

THE KENNEDY CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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**Three Poems featured
at the "Bridges" Exhibit
at MDAC.
Composed by MDAC
artists:**

**Molly Hauser
Bobby Robles
Michael Daly
Johanna Vecchione
Cloresa Francoeur**

POEM 1

Build a bridge to go places
that you want to go.
Travel to another world
where we can connect together as one.

POEM 2

We can see the universe more
clearly from the bridge.
High over the sea is a vision,
a view of the beauty of the earth.

A bridge is a path.
When you get to the end,
you're on the other side.
Stay on the route to your destination,
there could be a rainbow ahead.



POEM 3

Danger under the bridge
one stormy, windy night.
On the cruise liner headed from
America to Ireland
the waves and winds were heavy,
rocking the ship creating a state of
fright for all on board,
screams were heard
railings and arms were held on tight.
Gazes raised to the bridge
giving us hope, strength,
courage and energy
to face the fear and conflict.

For More Information
about the **Maggie Daly
Arts Cooperative (MDAC)**
go to: **www.MDAC-KC.org**

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Dear Friends

Since my arrival in early January 2018, I have heard, read, witnessed, and experienced The Kennedy Center story. I have been present to the Opportunity, Possibilities and Impact of our work. For 67 years, our employees, Board of Directors, volunteers, donors and stakeholders, have touched thousands of lives in hundreds of communities throughout our state and region. We have such a fantastic story to tell and share with the world!

The Kennedy Center said goodbye to longtime President/CEO Marty Schwartz, as he retired after more than 39 years of service, commitment and leadership to and with our people, our communities and our state. We are grateful for all he has done and meant to us and wish him the very best as he writes the next chapters of his life's story.

During this past year we have continued, as we have throughout our history, to live our Mission and to ensure that those who have disabilities have meaningful and fulfilled lives. We have responded to the numerous challenges and adversities facing us locally and throughout the state and continue to ensure the promises made before us by people like Evelyn Kennedy and Marty Schwartz, who are alive and present each day.

As we continue our transition in leadership and journey of service to people who have disabilities, we will also face challenge and adversity and we too will create Opportunity, Possibilities and Impact. I believe deeply in the power of human potential and purpose and am keenly aware and present to that each day. Together we will ensure promises are kept for those we support and those we have yet to meet as we write the next chapters of The Kennedy Center story.

Rick

Charles, aka C.J., first came to The Kennedy Center in 2010 at age 12. Starting in The Autism Project's Saturday Social Activity Groups, C.J. was quick to make friends and win everyone over with his enthusiastic laugh and witty personality!



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our **Children's Services Division** supported 366 children across all programs.

The Autism Project ran 49 social activity groups throughout the year and served 74 children.

The Lighthouse Program was offered in 18 Lighthouse Schools in Bridgeport and supported 72 children.

The **Birth to Three Program** provided services to 91 children.

In Fall 2017, after much contemplation, C.J. and his mom decided to move forward and join The Autism Project's newly formed Transition Opportunities for Post-Secondary Success (T.O.P.S.) program located at Fairfield University. This new weekly social activity group was designed for students 18-21 considering college or employment to meet new friends and learn and practice social and functional skills. At T.O.P.S. he fit right in, always kind and considerate, caring for staff and peers and also dazzling everyone with his great stories.

While participating in T.O.P.S., C.J. had the opportunity to experience life on the Fairfield University campus. One event that C.J. enjoyed most was getting to attend a soccer game and do a mock broadcast of the game with his peers. This event really inspired C.J., and has motivated him to make this a career one day. Outside of T.O.P.S., C.J. is a gold medalist for bowling in the Special Olympics. He is also known for his awesome beat boxing and graceful yoga poses. No matter where he goes or what he does, he has a positive attitude and a great way of making everyone feel special.

COMMUNITY & DAY SUPPORT SERVICES



Alex participates in our day support program, Project Pace. There he has been given the opportunity to express himself through art. His talent as an artist was acknowledged when his painting, *The Beach*, was selected last year as the cover art for The Kennedy Centers' art therapy show, "Reframed: Connecting Communities" with Albertus Magnus College. He painted this large canvas in several stages with his typical vigor using bold, intentional strokes to sweep the paint on his canvas in fast, fluid circles or waves. Next Alex went to the beach to collect sand and mix it with glue and paint, creating a layer of textural splatter paint. Finally, Alex used a squeeze bottle to create a design on a piece of cellophane which he peeled off when it dried and glued on his canvas.

The Maggie Daly Arts Cooperative / MDAC, along with our 39 Lindeman art program, delighted artists, patrons, city neighbors and art enthusiasts with our 2017 calendar and 8 major art shows over a 12 month period.

The **Intern and Volunteer program** logged 12,312 hours with 117 volunteers and 84 interns.

Mobility Services provided 31 High School presentations in 14 different school districts and conducted 5 "Train the Trainer" workshops in various Massachusetts cities.

Our **Transportation Department** provided 157,500 trips to employment and day programs.

Behavioral Services supported 247 individuals across all divisions of the agency.

In many ways, Alex's life has also been multi-layered and "Reframed" in the last couple of years. He has had to adjust his life with a medical condition which imposed severe limitations on him and also the death of his father, who was a large presence in his life. These life events were not easy but with the support of staff and friends, and his own perseverance, Alex has worked hard to adjust to these traumatic events and move forward.

If you should meet Alex, he's probably wearing red, because that's his favorite color and he will have on one of his signature baseball or seasonal knit caps. You'll hear his infectious laugh and see a smile that can "light up a room." He might be listening to his favorite music, the band ABBA or dancing to a pop female vocalist. Alex is always "on the go"; he walks so fast that it's hard to keep up. A nature lover; Alex especially enjoys walks where he can explore parks and beaches. And when it comes to art ...he's probably about to create his next original piece with a full heart, pure emotion and without restraint.

In 2007, Leah moved out of her mom's house and began living independently with supports from The Kennedy Center. Through our **Individualized Home Support Program**, she learned household management and social skills, as well as how to stay safe in her community.

Leah has been employed by Stop 'n Shop for over twenty years and recently has been volunteering at The Kennedy Center teaching sign language classes to individuals in our day support programs. In 2017, she became a member of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors and said she joined the board to "help people". Last summer she attended a rally in Hartford to remind the governor and legislators that people with developmental disabilities matter.



In her own words:

Why do I like being with The Kennedy Center? Because The Kennedy Center has taught me new things, like helped me find work and different programs. I used to be scared to speak up around people! But I have learned how to speak up, how to say NO, how to be honest, and how to trust myself. Now I feel so blessed and proud of myself. I feel strong!

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Residential Services provided programming and supports to 135 individuals through our various programs.

The Kennedy Center's 16 group homes provided 85 individuals with individual 24-hour programming and supports.

The **Individualized Home Support (IHS)** program served 24 individuals in their own apartments within the greater Bridgeport area. **Family Support** services provided monthly support for 15 individuals through the **Respite** program and 11 individuals through the **Caregiver** program.

The Residential Department successfully passed 8 comprehensive licensing inspections conducted by the state's Department of Developmental Services.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, The Kennedy Center received grants for home improvements from the cities of Bridgeport, Fairfield and Stratford. Through these grants we are able to provide needed improvements such as vinyl siding, ramps and windows for three homes.

The South Western Connecticut Agency on Aging in Bridgeport and the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut in New Haven awarded The Kennedy Center a combined \$34,132.00 for the **Caring for the Caregiver** program.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES

The Kennedy Center (TKC) Placement Dept. completed 34 working evaluations and 12 working interviews. As a result of these services, a total of 15 Individuals were hired as permanent and 5 as temporary workers.

The “**Level-Up**” youth in transition program had 34 students participate in a 12-week summer work experience. In addition, 35 students participated in Level-Up Career Assessment Services, including Career Building Blocks, Job Exploration, Informational Interview, and Job Shadowing services.

The **Supported Employment Department** supported 122 diverse and capable workers in jobs ranging from janitorial, to Document Scanning, to Landscaping and Small Assembly.

In October 2012, Tim had just returned to his family home in Westport after living in Westbrook, Connecticut for several years. Tim was having a bit of a rough patch in his life and moved back home to realign his life. He came to **The Kennedy Center Placement Department** through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to have his work skills evaluated and determine an employment direction. Tim worked for a period of time with **The Kennedy Center’s Cutting Edge** landscaping crew and **Kenn Kleen** janitorial



services while a community job placement was being developed. TKC was able to find Tim a position at Family Care Services VNA in Norwalk where he has been employed for the past four and half years.

In addition to working at Family Care Services, Tim also volunteers his service at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport. Tim enjoys volunteering at the park and giving back to the community. Tim believes that the State of Connecticut is helping him so the least he can do is volunteer his time at the park. He is well liked by park staff and Rangers who patrol the park. **They appreciate his honesty, thoroughness, dependability and work ethic.** Just recently Tim was hired for a second job by State Senator Tony Hwang as the custodian at the Senator’s satellite office in Fairfield.

Tim has used all the skills he has learned at TKC to upgrade his employment profile, increase his income, hold multiple jobs, and regain his confidence.



FINANCIALS 2016-17

REVENUES

	\$31,395,547
Federal & State Grants	\$24,655,615
Non Government Grants, Contracts & Fees	\$5,564,175
Contributions	\$694,855
Fundraising Events & Other Income	\$393,610
Foundation & Other Grants	\$75,166
UW of Coastal Fairfield Co. & Milford	\$12,126

EXPENSES

	\$30,530,836
Employee Compensation & Payroll	\$22,617,780
Occupancy & Other Costs	\$3,133,030
Other	\$561,750
Transportation	\$1,783,333
Supplies & Food	\$939,038
Consumer Wages & Benefits	\$716,722
Depreciation	\$779,183

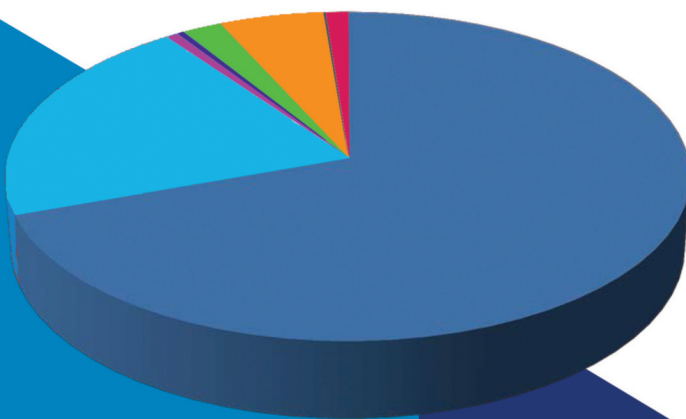
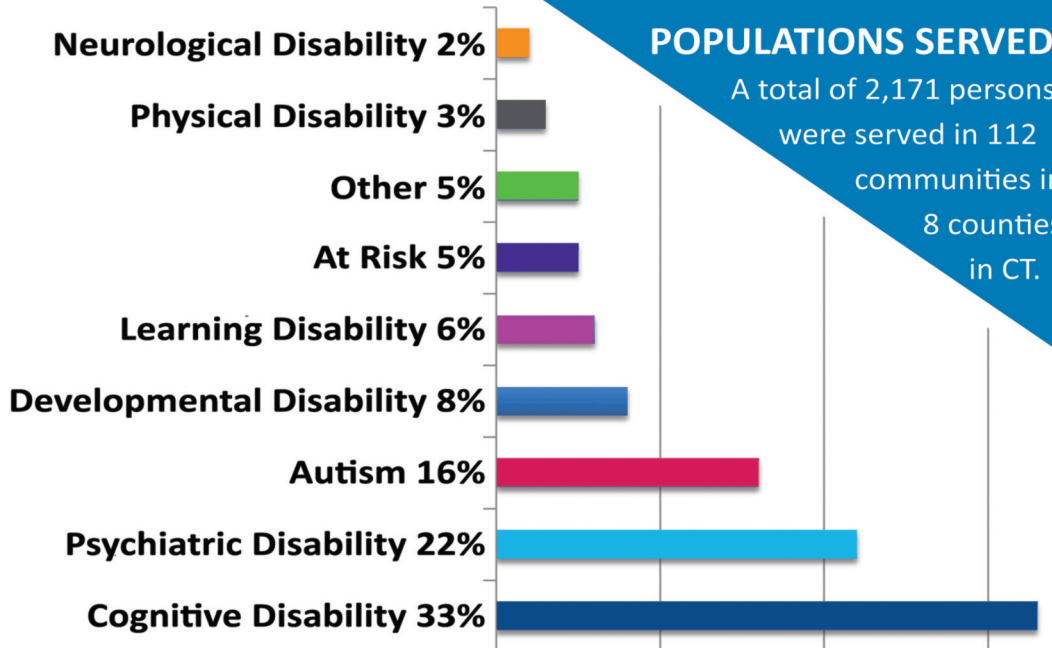
DEVELOPMENT

The Development Department brought in a net total of \$1,930,479 to the agency through annual giving and endowment donations, special events and grants.

Human Resources

We have 733 amazing staff members providing quality care, habilitative, therapeutic and vocational support to the individuals we serve.

- * Of those, 150 have been employed over 10 years
- * 266 possess a Bachelor's or Master's degree
- * 37 were promoted and 93 took advantage of career opportunities within the agency
- * Our staff participated in 12,411 hours of training



- Fairfield County - 70%
- New Haven County - 20%
- Middlesex County - 1%
- Windham County - .5%
- New London County - 2%
- Hartford County - 5%
- Tolland County - .5%
- Litchfield County - 1%

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The Kennedy Center
promotes the empowerment
of its individuals with disabilities
and experiences toward optimal
participation and inclusion in
the community.

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