



— Keene Housing —
KIDS
COLLABORATIVE

Building the
Foundation for
Successful
Adulthood



Be the reason **EVERY** child **THRIVES**

DONATE TODAY
khkc.org/support

“Being able to have my children engage in positive programs is **truly life changing**. I often wonder what road I would have gone down if I had even half of these opportunities. **Thank you.**” – Kids Collaborative Parent

Demographics of KHKC-Eligible Households

- 75% are headed by single mothers.
- The median household income is \$23,516.
- 44% of kids are enrolled in special education in the Keene School District (nearly three times the school district average of 15%).
- 41% of kids have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in the Keene School District (compared to 20% of all kids in the school district having an IEP).

Dear Friend of the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative,

We hope you'll **join us in donating** to the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative (KHKC) today to help kids faced with economic instability have positive childhood experiences that will prepare them for a successful adulthood. Life-changing moments happen because of **YOUR SUPPORT**. Your donation makes all the difference!

KHKC works with more than **40 community partners** to offer programs in our community that help kids learn skills, gain confidence, and the knowledge to succeed at home, in school, and within the community. Last year, **YOUR DONATION** helped **299 kids participate in at least one program, logging a total of 24,787 activity hours across 1,202 activities and 336 weeks of summer camp.** Donations also helped to fund **2,582 rides** to and from programming for families without access to a vehicle. Charitable donations helped KHKC to enroll **an additional 145 kids** ages 0-5 in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, delivering a total of **1,729 books** directly to kids' doorsteps.

Research shows a growing chasm between the "haves" and "have nots" is making it more likely that, **in America, 65% of kids born into poverty will remain poor throughout their lives. KHKC aims to break the cycle of poverty** by giving kids and families living in Keene Housing, Southwestern Community Services housing, and Housing Choice Voucher holders **access to educational and extracurricular activities** that help them stay on track academically and developmentally with their more affluent peers.

One of our community partners, Kit Bednar of The Music Kit, offers private music lessons to KHKC kids of all abilities. Kit recently spoke at our Annual Breakfast about the benefits of KHKC and the impact of our collaboration. We wanted to share her testimony with you (included here) **to show you the real impact that your donation has on our kids.**

Please consider a donation of **\$1,000, \$500, or \$250** today to help a child find their passion, purpose, and path in life. **100% of your donation directly funds programming for these kiddos!**

With gratitude,



Danielle Ruffo
Board Chair
Keene Housing Kids Collaborative



Sally Malay
Executive Director
Keene Housing Kids Collaborative

Ways to Donate



By Check



Online



Monthly



Planned Giving



Donor Advised Funds



Stock



COMMUNITY PARTNER TESTIMONIAL: KIT BEDNAR, MA.ED., OF THE MUSIC KIT

“When I first partnered with the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative 3 years ago, I was skeptical, thinking that Keene Housing families were inclined towards entitlement or abuse of ‘the system’.

Well . . . I was dead wrong. Instead, I’ve found the complete opposite: Heads of households with not only financial struggles, but some with severe health issues; some with serious broken backgrounds, physical abuse and childhood emotional trauma; and others with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, or both.

So . . . after finding out who these families really are I decided to pull out all the stops using everything I’ve learned in the last 60 years to support these kids.

KHKC parents and kids highly value the opportunities and experiences YOUR SUPPORT provides:

“There is a young 9-year-old girl who has quite an aptitude for music. One lesson day, this girl’s mother found herself without a car to drive her daughter to lessons (transportation can be a significant barrier to these families!). The girl wanted so badly to come to her music lesson that she, her mom, and her little sister **WALKED ALL THE WAY** from Cumberland Farms in Keene to my studio near the YMCA — more than 4 miles — **to attend her lesson!**”

With the opportunity made possible by YOUR SUPPORT to KHKC, this student began to realize the benefits of hard work in his music training:

“**Another student was missing a lot of school**, often calling his mother to come and get him because he was ‘sick’. He wasn’t practicing, had precious little routine in life, was arguing with his mother constantly and fighting with his sister, and was tethered to video games. Mom told me, ‘I don’t want him to go down the road of his dad and me. He lost his dad through addiction and the day I got pregnant with him, I quit.’ He is building coordination, gaining confidence, learning the value of patience and self-discipline, staying with a routine, increasing his focus and advancing his critical thinking. **Through my continuous work with both mother and son, he’s begun learning healthy boundaries, his attendance and grades have improved and he’s picking**

less fights with his sister.”

YOUR SUPPORT to KHKC helps kids from low-income households **gain skills and confidence:**

“**A young girl with an amazing ear for music** was born with a genetic condition affecting her heart. She has motor challenges in her piano-playing-fingers, learning disabilities, and unusual facial features. Her mother told me she’s been saying, “Mommy, I look different from other kids. Why don’t I look like the other girls?” Two weeks later, at a local nursing home, perched at a baby grand piano, she performed her very first piano solo with the **most confident joy-filled smile you’ve ever seen.**”

YOUR SUPPORT to KHKC helps at-risk kids build the foundation for a successful adulthood and **overcome the odds** that they will live in poverty throughout their lives:

“One of our teenage girls learned that even in the darkest of times, quitting doesn’t solve anything. She was just getting over the death of her father, when her best friend died, and she was even possibly facing the loss of her mother. She really wanted to quit. **We spoke often, and she was able to emote through her playing.** She learned that **quitting doesn’t solve anything**, and today, continues to progress.”

DONATE TODAY
khkc.org/support

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