



# THE KENNEDY CENTER Sharing

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## INSIDE

**2 GROWTH DURING TENURE**  
From a Grassroots Beginning  
Innovative Ground-breaking  
Programs  
Broad Range of Programs/  
Services  
Leadership beyond The  
Kennedy Center  
Smooth Transition

**4 EVENTS**  
2017 Charity Golf Classic  
The Autism SpectrUM

**6 NEW PROGRAMS**  
Healing Waters  
Screening of "Swim Team"  
TOPS  
Park City Youth Project

**8 LETTER FROM THE BOARD**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



THE KENNEDY CENTER  
*Four Seasons Ball*  
BENEFITING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

HONORING  
MARTIN D. SCHWARTZ  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
THE KENNEDY CENTER, INC.  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH  
ROLLING HILLS COUNTRY CLUB  
WILTON, CT

FOUR SEASONS BALL CO-CHAIRS  
MICHELE MACAUDA  
& RICHARD BURKE

FOR INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.THEKENNEDYCENTERINC.ORG](http://WWW.THEKENNEDYCENTERINC.ORG)

**The Kennedy Center  
Endowment Fund**  
safeguards our agency and funds new  
program initiatives

There are many ways to contribute.

A donation of \$10,000 can start a  
**Named Fund**  
(donation can be made over time)

**Bequests**  
Include **The Kennedy Center** in your will  
or in a life insurance policy.

Both types of donations will give you  
membership in **The Legacy Society**  
and will make an **impactful difference** for  
persons with disabilities .

**For Information**  
Contact Jo Ann McMullan, V.P. of Dev.,  
at 203.365.8522, ext. 229  
or [jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org](mailto:jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org)

## Martin D. Schwartz, President & CEO Announces Retirement



Martin D. Schwartz  
President & CEO

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of my plans to retire from my position as President and CEO of The Kennedy Center effective mid-January 2018.

It has been an incredible journey for me, one that started more than 39 years ago when I was hired to lead this organization. It was quite a bit different then, serving only a small population of adults with Intellectual Disabilities but it had a strong foundation and great potential. I couldn't be more pleased to have had the opportunity to help guide this outstanding organization to expand and develop into the highly regarded multi-faceted organization that is today's Kennedy Center.

As I've said so many times, it truly does take a community, and I couldn't be more proud of the amazing people that make up The Kennedy Center family: consumers who define courage, fortitude and perseverance; family members who demonstrate pure love and devotion; staff members whose passion, talent and caring are nothing less than remarkable

and finally, our board of directors, volunteers and other supporters whose commitment, generosity and dedication underscore the goodness within our community.

It is your caring, love, guidance and enthusiasm for the individuals we support that makes all of the difference. Our organization has enjoyed an excellent reputation for quality service and is considered a leader in our field. That recognition is a credit to all of you. You are among the finest people I have ever had the pleasure to know and I am extremely grateful for the wonderful working relationship I have enjoyed throughout the years with all of you. My job has provided me with the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of many people throughout our community. There could be no better reward.

Through our team of the most highly capable managers and staff imaginable along with an immensely talented, capable and caring Board of Directors, I know our organization will continue to thrive and reach ever new heights in providing the best in quality, innovative services and I look forward to celebrating the future successes of this wonderful organization.

The board will be conducting a search for the new CEO who will continue to build on our great accomplishments. I will remain personally involved along with our board of directors to insure a smooth transition.

Thank you all for making my life's work more meaningful than I could have ever imagined!

Warmest Regards,



# GROWTH DURING TENURE



A champion for people with disabilities, Marty Schwartz has touched the lives of thousands of families throughout Connecticut during his nearly 40 years as an executive and is nationally recognized in the rehabilitation field. According to Jordan A. Scheff, CT Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), “Marty has played an integral role in Connecticut’s success in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities.”

Michele Macauda of Monroe, Chairman of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors added, “Marty is an exceptional leader who has made a difference in the lives of countless people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to achieve their fullest potential. His passion to serve, visionary leadership and collaborative style have been an inspiration to all of us who have had the pleasure to know and work with him.”

## From a Grassroots Beginning



Marty with Evelyn Kennedy and then Mayor of Bridgeport John Mandanici and Jim Rebeta.

When Schwartz became the first President and CEO of The Kennedy Center in 1978, this small community-based rehabilitation organization was a grassroots non-profit founded in 1951 by its namesake Evelyn Kennedy and 12 parents. At the time, the agency served under 200 adults with intellectual disabilities, employed 48 staff, and operated with an annual budget of \$776,000. Now headquartered in Trumbull, The Kennedy Center serves over 2,000 individuals annually from birth through their senior years with a variety of disabilities, employs over 750 staff, and operates with an annual \$32 million budget. The agency is one of the largest employers in the region and one of the largest rehabilitation organizations in the State of Connecticut.

## Created Innovative / Groundbreaking Programs

Throughout the decades, under his stewardship, one groundbreaking program after another was created providing greater opportunities for people with disabilities. “Our team of highly skilled managers, staff, board members and volunteers has contributed greatly to our organization’s excellent reputation for quality service,” added Schwartz. “When we discover unmet needs and emerging trends, we seek to find the necessary funds to start related programs in the community. One such example was the creation of our highly successful **Autism Project** which was started through a fundraiser created by parents of a child with autism. Since then, it has served over 500 families.”



Numerous other innovative programs and services for people with a variety of disabilities were developed. The Kennedy Center was the first organization in Connecticut to start Travel Training, which assists individuals with disabilities and the elderly throughout the state to access public transportation. Care for the Caregiver, created by The Kennedy Center, is a nationally recognized program providing training and support enabling adults with Intellectual Disabilities and their elderly parents to assist each other so they can remain in their own home. **The Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer’s Center at Faust Hall** is another unique program assisting those with Intellectual Disabilities and Alzheimers to maintain the highest possible quality of life.



Marty at the Norma F. Pfriem Foundation Alzheimer Center’s opening reception with Paul Miller, Pres. of the Pfriem Foundation and John Cooper.

Mary Brown of Bridgeport, Secretary of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors and a parent of a Kennedy Center client, reminisced about Schwartz’s many accomplishments stating, “I have had the pleasure of working with Marty since he was first hired by The Kennedy Center,” she said. “As a parent of a client, I was always confident that my daughter would be safe, loved and provided many opportunities for growth. Plus, as a long-time Board Member, I have watched Marty successfully grow the organization, building both a well-respected business and community partner. Marty sustained and expanded Evelyn Kennedy’s vision. He has made the world of people with disabilities better through his work and ongoing commitment.”



## Broad Range of Programs and Services

Today, The Kennedy Center offers a broad range of programs and services for children, adults, and the elderly with diverse disabilities through its Rehabilitation Services, Residential Services and Kennedy Industries Divisions. Some of the noteworthy programs include: **birth to three services; after school supports; the establishment of 30 community experience programs and 16 group homes;** an industries program composed of **six businesses providing competitive services** in cleaning, scanning/mail fulfillment, catering, lawncare and framing; acquired brain injury support services; mental health services and the **Maggie Daly Arts Cooperative (MDAC) in downtown Bridgeport** offering unique opportunities for artists with and without disabilities for creation and expression in a very supportive environment.



DDS Commissioner Scheff added, "Marty has been a leader in rehabilitation services, residential services and creative employment initiatives. He has dedicated his life to advocating and supporting the many individuals who have been part of The Kennedy Center the past 40 years. He is well respected by his staff, DDS, colleagues, families and those he served."



In addition to the development of many new programs, Schwartz also oversaw two major million dollar capital campaigns that led to the expansion of The Kennedy Center. In fact, Dorothy Larson of Easton, a Lifetime Board Member of The Kennedy Center and Co-Chair of The Center's most recent capital campaigns, complimented Marty for always looking out for the best interests of the clients. "I have known Marty since he was hired. I was a member of the initial search committee that interviewed him," said Dottie. "What he has done to make The Kennedy Center grow and flourish is absolutely unbelievable. It's amazing that one person has accomplished so much."

## Leadership Beyond The Kennedy Center

His leadership ability extended beyond The Kennedy Center. Schwartz has provided leadership to numerous community and philanthropic organizations throughout the state and country. He has served as President of the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce and President of the Connecticut Community Providers Association, the statewide advocacy organization for organizations serving individuals with disabilities. In 2000, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Bridgeport for his humanitarian accomplishments. Other honors have included the Regional Leadership Award from the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Community Providers Association and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Humanitarian Award.



On the national level, Schwartz has been an accreditation surveyor from 1984 to the present for CARF, the international accreditation body for rehabilitation organizations. His commitment to excellence is unparalleled. **Since 1981, The Kennedy Center has sought and consistently achieved the highest accreditation from CARF.** Most recently, the organization received its third perfect accreditation, an outstanding accomplishment achieved by less than 1% of those seeking accreditation internationally.



On November 4th, at the 53rd Annual Four Seasons Ball, Marty will be honored for his 39 years of leadership and commitment to the agency and to people with disabilities statewide. The event takes place at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT.

**If you would like to participate in honoring Marty**, you may reserve **ad space** in the Tribute Journal; purchase a **sponsorship**; **attend or make a donation**. All proceeds go directly to The Kennedy Center in helping us to continue to provide quality services to over 2,000 individuals with disabilities.

For more detailed information, please go to our website, [www.TheKennedyCenterInc.org](http://www.TheKennedyCenterInc.org). Click the Four Seasons Ball banner on the home page which takes you to the event page. Ad and Sponsor forms, as well as registration, are located on the page. If you need further information, please call **203.365.8522, Ext. 229** or email [jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org](mailto:jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org).

## 2017 Charity Golf Classic



Sen. **Tony Hwang**, far right, joins (l to r) Pres. & CEO of The Kennedy Center, **Marty Schwartz**, Golf Co-Chair, **Steve Donahue** and Event Sponsor, **Diane Thompson** before the presentation ceremony.

Community support makes a big difference for area nonprofits such as The Kennedy Center. Nearly 90 area golfers swung their clubs for charity during their 26th Annual Charity Golf Classic at Shorehaven Golf Club in Norwalk. It's one of the only tournaments in the state where junior golfers play with an adult four-some.

Over \$40,000 was raised for underfunded programs provided by The Kennedy Center, which help people with disabilities lead a more productive life. Since its inception, the tournament has contributed over \$678,000 for the benefit of children and adults with disabilities.



Twenty-two junior golfers from 15 communities throughout the state were awarded scholarships based upon academic achievement, school and community leadership, and golf proficiency. Junior golfers aged 15 through 18 played for free in this scramble-format, 18-hole classic. In total, nearly 520 junior golfers from Connecticut have received more than \$250,000 in scholarship money.

The Junior Scholarship and Title Sponsors of the Classic were the families of **Diane Thompson and Chip Carpenter** of Sandy Hook and **Julie and Doug Conley** of Olney, Maryland, in memory of Fred and Fran Ahlbin. Other major sponsors recognized for their generosity included: **Merit Insurance** in Shelton as the Presenting Sponsor; **R.D. Scinto, Inc.** in Shelton and the **Gavey**

**Family of Fairfield** as the Championship Sponsors; **All American Waste, Donahue & Brown, LLC** in Fairfield, **The Hartford Insurance, Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield, and Newtown Savings Bank**, all Invitational Sponsors; **People's United Bank** as the Golf Ball Sponsor, and **Miller Nissan** in Fairfield as the Hole-In-One Sponsor.



**Paul Miller** of Miller Nissan in Fairfield, sponsored this year's Hole-in-One Grand Prize, a 2017 Nissan Sentra. Paul is joined by **Jo Ann McMullan**, V.P. of Development and **Marty Schwartz**.

Co-chairs of the successful golf classic were Trumbull residents **Stephen Donahue and Sean Carroll**. They were assisted by the golf committee and the Probus Club, who typically bring eight volunteers to staff the event. "This Greater Bridgeport civic organization assists organizations that serve people with disabilities and has been invaluable to The Kennedy Center for over two decades," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center.



In the 26 years of The Kennedy Center Golf Classic, we were excited to have our first Par 3 Hole-In-One Winner, **Jim Moyer**. Jim was part of the **Brody Wilkinson Foursome**, which also took the title of First Low Gross Team. Players included from l to r: **Jim, Priscilla Schultz**, junior golfer, **Taylor Brown, Dave Schultz and John McGann**.

Jim was also kind enough to donate his winning prize of roundtrip airline tickets for two back to The Kennedy Center .





3rd Annual Autism SpectRUN at Jennings Beach, Fairfield



The community came together in a big way to make the Third Annual **Kennedy Center Autism SpectRUN** a great success. Over 300 participants of all ages walked or ran: from babies riding in rainbow colored strollers to fit octogenarians spiffed out in their professional running attire.

Zumba warm up moves. Then the fun continued with the 5K Timed Race and 1 Mile Walk/ Stroll. Participants got in the spirit of the day and wore multi-colored, pastel tutus with metallic decorations, tie-dyed leggings, princess costumes and even zany hats.

On the sidelines, children enjoyed lots of amusing activities, including Casey Carl's Bubblemania, the Bounce House, face painting, sensory tents, games, and entertainment.



Marty Schwartz, Pres. & CEO of The Kennedy Center with his wife Elaine welcomed Sen. Tony Hwang, standing with the SpectRUN princesses and Pietro and Kristine Andres.



Winners of the most Colorful child, female, and male were Caroline Shah, Frances Wengart and Dan Long.

Jennings Beach in Fairfield provided the perfect backdrop: endless blue skies and temperatures in the 70s. **Anna Zap**, the popular morning show host at **STAR 99.9**, got the party started with her motivational sound bites and upbeat music.

After the race, participants snacked at the VIP tents hosted by **Taco Loco**, **Noosa Yoghurt**, **Trader Joe's** and the **Aquarion Water Truck**. Many prizes were awarded ranging from most colorful to most dollars raised. For the timed race, **Rebecca Blanchard** of **Stamford** was the top female and overall race winner, while **Anthony Bruno** of **Oxford** was the top male winner.

**Over \$25,000** was raised for **The Kennedy Center's Autism Project**. Special thanks to the over 40 volunteers who staffed the event, including those from the National Charity League and Students & Athletes Serving Others (SASO), both from Fairfield.



Marty congratulated Rebecca Blanchard with her daughter, Keira for being the Overall Female Winner & official Overall Winner of the Race.

"This major fundraiser benefits the Autism Project, a vital program for area families," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "We are able to provide these services because of the community's generosity. We received overwhelming support from participants all over Fairfield and New Haven Counties."

The festivities kicked off with two non-competitive Children's Races. In addition, the parking lot rocked with



Parking Lot Zumba helped to warm everyone up before the Race.

SpectRUN sponsors included: Bib Sponsor **Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of CT**; Mile Sponsors **Frontier Communications** and **Bowlmor Lanes**; Color Sponsors **Pediatric Healthcare Associates**, **Mobile Veterinary Clinic**, **iMed Chiropractic/Integrated Medicine of Fairfield**, **Newtown Savings Bank**, **Universal Printing & Mailing Services, Inc.**, **Fred's Car Wash**, and **BHC&B** and **UB Clinics**, and Media Sponsor **STAR 99.9**.



## New Programs

### The Autism Projects "Healing Waters" Swim Program

Swimming is a fun activity that most children learn at an early age. However, swimming in a traditional program has been a challenge for many youth with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). As drowning is the number one cause of death for children with autism, it is imperative that children with ASD receive the proper swim and water safety instruction to learn this necessary and lifesaving skill. To address this critical need, The Kennedy Center recently created "Healing Waters" Swim Lessons at the Stratford YMCA.



"We started 'Healing Waters' Swim Lessons over the summer and the response from participants and parents has been phenomenal," said Ariel Gagliardo, Supervisor of Therapeutic Services at The Kennedy Center. Thirteen signed up for the program. **It is unbelievable how much confidence these children have gained from the experience.** We successfully turned these non-swimmers into water enthusiasts." Swimming provides invaluable benefits for children with autism, as well as providing a social outlet for them. Swimming can help a child with ASD improve their speech, coordination, social skills, self-esteem, and cognitive processing.

"Swimming is an important lifelong skill that children with and without disabilities should learn," said Martin D. Schwartz, President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. "We are extremely grateful to Autism Speaks for providing generous scholarships to families enrolled in our new 'Healing Waters' Swim Lessons. There is no other program like 'Healing Waters' in the region and I commend our amazing staff for designing such an innovative program."

The class teaches basic water safety and swimming techniques. Specifically, the sessions focus on exercise, increased range of motion, strength, endurance, coordination, sensory processing, concentration, impulse control and ability to follow directions. To promote successful learning, lessons combine evidence-based teaching methods with sensory strategies matched to the unique needs of each child.

"We are excited to offer 'Healing Waters' to children with ASD," said Ariel Gagliardo, Supervisor of Therapeutic Services at The Kennedy Center. "Each week we introduce a new skill. We have purposely created small classes to adapt to the needs of each child. Swimming is an activity that can overwhelm the senses for children

with ASD, from bright lights, loud whistles, strong chlorine smells and the texture of the pool floor. We cover desensitizing activities, including touching water, blowing bubbles, pouring water on their bodies and face submersion. It's all part of the learning process."

Karin Guariglia, a Registered Occupational Therapist, teaches the swim classes using a holistic approach that is therapeutic and fun. **This six-week program is offered on Saturdays at the Stratford YMCA.** The next session is scheduled for **October 28 and runs through December 9.** No program is scheduled on November 25. **Classes have a small staff to child ratio and are offered for ages 6-9 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and ages 10-13 from noon to 1 p.m.** The fee is \$285. No child will be excluded unless there is a medical reason.

The Kennedy Center is offering these swim and water safety lessons to all families regardless of income. **Scholarships are available due to the generosity of the Autism Speaks Swimming and Water Safety Scholarship Award.** For the next year, Autism Speaks will provide up to \$2,000 per quarter for scholarships to families who qualify based on financial needs and other family circumstances.

This program is offered through The Kennedy Center's Autism Project, a program dedicated to providing affordable comprehensive programs and services to families and children with ASD. For more information contact: **Ariel Gagliardo** at 203-332-4535 ext. 258 or email [agagliardo@kennedyctr.org](mailto:agagliardo@kennedyctr.org).

### Fairfield University Hosts Documentary "Swim Team"



**Fairfield University** is hosting a screening of **"Swim Team,"** Lara Stolman's award-winning documentary film that profiles the rise of the Jersey Hammerheads, a competitive swim team made up of a diverse group of teens on the autism spectrum. Following three teammates on the cusp of adulthood, when government services become scarce, **"Swim Team" is a portrait of diverse American families grappling with the problem of "aging out."**

The screening takes place on **Monday, November 6 at 6pm** at The Quick Center for the Arts / Fairfield University. There will be a Q&A session with the Director following the screening.

This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by **The Special Education Program at the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions.**

To RSVP, please email [GSEAPReply@fairfield.edu](mailto:GSEAPReply@fairfield.edu).



### TOPS, a Collaboration with Fairfield University

The Special Education Department at the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP), in collaboration with The Kennedy Center, launched a **first-of-its-kind program on campus in September, for local students ages 18 to 21 with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**. As a result of the apparent need for transition services for students with high functioning ASD, Fairfield University and The Kennedy Center have partnered to create a transition preparedness program, **Transition Opportunities for Postsecondary Success (TOPS)**, to address a multitude of social challenges, independent living skills, and self-advocacy for young adults with ASD.



**Alyson Martin, PhD, co-director and assistant professor of Special Education**, shared, "The Special Education Program is thrilled to partner with The Kennedy Center to implement this innovative initiative. Through feedback from graduate students enrolled in the Special Education program, we found that pre-service special educators are not provided appropriate training in critical topics in the field, such as knowledge about transition services and hands-on experiences working with students with ASD. **We hope to learn new ways to engage graduate students' field experiences working on necessary skills for successful transitions for students with ASD, and to integrate these learnings into curricula.** It is hoped that the program will have additional, broader benefits including raising awareness of autism among students and faculty on campus."

**Martin D. Schwartz, Kennedy Center President and CEO**, shared "The Kennedy Center is delighted to partner with Fairfield University on this exciting pilot project and I would like to extend thanks to Dr. Robert Hannifin, Dean of GSEAP, who first initiated the collaboration. Many students with ASD are highly capable of succeeding at a university academically but often are challenged due to the lack of critical social and life skills. **TOPS will concentrate on helping participants build self-esteem and confidence and help manage stress and anxiety in new experiences.** The program will also focus on communication, decision-making, time and money management, and personal safety issues to help prepare students with ASD for life after high school."

This program comes at a crucial time for college-ready students with ASD due to recent state budget cuts for such transitional services. The program will leverage curriculum used by The Kennedy Center's Autism Project. For more information about the program please email **Ariel Gagliardo**, supervisor of therapeutic services at the Kennedy Center at [agagliardo@kennedyctr.org](mailto:agagliardo@kennedyctr.org)

### Park City Youth Project

On the first of July, The Kennedy Center received funding from the (Bridgeport) **Mayor's Summer Youth Program Initiative** to serve young adults between the ages of 14 and 18 with a comprehensive program of academic, cultural, community service, career exploration and recreational activities. The program, called the **Park City Youth Project**, offered Bridgeport youth a dynamic opportunity to experience their community; network with local businesses; learn about careers; experience different cultures; and expand their horizons towards positive professional development while engaged in fun and interactive activities.



**Housatonic Community College** provided the host site for the program to gather each morning and begin the day. Using the *National Retail Foundation Customer Sales and Service Learning Program Curriculum*, the students were introduced to the fundamental concepts of positive and professional customer service and the transferability of these concepts to other careers.

**Mondays and Fridays** were dedicated to cultural exploration, trips, recreation and social leisure skills. Over the course of the program, they visited: Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, Bass Pro Shop in Bridgeport, Jump Off in Stratford, Bridgeport Bluefish, Bowtie Cinema/Milford movies, Frank Pepe's Pizza in New Haven, Quassy Amusement in Middlebury and Port Jefferson Ferry.

**Tuesdays**, they experienced career exploration through the arts by meeting at The Kennedy Center's Maggie Daly Art Co-op on John Street and participated in projects facilitated by an Art Therapist using the RIASEC Career Self-Assessment checklist and art.

**Wednesdays** were devoted to learning about businesses through direct on-site tours. Students had the opportunity to see The Holiday Inn Express in Milford, People's United Bank in Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Police Department. The group also did a career exploration with Greater Bridgeport Transit and then did Travel Training with The Kennedy Center's Mobility Services department.

**Thursdays** were "Give Back Day" devoted to volunteer activities. One of these Thursdays was spent volunteering at The Baldwin Center in Stratford where they socialized with senior citizens and served them lunch. The group also had the opportunity to spend a day doing beach clean-up at Seaside Park in Bridgeport.

The program was a great success **thanks to our many community partners**. All of the participants of the program loved the different experiences they had each day and hope this opportunity is made available to them next year.

RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED



Marty with Michele Macauda, Chair of The Kennedy Center Board of Directors, at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

 **LETTER FROM THE BOARD**

Dear Staff, Families and Friends:

The Kennedy Center Board of Directors experienced the same range of mixed emotions as many of you upon hearing the news from Marty Schwartz that he plans to retire as President and CEO of The Kennedy Center. We are saddened to see him leave and also share his joy that he will be able to now have more quality time to spend with family and friends and the opportunity to enjoy hobbies and more extensive travel. We all have fostered so many personal and professional relationships with Marty and with The Kennedy Center as some of our family members are also clients of The Kennedy Center.

Marty's exemplary leadership has guided this organization for nearly four decades and has allowed it to grow and thrive over the years. His unique leadership style has cultivated an open and collaborative environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect and are allowed to achieve their fullest potential. Our goal is to continue to foster this positive environment and to build upon the strong foundation of diverse services that Marty, along with his leadership team, staff, countless volunteers, donors and the Board of Directors has created for people with disabilities.

The Board of Directors appreciates all of the effort that has gone into making The Kennedy Center into one of the most highly regarded organizations for the quality of service provided to consumers. Our goal is to find a new President and CEO of The Kennedy Center who will embrace the mission and continue to build upon this

strong foundation. To that end the Board of Directors has formed a subcommittee chaired by Brian Csizmadia, Vice Chair of the Board, to conduct the search and who will engage DRG, an Executive Recruiting Firm, to assist us in finding the best possible leader for our organization. The search will be focused on sourcing both internal and external qualified candidates. We will begin the process this month with our search consultant and will engage the leadership, staff and key stakeholders in all communications and critical steps in the Executive Search process. Our search consultant has estimated that the CEO transition process typically takes 4-6 months. We are hopeful that the new CEO will be appointed by year-end and will begin here at The Kennedy Center in January of 2018. Marty has agreed to stay on as long as needed to ensure a smooth transition for the new President and CEO.

The Board wants to convey to the staff, families and donors that your interests are at the forefront of our decision-making. We share your commitment to find the best possible candidate to succeed Marty and to allow the organization to reach its next pinnacle of success in the continued delivery of high quality services for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Michele Macauda  
Chair

Brian Csizmadia  
Vice Chair