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KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# Bulletin

2015 VOLUME 1



# Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuity

*A Better Investment*



**We live in uncertain financial times.** Many seniors are wondering how they can ensure that their assets continue to generate needed income into the future. A gift annuity from Kurn Hattin can do just that, all while providing substantial tax benefits and helping children in need.

Consider that the average CD yield nationwide is currently under 2%. If you lock in long term, you might earn more. But why would you? A gift annuity will pay you a handsome income for life and best of all, your payments are *safe*, guaranteed by Kurn Hattin's assets. The older you are, the higher the payment rate. A second annuitant may also be added, though this will yield a lower rate, as may be the case if appreciated securities are used to fund the gift annuity.

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**Call Kim Fine for a confidential illustration tailored to your circumstances:**  
802-721-6914, [kfine@kurnhattin.org](mailto:kfine@kurnhattin.org).

## The Dividends Are Priceless!

## KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# Bulletin 2015 Volume 1



**On the Cover:**  
Eighth grader Camriell Raymond roots for the Kurn Hattin soccer team during Fall Family Festival. Go Kurn Hattin!

**Photo Credit:**  
*Kristie Lisai*

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### Editor's Corrections: Bulletin 2014 Volume 2

- In the Memorial Gifts listings for John Barry, James Pfadenhauer is the donor.
- In the Society News section of the Bridge Builder, a bequest was received from the Willard & Elizabeth Hale Trust
- On Page 14, Priscilla Watson is the daughter of Esther Mayo.

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# Message From THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Devotion in Action: A Tribute to Thomas G. Fahner

In January, longtime Kurn Hattin staff member, Principal Thomas Fahner, passed away at age 58 after a courageous battle with cancer. A friend to many, a devoted husband to our Athletic Director Donna Fahner, a loving father to three children; Kimberly, Kelly and Christopher, and cherished grandfather to Maggie, Tom will be remembered for, among other things, having the calling to help children succeed and thrive. It was said of Kurn Hattin's founder, Charles Albert Dickinson, "He took humanity into his heart." Those words ring true for Tom Fahner, who mentored countless boys and girls who came through Kurn Hattin's doors needing healing, nurturing and love.

I met Tom in 1989; he became employed at Kurn Hattin just one year after I came to work at the Homes in 1988. You could say we grew up together; we were young transplanted New Yorkers in our 30's, eager to make a mark in our chosen careers.

What was evident from the start, besides his brilliant red hair, was Tom's abundant and contagious enthusiasm for children. No child escaped his attention, and he quickly knew just what kind of nurturing they needed in order to have a good day and be successful. A touch on the shoulder, a few words spoken in the hallway during classes, an after school ball toss... in so many big and small ways Tom connected with kids, and with that connection, gave them hope.

Tom will be missed and remembered. An outpouring of testimonials from the graduates he helped have sustained all who loved Tom. And as was also said of our founder, we think of Tom in this way: "A finger plunged for an instant into the ocean...a rain drop brushing a rose petal...each, you think, leaves about as much impression behind as when your life work is done. But the end is only the beginning. Does not your work go on?"

~ Connie Sanderson  
Executive Director



## REMEMBERING *Thomas Fahner*

*"Do your best. Give your best."*

Thomas Fahner, Kurn Hattin Principal, Director of Educational and Residential Services and Co-Executive Director 1989 - January 6, 2015. Tom spearheaded many projects and initiatives ensuring the well-being of children. Tom believed that every child deserved a childhood. Tom loved his family and bettered the lives of everyone around him.

*"So many words describe Mr. Fahner. I can't help but compare him to our founder."*

~ Connie Sanderson,  
Executive Director

*"Mr. Fahner cared so much for everyone else and he took the time to reach out to every student. I am glad to say that I knew him and he was one of the most positive influences in my life. He helped me through some of my roughest times. He meant the world to me and was like a dad. He always pushed me to do better. He taught me so much and helped me become who I am today."*

~ Courtney Bussino, '11

*"Mr. Fahner taught me how to play basketball, how to control my temper, and how to care about things. He was the father I never had. You were there for me as an adult too. You never gave up on us."*

~ Kara Surridge, '97

*"Mr. Fahner was one of the best people I have ever known. He treated me and my family like family. One thing Mr. Fahner taught all of us was family is family no matter what happens."*

~ Dean Kinville, '81

*"Mr. Fahner made me feel like I belonged here."*

~ Nadia Taylor, '19

*"Mr. Fahner loved us. He always said, Never give up on something you already started."*

~ Steven Callison, '17

*"He is still alive in our hearts."*

~ Cara Coursey, '18

*"He loved and cared for us all."*

~ Ashlynn Pellerin, '17



## 8TH GRADE *Class Trip*

The 8th graders have the opportunity each year to attend an 8th Grade Class Trip on the last weekend before graduation.

The last few years the class trip has been to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The New England Food Foundation allows us to use their beautiful retreat house in Sandwich for free. Past classes have enjoyed time at the beach, bike rentals and rides along the Cape Cod Rail Trails, a visit to the Woods Hole Aquarium, a whale watch and a visit to the Blue Man Group in Boston, Massachusetts to end our trip.

The 8th grade class raises much of the funds for this trip. This year we have a large class of 27 and we will have three chaperones attend the trip. Our housing is free and we will bring breakfast supplies. With a class of this size we have had to be creative in our fundraising efforts. The class sponsors 3 raffles each year. The prizes are usually generous donations from our staff. We have raffled a hand-made quilt every year for the past 6 years donated by Bev DeCamp, houseparent at Hubbard Cottage. We are lucky to have talented and generous staff. Along with the raffle the 8th graders have hosted a car wash, bake sale, Christmas Bazaar and a concession stand at the cross country races. Richard Johnson, our food service director and head chef, has done Friday soup and bread sales for staff to purchase. All the proceeds to the 8th grade class sponsor the Blue Man Group tickets.

Other fundraising efforts have been supported by staff. Our acting principal, Tom Fontaine, has been making clocks with the 8th graders. Each student took pictures around campus to use for the face of the clock. They then assembled wooden frames that Mr. Fontaine cut. The students sold the clocks at various events and we have almost sold out. One very generous person bought a clock for \$500 although most have sold for \$15. Tom Fontaine, and houseparents Sierra Sylvester-Patterson and Faith Crowe helped the students make fresh apple pies for Thanksgiving. The students used the apples from our orchard. Faith Crowe has also made various types of vegan breads including banana, zucchini and pumpkin bread that she made with some of the students. The breads were sold at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have also received funds from several generous donors which are greatly appreciated.

Through all the generous donations, talents shared by our staff and the commitment from the 8th graders, we are on our way to an exciting class trip. The students are working hard to earn their points and have set a goal that all the 8th graders attend the trip. We have booked our Blue Man Group tickets and will start planning our other activities this month. We have students that have never been to the ocean, so that is high on our priority list. There are some entrance-free places we attend such as the Woods Hole Aquarium and the Oceanographic Institute and of course the wonderful Cape Cod seashore. We have a wonderful time and I'm amazed at all of the "firsts" which the students experience. They have their first time in the ocean, the first time they see swans swimming in the pond, the first drive-in, the first time at a zoo, and certainly the first time seeing the Blue Man Group; re-experiencing through the eyes of a child—what could be better!

~ Karen Lansberry  
Director of Residential Services

*"You do such wonderful work with the kids. It is one of the best examples of true unconditional love and care I've ever seen. It feels so good to even play a small part in it. It gives me hope for the future."*

~ Pete Kepler, Sound Engineer and 2014 Red Ribbon Week speaker

## *Day Student Program* PROVES TO BE A POSITIVE OPTION

Something new was added to the usual excitement of the first day of school in 2012—one of the new seventh graders was enrolled as a day student! After several years of inquiries about this possibility from local families, it had finally become a reality. As Westminster Center School sixth graders and their families considered their options for middle school under their town voucher program, many had asked whether Kurn Hattin could be included as one of their choices. Based on these requests, the decision was made to begin a pilot program for day students. Due to the success of this pilot, the fall of 2013 brought six more seventh and eighth grade day students from the town of Westminster to our campus. The expansion has continued during the current school year with yet another exciting development: two elementary grade students have enrolled as day students after their family requested that Kurn Hattin consider this possibility. With the addition of third and fourth grade students in 2014, the day student population has grown to eight.

Families of all the day students have told us that there are many reasons why they considered Kurn Hattin an exciting and very positive option for their children. They often mention the small class sizes in the school, the hands-on curriculum including the Farm Program, the extraordinary role that music plays as an integral part of the curriculum and campus life as well as the strong focus on independence, social skills and community service.

In the words of the family of our elementary school day students:

*We are thrilled with our decision to enroll our girls at Kurn Hattin as day students. Our girls were adopted into our family as older children, their early years were not as stable as we would have wished. We knew immediately that they would need extra love and support in order to grow to their fullest potential. We were familiar with Kurn Hattin's focus on social skills. As a family, we knew that our girls would benefit from the structure that Kurn Hattin was able to offer. The first few weeks on the car ride to school, the girls would list the reasons why they were happy to be attending Kurn Hattin. They were making friends quickly! At home we were hearing them talk about putting napkins in their lap and using good table manners. We knew we had made the right decision. We can't say enough good about what Kurn Hattin offers their students. Thank you for making us all feel like part of the family.*

For more information on the day student program, please contact Sue Kessler, Director of Admissions and Outreach, 802 721-6932 or [skessler@kurnhattin.org](mailto:skessler@kurnhattin.org).

~ Susan Kessler  
Director of Admissions

### *2015 Annual Fall Conference*

*For details please contact Sue Kessler  
at (802) 721-6932 or [skessler@kurnhattin.org](mailto:skessler@kurnhattin.org)*

# Charles A. Dickinson AWARD

## The Rite Aid Foundation Receives Kurn Hattin's 2014 Charles A. Dickinson Award

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children awarded the 2014 Charles Albert Dickinson Award to the Rite Aid Foundation for outstanding contributions to the health and welfare of children in need. The awards ceremony took place at our annual Christmas Visitor's Day on December 12th. Named for Kurn Hattin's founder, the annual award recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate a shared commitment to Kurn Hattin's mission of transforming the lives of children in need. Kurn Hattin's Executive Director, Connie Sanderson, presented the award, a beautifully inscribed glass coin sculpture on a pedestal, bearing a Dickinson bust created by nationally renowned artist Robert Dugrenier, saying, "The Rite Aid Foundation is a caring neighbor. They have donated over two million dollars to over 200 charities nationwide. Kurn Hattin is the grateful recipient of a \$10,000 **KidCents** grant and previous generous grants from Rite Aid." Three representatives from the Rite Aid Foundation were present to accept the award: District Manager, Kylie Gould; Pharmacy District Manager, Nick Rebmann; and Store Manager, Jodi Cleveland. Nick Rebmann had high praise for the work of Kurn Hattin, "The KidCents program of the Rite Aid Foundation is designed to foster growth in the communities we serve and to improve the lives and well-being of children. There's no greater place than what we've experienced today at Kurn Hattin. From what we see in how that money is being utilized to help provide a great future and a great foundation to the children here at Kurn Hattin. I'm humbled to be here." To date, the Rite Aid Foundation has raised and donated over \$80 million for children through various programs and initiatives, such as the Children's Miracle Network and the KidCents program.



*Pictured: (L-R) Rite Aid Pharmacy District Manager, Kylie Gould; Kurn Hattin Executive Director, Connie Sanderson; Bellows Falls, Vermont Rite Aid Store Manager, Jodi Cleveland; and Rite Aid Pharmacy District Manager, Nick Rebmann*

Rite Aid created KidCents so that their customers could share their passion when it comes to giving back to the community. By shopping at Rite Aid and rounding up their purchases, customers can easily make a meaningful difference in the lives of kids right in their own community. To participate, Rite Aid customers can sign into their wellness+ account at [www.kidcents.com](http://www.kidcents.com) and review the profiles of approved KidCents charities they can choose to support. Each charity profile features information about the organization and the services it provides as well as stories of those helped by the organization. Once a charity is selected, the next time the customer shops at Rite Aid, their purchase will be rounded up to the nearest dollar and their change will be designated to their selected charity. KidCents provides an opportunity for people to make small contributions that can create lifelong impacts to the communities they serve. Kurn Hattin was honored to have been one of the 2014 inaugural KidCents charities. This initial group of KidCents charities was selected by Rite Aid associates across the country and is representative of all the communities the company serves.

Last year, the inaugural Charles Albert Dickinson Award was presented to the National Society of New England Women.

# Alumni Association PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Everyone Counts

At the end of a spirituality program that I recently attended, we joined hands in a big circle and counted off. We do this because everyone counts. At Kurn Hattin, everyone counts too.

At our Centennial Alumni Association Celebration in August, we established an Alumni Giving Forward Fund to support projects needed by the girls and boys at the Homes. We raised over a thousand dollars that weekend. Though many alumni are generous in support of the Homes, many still have not given to this, our special fund. I'd like to see all alumni contribute and be a part of this effort by the Alumni Association—Be counted.

If you were at the Homes for one to eight years you might consider giving one dollar for each year you attended Kurn Hattin. If you were a graduate several years ago, please consider giving in the amount of thirty, forty, fifty or sixty dollars (Sixty sticks out for me because that is how long ago I graduated.) No one should consider an amount too small. The point is to be counted among those who received so much from the loving care and wonderful education provided us at Kurn Hattin. That care and education continues today—Let's have the Alumni Association well-represented and support all those fortunate enough to call Kurn Hattin home in the future. Kurn Hattin Homes—where everyone counts.

*~ Jackie LaDue Mallory '54  
Alumni Association President*

## FEELING *Blessed and Grateful*

Meranda Chandler, Class of 2008 says though she struggled when she came to Kurn Hattin at age six, she gained a great deal: "I learned so much—how to respect others and be thankful. I had experiences and opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise. I learned to play the trombone. I became very athletic. I played basketball, and became a cross-country runner. I won first and second-place in two years."

At the end of her 8th grade year, Meranda was accepted to the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania, "Even though many of my friends graduated the year before me, several came back to see me graduate from Kurn Hattin." Meranda's career choice was influenced by her own family. She has several nieces and nephews and really loves reading to and mentoring them. So she decided to focus her career plan on Early Childhood Care and Education and graduated in 2012 with a four-year scholarship for college.

Meranda returned to Springfield, Vermont and attends the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord. She has majored in Early Childhood Education, and will graduate in the spring. She says that she hopes to go on to receive her Bachelor's Degree, and as part of her program is working with children at a day care center. She wishes to own her own day care center one day, and provide for children. "I have been through some of the same things they have, and I want to use that experience to help care for them." Meranda still keeps in touch with her classmates and staff from her time at Kurn Hattin, occasionally coming back to the campus to visit. "I feel blessed. I feel grateful. If it hadn't been for Kurn Hattin, none of these things would ever have happened."



*~ Falana Lisa Bloch  
Assistant Director of Development*

# KURN HATTIN *Album*

It was a busy semester. Red Ribbon Week was celebrated during the last week of October. Faculty and students discussed healthy life choices. The children were visited by several local speakers and attended workshops such as: “Tobacco Free” by Greater Falls Connections; “Bully Free” and “Addiction and Families” with Counseling Director Christine Danforth; “Alcohol and Other Drugs” by the Wellness Center staff; and “Healthy Choices.” Visiting from New York and on break from Katy Perry’s world tour for the “Music and Wellness” workshops was Sound Engineer Pete Keppler (Pictured). Keppler described with touching honesty how he was able to confront his addictions and channel his energy into music to find a path to recovery. Pete moved on to mix and manage sound for musicians such as David Bowie, Steve Earle, Nine Inch Nails, and Katy Perry. Also during that week, Paula Roux of Visiting Nurses & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire stopped by to thank the students for their participation in their Wings of Hope Butterfly Release event by providing a pizza party. Earlier in September, on the Common in Lebanon, New Hampshire, the Kurn Hattin Choir had performed at the annual Wings of Hope event. The day included the release of live butterflies to honor friends and family who have passed. Kurn Hattin students sang several musical selections to bring comfort and healing to the individuals and families there remembering their loved ones. The children also wrapped up harvest season on the farm and prepped for winter by picking the last of the apple crop, pressing fresh cider, planting garlic, and digging potatoes. The children have hands-on participation in the production of their own food—sprouting, planting, harvesting, and preparation are all part of their education. Learning these skills not only produced tasty rewards, but also taught the children economic and agricultural sustainability. The end of October concluded with the children



marching in costume in the Westminster Halloween Parade, and celebrating the 103rd birthday of volunteer Mrs. Frank (Vivian) Prindl.

For Fall Sports the children participated in soccer, cross-country, equestrian programs, and other activities. Houseparent and Coach Deb Parsons advanced the skills of her girls’ team, grades 3-4. The older girls’ team, grades 7-8, demonstrated great teamwork. School Administrative Assistant and Coach Keri Newton’s older boys’ team had a good season, with new goalie, student Chris Deitz, protecting the boundaries of the

goal zone. This prompted chants at games from the crowd and his teammates of “Whose house? Deitz’s house!” Keri and her team later presented Chris with a sweatshirt with the words “DEITZ’S HOUSE” emblazoned across the back in Kurn Hattin colors. This year’s Soccer Coaches were: houseparents Ginger Cook, Co-Ed. Grades 3-4; Deb Parsons Co-Ed. Grades 5-6; Sierra Sylvester-Patterson, Girls Grades 7-8; and School Administrative Assistant Keri Newton, Boy’s Grades 7-8. The Cross-Country Coach was Athletic Director Donna Fahner; Walking Club Instructors were Houseparents Faith Crowe and Bill McHugh; Art Teacher and Club Instructor Katy Hughes; Farm Manager and On-Campus Work Program Instructor Pat Barry; and the Equestrian Program Instructor Sarah Stine. Team sports, recreation and other physical activities are all important at Kurn Hattin.



The young musicians at Kurn Hattin Homes were busy performing at several musical venues this fall and winter. Always popular, the talents of Kurn Hattin’s Select Choir, Children’s Chorus, Jazz Ensemble and Marching Band were heavily in demand. The Select Choir performed at the annual Wings of Hope event for Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire in Lebanon, New Hampshire. The Marching Band and Color Guard helped kick off the annual Eastern States Fair and Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts. Kurn Hattin’s Jazz Ensemble and Select Choir embarked upon a whirlwind tour. They performed a variety of uplifting songs for the residents of Riverwoods Retirement Community in Exeter, New Hampshire and for The Village Baptist Church of Kennebunkport in Maine. Accompanied by opera-trained vocalist Bruce Mast, they performed a varied repertoire of multi-part harmonies, ballads, and hymnals. The children also celebrated Kurn Hattin friend John Zimmerman’s birthday at a delicious Sunday brunch, spontaneously serenading John at the table (Pictured). Seventeen of our most talented 7th and 8th grade vocalists were selected as members of the Connecticut River Valley District VI Middle School Chorus, participating in the 2014 Vermont Music Educators District VI Fall Music Festival in Bellows Falls, Vermont. The choral group, conducted by Becky Luce, performed internationally themed music selections with student singers from ten schools throughout Southeastern Vermont. Also, in true holiday spirit, the Kurn Hattin Music Department staff, volunteers and choir strolled through the village of Bellows Falls, Vermont singing traditional Christmas carols to the residents and business owners. All were surprised when Senator Peter Welch enthusiastically joined the children for a few holiday songs, before they were all treated to delicious sugar cookies and steaming cocoa at the Pierce Lawton Post 37 American Legion. Holiday musical events culminated on Christmas Visitors’ Day and Family Day before the holiday break. So many help to make the holidays bright.

Kurn Hattin held its Nineteenth Annual Veterans’ Day Observance on November 11th. The program, coordinated by Social Studies teacher Richard Long, combined music, speeches, and a solemn candle service. Eighth grade student Jaime Minor lit 41 candles for each of the Vermont men and women who lost their lives serving the United States during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The ceremony attracted two dozen veterans from the area, with many wearing uniforms describing their service. Three students read their winning essays for the Brattleboro VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post #1034’s annual Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest. All three top winners were students from Kurn Hattin. Each won an award for their essays responding to the theme ‘Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.’ Maia Brow, 8th grade Kurn Hattin student and first place winner, read her essay along with Hayley Labrecque (second place) and Reginald Watson (third place). Maia’s essay will now be entered into the VFW district competition. The Patriot’s Pen Essay winners were also guests of honor at a dinner at the VFW in Brattleboro, Vermont. The Post Commander, Mark Truhan, and Darlene Nebelski, President of the Post Auxiliary, came to the school on Friday, November 14th and presented all of the Kurn Hattin students who participated in the essay contest with certificates of appreciation, as well as recognizing the top three contest winners. Pictured are two young students presenting worn flags collected at the local cemeteries to be burned at a Flag Retirement Ceremony later that day.





In March of 2014, fourteen year old Madison (Maddy) Schumacher participated in an annual project that changed her life. “Kids Helping Kids” during project week was coordinated with her classmates from New Hampton School in New Hampshire, a boarding and day school for grades 9-12. The purpose of project week is to provide their high school students time for an extended investigation of key issues through educational opportunities not possible in the standard classroom setting. The school has a partnership with Kurn Hattin Homes to be used as a learning site. The

New Hampton kids cheerfully participated in a number of projects on-campus, including tutoring young readers and mentoring the younger children on campus. Working with children in need had a profound impact on Maddy. “She came home filled with purpose,” remembers her father. “She said she wished she were rich so that she could give a lot of money to the school.” She decided to start The M.A.D.D.Y. Fund (Making a Difference for Disadvantaged Youth) by coordinating a number of fundraising projects with the help of friends, family, and other members of the community. They held yard sales with donated items to raise funds, and also had collection cans on-site at events. Maddy collaborated with all of the dormitories on campus to hold two clothing drives, while providing incentives such as a pizza party for her fellow students. In the end, Maddy raised over \$3,400 for Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, and delivered 25 boxes of clothing. As she presented the check to the school she thanked the young children for inspiring her to “do good in the world.” Her father Doug Schumacher smiled and shook his head, “It’s really great when your own kids inspire you to be better.”

There were several visitors and visits this fall. The Development Department staff at Kurn Hattin was busy with presentations this semester. Director of Development Kim Fine traveled to Fairfax, Virginia to attend the National Society of New England Women (NSNEW) Virginia Company Colony meeting and later to Lexington Kentucky to speak to the Blue Grass Colony. While in Kentucky, she was presented a plaque inducting her as an Honorable Kentucky Colonel signed by the Governor and Secretary of State. In December, Kim was also presented a \$500 donation to Kurn Hattin by the Edson Marine Corps League Detachment 379 Treasurer and Kurn Hattin alumnus Leo Lawrence, Class of 1942 of Rutland, Vermont (Pictured). Assistant Director of Development F. Lisa Bloch presented to the Green Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the D.A.R., Cameo Club, in Montpelier, Vermont. Sandy Plimpton Nowell and her sister Susan Fodor from Wellsburg, West Virginia drove up from Westhampton, New York to tour the campus and peruse the Archives for photos of their father, Allen Plimpton, Class of 1926. They were thrilled to find pictures for their family albums. Lorna Wright and her husband Roger came to visit as well, and enjoyed hearing the children practicing the Vermont State Song for the Vermont Gubernatorial Inauguration. Lorna is the National Chair of the National Society of New England Women (NSNEW) for New England Kurn Hattin Homes, and brought holiday cards with gifts for the children from the Wisconsin Voyageurs Colony. Rachel Childs Rose of Brookfield, Vermont, toured campus in December. She was the music teacher at Saxtons River, Vermont and Bellows Falls, Vermont Elementary Schools from 1970 to 1977. During that time she taught piano lessons to a boy who attended Kurn Hattin.



It was another festive holiday season filled with the spirit of giving, thanks to the generosity of our friends. Tim Mollica of Christmas Trees of Vermont in Springfield, Vermont and his family donated a number of trees, hand-picked by the children, to help deck the halls of Kurn Hattin’s buildings and cottages. Everyone dressed to the nines for the very special annual Night of Giving dinner and Fred ’58 and Bernadine Easton of Florida provided everyone with a special Kurn Hattin logo pen. In the months leading up to this event, the children in each cottage voted on and selected a Christmas giving project to help those in need. Projects included raising funds for toys for children, gathering donations for food pantries, raising heating fuel funds for local residents, sending gifts to Third World children, making hand-painted Christmas plates for each campus cottage, and spending time with residents at a nursing home. On the evening of the dinner, a child from each cottage presented their chosen community service project, explaining why it was selected, and how it made a difference. The children also wrote letters to Santa Claus requesting the special gifts and toys that would make their dreams come true. The Chester Rotary Club in Chester, Vermont coordinated Santa’s visit with volunteers, gifts, donations, and pizza to make this Christmas very magical. Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, and an entourage of elves went from cottage to cottage with a sack of presents for each cottage. Shouts of joy accompanied the tearing of paper, and the children smiled and hugged their toys as they expressed their gratitude. The children also had their own cottage Christmas parties, with frosted cookies and eggnog, singing and celebration, gifts, and dinner. Before leaving for the holiday vacation, the 8th Grade class held a bake sale and raffle to raise money for their annual class trip, as well as selling mantle clocks they had handmade in Mr. Tom Fontaine’s class. The children performed their wonderful annual Christmas concert and a holiday bazaar was held on Christmas Visitors’ Day and Family Day, with items for sale generously donated by friends, staff, and parents. Thanks to all who contributed to making the holidays a happy and memorable time for the children.



The Kurn Hattin Homes Select Choir was thrilled to have been invited to perform at the Vermont Gubernatorial Inauguration on January 8th. They performed a moving rendition of the Vermont State Song, “These Green Mountains” for re-elected Governor Peter Shumlin. In his opening remarks, Governor Shumlin described the young Kurn Hattin children as a “tough act to follow.” Governor Shumlin, who had invited the choir to sing at the ceremony, explained that it was “a special moment for me, as they were able to



knock it out of the park.” He noted that the late grandmother of his daughters had attended Kurn Hattin Homes for Children with her three brothers, years ago. Before the ceremony, the children enjoyed a special luncheon with Governor Shumlin and former Governors Madeleine Kunin and Jim Douglas, as well as other state legislators. It was a very special day.

# Emerging *Voices*

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF  
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

## Giving Thanks

*A representative from each cottage gave a prayer of thanks at Thanksgiving dinner.*

The boys at Parent Cottage are thankful for friends and family that love us, our Kurn Hattin community, and good health.

At Turrell Cottage, we are thankful for the times we get to spend with one another and the roof over our heads.



*Friends and family enjoying Thanksgiving dinner*

Dickinson Cottage is thankful for our families and for the kindness of friends especially when we are in need.

The men of Morrison Cottage are thankful for food in our stomachs, a roof over our heads, and the love of others.

A Native American prayer says, "When you rise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself." Butler Cottage is thankful for good food and we are truly blessed by the joy of sharing this meal together. Thanks you, Lord, for bringing and keeping us together.

Maysilles Cottage is thankful for our families, friends, peace, the people who care for us, the people who cook for us, and all the staff.

Warner Cottage is thankful for a safe and warm place like Kurn Hattin, which provides us with all we need: a roof over our heads, nutritious food to eat, warm clothes, a home to protect us, and lots of love. Thank you for the love you give so generously.

We Woodhull girls as a cottage are thankful for staff and friends who help us, the food and water and roof over our heads provided for us. Thank you to all helped or donated to Kurn Hattin. It means a lot to all of the girls at Woodhull Cottage.

The Hubbard girls are thankful for good health and to be here today. We are thankful for all the things our friends do for us and for all the things the adults at Kurn Hattin do for us. God bless you all.



*Kurn Hattin students serving dinner*

## Go Kurn Hattin!

We celebrated Kurn Hattin's 120th birthday on the first day of school this year. Yes. We look pretty good for our age! And we continue to celebrate the countless individuals who contribute to our mission through their time, gifts, and generosity of spirit. Your donations are an increasingly important source of support for our programs and the care we provide to every child. When Dylan Conklin spoke at his graduation ceremony in 2011, he said that Kurn Hattin helped him learn responsibility, respect, loyalty, honesty, ethics, and morality. Above all, he was helped to become the young man he wanted to be. His sentiments resonate time and again among the children who call Kurn Hattin, home.

Your annual support makes a real difference in the lives of the children we serve, through activities and actions that give each child hope and a heightened sense of worth, understanding, and accomplishment. Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to assuring the best education, care, and well-being of the children. We are proud to work at Kurn Hattin and grateful for the generosity of all who support this opportunity to provide the highest level of service to each child. We're completely invested in these children, and your investment in us makes our mission a reality. Truly, we can't do it without you. Please continue to give and give generously. There are many wonderful things happening because of your support. In the team spirit reflected by Camriell on the front cover... **Go Kurn Hattin!**

*~ Kim Fine  
Director of Development*

## Consider Making a Monthly Donation

*You can do so by contacting Heather Longe  
at (802) 721-6916 or [hlonge@kurnhattin.org](mailto:hlonge@kurnhattin.org)*



*Kurn Hattin Boys ca. 1900*



# THANK YOU *Corporate Supporters*

*Kurn Hattin would like to thank our corporate supporters for their good citizenship and offer them our sincere thanks. Donating between July 26, 2014 and January 23, 2015:*

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## SPECIAL *Recognition*

*Special recognition to the clubs and civic organizations that made donations between July 26, 2014 and January 23, 2015:*

Alpha Chapter #53 OES, Bellows Falls, VT

American Legion Auxiliary #7, Hardwick, VT

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Women's Fellowship of the United Church, Bellows Falls, VT

Women's Fellowship West Lebanon Congregational Church, West Lebanon, NH

## Memorial GIFTS

*We are thankful for memorial contributions which help us help the children. The names of those being remembered appear in BOLD CAPITAL letters and are followed by the names of those who made the gifts. Bold names followed by a year indicate graduates of Kurn Hattin. The gifts listed were received between July 26, 2014 and January 28, 2015.*

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*A gift to the Homes may also honor a memorable occasion in someone's life. A wedding anniversary, arrival of a new baby, a birthday, a promotion or retirement - all offer an opportunity to commemorate those who have touched the lives of others. Kurn Hattin will be pleased to notify the person (s) about your kind gesture at your request.*

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**MR. & MRS. JERRY BARDWELL**

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*Founded and incorporated in 1894*

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\*Alumnus/alumna

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

