

KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

KIDS RECEIVING CARE IN THEIR HOME AND COMMUNITY



Debra was introduced to Kerr when her 11-year-old daughter received help through Albertina Kerr. Six years later, Debra is in her fourth year as a Family Support Specialist with Kerr, using her experience to help the families and caregivers of children who receive services.

Albertina Kerr provides community-based mental health services to children with serious mental health challenges and their families. For very young children, Kerr helps prepare them to enter school ready to learn. School-age kids, who may be at risk of being removed from their home or school, get help building strong connections within the community, home-based therapy, skills training as well as access to a 24-hour hotline.

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Corporate Support Vital to Community-Based Services for Children

Bank of America Charitable Foundation and U.S. Bank Foundation are investing in Kerr's community-based programs, each with \$5,000 grants supporting Kerr's Early Childhood Outpatient services, ensuring that very young children with behavioral challenges get the help they need for a good start in school.

"At Bank of America, we know we have a responsibility to strengthen our communities, and one important way we achieve that is by supporting local nonprofits like Albertina Kerr. The investments we've made in Kerr over the years are about building healthier neighborhoods and supporting families-in-need — and that's something our local 1,650 employees are proud to be a part of." —*Monique Barton, Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility*

"We want all children in our community to be ready to make the most of school when they enter kindergarten. Some kids face more challenges than others and early childhood programs like Kerr's are critical to helping them. We at U.S. Bank are very pleased to be continuing supporters of this great effort." —*Malia Wasson, President of U.S. Bank in Oregon and Southwest Washington*





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The goal is to strengthen children and families as well as their connections to community support. The expansion of these services has increased the demand for Debra's assistance finding and accessing additional resources within a families' home community.

Ryan*, a child who recently received services, came to Kerr when miscommunication with his parents reached a breaking point. Once agitated, Ryan's verbal communication often stopped. Instead, he expressed himself through body movements and cues that were frequently misread by his parents.

Kerr therapists assessed Ryan and his family's needs, goals, strengths and support system, then recommended to Ryan's parents that they seek Debra's advocacy and expertise.

"As a parent of a child who has received similar services, I'm walking a journey with families," said Debra. "I'm teaching them where to gain strength and giving them the backbone to say 'My child has an issue and I need to address it.'"

The first task was helping Ryan's parents understand their child's

mental health challenges and doing so from a parent's perspective.

"The reaction I get from a lot of parents is, 'Finally, someone I can talk to who understands!'" Debra said. "A lot of people don't understand and we need to ensure that there is community support in place."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Private funding helps support community-based care for kids, please consider making an end-of-year donation to Albertina Kerr.

Children and families of all Kerr community-based mental health services receive assistance developing skills that promote the child's strengths and safety. Families are offered home-based individual or family therapy, community skills training and other support as needed.

Kerr skills trainers provided Ryan with the direct assistance he needed at home, using his strengths to help him overcome his challenges.

Meanwhile, Debra provided direct assistance to Ryan's parents, connecting them to an outside agency for their own mental health services and helping them navigate the education system to transition Ryan into a mainstream school program. 🦋

** Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*



Tara Glass from United Healthcare serves up spaghetti to two of the youth group home residents.

Volunteers share a meal and more at a Kerr group home for kids

This past spring, Rey San Antonio and his four-member team from UnitedHealthcare got started on their quarterly community service project by preparing and sharing a meal with five teen girls at one of Kerr's group homes for youth.

Ben Pacewik, who has volunteered at the Race for the Roses, where UnitedHealthcare was a sponsor, enjoyed being able to see Kerr's community work in action. "It's great to be able to directly help people who receive very needed services where there aren't alternatives in our community."

Jamie*, one of the group home residents was excited to have company for dinner. "I'm looking forward to having fun and seeing everyone smile," she said. "It's really nice that they take their own time to come visit us and help us grow. It's nice to know people are reaching out and giving us extra support we need."

Thank you to UnitedHealthcare for your generous support of Albertina Kerr's programs for youth!



NEWS & UPDATES



L to R: Comcast Regional VP for Oregon/SW Washington Hank Fore, Linda Fore with Golf Committee, Foundation Chair David Manougian

Albertina Kerr Golf Classic Tees Up to Give Back

The 19th Annual Kerr Golf Classic kicked off with a festive dinner and auction on Thursday, September 15 and the fun (and fundraising) continued on Friday at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club. More than \$121,000 was raised at the golf event and the lively auction, which included getaways to Hawaii, Montana, the Oregon Coast, and Mt. Hood, including nearly \$32,000 raised in a special appeal for renovations of youth group homes. Thank you to the golf committee, generous sponsors, dinner attendees, players, volunteers and other Kerr Angels. *Photos at AlbertinaKerr.org.*

Title Sponsor: CalWeld. **Dinner Sponsors:** Wilf's Restaurant, Sysco. **Course Sponsor:** Comcast SportsNet. **Driving Range Sponsor:** Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. **Co-Cart Sponsors:** Swagelok Northwest (US), Pacific Continental Bank.

South Korean Students Share Culture with Kids

Seven South Korean students recently visited a Kerr Youth Group Home to share the history, language and popular culture of their country in a "Culture Class." While the kids learned about Korean culture, the students also learned more about community-based care as compared to the system of institutional care that is common in South Korea. At Albertina Kerr, the emphasis on community-based care ensures that kids and adults with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities are included and empowered.

Remember Kerr in Your United Way Gift

Fall marks the start of the charitable giving campaign season, and many employers allow employees to donate through automatic payroll deductions. If your employer participates in the United Way or Combined Federal Campaign, please consider choosing Albertina Kerr Center's Foundation through the Donor Choice Option.

GET INVOLVED

Holiday Wish-Granters Needed

Make some magic this holiday season. Host a giving tree in your business, church, school or home, and help grant the wishes of people served by Albertina Kerr. Our annual Holiday Giving Campaign provides essential support for children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges.

It's easy to be a community partner in this campaign. We provide pre-made tags for you to display, each one listing the special wish of someone we serve. Then you encourage others to fulfill a wish. For some, the gift received may be the only one of the season. But for all, it will be a sign that someone truly cares. **Contact Chris Wiens at 503-262-0181 or ChrisW@AlbertinaKerr.org for more info.**



The Old Kerr Nursery Association Celebrates 30 Years of Giving Back

Built in 1921, the Old Kerr Nursery building served as a child care and adoption center until 1967. In 1981, after three years of planning, fundraising and remodeling by volunteers, the Old Kerr Nursery building reopened with three volunteer-run businesses inside: Albertina's Restaurant, Kerr's Economy Jar and the Kerr Gift Shop. The Kerr Thrift Shop across the parking lot was added soon after.

This year, the more than 350 volunteers who run Albertina's Restaurant and Shops are celebrating 30 years with a series of events including Chefs' Dinners featuring local guest chefs, cooking classes, teas and a Party on the Patio in June.

Visit AlbertinaKerr.org for a full list of events and for reservations.

Be a Champion Angel

Join the Champion Angels for Kerr Gift Society, created to recognize Albertina Kerr supporters who give \$1,000 or more each year. If you're already a member, consider recruiting others to join you. 🦋

For details, call Jodi Lippert at 503-262-0185 or send an email to JodiL@AlbertinaKerr.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

104th Albertina Kerr Annual Meeting & Community Awards

Tuesday, October 25, 2011
Governor Hotel

Join us for the 104th Albertina Kerr Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees Annual Meeting, where we'll acknowledge many of our Kerr Angels' generous support and work in the community as well as hear from best-selling author Rachel Simon.

Rsvp at AlbertinaKerr.org

Spotlight on Kerr Gala: Studio 54

Friday, February 17, 2012
Left Bank Annex

Slide on your platform shoes, dab on some glitter and do the hustle to the Spotlight on Kerr Gala. Step back to the 1970s and the hottest nightclub in town: Studio 54. Enjoy an evening of dinner and drinks, under the disco ball, while you get your groove on.

More info soon at AlbertinaKerr.org

14th Annual Race for the Roses Half Marathon, 10K & 5K Races

Sunday, April 1, 2012
Oregon Convention Center

Join more than 5,000 runners and walkers at Portland's favorite half marathon, 10K and 5K races. Meet inside the warm, dry Oregon Convention Center before setting off on a course over bridges, along the waterfront and through the heart of downtown Portland. Use code **EARLY2012** when you register and get \$5 off through December 5.

Register at Race4theRoses.org



Albertina's Restaurant & Shops

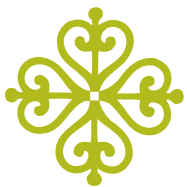
503-231-0216, KerrShops.org

Northwest-inspired weekday lunches and Saturday brunch plus shopping for antiques, collectibles, gifts, thrift shop treasures and more. Call now to make reservations for upcoming cooking classes, chefs' dinners, and holiday tea.

Kerr Bikes – KerrBikes.org

Open every day into October! Take a spin on the Portland Waterfront at Salmon Street Springs. Visit KerrBikes.org for hours of operation and rates.

We envision a community where all children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges will thrive in nurturing homes and inclusive communities.



ALBERTINA
KERR

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