

KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

CREATING A HOME FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE



Mike and Renee Pinkerton have been providing a home for children in foster care for more than 20 years

Fulfilling a Heart's Desire and Filling a Kid's Heart

Having watched her aunts care for kids in foster care, Renee Pinkerton was just a little girl when she knew that someday she wanted to provide a home to children in need. Today, Renee and her husband Mike are caring for kids with special needs through Albertina Kerr's foster care program.

Renee says that providing foster care "has changed me as a human being. It has taught me what it means to really love. How to walk alongside a child who is struggling to make life work and then to bring them to the place to be able to enjoy the day and what it has to offer, to be safe and understand what it means to be loved."

Renee and Mike are just one of dozens of families that provide two types of foster care at Albertina Kerr. Special Needs Foster Care is for children with developmental disabilities who need additional support and supervision to complete day to day activities. This care is usually long-term and requires a major commitment. Many of the children served in the Therapeutic Foster Care program come from a background of severe abuse and neglect. As a result, these children have emotional challenges that require special services and therapy.

Continued on inside...

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CARE

The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation is one of the private funders that helps ensure that kids in foster care find a safe, stable and loving home at Albertina Kerr. Through a \$5,000 grant, the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation helps enhance the quality of life of youth in Albertina Kerr's Therapeutic Foster Care program.

Often only the most basic services are covered and private funding from individuals and organizations like the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation help ensure that Albertina Kerr continues to strengthen Oregon families and communities by helping children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, empowering them to live richer lives. 🦋

Become 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 are already a Champion Angel, help us encourage others to join you in earning your wings. 🦋

For more information, please contact Joshua Goldstein at 503-262-0188 or JoshG@AlbertinaKerr.org.

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Mike said, "We have realized in our experience that you just can't do foster parenting by yourself. You need a team around you to be able to be successful."

Albertina Kerr foster care providers are part of a caring team of experienced professionals that provide an exceptional level of support to foster children and each other. Foster care providers receive 24-hour access to staff, ongoing training, skills training assistance, respite care and financial compensation. Albertina Kerr provides foster care to children around the state and certifies foster homes in Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill counties.

Albertina Kerr works closely with the child, their family, their care team and foster care providers to understand and meet the unique needs of each child to improve the child's ability to succeed at home and school, and to reunite them with their families whenever possible.

"To have an agency that supports you in a very difficult role is the thing that

has helped us to continue to navigate through lives of children that are very difficult, systems that are very difficult, a world that doesn't always understand," says Renee. "They are like an anchor that has helped us stay on course." 🦋

Watch a video of the Pinkerton's sharing their story at AlbertinaKerr.org.

How You Can Help

Learn more about how to become a foster care provider or help spread the word to someone you think would make a great foster parent. Call the Foster Family Care Network at 503-542-4011.



LOVE VINTAGE JEWELRY & FASHION?

Volunteers at Albertina's Restaurant and Shops have relaunched the Kerr Gift Shop as Albertina's Jewel Box!

Explore the reimagined shop where you will find specially selected vintage jewelry and handbags, scarves, costume jewelry, greeting cards and seasonal merchandise.

Plus, Albertina's Jewel Box will feature artwork for sale from Albertina Kerr's Art from the Heart, an art studio and gallery for adults with developmental disabilities. The artwork can also be found on the walls in Albertina's Restaurant. If you are interested in consigning pieces in Albertina's Jewel Box, please call 503-262-0177.

NEW HOMES FOR KERR YOUTH



Kids Enjoy New Furnishings That Help Make a House a Home

Earlier this year, Albertina Kerr purchased two youth group homes to replace homes that had previously been rented. By purchasing the homes, Albertina Kerr will be better able to make necessary modifications for safety and security as well as improve maintenance.

The updated homes have new paint, new flooring, updated furniture, and one even has a new 400 square foot addition.

Thanks to the Albertina Kerr facilities team, volunteer interior designers from Group Mackenzie and generous donors that helped fund the upgrades (including the attendees of the 2011 Kerr Golf Classic and the Collins Foundation), the new homes have been updated and decorated into warm, safe places for Kerr youth to call home. 🦋



NEWS & UPDATES



Michelle Kidwell

Kidwell Named Manager of the Year

Michelle Kidwell, Kerr's Clackamas County Assistant Director, was recently named the Manager of the Year by the Oregon Rehabilitation Association, the statewide association of nonprofit community organizations that support people with disabilities. Michelle oversees Art from the Heart as well as seven adult group homes and the community inclusion program in Clackamas County.



Kerr Games

Day of Fun at the Kerr Games

Twice per year, the Kerr Games are held to give kids and adults that receive services from Albertina Kerr a day filled with camaraderie, sports, activities, and fun. Kids and staff work together to plan the event and this year a torch made by Art from the Heart artists was passed around the group homes in anticipation of the September 12th event. Kerr partner Papa Murphy's provided pizza for all the attendees.

New Board Members Join Albertina Kerr

Teri L. Barichello, D.M.D., VP & Chief Dental Officer, ODS Companies and Stewart A. Williams III, Senior Vice President of Regional Treasury Management, Columbia Bank have recently joined Albertina's Governing Board. Alison Wood, Community Volunteer and former Nordstrom store administrator and Anton Oehlert, Vice President, Corporate Banking Relationship Manager, Sterling Savings Bank joined the Board of Trustees.

Albertina Kerr Awarded Grants

Kaiser Permanente recently awarded Albertina Kerr's Crisis Psychiatric Care services a \$15,000 grant from the employee Volunteer Grant Program in recognition of Kerr board member Rich Smith. Albertina Kerr also received a \$5,000 grant from Bank of America to help support mental health services for very young children, a \$25,000 grant from Social Partners Portland for youth group home improvement projects and \$10,000 from the Wheeler Foundation to improve safety when people need to be lifted.

GET INVOLVED

Remember Kerr in Your Workplace Giving

Fall marks the start of the charitable giving campaign season, and many employers offer automatic payroll deduction donations. Please consider designating Albertina Kerr for your donation, or if your employer participates in the United Way or Combined Federal Campaign, choose Albertina Kerr Center's Foundation through the Donor Choice Option.

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. You will be provided with pre-made tags for display, each one listing a special wish. For more information, contact Meghan Anderson at 503-262-0187 or MeghanA@AlbertinaKerr.org by October 23, 2012.



The Cal Weld team: (L to R) Rich Olazaba, Valerie Cartwright, Jordan Fell, Mike Hageman

Record Amount Raised at Kerr Golf Classic

A total of \$188,099 (an increase of 53% over 2011) was raised at the 20th Annual Kerr Golf Classic, including \$48,250 in a special appeal for foster care for youth with developmental disabilities. Thanks to all the Kerr Angels that came out in support of Albertina Kerr and to Mike and Renee Pinkerton for sharing their foster care story. Look for photos and results at AlbertinaKerr.org.

A special thank you to the sponsors that make it all possible:

Tournament sponsor: Cal Weld

Awards Sponsor: Swagelok Northwest (US)

Driving Range Sponsor: Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon

Cart Sponsor: Les Schwab Tire Centers

Dinner sponsors: The Benson, E. & J. Gallo Winery, Northwest Distillery, Sysco

Hole sponsors: ACME Consulting, Baysinger Partners, Carr Auto Group, CMD Advertising, Comcast, Entercom, Felton Properties Inc., FolioMetrix, Garvey Shubert & Barer, Geffen Mesher and Co., P.C., Hart Wagner, LLP, Jeff Sanders Promotions, Jubitz, Merrill Lynch, Oregon Turf Grass Foundation, Precision Castparts Corp, Pacific Continental and TS Construction.

Finally, thank you to the committee:

David Manougian (chair), Chris Adamek, Sam Bars, Jerry Baysinger, David Kamens, Angela Hult, Greg Mottau, Adele' Nofield, David Reinhart, Mike Rompa, John Thoma, Jim Trolinger, Casey Waage, Ron Gladney, and Clarke Leaverton.

UPCOMING EVENTS

105th Annual Meeting & Community Awards
Wednesday, October 17, Governor Hotel
Pulitzer Prize-winning author Buzz Bissinger is the keynote speaker. *Make your reservation at AlbertinaKerr.org, \$45*

Art from the Heart Art Show
Thursday, December 6, Art from the Heart, 3505 NE Broadway, Portland
Artists with developmental disabilities display and sell their work.

Spotlight on Kerr Gala
Friday, February 15, Left Bank Annex
Rock around the clock at a 50s themed sockhop to raise funds for the most vulnerable in our community.

15th Annual Race for the Roses Half Marathon, 10K & 5K Races
Sunday, April 14, 2013
Oregon Convention Center
Join more than 5,000 runners, walkers and volunteers at Portland's favorite races.

ALBERTINA'S RESTAURANT & SHOPS
The Shops: Monday-Saturday, 10am-3pm
Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 11:30am-1:30pm; Saturday, 10am-2pm
Call 503-231-0216 or visit KerrShops.org for more information.

Albertina's Luncheon Learn: Holiday Flower Arrangements
Thursday, October 11, 11:30am, \$35

Albertina's Holiday Tea
Saturday, December 8 & 15, seatings at noon, 1:30 and 1:45pm, \$25

Albertina's Luncheon Learn: "Games for Adults" Mahjong 101
Thursday, January 10, \$35

Albertina's Valentine's Day Tea
Saturday, February 9, seatings at noon, 1:30 and 1:45pm, \$25

Albertina's Luncheon Learn: All About Chocolate
Thursday, February 14, 11:30am, \$35

KERR BIKES
March-October, open weekends only in October, 9 am to 5 pm.
Visit KerrBikes.org for more information.



We envision a community where all children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges will thrive in nurturing homes and inclusive communities. Your legacy can build their future. **Have you included Albertina Kerr in your estate plans?** *Contact Joshua Goldstein at (503) 262-0188 or JoshG@AlbertinaKerr.org to learn more.*



**ALBERTINA
KERR**

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