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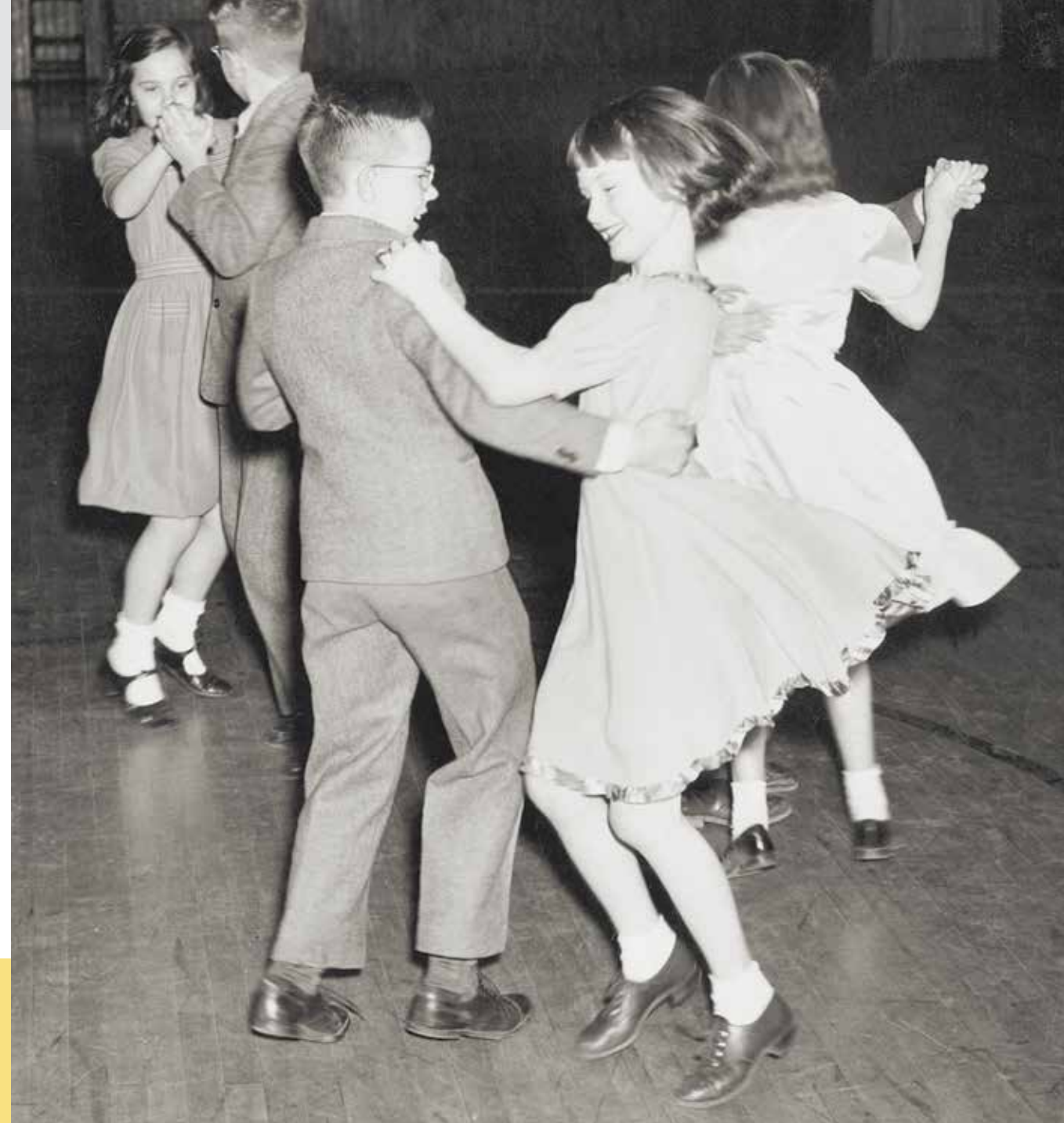
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KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# Bulletin

2014 VOLUME 2

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## KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# Bulletin 2014 Volume 2



### On the Cover:

Children having a great time during one of the many square dances held during the years when Mr. Mayo and Mr. Watson were directors of Kurn Hattin.

Recognize anyone?

### Photo Credit:

*William Rittase, circa 1950*

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## Message From THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down, school is again in session, and the sounds of children laughing, as they walk from the cottage to the dining hall for breakfast, resonate across the campus.

Kurn Hattin celebrated 120 years of service to children on August 18, 2014. This milestone is a result of dedicated staff who, over the decades, carried forward the dream of one man who dedicated his life to helping children and families create a better life. It was said of our founder, Charles Albert Dickinson: "Joined to his intellectual idealism was a big heart of love...all that was human appealed to him. He took humanity into his heart." Families put their faith in our work, and entrusted their children to our care. Boys and girls thrived in the bucolic setting, and a pillar of New England childcare programs endured. A loyal base of supporters allowed Kurn Hattin to maintain first rate services, and continue to provide them without financial burden to a family.

Over the years, Kurn Hattin has seen many changes. This year is no different. Changes in how we operate, re-evaluation of our childcare model to accept day students, implementation of a comprehensive Strategic Plan; engaging the Board in focusing on sustainability, are just a few of the efforts on the doorstep of our next 120 years.

Almost 2 years ago Kurn Hattin adopted a temporary leadership model with Co-Executive Directors, which has served us well as we now embark on the search for a single Executive Director. Throughout our history, the person at the head of the organization has provided guidance, inspiration, and in tandem with staff and the Board of Trustees, focus on service innovation and fiscal stability. We look forward to the possibilities a new leader will bring, and a fresh look at what has worked well for so many years, and how to make our program even stronger.

The world has changed dramatically in the last decade, and Kurn Hattin takes pride in keeping pace with a rapidly evolving society and the needs presented by the children and families we serve. Your participation is key to our success, and we look forward to sharing more about the progress at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

As always, I welcome your thoughts. Contact me at [csanderson@kurnhattin.org](mailto:csanderson@kurnhattin.org).

~ Connie Sanderson  
Acting Executive Director



## Alumni MENTORING ALUMNI

Graduation Day 2014 was full of emotions both for the graduates and for those of us who were watching them receive their diplomas. It was also a chance to reflect back to the time when each of the students and their families first considered applying to Kurn Hattin and the wide range of feelings they experienced as part of that process. And then, there they were, the amazing young men and women, standing on the stage in caps and gowns about to move forward to the next chapter of their lives.

Everyone at Kurn Hattin is committed to making sure that these newest alumni know that we are always here for them and that their connection to Kurn Hattin is forever. They hear this many times and know that they can contact staff members for support, a listening ear or assistance with a specific issue. To help formalize this effort to support our young alumni, we have established the Alumni Mentorship Program which will officially begin this year and be overseen by the Family Outreach Department. The goal is to pair current eighth graders with alumni in a mentoring relationship. As the soon-to-be graduates prepare to leave the place that has been their home away from home and to make the transition into high school, who better to understand what they are going through than another Kurn Hattin graduate who has experienced many of the same things?



During this past school year, one of our Trustees and alumni, Jerry Bardwell '73 along with his wife, Linda, became mentors to Chrystal, an eighth grader. The relationship that grew and flourished over the course of many months was incredible for everyone involved. Nothing could express more eloquently than their own words below just how significant this experience has been for them.

*"I have come full circle. Being a mentor to Chrystal has brought back memories of when I had many mentors from Kurn Hattin whom I knew I could rely and count on. Being a mentor has given me pause to know that I am giving back, perhaps in some small way, what Kurn Hattin gave to me and still to this day even after 41 years since my graduation. I know that there are people whom I have known from those days long ago who are still very much a part of my life, and who still take an active role in how I have lived and continue to live my life. This is what I hope to pass along to Chrystal and perhaps to others; that no matter what the circumstances, no matter the miles that are between us, no matter the span of time, we share a common bond, we share a common link and that is we are the Kurn Hattin family."*

~Jerry Bardwell, Class of 1973

*"Having a mentor was great—it was like having Kurn Hattin parents. They were, and still are, big supporters of me, and it think that's awesome, especially since Jerry is an alumnus. They're both really great people and not only offer to take me out to do things, but they ask my mom if she'd like to tag along as well. It's nice that they incorporate me into their family, and I believe every student should have a mentor."*

~ Chrystal L., Class of 2014

Please consider being a Kurn Hattin Alumni Mentor. For more information about the Alumni Mentorship Program, please contact Tenielle Nicholson, Family Outreach Coordinator, at [tnicholson@kurnhattin.org](mailto:tnicholson@kurnhattin.org) or (802) 721-6945.

~ Sue Kessler  
Director of Admissions

## Summertime AND THE LIVING IS ACTIVE

Every year as we approach the end of the school year, we hear the children's excitement of summer vacation: free time, no school nor homework. The teachers are also talking about their summer plans. The residential staff begins looking forward to new activities and a more relaxed atmosphere. The houseparents' year is really just beginning.

As we wish the best to our 8th graders and new members of the Alumni Association, we greet a new group of children who have been waiting to join us. Throughout the summer, we are busy greeting new faces. We find that when the children join us in the summer, their transition is easier. The children get to know the routine of the campus, make new friends, and bond with houseparents and staff before school starts. And of course, summer is fun!



During the summer we enjoy a full recreation program. Our children attend daily recreational activities which include arts & crafts, swimming lessons, games, hikes, computer time, library time, outdoor activities, and farm and horsemanship programs. We also offer a variety of camps including soccer, basketball, quilting, needlepoint, film making, cooking, dance and scrapbooking. There are also off-campus camping trips with hiking, fishing and even a trip to Cape Cod to bicycle the trails and swim in the ocean. The activities are varied and the children always find many that they enjoy.

Daily recreation also includes a weekly field trip. Every Wednesday we're off to a different destination. This summer we have enjoyed going to Six Flags, Echo Lake, the Competition Complex, the Claremont Recreation Center and bowling in Springfield, Vermont. Whales Tales Water Park is always a favorite and we all enjoy visits to various lakes to play in the water and build sand castles. The recreation staff hosted our semi-annual talent show on Family Day on July 18th. The children that attended Dance Camp performed along with many of the other children who shared their talents.

To wrap up our summer program, we have a Family Day. The children and families participate in field and water games, free swim, a slip & slide game and a bounce house. We have a wonderful picnic lunch followed by afternoon activities, snow cones and cotton candy. Then there is a flurry of car packing and goodbyes. The children go home for a week and the staff launches into Training Week. It is a busy week of cleaning and preparing cottages and classrooms for the start of the school year. We participate in various training sessions to refresh our skills and enjoy some time socializing with one another. The staff looks forward to seeing the children be as successful during the school year as they were over the summer. We work hard to give each child every opportunity to be successful. The summer program prepares the children for life at Kurn Hattin.

~ Karen Lansberry  
Director of Residential Services

## Alumni Association PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the saying goes; "The more things change, the more things stay the same." At Graduation the Class of 2014 sang a song that was written expressing gratitude for all that they had received at Kurn Hattin. It was a very heartfelt and emotional event. I graduated in 1954, some sixty years before this class, and lots of memories flashed through my mind during the ceremony.

The Alumni Association Centennial Celebration was a fantastic experience-especially with the Kurn Hattin Historical Exhibit, Priscilla Mayo Watson's attendance, and the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award to Dick Nash '42. At the Saturday Annual Alumni Association Meeting, Carolyn Blake-Deyo '54, long serving Alumni Association Committee member was honored for her 15 years of service and advocacy for the children of Kurn Hattin. Though Carolyn is stepping down from the Committee, she will still be actively involved and a strong advocate for the Homes. Lyssa Jackson '08 was elected to fill the Vice President role. We look forward to working with Lyssa. We also discussed how alumni give back to the Homes through volunteer service, advocacy, and financial support. We generally give to the Annual Appeal and Annual Meeting dues which goes toward annual alumni awards and alumni memorial gifts. However, alumni annual giving is not as strong as it could be and we should do more. I proposed that we also support the Homes with the **creation of a special Alumni Giving Forward Fund**. Each year we will discuss with the Development Department a project needing funding. This year we'd like to lend our support for a new school bus. Funds have been raised through the recent appeal but more are needed. The bus trips and excursions were such a treat for us when we were students. Several alumni gave gifts at the meeting and we agreed to an alumni goal of \$10,000 this year. I'm hoping all the alumni will participate. Let's put 'a good dent' in the expense of a new bus. Let's do this for our Kurn Hattin brothers and sisters. Let's give them the same chance we were given. Let's give it forward.

It is my privilege to be President of the Alumni Association during this historical year.  
Thank you for the honor.

~ Jackie LaDue Mallory  
Class of 1954

### *Excerpt from letter read at the Alumni Annual Meeting on Saturday morning.*

Many memories touch my thoughts every day of my life back at Saxtons River – walking over the covered bridge and attending the one room school house there. Back then, we walked the dirt roads and relished the few coins we were given to spend on treasures at the little store.

Knowing all that Kurn Hattin has given to me: self-esteem, pride, education, caring for others, and love of music especially, my hopes are the same for the children attending there now and in the future. I feel a kindred bond knowing their lives will be touched by the same love, education, and support that was given to me and is the tradition of Kurn Hattin.

The growth from when I first entered until I left is burned into my minds eye like a photograph-the small person who became and adult through all the trials of learning. Knowing this wonderful foundation is a part of what every student takes with them as they walk forward on their path in life is a legacy that honors this institution and will forever in their minds as it does mine.

~ Susan Mae Daysh Merrill  
Class of 1940



# KURN HATTIN *Album*

Governor Madeleine Kunin, the former State of Vermont Governor, came to Kurn Hattin Homes to speak with the children and members of the Greater Keene, Great Falls Regional, and Brattleboro Area Chambers of Commerce in early April. It was a thrill and honor to meet the former Governor. She inspired us all—adults and children alike. We appreciated her words of encouragement about the future and the importance of hard work, perseverance and curiosity. Governor Kunin discussed the challenges she had faced becoming Vermont's first woman Governor. She talked to the children about their dreams, planning for their futures, and the importance of a good education. The Select Choir sang to her so beautifully that she said it was her best gift ever!



The GRAMMY Foundation Senior Vice President, Kristen Madsen, visited Kurn Hattin Homes on April 24 to honor Music Director, Lisa Bianconi for being one of 10 finalists for the first-ever GRAMMY Music Educator Award. Lisa won matching \$1,000 honorariums for herself and Kurn Hattin Homes. Lisa and her family ascended onto the stage and together presented her honorarium to Kurn Hattin in honor of the Kurn Hattin children. It was a very moving presentation. In addition, Trustee Ron William, Class of '42 and Chair of the Executive Committee read the Governor's Proclamation issued by Governor Peter Shumlin to Lisa for her contributions to the field of education in Vermont. Later that month, the Kurn Hattin Select Choir visited the Vermont State House in Montpelier to perform for a session of the House of Representatives. During

the session, a Resolution was unanimously passed to honor Lisa Bianconi recognizing her dedication and inspiring work with children in Vermont. Vermont Representative Carolyn Partridge, Windham-3 who suggested the bill honoring Lisa stated, "There is no one more deserving than Lisa. Her dedication and commitment to the children at Kurn Hattin is unsurpassed and this recognition is a small token of our appreciation for her work." We're very proud of Lisa and the work she does with the Kurn Hattin children.



We have six horses in our big red barn now. The Norwegian Fjords are Hjerti, Samantha, Sophia and Nikki. The big strawberry roan quarter horse is Pepper. Flicker is our wonderful pony. All of our horses find connections with the Kurn Hattin children. Therapeutic horsemanship instructor, Sara Stine recently



attended an international conference on Research in Human-Animal Interaction: Challenges, Progress, Collaboration in Ridgefield, Connecticut. The research discussed there further validated the benefits of equine assisted therapy. The rewards the children receive are evident through their sessions with our equine partners. In the barn and in the riding ring miracles happen. This summer Kurn Hattin also hosted a Two as One Horsemanship Clinic. Bob and Suzanne Jeffrey did a great job of instructing adult students about a gentle method of communicating with their horses. Meanwhile, on the farm, farm manager Pat Barry, had a productive semester working with the children. In their sugaring sessions, the children

assisted with everything from tapping the trees to tasting the syrup. They seeded and cloned plants, planted and maintained the fields and harvested flowers and early vegetables. Organic produce is grown and consumed at meals and snack time. The children are able to experience agriculture from class to farm to table. They really learn to appreciate where good food comes from and why it's important. Apple trees will be planted in the fall.

Each year on Kurn Hattin Day, we orchestrate a theme day of events with campus tours, a luncheon, and a concert performance to thank our donors and alumni for their support. This year was especially meaningful. Bellows Falls Rotary President Ed Dinnany presented the Rotary Lifetime Humanitarian Award to Kurn Hattin alumnus and former Executive Director, Board Chair, (and Rotarian) David Maysilles '42. Mr. Maysilles was presented with a stunning portrait of himself painted by Helene Champagne that will hang in the Kelsey Room at the Mayo Memorial Center. The Bellows Falls Rotary also presented Kurn Hattin with a check for \$2,000. Then, the Masters of Ceremonies 2nd grader, Dre-Shawn Cherbonneau and 1st grader, Ciara McQueen kicked off a lively afternoon of movie-themed music and entertainment!





Seven Kurn Hattin graduates: Kaylee Cherbonneau, Susanna Compare, Breanna Holmes, Gamael Jean-Francois, Brianna Loiacono, Jonathan Sherette, and Jessica Waite, have been accepted to attend the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Milton Hershey School (MHS) is a private coeducational home and school for children, funded by a trust established in 1909 by Milton S. Hershey, the legendary confectioner, and his wife. According to Sue Kessler, Director of Admissions at Kurn Hattin, usually only two to three students go on to MHS each year for their high school education. “Many of our students have gone on to be successful at Milton Hershey and afterwards,” she said. “However, to have seven graduates accepted in the same year is tremendous. This is a wonderful opportunity for them.” Each MHS student enjoys free room and board, meals, and potential college scholarships. Before departing for Pennsylvania, the MHS staff held a celebratory reception and information session for the children and their parents

in Keene, New Hampshire. There, they learned about student life, what to expect, and what classes and activities would be available to them. They also heard from former and current students about their personal experiences there, including from 2013 Kurn Hattin graduate, Dominic Cherbonneau, who will be welcoming his sister Kaylee this autumn. Dominic described a busy, satisfying future filled with structure and choices, “Whatever you want to do, just apply yourself, and they will help you do it.”

---

Kenneth Severens and his wife, Martha, spent two days visiting the Kurn Hattin Archives. He sent us a note that read: I grew up knowing that Warner Home the girls’ campus in Saxtons River and Kurn Hattin played important roles in the lives of my parents—Stella Hoxie (1897–1992) and Ralph Severens (1899–1991). Stella Hoxie was the teacher at Warner Home from 1925 until 1930, when she became matron. She remained in that position until January 1, 1934, two months before giving birth to my brother Richard. In the fall of 1934, she became principal of the Kurn Hattin School in Westminster, a position she filled for two years, resigning a month after I was born in 1936. One of my mother’s last public presentations was a short talk she gave at the dedication of the Mayo Memorial Center in 1989. What I did not know until I visited the Kurn Hattin archives in May was her admirable professionalism and commitment to education, which I intend to address in a family history I am presently writing. My parents had married in August 1932 and lived at Warner Home for nearly a year and a half, and Ralph Severens worked as a handyman for buildings and grounds sporadically during the 1930s. Our two days on the Westminster campus, as well as time spent walking around the old Warner Home site, was an inspiring experience. While the picturesque landscape of Kurn Hattin has not significantly changed, the new buildings and modernized programs still function with my mother’s missionary zeal for helping young people.

~ Kenneth Severens  
May 14, 2014



Mary Kay Pfadenhauer, who teaches our youngest children, has earned national recognition for outstanding performance in advancing reading practice and proficiency. She was awarded Accelerated Reader Model Classroom status by Renaissance Learning, a Wisconsin-based education company. The program fosters the love of reading in children. Accelerated Reader Model Classroom Certification demonstrates that a majority of Mrs. Pfadenhauer’s students have met or exceeded goals for reading practice and comprehension. The program helps teachers manage and monitor children’s independent reading practice. Students can pick fiction and non-fiction books at their own skill level and read at their own pace. When finished, students take a short quiz on the computer, which has a database of quizzes based on 150,000 different books. Passing the quiz is an indication that the child understood what was read. The children and teachers then receive feedback based on the results. Mrs. Pfadenhauer uses these results to help students set personal goals and direct their ongoing reading practices. The process increases their likelihood of success, and enhances their self-esteem. The positive learning experience encourages the child to continue reading and learning, giving them a wider breadth of knowledge over time. Mrs. Pfadenhauer has been an elementary school teacher for 40 years, but considers the initiative to be a crowning achievement.

Mrs. Pfadenhauer credits the advancement of the Accelerated Reader program in particular to an exemplary student in her class, top reader, Dre-Shawn Charbonneau. “Dre elevated us all to a whole new level,” she explains emphatically. “He just loves to read, he can’t get enough of it. This is all because of him.”

Dre-Shawn is wearing a striped shirt in the photo.



July 9th. Eileen got Jen updated with a few new protocols. Then the two were working together as the “well-oiled machine” they were when they worked together over seven years ago. Jen’s hours are weekdays 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Eileen’s hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They discussed plans for the children’s wellness and other instruction even before Jen began. Jen is on the right in the photo. Please stop by to welcome Jen back to Kurn Hattin.

---

Eileen Brown, RN, Director of Health Services reports that as of early July, she has not had to treat any children for ear infections or swimmers ear. Using a half solution of white vinegar and half solution of alcohol helped tremendously. The vinegar acts as an anti-bacterial and the alcohol helps to dry the water that may remain in the children’s eardrum. And it helps that the children really don’t mind having the drops. The Kurn Hattin children are very fortunate to have an outdoor pool. Eileen’s also excited to announce the return of Jennifer Burke, RN who returned on





The culmination of a study of plant life was a tasty plate of greens. To learn more about how food gets to their plates, the children read several books, wrote creative stories, and completed study units on all aspects of the life of plants. They even worked “photosynthesis” into their vocabularies. The students planted beans and sprouted them in the classroom, and then transplanted them on the farm. They also planted peas and put them in the greenhouse to grow. Pea sprouts with ranch dressing is the ultimate farm-to-table experience.

On April 3, 2014, Kurn Hattin Homes held its 14th Annual Ziggy Ostrowski Mystery Writing Contest Banquet. The two contest winners, 7th grader Maia Brow and 8th grader Susanna Compare, each received a \$25 cash prize for their mystery stories. For this year’s contest the participants were asked to write a chapter of a novel in progress. Lee Conrad Kemsley, Vermont author of the novel, “The Hunger Year,” gave the children chapter three of her upcoming work, “Korintok.” The ambitious young writers then tried their hand at writing a fourth chapter. Also honored were finalists, 7th graders, Reginald Watson, David Spencer, Jr., and Chelsea Taylor, and 8th grader Chrystal Longe. The finalists joined the author for dinner at the banquet, with the winners sharing her table. The Paul Gordon Memorial Prize, awarded to a student who shows a passion for reading and writing, was awarded to 8th grader Danielle Barber, who won two books by her favorite author, John Green. This contest for middle school students was developed by Kurn Hattin writing coach Ziggy Ostrowski and English teacher Kristie Lisai fourteen years ago. The purpose was to encourage the students to challenge themselves and achieve goals that may have seemed beyond their reach. When Ostrowski passed away in 2005, Mrs. Lisai honored his wishes by continuing the annual contest to inspire young writers, and named it in his honor.

*Pictured from left to right: Danielle Barber, Maia Brow, author Lee Conrad Kemsley, Susanna Compare, and English teacher Kristie Lisai.*



Over the summer, we bid farewell to two long-time school staff members, Mrs. Sandy Anderson, School Secretary and Mrs. Kathleen Pirruccello, Speech Therapist. Happy Retirement to them both! We also said good-bye to Mr. Scott Tabachnick and welcomed back Mr. Tom Fahner as School Principal. Summertime is a fun-filled and active time for all. The recreational program provides the children with a variety of athletic, recreational, and educational activities. The instructors, some whom the children see only in the summers and others whom they see throughout the year, are happily enjoying every activity along with the children. The children participate in the many offerings both on and off campus—excursions and camps and many funded by supporters of the Homes. A typical summer day might also include a swim in the outdoor pool, as all the children are taught to swim, a barbeque lunch and a fruit popsicle mid-day. The children always have many summer memories of fun and laughter with friends.



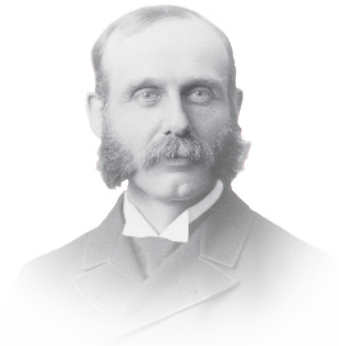
There are always opportunities for learning life skills in Mr. Tom Fontaine’s classroom. Mr. Fontaine’s Science Classes executed two extensive planning projects from start to finish, developing new life skills along the way. In the first stage, using their iPads, the students identified birdhouse designs that they would like to build. Then they measured and projected to scale, put together plans, and built paper birdhouses. When they had their new design skills down, they planned and made wooden birdhouses. As an experiment, some were painted colors to see if they attracted birds differently. Once they were hung in the trees on campus, the children began repairing the existing farm birdhouses.



The children took the skills that they had learned building birdhouses to the next level, becoming architects, engineers, builders, and financial planners in their next big project of building a home. They were each given a budgeted amount of money, and used their drafting skills to plan and build a miniature home to scale. They kept a ledger with a checkbook, and wrote out checks for materials and contractors in the process of planning and building their home. When their home was finished, they concluded the project with an essay about what they had learned.

# THE *Bridge Builders*

*Building bridges to the future for children in need since 1894*



## You Hold the Key to our Future

Kurn Hattin's founder, Reverend Charles A. Dickinson, believed that it was imperative for Kurn Hattin to have an endowment in order to succeed. It was true then, and it is true today: gifts to our endowment represent the key to our future...to the children's future. Our endowment enables our mission of transforming the lives of children and their families forever. For 120 years now we have achieved this mission through a tradition of charitable giving, built on a foundation of legacy giving and most importantly, bequests designating Kurn Hattin Homes as a beneficiary.

The Board of Trustees and administrative staff are committed to leading Kurn Hattin into the future with thoughtful and strategic planning. We hold ourselves accountable to the families and communities we serve by providing the highest degree of service and performance. It's your support which allows us to meet that commitment and maintain these high standards. Your legacy gifts build bridges for generations of children. For these children, and for all of us who believe in this transformative mission, you hold the key to our future.

*~ Kim Fine, Director of Development*

## SOCIETY NEWS:

For generations, Kurn Hattin has been blessed with friends who have endowed its work. In 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 between January 28, 2014-July 25, 2014 (\$5,000 or more):

**Dorothy Billings  
Willard & Elizabeth Trust  
David Seeley Trust**



## PLANNED GIVING TIP:

Leaving a legacy gift to Kurn Hattin is easy. You can make provisions in your will that will help both your family and Kurn Hattin, and you don't need to create a new will in order to add your favorite charity. Bequests are most often in the form of either a percentage or a fixed amount. Unrestricted bequests allow the flexibility to meet changing needs. When you have special wishes to express, we will work with you to make them happen. Anyone can leave a legacy gift and yours to Kurn Hattin Homes will make a difference in the lives of many.

## Remembering the Hales

### *Remembering Willard and Elizabeth Hale*

Connie Sanderson shares her memories of meeting the couple who will forever live on in the hearts of those they touched with their generosity and kindness.



I remember my first visit to Bill and Lib Hale's home in Longmeadow, Massachusetts in the early 1990's. I pulled into the driveway, and Bill and Lib were digging around under a very large and beautiful rhododendron bush. Mrs. Hale always wore a gardening hat, which at that moment was twisted up in Mr. Hale's rake. While they proceeded to unwind themselves, and we all by then were laughing, I introduced myself and, also being an avid gardener, we hit it off immediately. The Hales grew up in the Windsor, Vermont area in the 1920's, learning about Kurn Hattin from their parents, who supported us through the church. Over the next 20 years I visited the the Hales often, and they enjoyed trips to attend Kurn Hattin events on campus. Our bond was strong, and, having no children of their own, the Hales felt keenly a desire to help Kurn Hattin's children. Their recent three-million-dollar bequest is a testament to their faith in our mission.

## 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 Hosts ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2014 not only marked the 120th Anniversary of the founding of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in 1894, but also the 100 years since our very first alumni president, graduate Elisha W. Culver, Class of 1912, established the Alumni Association in 1914. The weekend was launched in the afternoon on Friday August 1st, with a welcoming reception. The beloved Priscilla Mayo Watson made a surprise appearance with her daughter, Virginia Watson. Priscilla is the wife of the late former Director John Watson, and daughter of longtime Director W. Irving Mayo and Virginia Mayo. Alumnus Ronald Wheeler, Class of 1938, tearfully explained that the Watsons were like parents to him, and immediately expressed his joy at her arrival. Ron introduced Priscilla to his family during the warm and moving reunion, subsequently viewing photo albums together.



Priscilla Mayo Watson and former Alumni President Ron Wheeler '49 and his family

The event also kicked off the unveiling of the Kurn Hattin Traveling Historical Exhibit. The Exhibit was designed by Christine Takacs, and her employees at Rapt Creative in Brattleboro, Vermont. It displayed a colorful visual collage of historical photos, letters, and documents from the Kurn Hattin archives throughout the decades over 120 years. The exhibit also included a video with audio components that allowed one to listen to a collective oral history of alumni and staff interviews.

Kurn Hattin alumni from classes spanning a century came together to share memories, tour the grounds, and enjoy a variety of activities together. Many had come from large families of up to seven children that had all lived here together.

Women talked about what it had been like to live on the girls' campus in Saxtons River, before the girls cottages were built on the Westminster grounds in 1994. Mabella Mendez, Class of 1963 said that she saw her brother Jose Mendez, Class of 1964 most often when they played in the band together. She fondly described standing in front of him, as he intentionally whacked her on the back of her head with his slide trombone to the rhythm of the music. Mabella went on to become a child psychologist. Jose, who ruined his best suit playing baseball in his first 5 minutes on campus, remembered his vow to become a famous pro baseball player, and to one day own a pair of expensive Italian alligator loafers like Willie Mays. Besides playing baseball, Jose became a teacher and a coach, and eventually rewarded himself with those much coveted shoes.

Artist and potter, Andrew Berends, Class of 1971 raved about Priscilla Watson's secret fudge recipe, and remembered the rules about the boys' hair length (No hair touched the ears). He recalled tremendous snowstorms in '69 and '70, and tunneling about the campus. He also talked about the year that the children who had produced the maple syrup had been given their own jug. So that the other children wouldn't feel jealous, they all were given some dark Karo Corn Syrup for dipping their squares of toast. Everyone had so many wonderful memories to share.

The Sunday morning guests enjoyed a non-denominational service spoken directly to them by Brian Scott, Class of 1981. The weekend wrapped up with a delightful brunch with the children, who had also helped to cook the tasty menu items.



Former Staff, Caroline & Ray Ricard

## Famous Graduate DICK NASH HONORED

### Kurn Hattin Rolls out the Red Carpet at Alumni Association Centennial Weekend

Kurn Hattin hosted a weekend of special events August 1-3 to celebrate the 120th year of the school's founding and the centennial anniversary of its Alumni Association. Graduates from as far back as the early 1940s returned to the Westminster campus to reunite and reminisce with classmates, friends, and staff. Among the alumni in attendance was Kurn Hattin graduate and renowned jazz trombonist, Dick Nash, Class of 1942, along with his two sons—Grammy-nominated saxophonist, Ted Nash, and founder of Nash Guitars, Bill Nash—and several members of the extended family. Dick Nash grew up in Boston and came to Kurn Hattin at the age of 11 after losing both parents to illness. He picked up his first trombone in the Kurn Hattin band and upon graduating, returned to Boston to study under the legendary John Coffey of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and finish his degree at Berklee School of Music. He eventually went on to become one of the most recorded trombonists in history. His unmistakable, smooth trombone sound is featured on all of Henry Mancini's albums, as well as thousands of motion picture and television soundtracks, including *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and the John Wayne film *Hatari*. His son, Ted Nash, is a New York-based jazz saxophonist whose 2010 album *Portrait in Seven Shades* garnered two Grammy nominations.

Mr. Nash made the trip to Vermont from his home in Los Angeles to accept Kurn Hattin's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award at a special ceremony Saturday evening at the Saxton's River Inn. The award honors a Kurn Hattin graduate who has gone on to make significant, lasting positive contributions to his or her community and to the world. Along with Alumni Association President, Jackie LaDue Mallory, Class of 1954, the Homes' Development Director, Kim Fine, presented the award, saying "Dick Nash is a wonderful personification of the values and principles that are the cornerstones of our mission at Kurn Hattin—resilience, hard work, dedication, self-reliance, humility, and generosity, to name a few."

Nash's son Ted, who took time out from his busy tour schedule with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to attend the ceremony, presented the elder Nash with a bound book of letters written in the 1930s between Kurn Hattin's then director, W.I. Mayo and Dick Nash's guardians, as well as original letters written by Nash as a young man. The letters, thanked Kurn Hattin for having given Nash his start in music. Upon accepting the Kurn Hattin Lifetime Achievement award, Nash said, "This award means more than all the others because this is where it all began."



## MEET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE *Executive Committee*

Have you ever wondered who the people are who serve on the Kurn Hattin Board of Trustees? They are a team of dedicated men and women with a myriad of professional careers and experiences who share a strong commitment to governing Kurn Hattin Homes' present and future. Among them, we are fortunate and grateful to have members of our own alumni serve. They bring a special and important perspective to the table. One of these people is Ron Williams, Class of 1948, who currently serves as Chairman and Vice President on the Executive Committee.

Ron attended Kurn Hattin from 1943 and graduated in 1948. He went on to high school in Rye, New York, and later joined the U.S. Air Force. He spent four years as a Flight Crew Member on B50 bombers and KC 97 tankers. After his service, he was hired by Johnson Controls. His work took him to Italy, where he remained for many years.

After working in Italy, he moved to Germany. As the European Managing Director in Germany Ron remembers, "I gave the Christmas speech to 800-900 people in German for the three years I was there, "I would write it in English, give it to my Secretary to translate into German and she would convert it into phonetic German for me." Communicating in the local language, however one manages it, is always much appreciated. After his stay in Germany, and having been promoted as the Corporate Vice President in charge of International Control Operations, he retired to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1995 and later moved to Connecticut. Ron has been to 113 countries and he and his wife, Pat continue to enjoy their international travels.

"I never really left Kurn Hattin." Ron kept in contact and his memories are many. Some of his fondest are Sunday nights when Mr. Mayo would set up chairs in the

basement of Wilson Cottage for 7th and 8th graders and would lecture on honesty, loyalty, proper attire, and respect for elders. "I'm very grateful for the value system that I was able to take away from Kurn Hattin.

"Kurn Hattin is my number one charity and I'm proud to be a former student and to be able to donate. I'm paying back, returning what Kurn Hattin did for me." His four brothers attended the Homes as well. When asked what brought them to the Homes he replied that his mother had to work and they needed to get off the streets of New York. He and his brothers were the only New York city children at the Homes at the time.

Ron was elected as a Kurn Hattin Incorporator in 1996 and as a Trustee in 1997. "The Executive Committee," he explained, "essentially makes policy. Major policy decisions go to the full Board. An example of a major decision would be the decision to open a new cottage and all the financial aspects of doing so. The Board of Trustees approves major expenditures and annual budgets. They hold the organization consistent with good practices, and define the mission of Kurn Hattin and the strategies necessary to achieve the mission. The Board is focused on sustainability. Kurn Hattin is a charity and is entirely funded by donations and by earnings of the endowment. If money is drawn from the endowment to cover revenue gaps, sustainability decreases."

"Kurn Hattin produces good citizens and strengthens families. Anyone who feels Kurn Hattin is important should want to contribute and be a part of the program." Ron personally likes the fact that when he donates to Kurn Hattin, he knows where the money is going. "In so many ways Kurn Hattin is unchanged from when I was there. There are new buildings but the atmosphere hasn't changed. Kurn Hattin continues to be the same amazing place after all these years."

~ Kim Fine  
Director of Development



## Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF  
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

### *Salutatorian Speech (excerpt)*

Kurn Hattin taught me respect. In order to receive respect, I had to give respect. Kurn Hattin has taught me that it is okay to be myself, and that if people don't like me for who I am, then that is their problem. I have come a long way since I first arrived at Kurn Hattin. I came from living with my deaf mother in poverty, with no father for support, to living with 12 girls, who I'd consider my sisters. I was broken and needed fixing. I came here and realized that I had meaning in life, and that I needed to repair things to have the life I wanted. I still have all the cracks, and they'll always be there, but they've helped me become the stronger person I am today.

~ Chrystal Longe  
Class of 2014 Salutatorian



### *Graduation Valedictorian Speech (excerpt)*

Hello Families, Friends and Staff,

Maya Angelou, who passed away last week, once said, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the number of moments that take your breath away."

Every moment that I spend at Kurn Hattin is meaningful. Today is the day that we must move forward and start a new chapter in our lives, but we still have all of these moments tucked into our memories. We will look back on those moments for years to come and remember how lucky we were.

Sometimes in our lives we come across places filled with people who make it that much harder to say goodbye. These are the type of people that I have found at Kurn Hattin. Being surrounded by wonderful people who care is truly a blessing, a blessing that fills me with gratitude. Gratitude is what this day is about. Today is not only about celebrating our successes, but also showing gratitude to you, the people who helped get us here, because without you we would not have succeeded.

Our successes have not merely been measured by what we have learned in our classrooms, but by how we have been able to come together as a family. During our journey, we have experienced the joys of each other's laughter and the sorrows of each other's tears. We have experienced the excitement of being on live TV together, the thrill of supporting our beloved music teacher as she became a finalist for a Grammy Award, and the joy of spending our last days together on Cape Cod, all with the hope that time would stand still.

~ Susanna Compare  
Class of 2014 Valedictorian



## SUMMERTIME *Transitions*

Over the summer, the counseling department helped our newest students adjust to their new campus life. Over a span of six weeks we have had twenty-five new residential and three new day students join us. Summer has always been a time of transitions. We have our 8th graders graduating and leaving or participating in the summer program in a different role, and our new students joining us. We say goodbye and hello, at the same time. Some remaining students will be seeing a new counselor as they prepare to move to a different cottage when school starts. Since it is a part of the counselors' job to help coordinate services and update staff on students' needs, as well as to help students develop skills to process and cope with change, we are all kept very busy. We are spending as much time as possible with students, enjoying the gorgeous weather, lamenting over field trips in the rain, and getting the

paperwork and counseling curriculum ready for when school starts. We're asking: What should our next group be about? How can we integrate dog therapy and the horse program? What will the focus for social skills be this year?

The counseling staff consists of four licensed clinicians. Together we have several decades of experiences with children and families in many different settings. Each counselor oversees three cottages, a total of approximately thirty-three students, in his/her caseload. We see students individually, in groups, and with their cottages and families. As the Director of Counseling, I am responsible for orienting our seven day students as well as the documentation and implementation of the counseling program. And I am new to Kurn Hattin. I started as the Director of Counseling at the beginning of May and jumped in with both feet as school began to wind down. I was lucky enough to know Kurn Hattin as I was a counselor

here nine years ago, but I had to catch up on updated protocol and my new role. I am grateful to my supportive counseling staff and many other staff members for helping me with this adjustment, as they have helped countless students with compassion, curiosity, and a good dose of humor. Meanwhile, as summer is flying by, the new students seem like they have been here forever, nights are getting cooler, and the leaves are changing to the hazy green color of August. Again we transition.

~ Chris Danforth  
Director of Counseling

## FROM FACEBOOK



Kurn Hattin Homes  
for Children



Like

1,150

*Some say that Kurn Hattin is a home. I say it's a school  
—a prep school for life.*

~ Marvin Claude Coble, Class of 1968



## *Giving* CLUBS

In 1987, the Development Committee started donor giving clubs both to acknowledge and to encourage the Kurn Hattin donors to increase their giving over time. The following year the Committee established the club configuration and definitions for each level. Each club name has significant meaning. As the number of donors and the amounts of their gifts grew, additional club levels were added. The two top giving club levels were added in 1997, recognizing Mattie Harvey Club and Westminster Club donors.



### THE KURN HATTIN GIVING CLUBS TODAY:

#### **Westminster Club - \$15,000 and up**

In the hills of this small, southern Vermont town the steady purpose of caring for young children continues to thrive.

#### **Mattie Harvey Club - \$10,000-\$14,999**

Mattie, a neglected young girl from the woods of Maine, inspired Kurn Hattin's founder to embark on a lifelong path to improve the lives of New England's boys and girls.

#### **Reverend Charles Dickinson Club - \$5,000-\$9,999**

Native son of Westminster, Vermont and the founder of Kurn Hattin Homes.

#### **W.I. Mayo Club - \$2,500-\$4,999**

The Director of Kurn Hattin Homes from 1927-1963.

#### **Eleanor Ward Club - \$1,000-\$2,499**

Beloved staff member from 1938-1980 (Girls' Campus Supervisor 1960-1980).

#### **Eliza Sessions Club - \$500-\$999**

Via train, trolley, stage and foot, she visited New England villages asking on behalf of the children. Her work generated legacies and endowments that are a substantial part of Kurn Hattin's financial structure.

#### **Margaret Duncan Club - \$250-\$499**

Houseparent 1928-1951. "Every one of those boys had a good part in him and that's what I looked for; that's what I remember now."

#### **Friends - \$100-\$249**

Each Friend's gift is an important part of the whole. From childhoods remembered, they invest in childhoods being lived.

#### **Contributors - Up to \$99**

Dedicated supporters of the Kurn Hattin mission.

The clubs and their members are recognized each year in our Annual Report, which is mailed in September. Your increased giving is more important than ever. **Please consider moving up into the next club level** or up within your club this year. We so appreciate having all of you as members of the clubs.

~ Kim Fine  
Director of Development

### *Consider Making a Monthly Donation*

You can do so by contacting Penni Thomas  
at (802) 721-6912 or [pthomas@kurnhattin.org](mailto:pthomas@kurnhattin.org)

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 28, 2014 and July 25, 2014:*

<b>ALL SEASONS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION,</b> Springfield, VT	<b>HICKS MACHINE COMPANY,</b> Walpole, NH	<b>SAVINGS BANK OF WALPOLE,</b> Walpole, NH
<b>BATES &amp; MURRAY INCORPORATED,</b> Barre, VT	<b>LAVALLEY BUILDING SUPPLY,</b> Newport, NH	<b>SOVERNET COMMUNICATIONS,</b> Bellows Falls, VT
<b>BROOKSBY VILLAGE INCORPORATED,</b> Peabody, MA	<b>LIBERTY MUTUAL GROUP INCORPORATED,</b> Keene, NH	<b>SPC MARCOM STUDIO,</b> North Springfield, VT
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	<b>REAL TO REEL VIDEO,</b> Walpole, NH	

SPECIAL *Recognition*

*Special recognition to the clubs and civic organizations who made donations between January 28, 2014 and July 25, 2014:*

Alpha Chapter #53 OES, Bellows Falls, VT	Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Hartford, VT
American Legion Post #5, Brattleboro, VT	Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Williston, VT
Bellows Falls Emblem Club #153, Bellows Falls, VT	Keene Lions Club, Keene, NH
Brattleboro Rotary Club, Brattleboro, VT	Knights of Columbus St. Charles Council, Bellows Falls, VT
Brattleboro VFW, Brattleboro, VT	Ladies Society of the United Church of Winchester, Winchester, NH
Butterfield Library, Westminster, VT	Marine Corps League, Rutland, VT
Carl M. Dessaint VFW Post #1034, North Brattleboro, VT	Middle Branch Grange, Randolph Center, VT
Columbus Colony NSNEW #142, OH	Montclair Colony NSNEW #3, NJ
Crystal Rebekah Lodge #14, North Walpole, NH	National Society of New England Women
Dorothy M. Clifford Spacecoast Colony NSNEW #177, FL	Pierce-Lawton American Legion Auxiliary Post #37, Bellows Falls, VT
First Congregational Church of Westminster, Westminster, VT	Red Mountain Chapter #41 OES, East Arlington, VT
First Congregational Church United Women's Fellowship, Manchester, VT	Rockingham Free Public Library, Bellows Falls, VT
First Congregational Church Women's Fellowship, Westminster, VT	Rotary Club of Bellows Falls, Bellows Falls, VT



Saxtons River Lodge #33 I.O.O.F., North Walpole, NH
Sunapee Lake Grange, Bradford, NH
United Congregational Church of Sullivan, Sullivan, NH
Vermont State Association of Emblem Clubs, VT
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VFW #7823 Ladies Auxiliary, Middlebury, VT
Waterbury Center Grange #237, Waterbury Center, VT
Wells River Congregational Church, UCC, Wells River, VT
Windsor Lodge of Elks #1665, Windsor, VT
Women of Walpole, Walpole, NH
Women's Fellowship of the United Church, Bellows Falls, VT

*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 28, 2014 and July 25, 2014.*

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Mrs. Clayton E. Griswold

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**OUR PARENTS, DAYTON “DOC” HENSON,**

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**IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY DAD,**

**WENTWORTH HUBBARD**

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**ON HIS BIRTHDAY**

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**MY FATHER, FRANK W. WHITCOMB**

Miss Carol Whitcomb

## 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 JOSHUA BARDWELL ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

### IN HONOR OF LINDA BARDWELL ON HER BIRTHDAY

Mr. Jerry L. Bardwell

### IN HONOR OF LISA BIANCONI, MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD FINALIST

Grammy Foundation

### IN HONOR OF LISA BIANCONI & THE KURN HATTIN MUSIC PROGRAM

Mr. Richard B. Gassett

### IN HONOR OF THE CLASS OF 2014

Ms. Anne K. Cleveland

### IN HONOR OF STEVE FITCH

David & Joanne Corey

### IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Koch  
Ms. Denise C. Lesperance

### IN HONOR OF JOHN HUBBARD

Ms. Alice S. Marks

### IN HONOR OF ALL KURN HATTIN ALUMNI

Michael Blau  
Mrs. Mary Fenn

Kim Fine  
Mr. William A. Gilbert  
Ms. Mabella Mendez  
Mr. Richard T. Nash  
Ms. Kathleen Pirruccello  
Janice Sussebach  
Mrs. John F. Watson  
Mrs. Alan Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald M. Williams

### IN HONOR OF THE KURN HATTIN MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Suzanne Peltier

### IN HONOR OF BARBARA MATTESON ON HER BIRTHDAY

Ms. Barbara E. Knapp

### IN HONOR OF DAVID J. MAYSILLES

Rotary Club of Bellows Falls

### IN HONOR OUR OUR PARENTS, DAVID J. MAYSILLES, CLASS OF 1943 & BARBARA MAYSILLES ON THEIR 63RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zublic

### IN HONOR OF RENEE RAYMAR ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

Ev Adams & Mim Bierman

### IN HONOR OF CONNIE SANDERSON

Kurn Hattin Development Department  
Shelley Richardson

### IN HONOR OF JOHN S. WATERMAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Charles & Janice Waterman

### IN HONOR OF JANET & ERNEST “ERNIE” WILSON ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Leslie Rennie-Hill & Kenton Hill  
Peter & Elie Randrup

# Kurn Hattin Homes FOR CHILDREN

*Founded and incorporated in 1894*

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Dominique Veitch  
*Director of Human Resources*

*\*Alumnus/alumna*

## MISSION STATEMENT

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