

# KERR CONNECTIONS

*A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr*

## FOSTER FAMILIES MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE



### *Therapeutic Foster Care Takes a Special Family*

Carolyn Miller had already raised two kids of her own when a friend encouraged her to become a foster care provider. "A friend of mind told me that she thought I'd be really good. I work from home and love kids. Plus, there's a lot of kid inside of me so it's a win-win," says Carolyn. Today, Carolyn and her husband Robert are providing a loving home for teens with behavioral challenges who typically come from a background of severe abuse and neglect.

In the three years since being certified, the family has provided a home to two teen girls and respite care to both boys and girls. Their rural home has become a refuge for the children, where Carolyn enjoys doing lots of activities with the kids from the trampoline and teaching tennis skills to board games and showing the kids how to quilt. They even have some cows (and recently calves) on the property that everyone enjoys spoiling. "It's rewarding to see that they enjoy the time I spend doing things with them. It seems to me that's what they really need: time and attention." Being a foster care provider has "really taught me how important it is that I'm a good listener," she says. "Listening to their feelings is important."

*Continued on inside...*

### GOLF ATTENDEES SUPPORT FOSTER CARE

During an emotional evening at the Kerr Golf Classic Dinner at The Benson Hotel on September 16, attendees raised a total of \$48,250 in a special appeal for foster care for youth with developmental disabilities.

Foster care providers Renee and Mike Pinkerton shared their moving story about caring for foster children over more than 20 years. Jim and Christina Trolinger then kicked off the donations with a matching gift of \$10,000 which was quickly met by those in attendance. Often only the most basic services are covered and private funding from individuals help ensure that Albertina Kerr continues to strengthen Oregon families and communities. The gifts made that evening will make a tremendous difference in the lives of children receiving foster care. 🦋

### *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 [info@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:info@AlbertinaKerr.org).*

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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. Sometimes they also become part of a larger family. One of the first children that Carolyn and Robert brought into their home was adopted. Today, they are still considered part of her family and recently celebrated Easter all together. Carolyn says that the most important thing is that the kids know that “you’re always going to be there for them through their ups and downs.”

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 their ability to succeed at home and school, and to reunite children with their families whenever possible. Foster care providers receive 24-hour access to staff, ongoing training, skills training

assistance, respite care and financial compensation.

“We try to work through challenges as best we can and work with the kids in as loving and respectful way as possible. The

training is awesome,” said Carolyn. The once a month training “refreshes my skills everytime I go. I wish I’d had those skills (such as collaborative problem solving) when I was raising my kids!”

“It’s really rewarding to be able to help these kiddos,” she said. “Everyone was a child at one point.” 🦋

## 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 Albertina Kerr’s foster care team at 503-290-4000!*



Woodworking at Port City

## PORT CITY JOINS ALBERTINA KERR

In February 2013, Albertina Kerr added a new program to its roster. Port City provides training for adults with developmental disabilities and an environment to strengthen self-sufficiency and focus on developing career and life skills. Monday through Friday, nearly 200 artists, farmers, woodworkers, screen-printers, production workers, and community members converge on Port City to participate in the center’s employment and personal development programs.

Port City’s roots in the Portland Metro area date back to 1978 when Portland area family members and advocates helped establish it as a means to secure a more promising future for community members with developmental disabilities. Today, the partnership with Albertina Kerr ensures that the programs will continue well into the future and gives Kerr the opportunity to grow as well by adding a variety of options for adults with developmental disabilities to existing programs and services.

If you would like to take a tour of Port City, please contact Meghan Anderson at 503-262-0187 or [info@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:info@AlbertinaKerr.org).

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION



Marquis residents and people who receive services from Albertina Kerr at the check presentation in January

### Partnership Yields Social Interaction and Funds for Kerr

Since March 2012, the residents of Marquis Oregon City post acute care center have been partnering with adults with developmental disabilities who are part of Albertina Kerr’s community inclusion program. Together, they are working on increasing social skills by engaging in socialization, games and educational activities - benefiting both the residents and the adults who receive services from Albertina Kerr.

The partnership is part of The Vital Volunteer program of The Vital Life Foundation, which encourages residents to volunteer at community charities. In return, each resident accrues \$10 for every hour that they work, which is given back to the non profit organization. In January, the volunteers from Marquis presented a check to Albertina Kerr for \$5,640 representing 564 hours of volunteer time. 🦋

# NEWS & UPDATES



## Poppin' Tags at the Thrift Shop

Albertina's Restaurant and Shops volunteers and local singer Laura Ivancie recently took part in a parody video of the popular song *Thrift Shop*. The video was featured on local television news and helped bring awareness to the Thrift Shop, where proceeds help support the work of Albertina Kerr. Visit [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org) to see it for yourself!

## Grants from ESCO, U.S. Bank, Reser & Boeing

Albertina Kerr Centers Foundation was the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the ESCO Foundation to support the Crisis Psychiatric Care program, a \$5,000 grant for Early Childhood Outpatient Services from the U.S. Bank/U.S. Bancorp Foundation and a \$6,765 grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Portland to improve safety when people need to be lifted. In addition, the Reser Family Foundation recently aided in the purchase and installation of a cooling compressor unit at Albertina's Restaurant with an \$8,000 gift. Thank you!

## New Faces on Albertina Kerr Board and Staff

Alex Duarte of Precision Castparts and James Walker, JD of Miller Nash were recently elected to the Albertina Kerr Governing Board of Directors. David Andersen of Andersen Construction; Amelia Heath, JD of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; Tim McNamara of Entercom Communications; and community volunteer Erinn Warner were elected to the Foundation Trustees board. In addition, Peter Tompkins-Rosenblatt recently joined Albertina Kerr staff as the President of the Youth and Family Services division. He previously served as the Executive Director of The Link in Minneapolis, as Senior Director of Children's Services for Catholic Charities in St. Paul, and as Director of Education for Statewide Child and Youth Care Workers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

# GET INVOLVED



## Take a Fun Ride at Waterfront Park with Kerr Bikes

Now through October, grab your friends and family, head down to Portland's, Tom McCall Waterfront Park and hop on a bike. At Kerr Bikes, you'll find traditional bicycle rentals as well as a unique selection of tandem bikes, trail-a-bikes, surreys, deuce coupes, choppers, quad sports

and slingshots. All proceeds support Albertina Kerr and the bike shop provides work experience for teens with developmental disabilities.

## Giving 101: Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity provides a fixed income for the rest of your life at a rate based on your age. You receive a charitable tax deduction the year you start the annuity and a high percentage of the payments could be tax free. (Also, you'll be helping to support the vital programs and services of Albertina Kerr!) To learn more, contact Joshua Goldstein at [info@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:info@AlbertinaKerr.org) or 503-262-0188.

### RATES

Age	Rate
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90	9.0%



L to R: Albertina Kerr Governing board chair Priscilla Lewis with board members Angela Hult and Celia Murphey.

## Rockin' at Spotlight

A total of \$188,611 was raised by the 317 attendees at Albertina Kerr's annual fundraising gala Spotlight on Kerr: Rock Around the Clock on February 15. The total included \$66,000 raised especially for community inclusion programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Thank you to all the Kerr Angels that came out in support and to Jessica and Phyllis Boyer for sharing their story. Look for the video and photos at [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org).

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

**Platinum Sponsor:** Precision Castparts Corp. and Providence Health & Services - Oregon Region. **Gold Sponsors:** Concepts in Community Living (CCL) & the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation, CareOregon, Kaiser Permanente and Sterling Bank. **Silver Sponsors:** Aequitas Capital Management, Ater Wynne LLP, Bank of America, Comcast, Davis Wright Tremaine, Farleigh Wada Witt, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Gary McGee & Co., Mercer, Perkins & Co., Portland Trail Blazers, R&H Construction, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, Swagelok Northwest (US), The Thrasher Family/Compli, U.S. Bank, David L. Wilson, DMD, PC, and Washington Trust Bank.

### Finally, thank you to the committee:

**Leadership:** Kim Borton, Traci Richardson, Kirsten Chambers  
 Ian Asbury, Keren Brown Wilson, Anton Oehlert, Alan Ruderman and Michael Thale.



# ALBERTINA KERR

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*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 [info@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:info@AlbertinaKerr.org) to learn more.

## EARN YOUR WINGS: JOIN US

### Art from the Heart Art Show

June 13th 6-8pm is our next art show

Thursday, June 13, 6-8pm: Art from the Heart  
3505 NE Broadway St., Portland

### Kerr Classic Golf Tournament & Dinner Auction

Sunday, September 15: The Benson Hotel  
Monday, September 16: Columbia Edgewater

### 106th Annual Meeting & Community Awards

Fall 2013

Recognizing the generous support and community work of Kerr Angels.

### Spotlight on Kerr Gala

February 28, 2014

Save the date for Albertina Kerr's annual fundraising gala!

### 16th Annual Race for the Roses

Sunday, April 13, 2014

Oregon Convention Center

Join more than 4,000 runners, walkers and volunteers at Portland's favorite races.

### ALBERTINA'S RESTAURANT & SHOPS

Open Monday-Saturday

**The Shops:** 10am-3pm

**Restaurant:** 11:30am-1:30pm

503-231-3909

### Kentucky Derby Lunch & Fashion Show

Saturday, May 4, noon \$25

### Luncheon Learn: All About Jewelry

Thursday, May 9, 11:30am, \$35

### Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 11, 1:30pm, \$25

### Luncheon Learn: History of the Portland Tunnels

Thursday, June 13, 11:30am, \$35

*Learn about Portland's underground with Michael Jones of Shanghai Tunnels.*

### Grandparent & Grandchild Lunch: Penny's Puppet Show

Saturday, June 22, 11:30am, \$45 adult + child, \$14 each additional adult, \$7 each additional child.

### KERR BIKES

March-October, open weekends only in October, 9 am to 5 pm.

503-808-9955



*For more information, please visit [AlbertinaKerr.org](http://AlbertinaKerr.org).*