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AlbertinaKerr.org

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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.

EARN YOUR WINGS: JOIN US



24 Hours of Kerr

Sunday, September 13 | *Hilton Portland & Executive Tower*

Join us for an action-packed auction dinner.

Monday, September 14 | *Columbia Edgewater & Club Green Meadows*
Golf and tennis tournament.



Annual Meeting & Community Awards

October 27, 11:30 a.m. | *The Sentinel*
Join *Wild* author Cheryl Strayed as she talks about her experience with mental health while celebrating our community award recipients at Kerr's 108th Annual Meeting.



Christmas Ships Soiree

December 18, 6 p.m. | *Waverly Country Club*
Join us for a festive family holiday event to benefit Albertina Kerr's Children's Developmental Health Services.

For more information, please visit AlbertinaKerr.org.

ALBERTINA'S PLACE:

Prepayment and reservations are required for the following events. Please call 503-231-0216 to make reservations.

Luncheon Learn: iPad Made Easy

July 16, 12 p.m., \$35

Do you have questions about how to use your iPad? Diane Mati, computer educator, will be teaching a basic class to help all iPad users become more skilled users.

Green on Green Garden Tour

August 15, \$40 Tour, Demo & Breakfast (Tour only — \$20)
Tour six spectacular Portland gardens. Purchase tickets at AlbertinasPlace.org beginning July 8.

Author Jane Kirkpatrick

August 17, 18 & 19, 12 p.m., \$35

Be the first to hear about Kirkpatrick's newest historic novel *Memory Weaver*, a thrilling tale following Eliza during the 1847 Whitman massacres. Adventure awaits.

SUMMER 2015

KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

MAKING REAL IMPACT



Amber's story speaks to the impact of community-based mental health services especially for those with the most acute mental health needs.

The story is told by Amber's aunt. She speaks of the deep anxiety caused by having a child with acute mental health needs. The services she found at Kerr changed quality of life for Amber and for her whole family.

Ten years ago my lovely niece Amber came into my life and dramatically changed both of our lives forever. Amber was three years old when I was caring for her one afternoon, and noticed what looked like strangulation marks on her neck. I suspected abuse may have been occurring in Amber's unstable home. My brother was in prison before Amber was born and back in prison again with a long history of drug abuse. Amber was being raised by my sister-in-law who also is addicted to drugs and was working as a stripper.

I was hesitant to report this suspected abuse to the Department of Human Services. I was afraid what would happen to Amber if she was taken from her home and the family conflict this would cause but I knew that Amber needed protection.

Continued inside

The Community Promise Capital Campaign Reaches the \$5 Million Mark

For 100 years, Albertina Kerr's Gresham campus has been a safe place for the most vulnerable in our community. In Spring 2016, Kerr will complete transformation of the Gresham property into a Campus for Children's Mental Health. The ten acre campus will bring together, at a single site, leading children's mental health practitioners, critical program services, and facilities designed to meet best practice standards that are Kerr's hallmark.

The new intensive treatment group home and the new wing of the crisis psychiatric care program have already transformed the environment of care for the children and families we serve and have enabled us to serve more children in need. Currently, the historic Louise Home is being renovated and expanded into a hub for community-based services for children's mental health and foster care.

Co-chaired by Fritz and Lynn Bartsch and Mary Lago, the Community Promise Capital campaign aims to secure a \$6.5 million to invest in the Campus for Children's Mental Health.

Continued inside



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I made that difficult phone call to find out there were 12 other phone calls made before mine.

After an investigation, Amber was removed from her home and placed in the Oregon foster care system. Being a close relative I was asked if I would care for Amber temporarily in my home. Of course I welcomed her with open arms along with my husband and two daughters and faintly realizing the many challenges that lay ahead. Amber had fetal alcohol syndrome, not potty trained and was not talking in complete sentences.

I just thought loving Amber would fix everything. But the classes I took from Department of Human Services did not prepare me for Amber's frequent and extreme tantrums; something I have not experienced raising my children. My husband who served in Vietnam after the war equated Amber's behavior from what he witnessed in Refugee camps. We had Amber evaluated by a psychologist and sought treatment but her behavior just got worse.

In third grade Amber was in a special needs and contained classroom. Due to Amber's fits the classroom often had to be cleared for the other children's safety and I was often called to come pick her up from school. I did not know what to do and was ready to give-up.

I finally got connected to Albertina Kerr. Before this nobody educated me on how to raise a child with special needs and how very different this was to raising my other children. I started to look at Amber differently. Sandra, Albertina Kerr's Family Coordinator, came to my home weekly to meet with me. Kerr's therapist Chrissy Milner came to work with Amber.

At first Chrissy did therapy with Amber and this was not effective. She switched tactics and started some skills training with Amber. They both built a "picture book and schedule." Amber liked and needed structure for her daily schedule and chores and the picture book worked. They also developed a "fidget bag" full of little items to help Amber cope when she is angry. There are bubbles for her to blow, poems to read and a spritzer bottle of peppermint to smell.

Up front Chrissy told me she would be here until the family was strong and could step out of our lives. At first I was upset, I could not visualize not always needing Kerr's help. But eventually, we were able to make the transition. When Kerr did step out of our lives, our family was strong, I learned how to be a more effective parent, Amber was better and our family could cope.

Community Promise

Continued from front page

More than \$5 million has been raised to date, and the campaign team is now actively raising the remaining \$1.5 million before March 2016.

The final phase of the Campaign will establish the Community Promise Fund, with \$4.5 million in dedicated planned gifts, which will create long-term assurance that Albertina Kerr will be able to invest in future improvements and ensures that Kerr's Campus for Children's Mental Health will serve our community for the next 100 years.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Miki Herman has been volunteering at Albertina's Place since 2010, where she serves as

Chair of The Old Kerr Nursery Association. In addition to supporting Kerr with her time, Miki has made a generous gift to the Community Promise Capital Campaign to honor her late parents.

When asked why donate to Albertina Kerr, Miki stated, "Albertina Kerr is run efficiently. The dollars raised go to programs versus overhead and it's in the top five non-profits in Oregon in my opinion."

Just as Miki recognizes Albertina Kerr's commitment to our community, we want to recognize Miki. Thank you!

For more information on how you can help participate in the Community Promise Capital Campaign, please contact: Jodi Lippert, Chief Development Officer at JodiL@AlbertinaKerr.org or 503-262-0185.

NEWS & UPDATES

New Board Members & Foundation Trustees



Effective July 1, 2015, **John Thoma** will be the Chair of Albertina Kerr's Governing Board. John is the CFO of Rose Villa Senior Living. Prior to this, he was the Senior Director of Finance at Hannah the Pet Society. John began his career at Price Waterhouse and later joined the First American Title Insurance Company followed by Schnitzer Investment Corp. He earned an accounting degree from the University of Oregon. In

addition to John, we welcome the following new members to the Governing Board of Directors: **Paul Litwinczuk**, Senior Associate, Point B Inc.; **Craig Payne**, Senior Vice President, Construction & Real Estate Practice, Brown & Brown Northwest; **Karen Rasmussen**, Client Services Director, Robert Half Management Resources; **Margaret Rowland**, Retired, Chief Medical Officer for CareOregon; and **Emmett Wheatfall**, Diversity and Inclusion Director, Clackamas County.



Albertina Kerr's Foundation Board will be led effective July 1, 2015 by **Mary Lago, CTFA**, Vice President, Wealth Management & Advisory Services, Washington Trust Bank. Mary has spent more than a decade assisting families, business owners and non-profit organizations to maximize their trust and investment management opportunities.

Mary works with clients to simplify the estate planning, trust administration and investment management processes and implement appropriate strategies. Mary earned her Certified Trust and Financial Adviser (CFTA) Designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers and has been awarded honor graduate status in the area of Personal Trust from the Cannon Financial Institute. With Mary, we are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Foundation Trustees: **Margaret Barry**, Direct Sales Manager, Patricia Green Cellars; **Julie Cudahy**, Wildlife artist, Julie Elizabeth Cudahy Fine Art; **Terry Donahue**, Principal and Co-Founder, Springwater Wealth Management, LLC; and **Connor O'Brien**, Senior Enterprise Manager, Jama Software.

16th Annual Race for the Roses

More than \$208,000 was raised at Race for the Roses on April 19, 2015. Join us next year on April 17, 2016. Thank you to the committee and sponsors:

Chair: Erinn Warner **Committee:** Carilyn Alexander, Teri Barichello, Margaret Barry, Rivah Beaty, Jahan Behbahany, Rob Burton, David Embree, Rachel Farkus, Nicole Frisch, Bonnie Ingersoll, Aaron Lutze, Grace Neal, Kim Seashore, Kristin Tehrani, James Walker

Presenting Sponsor: Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon; **Silver Sponsors:** Fleet Feet PDX, Charles Schwab, Oregon Convention Center; **Bronze Sponsor:** Ater Wynne; **Mile Marker Sponsors:** Concordia University, Pella Corporation, Valie Home Furnishings, Thrasher Family/ Compli, Mortgage Trust LLC; **Apparel Sponsor:** Greenlayer; **Media Sponsors:** 94.7 FM, 97.1 FM, Fox 12 Oregon

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer Opportunities at Kerr Bikes

Have fun and do good at the same time. If you are good with bikes or great with customers and would like to help out, we'd love to have you be part of the team that makes Kerr Bikes a great place to have fun. If you are interested, please contact Meghan Anderson at: MeghanA@AlbertinaKerr.org or 503-262-0187.

24 Hours of Kerr

Albertina Kerr will be hosting the 1st Annual 24 Hours of Kerr event on September 13 and 14. This is the first Portland charity event of its kind, combining multiple sporting events and a high class dining experience into one grand event where all proceeds will benefit Kerr's programs and services.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Cocktail reception, award-winning dinner by Portland's premier chefs plus an amazing live and silent auction at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Events include a golf tournament at Columbia Edgewater and a social doubles tennis tournament at Club Green Meadows.

Participants in both events have the opportunity to win one of two spots (all expenses paid) to the Mercedes-Benz Dealer Championship Western Sectionals in Pinehurst, North Carolina thanks to Mercedes-Benz of Portland and Beaverton.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

AlbertinaKerr.org/24Hours

For questions, please contact the Events Manager at 503-262-0175 or Development@AlbertinaKerr.org

Thank you to our sponsors:

Baysinger Partners Architecture, Becker Capital Management, Brown & Brown Northwest, Cal Weld, Carilyn Alexander, Carr Auto Group, Comcast, David L. Wilson, D.M.D., P.C., DWFritz Automation, EGM Consulting, Entercom, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, First American Title Company of Oregon, First Republic Bank, Folksman Asset Management, Gary McGee & Co., Greenbrier Companies, Hart Wagner LLP, Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Jeff Bieker, Kaiser Permanente, Lawyers Title, Mercedes-Benz of Portland and Beaverton, MODA Health, Perkins & Co., Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, R & H Construction Company, Russell Construction, Springwater Wealth Management, Swagelok Northwest (U.S.), TS Gray Construction, Tumac Lumber Company, Umpqua Bank, Union Bank, Waddell & Reed, Washington Trust Bank