

KERR CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr

EMPOWERING FAMILIES



PRIVATE FUNDING ESSENTIAL TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Kerr's Family Involvement Program, funded exclusively by foundation grants and contributions, is there to support families of children who are facing mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. The following foundations provide support to ensure that families in our community have access to the latest information about mental health and advocacy resources in our community.

THE HENRY LEA HILLMAN, JR. FOUNDATION, \$15,000, funds programs in Oregon that assist at-risk youth and low-income families.

THE HOOVER FAMILY FOUNDATION, \$6,000, provides grants to programs in the Portland-metro area that increase the self-sufficiency and quality of life for individuals

THE HOWARD WALLIS IRWIN & DORISE CARLYON HINTON IRWIN FOUNDATION, \$3,000, funds programs in Portland that facilitate independence and self-reliance among youth and families.

Thank you to these partners whose contributions help support families and give children reason to smile. 

Family Resource Center, giving families hope for the future

Mark knows first-hand how important it is to lend a hand to families and children who are living with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. As the Family Resource and Advocacy Coordinator for Albertina Kerr, he works tirelessly to provide advocacy and support for families and their children. He has years of experience, but not all of his expertise comes from his professional career. Mark became involved with Albertina Kerr's Family Resource Center because he is a parent of a child who is experiencing traumatic brain injury. Through raising a child with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, he is passionate about helping families as they seek healthcare resources in their own community.

The Family Resource Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at Albertina Kerr's Cascade Station office (9830 NE Cascades Pkwy., Ste. 200). Staff and volunteers work with families by phone, email and in person to help find community-based resources whether at Albertina Kerr or elsewhere in the community. The Center is a central resource for questions, support and advocacy compassion when family challenges become overwhelming. *Continued on inside...*



Albertina Kerr's Family Resource Center helps families and their children find the tools necessary to build a stronger family, stay connected to the community and voice their needs.

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In addition to support and informational resources, the Family Resource Center also offers computers for families to search for employment, housing, health and dental care, transportation and more. And thanks to volunteers who regularly staff the Family Resource Center, busy families and their children always have effective and efficient support to lean on.

"It's not just mental health services, it's bigger than that. It's housing, utilities, food, social security solutions, resources for transitioning youth and more," says Debbie, the Family Support Specialist for the Family Resource Center. Mark adds, "The Center helps create a better journey for the next step."

Recently, Mark received a phone call from a parent who was helping their child, Andrew*, look for employment opportunities. They had never used an outside agency for assistance, and had relied on doing everything within their family. After gathering information about Andrew, Mark was able to provide support and empower the family to make phone calls and connections in the community to benefit their child and the

rest of the family. Andrew and his family were excited to realize they were not alone on their journey and the Family Resource Center was there to help them.

"A common theme in families with a child who is living with mental health challenges or developmental disabilities is the idea that they are all alone," says Mark. "I know our family felt this way in our situation. It is a wonderful gift to families to realize that others have similar experiences."

The goal of the Family Resource Center is to give families hope, resources and solutions that ultimately create a stronger family as well as better connections with healthcare systems in their own community. Services and support provided by Kerr's Family Resource Center give hope to the families and children who receive services like Andrew and his family.

For more information about Kerr's Family Resource Center, please call 503-239-8101 or visit AlbertinaKerr.org. 🐦

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*



Ceramic vase created by artist, Derwin Pike, at Art from the Heart.

New Opportunities for People Living with Developmental Disabilities

Albertina Kerr recently acquired three new programs that offer educational and employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities—Art from the Heart, The Snack Squad, and Cans for Kids.

ART FROM THE HEART, 3505 NE Broadway St., Portland; open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm, is an art studio and gallery that offers classes to build artistic skills, and the opportunity to sell art pieces at the year-round art gallery, plus at various art shows throughout the year. Individuals who sell pieces at the art galleries receive 70 percent of the sale.

SNACK SQUAD delivers boxes filled with tasty snacks to local businesses for little cost. People who are employed by The Snack Squad get new accounts, plus assemble, deliver and pick up the snack boxes.

CANS FOR KIDS partners with local businesses to collect recyclable cans, providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be a part of and give back to their community.

For more information about setting up the Snack Squad program at your business, please call 503-577-6707. To set up the Cans for Kids program at your office, please call 971-998-4221 for more information.

NEWS & UPDATES

Project Search: New Career Program

Albertina Kerr, DePaul Industries, Port City Development Center and Bethesda Lutheran Communities have joined forces to create secure, competitive employment opportunities for people living with developmental disabilities through an innovative workforce program, Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH is a national workforce development program designed to simultaneously serve businesses and people living with developmental disabilities through a cutting-edge career development approach. Participants in the program are hired directly by large businesses, work side-by-side with non-disabled colleagues, and are supported by an on-site Project SEARCH job coach who acts as a single point of contact for training and accommodation.

The goals of the new partnerships are to combine resources, expand Project SEARCH in the Portland-metro area, and focus on Project SEARCH's main goal—business solutions for people living with developmental disabilities.

Albertina Kerr's Race for the Roses



Racers taking off for the Half Marathon Race at Albertina Kerr's Race for the Roses.

On April 1, more than 4,000 racers participated in Race for the Roses Half Marathon, 10K and 5K races. Thanks to everyone who took part, more than \$230,000 was raised for Albertina Kerr's vital programs and services. Thank you Kerr Angels for joining us, and save the date for next year's Race for the Roses event in April 2013! [View photos and race results at AlbertinaKerr.org.](#)

Presented by: Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. **Thank you to our sponsors:** 94/7 Alternative Portland, Charlie FM, Fit Right, FOX 12 Oregon, Greenlayer Sports and United Healthcare.

Spotlight On Kerr: A Night At Studio 54



Priscilla Lewis, Albertina Kerr Governing Board Chair and Bill Furman gettin' groovy at the Spotlight dinner and live auction.

On February 17, nearly 300 guests boogied the night away at the annual Spotlight on Kerr gala, A Night at Studio 54. The groovy evening featured games, far-out costumes and a dyn-o-mite live auction. Thanks to the planning committee, generous sponsors and other Kerr Angels, more than \$217,000 was raised for essential programs and services—including nearly \$90,000 for Kerr's Crisis Psychiatric Care Program. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered! [View photos at AlbertinaKerr.org.](#)

Platinum Sponsor: Precision Castparts Corp. and Providence Health & Services – Oregon Region. **Gold Sponsors:** Concepts in Community Living (CCL) & JFR Foundation, CareOregon and Kaiser Permanente. **Silver Sponsors:** Ater Wynne LLP, Bank of America, Baysinger Partners Architecture, Comcast, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Gary

McGee & Co., Mercer Health and Benefits, Perkins & Co., Portland Trail Blazers, R&H Construction, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, Swagelok Northwest (US), The Thrasher Family/Compli, Union Bank, U.S. Bank, David L. Wilson, DMD, PC, and Winderlea Vineyard and Winery.

GET INVOLVED

Kerr Bikes is Open for the Season!

Now through October, grab your friends and family, head down to Portland's, Tom McCall Waterfront Park and hop on a bike for a wheely good time.

Kerr Bikes offers a great way for visitors and locals to explore the waterfront, get active and give back to their community. Plus, all proceeds from Kerr Bikes benefit the work of Albertina Kerr.

At Kerr Bikes, traditional bicycle rentals are offered (for people of all ages), as well as a unique selection of tandem bikes, trail-a-bikes, surreys, deuce coupes, choppers, quad sports and slingshots.

Beyond providing financial support to programs and services at Albertina Kerr, Kerr Bikes also provides employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.



Bikers cruising around on the plaza at Kerr Bikes in Waterfront Park at Salmon Street Springs.

For more information about Kerr Bikes visit [AlbertinaKerr.org](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

20th Annual Kerr Golf Classic Sunday & Monday, September 16 & 17 Columbia Edgewater Country Club

Kick off the 20th Annual Kerr Golf Classic with dinner at the Benson Hotel on Sunday, September 16 and continue the fun (and fundraising) on Monday, September 17 at Columbia Edgewater Country Club. Last year, more than \$121,000 was raised, including nearly \$32,000 for renovations to Kerr's youth group homes. *RSVP at AlbertinaKerr.org.*



Albertina's Restaurant and Shops:

Albertina's Tea: Mother's Day Saturday, May 12, 1:30pm, \$25

Treat mom to an afternoon tea featuring savory bites, tasty scones and sweet treats in a beautiful garden setting. Reservations and prepayment required, 503-231-0216.

Party on the Patio Friday, June 1, 4-8pm

Celebrate the opening of our beautiful, private outdoor dining patio for the summer with live music plus great food and drinks available for purchase from Albertina's Restaurant.

Author Luncheon: Jane Kirkpatrick August 8 & 9, 11am speaker, 1pm lunch, \$25

Join Jane as she returns to Albertina's to speak about her latest novels. Reservations and prepayment required, 503-231-0216.



Albertina's Restaurant and Shops Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm; Saturday, 11:30am-2pm

Northwest-inspired weekday lunches and Saturday brunch plus shopping for antiques, collectibles, gifts, thrift shop treasures and more. *Visit KerrShops.org for more information.*

Kerr Bikes March-October, open 7 days a week

Open every day into October! Take a spin on the Portland Waterfront at Salmon Street Springs. *Visit KerrBikes.org for daily hours of operation and rental rates.*

We envision a community where all children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges will thrive in nurturing homes and inclusive communities.



ALBERTINA
KERR

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