



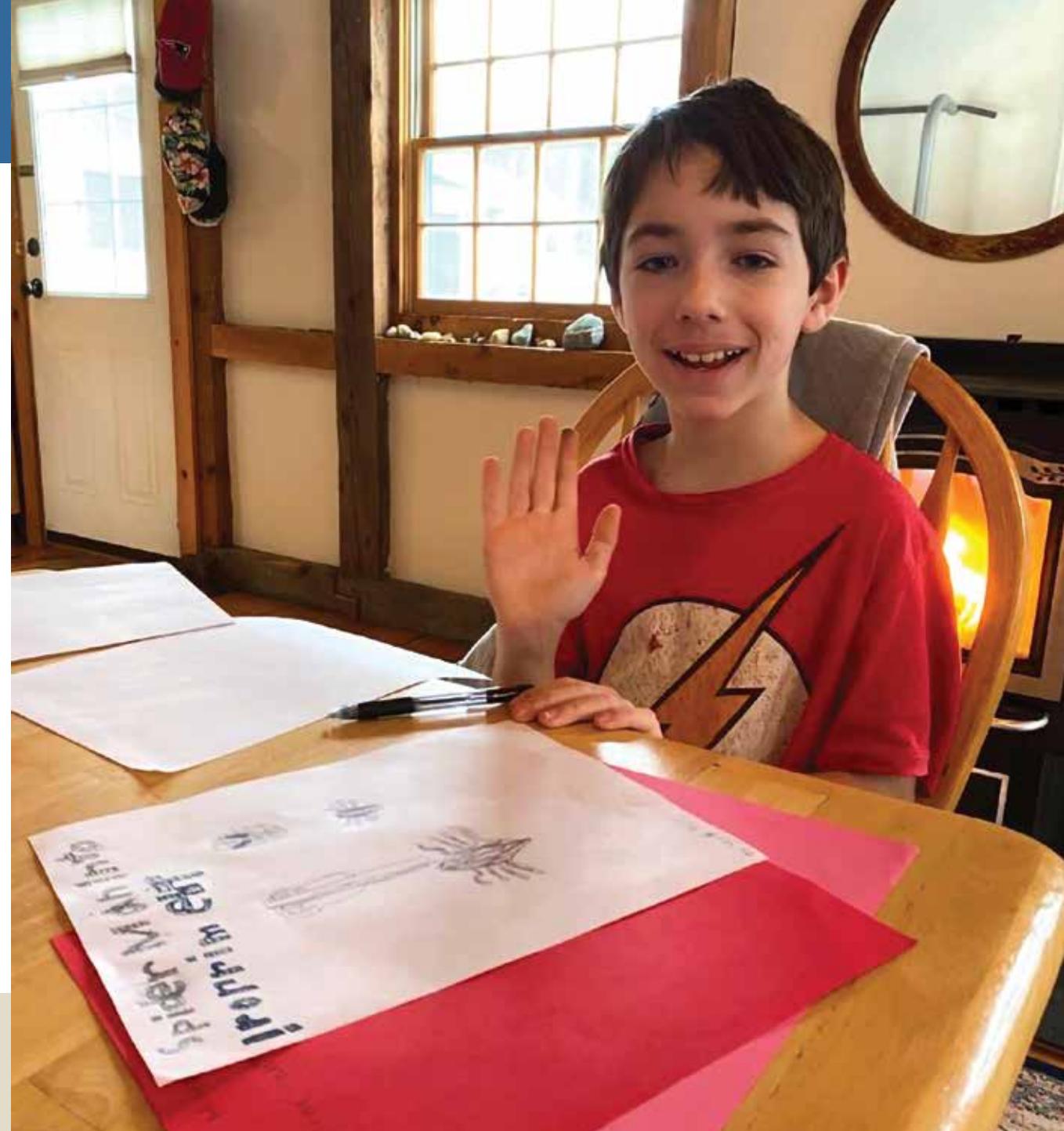
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for Children in Poverty



*Twenty-ninth
 Annual Conference
 with Stephen Pimpare, PhD*

**EVENT
 POSTPONED**
 DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS

KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Bulletin

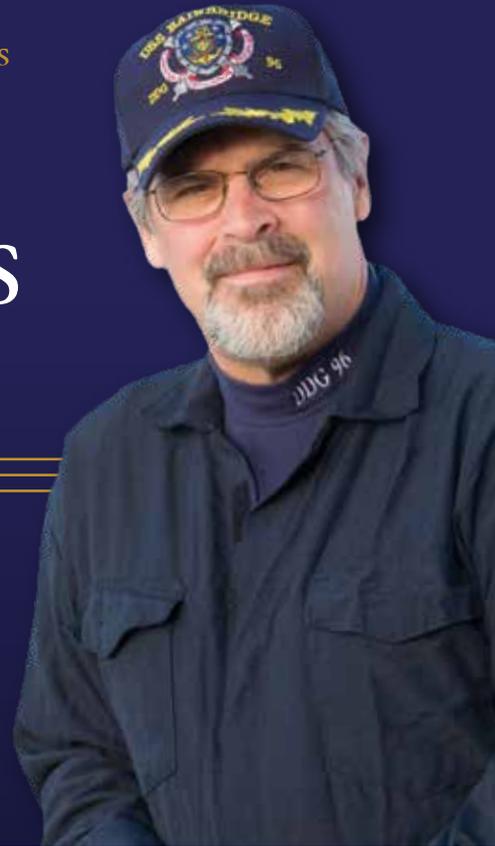
2020 VOLUME 2

Please call (802) 721-6913 or email tandrews@kurnhattin.org for further questions.

*** SPECIAL EVENT ***
 SUPPORTING KURN HATTIN HOMES *for* CHILDREN'S
 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES/S.T.E.A.M. TECH LAB

JOIN CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS

FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL
 EVENING OF COURAGE



For five days in April 2009, Captain Richard Phillips became the center of an extraordinary international drama when he was captured by Somali pirates who attacked and boarded his ship. To protect his crew, Captain Phillips made a conscious decision to put himself directly in harm's way, knowing full well that he might pay the ultimate price for his decision. Amid the standoff, he offered himself as a hostage to get them off his ship. This dramatic story was also made into a motion picture by Columbia Pictures starring Tom Hanks.

~ **EVENT POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19** ~
 NEW DATE TBD - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
and PATIENCE DURING THIS TIME

\$75 TICKET INCLUDES:

DELECTABLE HORS D'OEUVRES & LIBATIONS (BEER & WINE INCLUDED)

THE COOL, SMOOTH SOUNDS OF THE DON BALDINI TRIO

Don Baldini's credits include "The Little Mermaid," "St. Elsewhere," "Charlie's Angels," and "Jaws 2." He frequently performed on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." He's also worked with Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson, Peggy Lee, and Johnny Mathis

KURN HATTIN CHOIR PERFORMANCE

**RESERVED SEATING FOR CAPTAIN PHILLIPS' HARROWING
 AND COURAGEOUS TALE FOLLOWED BY Q&A**

THIS IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

Purchase tickets at captainphillips.kurnhatten.org or call Heather at (802) 721-6916.



Captain Phillips
 Level Sponsorship

Other sponsorship opportunities available.
 Contact for more information.

**KURN HATTIN HOMES
 FOR CHILDREN**

Bulletin 2020 Volume 2



On the Cover:

5th grader Wayde, working on a school project from home during COVID-19 school closure.

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The KURN HATTIN BULLETIN, USPS 298-240, is published two times yearly by New England Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster, Vermont. (3rd class postage paid at White River Junction, VT)

Editors: Kim Fine & Heather Longe

Designer: Nate Terrill

Printed by: SPC Printing

Photo credits:

Kristie Lisai, Kurn Hattin Archives

Please notify us of any change in address.

All communications should be addressed to: The Editor, Kurn Hattin Homes, PO Box 127, Westminster, VT 05158

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THE TRUE *Kurn Hattin Homes*

So much of life today is still being consumed by the travails of our world. Everywhere we turn there are stories of unrest, protest, virus tests, but little of the best in life. That's why Kurn Hattin exists—to first provide, and then to remind us all of the best in life!

For a moment, forget the world and think about the Kurn Hattin Homes' "best"...

Finally getting back to Kurn Hattin to see old friends and make new ones—after months of isolation and loneliness put our sanity to the test! Walking out of a cottage on campus into a cool summer night and looking east, then west, then up to the vast and incredible array of stars in the inky black sky! Waking up to a breakfast of waffles and real Kurn Hattin-made maple syrup! Jumping into a cool, deep pool of refreshing water after a hot morning of summer camp activities! Stomping through chilly creek bottoms and appreciating the sounds of nature all around! Sitting down to rich-smelling campfires, roasting marshmallows for 'S'mores! Playing the simplest of games and telling silly stories, but doing it with friends and folks who really care for you! Lying on your back for a rest and creating objects from the shapes of clouds in the sky! This is the best of life—at summer camp!

Getting back to Kurn Hattin for the school year, meeting your new houseparents, and getting settled in to your new room and cottage situation! Going back to class with all of the smells of a new school year (like a new box of crayons)! Launching into new textbooks and intriguing new reading books—knowing that learning is tough, and that you're lucky to have teachers who really care and will work with you to succeed! Singing your heart out or playing an instrument, and getting better each day! Meeting your new counselor and starting to get to know another trusted adult who is on your side! Eating meals that are really tasty and filling, even if they're sometimes a little unfamiliar! Hanging out after dinner on the playground or playing basketball on the court—and giving it your all just for fun! Digging into your homework and knowing you've done your best! Taking a warm evening shower then hanging out with good friends to goof off for a while! Going to sleep at night in your own comfortable bed with the quiet of the night broken only by nature's night sounds. This is the best of life—during the academic year!

The best of Kurn Hattin Homes...it really is all about transforming the lives of children—one simple piece at a time—building on safety, structure, and caring. Just as in the broader world, the dangers and unpleasantness of life has at times intruded into life here in the past, but our commitment today and our daily driving diligence is to ensure the best of life for all of our children! This is the true Kurn Hattin Homes!

In the service of children,

~ Stephen B. Harrison, Executive Director



KURN HATTIN IS *A Place of Hope*

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

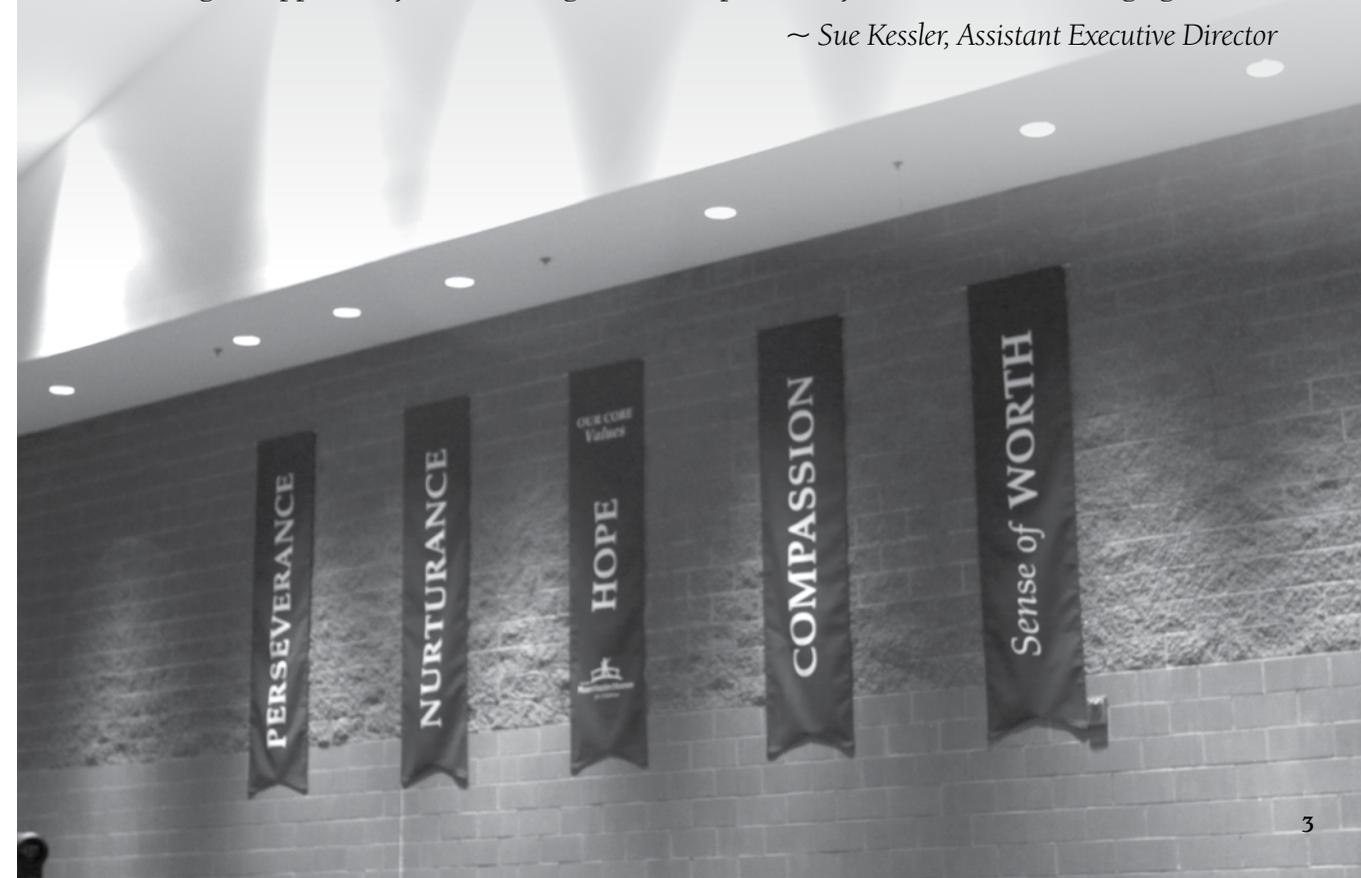
In the midst of the extraordinary circumstances and all the uncertainty surrounding us over the past months, hope—one of our Core Values—has been a guiding principle. One of the amazing and magical things about Kurn Hattin is that, for more than 125 years, during both good times and trying ones, we have always found ways to remain hopeful, and, because we have hope, we can rise to the occasion and cope with whatever challenges come our way.

Watching the response of the Kurn Hattin community—our staff, alumni, Trustees, Incorporators, families, children, donors, supporters, and friends—during this unprecedented time has been nothing short of remarkable. People have been there for one another and for our larger community in so many ways, even while being physically distant. The opportunity to see this happening has been inspiring and a source of hope each and every day.

Along with hope—or maybe because of it—came the willingness to adapt, to think creatively, to see opportunity where there could have been obstacles, to accept that changes were necessary, and to make decisions about our program that ensured that every child at Kurn Hattin would continue to have the very best experience possible. All of that has happened during the unbelievable constraints we've faced due to the pandemic and it will continue to be the foundation for the way we move forward.

There's no way to know what things will look like in the future, just as we never could have imagined the world as it is right now. Even though we can't know what lies ahead, because we are hopeful, and because we are committed to the mission of Kurn Hattin, we will continue to see challenge as opportunity, and we will grow in unexpected ways to meet an ever-changing world.

~ Sue Kessler, Assistant Executive Director



MUSIC MAKES THE *World Go Round*

Kurn Hattin had several noteworthy music and dance events earlier in the semester.

The Kurn Hattin Select Choir attended Vermont Academy's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance. In addition to performing their own songs for the Vermont Academy community, the Kurn Hattin Choir joined the Vermont Academy Choir for a combined performance of "We Shall Overcome." In the afternoon, the Kurn Hattin Select Choir headed to Brattleboro, Vermont to participate in the Martin Luther King celebration "Let Freedom Ring" at the Center Congregational Church.

Also during the winter, though relatively new to the therapeutic arts milieu at the Homes, the Monarchs Dance Ensemble, under the direction of houseparent and internationally acclaimed dance and movement director Shaun Edwards, was one of 12 finalists in the *Windham County's Got Talent* contest at the historic Latchis Theater in Brattleboro, Vermont. "The girls have worked hard on this uplifting contemporary dance," he praised. "I am very proud of them." The judges described the Kurn Hattin ensemble's choreography and performance as "graceful and stunning." Monarch's members had little or no dance experience prior to beginning their participation in the Ensemble. They learned elements of Pilates, ballet, contemporary dance, lyrical, improv, and musical theater. The children show improvement in their overall physical, mental, and spiritual health through their involvement in this art form. They learn that if they don't succeed at first, to keep trying—in all aspects of their lives.

And, very exciting: Director of Music Lisa Bianconi was awarded the 2020 Vermont Music Educator of the Year Award - District VI from the Vermont Music Educators Association, for outstanding professionalism and contributions to music education and children. She was acclaimed as "one of the greatest, dedicated, passionate, and capable music teachers you will ever meet. Any individual familiar with the Kurn Hattin school would quickly comment on how music is an integral part of this amazing school culture, and the remarkable work done

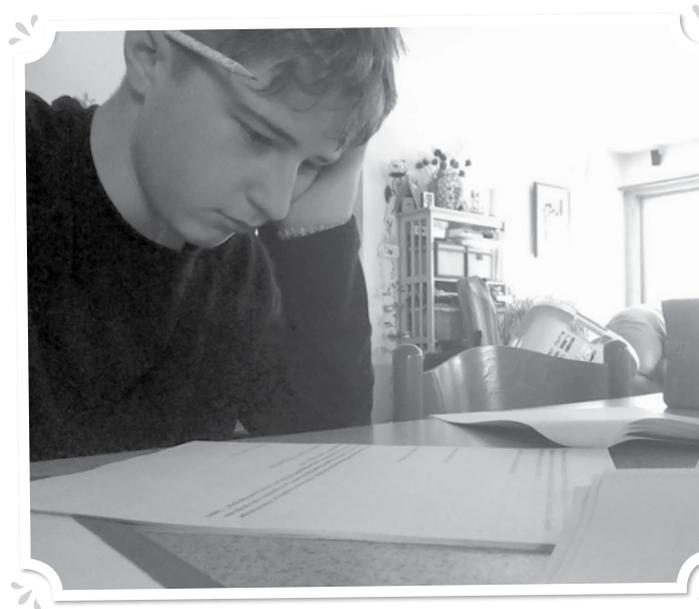
by this recipient." At the award ceremony, Lisa responded, "I am so fortunate to be able to work in such an amazing community where the value of music education and the performing arts is a high priority. It is truly a gift to come to work every day and create joy through music." Executive Director Stephen Harrison stated, "We are all quite proud of and happy for Lisa. Lisa's dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm give us all inspiration for doing our best in our areas of responsibility. This is a very well-deserved recognition and award."



A Most Unprecedented ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW

Every year summer provides an opportunity to reflect on the past school year and plan for program growth and opportunities ahead. As the faculty closed out the 2019-2020 school year, we reflected on a school year like no other in recent memory. One that did not end as we planned last summer. One that would test educators across the country and across the globe.

At the drop of a hat, Kurn Hattin needed to close our school building and campus due to a spreading pandemic. The Kurn Hattin team quickly prioritized core educational needs and began to "build the airplane while flying it." Houseparents, counselors, faculty, family outreach, admissions all came together to wrap around the community from afar. We learned quickly and adapted support and programming to meet the needs of a population hit especially hard by the COVID-19 school closures. The team built a Kurn Hattin approach to remote learning to suit the various needs and home environments of our students.



Establishing an academic and support program for COVID-19 was certainly a large undertaking, albeit not one we would have chosen. It was not, however, the only large-scale initiative the school undertook this academic year. This year we also immersed ourselves in restorative practices. Restorative practices are widely utilized, both in Vermont and around the globe, as a model of building relationships in a community to minimize conflict. Faculty, staff, and students were trained in the guiding philosophy of restorative practices and how to

weave the principles into PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) and every aspect of our living-learning community—all the more important when working with a population of students who have experienced trauma and struggles before arriving at Kurn Hattin.

Now, as we look ahead to an upcoming academic year full of uncertainty, the Kurn Hattin team is reflecting deeply on these past few months and leveraging the incredible resources of this dedicated team and best practices in the field to plan the path forward. The operation of a safe, healthy, programmatically robust, and nurturing community will present many challenges. If I know anything about Kurn Hattin, it is that we are more than up to the task. Never have I been more proud to say Kurn Hattin Strong!

We are grateful for all the support as we move the academic program forward!

~ Sergio Simunovic, School Principal

FROM OUR *Residential Director*

Since joining Kurn Hattin as the Director of Residential Services at the end of January, I have been so inspired by the resilient spirit of everyone in this community. The children, staff, and faculty gave me such a warm welcome. In my initial weeks on arrival, I was so pleased to join the children at breakfasts, lunches, have my office become an after school hang out spot, and to visit with many in their cottages along with my dog, Jessie-Anne. Kurn Hattin is indeed a wonderful community full of kindness and caring for others, and since our world shifted on March 18th, I've watched this resilient spirit continue with the staff here "making lemonade" by activating an amazing outreach plan to stay connected with everyone, learning new technologies (I know how to make Google forms, now!), and tackling campus improvements both inside and outside.

This Kurn Hattin spirit is strong, and the children have demonstrated it in every way possible through their outreach, commitment to their academics, willingness to engage in contact using new mediums like *Zoom*, and being the recipients of Mr. Fontaine's fantastic science green screen videos to keep on track and complete the school year successfully. I've been fortunate to stay connected with several of the students, and it just makes my day when I get an email back or get to see them as they drop off their school work in the box outside my office. Every interaction just solidifies our resolve to have the children back on our campus as soon as it is safe to do so. I can't wait to see their faces as they get to see the improvements for the first time—it will feel like a scavenger hunt to locate all the spaces and places that have been improved.

This Kurn Hattin community is so special and I am truly grateful to be part of it and contribute to it. As we know, we are more than the bricks and mortar, we are the people of Kurn Hattin. We are Proud, We are Kind, and We Keep Trying!

~ Ellen Wood, Director of Residential Life



Jessie Anne, Clyde, & Ellen

INVALUABLE *Relationships*

A brisk spring afternoon found our Family Outreach Coordinator, Tenielle Stone, and myself sharing fried plantains and chicken sliders at *El Taller*, a Mexican bookshop and cafe in Lawrence, Massachusetts. We listened as Roberto Villalba recounted stories of his youth at Kurn Hattin. Roberto had been a student in our program in the early aughts and can still remember milking the dairy cows every morning.

Roberto's connection to our campus was obvious when he came for a visit earlier that fall. Everywhere he turned, it was like a family reunion. He was stopped by teachers and houseparents who embraced him with a hug and a smile. Upon finding himself in a framed Basketball Championship photo in our trophy case, Roberto swelled with pride. For Roberto, Kurn Hattin was a place where he would learn discipline, self-reliance, and what it meant to be part of a team. It is one thing to be told that Kurn Hattin is your family, it is another thing entirely to realize that your impact on our community has lasted decades and will continue to be shared with future generations.

As a grown man with children of his own, Roberto works for the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC). His commitment to service for others has made him a leader at his organization. The GLCAC has actively fought to end poverty in Lawrence, Massachusetts since the mid-1960s. By providing workforce development, healthcare, ESOL classes and much more, the organization makes a difference each and every day. Of course, Roberto knew that The Homes, where he learned so much about himself, would be another great resource for the people of his community. Thanks to his connection, Kurn Hattin was able to meet with the directors of the GLCAC this spring to lay the framework for future student referrals and information sessions. These relationships are invaluable and are a reminder of the power of the Kurn Hattin experience. Roberto became a Kurn Hattin kid during a difficult time in his life. He brought the love, trust, and confidence he gained here back to his family and used that influence to continue the Kurn Hattin tradition of caring even now. I can only hope that the connections made during our meal at *El Taller* will lead to more happy "family reunions" in the future. If you would like to know more about Kurn Hattin Homes, please reach out to me at ccard@kurnhattin.org.



~ Crystal Card, Admissions Coordinator

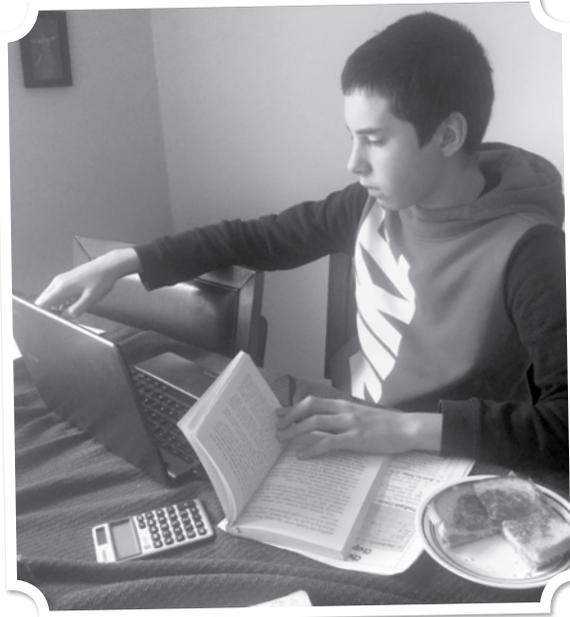
KURN HATTIN ACTIVITIES *During the Pandemic*



COVID-19 created many challenges for the students and staff at Kurn Hattin, but none that they couldn't overcome. The teachers continued to teach, the students continued to learn, and everyone continued to stay connected, active, and productive.

Staff members from residential, admissions, school, counseling, and family outreach departments reached out on a weekly basis, offering any needed support and making sure everyone knew that even though we were physically apart, we were here for them.

The teachers assigned school work and, whenever possible, conducted lessons by way of distance learning. Completed homework, art, music, and dance projects, and extra work such as building a lean-to shelter to accompany a final book unit were among the educational activities that remained consistent during these challenging times.



Staff at Kurn Hattin also took this time to refresh the campus. Trails were cleared, new signs made and posted, floors waxed, a fresh coat of paint on the walls of the school and cottages—these were just some of the projects accomplished in anticipation of the children's return. Everyone missed the children and eagerly awaited the day when they could safely return. "The amazing dedication, sense of caring, and spirit of camaraderie of the entire Kurn Hattin community always shines through in countless ways and will continue to see us through these challenging circumstances," stated Sue Kessler, Assistant Executive Director. Kurn Hattin thanks everyone for their concern and continued support.

This lovely note was received with a donation:

We have been very much impressed by Kurn Hattin's efforts to take care of students and to make their continuing education possible. You must all miss each other, but the loving care and support you have provided each student has surely made their lives better than feared. We are fortunate to live in Vermont where we have been spared the suffering of many other states.

You're remarkable faculty and staff provide a caring environment where students have opportunity to thrive and become responsible, capable people. We need more young people like them in this world.

These months have not been easy for anyone at Kurn Hattin, but your devotion to your students will have long-lasting, positive effects for them. We wish them and all faculty and staff at the school good health and resilience as we face the calamities wrought by this pandemic,

*With warm wishes and hope for the future,
~ Winifred McDowell*

KURN HATTIN *Album*

Our students relish their older school buddies. In the spring, students from Hampton School in New Hampshire visited Kurn Hattin to spend time with our students and participate in the Spring Musical. They had to return home mid-March, but they all were able to perform in the Musical dress rehearsal. Also students from Millbrook School, in New York paid a visit to Kurn Hattin enjoying a variety of activities with our students—from cooking to playing games. Our students loved every minute with their visiting friends.

The farm and horse programs are an integral part of Kurn Hattin Homes. The farm provides an opportunity for the children to help with the planting to harvesting process. The therapeutic horse program offers students a unique chance to learn about themselves and their interactions with others through caring for and connecting with the animals. This year the horse program had a new addition. Geoffrey O'Brien and Cynthia Rankin of Windsor, Vermont, generously donated their beloved Mr. Darcy, who is a Quarter Horse Draft Cross. Mr. Darcy is 21 years old and is now head of the herd while 23 year old Norwegian Fjord Samantha, who has been with Kurn Hattin for 13 years, is head mare. Under the guidance of instructor Sara Stine, Mr. Darcy's job is to help teach beginner students to steer. Samantha's job is to help beginners become comfortable being around a 1,000 pound horse and learn to balance and ride a horse bareback and under a saddle.



Fun after school activities keep students busy and engaged. Reading is one activity, in which students have a great time reading books to each other with their “reading buddies.” This is an enjoyable way for students from different skill levels to connect, read aloud, listen to one another, and utilize a multitude of other skills at the same time. Reading is not only a way to develop language skills and expand vocabulary but also a healthy and fun way to explore imagination and values, and build empathy for characters in the stories read. Playing games and working on projects are also popular activities. They allow students to develop critical thinking skills, creativity, teamwork, and good sportsmanship—all important life skills to have.



The boys' and girls' 7th & 8th grade basketball teams worked hard on the courts this season and displayed good sportsmanship. Congratulations to Coach Brigham and the Kurn Hattin 7/8 boys' basketball team on their League Championship win this spring!



THE *Bridge Builders*

A Glimpse Into the Life of a Bridge Builder

Last year, we were thrilled to learn that Kurn Hattin Homes for Children was selected as **Charity of the Week** in *The Week* magazine—July 26, 2019 edition. Each charity which the magazine features has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, which rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, their governance practices, and the transparency of their operations. Four stars is the group's highest rating. Several readers were inspired to support our mission and one of those readers, Jessie Morgan, invested in a Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuity. "My weekly magazine highlights a charity that has a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator. I'm drawn to children's issues. When I read about Kurn Hattin one week, I was intrigued. So I continued to their website. I was impressed by what I read, so I decided to put my money where my mouth is, so to speak. I think Kurn Hattin is filling an important niche." In early February on cross country donor visits, Kurn Hattin Executive Director Stephen Harrison met with Jessie Morgan in Arizona. He joined Jessie for a walk around the lake where she lives. Jessie worked as a librarian for years, he learned. She came from the northwest, likes the southwestern climate and wanted to be near some water, so the Prescott Valley area suits her nicely. Thank you, Jessie, for your friendship and your investment in Kurn Hattin children's future. Pictured is Jessie with her dog Lexi.



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 gift (s) of \$10,000 or more to the Endowment and Board Designated Funds. These may include designated bequests, trusts, 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 Builder Society also recognizes trusts established by donors to provide ongoing financial support to Kurn Hattin and gifts for current use.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, the following have been added to Kurn Hattin's Designated Funds and Endowment Fund received July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020 (\$10,000 or more):

Anonymous*

Mrs. Diana G. Bacon

**Berkshire Taconic
Community Foundation/
Mary Fuqua**

Terry & Marya Holcombe

**Mr. ('43) & Mrs. David J.
Maysilles**

**Robert W. Owens, Jr.
Memorial Fund**

**Geoff Branch & Kate
Spencer**

William & Paulette Gray

*In Memory of Harold & Dorothy
Gray*

*In Memory of Jim & Margaret
Duncan*

Mr. Stephen W. Hayes

Mr. John A. Hubbard

Barbara Matteson

Emily Moran Estate

Ms. Jessie Morgan *

**Mr. & Mrs. James E.
Schroeder/Ryan P.
Schroeder Scholarship Fund**

In Memory of Ryan P. Schroeder

Dr. Diane Servoss

*In Memory of My Aunt, Carol
Hubbard*

Paul & Gerry Sweterlitsch

**Mr. John Alan & Mrs. Mary
L. Watson**

Whitney-Blake Company

**Mr. Michael Witek & Diane
Belli-Witek***

*Charitable Gift Annuity

"I have found among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." ~ Maya Angelou

Building bridges to the future for children in need since 1894

Consider a CGA

Secure your future and Kurn Hattin's

Many people live on a fixed income, but also have causes about which they care deeply. If a person is contemplating a donation, but also likes the idea of receiving fixed payments for the donor or a loved one, a charitable gift annuity (CGA) is an option worth considering. A charitable gift annuity (CGA) provides donors with secure payments in the future, while helping to secure Kurn Hattin Homes' future as well. These gifts provide you with fixed, unchanging income payments for the rest of your life—**no matter what happens in the financial markets.**

How does it work?

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a planned giving tool by which you can transfer cash or appreciated stock to a charity and receive both tax benefits and fixed payments during your lifetime. Upon your death, the remainder goes to the organization. You may opt to have a second annuitant receive the distributions before the funds pass to Kurn Hattin. Distributions are quarterly and you may choose to have them start right away or defer them to a future date.

How do the tax benefits work?

With a Charitable Gift Annuity, you are transferring an asset to Kurn Hattin as a gift. The potential tax benefits include both a charitable deduction and a partial bypass of capital gains taxes on appreciated assets. Upon transferring the asset, you are immediately eligible for a tax deduction. As for capital gains, for example when dealing with appreciated stock, your tax liability typically would be based on the difference between the original cost of the stock and its current value. If you were to sell the stock outright, you would pay federal, and in most cases, state taxes on those capital gains. But by transferring the stock as part of a Charitable Gift Annuity, it's possible to avoid upfront payment of those taxes.

What is the minimum investment?

Charitable Gift Annuities have a relatively low funding minimum of \$10,000.

What is the minimum age to participate in a CGA at Kurn Hattin Homes?

Anyone 65 years of age or older is welcome to participate.

If you would like to see a personal illustration of the benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with Kurn Hattin Homes, please give Kim Fine a call at (802) 721-6914.

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."

KURN HATTIN *Changed Me*

I was 11 years old when I came to Kurn Hattin. I still remember filling out paperwork. I wouldn't have been able to experience the things I have without having gone to Kurn Hattin. I was able to play soccer, go horseback riding, and go skiing, which I loved.

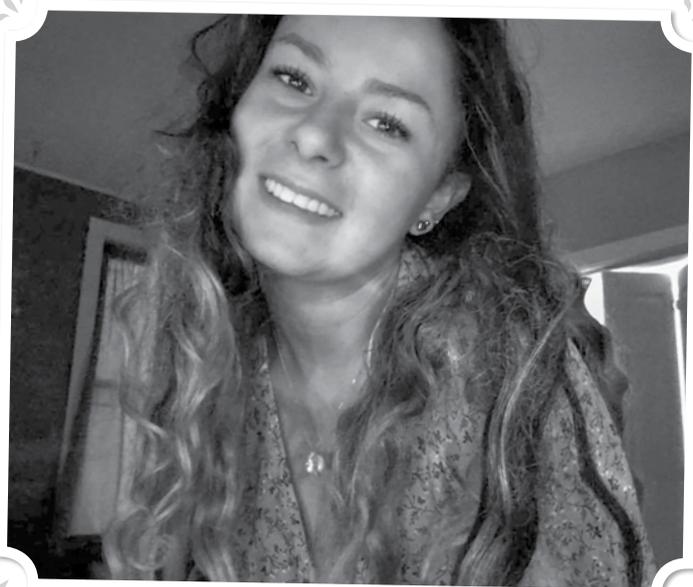
My favorite classes were reading and writing—skills I never knew I had. My writing teacher told me “You have a skill for writing.” After that, I wrote all the time and asked her to check my work. She was always very encouraging, which brought up my self-esteem and helped me think, “I can do this.” I remember loving to write so much, I kept writing and still write. Teachers there made you feel you could keep going and not give up. They'd be right there with you. The support they showed is something I'll never forget. Music was also an important part of my life at Kurn Hattin. I learned how to read music and I was in Select Choir, Jazz, and Concert Bands. I played the trumpet and still do.

I was held back at Kurn Hattin for a year before going to high school, which had a lot to do with my maturity level and readiness. And that was the right decision. Kurn Hattin coached me, prepared me and got me ready to leave, even though I didn't want to. If I hadn't been held back, I wouldn't have been prepared whatsoever for high school.

When I left Kurn Hattin, I knew what I wanted to do for college. My home life was extremely challenging and when I returned from home visits, I had a very difficult time readjusting. But I had a counselor who was very supportive. After graduating from Kurn Hattin, I knew I didn't want to live the life I was living and didn't want others to live the life I had experienced. I wanted to help people and have them not go through what I did. If they did, I wanted to support them through it. That's something I've really been passionate about.

Now at the O'Brien Center, an agency for substance misuse and mental health, I have a dual position as a case manager and outreach worker. It is part administrative but I also spend time with children, coaching them and helping them with their goals. I've found that most of the time, once you remove a child from a challenging household, the child's problematic behaviors go away. When you spend time with a child, and listen to them, that is all that matters—which is huge!

I went to Kurn Hattin because my family couldn't handle me. But there was a reason I was acting out. Being removed from the home and going to Kurn Hattin revealed the reasons affecting my behavior. That's the back story of why I like doing the work I do. It's very helpful in my work to have that insight.



Kurn Hattin changed me. The people there surrounded me, helped me, and shaped my future. They consistently demonstrated to me, as an adoptee, “I'm here for you, no matter what. We're not leaving you. You're not being sent away again. This is your home right now and we care about you.” Those were things I needed to hear. The routine and stability at Kurn Hattin were what I really needed. It was home for me.

Leaving was difficult. I wish I had gotten in sooner—in elementary school. That's how much I loved going to Kurn Hattin. But I honestly would not have the social or coping skills, and be able to do what I can do now, if I hadn't gone to Kurn Hattin. I would have failed in middle school. Because Kurn Hattin was such a safe place, I was able to open up about things that were going on in my life. That enabled me to move on, grow, and be a better person.

Going forward, I plan on going back to school soon to get a degree in clinical work, work with music therapy, and become a therapist specializing in adoption. Adoption is very central in my life and since I've been through it, I want to help others.

~ Jennifer Filiault, Class of 2012

Alumni Association NEWS

Due to Covid-19 cancellation of the Annual Alumni Meeting/Social Hour, the Alumni Nomination Committee agreed to postpone the 2020 election of the Kurn Hattin Alumni President until next year. Thereby, Heather Kampfer-Hunter will continue as Acting Alumni President for an additional year.

Self nominations will be accepted until March 30, 2021. Based on the responses, the nominees' names will be submitted for an on-line vote. A formal and final vote will be taken at the Annual Alumni Meeting/Social Hour in May 2021.

KURN HATTIN ALUMNI NOMINATIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Job Description: Provide leadership and direction to Alumni Association and its members and promote Kurn Hattin in a positive way. This includes representing the Alumni Association as a spokesperson, presiding at Alumni Association meetings, collaborating on agenda and communications, and attending alumni events.

Term: 2 years

Voting for an Alumni Association President will begin in April 2021.

The process will be: Self-nominations will be requested via Facebook and email. Nominees will need to fill out an application for Alumni Association President by the stated deadline. Platform questions in the application are:

- Why do you want to be the Kurn Hattin Homes' Alumni Association President?

- What is your vision for the Alumni Association?
- How do you see the Alumni Association partnering with Kurn Hattin?
- What activities would you like to offer/accomplish during the Annual Alumni Meeting?
- How have you been a positive role model in promoting and supporting Kurn Hattin and the alumni?

Based on the responses, the nominees' names will be submitted for an on-line vote. (The Alumni Liaison, a current 8th grade student, and the Admissions Coordinator will review the nominations.) A formal and final vote will be taken at the Annual Alumni Meeting/Social Hour in May 2021.

If you have any questions, contact Kurn Hattin Alumni Liaison Indira Singh at (802) 721-6917 or isingh@kurnhattin.org.

Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

This is a student's response to a school assignment after reading *The Rose that Grew from Concrete*, by Tupac Shakur—the rose being a metaphor for overcoming certain situations in life.

Question: How are you like a rose?

*I am like a rose because I have to deal with obstacles every day.
But I get through them without falling or letting things drag me into failure.
It can be hard, but at the end of the day, or the road, or our lives,
you will know you have accomplished greatness if you have been able to
withstand all that was stacked against you.*

~ Exavier, Grade 6

Deeanna Nicol, Class of 2020 at Kurn Hattin Homes, was named as this year's Americanism Essay Champion for grades 7-8 by the Pierce Lawton Unit #37 Vermont State American Legion Auxiliary.

This national Americanism Essay Contest, open to students in grades 3-12 and sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship. The title of this year's contest was "How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, the military, and their families?" Thirteen students from Kurn Hattin submitted essays in the statewide contest this year, and this is the second consecutive year that a Kurn Hattin student has been selected as state champion.

"We need to send out what I would call the 'Healthy Well-Being Starter Pack' to all the veterans who can't supply themselves with all the things they need", Deeana stated in her essay. "In the Starter Pack, it will provide basic needs for a healthy human, such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, hairbrush, lotion, floss, Q-tips, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, socks, mittens, hats, blankets, and healthy food such as fruits and vegetables. . . . If we were to work hard together, and help these veterans and their families, they will remember that what they did mattered, and that we care for them."

Deeanna's winning essay will be forwarded to the National Eastern Division Championship where a select few will be sent to the National Finals. Congratulations to Deeanna, and thank you to everyone at the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary and Kurn Hattin social studies teacher Richard Long for promoting the contest every year.

GRADUATION 2020 *Hits the Road*

How do we make this graduation really special for our students during this unprecedented time the Kurn Hattin Homes staff asked themselves. We miss the students and the students miss the staff and their friends. We came up with a unique plan to celebrate each graduate individually with a personalized ceremony to take to their homes throughout Vermont and New Hampshire—all while abiding by the current safety protocols.

So how did we 'pull' this off? A miniature "stage" with the Homes' banner, chairs, decorations and flowers was constructed on a flatbed trailer and pulled to each graduate's home. Speeches, music, and recognitions played significant roles in the ceremonies incorporating many of Kurn Hattin Home's traditions. The students were shown how much they are valued and loved. Each was heartfelt and so appreciated.

Graduation proceedings at each location began with Sue Kessler, Assistant Executive Director, welcoming everyone and reading a statement from Board President, Mark Bodin. He said, "You have shown you have what it takes in the classroom. More important than what you learned or what you can do is who you are. Despite the challenges of the times, the person you have become is ready for the challenge."

Salutatorian Ben Robichaud shared, "My houseparents, teachers, and my family helped me shape my life to how it is now. Kurn Hattin has given me the home that has let me find out who I truly am." Valedictorian Elizabeth Anderson shared the Kurn Hattin Core Values saying that they were all examples of what makes Kurn Hattin the strong, friendly environment that kids are able to call home.

Principal Sergio Simunovic read heartfelt thoughts about each graduate from the Kurn Hattin community and presented diplomas. "It's amazing how quickly the Kurn Hattin community came together with the plan for our 2020 traveling graduation roadshow during this extraordinary time. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the graduates and the pride and love from their families at each of the ceremonies was a true joy to behold and a clear testament to the Kurn Hattin team effort that made this idea so successful. Taking the difficult circumstances that we've all been dealing with over the past months and turning them into such a wonderful, positive way of ending the 2020 school year shows the dedication and commitment of the Kurn Hattin Homes staff to our children and to our mission. We are so proud of every one of them!" lauded Assistant Executive Director, Sue Kessler.



To Elizabeth Anderson, Emma Duckett, Topanga Town, Deeanna Nicol, Cameron Childress, Tristan Carroll, Dani Thorson, Lexi Miller, Ethan Sumner, Ben Robichaud, and Maddie Farrar—Congratulations! You did it!



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 January 11, 2020 and July 17, 2020:

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Special recognition to the clubs and civic organizations who made donations between January 11, 2020 and July 17, 2020:

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Ludlow, VT

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The Blue Army of Our Lady
of Fatima WAF VT Division,
South Burlington, VT

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SPECIAL *Appreciation*

Appreciation of Gifts in-kind: Goods and services donated between January 11, 2020 and July 17, 2020:

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**honorary alumnus/na

Your Support MAKES WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE

We are proud again to have been awarded **Charity Navigator's top rating—4-Stars!**

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children relies on your support. It truly takes a village to raise a child. Ninety-five percent of Kurn Hattin's revenue comes from your charitable donations. Our annual fund goal in this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021), which provides support for the educational, recreational, and therapeutic programs, food, clothing, and housing, is \$1,014,000. Every gift makes a difference, and there are many ways to give. We rely on your generosity now more than ever to make the services we provide children and their families possible.

And Thank You to everyone who made a special gift for *Giving Tuesday/Now* and *The St. Nicholas Project* to help families in need directly at this time.

When we are able to have groups visit again, would you like to see first-hand how Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children? At Get Acquainted Day, guests are given an overview of the Homes, learn the life story of an alumnus/na, led by the children on tours of the school and a residential cottage, and treated to a musical performance. Lunch is also provided. To be invited to our next G.A.D. contact Heather at (802) 721-6916 or hlonge@kurnhattin.org.

I hope that you and everyone you love are doing well,

~ Kim Fine, Director of Annual Fund & Special Projects

"I am about to reach 80 years old and I'm still teaching every day for the Denver Public Schools. In December, I was given an award. Thanks Kurn Hattin for the foundation that has given me the life as an educator since 1966. Keep up the excellent work ya'all!"

~ Peter Adam, Class of 1955

Contact Kim Fine at (802) 721-6914 or kfine@kurnhattin.org if you would like to discuss including Kurn Hattin in your will or legacy planning. Sample language to use to include Kurn Hattin in your will is posted on our website, www.kurnhattin.org.

Thank you.

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 January 11, 2020 and July 17, 2020.

**IN MEMORY OF RYAN C. AHONEN,
CLASS OF 2011**
Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

IN MEMORY OF MIRIAM ALDERS
Mrs. Carolyn Corbo

IN MEMORY OF LILY APTEKER
Vincent & Carol Malnati

**IN MEMORY OF YVONNE THERESA BAKER,
CLASS OF 1977**
Mr. Randall Baker

**IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER,
CATHERINE BARDWELL**
Mr. ('73)* & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

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**IN MEMORY OF MY GRANDFATHER,
BENJAMIN E. BRISTOL**
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**IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER, WILLIAM COOK,
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IN MEMORY OF THOMAS FAHNER
Mr. ('73)* & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell
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Dr. Gerald Theberge & Cindy Pearson

**IN MEMORY OF MALCOM H. "MICKEY" FAXON,
SR., CLASS OF 1945**
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**IN MEMORY OF DONALD FRISBIE,
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EDWIN GORDON, CLASS OF 1993**
Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

**IN MEMORY OF OUR COUSIN,
HEIDI JURKOIC GOTTLIEB**
Kimberly Lewis
Toni McDougale

**IN MEMORY OF HAROLD W. "PETE" GOSSELIN,
ON HIS 55TH BIRTHDAY**
Ms. Jeanne Gosselin

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IN MEMORY OF HAROLD & DOROTHY GRAY
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Her Family

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CLASS OF 1928**
The Estate of Ragnhild Schaefer (Mrs. Dayton
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**IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, DAYTON
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MEMORIAL GIFTS CONTINUED

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Mr. ('73)* & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

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**IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHER,
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ME HOW TO MAKE MUFFINS AND MISS
BURGESS WHO TAUGHT ME PIANO**
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CHARLES & ANN MCQUEENY**
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IN MEMORY OF MY MOM WHO TAUGHT HER 10 CHILDREN TO WATCH AND CARE FOR OTHERS AS GOD WATCHES OVER US

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IN MEMORY OF MY DAD, KEITH WALLACE

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IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER, JOANNA WOODHULL WEEKS, CLASS OF 1927 & HER SIBLINGS: REM, CLASS OF 1925, JOHN, CLASS OF 1927, JAMES, CLASS OF 1928, & JOSEPHINE, CLASS OF 1929

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Mr. Ronald Rajewski

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI WOOD, CLASS OF 2017

Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

*alumnus/na

**honorary alumnus/alumna

Honor GIFTS

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.

IN HONOR OF THE 2020 GRADUATING CLASS

Stephen & Laurel Harrison

IN HONOR OF JERRY BARDWELL, CLASS OF 1973 & LINDA BARDWELL

Ned Very

IN HONOR OF MY SON, JOSHUA BARDWELL & MY WIFE, LINDA BARDWELL, ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS

Mr. Jerry L. Bardwell ('73)*

IN HONOR OF SUE BEETHAM

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Goldhammer

IN HONOR OF LISA BIANCONI

Miss Marilyn E. Moore

Nature Club of Saxtons River, VT

IN HONOR OF LISA BIANCONI'S CONTINUED DEDICATION FOR MUSIC AT KURN HATTIN HOMES

Mr. Richard Gasset

IN HONOR OF MARK, MADDY, LEAH, & JOSH BODIN

Mildred Pascucci

IN HONOR OF BARBARA BRACKETT

Charles & Patricia Farmer

IN HONOR OF ALL THE COVID-19 FRONT LINE WORKERS

Kim Fine**

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATED STAFF AND FACULTY AT KURN HATTIN

Ms. Elisabeth Keppler

IN HONOR OF MARY DONNELLAN

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF KIM FINE

Mr. Alexander Haslam

Miss Marilyn E. Moore

IN HONOR OF DEB HAMEL, ON HER BIRTHDAY

Tammy Coutts

Ray Genovese

David Jellie

Ted Kinson

Donna Matthews

Charles Nordstrom

Kathleen Oliver

Fred Smith

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Peter & Mary Gummere

Keith & Hope Kennedy

Dean & Louise King

Philip & Patricia Lawson

Lisa & Patrick Palmer

Katelyn & Timothy Ritchie

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Springfield, VT

Jim Strouse

IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY OF 26 YEARS (NOW TO BEGIN HIS 27TH)

Wayne & Jean Harlow

IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW'S ORDINATION – MAY 8, 1993

Ms. Helen George

IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW'S 27TH PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY

Mila Morrical

IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW, ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Satu Clarke

IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW, ON HIS 39TH BIRTHDAY ;-)

Wayne & Jean Harlow

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IN HONOR OF JOHN HUBBARD, ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Ms. Susan Lober

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IN HONOR OF CHARLIE KELSEY
Chuck Tilgner & Lisa Cross

IN HONOR OF THE KURN HATTIN HOMES STAFF
Ms. Jennie May Rehnberg

IN HONOR OF MARCIE LANDRY, ON MOTHER'S DAY
Mr. & Mrs. Donald MacAskill

IN HONOR OF LEO E. LAWRENCE, CLASS OF 1943, ON HIS BIRTHDAY
Marcia Rose

IN HONOR OF LEO E. LAWRENCE, CLASS OF 1943, ON FATHER'S DAY
Mr. & Mrs. William Ryan

IN HONOR OF JANET PIRO LIDE
Mrs. Mary Mangum Lide

IN HONOR OF FATHER BRIAN MULCAHY'S 30TH PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY
Charlene Addario

IN HONOR OF AMY POOR, ON HER BIRTHDAY
Anne Clegg

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE DOWNS SHATNEY, CLASS OF 1963
Alice Yantis ('69)*

IN HONOR OF MY SIBLINGS
Mr. ('44)* & Mrs. James Barschdorf

IN HONOR OF ERIC TAZELAAR
Julia Tazelaar

IN HONOR OF TEACHERS & HOUSE PARENTS OF FORMER STUDENTS, PENELOPE & RUDY BLAKE
Alexander & Patricia Rowe

IN HONOR OF CLIFF WOOD, ON HIS BIRTHDAY
Arlene Clinkscale
Toni & Jon Michaels
Caitlin Wood

IN HONOR OF JOHN ZIMMERMANN & BETTE SCHOFIELD
Gail Zimmermann

*alumnus/na

**honorary alumnus/alumna

Kurn Hattin Homes

FOR CHILDREN

Founded and incorporated in 1894

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*Alumnus/alumna

**Honorary alumnus/alumna



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