As a publicly funded nonprofit organization, KCC serves public school children who are placed in our program by their local New York City Department of Education school districts. KCC is:

- Approved by New York State Education Department as a Special Education Preschool.
- Approved by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Day Care provider.
- Incorporated in New York State and registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
- An affiliated agency of Catholic Charities of New York.

Kennedy Children's Center (KCC) is dedicated to providing high quality education services to young children with developmental delays, in partnership with families and communities.

We accomplish this through child-centered, evidence-based instruction that prepares each student to enter the New York City public school system in the least restrictive environment possible.

We seek to support families with training, guidance, and advocacy, and strengthen our school community through professional development and collaborations with local human service organizations.

KCC is certified by:
- The Better Business Bureau
- Guidestar (Gold Star Rating)
You will often hear Kennedy Children's Center (KCC) referred to as a Community Based Organization, or CBO.

What does it mean to be a CBO, and why are we so proud of that title?

By forming relationships with other like-minded nonprofits in our communities, KCC is better able to serve our students, empower their families, and recruit, train, and retain our staff. Our partnerships connect us with the communities we serve and make us all stronger. Through our growing relationships with workforce programs, institutes of higher education, parent and staff training programs, and medical programs, KCC fills a vital role in our community for children, families, and staff.

As the field of early childhood special education continues to evolve, KCC retains our mission of providing services to young children and their families, while expanding services that support the whole family and advancing our integral workforce programming for early childhood professionals.

Kennedy Children's Center works to strengthen our community – because we are our community.

And we thank you all for being part of this vibrant community! Keep reading to learn more about how your support is helping KCC change lives.

Michael O’Conor  
Board Chair

Jeanne Alter  
Executive Director
2019 At a Glance

Special Education Preschool
- Nearly 400 students enrolled at two school sites
- 155 students matriculated this year into NYCDOE Kindergarten programs

Parent Support Programming
- 64 workshops held at KCC, including Spanish and bilingual workshops
- 200 families advised on the transition to Kindergarten
- 39 families received financial assistance through the Cardinal's Fund
- 34 families participated in our monthly Saturday Play Program

Grow Your Own Workforce Development Program
- 69 participants graduated from the program
- 77% of our graduates are already employed in an early childhood setting

Community Partners
KCC partners with local organizations to enrich the academic and social experience of our students, and build a strong support network for their families. Our community partners include:

- **Bent On Learning** provides certified yoga instructors who train students and staff to build awareness of body movement, self-regulation, and breathing.
- **Gigi’s Playhouse** hosts special events for parents of children with Downs Syndrome.
- **New York Therapy Animals** allows children to interact with trained therapy dogs, learning a sense of responsibility and empathy.
- **Only Make Believe** gives expression to our students’ creativity through interactive theatrical performances.
Our Students

KCC serves 100% public school children who are referred to our program by the New York City Department of Education’s Committee on Preschool Special Education.

We measure success in the progress that each of our students make — both in school and beyond.

Who We Serve

- Nearly 400 enrolled students at two school sites
- 60% identify as Latinx; 25% identify as African-American
- 40% come from bilingual households
- 50% exhibit characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- More than 85% come from families who receive SNAP or Medicaid Benefits
- 100% make progress and have fun learning!
Preschool Services

Special Education Preschool

We serve nearly 400 public school children between 3-5 years old annually. Children are grouped into classes of 6, 8, or 12 depending on each child’s individual needs. Classes are led by one certified special education teacher and two teacher assistants. Our year-round program runs Monday to Friday, 9AM–2:30PM.

Our curriculum focuses on purposeful play and learning experiences that invite participation, encourage social and emotional relationships, and engage the senses. Curriculum goals are aligned with the NYS Pre-Kindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.

Related Therapy Services

KCC provides comprehensive related therapy services in all areas of development, including individual and group speech, occupational, and physical therapy, and behavioral counseling. Related Services are part of each child’s mandated Individual Education Plan (IEP), and services are recommended as part of the overall approach to assisting each child to reach and retain skills in all areas of development.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services

Our teachers are trained in the latest ASD techniques, such as TEACCH and PECS, and address the specific intellectual, social, and emotional needs of our students through the use of visual learning aids and other methods shown to improve behavior and outcomes in school and at home.
Growing Teachers

With support from The Robin Hood Foundation, KCC’s Grow Your Own program is addressing the national teacher shortage by empowering diverse, low-income individuals to gain their teacher certification and become leaders in their communities.

"Working with kids feels so much more meaningful and important to me than any other job. I love being able to give back to them and to the community.

If I didn't have a program like GYO, I couldn't go forward. GYO was truly a blessing.

- Harry, Cohort 1 Graduate"

GYO enables aspiring educators to gain their teacher certification while working full-time in early childhood special education.

**Phase 1: Workforce Development:** This six-week mentored teaching experience enables candidates from high-need communities to gain certification as a New York State Teacher Assistant.

**Phase 2: Aspiring Teachers:** A guided introduction to college-level coursework that sets non-traditional college candidates on the pathway to attaining their BA, MA, and NYS Teacher Certification.

**Phase 3: Emerging Leaders:** Positive, reflective, and ongoing coaching builds the next generation of leaders, encourages experienced staff to remain in the field, and ensures that high-quality, evidence-based practices are implemented in all NYC early childhood classrooms.

- 80 candidates enrolled in the program
- 86% graduation rate (69 of 80)
- 77% of graduates are now employed in an early childhood setting (53 of 69)
- 40% of graduates are now certified as TA’s, and more are receiving their certificates every week
Our Family Services Program provides support and training for parents and caregivers to help them meet the unique demands of raising a child with special needs. We provide parents with opportunities to participate in their child’s education, help them understand their child’s needs, and support them through their parenting journey.

Family workshops: KCC offers workshops in English and Spanish on a range of topics, as well as specialized training for parents of children with autism. In 2018-29, we hosted 64 workshops, 4 of which were bilingual and 27 of which were in Spanish.

Family Support Coordinators (FSC’s): Our FSC’s are an integral part of family services, helping parents with individual needs, referrals to community resources, and an array of special disability services and benefits.

Kindergarten Application Assistance Program: Our FSC’s helped more than 200 of our Turning Five parents apply for kindergarten this past year, using additional computers designated exclusively for parent use.

Saturday Play Program

Our monthly Saturday Play Program helps to address a widespread need for weekend activities that are safe and appropriate for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

While children are engaged in social, gross motor, and art activities, parents participate in group discussions and instructor-led activities on topics like nutrition and mindfulness. Parents observe our staff and model techniques that help them interact with their child at home, at play, and in the community.

Between July 2019 and June 2019, we provided 10 play sessions for 34 children and their adults. In the year ahead, we hope to host play sessions at our Bronx school and double the number of participants.
**Senior Staff**

Jeanne Alter, Executive Director  
Mary McKillop, Assistant Executive Director  
Bhupendra Shah, Finance Director  
Kristy Chau, Education Director (Manhattan)  
Carolyn Cleveland, Director of Operations and Communications  
Geraldo Feliciano, Education Director (Bronx)  
Diane Fitzpatrick, Director of Quality Assurance  
Khadijah Grant, Curriculum Director (Manhattan)  
Nancy Hirsch, Family Services Director  
Brigid McCrory, Curriculum Director (Bronx)  
Victorio Milian, Human Resources Consultant  
Joseph Spanberger, IT Director

**Board of Directors**

Michael O’Conor, Chair  
Ju Nie Thong, Vice-Chair  
Kenneth Lohsen, Treasurer  
Randolph Amengual  
Joseph Gannon  
John Gibbons  
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Clara Ornes  
Michael O'Shaughnessy  
Dr. Pola Rosen  
Melissa Salerno  
Madalena Sheehan-Clausen  
Rev. Msgr. Kevin Sullivan  
Ju Nie Thong  
Marina Vannucci

KCC staff fundraised for new gym equipment at the 2019 Color Run at Citi Field
Agency Revenue

Service Fees from Government Contracts $ 17,053,984
Government Grants (IDEA) $ 333,476
Contributions $ 573,738
  Corporate Donors $ 15,000
  Foundation Grants $ 160,000
  Government Grants $ 147,044
  Individual Donors $ 172,398
  Spring Benefit $ 79,296
Investment Income $ 8,053
Total Revenue $ 17,969,251

Agency Expenses

Salaries $ 10,264,017
Employee Benefits $ 3,005,611
Contracted Health Services $ 669,482
Rent, Utilities, Program & Other Supplies $ 1,344,114
Other Expenses $ 3,556,172
Total Expenses $ 18,839,396
Surplus (Deficit) $ (870,145)

A Special Thank You
To Our 2018-19 Foundation Supporters:

The Catholic Charities Workforce Preparation Program
Workforce Development
The Edith Glick Shoolman Foundation
Nutrition / General Operating Support
The FAR Fund
Saturday Play Program
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Infrastructure
The May Foundation Trust
Nutrition
The Robin Hood Foundation
Workforce Development
TIAA Difference Makers 100
Workforce Development

GYO Program Graduates pose with their diplomas
Kennedy Children’s Center
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Bronx, New York 10460

Find Us Online!
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Kennedy Children’s Center is a proud affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York