



March 2017

LATEST NEWS



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, we have had much to celebrate over the last 30 years. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is using the slogan "Life side by side" to celebrate the advances in community-based life for people with developmental disabilities.

Following our mission, Albertina Kerr has been at the forefront of community-based advances for people with developmental disabilities.

Beginning in the 1970's and continuing through the 1980's, we were a leader of deinstitutionalization in Oregon. In 1976, we opened the Kerr Center for Handicapped Children (KCHC), which moved children out of the state institution and into a smaller, community-oriented center. We then opened our first neighborhood-based group home in Milwaukie in 1983. The home helped children who had aged-out of services at KCHC transition into a fuller community-based life, living side by side with their nondisabled peers. By 1989, 13 neighborhood-based group homes had opened and everyone living at KCHC had moved out, allowing for the closure of the facility.

In 2003, we significantly expanded group home services for youth with developmental disabilities. Just a year later, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed, which further opened opportunities for individuals with disabilities, guaranteeing appropriate education tailored to each student's needs.

Albertina Kerr has routinely been ahead of social and legislative advances and we saw that again most recently in 2015 with our opening of the Project SEARCH program, a nine-month internship training program for people with developmental disabilities. Shortly after opening, the Lane v. Brown class action lawsuit was settled, giving people with developmental disabilities more opportunities to work in competitive employment instead of sheltered workshops.

Today, Albertina Kerr is helping making life side by side a reality for more than 550 youth and adults with developmental disabilities. We have been a leader in Oregon and are grateful for the work that has been done. We believe even more exciting advances are to come in ensuring that people with developmental disabilities live fuller lives as valued members of our community and we will continue to be a voice for those efforts.

You can lend your voice and participate in Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month on social media this month by using #DDawareness17.



Albertina Kerr Staff Update

We hope you will join us in thanking Jodi Lippert for her service as Albertina Kerr's Chief Development Officer since 2004. In partnership with Kerr's volunteer leaders and staff, Jodi has led the organization's fundraising, volunteer and marketing/public relations efforts for the last 13 years, raising vital private support and engaging thousands of volunteers to accomplish the mission of one of Oregon's most admired non-profits. Most recently, she spearheaded the largest capital campaign in our history. The Community Promise Capital Campaign completed the renovation and expansion of Kerr's ten-acre Campus for Children's Mental Health this past spring. Jodi is looking forward to being a lifelong supporter of Albertina Kerr after she leaves her position and we wish her the best in the next phase of her career.



Charitable Checkoff

Please consider donating all or a portion of your 2016 Oregon State Tax Return to Albertina Kerr. Your donation will help support children's mental health services and developmental disability programs. Include [Schedule OR-Donate](#) with your Oregon Tax return or let your tax preparer know that you would like to give via Charitable Checkoff.

[Learn More](#)



Join us for Albertina Kerr's 19th Annual Race for the Roses

Race, run, walk or cheer on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at our 19th annual Race for the Roses. Whether you participate in our 5K, 10K or Half Marathon, 100% of the race proceeds support Albertina Kerr's programs and services supporting individuals with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. Team registrations are also welcome. [Learn More and Register](#)

Want to get involved but not looking to run? Support the community by signing up as a volunteer! We have several opportunities to help out at packet pick-up or on race day. [Sign Up to Volunteer.](#)



Kerr Bikes Season Opening and New Rental Rewards Program

Join us March 1st for the opening day of Kerr Bikes' OMSI and Tom McCall Waterfront Park locations. We will be officially open for the season and are excited to announce our new rental rewards program. For every four rentals, get the fifth free! For those visiting the OMSI location, remember that OMSI members can also save money on their entire rental purchase by showing their day pass (15% off) or annual pass (25% off). For Kerr Bikes locations and hours, click [here](#).

KERR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16, 2017 | Luncheon Learn: Cooking with Caprial and John Pence

Spend the afternoon with renowned chefs Caprial and John Pence. Experience a private cooking class spiced with humor and innovative tips for a successful cocktail party! Appetizers created in their kitchen will make your mouth water and inspire you to host your own party! Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. [Reserve Your Seat.](#)

Sunday, April 2, 2017 | The Albertina Kerr Race for the Roses Join us for our 5K, 10K and Half Marathon! Participants will race along Interstate Avenue to Overlook Park, cross the Broadway Bridge and continue through scenic Northwest Portland. All finishers receive a hand-crafted medal made by Albertina Kerr's Port City program! [Learn More.](#)

April 2017 | Albertina's Closet Bag Sale

Saturday, April 1, 2017 - Save 50% off everything in the store!
Thursday and Friday, April 6 & 7, 2017 - Save 75% off everything in the store!
Saturday, April 8, 2017 - For only \$20, stuff your Albertina's Closet bag full of treasures!

Thursday, April 13, 2017 | Luncheon Learn: You Go Girl Travel

Marcia Lynn Miller, author of *You Go Girls - The Woman's Guide to Great Travel*, has visited around 70 countries. Her easy-going, fun-loving and informational presentation will not only keep you entertained, but it will guarantee to teach you new travel skills. Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. [Reserve Your Seat.](#)

Thursday, April 20, 2017 | Luncheon Learn: Gluten-Free Beer and You

Join us for a gluten-free lunch paired with beer presented by Neil Davidson. Chef Davidson of Ground Breaker Brewing opened the country's first dedicated gluten-free gastropub in Portland in 2013. By sourcing the best local ingredients, he prepares a creative and dynamic gluten-free menu that everyone can enjoy. Cost is \$35 per person. [Reserve Your Seat.](#)

To view more upcoming events visit our [Events Page.](#)

Albertina Kerr strengthens Oregon families and communities by helping children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, empowering them to live richer lives.

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