

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Games

March 17, 2010, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Multnomah Athletic Club

Come see our programs for youth in action. Join us for a brief presentation and lunch starting at 12:30, then cheer on the kids as they play sports at The Kerr Games, the most popular event for our youth group home residents.

RSVP: [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org), or 503.262.0175

### Spotlight on Kerr – Venetian Masquerade Ball

May 14, 2010, 6:30 p.m.  
The Governor Hotel

An evening of mystery awaits you! Laughter will abound during a magical night filled with a sinful supper, festive music, live auction and a performance by the Pendulum Aerial Dance Theater.  
Purchase tickets: [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org)

### 12th Annual Race for the Roses

April 11, 2010  
Oregon Convention Center

The race is on! Don't miss this chance to join over 5,000 runners and walkers at one of Portland's favorite 5k, 10k and half-marathons, all while giving back to the community and supporting the work of Albertina Kerr.

Visit [Race4theRoses.org](http://Race4theRoses.org) to register and sign up for our weekly training tips.

Race Sponsors:



AA Sports, Ltd., Archery Summit, Bill Newcomer, Boyd Coffee Company, bridgeport brewpub + bakery, Gleukos, Oregon Convention Center, Sunshine Dairy Foods, Willamette Week

### Albertina's Restaurant & Shops

Reservations: 503-231-0216

Saturday, April 3  
Spring Saturday Opening  
Shops open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Luncheon seatings 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 8  
Mother's Day Luncheon  
Seatings at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.  
Shops open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Kerr Bikes

Information: [KerrBikes.org](http://KerrBikes.org)

Season Opening on March 20!

Visit us on the Portland Waterfront at Salmon Springs.  
Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Open seven days a week beginning in April, weather permitting.

SPRING 2010

# KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

## FOSTER CARE: SO MANY REWARDS

*Mirae Grant set out to make a change in her life. Since becoming an Albertina Kerr foster parent, she has also helped create positive change in the lives of the children she cared for, which ultimately led her to a new path.*

"I was in corporate jobs where my time and energy went into things that didn't matter to me," Mirae said. "As a foster parent, that changed to 'How can I help this child succeed?'"

Five years ago, Mirae was recruited through the Foster Family Care Network, a partnership between Albertina Kerr and Morrison Child & Family Services. A year later, she became a foster parent in Albertina Kerr's Therapeutic Foster Care Program, meaning the children in her care faced emotional and mental health challenges requiring special treatment, therapy and extra supervision.

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### Becoming an Albertina Kerr Foster Parent

With the need for foster care at an all-time high, becoming a foster parent or referring a family to one of our specialized foster care programs is a great way to support our community.

Albertina Kerr foster families must meet basic requirements including completing Albertina Kerr's pre-service training provided at no cost, earning first aid/CPR certification and passing a criminal background check.

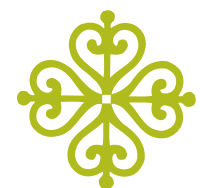
Additionally, there are qualities all foster parents need: Passion for caring about children, time and energy to give, willingness to learn and teach, be a team player and provide stability and support.

These children may present challenges, but foster parents can make a difference and have a lasting impact in life.

For more information about Albertina Kerr's foster care programs or how to become a foster parent, visit [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org). We will be happy to meet with you individually or direct you to an informational meeting.



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Now, along with becoming a recruiter at the Foster Family Care Network where she started her journey as a foster parent, Mirae has a former foster child living with her and has adopted one of her foster daughters. She's in contact with all but one of her former foster children, who regularly call, text and come over to visit.

"The impact is for life," Mirae said. "I'm always here. It's a great opportunity I had to be a part of their healing. It's really sacred to be the one that they open up to."

Mirae credits the support team Albertina Kerr provides to each foster family for being successful. In our specialized foster care programs, a team of professionals works with each child and family depending on their needs. 24-hour professional assistance is always readily available.

"Sometimes it's tough, but you make it through with your team," Mirae said. "You can't be a foster parent without a team, and that's where Albertina Kerr came into play. You're never alone."

Once Mirae found herself in a situation where she needed extra assistance and called the 24-hour helpline late at night.

"They were happy to help and walked me through

everything I needed to know," she said. "That's foster care working right."

With the need for foster families at an all-time high, children with developmental disabilities and emotional and mental health challenges are often hardest to place and end up moving from home to home. Albertina Kerr's specialized foster care programs focus exclusively on this need by recruiting and training the highest-quality foster parents to provide stable, loving homes.

"Albertina Kerr's foster homes give a child a concrete opportunity to live with a family and thrive in a safe, stable home environment that they might not otherwise have," said Foster Home Recruitment Supervisor Linda Girves. "And, the family receives added support from a team of professionals from Albertina Kerr."

Today, Mirae thinks her experience as a foster parent helps her relate to potential foster families as she recruits through the Foster Family Care Network.

"When I talk to people interested in being foster parents, I make it real," Mirae said. "I tell them, 'I'm doing it too!' I can give my perspective. For me, it's been the most significant undertaking I've been involved in. If I died today, I know I would have made a difference."

### FOSTERING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Albertina Kerr's therapeutic foster care and special needs foster care, have grown and expanded in the past two years:

- Recently opened a western regional foster care office in Beaverton to better serve more families in that area
- Implemented a peer training and resource group to better support our foster families and help them find encouragement and connections
- Now serving 13 counties in Oregon
- Recruited, trained and certified 50 new foster families, for a total of 70 families
- Served over 100 children in the past year
- Continuing to provide support for children separated from their biological families to help maintain relationships and facilitate reunification when possible

## NEWS & UPDATES

### Albertina Kerr's Programs Moving Forward

Throughout our 102-year history, Albertina Kerr has developed innovative solutions and expanded to meet community needs. Program goals for 2010 are now in full swing and some of our recent accomplishments include creating a parent support group for families in our Crisis Psychiatric Care program. Our Intensive Treatment Program, which serves youth ages 12 to 17 who have both a developmental disability and mental health challenge, has a new recreation activity room. This program also implemented a special life-skills training curriculum to teach youth how to cook safely. We also developed a web-based community resource of activities, jobs and volunteer placements for the developmental disability community.

### Kerr Bikes Re-Opens for the Season

Our innovative new business on the Portland waterfront is opening for its second season. Kerr Bikes, a unique bike rental business, will be open weekends beginning March 20 and every day beginning in April. Join us throughout the spring and summer as we bring out the surreys, tandems, deuce coupes and more. *Find rental information at [KerrBikes.org](http://KerrBikes.org) or by calling 503-808-9955.*

Kerr Bikes is more than just a good time. It's an employment program that offers meaningful jobs for people with developmental disabilities. And all the proceeds go directly back to the programs of Albertina Kerr.

Kerr Bikes was financed in part by a \$75,000 grant from Meyer Memorial Trust, which also gave an additional \$100,000 in a low-interest loan.

## GET INVOLVED

### Volunteers Needed for 12th Annual Race for the Roses

Join us in April and get involved with our popular half-marathon, 10k and 5k without breaking a sweat!

Race for the Roses, benefiting Albertina Kerr, is currently in need of volunteers to help with many tasks over race weekend, April 10 and 11. **Volunteers can participate in dozens of activities, to name a few: answer race hotline calls, check dry clothing, help with racer registration, provide racers and volunteers with donated treats and snacks, hand out prizes and awards.** With over 5,000 runners and walkers expected on race day, you'll be a part of one of Portland's favorite springtime events. All volunteers get a special T-shirt, snacks and endless gratitude.

*Support Albertina Kerr's work in the community! Sign up to volunteer at [Race4theRoses.org](http://Race4theRoses.org). Encourage your friends and family to join you!*



### In Memory

**HOWARD N. DIETRICH**  
**MAYBELLE CLARK MACDONALD**

2009 saw the passing of two longtime Albertina Kerr supporters.

Howard N. Dietrich was a member of the Albertina Kerr governing board from 1962 to 1974 and served as treasurer. He was then named an emeritus member of the board. A former attorney and CPA, Howard spent much of his retirement dedicated to philanthropy in Oregon.

Maybelle Clark MacDonald, known as Middy to her friends, was a charter member of The Old Kerr Nursery Association. She brought her culinary expertise to Albertina's Restaurant on the menu committee and was co-chair of the first cookbook committee. Middy was named as an Albertina Kerr honorary board member in 1993.

Both Howard and Middy gave their time and financial resources to Albertina Kerr, and both were members of the Kerr Guardian Society, which means the organization was part of their estate plans. Their generous spirits will live on in their gifts which will ensure the success of Albertina Kerr for years to come.