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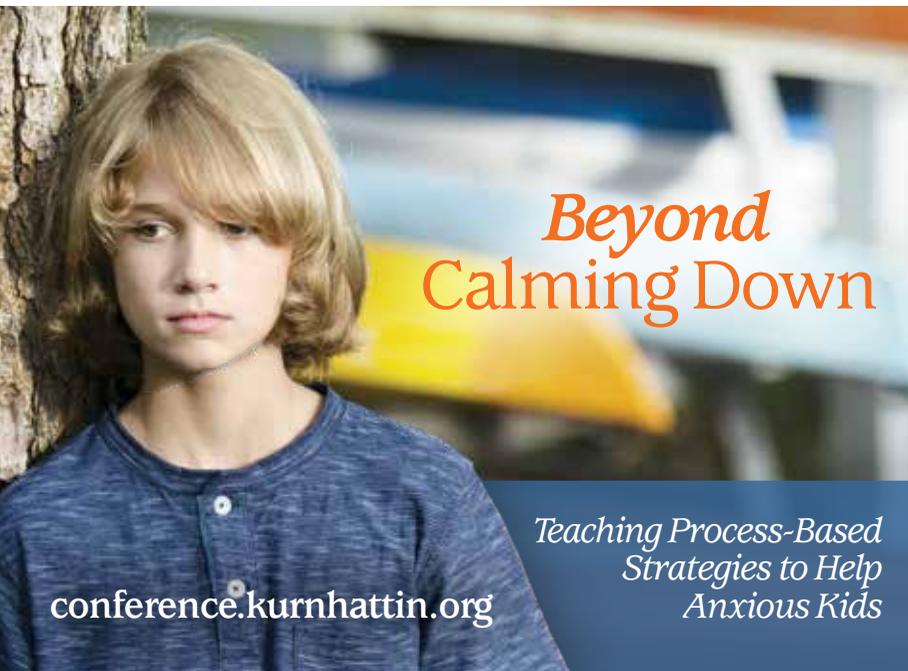
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Beyond Calming Down

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*Teaching Process-Based
Strategies to Help
Anxious Kids*



*Twenty-Sixth
Annual Conference
with
Lynn Lyons, LICSW*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017
8:45 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT

KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Bulletin

2017 VOLUME 2

Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuity

A Better Investment

There's never been a better time to invest in a Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuity.

We live in uncertain financial times.

Are you 65 or older? Wondering how you can ensure your assets continue to generate needed income into the future?

A Kurn Hattin CGA can do just that while providing substantial tax benefits and helping children in need. A CGA will pay you income for life—the older you are, the higher the payment rate. And your payments are safe and guaranteed by Kurn Hattin's assets.

Call Kim Fine at (802) 721-6914 for your confidential CGA illustration tailored to your circumstances.



*Save a child
and secure your future*

KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Bulletin 2017

Volume 2



On the Cover:

The Hubbard Cottage girls reach for a rainbow after an early summer rainstorm.

Photo Credit:

Suzanne Peltier c. 2017

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THE KURN HATTIN *Difference*

As I meet people who are unfamiliar with Kurn Hattin but who know other public and independent schools, I am often asked how we are different from other schools. I love this question, because it allows me to clearly highlight the unique characteristics of the Homes and the children we serve.

I generally begin with the basic facts and figures of the Homes—100 or so children, Grades Kindergarten through Eight, about equal numbers of boys and girls, mostly residential with nine cottages grouped by the ages of girls and boys with live-in houseparents. I then discuss our wide range of offerings—academics with self-contained and multi-aged classrooms through the elementary grades moving to more ability-grouped classes in the middle school grades, our outstanding instrumental and choral music programs for all students, after-school activities including interscholastic athletics and other activities like the farm and therapeutic horse programs, weekend activities, and our summer-long recreational and specialty camps.

I point out that up to this point, Kurn Hattin looks a lot like other independent schools. It is when we begin talking about our mission and business model that we find our uniqueness. As we discuss that virtually all of our children come from low-income households and many from challenging family situations, it becomes clear that our mission of transforming children's lives is more than simply a slogan. Issues of educational lags, societal challenges that the adults in our children's lives confront, the difficulties of losing jobs and housing, and much more create the need for Kurn Hattin to exist. We become the stable environment, the safe haven, and the nurturing home that so many of our children need. As such, we offer wrap-around services for counseling, health care, wholeness, healing, and more—beyond and different from what other independent schools offer. We are careful not to try to assume the role of family members, but we do provide for the children's needs in ways that allow them to sometimes regain the opportunity to truly be a child.

Once people are familiar with what we do and why, it is easy to discuss how we do it and what our needs are. I state that unlike other independent schools, we do not operate on a tuition model. No child is turned away for the family's inability to pay tuition, and our income from tuition accounts for only about 1% of our operating expenses. I go on to say that we are not government funded by either the state or federal governments like public schools are, and that we rely on charitable contributions and income from charitable contributions for 95-97% of our annual operating expenses. This is usually when people begin to ask the most questions. It is hard to believe that we are such a charitably-reliant organization, but it's true. For almost 125 years, Kurn Hattin has relied on the kindness and generosity of its supporters to keep the doors open and the transformation of children's lives continuing. It is because of each one of our donors that we can change the lives of children—one child at a time! This is the Kurn Hattin difference!

~ Stephen Harrison
Executive Director



KURN HATTIN HAS *A New School Principal*

Sergio Simunovic joined Kurn Hattin Homes in March after our previous principal, Mr. Noyes, moved to Connecticut to be closer to his family. Mr. Simunovic had served almost eleven years at The Greenwood School in Putney, Vermont, most recently as their Academic Dean. He is also pursuing his PhD in Educational Policy, Research, and Administration. When asked about his interest in Kurn Hattin he replied, "Kurn Hattin incorporates great opportunities for the children. I had heard amazing things about Kurn Hattin—its reputation precedes it. The school has even exceeded my expectations. When I saw this opportunity and the chance to deal with the whole student in the residential setting, I applied. Kurn Hattin has a great team."

Executive Director Stephen Harrison added, "We were excited when we interviewed Sergio Simunovic, because he had the combination of the full range of skills and experience we were seeking. He had worked in an independent school with children whose educational needs required significant individual differentiation; he had residential experience in that school, and had worked specifically on curriculum development and instructional evaluation as an academic dean. The icing on the cake for us was that he lived locally, knew Kurn Hattin already, and had a calm, firm demeanor that works well with both our students and faculty. We are thrilled to have him on board!"

Mr. Simunovic is a positive influence and a strong leader. Please welcome him to the Kurn Hattin family.



Classroom Technology INTEGRATION

Technology is currently one of the most discussed topics in education. STEAM, coding, assistive/adaptive tech—all buzz words found in the halls of schools across the country. Technology skills are fast becoming some of the most important and requisite tools for success in high school and beyond, where technology skills are often assumed, not explicitly taught.

The Kurn Hattin school has steadily built up rich tech programming for our students these past few years. Recognizing the need for “tech literacy” skills, Kurn Hattin is expanding our tech footprint in many exciting ways to make sure we are meeting the evolving needs of our students. This begins with a continued exploration and integration of the Google Classroom suite currently in place, explicitly teaching skills from the basics of file management to multimedia presentations to learning to use powerful research tools to deepen understanding.

As we expand, some of the platforms we will be exploring to help students integrate tech into the classroom include programs to assist different kinds of learners’ access to challenging material (Google Voice and Read Write Gold), programs to help build core academic habits and organization (Inspiration) in the formation of academic skills and habits, and programs to help teach basics such as keyboarding. Given that the use of computers in the classroom will only increase, facility with these skills will be more and more important.

Building on these foundational tech literacy skills and integrated classroom tech tools will be a widened exploration of the STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). This includes exposure to coding and robotics through various platforms. Salman Khan, founder of Khan Academy, said recently of education, “To prepare humanity for the next 100 years, we need more of our children to learn computer programming skills, regardless of their future profession. Along with reading and writing, the ability to program is going to define what an educated person is.” This expanded programming in the near future will complement the work already going on in science class robotics.

As important as the access to technology is for our students, the ability to integrate the richest and most useful technology holds an equal weight. Amidst the many technology platforms and products out there, one of the challenges ahead is to make sure that the technology we bring in meets the needs of our students and is aligned with the curricular goals of the school. Technology needs to add to, not take away from the learning environment.

We look forward to keeping you all updated as this project unfolds!

~ Sergio Simunovic
School Principal



Transitions

The Kurn Hattin Homes family has lost a great friend. Malcolm “Sam” Streeter passed away March 29. Sam served as our Principal from 1956-1985, as Trustee from 1998-2015, and was elected as Trustee Emeritus in 2015. Alumni remembrances included: “I’m very sad. Mr. Streeter earned my highest respect and trust during my stay at Kurn Hattin. He helped me a lot, and it wasn’t easy for him. I loved Mr. Streeter,” and “This gentleman was one of the most charming men I knew growing up at Kurn Hattin Homes. I can remember him when I was a young boy in the late 1970’s and early 80’s with his welcoming bright smile and his gentle spirit.” Mr. Streeter will be remembered.

Kurn Hattin Homes said farewell again to Interim School Principal Mr. David Baldasaro. Mr. Baldasaro came out of retirement to serve as Interim Principal in November, working for four months to keep the Kurn Hattin School running smoothly. He had previously served as the Assistant Principal at Kurn Hattin, leaving the position in 2012. David took much pride in supporting and encouraging the children for their future lives, and his dedication to the Kurn Hattin children is deeply appreciated. On his final day, he presented the children with an encouraging banner, reading “Keep Trying, Don’t Give Up! Make it to Graduation, Mr. B.” Kurn Hattin thanks Mr. B for his committed leadership.



After working as the Kurn Hattin Librarian to improve the reading abilities of students for over 22 years, Sarah “Sally” Mundell retired at the end of the 2017 academic year. At a retirement luncheon held in her honor, guests were reminded of the value of reading, not only for childhood development but also for lifelong learning and entertainment. It is certain that Sally will be spending her newly-found free time doing what she encourages us all to do...reading books. Her commitment to inspiring young people to be lifelong active readers has changed the lives of many, many Kurn Hattin students. Thank you Mrs. Mundell!

Summertime AT KURN HATTIN

Students throughout time have looked forward to summer. More daylight time, later bedtimes, warm weather and no school. It is the same for our students at Kurn Hattin. Things change after graduation. Bedtimes are a little later, breakfast is later and we have Summer Recreation. When other programs are shutting down for the summer, we are gearing up for a full summer program. Our students are encouraged to be here for at least four weeks in the summer, and many are here for the majority of the summer.

Most of our new students also come to us during the summer. It helps make the transition a little easier. Children know how to go to school, but living away from home is more difficult. When they come during the summer, they usually move past their homesickness, make friends, learn the rules of the cottage and campus, and have a fun-filled summer. It improves their chances of success overall.

The cottage routine changes a little, but we still have cottage responsibilities. The students do chores, clean their rooms and take care of their cottages. But there is more free time. Most cottages have time set aside for reading, but without homework it frees up the evenings. The playground is always hopping after dinner. The pool is busy all summer. There are trips to local parks, other swimming pools for a change of pace, and of course an occasional trip to get an ice cream. There is nothing better on a hot night than an ice cream cone!

During the week day, students participate in Summer Recreation or 'Rec' as we all call it. Rec is based on a day camp model. We have four activities that the students rotate through. All students participate in swimming lessons four days a week. They work hard to pass their deep end test, allowing them to swim in the deep end of the pool. We believe swimming is a lifetime skill as well as a safety skill. It is an important emphasis in our summer program. The rest of the activities include arts & crafts, archery, games, hiking, team sports, nature walks, computer lab, library, computer programing, yoga and the horse program. Students also help out in the gardens, weeding and picking vegetables. Wednesday is trip day. Every week we have a different destination. It could be Echo Lake, Whales Tales, Connecticut Science Center, Lake Sunapee, or the Echo Center in Burlington, Vermont. Rainy Wednesdays require a change in plans. But everyone is flexible, and bowling is always an option. The students look forward to the trips on Wednesday. We look for experiences that broaden horizons and are fun. It is fun to watch students try something they have never tried before.

Along with our daily rec program, we offer a variety of camps the students sign up for. Not every student can participate in every camp, but we try to get as many students involved as possible. We offer camping trips to various state parks, and one to Cape Cod. We are very fortunate to be able to use the New England Food Foundation's retreat house on Cape Cod a few times a year. It is one of the favorite summer trips. Besides outdoor camping, we offer sewing, photography, cooking, basketball, soccer and dance camps. The students are immersed in the activity and learn valuable lifetime skills. A new addition this year has been a running club. The students train a few times a week and attend area 5K and track events.

Since Kurn Hattin is a member of the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives, we sometimes attend the Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The students who are chosen to go meet students from across the country. They attend a class in the morning that focuses on becoming a positive role model and leader. The students then visit a variety of D.C. historical sites including the National Holocaust Museum, the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Smithsonian Institute museums. They tour all the war memorials and the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial. It is all moving, educational, and inspirational. We thank those who sponsor these memorable excursions and other summer recreational activities for the students.

Summer is a busy time. Our staff work as hard during the summer as they do during the school year. Our Vermont summers are short, but we pack a lot of fun and learning experiences into our nine weeks of summer.

~ Karen Lansberry
Director of Residential Services

ALWAYS A Warm Welcome



The summer months bring fun and lots of activity to Kurn Hattin. Students enjoy arts and crafts, swimming, hiking, and have the opportunity to sample a variety of other exciting outdoor adventures. Summer also brings us many of our new students, who will begin the school year at Kurn Hattin in late August. Enrolling during the summer months gives a head start to both students and staff—it's a chance to get to know one another and become accustomed to new routines and a new environment before the demands of the school day come into play. For some students, it's the first time

they've been away from home and it can be a daunting prospect. Even with so much activity involved in the daily summer recreation program, there is also more time during the summer for a variety of staff members to provide support for this new experience. The goal is to make new students feel welcome and help ease the transition to a new place and new people for them and their families.

Before the actual date of enrollment, students and their families have usually visited campus several times. They've been on an initial tour or two, come for an interview, been to the formal spring orientation and sometimes returned for an informal lunch or just stopped by to casually say hello. We welcome any and all of these visits and always try to accommodate whatever will help make each child and family feel most comfortable as they approach the transition to life on campus.

The comments below are from a first-time referral source who accompanied an apprehensive child and family to an interview in June. Her words are so appreciated because they describe exactly what we are always seeking to accomplish.

"Hello Sue and to all who welcomed us with warm hearts to the Kurn Hattin Homes for Children campus yesterday!

On behalf of our applicant, her family, and myself, I want to thank you all for inviting us to visit with you at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. The warmth of your welcome, your generosity, and your kind hearts made us all feel welcome and at ease as we spent the day interviewing with various members of the committee and touring your beautiful campus. I want to thank you for all you do for the children and families you serve; the faculty and staff of Kurn Hattin are truly a blessing. The work you do is amazing. Child by child, family by family, you are working to make this world a better, safer, and happier place for all."

Thank you to this group of visitors and to all who decide to visit to explore the possibilities at Kurn Hattin Homes.

Please contact the admissions office at (802) 721-6932 with questions about enrollment or to arrange a visit and tour of our campus.

~ Sue Kessler
Director of Admissions



The Kurn Hattin music program participates in over 30 on and off campus performances each year. Our annual music invitationals are held in March and April. The Jazz Invitational in April was kicked off by composer and Master of Ceremonies Eugene Uman, Director of the Vermont Jazz Center. The evening program was a rich and diverse variety of musical selections including songs with scat vocals, Latin jazz, modern compositions, and bluesy classics. Featured were ten school and professional performers and ensembles: the Kurn Hattin Select Jazz Ensemble, the Putney School

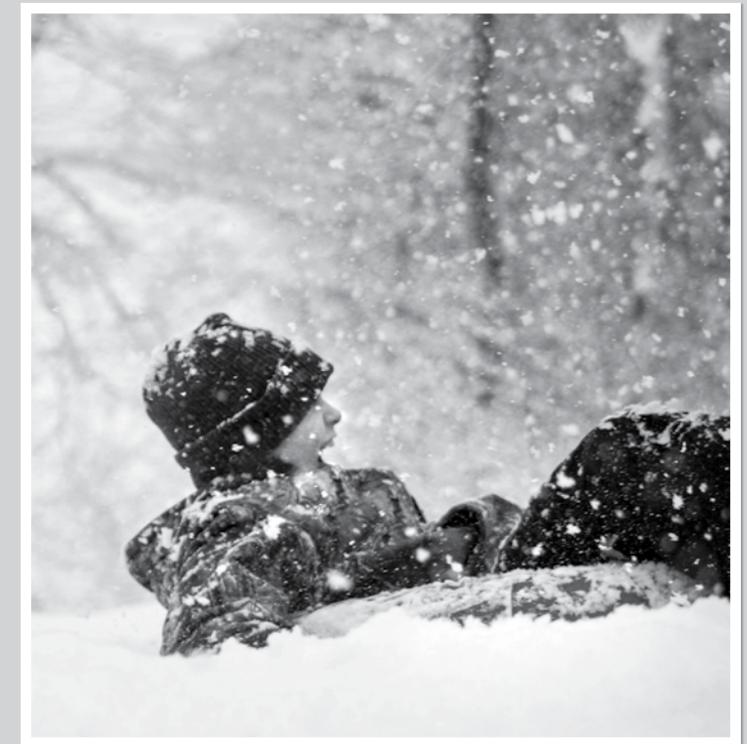
Combo, the Putney School Trio, the Vermont Jazz Center Latin Jazz Band, the Alyssa Leonard Jazz Ensemble, the Northfield Mount Hermon Jazz Combo, The Dylan Chambers Jazz Ensemble, the Samirah Evans Jazz Ensemble, the Vermont Academy Jazz Ensemble, and the Keene Jazz Orchestra. These performances are not to be missed! Also in April, The Kurn Hattin Select Choir traveled to Massive Productions Studio in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. At the studio, Matt Berky, owner and studio engineer, volunteered his time and recording skills to create a special Kurn Hattin birthday greeting. It features our Executive Director, Steve Harrison and the children. The recording can be sent via a phone call to any and all supporters of Kurn Hattin on their birthday! If you are interested in signing up for this free program to hear the Select Choir sing on your or someone else's special day, please call Heather at (802) 721-6916. In May, the Kurn Hattin Jazz Ensemble and Select Choir performed at The Boulders at RiverWoods in Exeter, New Hampshire. To end the performance, the RiverWoods Chorus joined with the children and sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" with the residents and staff. In June, the Kurn Hattin Marching Band "moooved" to the music in the Strolling of the Heifers parade in downtown Brattleboro, Vermont. Outfitted in plaid prints, straw hats, and neckerchiefs, the children, led by the Color Guard with cow print flags, marched by thousands of cheering spectators.

It was certainly an exciting sugaring season this spring. Shiny silver buckets hung from tapped trees beside the road, and sap lines could be seen weaving through the acres of forest as the snow cleared from the campus. Farm managers Real Bazin and Conor Fitzgerald, along with the maintenance, teaching and houseparent staff, engaged the children in the timeless New England sugaring process. With their assistance, the children helped tap the trees, collected the sap, watched the boiling process, and produced 92 gallons of maple syrup. The sugaring process provides a hands-on lesson in science and teaches the children a useful skill. They see firsthand the elements of plant biology and chemistry in the making of maple syrup. And there is always a tasty reward at the end of all the hard work. There is nothing better than real maple syrup.



This spring, students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes worked very hard to create presentations for The Cornerstone Project. The students were asked to choose a topic and make a claim, and then prove that claim using trifold boards, slideshow presentations, videos, or movement. An ambitious academic assignment, The Cornerstone Project is similar to a capstone or thesis project in college. The children spent three to four weeks working both in class and independently on the presentations. Some topics chosen this year were: The Evolution of Dance, Global Warming and Polar Bears, Immigration in America, The Life of Milton Hershey, The Titanic, The Evolution of LGBT Rights, and The Importance of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The Cornerstone Project was implemented by English teacher Mrs. Kristie Lisai last year, and has had students thinking critically ever since. We are looking forward to seeing what presentations the children develop next year.

The snow stuck around for a long time this past winter in Westminster, Vermont, and the children made good use of it. They enjoyed sledding which has been a popular activity on the Kurn Hattin campus since its founding. With the fields on the farm covered in white, the children could be found whizzing down the hills after school. The children also have the opportunity to learn to ski and snowboard at Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vermont. This year, they hit the slopes all the way into March with Recreational Director Donna Fahner. There is no better way to make the most of the cold than to enjoy winter sports and activities.





More than 100 volunteers devote their personal time and energy to teach and care for the children at Kurn Hattin Homes. They help with governance, school and recreational activities, sports, music, and special events. "Every day that I volunteer at Kurn Hattin I get to see a child's eyes light up," says volunteer Nancy Hamblet, "I can't imagine a more rewarding place to spend my time." Nancy volunteers in the library, where, among other things, she reads with the children. Other volunteers help the children sing, learn to play musical instruments, and

perform at events. Volunteers also assist with extracurricular activities, such as skiing, photography, and the summer recreation program. Without all of our hard-working volunteers, Kurn Hattin could not do what it does for the children in our care. Every year, to show our appreciation for the volunteers' time and dedication, a luncheon is held in their honor. Thank you volunteers! Volunteers pictured from back left to right are Marj Adams, Darlene Pecor, Elizabeth Maiola, Judith Putnam, Howard Putnam, Terry Gulick, Anita Roy, Marya Holcombe, Sally Mundell, Marion Daley, Barbara Brackett, and Tony Maiola. Volunteers pictured from front left to right are Alexandra Scarlett, Richard Miller, Bette Wunderle, and Nancy Hamblet.



Every year, every 8th grade student receives a handmade quilt after they graduate from Kurn Hattin Homes. These beautiful quilts are donated to the children from the Project Linus Windham County Chapter. The mission of Project Linus, which is a nationwide nonprofit organization, is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers." The Windham County Chapter began donating quilts to the 8th graders in 2010, and over the years has given over 150 children an individual quilt to take home after they graduate from Kurn Hattin. "I felt special (to receive the quilt) because they were made for us," said 8th grader Naomi Wood. Naomi says she loves her quilt because it has two

of her favorite things: Snoopy and watermelon. Kurn Hattin Homes thanks the members of the Project Linus Windham County Chapter for their years of generosity and love shown to our graduating children.

It was a lively afternoon of campus tours, a delicious lunch, and a concert performance on the 30th annual Kurn Hattin Day on May 20. Kurn Hattin Day is held to thank donors for their support and to reunite alumni from throughout the years. The celebration theme this year was *Down on the Farm*, and the school was filled with the scent of hay bales and decorated with cow balloons, baskets of eggs, and mason jars filled with corn. The children's performance of music was inspired by barnyard classics, and had the audience dancing and singing along with the children to songs such as *Old McDonald*, *B-I-N-G-O*, and *The Chicken Dance*. The audience was also treated to marching percussion and Color Guard, complete with cow print flags. The day began with the Annual Meeting of the Kurn Hattin Alumni Association. At the meeting, each 2017 soon-to-be-graduating 8th grade student was welcomed and inducted as an Alumni Association member. Elections were held and the current officers are: President Heather Kampfer '01; Vice President Lyssa Jackson '08; Treasurer Shirley Bacon Doyle '49; and Secretary Mabella Mendez '63. A memorial service for Doris 'Dori' Frechette, Class of 1971 was held outside following the meeting.



Seventeen 8th graders graduated from Kurn Hattin in a joyous and emotional ceremony on June 10th. Graduation proceedings began with greetings from Janet Wilson, President of the Board. Houseparent Clint Plante gave the Invocation and the Benediction. Ryley Smith gave the Class Salutation, looking forward to her future. "I don't want to be sad that I am leaving," she said. "I want to see it as one of the many goals I achieved this year." Valedictorian Leianna Isaacs gave the Farewell speech. She recalled coming to Kurn Hattin at age 11, noting, many joyous and wonderful memories. Leianna encouraged her fellow graduates to work hard to achieve their dreams. Diplomas were then presented by Janet Wilson and School Principal Sergio Simunovic. After graduating, many of the students stay on campus for the summer recreation program. Of the seventeen

graduates, eleven will rejoin their families and attend their local public high schools in the fall. Five were accepted to attend the Milton Hershey School (a private residential high school in Pennsylvania with a similar mission to Kurn Hattin), and Valedictorian Leianna Isaacs will be attending Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, Vermont this coming fall for high school. Congratulations to all of the Class of 2017!



THE *Bridge Builders*

Building bridges to the future for children in need since 1894

Kurn Hattin recently received an estate gift to our endowment from the family of a donor. The family said that the donor always supported the mission of Kurn Hattin, and eagerly followed news about the students and staff and their accomplishments. A lifetime believer in educational opportunities for all, she saw Kurn Hattin as a place where they really “walked the talk,” and she would be pleased to contribute to that work.

This gift was from the estate of Anne Fisher Keppler, my mother-in-law, and was given in honor of me. What a very special and humbling gift.

~ Kim Fine

Director of Development & Public Relations

What Leaving a Legacy Means to Me

In 1978, I was invited to a luncheon at the home of Ralph and Ruth Gates in Belmont, Massachusetts. This was followed by the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Corporation of New England Kurn Hattin Homes. Marilyn Moore (President of the Kurn Hattin Massachusetts Corporation) also attended the luncheon and meeting.

I was excited and elated by the information about the home and school, and learned of the care and education given to each child.

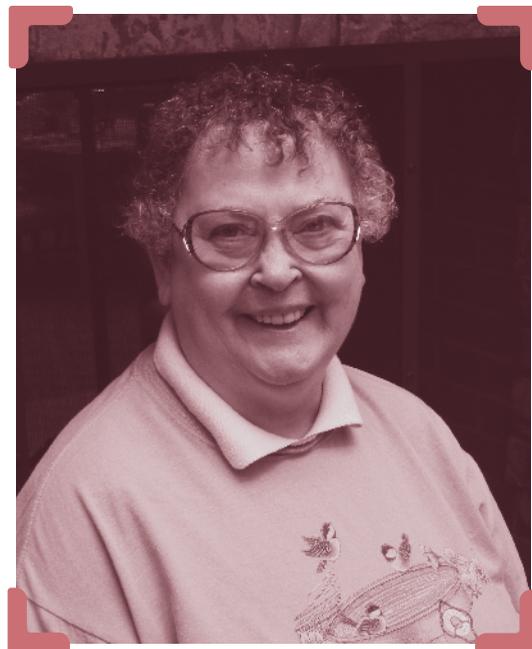
I was born a handicapped child. My father was an alcoholic, and an abusive man to my mother and me. I reflected on my own childhood growing up in Somerville, Massachusetts in an alcoholic household. I wished my mother had known about Kurn Hattin and sent me there for safety and a good education.

Over the years, my love for Kurn Hattin has grown deeply. When the Bridge Builders’ Society was started, I realized I could leave a legacy for future children from situations similar to mine so that they could receive love, learn to make wise decisions, and stop the pattern of abuse.

It has brought me great joy to contribute to the Bridge Builders’ Society to help Kurn Hattin continue to be a safe and loving place for children to grow and know what true loving care really is. The children learn to have fun, are educated and encouraged to grow, all in a nurturing environment. I am proud to be a part of the Kurn Hattin family with my membership in the Bridge Builders’ Society, and through my yearly contributions.

~ Ruth L. DeMone

Kurn Hattin friend & Massachusetts Corporation Clerk



SOCIETY NEWS:

For generations, Kurn Hattin has been blessed with friends who have endowed its work. In January 1993, the Bridge Builder Society was founded to recognize donors who make a permanent gift to New England Kurn Hattin Homes.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, the following gifts and bequests have been added to Kurn Hattin’s Designated Funds and Endowment Fund received July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017 (\$5,000 or more):

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Nelson T. Bateman | Fred Matteson Memorial Fund |
| Robert F. Cooper <i>In Loving Memory of Susan D. Struble</i> | Willard & Elizabeth Hale Estate |
| Wilma Cowie | Patricia Kelsey Estate |
| Estate of Anne Fisher Keppler <i>In Honor of Kim Fine</i> | Jane A. Landenberger |
| Charles R. Foale | Robert W. Owens, Jr. Memorial Fund |
| | Lucy Stone Higgins Estate |

The lifeblood of Kurn Hattin’s financial stability is the Endowment Fund. Approximately 40% of our operating budget is funded with income from the endowment plus unrestricted additions to board designated funds. Bequests compose the majority of gifts to the Endowment Fund. Distributions from estates and outright donations make up the remainder. Kurn Hattin’s legacy society, The Bridge Builders, as of 7/1/17, recognizes donors who make a gift of \$10,000 (previously \$5,000) or more to the endowment and board designated funds. These may include designated bequests, outright gifts to the endowment, naming Kurn Hattin as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, purchasing a charitable gift annuity, as well as other deferred gifts designated by the donor for the endowment. The Bridge Builders also recognizes trusts established by donors to provide ongoing financial support to Kurn Hattin.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man, going a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing
a sullen tide.

The old man crossed
in the twilight dim—
That sullen stream
had no fears for him,
But he turned,
When he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength
in building here.

Your journey will end
With the ending day;
You never again must pass this way

You have crossed the chasm,
deep and wide,
Why build you a bridge at eventide?”

The builder lifted his old grey head,
“Good friend, in the path
I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet
must pass this way.

This chasm that has been
naught to me
To that fair-haired youth
may a pitfall be.

He, too, must cross
in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building
the bridge for him.”

THE *RealCare Program*

The RealCare Program, or the Baby Think it Over Program, has been part of the Wellness Program at Kurn Hattin for many years. The babies replicate real infants. The eighth grade students become the babies' sole caretakers and quickly learn how difficult it is to juggle the care of an infant, be prepared for school, do their homework, and meet all of their other responsibilities. Throughout the duration of a simulation, an internal computer records essential data about student performance and summarizes the data in a simple assessment of care. It is used to reflect on the learning experience of the simulation. The students pick up their preprogrammed babies on a Friday afternoon and have to care for the babies all weekend, 24/7. When the baby cries, it's the caregiver's responsibility to determine the reason, and then provide the appropriate care. Sometimes it takes a few tries to figure out what the baby needs. The extra time it takes the student to figure this out affects their grade. Grading is all done on the internal computer. The Wellness Center nurse prints the certificates with each student's grade. Anything below an 'A', the students will ask to repeat the program at another time—because they all want to get that 'A'. This program has proven to be effective for eighth through twelfth graders in the prevention of early pregnancies. It has also shown to have a positive effect later in life, when students are adults and ready to start families. It teaches real-life awareness and the skills needed in caring for a baby, as well as patience, persistence, and good organizational skills.



~ Eileen Brown
Director of Health Services

FROM FACEBOOK



**Kurn Hattin Homes
for Children**

Like 2,470

"Best years of my life. I'm now 36 married and have 3 beautiful daughters. Just wanted to say 'thank you' for everything this school did for me. Kurn Hattin definitely made me the man I am today."

~ Tom Adkins, Class of 1995

SUMMER—*The Good Life*

Another season has come to pass at Kurn Hattin, and the fields are plentiful with flowers and vegetation that were planted by our science classes. Our lovely "hills of old Westminster" are green with leaves reflecting the bright sunlight, making Kurn Hattin a picturesque place to be. It is surely summer here at Kurn Hattin.

Summer at Kurn Hattin brings fond memories. When I reflect on the summers I have spent at Kurn Hattin, I think of the different activities that I signed up for, and the many options we had as students. My fondest were the two trips I took to Booth Bay Harbor, Maine. It was my first time seeing the ocean and riding in a motor boat. I was excited and petrified at the same time. But through the support of my houseparents, our hosts and fellow classmates, my first ocean experience was a success, and one I have never forgotten.

Another fond memory of summer was music camp. This is what brought me to Kurn Hattin in the first place—a place where music soars and is encouraged. It was not nerdy to be involved in a music program; it was the thing to do! Our musical talents were always encouraged and that made every day of music camp a blast. Swimming and ice cream were great too! I, and other alumni, would love to hear your stories of summers here at Kurn Hattin. So please look us up on Facebook and share your summer stories with us. Here is the link: www.facebook.com/groups/14973007285/

Summertime at Kurn Hattin is a time of reflection and also a time of anticipation. The anticipation of the new school year and what lies ahead: The students getting excited to be entering the next school grade/ability group, and staff looking forward to the new classes and assignments. But for the alumni, it is more about defining what it means to have a "good life." For some, it's entering/continuing their high school education; for some, it's furthering their education; for some, it is signing up for military service; for some, it is joining the workforce or taking up a trade; and for some, it is staying at home and raising a family. But in the end, we all define what a "good life" means to us.

I hope that everyone has had a safe and happy summer. I leave you with the lyrics from pop rock band OneRepublic's hit song, "Good Life":

**"Sometimes there's airplanes I can't jump out
Sometimes there's stuff that don't work now
We all got our stories but please tell me
What there is to complain about
When you're happy like a fool
Let it take you over
When everything is out
You gotta take it in
Oh, this has gotta be the good life."**

~ Heather Kampfer, Class of 2001
Alumni Association President

**"Kurn Hattin staff and teachers were key people
in our early education, and prepared us for life."**

~ James Barschdorf, Class of 1944

Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

Dear Kim,

My brother Richard St. Jock, Class of 1964, my brother Kevin St. Jock, Class of 1976 & myself, Class of 1966, had a fantastic time yesterday at the alumni meeting, the luncheon following, and then the performance of today's young Kurn Hattin students. The three of us were so proud that the Kurn Hattin that we graduated from 41 (Kevin), 51 (Stephen) and 53 (Richard) years ago, continues to strive for excellence in learning to play musical instruments. The singing performance of the children was amazing. During our visit, we were touched by the many people who wanted to know about the three St. Jock brothers' lives at Kurn Hattin. Our stories of living at Kurn Hattin could have taken days to tell. But in our short time yesterday, we all explained how much the school changed our lives for the better. We just wanted to let you know how special the day was for us. The three of us were together at Kurn Hattin for the first time since we all graduated so many years ago. So the three of us again would just like to let you know how much yesterday meant to us.

*Sincerely yours,
Stephen, Richard & Kevin St. Jock*

The St. Jock brothers can be reached at:

Stephen '66 sstjock@gmail.com
Richard '64 rstjock@gmail.com
Kevin '76 kkstjock@gmail.com



A Life Changer

When I was asked to speak at Get Acquainted Day, one of the things I did was go straight to my mother and ask her about her experience with me in regard to Kurn Hattin. I texted my mother and asked her how she would describe me prior to Kurn Hattin, and she responded "HELL RAISER" in all capital letters. Her description was quite accurate, but there was more to it. I struggled in school. I was extremely intelligent, but I had my own agenda. I did what I wanted, and when I wanted. I was a wild child, and hard to tame. I was kicked out of Catholic school in the 4th grade, and my parents were in need of all the support they could get. I was enrolled into Kurn Hattin in the 5th grade, and I am proud to say I spent four great years here, graduating from Kurn Hattin Homes in 2005. It was at Kurn Hattin that I learned responsibility, I learned self-worth. It was here that I played my first sport, played my first instrument, sang my first solo, rode my first horse, and I even flew my first (and my only) helicopter. It was here that I developed life-long friendships. It was here that I actually was successful for the first time.

Fast-forward twelve years, I am currently working on my B.A. in Criminal Justice. I am happily married to a wonderful man, and I am a proud mother of three beautiful boys. For the past four years, I have worked with extremely troubled youth in the juvenile justice system in Springfield, Massachusetts, where my family and I also resided. Although this was everything I had worked hard for, everything I have studied for, I felt I had a purpose elsewhere. My husband and I decided to start a new life, bringing ourselves and our children back to my home—Kurn Hattin, where I am now a houseparent. But more importantly, I am a life changer, a source of empowerment, independence, and responsibility. Kurn Hattin gave me core values at a young age that have never left me; core values that I teach my students, and my own children.

Kurn Hattin gave me guidance and structure when I needed it most. Kurn Hattin was the most perfect support my parents could have asked for. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child. Kurn Hattin is that village.

I asked my mother how she would describe me now, and she responded, "You are an amazing daughter, sister, mother, and wife. You have taken advantage of all of life's lessons and given them meaning. You have defined yourself with your grace, beauty, and wit." I am proud I have been able to make my mother and my family proud. I am thankful to Kurn Hattin for playing a vital role in my growth, and molding me into the woman I am today.

*~ Gizenia Boyd, Class of 2005
April 26, 2017*



STAYING *on Track*



Ron Whitcomb came to Kurn Hattin Homes when he was eight years old. “I remember the day,” he says. “It was January 4, 2007.” While most of the day was a blur, he does recall posing for two photos in the Wellness Center (called the infirmary at that time) with his family. One Polaroid picture he took with him to Parent Cottage, where the boys in his age group lived, and the other went to his sister, who was also attending Kurn Hattin. He says he still has the photograph, along with many good memories from the seven years he spent at Kurn Hattin.

One of Ron’s best memories from Kurn Hattin was from the 4th grade when he was living in Parent Cottage. Ron had a ’67 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396 model car kit that he was very excited to work on. His houseparent, Mr. Anderson, sat down with Ron in the cottage, and over the course of a month helped him put the model together. He recalls that every moment spent together was a teaching moment; first they assembled the engine, then the chassis, then the interior, etc. “It was so easy to get frustrated because the pieces were so tiny and the glue could get messed up after you set something into place,” he says. “But Mr. Anderson kept me calm and taught me patience.”

Mr. Anderson was not the only adult at Kurn Hattin who showed Ron patience, perseverance, and nurturance while he was a child. “I had, and still have, a lot of talks with science teacher Mr. Fontaine,” he recalls. “And he always tells you what you need to hear.” Ron often found himself in the office with the educational director Mr. Fahner when he struggled behaviorally in school. Mr. Fahner proclaimed Ron’s 8th grade year as “Year of The Ron” to motivate him to stay on track. “I really did try to live up to it.” Between his father and the people at Kurn Hattin Homes, Ron says he felt loved and cared for during his childhood despite having lost his mother at age three.

Ron graduated from Kurn Hattin in 2012 and attended the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania. He returned after graduating high school to work in the school maintenance department. He enjoys being back at Kurn Hattin, especially being around the kids again—and this time as a role model. He enjoys working on cars and playing sports in his free time. At just 18 years old, he’s not sure what his next step in life will be, but the future looks bright for Ron Whitcomb. As he says, “I’m just getting started on my journey!”

~ Maggie Rice
Development Officer



MEET THE *Development Office Staff*



(l-r) Heather Longe, Development Office Manager; Kim Fine, Director of Development and Public Relations; our newest member Development Officer Maggie Rice; and Megan Manley, Administrative Assistant.

Thank you all for your support this fiscal year. Because of you, we surpassed our spring appeal goal and helped children accomplish many goals to reach their full potential.

We are starting an Adopt-a-Classroom project. If you would like more information on how you can support the needs of one of Kurn Hattin’s classrooms, please contact me at (802) 721-6914 or kfine@kurnhattin.org. Thank you.

~Kim Fine

Director of Development & Public Relations



Kurn Hattin holds the top-level rating from Charity Navigator, the largest independent charity evaluator in the U.S.

Consider Making a Monthly Donation

You can do so online or by contacting Megan Manley at (802) 721-6912 or mmanley@kurnhattin.org

Matching Gifts can Double your gift!

Many companies will match their employees’ gifts to nonprofit organizations, and some even match spouses’ of retired employees’ gifts. Please check with your personnel office.

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*alumnus/na

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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 January 11, 2017 and July 20, 2017.

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IN HONOR OF JOSHUA BARDWELL ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

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Mr. & Mrs. James Barschdorf

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IN HONOR OF PRISCILLA CARPENTER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Cynthia Sheehan

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Jo-Ann Beaudin
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IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE W. HARLOW'S SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

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Boucher & Pritchard Funeral Home, Inc., Burlington, VT
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William & Michelle Lacroix
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Living Waters Bible Church, Enfield, NH
Joanne Maille
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IN HONOR OF MARYA HOLCOMBE

Paula Del Nunzio Balsar & Paul F. Balsar, Sr. Family Foundation, New York, NY

IN HONOR OF TERRY & MARYA HOLCOMBE

Stacey Gemmill

IN HONOR OF JEAN HULTS, ON THE OCCASION OF OUR 55TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Reverend Pete Hults

IN HONOR OF GWEN HUNT ON HER GRADUATION

Hollie Bowen & Paul Love, Jr.

IN HONOR OF CHRIS IRILLO

Gail Guillette

IN HONOR OF DEBORAH JANONE

Ms. Judith Janone

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Mr. Richard B. Gassett

IN HONOR OF BARBARA MATTESON ON HER BIRTHDAY

Ms. Erica DeZitter

IN HONOR OF CONNIE MOSER

Anonymous

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Mrs. Leslie Vander Meulen Richards

IN HONOR OF LESLIE RICHARDS

Ms. Elouise J. Andrews

IN HONOR OF BETTY WARD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bianconi

Kurn Hattin Homes

FOR CHILDREN

Founded and incorporated in 1894

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MISSION STATEMENT

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