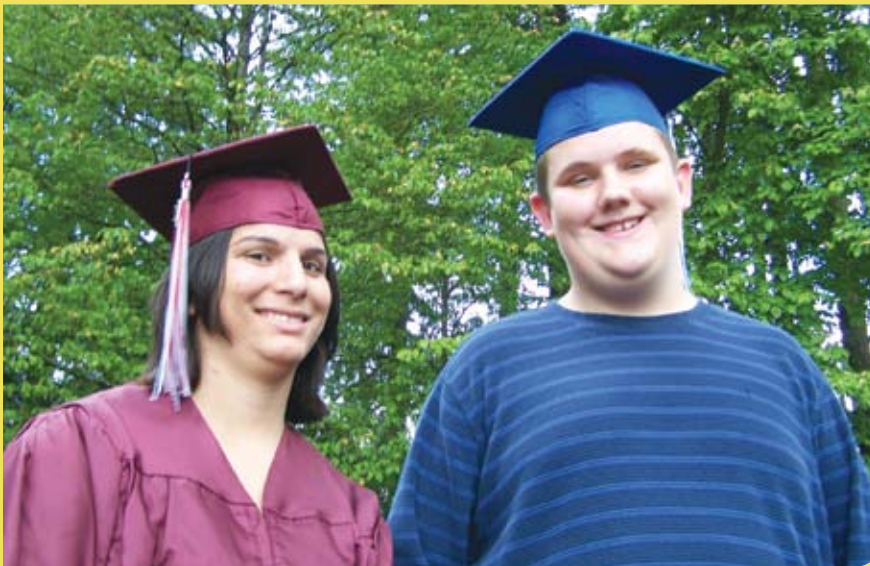


KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

CELEBRATING MANY MILESTONES AT GRADUATION



“Success is seeing a kid graduate when everyone said the odds are they’re not going to do it. It’s seeing a kid get the job that they thought they could never get. It’s knowing I was a part of it, because they didn’t know if they were going to make it.” — ROSE, FOSTER CARE PROVIDER

This June marks a very special life achievement for five teens in Albertina Kerr’s youth group homes. Just like thousands of kids across the country, they are graduating and earning their high school diplomas.

For two graduates, Sarah and Ryan*, this rite of passage signifies their achievements at school as well as accomplishments in meeting personal goals set with their support team. The focus of the team is on providing kids with the skills they need to live as independently as possible once they become adults.

continued on inside

Helping to Transition into Adulthood

Like most recent graduates, these young adults need a little extra support as they start the next chapter in their lives. Help make sure the grads start out on the right foot as they move toward increased independence. Donations of bedding and towels help create a comforting environment as many of the teens move in to new homes. Youth in Kerr programs are also in need of new business attire to help them make a great first impression during job interviews and professional events. Consider donating a gift card to a department store or clothing retailer. *To learn more about donating these items, contact Community Relations Manager Stephanie Bolson at 503-262-0187 or stephaniebo@albertinakerr.org.*

You can also support Kerr programs for youth by making an online donation in honor of our 2011 high school graduates. Your donation will help all children in Kerr’s Youth Group Homes achieve important life goals like celebrating high school graduation. *To make an online donation visit AlbertinaKerr.org.* ♡



continued from front page

As residents of Albertina Kerr youth group homes for kids ages 7 to 18 with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, the graduates received around-the-clock support and life skills training.

Sarah is quick to identify the changes she has seen in herself since she came to Albertina Kerr at age 11. “I’ve learned coping skills and I can solve problems,” Sarah said. “I’m listening to people and not ignoring them. That’s what I used to do.”

She also has big ambitions, and hopes to set an example and inspire other girls in Kerr’s youth group homes. “I’m excited for graduation because friends will look up to me,” she said.

“I want to be a waitress. I like to cook and really like helping people.”

Ryan, who said his favorite class in high school was physical education,

hopes to be able to use what he has learned in school and in his home to help him land his dream job. “I want to be a logger someday,” Ryan said. “I like staying active and being outside.”

While graduating from high school is an exciting time for these teens, it can also be bittersweet. Once they turn 18 and become adults, they must transition into new living situations

Albertina Kerr staff are currently part of a state-wide initiative (see box) to seek out financially sustainable options that address the needs of youth with developmental disabilities as they transition into adulthood.

In the interim, Kerr has opened two adult group homes specifically for

young adults working toward increased independence. That gives these graduates, and many more to come, hope for a brighter future. ✨

** Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Kerr’s Senior Vice President Developmental Disabilities Services, Jeanne Farr, is currently leading a state sponsored workgroup tasked with investigating and recommending transitional services for 18 to 26 year-olds. The goal is to design options that are relevant to youth and financially sustainable.

Driven by the State of Oregon’s Seniors and People with Disabilities program, other stakeholders include the Department of Human Services/ Oregon Health Authority, Department of Education, Oregon Housing and Community Services, disability service providers, family members, consumers and advocacy groups.



Volunteer Dannon Raith plays a game of Rummy with group home resident Kristin.

Volunteers offer fun and friendship to adults with developmental disabilities

At one of Kerr’s group homes for adults with developmental disabilities, monthly game night has become everyone’s favorite activity.

Dannon Raith has volunteered at game night for more than six months. “It’s a fun way to come hang out and get to know everyone here,” he said. “We’ve really become friends.”

Angie, one of the group home residents, is always excited to have company visit. “I love meeting new and different people,” Angie said. “I like playing games and talking. My favorite game is Yahtzee and I hope I win tonight!”

Thank you volunteers for your time giving back to people in Kerr’s programs! *If you would like to join in fun activities with the people in Kerr’s group homes, visit the Volunteer section on AlbertinaKerr.org or contact Community Relations Manager Stephanie Bolson at 503-262-0187 or stephaniebo@albertinakerr.org.*



NEWS & UPDATES

Albertina Kerr Welcomes New Board Leadership



Priscilla Lewis, RN, MBA

Priscilla Lewis, RN, MBA, has been elected as Chair of Albertina Kerr's Governing Board. Priscilla is the Director for Community Services and Development for the Oregon region of Providence Health & Services. In addition, **Larry Davis, MBA**, was named Chair-elect and **Colin Cave, MD**, will serve as the immediate past chair. The following leadership committee roles were also appointed: **Priscilla Lewis**, Executive Committee; **David Reinhart**, Operations; **Karin Wandtke, CPA**, Audit & Compliance; **Larry Davis**, Governance & Board Development; **Margie Rowland, MD**, Program & Accreditation; **Chris Adamek**, Strategic Planning; and **Tony Seashore**, Physical Asset Plan.



David Manougian

David Manougian was elected as Chair for the Albertina Kerr Foundation. Previously the CEO of the Golf Channel, David is the General Manager of Comcast SportsNet Northwest. **Keith Meyers** was named Chair-elect and **Jerry Baysinger** will serve as the immediate past chair. In addition, the

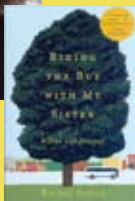
following leadership committee roles were appointed: **Mary Lago**, Investment & Gift Acceptance and **Angela Hult**, Marketing & Public Relations.

Leadership positions were also appointed to the following joint board committees: **David Widmark**, The Old Kerr Nursery Association; **David Manougian**, Golf Classic; **Fritz Bartsch** and **David Wilson, DMD**, Champions; and **Jason Yamamoto**, Race for the Roses. Also, **Kirsten Chambers**, **Traci Richardson**, **Kim Nelson** and **Mariel Combs, JD**, will serve as the leadership team for the Spotlight on Kerr gala.

Riding the Bus with My Sister author Rachel Simon to Speak at Kerr's Annual Meeting Luncheon



Award-winning author and nationally known public speaker Rachel Simon will give the keynote address at the 104th Annual Meeting and Community Awards on October 25, 2011.



Rachel is best known for her critically acclaimed memoir, *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, about time spent with her sister who has a developmental disability. Her latest book, *The Story of Beautiful Girl*, appeared on *The New York Times* best sellers list. **Purchase tickets online at AlbertinaKerr.org.**



Runners and Walkers Earn Their Wings at Race for the Roses

Nearly 5,000 racers enjoyed a sunny morning, views of Portland's most vibrant sights and the opportunity to give back to the community at the 13th annual Race for the Roses half-marathon, 10k and 5k races. **A special thank you to our community partner Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon for their four-year commitment to Race for the Roses as Title Sponsor and support of Albertina Kerr year-round.** Thanks also to the event planning committee, generous sponsors, racers, cheerleaders, volunteers and other Kerr Angels. With your help, more than \$256,000 was raised for essential programs and services like crisis care, the family resource center and more. **View results and photos at Race4theRoses.org.**



Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Title Sponsor: Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. **Presenting Sponsors:** UnitedHealthcare, Subaru, Wentworth Subaru. **Platinum Sponsors:** Fit Right NW, Greenlayer, TriMet. **Media Sponsors:** Charlie 97.1, Fox 12 Oregon, Willamette Week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Safeway Classic KRAFT PRO-AM Golf Tournament

August 17 & 18, 2011
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club

Volunteer and enjoy a day on the links. Spend a beautiful day at Ghost Creek, stationed at a hospitality tent right on the course! Tournament Golf Foundation, a 40-year old volunteer organization, donates the tournament's proceeds to local children's charities, including Albertina Kerr. *To volunteer, call 503-262-0187*

The Old Kerr Nursery's 90th Birthday

September 6-10, 2011

Save the date for the 90th birthday of the Old Kerr Nursery, home to Albertina's Restaurant and Shops. Join us for events throughout the week such as historic tours, guest speakers and more. *More info at KerrShops.org*

Albertina Kerr Golf Classic

Thursday & Friday, September 15 & 16
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club

Dinner and auction on September 15 and a day on the Ghost Creek course on September 16. Shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. \$2,000 per foursome, includes hole sponsorship, cart play, dinner for golfer and guest, drinks, boxed lunch and hors d'oeuvres.

Register online now at AlbertinaKerr.org

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 26
Governor Hotel

Save the date 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 award-winning author Rachel Simon. *Check back soon for more info at AlbertinaKerr.org*



Albertina's Restaurant & Shops

Reservations: 503-231-0216

KerrShops.org

Enjoy Northwest-inspired weekday lunches and Saturday brunch in a beautiful garden setting. Patio seating available.

Kerr Bikes *KerrBikes.org*

Open every day all summer long! Take a spin on the Portland Waterfront at Salmon Street Springs. Visit KerrBikes.org for daily hours of operation and rental 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

424 NE 22nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

503-239-8101 main
AlbertinaKerr.org

 Find us on
FACEBOOK

 Follow us on
TWITTER

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 2009