



October 2016

## LATEST NEWS



### FROM JEFF CARR, CEO

This month, Albertina Kerr recognizes [Down Syndrome Awareness Month](#) and [ADHD \(Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder\) Awareness Month](#). One in every 691 infants in the U.S. is born with Down syndrome, about 6,000 each. We are honored this month that Portland's own Karen Gaffney, the keynote speaker for our Annual Meeting, will be sharing her experience of living with Down syndrome. It's everyone's responsibility to be advocates for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

ADHD Awareness Month helps share information about the nearly 9% of children ages 3 to 17 who have been diagnosed with ADHD. Individuals with ADHD experience more challenges in school, at work, and in social relationships. They have higher rates of emergency room visits and automobile accidents, are at greater risk for substance abuse. Your continued support of the work we do at Albertina Kerr allows us to help more children and their families.

We hope you will be able to join us for our Annual Meeting on October 24.



### ALBERTINA KERR'S 109th ANNUAL MEETING AND COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCHEON

Our keynote speaker [Karen Gaffney](#) (shown left), is a native Oregonian born with Down syndrome. Karen has spent her adulthood educating the public about overcoming limitations and about what can be accomplished with positive expectations. By creating awareness and calling attention to the tremendous capabilities of people with disabilities, Karen has championed the journey to full inclusion in families, schools, the workplace and the community for people with developmental disabilities.

[Purchase tickets](#)

Monday, October 24  
The Sentinel Hotel  
614 SW 11th Avenue, Portland

Social from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m.  
Luncheon from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in The Governor Ballroom

#### Honorees

The National Charity League, Inc., Portland Chapter  
Swagelok Northwest  
OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation  
The late James F. Rippey  
David and Karole Wilson

#### Retiring Board Members

Alex Duarte  
Amelia Heath  
James Walker

#### Emeritus Board Member

Fritz Bartsch



### JEANNE FARR PROMOTED TO CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER

As Chief Programs Officer, Jeanne will oversee Albertina Kerr's disabilities services and mental health programs, leading Albertina Kerr's programmatic efforts to help us achieve integration between our varied programs. Prior to this role, Jeanne served as Albertina Kerr's President, Disabilities Services & Strategic Projects where she had the responsibility for the 24-hour oversight of a wide array of services for more than 200 people with developmental disabilities across a five-county area. Jeanne has served on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Rehabilitation Association and is member of the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition. Jeanne is a recognized leader in the disability services field in Oregon. For more than 30 years, she has worked in nonprofit organizations, serving people with developmental disabilities. She is recognized throughout the state for her skill in fostering collaboration and for her legislative advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities.



### OCTOBER IS ADHD AWARENESS MONTH

Nearly every mainstream medical, psychological, and educational organization in the United States long ago concluded that Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a real, brain-based medical disorder. Children with ADHD benefit from appropriate treatment. Albertina Kerr's Children's Developmental Health Services helps families by offering developmental behavioral pediatric services in one location.

This program provides evaluation/consultation for families along with ongoing case management. The services can be utilized on their own, or as part of a comprehensive program including psychology, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy and audiology. Become an advocate for ADHD. [Learn more.](#)



### NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS CLASS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS

National Alliance on Mental Illness is offering NAMI Basics, a free, 6-week education program for parents and family caregivers of children and teens who are experiencing symptoms of a mental illness or who have already been diagnosed. Taught by trained parents or other primary caregivers who have lived similar experiences with their own children, NAMI Basics provides learning and practical insights for families. In this course you'll learn the facts about mental health conditions and how best to support your child at home, at school, and when they're getting medical care. The course also provides critical strategies for taking care of your child and learning the ropes of recovery.

The NAMI Basics course is specifically designed for parents and other primary caregivers of children and adolescents who are living with mental illness. It is not necessary that the child have received a specific diagnosis. Caregivers who suspect their child is experiencing symptoms of mental illness can also benefit greatly from the course as they begin to navigate the evaluation and treatment process. [Learn more.](#)



### CHILDREN'S INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY & MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION SUMMIT

The 4th Annual Children's Intellectual/ Developmental Disability & Mental Health Collaboration Summit was held at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR in late September. Dr. Jennifer Simon-Thomas, shown left, a clinical psychologist at Albertina Kerr's Children's Developmental Health Services, was the keynote speaker at the event and touched on points including child development, dual diagnosis, integration of treatment, and [Project ECHO](#). The summit gathered professionals and stakeholders from

across Oregon state and focused on improving collaboration and skills in order to better serve children and adolescents with I/DD and Mental Health issues.

## KERR CALENDAR

### October 24 | 109th Annual Meeting & Community Awards Luncheon

Join us as Karen Gaffney discusses her personal story of living with Down syndrome and her accomplishments of full inclusion for families, schools, the workplace and community for people with developmental disabilities. [Purchase tickets.](#)

### November 17 | Party at Albertina's

Albertina's Place kicks off the holiday season at this free event. Enjoy complimentary tastings from local businesses including Apolloni Vineyards, Migration Brewery and Missionary Chocolate while you shop along with delectable hors d'oeuvres from Albertina's Kitchen and prize drawings throughout the evening. [Learn more.](#)

### December 7, 2016 | Christmas Ships Soiree

Benefitting Albertina Kerr's Children's Developmental Health Services, this festive holiday event is family-friendly. Enjoy food and music while the iconic Christmas Ships Parade floats by on the Willamette. [Purchase tickets.](#)

These are a snapshot of upcoming Albertina Kerr events. Learn more about additional Albertina Kerr events [here.](#)

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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