

# KERRconnections

A Newsletter for Donors, Volunteers & Friends of Albertina Kerr | FALL 2016



*The Harris Family: Scott, Austin and Claudette*

## Project SEARCH Empowers Lives

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities face challenges that begin in childhood and create barriers that must be overcome throughout their lives. This may include a lower IQ and significant limitations in their ability to adapt to everyday life. As they grow into adulthood, employment can also be a challenge. More than 80% of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not working in their community and often experience extreme isolation.

Facing barriers when looking for a job due to a lack of education or training, employers often assume they cannot do the job. Full-time integrated employment offers a path out of poverty, a valued social role, and increases their self-esteem.

**Albertina Kerr's employment program, Project SEARCH, helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain job skills, find jobs, and maintain their employment and transition to careers in integrated workplaces.**

Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship and employment training model. Supported by Albertina Kerr, participants receive classroom instruction, career exploration, and relevant job skills training through strategically designed internships. Project SEARCH finds businesses for internship positions, solves transportation needs, and provides continual support and feedback during the internship. Interns rotate through unpaid internships with continual feedback for improvement with the goal of gaining employment in the community. Learning work/social skills, they work alongside the host company's employees and learn marketable skills through daily five-hour shifts.

*Continued on inside...*

## AUSTIN HARRIS: PROJECT SEARCH PROFILE

Austin, a 25-year-old from Forest Grove, was volunteering at Restore and didn't have any set career goals or plans. He applied to participate in Project SEARCH and went through the nine-month program to improve his confidence, social skills, and work skills for a better future.

Austin's parents, Scott and Claudette, quickly came to learn that Albertina Kerr would provide a supportive environment for Austin during Project SEARCH. Albertina Kerr knew Austin's limitations and a big benefit was pairing a job coach with him from the very beginning. Claudette said, "Just knowing someone was there helping him and making sure he was getting everything done and understanding everything – it was comforting to know someone was there. It was never about what he couldn't do. Albertina Kerr looked at Austin's strengths and what he can do. Albertina Kerr always looked at what he could do and achieve and learn."

With the help of Project SEARCH, Austin found a full-time job at Intel with stable hours, a Monday through Friday work week, full benefits, and a salary higher than minimum wage.

Austin's proud to tell people he has a job and very proud to tell people he works at Intel. Without Project SEARCH, Scott and Claudette said they would still be looking for employment for Austin. "We would have gone online and helped Austin find a job, but the results may not have been the same as having gone through Project SEARCH," said Claudette.

*To see a video on Project SEARCH and Austin's story, visit [AlbertinaKerr.org/video](http://AlbertinaKerr.org/video)*

## ...Project SEARCH continued

At the end of the nine months, graduates are job ready and have worked on technical and soft skills including communication, accountability, and customer service. Interns also build resumes and prepare for job interviews. These interactions contribute to breaking down negative stereotypes of people who have an intellectual or developmental disability.

85 percent of Albertina Kerr's Project SEARCH participants find and hold a job in integrated, competitive work places. We are grateful to our current partners, Kaiser Permanente and Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Airport, for their continued support of this program. If you have a business and are interested in hosting Project SEARCH interns, please contact [Development@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:Development@AlbertinaKerr.org).



*Eleanor, Project SEARCH Banquets Intern*

grant to the program. When the hotel decided to participate in Project SEARCH, John DeRosa, Area Director of Sales & Marketing, knew a grant was the perfect opportunity to help the work we do for people with disabilities.

"In my mind and in my life experience I knew that individuals with disabilities are no different than you or I. They are people striving to be better in this life and they add value by being themselves," said DeRosa.

At the start of the internship, some hotel team members feared they may offend interns by saying things that may hurt the interns' feelings. They were also concerned that bringing interns with disabilities into the workspace may affect customer service or delay the flow of business. The hotel team soon realized the interns were able to add to the overall experience at the hotel and help in front and behind-the-scenes in ways the team didn't realize possible. The staff learned more about diversity and how relevant all types of individuals are to the collective goal.

"I think the outcome has been so much more than I could have ever expected because as a collective team we made a difference in their lives and they made a difference in ours," said DeRosa. "For other organizations thinking about hosting Project SEARCH interns, this program gives people the opportunity to grow and develop both job skills and life skills. The interns are a joy to be with and they will add so much more to your life and to the life of your business than you can imagine."



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COMMUNITY  
PROMISE

**The Community Promise Campaign invests \$11 million to ensure that Albertina Kerr is always there for Oregon families.**

In 2013, Albertina Kerr's Board of Directors launched an ambitious \$11 million campaign to improve Albertina Kerr's quality of care and ensure that Albertina Kerr will be there for generations to come. In May 2016, Albertina Kerr formally dedicated the Gresham Campus, a \$6.3 million investment, bringing together leading practitioners, critical programs and services and community-based mental health services for children throughout the state of Oregon.

The final phase of our campaign is our Legacy Phase and it will ensure that Albertina Kerr will be there for those in need for generations to come. The goal of the Legacy Phase is to increase Guardian Angel Society membership to at least 150 Planned Gift Supporters, roughly 100 new Guardian Angels over the next two years. Guardian Angels are those who have made a provision for Albertina Kerr through their will, living trust, life insurance, retirement plan, or made a life income gift.

To find out how you can leave a legacy to Albertina Kerr contact Joshua Goldstein at (503) 262-0188 or [JoshG@AlbertinaKerr.org](mailto:JoshG@AlbertinaKerr.org)



Clockwise from top left: Ray Mathis & Carilyn Alexander; Wayne Simons, Deanne Foster, Karole & David Wilson; Justin Berry, Nathan Reddick, David Manougian, Nick Krautter; Kim Seashore, Tony Seashore, Daniel Seashore, Megan Ross



## ALBERTINA KERR'S 109TH ANNUAL MEETING

On Monday, October 24, Albertina Kerr held its 109th Annual Meeting at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland. Our keynote speaker this year was Karen Gaffney. Karen is a native Oregonian born with Down syndrome who 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.

Our Honorees this year were National Charity League Inc., Portland Chapter; Swagelok Northwest; OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation; the late James F. Rippey; and David and Karole Wilson. Fritz and Lynn Bartsch received the first Joyce Manougian Lifetime Achievement Award.

Retiring Board Members Alex Duarte, Amelia Heath, and James Walker were honored along with Fritz Bartsch who received an Emeritus Board Member status.

## 24 Hours of Kerr

More than \$311,000 were raised at 24 Hours of Kerr on September 17 and 19, 2016. 24 Hours of Kerr culminated a year of giving for Albertina Kerr including raising \$87,553 in a special appeal for Albertina Kerr's Employment and Day services such as Project SEARCH, a nine month internship program which provides young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities valuable job skills, meaningful employment, and a start to their career path. Everyone who attended, donated, and sponsored this event helped to empower lives.

24 Hours of Kerr kicked-off on September 17 at dusk, as guests enjoyed a casual evening in a lovely West Linn country setting sipping cocktails in the barn, dining under the tent, and completing the evening with specialty ice cream and dancing. Special thanks to Foundation Trustee Carilyn Alexander for sharing her country residence with us for the evening's event.

24 Hours of Kerr ended with a Golf Tournament at Columbia Edgewater Country Club on September 19 and finished with an exciting shoot out. Justin Berry and Nick Krautter from the househappytrax team won the shoot-out grand prize, a trip to the Mercedes-Benz Dealership Golf Championship Western Sectional in Pinehurst, North Carolina, courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Portland.

All event proceeds will go toward strengthening Oregon families and communities by helping children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, empowering them to live richer lives.

### THANK YOU TO THE 24 HOURS OF KERR COMMITTEE:

**Chair:** David Manougian; **Auction Chair:** Jennifer Hall; **Food and Beverage Chair:** Adelé Nofield; **Golf and Auction Committee Members:** Carilyn Alexander, Mary Caballero, Larry Eldridge, Tom Gustafson, Phil Jackson, Clarke Leaverton, Melissa May, Margie Rowland, and John Thoma; **Décor Team:** Becky Reddick, Katy Drinkwater, Vanessa's Flower Shop, Collier Arbor Care.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Golf Sponsor:** Cal-Weld

**Auto Sponsor:** Mercedes-Benz of Portland

**Sponsors:** Carr Auto Group, Comcast, Ernst & Young, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Hart Wagner, Lawyer's Title, Swagelok Northwest (US), Andersen Construction, AterWynne LLP, Bradshaw Advertising, Bridgeport Brewing, Brown & Brown Northwest, Care Oregon, Carilyn Alexander, CTX, David Wilson D.M.D., DW Fritz, Eastside Distilling, Entercom, First Republic, Gary McGee, Gallo Family Vineyards, Greenbrier, Heffernan Insurance, househappytrax, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, MODA, Perkins & Co., Portland Police Foundation, The Standard, Sysco, TS Gray Construction, Umpqua Bank, United Salad Company, U.S. Bank, U.S. Trust, Wilfs Restaurant, Wyse Kadish, Xerox.



ALBERTINA  
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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.

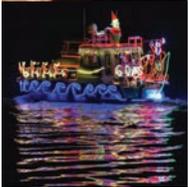
## Earn Your Wings: Join Us



### PARTY AT ALBERTINA'S PLACE

November 17, 2016, 5 to 8 p.m.

Experience our evening shopping event with complimentary wine, beer and chocolate samplings. Prize drawings and food will be included. Join us for our special night!



### CHRISTMAS SHIPS SOIREE

December 7, 2016, 6 to 9 p.m.

Benefiting Albertina Kerr's Children's Developmental Health Services. Enjoy food and music while the iconic Holiday Ships Parade floats by on the Willamette. Childcare provided.



### ART FROM THE HEART ART SHOW & SALE

December 8, 2016, 6 to 8 p.m.

New works in all media from more than 40 artists with developmental disabilities.

### PORT CITY HOLIDAY SALE

December 10, 11, 17, & 18, 2016, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gifts for everyone made by adults with developmental disabilities.



### RACE FOR THE ROSES

April 2, 2017

Good Cause. Great Race. 100% of race proceeds benefits Albertina Kerr. Whether you race, run, walk or cheer, join the community at our 19th annual 5k, 10k and half marathon. Families welcome!

### ALBERTINA'S PLACE

Discover a Gem. Empower a Life.

Lunch featuring heritage inspired-dishes plus shopping for jewelry, accessories, gifts, vintage luxury homegoods, and new-to-you chic clothing and home goods.

424 NE 22nd Ave, Portland,

503-231-3909, *AlbertinasPlace.org*

Shops: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kitchen: Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### ART FROM THE HEART

Ceramics, paintings, clothwork, and more made by artists with developmental disabilities.

3505 NE Broadway St, Portland

503-528-0744

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### PORT CITY

Cutting boards, bags, aprons, and more made by people with developmental disabilities.

2124 N Williams Ave, Portland, 503-236-9515

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.