

KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

SHOWING LOVE, BUILDING A HOME

Even on this dark, stormy Friday afternoon, things for the girls at the Clark Street youth group home are getting a little brighter.

In one bedroom, Kelli Strang, a volunteer interior designer, puts the final pillowcase on a twin bed that has been made with new colorful sheets and duvet. A teen girl named Grace^{*} is stacking books and DVDs on her new bookshelf down the hall. New multicolored carpeting is being installed. And in the living room, volunteer designers Jan Barrett and Susan Hellstedt are busy removing heavy, blue curtains and replacing them with a lighter, contemporary pair.

“Now you have bright, light, white curtains,” Jan tells Sarah^{*}, a middle-schooler with a dusty blonde bob watching the action. “Those other ones were just so old-fashioned. You need more light in here—you guys are young!”

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Volunteer interior designers Susan Hellstedt (far left) and Jan Barrett (left) match the colors of the newly-installed living room carpet at the Clark Street youth group home.

Get Involved in the Home Improvement Project: *Grab a hammer and paintbrush!*

There are so many ways you can join the home improvement project effort. Your involvement will not only brighten the homes, but will lift the spirits of the kids living in our group homes for youth:

WORK PARTIES: Invite your friends or family to help with painting, assembling furniture and deep cleaning.

VOLUNTEER DESIGNERS: Use your skills as a licensed professional to provide pro bono services.

SEWING GROUPS: Get crafty making curtains, duvets and pillows.

CONSTRUCTION/HANDY PEOPLE: Help us build valances, resurface furniture, update cabinets and counter tops and fix minor repairs.

We can find a way to use your time and talents to make an impact and will help match you with a meaningful and individual volunteer experience.

For more information about how you can get involved and submit a volunteer application, visit AlbertinaKerr.org and click “Support our Work.”



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Jan, Susan and Kelli, along with another volunteer Misty Rivoli, are all local professional interior designers. They are part of a group who are kicking off Albertina Kerr's new Youth Group Home Improvement Project, beginning with the pilot project at Clark Street. The goal of the project is to create a more home-like atmosphere and environment for all 15 Albertina Kerr Youth Group Homes, where currently safety and functionality priorities outweigh interior design and decorating.

Albertina Kerr has been providing 24-hour care in group home settings to youth ages 7-18 that have been diagnosed with both developmental disabilities and mental health challenges since 1993. Our overall goal is to provide the children with the skills they need to live as independently as possible when they become adults. Because of their challenges and family disruption, it is critical that the environment they come home to each day remains supportive, inviting and comfortable.

To get started with the project, the designers met with each resident to find out more about their color preferences, interests and background. The volunteers also found creative ways to utilize durable and economical materials, in order to best use each donated dollar and maintain quality to fight future wear and tear. The girls were able to get involved when

the new bedding and linens arrived, helping the designers arrange their rooms' new set up.

"The best part of this project is that it shows the girls that somebody cares about them," Jan said. "They saw a lot of people making an effort: the contractors, the designers, the volunteers and the Albertina Kerr staff. It sends that message that someone cares, no matter where you live or who does the caring."

HOW TO HELP

Once the pilot project is done at Clark Street, the goal is to complete improvements on all 15 youth group homes. Each home has unique improvement needs, including flooring, bedding, curtains and paint, and you can assist by sponsoring any of these items. With your help, the new additions will revamp the space and give the kids and teens a special place to come home to and call their own.

You can also contribute to the Youth Group Home Improvement Project by donating online at AlbertinaKerr.org

For more information, contact Stephanie Bolson at StephanieBo@AlbertinaKerr.org or 503.262.0187.

Dovie Lathrop, the program manager at the home, knows that the updates at Clark Street will help the girls take pride in where they live.

"The project has already created a more cheerful atmosphere, which helps spark more enthusiasm," Dovie said. "I hope with these changes that the girls will be proud to come home here, and be proud to call this place home."

Just from this pilot project, volunteer designer Susan knows that each girl at Clark Street has gotten a boost of confidence, and hopes other kids and teens in Albertina Kerr's Youth Group Homes will have the opportunity for the same.

"When I get something new, it lifts my spirits, and for them, their space has changed in a positive way," Susan said. "I believe in that uplift in spirit; you start feeling better about your space and yourself."

**Name has been changed*

LEADERSHIP NEWS

New Albertina Kerr Board Leadership

Dr. Colin Cave has been elected the Board Chair of Albertina Kerr. Colin is Board Chair and Surgeon at Northwest Permanente. He is a past president of the Oregon Medical Association, and earned his M.D. at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

Jerry Baysinger was elected as Chair of the Albertina Kerr Foundation. Jerry is the Co-founder and President of Baysinger Partners Architecture. He specializes in planning and design for retail, mixed-use, multi-family and restaurant projects. He is a member and past director of the American Institute of Architects, Portland Chapter.

President/CEO Christopher Krenk Celebrates 20 Years

On June 4, Albertina Kerr President and CEO Christopher Krenk, MSW, celebrated his 20th anniversary serving the organization. In fact, Chris is only the fourth person in Albertina Kerr history to hold the executive director position. Chris continues to be an advocate for Albertina Kerr's mission and looks for ways to expand to serve more people in need.

Thank you, Chris, for your continued leadership!

EVENT UPDATES

Venetian Masquerade Ball – Annual Spotlight on Kerr Gala

Nearly 200 masked guests joined us at The Governor Hotel as we stepped into enchanting historic Venice for a night of mystery at the annual gala. The May 14th event raised more than \$175,000 for Albertina Kerr's essential programs and services. **Visit AlbertinaKerr.org to view event photos.**

Platinum Sponsors: Precision Castparts Corp., Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. **Gold Sponsors:** CareOregon, Concepts in Community Living & JFR Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Portland Valve & Fitting Co., Union Bank. **Silver Sponsors:** ACME Business Consulting LLC, Ater Wynne LLP, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Black Helderline/Maginnis & Carey, Comcast, Gary McGee & Co., Integra Telecom, Inc., Mercer Health and Benefits, Perkins & Co., Portland Trail Blazers, Providence Health & Services – Oregon Region, The Thrasher Family/Compli, U.S. Bank.

Another Record-Breaking Race for the Roses

Close to 5,000 runners and walkers helped raise more than \$240,000 to support Albertina Kerr, making this year's Race for the Roses 5K, 10K and half marathon the most successful yet! **View our post-race video at Race4theRoses.org and save the date for next year: April 3, 2011.**

Title Sponsor: Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. **Presenting Sponsors:** UnitedHealthcare, Subaru and Wentworth SubaruCity, K-Swiss, Fit Right Northwest Running and Walking Store, TriMet, 97.1 Charlie FM and 94/7 FM. **Gold Sponsors:** AA Sports, Ltd., Archery Summit, Bill Newcomer, Boyd Coffee Company, bridgeport brewpub, Oregon Convention Center, Sunshine Dairy Foods, Willamette Week. **Race Patrons:** Mortgage Trust, Inc., Bob's Red Mill, American Medical Response, Ashforth Pacific, Inc., Beaverton Bakery, Beaverton Florists, Besaw's, Cascadian Farm, Evan Pilchik Photography, Flowers by Dorcas, Inc., Food Services of America, Gleukos, Headsweats, Justa Pasta, Larabar, McTavish Shortbread, Oregon Screen Impressions, Project Enterprise, Race Center Northwest, Sunrise Bagels and More, Inc., Team in Training Oregon Chapter, United Salad.



Dr. Colin Cave, top photo
Jerry Baysinger, lower photo
Photos © LeeAnn Gauthier

JoAnne Klaus

VOLUNTEER LEAVES LEGACY OF SUPPORT

JoAnne Klaus began volunteering for Albertina Kerr at Kerr's Economy Jar consignment shop in 1998. She had retired from her career as a school librarian at Mt. Scott Elementary several years before and was looking for a way to give back.

She was a dedicated volunteer for more than 10 years, coming in every third Tuesday to cashier and paying her annual dues to The Old Kerr Nursery Association until she passed away last fall.

Friends knew of her commitment to the organization, but everyone was still a little shocked to see the lasting gift JoAnne made in her will. A large portion of her estate, more than \$330,000, would be given to Albertina Kerr.

"She loved the shops," said close friend Patricia Everett. "And she always cared about kids. I'm happy that she did it."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Safeway Classic

August 16-22, 2010
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club

This week-long professional women's tournament benefits local children's charities, including Albertina Kerr. Be sure to designate Albertina Kerr when purchasing tickets through the Tickets For Charity program. Volunteers are needed for the amateur tournament Aug. 18 & 19.

Ticket info: AlbertinaKerr.org

Volunteer info: Call at 503-262-0187

Albertina Kerr Golf Classic

September 16 & 17, 2010
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club &
Wilf's Restaurant

Dinner and auction on September 16 at Wilf's and a day out on the Ghost Creek course on September 17. Shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. \$2000 per foursome, includes hole sponsorship, cart, play, dinner for golfer and guest at Wilf's, drinks, boxed lunch and hors d'oeuvres.

Register online at AlbertinaKerr.org

Annual Meeting

October 27, 2010, Governor Hotel

Our annual luncheon featuring keynote speaker Victoria Rowell, foster care advocate, actress, and author of *The Women Who Raised Me*. Rowell will share her experience growing up in foster care and the role models who helped her achieve her successes.

Details at AlbertinaKerr.org

Albertina's Restaurant & Shops

Reservations: 503-231-0216

Open Saturdays & Expanded Hours
Starting July 6! Mon-Sat, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Luncheon seatings at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Outdoor seating available.

August 11 & 12, 2010, 11 a.m.

Author Jane Kirkpatrick

Join us at Albertina's to hear from award-winning author and inspirational speaker Jane Kirkpatrick. Presentation: 11 a.m.

Luncheon: 1 p.m. Tickets: \$25 per person.

Call to reserve seating.

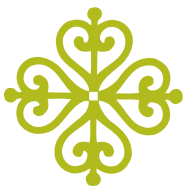
Kerr Bikes

Information: KerrBikes.org

Open 7 Days a Week This Summer!

Visit us on the Portland Waterfront at Salmon Street Springs. For daily hours of operation check KerrBikes.org.

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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