

THE BEACON



AUGUST 2026

Celebrating 55 Years of Building Brighter Futures

This summer, Kennedy House marked an extraordinary milestone: 55 years of building brighter futures for children and youth.

To celebrate this achievement, we welcomed supporters, staff, volunteers, alumni, community partners, and program participants to our **55th Anniversary Community BBQ**. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter, connection, great food, and the sharing of memories that reflected on how far Kennedy House has come since opening its doors in 1971.

What began as a single house on Kennedy Road was founded on a simple but powerful belief: young people involved with Child and Family Services deserved the opportunity to grow and thrive in a family-like environment rather than an institutional setting. That vision laid the foundation for an organization that would continue to evolve alongside the changing needs of our communities.

Over the past 55 years, Kennedy House has expanded from one house into a network of programs and services supporting children, youth, individuals, and families across the region.

From residential care and developmental services to youth justice programs, emergency shelter, and community-based initiatives, our mission has remained rooted in creating safe spaces, fostering belonging, and helping children and youth move forward with confidence and hope.

As we reflected on our history during the BBQ, we were reminded that the heart of Kennedy House has always been the people we serve. Thousands of children and youth have found support, encouragement, and opportunity through our programs. Their resilience, achievements, and stories continue to inspire the work we do every day.



Free Summer Day Camps Creating Lasting Memories

Throughout the summer, school aged children from underserved communities have been enjoying opportunities to learn, explore, create, and connect in a safe and welcoming environment. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and community partners, families are able to access these programs at no cost, removing financial barriers and ensuring more children can participate in meaningful summer experiences.

From outdoor adventures, and working in our community garden to arts, recreation, and special outings, each day brings new opportunities for campers to develop confidence, build friendships, and discover new interests.

For many families, access to free summer programming provides more than recreation. It offers structure, support, and a sense of belonging during the summer months. For children it creates opportunities to develop social skills, strengthen self-esteem, and make memories that last long after camp ends.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to ensuring children and youth have access to enriching experiences that help them grow, learn, and thrive, regardless of their circumstances.



Help Us Fill Backpacks and Build Confidence

As camp season comes to an end, another important milestone is just around the corner: **back- to-school season**.

Many families are struggling with the rising cost of school supplies. Through Kennedy House's **Back-to-School Campaign**, we are working to ensure children and youth from underserved communities start the school year with the tools they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

Your donation can help provide:

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|  Backpacks |  Notebooks and binders |
|  Pens, pencils, and markers |  Lunch bags & water bottles |
|  Calculators and school essentials | |

Every gift makes a difference.

- \$25 provides essential school supplies
- \$50 helps fill a backpack with school essentials
- \$100 equips a child or youth for a successful start to the school year
- \$250 helps support multiple children and youth

Give Today!



The Kennedy House Beacon Newsletter

404-10 Milner Business Court,
Toronto, ON M1B 3C6
www.kennedyhouse.org
nfo@kennedyhouse.org

  @kennedyhouse1971

 @KennedyHouseYou

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of the children and youth we serve.

