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Dear Friends:

The Kennedy Center, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1951 as a grassroots effort initiated by parents of children with mental retardation. Today, this community based agency provides extensive personalized educational, vocational, rehabilitative, recreational and residential services to persons with disabilities and special needs from birth through their senior years. We work with individuals with mental retardation, speech, vision, hearing, and other physical impairments, neurological, psychological and mental health difficulties including acquired brain injury, autism, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, and cerebral palsy.

We have over 600 employees and 400 volunteers who are the backbone of our efficient and much needed delivery system of programs and services to over 1,100 people daily. **Nonprofits, like ourselves, are not excluded from the difficulties that escalating costs are creating for all of us. With no increase in State funding this year, and the major increases in utilities, gasoline, food, and health insurance, it has proven to be the "perfect storm" that can wreak havoc on our agency and the communities and families that rely so heavily on us.**

**Our transportation center is responsible for a range of 600 to 800 daily trips** transporting individuals either in mini-buses equipped with wheelchair lifts or in minivans, station wagons and cars. Our organization operates a fleet of over 100 vehicles and the increase in gasoline prices has taken its toll on the cost of these services.

Now more than ever, we are counting on our friends in the charitable and community giving sector. **Donations of gas cards are one way to make a difference.** Help us to continue the quality of service for which we are known, and to keep the necessary services that are so important to such a vulnerable population and to so many parents and families in the greater Bridgeport area.

For more information about our programs and services, please explore our website: [www.thekenedycenterinc.org](http://www.thekenedycenterinc.org) or contact [jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org](mailto:jmcmullan@kennedyctr.org)