



Dear Community Partner,

In 2019, King Kennedy Community Center (KKCC) was awarded funding to construct a multi-use recreational facility next to its existing center. The first phase of this project has been completed, and we are one step closer to making a long-time dream come true for many local residents of our community.

When King Kennedy Community Center was first imagined, key partners and collaborators wanted to build not only a community center, but also a place where local youth could participate in team sports and activities that were positive and uplifting. However, funding was limited, and hopes were put on hold. Nearly fifty years later, King Kennedy is finally able to offer such a space for youth in the community.

Although the multi-use facility is constructed, King Kennedy is continuing to fundraise for the second phase of the facility, which includes a bathroom and storage addition, tables and chairs for meetings and events, and sports equipment. With your help, we can reach our fundraising goal and finalize the center that this community imagined years and years ago!

With our new facility, we will be able to serve more youth and reach more families in need. We will offer positive, evidence-based programming to help improve mental and behavioral health. We will provide tutoring and educational programs to help youth succeed. We'll engage youth in arts and culture activities. And we will encourage our youth and families to learn and grow together.

You can be a part of these efforts. Through a donation, sponsorship, or volunteer efforts, you can help us make a difference for under served youth because the "Dream Is Still Alive." Please review the materials enclosed to learn more about how to get involved.

Thank you for your support of the King Kennedy Community Center and your part in making our community a better place for our children. Please contact Myia Sanders, Program Manager of King Kennedy Community Center, at (330) 296-9957 or [msanders@fcsserves.org](mailto:msanders@fcsserves.org) or Matthew Slater, Director of Development of Family & Community Services, at (330) 687-8136 or [mslater@fsserves.org](mailto:mslater@fsserves.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

Mark Frisone  
Executive Director, Family & Community Services, Inc.



# Our Goal



## Phase Two

### GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

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Bathroom & Storage Addition .....	\$134,190
Air Conditioning .....	\$128,000
Tables & Chairs .....	\$5,300
Sports Equipment .....	\$3,000

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**OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$270,490**



# Community Need

**"When we complete Phase II, it will be an even better place to combine our efforts for 'learning, leisure and laughter.' There are many voices, talents, strengths, and connections that make KKCC the gathering place in the McElrath community. Please join our efforts to serve the essence of why we exist: our children and families."**



In Ravenna, the graduation rate is 74%. Math proficiency scores average 53% and reading proficiency scores are 54%. There is also an increasing number of youth experiencing mental health and addiction issues, food insecurity, and many other hardships. King Kennedy Community Center's goal is to create a space for youth to access healthy foods, receive support, and gain skills that promote resiliency and well-being.

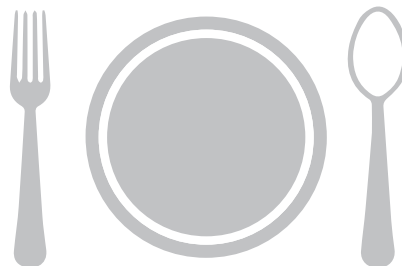
## Words from Our Community

### Jenna L, volunteer

"Nothing will ever compare to a child telling me I'm the reason they're making it through school. None of this would be possible without the King Kennedy Community Center. The center provides a safe community, empowers children to succeed in their education and transforms lives. I know it did for mine."

**25,000**

breakfasts, lunches, and snacks  
served by KKCC each year



**150** academic tutoring  
sessions provided  
by King Kennedy Community  
Center volunteers every year



### Gregory B, community resident

"I would like to close with thanking the King Kennedy Community Center staff for assisting me on my journey."



**1 in 4** children in Ohio face  
food insecurity.



**63%** of children in Ravenna  
schools are eligible for  
free or reduced lunch – this is 17%  
higher than the state average.

**37%** of families in Ravenna  
have children that are  
younger than 18 and are living in  
low-income households.



# Our Services



Today, the King Kennedy Community Center serves 100 children each year. Most of these children are at-risk and come from low-income households with limited means of support. KKCC provides a safe place for youth to hang out and participate in social and educational activities. The center offers after-school tutoring, summer education programs, and food assistance, as well as a space to host events and temporary services.

## SUMMER EDUCATION

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King Kennedy Community Center offers Summer Jake's Kids, an 8-week summer program of learning and fun. The program provides educational, recreational and social activities as well as nutritional meals and snacks to youth ages 3-18, and includes a variety of field trips, outdoor experiences and team building exercises.

## AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

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During the school year, students can receive free tutoring to help improve grades and comprehension of academic subjects. Tutoring is available for students in grades 1-12 every Monday and Wednesday from 4–6pm. The tutors include students from Kent State University as well as community volunteers.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

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Every summer, King Kennedy Community Center provides free breakfast and lunch to all children under the age of 18 during the official summer break from school.

## OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

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King Kennedy Community Center provides daily support and outreach to the community by offering assistance in accessing community resources, providing referrals, and being a place where people can go when they have a question or are in need.



# The Origin of a Dream

In the early 1970s, the McElrath Park community in Ravenna, Ohio was rated one of the worst rural areas in the US. In response, the McElrath Improvement Corporation, Kent State University campus groups and students, and several civic and religious organizations banded together to fight poverty and make a difference in their community. Together, they formed what's known as the King Kennedy Community Center.



The dream wasn't just to create a community center, but a multi-purpose recreational facility for the youth growing up in McElrath and surrounding neighborhoods. The facility would serve as a hub for various activities and be a home away from home for children in need.

But the dream created all of those years ago was only partially fulfilled. The center was built, but the recreational facility always remained an idea and a hope that was never able to come to fruition – until just a few short years ago when King Kennedy Community Center became the recipient of a capital grant that would fund such a project.





# Our Vision for the Future



After nearly fifty years of a dream to build a multi-use recreational facility, King Kennedy Community Center was awarded a capital grant to do just that. In late 2020, construction began next door to the current community center that holds the history and vision for what has finally become a reality. Today, the building is complete, but assistance is still needed to reach our fundraising goal for the second phase of the facility.

The recent addition to King Kennedy Community Center provides the opportunity to expand services and increase the amount of children served. One of the main goals of the expansion is to implement a number of evidence-based prevention programs and provide a place for at-risk youth to go who are struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse issues themselves or within their families. Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in various recreational, educational and enrichment activities to help promote resiliency and well-being.

In order to fully bring this vision to fruition, support from the community is needed to add a bathroom/storage addition, purchase tables and chairs for meetings and events, and acquire sports equipment for youth activities. See Our Goal to learn more, or contact us directly to donate or get involved.

## PROGRAM GOAL

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To build capacity for services and programming designed to ensure that at-risk youth enjoy healthy development, succeed in school, and grow up to live healthy, happy lives.

## FUTURE PROGRAMMING

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- Mentoring Opportunities
- Supporting Groups/Peer Support Groups
- Prevention Programs (evidence based)
- Life Skills & Youth Empowerment Curriculum
- Recreational Art, Music, Theatre Opportunities
- Sports/Gross Motor Activities/Exercise
- Vocational Education
- Suicide Prevention Programming
- Parent Outreach/Education
- Healthy Snacks & Food

**Interested in volunteering with King Kennedy to provide programming or activities for our youth? Email us at [volunteer@fcsserves.org](mailto:volunteer@fcsserves.org) today!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR  
HELPING MAKE OUR DREAM BECOME A REALITY!

YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE AT: [fcsserves.org/thedreamisstillalive](https://fcsserves.org/thedreamisstillalive)





# ► The Dream Is Still Alive Sponsorship Opportunities

## Sponsorship Opportunities

### **Dream Sponsorship** **\$20,000**

- 6ft x 6ft vinyl banner with your organization's logo, displayed on either side of the basketball hoops
- Recognition on social media
- Media coverage of sponsorship in local news outlets

### **Hope Sponsorship** **\$5,000**

- 4ft x 4ft vinyl banner with your organization's logo, displayed along the sides of the basketball court
- Recognition on social media

### **Believe Sponsorship** **\$2,500**

- 3ft x 3ft vinyl banner with your organization's logo, displayed along the sides of the basketball court
- Recognition on social media

### **Inspire Sponsorship** **\$1,000**

- 2ft x 2ft vinyl banner with your organization's logo, displayed along the sides of the basketball court
- Recognition on social media

## Giving Opportunities

### **Community Sponsorship** **\$1+**

- All donations made to King Kennedy Community Center's The Dream Is Still Alive campaign will be recognized on our community donation wall displayed prominently within the multi-use facility.

For more information about sponsorship levels, please contact Myia Sanders, Program Manager of King Kennedy Community Center, at (330) 296-9957 or [msanders@fcsserves.org](mailto:msanders@fcsserves.org) or Matthew Slater, Director of Development of Family & Community Services, at (330) 687-8136 or [mslater@fcsserves.org](mailto:mslater@fcsserves.org).



## ► The Dream Is Still Alive Sponsorship Opportunities

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Dream Sponsorship
- ☐ Hope Sponsorship
- ☐ Believe Sponsorship
- ☐ Inspire Sponsorship

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Community Sponsorship  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name**

**Organization**

**Address**

**Phone**

**Email**

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### PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

Trisia Allerton at 705 Oakwood Street, Suite 115, Ravenna, OH 44266

► **YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE AT: [fcsserves.org/thedreamisstillalive](http://fcsserves.org/thedreamisstillalive)**

**Thank you for your commitment and support of the King Kennedy  
Community Center "The Dream Is Still Alive" Project.**

King Kennedy Community Center is a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine advice in this regard. All contributions will be acknowledged by a receipt from King Kennedy Community Center, which may be used for tax filing documentation.