

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ONE MISSION, MANY PROGRAMS

OUR PROGRAMS & LEADERSHIP

PROGRAMS

Bailiff Services – Eastern Region
Developmental Services – Toronto & Pickering
After School Program – Toronto
Youth Center – Ajax
Youth Shelter – Toronto
Residential Services for Adolescents – Toronto

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

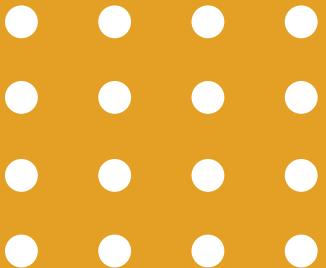
Cindy Bruce-Barrett, Chair
Philip Longaphie, Vice-Chair
Jeremy Mullin, Treasurer
Chitra Gnanasabesan, Secretary
Bryon Cohen
Lilian Cheung
Ryan Ehrenworth
Suzy Najarian
James Rosenthal
Victor Tuba

SENIOR MANAGERS

Shelly Jaigobin, Executive Director
Sergiu Balaj, Human Resources Manager
Rosalinde Douma, Senior Manager of Youth Justice Services
Vivian Manyara, Manager of Shelter Services
Tania Guthrie, Residential Program Manager
Sandesh Karki, Senior Accountant



ONE MISSION, MANY PROGRAMS



Dear Friends,

At Kennedy House, our mission is simple but powerful: **to support children and youth when they need us most**. Across the Greater Toronto Area, we provide shelter, programming, care, and opportunity to young people facing homelessness, barriers, cognitive challenges, and systemic inequities.

As Executive Director and Chair of the Board, we are privileged to witness the daily dedication of our staff, the resilience of our youth, and the generosity of our community. While our programs vary—from emergency shelter to afterschool activities to 24/7 residential care—they are united by one core purpose: ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to feel safe, supported, and hopeful.

Thank you for being part of this mission.

Shelly Jaigobin
Executive Director

Cindy Bruce-Barrett
Chair of the Board of Directors

OUR MISSION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

Kennedy House works with children and youth within the GTA and beyond to empower them to grow as individuals and contribute as members of their communities. This is achieved through our supportive living and community-based programs by providing holistic support and building trusting relationships.

OUR VISION

Kennedy House will be an impactful leader to help the youth of today achieve their dreams of tomorrow.

OUR VALUES

Inclusion: we advance equity, and foster a culture of diversity and belonging for clients and staff

Acceptance: we are committed to welcoming youth with complex needs and honoring their lived experiences.

Responsiveness: our intake processes are streamlined and our programs and services are tailored to support each young person's strengths and choices

Aptability: we are resilient in our ability to pivot with changing needs of youth, policies, and partnerships

Compassion: our staff are central to our mission ensuring youth are treated with empathy, care and respect

Growth: we cultivate continuous learning and development to improve outcomes



IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

89
youth supported
through the
Kennedy House
Youth Shelter

25400+
meals served
to youth
experiencing
homelessness

48
volunteers
contributed their
time in support of
Kennedy House's
mission

30
children from
underserved
communities enrolled
in after-school
programming



25
youth in our
shelter successfully
transitioned into
independent or
transitional
housing

17
students and
interns completed
job placements at
Kennedy House

100%
of youth who moved
into independent
living were still
housed one year
later

7
additional beds
opened at our Youth
Shelter, expanding
capacity for
vulnerable youth

4
Edward Blazo
Memorial
Scholarships
awarded to
students pursuing
post-secondary
education



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's providing emergency shelter, offering afterschool spaces for children, supporting youth in the justice system, or delivering 24/7 care in our residential and D-STAY programs, every Kennedy House program helps young people find stability and opportunity.

YOUTH SHELTER

This year, our Youth Shelter expanded from 23 to 30 beds, allowing us to support more youth aged 16–24 experiencing homelessness. The shelter provides warm beds, hot meals, hygiene supplies, and 24/7 staff support. Beyond immediate needs, youth receive life-skills development, mental health and harm reduction supports, housing navigation, and employment assistance—helping them build stability and break the cycle of homelessness.

With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the shelter launched a Housing First model with a dedicated Mental Health and Harm Reduction Worker. Accessibility upgrades were completed, including an accessible bedroom, a rear ramp, and designated parking.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Kennedy House operates several residences for youth aged 12–18 referred through child and family services. In these supportive, home-like settings, staff provide daily living support, crisis intervention, academic engagement, and preparation for independence. Programs are individualized and focus on trust, consistency, and building life skills.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our free afterschool programs provide safe, enriching spaces for children in underserved communities. These programs include homework help, sports, arts, and healthy snacks, building confidence, friendships, a sense of belonging, social skills, emotional regulation, and connections to community supports.

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

Kennedy House's Youth Centre supports young people involved in the justice system through programming that encourages accountability, positive decision-making, and community connection. In addition, our Bailiff Program ensures youth who require an adult for court dates or legal appointments receive guidance and support.

D-STAY PROGRAMS

Our D-STAY homes support youth and young adults with developmental or cognitive challenges who require higher levels of daily care. Staff work one-on-one and in small groups to build life skills, daily routines, and communication. With individualized, strengths-based approaches and strong family and community partnerships, our D-STAY programs create safe, inclusive environments where youth can thrive and prepare for the future.

WHAT OUR YOUTH ARE SAYING

I honestly don't have enough words to express how thankful I am to the entire staff at Kennedy House. You welcomed me with open hands when I felt lost and alone, and from the first day you made me feel like I wasn't just a guest, I mattered.

Thank you for all
the love and support.

Your patience, compassion & support helped me feel grounded & gave me the strength to keep going. I truly felt safe & cared for. You made this place feel like home. I'll always be grateful to have you.

My experience here at Kennedy House shelter has been nothing short of a blessing. Thanks to the support and resources made available to me by the staff.



I have loved my time at Kennedy House, especially the staff has been very kind and considerate. All staff personnel have treated me with respect. Everyone has been very helpful in providing all the support requested.



EDIB SPOTLIGHT

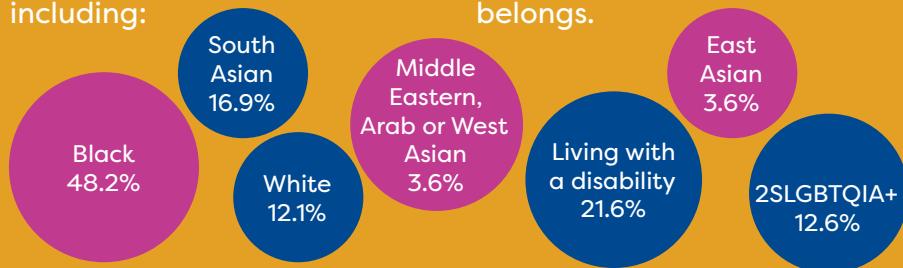
In 2024, Kennedy House formalized its commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) with the launch of our EDIB Strategy for Organizational Transformation, guided by these principles:

- Fostering respect and honesty
- Commitment to fairness and equity
- Embracing diversity and inclusion
- Valuing passion and teamwork
- Promoting a positive, collaborative environment
- Creating safe, inclusive spaces
- Addressing and understanding racial issues

Implementation included organization-wide training on intercultural relations and communication, deepening understanding of equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging, intersectionality, and unconscious bias, and equipping staff with practical tools to foster a respectful and inclusive space.

Our EDIB commitment extends to hiring. We work to

ensure our staff reflect the diversity of those we serve, enabling stronger connections and more culturally informed support. Our team represents a breadth of lived experience, including:



This diversity strengthens our ability to serve youth and families from all walks of life and supports our vision of an inclusive, equitable community where everyone belongs.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

In February, Kennedy House once again participated in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) fundraiser under the banner of “Toronto Danforth – Kennedy House Youth Shelter.” The event brought together 91 walkers across 20 teams, supported by 45 dedicated volunteers. Together, they raised \$31,519—surpassing our \$30,000 goal. This incredible show of community spirit not only provided vital funding for our shelter but also helped raise awareness about the youth homelessness crisis in our community.

Mark your calendars—this year's CNOY takes place on Saturday, February 28, 2026. If you're interested in sponsoring, walking, or volunteering, please contact dmacleod@kennedyhouse.org

FROM FUNDRAISING TO FLOWERS: HOME DEPOT MAKES IT BLOOM



Home Depot has been a longstanding supporter of Kennedy House through The Home Depot Canada Foundation's Orange Door Project, which once again raised critical funds for our shelter operations across multiple locations. This year, their support went even further. A team of Home Depot volunteers transformed our rooftop patio—once a drab and underused space—into a vibrant, welcoming retreat featuring rainbow planters, blooming flowers, and a new gazebo. Their generosity has created a warm and inclusive outdoor space where youth can relax, recharge, and connect. It's a powerful reminder of the lasting impact strong community partnerships can have.

MEET AJAY

Ajay has been part of the Kennedy House family since 2019. He first lived in one of our youth D-STAY programs and later transitioned into our over-17 program, where he continues to thrive. Known for his charismatic personality, Ajay brightens every room. He's funny, a little sneaky, and always full of surprises.

Ajay likes to stay busy. He enjoys walks, math sheets, bowling, and mini-putt. A big fan of Halloween, he loves dressing up—think the Joker or Batman—carving pumpkins, and exploring the lights and festivities. He also loves puzzles and is currently tackling a 1,000-piece challenge he's very proud of.

Since joining Kennedy House, Ajay has made strong gains in self-regulation and self-

advocacy. He's developed practical life skills and now helps with dishes, laundry, and making his bed. Graduating from high school was a proud milestone for Ajay and his parents, and he continues to build on his strengths. He has a real love of math and enjoys quizzing others with quick calculations, showing off his unique way of remembering numbers and patterns. Above all, Ajay is a bright, funny, and caring young man who brings joy to everyone who knows him.



DONOR RECOGNITION

To all our supporters—individuals, corporations, volunteers, and foundations—thank you. Your commitment helps create brighter futures.

\$200 - \$999

Anthony T Menezes
Brenda Wessely
Bryon Cohen
CHUM Charitable Foundation
Deirdre & Bruce MacLeod
Erica Fisico
Eugene Choi
Faruq Rashid
James (Jim) Norman
Rosenthal
James Insurance Broker Ltd
Jean Quirin
Katherine McCall
Lisa Dempster
Melissa Coulson
Melissa Hillier
Nicole Ehlers

Northam Realty Advisors
Limited
Skylar Liang
Tanya Mouland
Ting-Ping Lin
Victoria Reszczynski

\$5000-\$9999

Aqueduct Foundation
O.O.S. Medical
Youth and Philanthropy
Initiative Canada

\$10,000-\$49,999

The Kenn-Mar Foundation

\$50,000+

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



GET INVOLVED

We can't do this without you. Your support helps Kennedy House provide shelter, safety, and hope for young people in our community.

Ways to support children and youth;

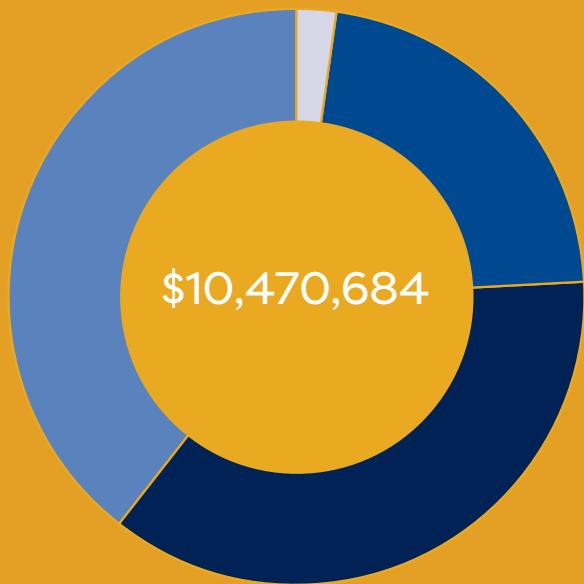
- **Donate** – One-time or monthly gifts make a lasting impact. kennedyhouse.org/donate
- **Sponsor** – Partner with us to fund programs and events.

- **Volunteer** – Share your time and skills. kennedyhouse.org/volunteer
- **Follow & Share** – Help spread the word: [@kennedyhouseTO](https://www.instagram.com/kennedyhouseTO) (Instagram & Facebook)
- **Contact** – Let's explore ways to work together: info@kennedyhouse.org

Together, we can build safer, stronger futures for children and youth.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EXPENSES

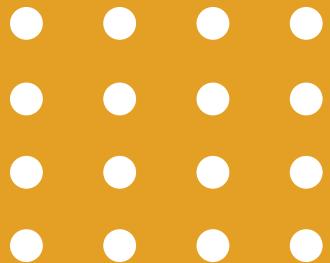


REVENUE

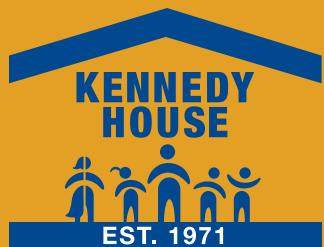


To receive a copy of our full audited financial statements for the last fiscal year, please contact us at (416) 299-3157 or info@kennedyhouse.org.





FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT:



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 [@KennedyHouseYou](https://twitter.com/KennedyHouseYou)

