Young People Succeed— Together!

What does it mean to create a **community of support** for youth? It means that whether they are youth experiencing homelessness, young adults living with disabilities, or vulnerable children in need of positive recreation, every young person in our community will have the help they need to thrive.

No two situations are identical, which means that the support and care that Kennedy House offers must be varied and flexible. We do what we do because we **believe in the potential of youth**, regardless of their personal challenges. We know that sometimes, all it takes to turn a life around is for someone to care enough to listen, to comfort and to respond in a professional and compassionate way.

Working together, our Board, staff, donors, community partners and other stakeholders help to put young people on the path to a successful future. We provide the tools that youth need to make incredible changes in their own lives – and from there, **anything is possible!**

On behalf of our Board Chair, Christopher Carew, and myself, I would like to thank all of our donors for giving so generously to support our children and youth in the past fiscal year. You have allowed us to respond to the needs of our community by growing and strengthening our programs in amazing ways. One of the goals of last year's strategic planning process was to enhance the quality of our services, and this is an area where we've focused strongly in recent months.

We've considered fresh new opportunities to strengthen our core services, while also solidifying the support we are currently offering to youth. For example, there was a high need for shelter beds during the winter months due to the extreme cold weather. We responded to this urgency by adding more beds at the Kennedy House Youth Shelter in an effort to support the City of Toronto and homeless youth. We hope to have additional opportunities to support the city in the future as everyone works collectively to manage this challenging issue.

Our Developmental Services Programs have the capacity and interest to respond to an increased need for additional services, such as respite care and day programming. To support us in this endeavour and to strengthen our current DS Programs, we have brought on a new consultant with close to 40 years of experience in the field. With this support and guidance, we feel we'll be prepared to expand and strengthen our D-STAY Program and further build on the residential component we offer to young people who are

From **Christopher Carew**, Board Chair

Helping the youth of today achieve their dreams of tomorrow is a lofty goal; one that motivates Kennedy House to learn, grow and plan for future growth. Guided by our five-year strategic plan, and because of support from our generous donors, the Board is pleased to have recently approved the development of new programs that will meet the ever-changing, and challenging climate to support youth.

We have also renewed our focus on developing and collecting metrics to ensure our programs are always accountable and achieving the best outcomes for young people.

New opportunities for growth translate into new ways to change lives!

Message from the Executive Director

DSO-eligible. We will continue to enhance the skills of our staff through coaching, training and mentoring that will bring valuable new insights.

Together with our front line staff, management and supporters, we are well on our way to securing our position as a leading youth agency in the Greater Toronto Area.

Our donors allow us to always be receptive to unique needs that arise, and for that, we are so grateful. We know we are stronger when we work together to provide help and reassurance everywhere it's needed.

Thanks again for allowing Kennedy House to create a true community of support. We hope you will read through the pages of this annual report and feel real pride at the role that you played in the success we have created among youth.



Shelly Jaigobin
Executive Director

Mission

Kennedy House works with youth and children to enable them to grow as individuals and contribute as members of the community. This is achieved in our residential and community based programs by providing customized support and building trusting relationships.

Board Members

Christopher Carew, *Chair*

Philip Longaphie, *Vice-Chair*

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Programs

Bailiff Transportation Services, Eastern Region

Day Treatment, Toronto

Kennedy House After School Program, Toronto

Kennedy House Youth Centre, Ajax

Kennedy House Youth Shelter, Toronto

Residential Services, Toronto and Pickering

A total of **1,075** youth were helped through all our programs.

Last year at Kennedy House — by the numbers

13

young adults with developmental disabilities were given the unique attention they needed to thrive

47

homeless youth found permanent housing



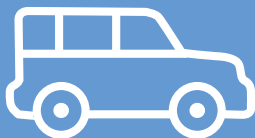
38

young people in detention were given the chance to better themselves by learning new skills



68

vulnerable children got active after school



136

youth in custody were safely transported to their appointments



56

youth stayed in one of our comforting residences

10

teens were able to attend a high school classroom better suited to their needs

Success in our community . . .

The LIFE program at the **Kennedy House Youth Shelter** helped young people experiencing homelessness to build employment skills. Says one participant: *"I now feel confident to go out and look for a job."*

Two students in **Day Treatment** prepared to become full-time students in a mainstream school setting, and another former student graduated from college as a registered massage therapist.

A young person at **Kennedy House Youth Centre**, our youth detention facility, was able to complete high school credits as well as take a college course while in our care. After being released, this youth was accepted into a business program at a local college.

A young man with mental health issues aged out of CAS care at the age of 18 but staff from the **Bailiff Program** continued to support him during his court appearances. When he's released from detention, the **Kennedy House Youth Shelter** will give him the help he needs to find permanent housing.

A new location of our **Kennedy House After School Program** opened on Glamorgan Avenue in Scarborough, allowing even more children to participate in fun, educational activities and make friends after school.

In August 2017, we held our **annual community BBQ** free of charge for community members in Scarborough, complete with food, games and a bouncy castle for the kids. It was a great way to support our neighbours!

Kennedy House donors stepped up *big time* to support the youth in our programs by giving generously through our **Change for Change** initiative in seven TTC subway stations, our **Matching Campaign** sponsored by Toyota on the Park, as well as our **Coldest Night of the Year** event, which drew a large crowd to the Guildwood neighbourhood of Scarborough.



From bored after school to learning is cool Loretta's Story

Loretta is a single mom to four busy children. She's always looking for programs to keep her children out of trouble and bring structure into their lives, but she can't afford typical activities like dance and soccer. Thankfully, two of Loretta's children, 12-year-old Amiya and 8-year-old Amoy, have had the chance to attend the Kennedy House After School Program at Storefront in Scarborough for the past two years. Loretta loves the staff running the program and is so pleased that they are willing to take time to spend with her kids.

"This program is very helpful," says Loretta. "It gives my children an outlet and lets them be active with their friends. It also gives me a bit of relief and some time to prepare dinner before they get home."

The girls have loved their time with Kennedy House. They know almost all the kids who attend, and have a great time taking part in the special events that are offered. First they get their homework done, and then they have fun! Amiya and Amoy love when they get to celebrate birthdays and holidays with their friends after school and plan to keep going as long as they can.

"I like Kennedy House because it's a good program with fun games and the best staff."

"I really love the arts and crafts."

"I like the snacks after school because I'm always hungry."



- Children participants

After School Program

**Thank you to 5N2 Kitchens
Food for All** for donating
healthy snacks for the kids
who attend the Kennedy
House After School Program at
Storefront each week.



Kennedy House Youth Shelter

From nowhere to turn to something to learn Lexx's Story

Lexx grew up with a mom on welfare and by the time she was a young adult, she was also struggling to earn an income she could live on. She decided to pursue post-secondary education, but soon found herself declined from her program with a large student debt from her first year of school.

After travelling around for a while and then staying on her grandmother's couch for a short time, Lexx arrived in Toronto with nowhere to go and only a small amount of money to survive on.

Once at Kennedy House, Lexx learned to trust our staff and enjoyed having a safe, healing place to sleep each night. Our staff gave her some realistic feedback and guidance on her financial situation—she was in a lot of debt—and she soon realized that she wasn't quite ready to transfer into her own housing. Fortunately though, that would change after months of hard work.

With the support of Kennedy House, Lexx was able to find and keep a job that allowed her to complete her schooling. She saved a bit of money and eventually received a transitional housing grant that allowed her to pay the first and last month's rent on her own apartment. She's now living on her own and earning enough money to support herself.



“Without Kennedy
House, I wouldn't have had
the one-on-one help I needed to
get into a stable housing situation.
I am forever grateful!”

- Lexx, former resident at
Kennedy House Youth Shelter

Day Treatment Program

From sadly frustrated to totally integrated Clara's Story

Clara has faced many challenges in her life so far. She was in and out of care from a young age and, at school, had trouble making friends and was always getting into fights. Her grandmother, Margaret wanted to find a way to help Clara to thrive. When the option came up to attend Kennedy House Day Treatment, Nora knew she had to get her granddaughter involved.

Clara started attending our Day Treatment classroom in grade 9, about three years ago. Next year, she'll be totally integrated back into regular high school classes and soon after that, she should have all the credits she needs to graduate.

"I would do anything I can to help her," says Margaret. "Everyone at Kennedy House has really been there for her. If she has problems, they are always able to help her."



"There is always support here and always someone I can talk to when I feel down. I can take some space when I need it without questions being asked. The staff is amazing and will act funny when we need cheering up. The teacher is always around to answer my questions."

- Day Treatment student

Clara has made some good friends during her three years in Day Treatment. Margaret is certain that her granddaughter will return to visit the classroom often as she finishes up her credits at Winston Churchill High School.

Clara is not quite sure what she'll do once she's done high school—she'd love to dig dinosaur bones or work with animals—but thanks to Kennedy House, she now has all kinds of options open to her.

Donor Recognition

"We have supported the work of Kennedy House for many years. The work done by their staff and volunteers is indispensable and I know the lessons and support they give pays off in the lives of youth long after they've left."

- Rev. Jeanette Lewis, St. Barnabas Church

The groups and individuals listed below have contributed to creating a caring community of support for youth. Thank you for helping to advance Kennedy House's mission in our past fiscal year. Together, we give young people the personal attention and services they need to thrive.

Thank you to our in-kind sponsors:

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Winners, Homesense,
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\$10,000-\$19,999

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\$20,000-\$49,999



\$100,000+



Thank you also to the following Board Members for their financial support:

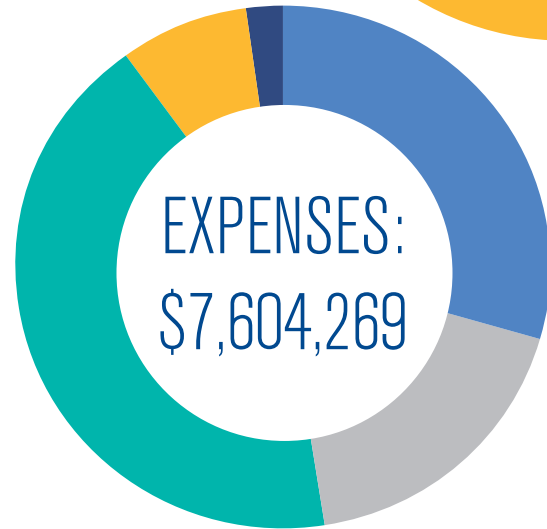
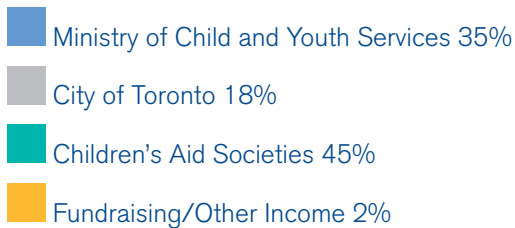
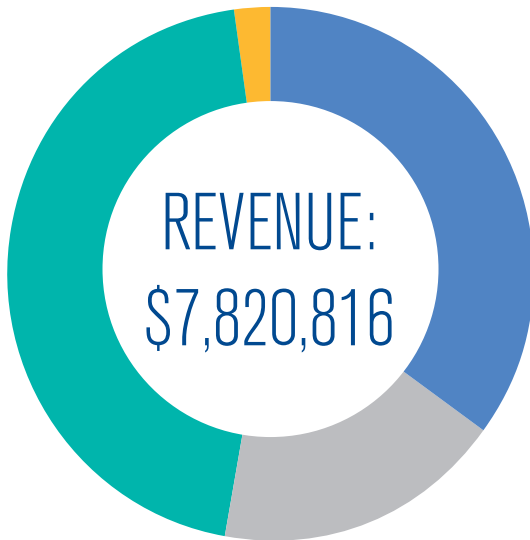
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Julie Kish
Philip Longaphie

Leyland Muss
James Rosenthal
Victor Tuba
Jason Wen

To make a donation that will help homeless and at-risk youth, please visit www.kennedyhouse.org or call us at 416-299-3157.

Financials



Outreach/ After School

\$77,514 - Government funding

\$53,143 - Fundraising/
grants

\$138,143 - Expenses

Youth Centre and Bailiff

\$2,513,512 - Government unding

\$2,275,739 - Expenses

Youth Shelter

\$1,330,014 - Government funding

\$179,253 - Fundraising/
grants

\$1,397,174 - Expenses

Residential

\$3,561,658 - Goverment funding

\$3,285,460 - Expenses

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 Number #10280 7245 RR0001



Kennedy House Youth Services Inc.
404-10 Milner Business Court
Toronto, ON M1B 3C6

Tel: 416-299-3157 • Fax: 416-299-3912
www.kennedyhouse.org • info@kennedyhouse.org

