

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HOPE AND PROMISE FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR HISTORY, MISSION & FOUNDERS



A LEGACY OF CARING

Kennedy House's founding program and namesake on Kennedy Rd.

Founded in 1971 by Ed Blazo and Doug Chin, Kennedy House has been serving vulnerable and at-risk youth and families for 50 years. Having grown from a single residential program to a multiple-avenue agency, we remain committed to the principles of child and youth welfare, the integrity of healthy relationships, and the importance of individual care planning.

At Kennedy House we believe that all individuals have the potential for change and growth. Our Founders developed our mission in 1971 and we are lucky enough to still have founding Board Members Jim Rosenthal and Victor Tuba still active with our organization today. With the establishment of our organization and the opening of our first child welfare program on Kennedy Rd., 1971 was a year of immense change. 50 years later, we have experienced another year of immense change operating in a global pandemic. During both years – and every one in between – we have always focused on our clients: their needs, their wellbeing, and their future.

DEAR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS,

We are pleased to share with you the 50th Anniversary edition of our annual report.

This year we celebrated the many achievements and successes of the last five decades with our staff and clients through stories, activities, events, and reflection about our origin.

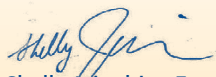
In May 1971, our co-founders Ed Blazo and Doug Chin began the agency's legacy of caring.

They came together with the desire to provide support for youth in need with programs for small groups of clients in a family-like atmosphere. Their philosophy of care was maintained over the years, as Kennedy House grew into the multi-service agency that exists today. From our humble beginnings to the present, we have provided essential services and support to more than 14,000 individuals! Looking ahead, we remain committed to our founding mission: to work with youth to help them grow as individuals and contribute as members of the community.

Fifty years is an incredible milestone, but our work doesn't stop here! We constantly review our services in conjunction with the needs of our partners, to ensure we work cohesively towards our common goal. We have refreshed our strategic plan to ensure our goals (see right) are aligned with our commitment to clients and partners. Once achieved, these objectives will put Kennedy House on the right path towards another 50 years of growth and accomplishments.

Our successes are due to the efforts of many individuals, including our co-founders, founding members Vic Tuba and Jim Rosenthal (who remain on our Board today), our dedicated Board of Directors, and our incredible staff. Their commitment, hard work, and resiliency have contributed to our many achievements, and they are all part of the Kennedy House story.

We will continue our legacy of caring because the need is real; because we have made a difference in the lives of so many already; and because we know we can make a difference in the lives of many more young people. Our future is now!



Shelly Jaigobin, *Executive Director*



Cindy Bruce-Barrett, *Chair of the Board of Directors*

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

- To promote quality, continuous improvement and accountability in everything we do.
- To continue to adapt our programs and services to the emerging needs of clients and evolving trends in our community.
- To partner purposefully to enhance our services and programs to better meet the needs of clients and staff.
- To seek new opportunities to drive financial sustainability.
- To enhance our impact through innovative technology and infrastructure.
- To champion equity, diversity, and inclusion and embed them in all of our programs and services.

OUR PROGRAMS & LEADERSHIP



Programs

Bailiff Services,
Eastern Region

Day Treatment,
Toronto

Developmental Services,
Toronto & Pickering

Kennedy House
After School Program,
Toronto

Kennedy House Youth Centre,
Ajax

Kennedy House Youth Shelter,
Toronto

Residential Services,
Toronto

Board of Directors

Cindy Bruce-Barrett
Chair

Philip Longaphie
Vice-Chair

Melissa Coulson
Treasurer

Eugene Choi
Secretary

Bryon Cohen

Julie Kish

Rohit Mathur

Jeremy Mullin

Leyland Muss

James Rosenthal

Victor Tuba

Senior Managers

Shelly Jaigobin
Executive Director

Lisa Blanchard
Residential & Outreach Manager

Teresa Carroll
Human Resources Manager

Louis Davis
*Superintendent,
Kennedy House Youth Centre*

Megan Dealhoy
Manager of Shelter Services

Rosalinde Douma
Clinical Manager

Anika Saheli
Finance Manager

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN



STRUGGLES AND SILVER LININGS

Megan Dealhoy, Manager, Kennedy House Youth Shelter, shares her observations on the pandemic's impact on staff and clients.

How did life at the shelter change over the past year?

There was a significant loss of freedom because we had to have more control over clients' movements. If they left for more than 30 minutes, for example, they had to shower as soon as they re-entered the shelter.

What were some of the challenges you faced?

The biggest challenge was the loss of essential resources for vulnerable youth, such as drop-in services, harm reduction services, and mental health crisis services. And because all shelters were operating at reduced capacity, we had an influx of new clients coming to Kennedy House. They were completely removed from their familiar environment.

What toll did the pandemic take on the youth?

The isolation took a huge toll and we saw an enormous increase in clients dealing with mental health issues. And this situation was further exacerbated by the loss of services to support youth in crisis.

We really noticed the impact of isolation when we moved to the hotel, our temporary secondary location. The rooms were single occupancy, whereas at the shelter (pre-pandemic) rooms could house two to four clients. On the upside, the youth had a taste of what it's like to live independently. But because of the restrictions, we had to pause in-house programming and at the height of the lockdown clients spent a lot of time alone in their rooms.

How did the staff cope?

Shelter staff had to constantly think about how their home and work lives interact, since the risk of transmission is higher in congregate living facilities. Staff also had to deal with the closure of services that they use. Many single parents were unable to come into work when childcare facilities closed. And, with services for clients shut down, our staff added mental health and harm reduction work to the many hats they wear.

Were there any bright spots?

Our staff and clients really came together and showed enormous resiliency. I was in awe of how they supported each other. Our clients kept working hard to achieve their goals and our staff showed up no matter what to make sure the clients received the support they needed.

The silver lining is that we've come out of this so much stronger, so much more connected, and so much more united than we ever were.



May 1, 1971



Kennedy House Youth Services is established with the opening of Kennedy Road Residential Program by our founders, Ed Blazo and Doug Chin.

Kennedy Road offers an alternative approach to the typical and impersonal institutionalized care for at-risk youth in the community.

May 1, 1984

Kennedy House's first secure custody facility, Rotherglen, for males and females aged 12-15 opens under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

July 1989



Kingston Road Residential Program opens as a male-only residence for youth in care.

September 1987

Our Day Treatment Program opens in partnership with the TDSB and Ministry of Education to support high-school aged youth.

1985



Manse Road Residential Program opens as our second home for youth in care.

1996



Galloway Residential Program opens for youth in care.

July 17, 1998

Rotherglen closes, and our current secure custody facility, the Kennedy House Youth Centre opens its doors for young males sentenced or detained under the Young Offenders Act.

January 2001



Brock Road Residential Program opens for youth in care.

2009



Kennedy House After-school/ Summer Program opens for children aged 4-12 years old in priority Scarborough neighbourhoods.

August 2007

Bailiff Services is established to support the Eastern Region Youth Justice System, with the safe transport of individuals detained or in custody.

2002

The Youth Criminal Justice Act replaces the Young Offenders Act and Kennedy House Youth Centre transitions to operate under the new act.

2014

Kennedy House Youth Shelter opens a 30-bed facility offering emergency shelter and programming to youth (aged 16-24) experiencing homelessness.

Galloway Road Program transitions from a Child Welfare Program to a Developmental Services Program.

2015

Kennedy House Youth Shelter expands capacity to 40 clients.

February 2015 - Brock Road Program transitions from a Child Welfare Residential Program to a Developmental Services Program for clients aged 17+ living with developmental disabilities .

December 2017



Manse Road Program transitions from a Child Welfare Program to a Developmental Services Program for clients aged 17+ living with developmental disabilities.

January 2021



Kennedy House Youth Shelter expands capacity to 53 clients, a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

June 2020

Kennedy House Youth Services officially changes our name to Kennedy House, reflecting that our programs today serve youth, adults, children and families.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR!

Our shelter, residences and secure custody services continued to support youth despite shutdowns and disruptions to other services. While the numbers may not have been typical, the need was greater than ever — and we were there to help.



young people experiencing homelessness found a warm bed in a safe place.



young people in our care settled into a place of their own.



Shelter clients discovered the confidence that comes with starting a job.



clients embarked on an exciting future by entering job training.



youth started education.



youth in custody received supportive care.
(3-month period April 1 to June 30, 2021)



clients in custody or detained under the Youth Criminal Justice Act received a ride and a supportive companion for court dates and virtual appearances.

BEHIND EACH NUMBER IS A STORY

A member of our Bailiff Program drove a young man from Oshawa to his fingerprinting appointment in Lindsay when he had no other way of getting there. With this simple act of support, he avoided another charge – and another stay in custody.

"I learned that I was way stronger and smarter than I thought I was. Things that I didn't *think* I can do, I can do!"

- Shelter Client

SUCCESS STORIES

Gaining hands-on experience

The young men at the Kennedy House Youth Centre acquired valuable hands-on experience in the trades this year when a new woodshop teacher arrived, courtesy of Grove School Board. Grove also provided two teachers so that we could practice safe physical distancing in the classroom.



Our tree of inspiration

To boost morale at Galloway Road during the lockdown, we initiated several activities, but the most inspiring was our perpetual holiday tree, which we decorated each month with a different theme.

In February it was the Valentine's tree. In March it was the St. Patrick's tree. When supplies were hard to get, the youth got creative and reused materials from around the house.

In this and all our activities, we make sure everyone is included and has a voice. We've ordered Aboriginal art and celebrated Hindu holidays to help the program be inclusive and expose the youth to different world views. These creative, team building activities help create positive interactions by opening minds and hearts.



Congrats new grads!

Education is an important steppingstone to employment and we are always encouraged to see our young people succeed at school.

Abel from Brock Road powered through every obstacle that came his way while attending school during the pandemic, watching eagerly for the school bus each morning. As a result of his diligence, he graduated from high school this year and attended a drive-by graduation at his school, followed by a celebration at the program to mark his success.

One client at Kennedy House Youth Centre arrived with just two high school credits. He has worked very hard since being in custody, and by the end of summer school he completed his final credit, earning his high school diploma.

We are all proud of their hard work and persistence!

DONOR RECOGNITION

Because of the generosity and dedication of our donors, Kennedy House is able to provide care for vulnerable youth and families in our community. Thank you for helping to advance Kennedy House's mission to work with individuals in their journeys towards a brighter tomorrow. You allow us to provide essential services to those in need, and we are so grateful to have you be part of the Kennedy House Family.

\$200-\$999

Angela Vanderburg
Leaside Centennial Lions Club
Terri Taggart
Bryon Cohen
Faruq Rashid
Michelle Cutts
Frank Jones
Angela Stewart
CHUM Charitable Foundation
Health Bound Health Network Inc.
Kathie Murray
Scott & Associates Inc.
Katherine McCall
Michael Garron Hospital Staff

\$1,000-\$4,999

The Jaigobin Family
Alan Redway

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Leaside United Church
Rotary Club of Toronto Leaside
St. Luke's Church
The KM Hunter Charitable Foundation
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Aqueduct Foundation
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\$15,000-\$24,999

Catherine and Maxwell Meighen
Foundation
Durham Community Foundation

\$25,000-\$39,999



RBC
Foundation



United Way
Greater Toronto

\$40,000+



TORONTO
FOUNDATION

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

Cindy Bruce-Barrett
Philip Longaphie

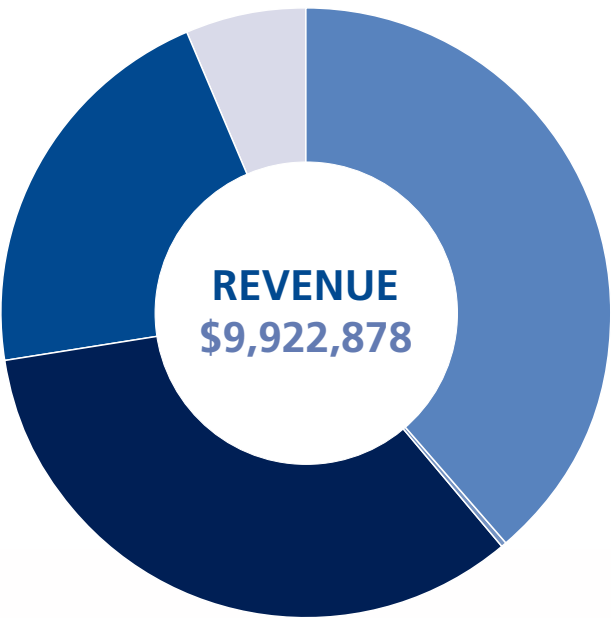
Melissa Coulson
Eugene Choi

Leyland Muss
James Rosenthal

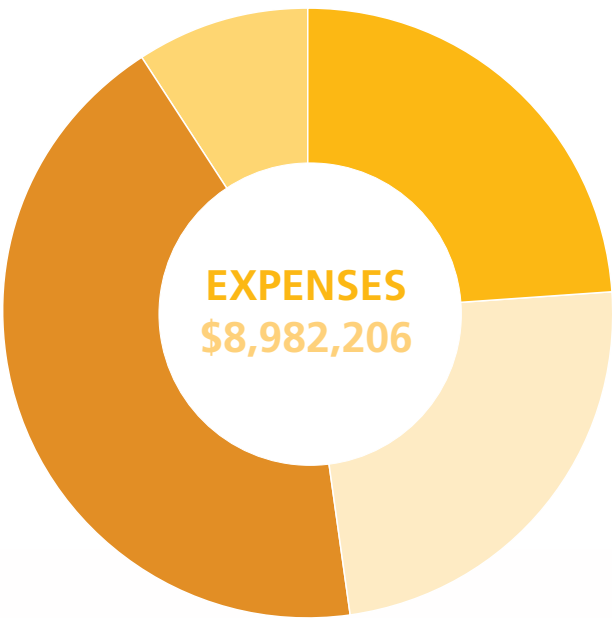
Victor Tuba

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- Children's Aid Societies (38.81%)
- Federal Subsidy (0.25%)
- Provincial Subsidy (33.64%)
- Municipal Subsidy (20.92%)
- Fundraising/Other Income (6.38%)



- Youth Justice (24%)
- Youth Programs (24%)
- Residential Programs (43%)
- Admin/Other (9%)

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



Artwork by Kennedy House Client

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