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KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Bulletin

2016 VOLUME 2



Lives in the Balance
Understanding and Helping Students with Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Challenges

25th Annual Conference
— with —
Dr. Ross Greene

Thursday, October 6, 2016
8:45AM – 3:30PM at Kurn Hattin Homes
Westminster, VT
— Lunch is included —

Please direct all inquiries for the conference to Terry Andrews at
(802) 721-6913, or email tandrews@kurnhattin.org.

Register now: conference.kurnhattin.org

**KURN HATTIN HOMES
FOR CHILDREN**
Bulletin 2016 Volume 2



On the Cover:
Sixth Grader Penelope Blake gives a big, warm smile while warming up for a late spring softball game.

Photo Credit:
Kristie Lisai c. 2016

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Message FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While attending a gathering of regional Executive Directors recently, I was asked if we have to call law enforcement officers very often to handle problems with our children. I smiled and quickly responded that we almost never need to call officers to campus, because our children do not present those types of issues for us. I explained that some of our children may come from homes which sometimes present difficult situations for families and that our children are truly wonderful. While acknowledging that we often deal with the emotional ups and downs of children being away from their families, I stated the vast majority of our children are happy, well-adjusted kids learning and having fun together.

I share this message frequently with people with whom I come into contact, and this information is often a bit of a surprise for them. It seems that over the years many people in this region have had a less than positive impression of Kurn Hattin. Parents have told their children that if they misbehaved, they would be sent to live at Kurn Hattin. Thus, over the years, there has grown the false impression that we are some type of reform school with children behaving badly in attendance.

I thoroughly enjoy dispelling this impression whenever I encounter it. It actually is quite easy to expound on the terrific nature of our children, the quality of our programs, and the happy atmosphere that permeates all that we do here. Almost invariably there is someone else in the group, often many, who have had direct contact with us in one form or another and who can attest to the positive and joyous nature of life at the Homes. I always come away from these encounters with a sense of pride in the transformative work that we do at Kurn Hattin as well as a sense of accomplishment that I have slain yet another “dragon” of misperception of our life together at the Homes. Life here is good indeed!

~ Stephen Harrison
Executive Director



Curriculum AND ASSESSMENT

We took advantage of the summer vacation to continue our work on curriculum, instruction and assessment.

The faculty has been busy revamping our program and aligning our curriculum to contemporary national learning standards. Independent schools such as ours are fortunate to have great flexibility in this area. We are utilizing elements of several sets of standards including the Common Core, Next Generation Science, National Association of Social Studies Teachers and others. In addition, we took full advantage of our abundant campus resources to meet the social/emotional needs of our learners. This work also includes the design of a transition program to specifically support our 8th grade students as they prepare to attend a variety of public and private secondary schools successfully.



As an approved independent school, we are also required to test our students annually using a standardized assessment. For many years Kurn Hattin has used the California Achievement Test (CAT) for this purpose. The CAT assesses all of the content areas and is nationally normed, which is of huge benefit when assessing our students' performance against peers. The data provided by this assessment is used to plan curriculum and programming for the following year as well as to place students strategically in the appropriate class groupings.

Lastly, Kurn Hattin has increased our involvement with the Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA). This group is active in providing advocacy and support for Vermont's independent schools as well as serving as a liaison between our various organizations and State agencies and the Legislature. There are many important measures under consideration that impact Kurn Hattin and all independent schools. Kurn Hattin is staying informed and engaged in these conversations.



Great things happen every day as our students make progress as learners. It is a pleasure to serve as the Principal at Kurn Hattin and to recognize and celebrate the many successes, large and small, that happen continually here. As always, I invite you to contact me if you'd like to visit our school or learn more about our academic program. nnoyes@kurnhattin.org or (802) 721-6928

~Noah Noyes
School Principal

After School ACTIVITIES



Kurn Hattin offers a variety of sports. We play soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and baseball and softball in the spring. We teach the skills necessary, as well as sportsmanship, teamwork and fulfilling commitment to a team. These are all invaluable life lessons.

We include a variety of activities in addition to team sports. The students have participated in dance, theater, hobby club, snow shoeing, hiking, bike club, cooking club, scrapbooking, sewing, needlepoint, line dancing, exercise, swim team, board games and chess club. Not all students feel

comfortable being part of a big team. They need to find their own passion and niche.

One of the favorite activities is the therapeutic riding program. Led by Sara Stine, the students learn the art of balance, strength, body and emotions calming, and learning to be in the moment. Sara teaches that if you are tense and unsure, the horse reads your signals and responds—not always in the way you desire. Students learn to be in tune with their bodies as well as the horse's body and mood, and they come away from the program with heightened self-control, mindfulness and confidence.

Houseparents Robert Anderson and Clint Plante teach all aspects of fishing including tying flies, preparing and caring for equipment, casting and how to fish. Although they often catch and release, this year instead, Mr. Anderson taught them how to clean and cook the fish in a smoker.



Cross country meets have been a part of our fall activity program for over 15 years. Last year, Dan Barile, houseparent at Butler Cottage, started a cross country team. The team participated in our two cross country races and other races around the region. This summer a few of our runners participated in a track and field meet in Bellows Falls and did extremely well.

Sierra Patterson, houseparent at Maysilles Cottage, teaches tap, jazz and hip-hop. Students perform their dances for the entire student body at our annual talent show.

This fall we are adding three new activities: archery, yoga, and a drumming and movement group for our younger students. Play is important, and movement and activities are beneficial regardless of age. We celebrate each season of activities with an activity banquet and awards ceremony.

If you have an activity which you would like to share or participate in with our students, please contact me at klansberry@kurnhattin.org or (802) 721-6918. It could be a one day clinic or assisting with an after school activity. It is important for all students to find activities which they enjoy and are passionate about, and Kurn Hattin strives to offer choices to help them find that passion.

~ Karen Lansberry
Director of Residential Services



"My son Andrew's baseball team played at Kurn Hattin today. When we left, Andrew was waving goodbye to some of your players and he said to me, 'Mom they are the nicest kids we play with in our league and they work the hardest out there too!'"

~ A local resident



Consider Making a Monthly Donation

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

Seventy-Six Years OF SERVICE



With a combined 76 years of service between them, two of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children's beloved teachers retired in June as the school year came to a close. Teachers Mary Kay Pfadenhauer and Ann Hadley were recognized at a retirement celebration which included the children, staff, friends and the educators' families. "If I could write a script for a perfect retirement send off, this would be it! I wouldn't change a thing," Mary Kay Pfadenhauer said exuberantly. Mary Kay, who just completed a nearly forty-three year teaching career, started working at the Homes in 1974. She taught nearly every grade level in the school and a variety of subjects. "I started out teaching reading, then 7th and 8th grade sciences, but kindergarten through 2nd grade, that's my calling."



For teacher Ann Hadley, who started out as a full-time 5th grade teacher at Kurn Hattin in 1983, it was the fulfillment of a long-held ambition. Ann was born and raised in Bellows Falls, Vermont and attended Castleton College. Her father was a teacher and a coach, and she remembers always wanting to teach others as well. "We played school, as children. I put my brother at a desk and played the teacher." She explained that she enjoys working with children in the 4th and 5th grades because they are "still young enough to be read to, and are more uninhibited. They are creative in that way of being imaginative, making up stories and drawings." When asked about the books that she feels are most memorable, she lists *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary, *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White and the works of author Roald Dahl. Both Mary Kay and Ann reflected on the special

bond with their co-workers, describing them as caring and supportive of one another, as well as the children.

At the celebration, the teachers were honored with thoughtful, light-hearted speeches and anecdotes about their work and individual teaching styles by Principal Noah Noyes, their co-workers and the students. Executive Director Steve Harrison read a list of significant historical and cultural events that occurred the year that each started at the school. Kurn Hattin alumni sent in their thanks and best wishes, and their quotes were read aloud to the emotional audience. Ann said with amazement, "It is unbelievable that this will be my last Monday, and then to hear from those kids later about the first day that they walked into your room, and to realize that you had such an impact." The two were then presented with gifts, cards and a special farewell concert by the youngest members of the children's chorus. Mary Kay summarized, "It's like that old saying, *When you do what you love, you never work a day in your life.*"



~ F. Lisa Bloch
Assistant Director of Development

KURN HATTIN *Album*

Kurn Hattin has seven horses in its Therapeutic Riding Program. Each horse has its own personality, and the group has its own hierarchical structures. Niki, who is 30 years old, is a dominant horse, and so is Samantha, age 18. Because of this, the two mares graze in two different pens with their own "herd." Samantha is paired with Hjerti, age 27, who has been at Kurn Hattin longer than any of the horses—over twenty years. Hjerti is very easy-going and is happy to follow Samantha. In the other pen, Niki reigns as Queen. Teddy is a 13-year-old gelding, but he is moving up through the ranks quickly. Therapeutic Riding Instructor Sara Stine says that he is considered the Prince. Flicker, the only pony, age 18, is somewhere in the middle. Sophie, age 13, who is at the bottom of the horse hierarchy, is very smart and athletic, but does not want to be a leader. Comet is a 10-year-old Fjord gelding donated to the program this summer. He is a big, sturdy horse who loves attention and is very sweet. He is learning to work with the children. A new horse goes through a four- to six-week introductory period before a child will ride it within a teaching setting. At this stage, only Ms. Stine feeds the new horse, to establish herself as the "Head Mare" of the herd. She considers the different personalities of the horses as she pairs them up with the children at their horsemanship skill levels. Ms. Stine only works with two horses in the training ring at a time, and is mindful of which horses work better together during lessons. She teaches the children about these social dynamics, and how the horses communicate with each other. The children learn to read each horse's body language, so that they can best guide the horse and adapt their own behavior accordingly. Sara says, "These are great skills which the children can take with them and use in a variety of social settings later."



Each spring, houseparent Suzanne Peltier holds an annual Spa Day to treat the young girls of Hubbard Cottage. The Spa Day is a traditional way to shake off the old winter blues and welcome in a new, fresh season. The girls drink water with lemon slices, eat fresh fruit, and give each other foot massages and facials. This means a whole lot of fun and decadence, with cucumbers on the eyes,

peel-off gel facial masks and grape-feeding to one another as part of the pampering. The day is not only fun and relaxing, but also it helps teach the girls about good health, self-care and trust among friends.



The students in Tom Fontaine’s science classes learned how to make their own hot air balloons this year. Each student was given a set of instructions and worked independently on his or her project. They began by listening to a presentation about the science and engineering of hot air balloons and how they work. To make the project environmentally responsible and the balloons more buoyant, the students created their balloons with colored tissue paper. After researching images and structures of various balloons on the internet, they designed their own versions. Personal touches were added on each to make them easy to recognize. Once the balloons were constructed, the students discussed their designs and what they learned during the process. Then everyone met outside to test the balloons. The students helped Mr. Fontaine fill the balloons using a hot air machine, and then the hot air balloons were released into the sky. Each student timed how long it took for his or her balloon to fall back to the ground after being launched. It was a memorable and colorful science project.

Kurn Hattin Homes for Children is blessed with supporters near and far. One group that has supported Kurn Hattin for over 70 years is the National Society of New England Women. Members all across the country belong to Colonies and are active with many charitable and historical organizations. Kurn Hattin Homes has been the recipient of generous contributions from both Colonies and individual members for many years. During her tenure as President General of NSNEW, Leslie Vander Muelen Richards, a Kurn Hattin Incorporator, mounted a campaign to raise funds to replace our dining room furniture. The beautiful furniture we now enjoy in Watson Hall is just one of many ways in which NSNEW has helped Kurn Hattin. In February 2016, Connie Sanderson joined members of the Dorothy M. Clifford Spacecoast Colony for a luncheon in Vero Beach, Florida. Wonderful stories and information were exchanged. This Colony was founded in 2008 by Mrs. Bill (Barbara) Keller and named after her mother Dorothy M. Clifford, and has generously supported Kurn Hattin ever since. Photo, left to right: Nancy Caldwell; Carol Cole, President; Connie Sanderson; Bonnie Charles; Bobbie Hoffmann; and Susan Hunt.



The children had some special visitors this spring. Cousins Lisa Palmer, Sherry Greene and Rhonda McFarland delivered handmade, personalized pillow cases for each child. The talented women created ninety-five pillow cases, in the theme of each child’s choice. Lisa Palmer, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Windsor, Vermont organized the effort as part of the St. Nicholas Project, a statewide collaborative project of Vermont Catholic parishes that came together to provide resources to the children at Kurn Hattin. Lisa came up with the idea of the

Pillow Case Project to give the children something comforting which they could call their own. Named for the Patron Saint of Children, St. Nicholas, the Project originated with Father Lance W. Harlow, the immediate past pastor of Immaculate Heart Church of Mary in Williston, Vermont and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond, Vermont. Father Harlow coordinated several parishes and schools throughout Vermont to send Christmas cards to the children at the Homes. This included students from St. Michael’s School in Brattleboro, who made cards to send to their peers at Kurn Hattin. Father Harlow, a music volunteer at Kurn Hattin, has a time-honored relationship with the Homes that began when he was the pastor at the St. Charles Roman Catholic Church in Bellows Falls, Vermont eleven years ago. The St. Nicholas Project has evolved to include a year-round donations and clothing drive.

The children impacted the lives of others on a global scale with the “Tip of the Spear” community service project. Tip of the Spear is a national non-profit organization that seeks to bring comfort and support to military personnel who are in harm’s way, serving on the front lines in hostile surroundings. Through Tip of the Spear, local groups can form a “Boots on the Ground” chapter to sponsor a particular platoon, and commit to establishing a long-term relationship that meets the specific needs of that platoon until they come home. A close friend of the Kurn Hattin staff and children, John Zimmerman launched the collaboration with Kurn Hattin two years ago, when he asked the children to make handmade cards for the troops for his Boots on the Ground chapter in Kennebunkport, Maine. The group gets together once a month to pack the items they have collected, as well as cards and letters written by children and other supporters. The 8th grade class held a fundraising drive on campus and presented \$200 for more supplies, which Mr. Zimmerman matched. Kurn Hattin Residential Director Karen Lansberry noted, “This is very special. When the kids heard how much their letters meant to these men and women, I think they really understood the impact that they had on the lives of others.”





Lyssa Jackson, Class of 2008 was awarded the 2016 Catherine Hershey Alumni of the Year Award by the Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE). Catherine Hershey Residential Education Awards are presented to honor outstanding staff, students and supporters whose steadfast contributions and dedication exemplify the essence of residential education. Lyssa, who was presented the award from Kurn Hattin Homes Executive Director Steve Harrison, declared that “Kurn Hattin helped me become the person that I am supposed to be.” After Kurn Hattin, Lyssa attended The Putney School in Putney, Vermont on a full scholarship. There, she served for two years as the youngest student to ever join the Board of Trustees. Lyssa developed a passion for fundraising and worked in development for The Putney School and Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities in Keene, New Hampshire. In 2012, Lyssa was named “Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England. She was an Opportunity Program Scholarship student at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York and earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and Business. Lyssa has received numerous accolades and awards. Currently, Lyssa is working as an Executive Team Leader at Target Corporation, and is an Incorporator and Alumni Association Vice-President for Kurn Hattin Homes.



Summer is a busy time as we welcome new students for the upcoming school year. It’s an exciting time meeting and getting to know our new students. As exciting as it can be, it can be a challenging time for the children as well. The children can be homesick during the first few weeks as they settle into the new routine of living with new friends and staff. Lots of TLC is given to those children who come to the Wellness Center. We’re quick to

recognize the symptoms and allow the children to sit and talk with us, and also offer some time to sit in one of the comfy recliners. When they are ready, they will talk more, and then be ready to go back to one of the fun activities or camps that are happening that day. It is also that time of the year when the nurses visit each cottage to replenish stock. We also update any new protocols, such as CPR or First Aid, which are mandated by the State of Vermont. Each year in August, the staff participates in trainings. This year, we will be teaching and recertifying them in First Aid, as this is required on a bi-yearly basis. There are some updates to CPR as well, and we always want to be sure the staff has the latest information. Each summer, the staff also receives Blood Borne Pathogen retraining. We are also in the process of updating several forms for health screenings, as well as for teaching material for the upcoming school year. It is also tick season. The houseparents and the children are checking themselves each day after a day of fun in the sun. It is important for all of us to do this on a daily basis. The children are also highly aware of the importance of using sunscreen every two hours to prevent sunburn and premature aging of the skin.

Mark Bodin and Kathy Hanks from the Savings Bank of Walpole spent some time teaching twenty-six of our youngest Kurn Hattin students the difference between needs and wants when deciding how to spend money. *Teach Children to Save* is a national program sponsored by the American Bankers Association that organizes banker volunteers to help young people develop a savings habit early in life. The children had an enjoyable time while learning an important life skill.



Kurn Hattin musicians were in the spotlight several times this spring. The children had several on and off campus performances, including churches in Vermont and New Hampshire; Martin Luther King Day celebration at Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, Vermont; the Presto! Middle School Choir Festival at the Redfern Arts Center in Keene, New Hampshire; and the Kurn Hattin Annual Choral Invitational, Get Acquainted Day and Media Day. April was a particularly busy month. Music Director Lisa Bianconi was honored as one of Western New England Public Television Station WGBY’s American Graduate Champions. The program uses media to spotlight the efforts of educators and volunteers doing a range of “heroic” work in the field of community education, and helping at-risk students overcome key learning obstacles. The choir also participated in a community service project for the “Tip of the Spear” program, as part of their trip to Maine, and again opened the American League hockey game for the Portland Pirates by singing the National Anthem. The return trip included a Master Class vocal workshop with Rob Westerberg at York High School. Also in April, local talented young musicians came out in force to participate in the Annual Jazz Invitational. The public event featured riveting performances by jazz ensembles from area schools, with students from a variety of age groups. The event was kicked off by composer and Master of Ceremonies Eugene Uman, Director of the Vermont Jazz Center, and featured performances by jazz and blues vocalist Samirah Evans and The Keene Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Scott Mullett. The Jazz Band students participated in a workshop on jazz history and improvisational style with the Vermont Jazz Center Ensemble, as part of the center’s “Jazz in the Schools” program. In May, the 29th Annual Kurn Hattin Day Celebration featured a colorful concert performance of song, music and dance selected from several movies. A special treat was the hearty rendition of “Consider Yourself”



from *Oliver!* The song included audience participation and was enthusiastically led by Executive Director Steve Harrison and his wife Laurel. The school year concluded with the Kurn Hattin Marching Band performing for tens of thousands of spectators at the Strolling of the Heifers parade in Brattleboro, Vermont and the Jazz Band playing some hot jazz at the Discover Jazz Festival in Burlington, Vermont. Special thanks go out to our music volunteers Ginger Cook, Chris Goding, Jimmy Malley, John Reed and Janet Wilson.

THE *Bridge Builders*

Building bridges to the future for children in need since 1894



In recognition of her longstanding involvement at Kurn Hattin Homes, Elaine Bowen received a plaque honoring her membership in the Bridge Builder Society, Kurn Hattin's legacy society. Elaine, one of the founding members of the Society, served as a Senior Development Officer at Kurn Hattin Homes from 1990 to 1998 and continued to represent Kurn Hattin in retirement. She followed in the footsteps of her father, Philip Morrison, who served as a representative for Kurn Hattin from 1961-1979. The Bridge Builder Society was named for the poem *The Bridge Builder*, which Phil would read when he was giving a presentation about the Homes. The Society recognizes donors who make a gift of \$5,000 or more to Kurn Hattin's endowment fund. Gifts may be made outright, in marketable securities, or through a bequest, trust or other permanent contribution.

Embracing Every Opportunity

My late husband, Jeffrey B. Hatch, was a man who embraced every opportunity to experience life which his time here allowed him. He saw the world courtesy of 21 years with the Navy, and retired as a Chief Petty Officer after serving as a medical/dental specialist caring for his shipmates all over the globe, and children and adults in the villages of Vietnam. In the course of his service, Vermont became his home when his parents, Jean and Joseph Hatch, became houseparents at Kurn Hattin, and from then on, both Vermont and Kurn Hattin would forever be a part of his life. After retiring from the Navy and a stint as a carpenter, Jeff went back to school and got Bachelor's and Master's degrees and started a new career of fundraising for non-profit organizations. Eventually, his abiding love for Kurn Hattin and his experience as a fundraiser came together when he became a Kurn Hattin Board Member, using his abilities to support the wonderful opportunities and skills that Kurn Hattin provides its children for a new start in life.

When I met Jeff, he was in his interim carpentry phase and he delighted in showing me all the beautiful things that the state of Vermont had to offer. When he told me we were going to Kurn Hattin, I had to ask him to repeat himself. "Where?" That singular name turned out to stand for a singular place with a wonderful story attached to it. The visit revealed a beautiful campus and a warm home for children who needed an environment of love and encouragement to find and express their best selves. Years later, when Jeff and I were no longer counting every penny, we talked about organizations that were important to us and others, and our desire to help insure their continued service well past the time we might be able to send them an annual donation. We were never wealthy, but that didn't stop us from creating another career for Jeff (and me)—philanthropists! We decided the best way we could continue to give to Kurn Hattin was to include them in our will.

We made an inclusion in our last will and testament because Kurn Hattin stands for the promise of a better future. How can one not support that?



~ Hilary Hatch
Kurn Hattin Friend and Supporter

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 September 1, 2015–July 28, 2016 (\$5,000 or more):

Terry & Marya Holcombe

Robert Hubbard Estate

Fred Matteson Memorial Fund

Robert W. Owens, Jr. Memorial Fund

Mrs. Nancy Sloan*

*Charitable Gift Annuity

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."

Why Bequest to Kurn Hattin?

Simple

Include when the will/trust is written or add a codicil/amendment.

Asset transfer is delayed until death

Donor gets full use and enjoyment of assets during life.

Allows for larger gift

Allows for a larger gift when asset is no longer needed.

Can reduce or eliminate estate tax

Assets left to charity are excluded from taxable estate.

Provides a lasting legacy of your compassion for generations of children

Alumni Association PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor to have been asked to serve as Interim Alumni Association President. Heartfelt congratulations go out to retiring President Jackie LaDue Mallory, '54.

At Graduation on June 11, 2016, I presented the Alumni Association Awards. The recipients were Alista Cherbonneau and Marquell Collins-Williams. They both embody the spirit of Kurn Hattin through kindness to others and participation in all aspects of campus life. Before handing out the Awards, I said that Kurn Hattin gave me tools to succeed in life, and I encouraged and challenged the Class of 2016 to be active members within their high schools and local communities. Visit Kurn Hattin often, reach out to the Alumni Association and become active members to improve the home and school we love.



Heather Kampfer '01 & John Harris '12

Prior to Graduation, at our Annual Alumni Association Meeting on Kurn Hattin Day, the alumni in attendance filled out a survey about their life experiences since leaving Kurn Hattin Homes. This survey has been posted online on Kurn Hattin's website. I am asking all Kurn Hattin alumni to complete and submit the survey. This includes anyone who attended the Homes for any length of time. The survey helps Kurn Hattin to better understand the needs of the children; to provide the best support and services over time, including how to prepare children for schools, transitions and work; and to track the long-term results from childhood to adulthood.

To complete the **alumni survey online**, please go to this link: kurnhattin.org/alumni-survey. To receive a printed survey by mail or email, please contact Heather Longe at (802) 721-6916 or email hlonge@kurnhattin.org. Thank you. And keep in touch!

~ Heather Kampfer, Class of 2001
Interim Alumni Association President

FROM FACEBOOK



Kurn Hattin Homes for Children

Like 1,887

"I can't help reiterating my admiration and thanks to a wonderful haven for needy children and one which has provided guidance, education and encouragement to many, many children, who have gone on to lead meaningful adulthood lives, some who have become leaders in society."

~ James Barschdorf '44

A LIFE Well Served



Tim Flynn's parents divorced shortly after World War II. They both had to work. So Tim and his brother were placed in a children's home in Burlington, Vermont before eventually coming to Kurn Hattin Homes when he was in the 5th grade. Mr. W. I. "Pete" Mayo was the Director then.

Initially, Tim was not happy about being at Kurn Hattin and ran away almost as far as Saxtons River, Vermont. Another boy went with him. It was cold that night so they slept in a sawdust pile. The next morning while they were walking along the road, Mr. Mayo came by in his car and stopped. He simply asked, "How are you doing? Are you ready to go back to Kurn Hattin?" The boys got in the car and, without a scolding but with a few words of wisdom, rode back to campus. Over time, everything worked out and Tim settled in. "Kurn Hattin was a good experience and really helped me learn to socialize, learn vocational skills and have an excellent elementary school education."

From 1951 to 1955, Tim learned all the trades offered at Kurn Hattin—printing, farming, sheet metal, carpentry—and was introduced to music. He was taught to play the baritone horn by Mr. Mayo's daughter, Priscilla. When Tim graduated from the eighth grade in 1955, he was the Valedictorian and President of his class. He also won the esteemed Music Award. There was always something about music and it continued to be a part of his life.

After Tim attended high school in Burlington, Vermont, Kurn Hattin continued to help him with scholarship funds for university study. Because of world events and an interest in the military (especially in being a pilot), Tim enlisted in the U.S. Army for Special Forces in 1961. He became an airplane and helicopter pilot and flight instructor. He served two tours in Vietnam, flying both small fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Between tours, while stationed in Germany, he met his future wife, Jean, from Hawaii. She was teaching in the elementary school system run by the Department of Defense. They were married in Switzerland in 1968.

He and Jean then settled in San Jose, California, and Tim completed his degree in Business Management at San Jose State. Tim continued serving his country in the aviation field for many years as Safety Manager, Executive Officer and the State Army Aviation Officer before retiring as Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army in 1992, earning numerous medals, awards, citations and commendations for valorous and meritorious service during his 29½ years of military and government service.

Today, Tim spends his retirement time with family in Gig Harbor, Washington. Golf and fishing are his main hobbies. Music continues to play an important role in his life. He plays the euphonium (similar to a baritone horn) on a regular basis with the Harbor Winds Concert Band, and someday it will find its way to Kurn Hattin. He continues to support Kurn Hattin on a regular basis and is very appreciative of the "good works" Kurn Hattin continues to do.

~ Kim Fine
Director of Development and Public Relations

Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

I want to thank you for accepting me and letting me go here. It's been quite the change for me. I felt that my old school never paid attention to what I needed in order to learn, and had no clue about freedom and trying new things. When I left there, I was nothing but an unhappy shell of someone who could be awesome. When I got accepted here, I was scared. I didn't know what to expect from this place. I joined the rec program after about two months in the summer and met a ton of nice and curious people. They nearly overcrowded me, trying to get to me so they could know who I am. They were all so friendly. I didn't know what to say. It was a nice change. It was the one time in my life so far where I was happy to meet new people. Soon, I started school here and I was actually excited to go to class every day.

~ Valedictorian Kim Judd
2016 Graduation Speech Excerpt



Welcome to my home. Nearly 50 years have passed since the first time, in 1967, when I was brought here to my home, my home away from home. My personal circumstances as to why I was brought here are much the same as others who have passed through these doors.

We are a community and these are our children. As you spend your time visiting with our children, and I urge you to do that, talk to them, listen to them and watch them. Much of what you will see may not surprise you; these are kids doing "kid stuff," just like any other home. But some of what you will see today may astound you. You will see a devoted staff, many of whom have long tenure. The one thing there has always been an abundance of and seems to never run out, something we all crave and want...Love.

Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." I consider myself blessed, because at each fork in the road that I came to, there was always someone there to guide me. Today, I find myself having come full circle, and now I am standing at the fork in the road ready to help those who are coming behind me.

~ Jerry Bardwell, Class of 1973 & Kurn Hattin Trustee
2016 Get Acquainted Day Excerpt



My entire life I have excelled in academics, being one of the top members of my class. My wits were all I had to fall back on. I could not recognize any other skills that I had. When I hit a rough patch a few years ago, following the wrong crowd at the wrong time, school was no longer important to me. I did not care about my grades and I made some really bad choices. God gave me a second chance when I came to Kurn Hattin. I have made a complete

turnaround in my life. I started passing my classes again. I have also had the honor of being the class president of the student council for the past year, and I am ranked second in my graduating class. I have also found other skills like writing music and playing sports.

~ Salutatorian Riley Daniels
2016 Graduation Speech Excerpt

THE PURSUIT *of Happiness*

Recent research on happiness indicates that approximately 40% of our general feelings of happiness is genetic. So we are already predisposed toward looking at the glass as either half full or half empty. But what about the other 60% of our happiness? What about those people we know who seem to smile in the face of hardships or obstacles? The ones who wake up each morning and decide to make the most of every moment. I have had the honor of working with such a person for the past several years, a young woman who seems to always be smiling and full of positive energy. Recently, she was in my office for her regular counseling session and as we parted ways she said, “I think it is going to be a great day today.”

After she left, I pondered her sentiment. It reminded me that our outlook on life is very much a choice. This student has had her fair share of disappointments (much of the reason why she came to Kurn Hattin), but she has made the conscious effort to look at the day as having great possibility. And true, she may be one of the lucky ones predisposed to happiness, but I decided it was wise to take a closer look and acquire more information from this inspirational young woman.

Q: Do you wake up happy? Or do you decide on the day that it will be a good day?

A: “It is both. I usually just wake up and jump out of bed. I think about how I could make this day better. I try to forget about negative things, which is not always easy, but I just do it.”

Q: What about the difficulties in your life? How do you not let problems get you down?

A: “I am surprised, because my life has been hard. But I try to focus on making my future better. I try to be grateful for what I have and let people who are trying hard to help me, help me. There are many people helping me at Kurn Hattin, and I try to use their advice. I also try to help others to be happier.”

Q: What advice do you have for others who could use some happiness in their lives?

A: “Try to look at the positive side of things. Ask a friend for advice. If you notice people who are positive, try hanging out with them. Negative people will just bring you down.”

This student is one of many reasons I have found my work as a counselor at Kurn Hattin so rewarding for the past twelve years. There are many times when the children help me to be a better person, and offer life lessons that inspire and motivate. I hope that I can do the same each day. I hope we can all inspire one another to find more joy and happiness in our lives, and then pay it forward. This young woman is a true example of how Kurn Hattin helps children see joy and potential in their lives, and also of how that joy comes full circle.



~ Leah Gordon
Counselor

STAYING *in Touch*

A critical aspect of the work of the Family Outreach Department involves staying connected with and supporting our youngest alumni—those who have graduated from Kurn Hattin Homes within the last four years and are in various stages of high school. For their secondary education, they are scattered throughout the Northeast and beyond. Even with this geographic distance, social media has helped make it possible to stay in touch with them. We are always interested in hearing from alumni of any age, so please do be in touch! We love to hear what is happening in your lives and how things are going for you.

Over the next year, Outreach will be sponsoring events off campus in centralized locations throughout New England for current students and families as well as alumni of all ages. We would love to have your mailing and email addresses so we can invite you to these gatherings.

Below is a sampling of some of the activities that our high school aged alumni have been involved in since their graduation from Kurn Hattin Homes:

Class of 2012

- Four are working part-time while attending a four-year or community college. Their schools are Community College of Vermont, Greenfield Community College in Massachusetts, UMass Boston, and Temple University in Pennsylvania. Fields of study include social work, psychology, journalism and music therapy.
- Two are joining a branch of the military now that they have graduated from high school.

Class of 2013

- They are involved in band, honors choir, football, honors Spanish classes, writing short stories, and three are on the Honor Roll at their high schools. Most are in public high schools in their local communities, and one attends Vermont Academy.
- Part-time jobs include working at Head Start and Rite Aid in their towns. One student has started a lawn care business this summer.

*“My son couldn’t be better.
It’s simply a miracle.”*

~ Fred Bocko,
Parent of an alumnus

Class of 2014

- Ten are attending private schools including Milton Hershey in Pennsylvania, and Oakwood Friends and Lower Manhattan Arts Academy, both in New York.
- They are playing many sports in high school including volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, track, swimming, ultimate Frisbee and soccer. One is playing on a traveling soccer club and is potentially being recruited to play at the college level.

- Alumni have been chosen to participate in many extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial Club, Student Government, National Honor Society, a college prep program at NYU, working with younger students through organizations such as Helping Hands, and internships in law, medicine and music.

Class of 2015

- They are playing on volleyball, softball and basketball teams.
- Two have been attending Milton Hershey School, and a third from the class of 2015 will join them this fall.
- Alumni have summer jobs at a variety of retail stores, the public library in their town, and have yard and landscaping work.
- Two have been volunteering in local programs that help younger students succeed.

~ Sue Kessler
Director of Admissions and Outreach

SPECIAL *Recognition*

Special recognition to the clubs and civic organizations who made donations between January 21, 2016 and July 28, 2016:

American Legion Bridge-Wilson Post #77, Walpole, NH

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Brattleboro Rotary Club, VT

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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 21, 2016 and July 28, 2016.*

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*Kurn Hattin Homes transforms the lives
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