



## Mission

*Kurn Hattin Homes transforms the lives of children and their families forever.*

## Overview

- Kurn Hattin was founded in 1894 by Reverend Charles Albert Dickinson, a Boston clergyman and humanitarian born and raised in Westminister, Vermont. Began as a home for destitute boys and orphans.
- Named after the Horns of Hattin, the hill in Palestine where Christ is said to have recited the Beatitudes.
- Kurn Hattin's children, aged 5 to 15, come from throughout the Northeast and live at Kurn Hattin for an average of 3 years.
- Children come to Kurn Hattin for a variety of reasons. Issues related to poverty homelessness, and family conflict are some of the factors Kurn Hattin children have faced.
- The 280-acre campus is comprised of nine cottages for the children, a school, working farm, gymnasium, recreation center, outdoor pool, ballfields and hiking trails.
- In 1989, a new school was built. The girls moved onto the Westminister campus in 1994.
- Kurn Hattin Homes is licensed and evaluates and measures its programs based on standards provided by the State of Vermont Department of Education and the Department for Children and Families.
- A summer program allows for year-round care and academic, social, and athletic activities.
- The educational curriculum and experience is supplemented with music, art, farm and equine programs. Kurn Hattin is renowned throughout New England for its jazz and marching bands.
- Trained caregivers, known as houseparents, live with the children in the cottages, and provide the nurturing and support essential to each child's care and experience.
- Medical care services are provided on campus by a staff of full-time registered nurses and a consulting physician. Extensive, individualized counseling services are provided by a staff of Master's-level counselors. Individual and group counseling plays a key role in the child's experience.
- Support to the families of Kurn Hattin is provided by a Family Outreach program that works directly with all family members sharing the skills their children are being taught and how they can reinforce them when they are reunited at home. Parents are strongly encouraged to maintain frequent contact with their children through visits, phone calls and letters.

- Unique in its funding, Kurn Hattin receives nominal federal or state funding, with the exception of limited awards for the Federal School Lunch Program. Ninety-five percent of funding comes from private philanthropy.
- Though this varies year to year, after graduation, a high percentage of the children will go on to attend high school in their hometowns. Others enroll at another residential home and school similar to Kurn Hattin or independent boarding school, often with Kurn Hattin support.
- The success of Kurn Hattin's program is measured in many ways. One of the primary goals is to help children grow up to become adults whose lives have direction and purpose. Kurn Hattin's graduates are often community leaders, and lead happy, meaningful lives. Children leave Kurn Hattin with a great deal of self-confidence in their abilities and direction in life.

"In the end, the person I had to count on was myself, and Kurn Hattin taught me that.  
I'm a better person because I came here".

*~ Jerry Bardwell, Class of 1973*