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Help us raise as many new and additional donations for the music program as possible in 24-hours! Support the Kurn Hattin children on December 1.

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***Thank you for supporting music at Kurn Hattin on GIVING TUESDAY.***

KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

***Bulletin***

**2015 VOLUME 2**

# "Each of us has a story"

-Madison Ramos, '15



Each Kurn Hattin child's story is different, and there are now thousands of stories that make up our history, but they all share the same central themes that define our organization and its mission.

Earlier this year when Executive Director Connie Sanderson, announced her plans to retire after 27 years of service, she called upon members of all departments to share their ideas about the values they see upheld in their work, in order to provide the incoming leadership with a clear sense of who we are and what we believe as an organization.

The result has been a wonderful coming-together of colleagues, who collectively agreed on the five Core Values that have defined and will always define the work we do at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

## KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# Bulletin

2015 Volume 2



### On the Cover:

Best buddies Thomas (T.J.) Daniels and Sylus LaBarre enjoy a summer recreational trip before starting the new school year as sixth graders. The children are easy to spot with their colorful matching shirts.

### Photo Credit:

Kurn Hattin Archives

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# Reflections



The end of summer is a transitional time. We are sorry to see the balmy, relaxing days come to a close, yet we are excited for the start of a new school year. The maple tree on the front lawn is turning red early, as it does each year at Kurn Hattin. It is a constant in the life of the campus, reminding us that though it will drop its leaves soon, in the springtime, with its fresh green, it will usher in another season of warm days and recreational activities.

This year, Kurn Hattin will experience another transition. A new Executive Director, Stephen Harrison, will join the Kurn Hattin family in mid-September. Stephen has already made history at Kurn Hattin Homes, being the first Executive Director since Mr. Mayo, in 1927, to be appointed from outside the Kurn Hattin family. We are excited to welcome his new perspectives. Stephen and his wife, Laurel, will live on campus in Wilson Cottage, built for the Mayos in 1942.

My transition to semi-retirement will occur after a period of working with Stephen in his new role. After that, I am looking forward to working two days per week visiting friends and donors and assisting in any way I can to further the Kurn Hattin mission.

It is humbling to reflect on 27 years of service. So many people and initiatives stand out, and in mentioning these few I also recognize with heartfelt joy those not mentioned. Begin at the beginning. I would not have known about the amazing mission at Kurn Hattin were it not for cherished friend Trudy Walker, an employee in 1986, who introduced me to this wonderful organization. In becoming a volunteer at her urging, I then met David Maysilles and Nita Choukas, two people who I can say with certainty changed my life forever when they hired me in 1988 to work in the Development Department at Kurn Hattin. They introduced me to two more people who influenced my career greatly, mentors Mary and Fran Fenn.

Fast forward to our Centennial in 1994. Chris Barry had been named Executive Director, and together we worked tirelessly with staff, volunteers, and the Alumni Association for a year to plan and celebrate this milestone in the life of our organization.

And then the years started to fly by. The Development Department grew, new fundraising initiatives were put in place, bequest cultivation became a major focus and a CGA program was created. The endowment grew with major additions from donors. Publications, with the help of amazing designers throughout the years, took on a fresh, exciting look. An Archives was developed and is now housed in Mathey Building. It is a resource for friends, staff and alumni. Events were enhanced, and the Kurn Hattin Golf Tournament, one of our most important fundraisers, became a premier event, drawing golfers from across the country. A special thank you to John Hubbard, who taught me so much about running a tournament, and about golf, and was by my side for almost twenty years as Chair of the Golf Committee.

The past two years assisting in leading the organization have been so rewarding, and I am grateful for help from a strong Board of Trustees led by Charlie Kelsey, Ron Williams and now Bill Abbott.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank all of the dedicated staff members throughout the years who are the backbone of Kurn Hattin. And to the children, hold on to your dreams and share your best with those around you. Life is full of wonderful opportunities if you are open to them.

With profound appreciation for the opportunity to serve Kurn Hattin,  
~ Connie Sanderson, Adjunct Executive Director

# Welcome NEW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

After a busy but wonderful summer, school is back in session at Kurn Hattin Homes.

The first few weeks settling back into the routine of teaching and learning have been great. It is an honor and privilege to introduce myself as the principal here at Kurn Hattin. I am truly thrilled to be here!

We are excited to welcome a new face to the school this year. Michelle Banning accepted the position of art teacher and has been getting acclimated. She has many fun and creative ideas for engaging projects and ways to integrate art throughout the school. Please join me in welcoming Michelle to Kurn Hattin.

There are a few other changes around the school this year with scheduling and teaching assignments. These changes have allowed for more flexibility with student groupings and for teachers to work within their areas of expertise throughout the day.

The faculty is working on curriculum by looking at national trends with new learning standards and adapting them to best serve our students here at Kurn Hattin. We will continue to take advantage of the exceptional resources and facilities that we have to enrich the educational experience for our students.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all members of the Kurn Hattin family to visit and tour our school. There are unique learning experiences happening here each day, and we are eager to share our student's accomplishments with the world.

Wishing all a wonderful fall and looking forward to seeing many of you on campus sometime soon.

~ Noah Noyes  
School Principal





# Connie Sanderson

HONORING 27 TRANSFORMATIVE  
YEARS OF SERVICE

On September 26, 2015, a retirement party was held in Connie's honor.

*"Over the course of her 27-year tenure, Connie has been instrumental in growing Kurn Hattin's endowment and implementing countless successful fundraising initiatives aimed at securing the long-term sustainability of the organization. Kurn Hattin owes a great debt of gratitude to Connie for her extraordinary service, leadership and selfless dedication."*

~ Charles P. Kelsey,  
President of the Board



*"It has been my pleasure to work with you in fundraising and as a member of the Board of Trustees."*

~ John A. Hubbard,  
President Emeritus

*"When Connie retires, her legacy will be a solidly funded, robust, and vibrant program ready to serve deserving families well into the future."*

~ Christopher W. Barry,  
Executive Director (retired)



*"There is no way I can express how I feel about your part on the Kurn Hattin team. It has been wonderful to watch Kurn Hattin's continuous positive development. One of the unexpected dividends of my Kurn Hattin Connection is your friendship. Thank you for being you."*

~ Mary Fenn (Kurn Hattin donor)

*"Connie has been a member of the Westminster Cares' Board of Directors since 2005. Her contributions and dedication to philanthropy have made her a valued member of the Board, the organization, and the community of Westminster!"*

~ Donna M. Dawson,  
Director of Westminster Cares, Inc.

*"Thank you for inviting me into this wonderful, nurturing family called Kurn Hattin Homes. You proved by example how fundraising truly is all about friend raising. We'll miss your big smile and laughter wafting down the hallway."*

~ Kim Fine, Director of Development & Public Relations



*"Connie Sanderson is a fundraising professional and administrator I have admired for a long time. Above and beyond the call of duty, and a true inspiration; that describes Connie well."*

~ Shelley Richardson,  
Vice President Emerita and Philanthropic  
Advisor, Champlain College

*"Your 27 years of devotion to Kurn Hattin Homes will always be remembered, and you deserve the highest form of recognition the Board of Trustees can give you."*

~ Delores Bateman,  
(Kurn Hattin donor)

*"Your buoyant personality, enthusiasm and dedication have been one of Kurn Hattin's greatest assets."*

~ Ted Thomas, Jr. (Kurn Hattin donor)

*"There will only ever be 'one Connie' and you are the best at what you do."*

~ Jerry Bardwell, Class of 1973



*"You and Kurn Hattin will always be a cherished moment in the hearts of three very special ladies, not to mention the 'kid' who tagged along with them!"*

~ Ken Sears, (Kurn Hattin donor)

*"Your gentle and passionate approach to fund/friend raising has been extremely successful and is something I have tried to emulate during my career."*

~ Tom Oxholm, Director of Development,  
West Nottingham Academy, MD



*"Congratulations on your upcoming retirement. You have served Kurn Hattin Homes for an impressive 27 years. Since your first role as a fundraising officer, to your current position as Executive Director, you have dedicated yourself to Kurn Hattin. As you prepare for your retirement, do so knowing your hard work and commitment have made a tremendous difference to the children and families you serve."*

~ Peter Shumlin, Governor of Vermont



## RESIDENTIAL *Unsung Heroes*

In addition to the houseparents, the Assistant Residential Directors make the residential department hum along smoothly. Carol Bazin has been with Kurn Hattin for 28 years and MaryJo Dansereau for 23 years. Both started out as houseparents. The Assistant Residential Directors (ARD) have a multi-faceted job. Along with daily student interaction and discipline, there is a host of other duties they are responsible for. Each ARD supervises half of the houseparents, is assigned to three cottages, and is responsible for all cottages while she is on duty. Both ARDs work evenings, weekends, holidays and vacations and maintain their CDL driver's licenses and often drive the big school buses on excursions.

Carol Bazin takes care of the clothes locker, campus store, purchasing of hygiene supplies, and the most important task for the students—student pay. Carol makes sure the students are paid for kitchen, dining room, campus chores, extra jobs and after school work. Carol also takes care of the Christmas Bazaar which is our largest fundraiser for the 8th grade class trip.

MaryJo is responsible for the mentor program, outside camps, data collection and behavior report letters to parents. With a few houseparents retiring and vacancies in houseparent positions, MaryJo has become a master at juggling the staff and asking for coverage with very little disruption to the students' lives, a priority for all of us. MaryJo is also in charge of our residential fleet. She coordinates the bus drivers, maintains documentation, distributes gas cards and works with Fleet Manager Real Bazin for vehicle maintenance.

Carol and MaryJo spend much of their time with students. Sometimes it's just for a "check in" when we see a student who needs extra support. Other times it's to discuss behavior. Students will come to the office to process with Mrs. Bazin and Mrs. "D". They work through the problem on a planning sheet and then come up with a plan so the problem doesn't keep occurring. Mrs. Bazin and Mrs. D. guide them through the process so they can make better choices, use some new skills, and work on the behavior. Some students do restitution through work in the school or outside; others head back to the cottage to do restitution with the houseparent or other students. Carol and MaryJo oversee this process and do it well. Students also come to the office for a quiet place or to chat. Carol and MaryJo welcome them and make them feel special.

This summer we were fortunate to have Susanna Compare '14, give back to Kurn Hattin while she was home on summer break from the Milton Hershey School. Carol gave her the monumental task of cleaning the clothes locker and the Christmas Bazaar room. Susanna rose to the occasion, and as Carol commented, "Was above and beyond my expectations." Susanna wrote a letter at the end of summer thanking us for the opportunity to spend time at Kurn Hattin, to help out by talking with students and helping them understand all Kurn Hattin has to offer and how to make the best of it. It was a win-win situation. We got help with two huge chores, and Susanna got to reconnect with staff and students. Carol did a wonderful job keeping Susanna busy, using her talents, and making her feel welcome and needed.

Carol and MaryJo are true assets to Kurn Hattin. Without them, the residential department would not run as smoothly. They support the staff, the children, and to my best fortune, they support me so I can do my job. They handle their tasks with grace, patience and professionalism. They truly are the unsung heroes of the residential department.

~ Karen Lansberry  
Director of Residential Services

## GRANDPARENTS *Raising Grandchildren*

In today's world, for a wide variety of reasons, more and more grandparents are taking on the role of raising their grandchildren. This fact is documented in a fascinating study done annually by the Children's Defense Fund called "The State of America's Children." In the 2014 report, statistics are listed for each state documenting the number of children being raised by their grandparents or other family members. More than 5 million children across the country fall into this category.

It is interesting to note how the composition of the student body at Kurn Hattin Homes mirrors this national trend. Almost one third of the children presently attending Kurn Hattin are being raised by their grandparents or another family member. We have watched as this number has been on the rise over the past five years and how it continues to grow. This is just one example of how Kurn Hattin remains a critical resource for children and their families from throughout the Northeast.

The words of a grandparent of a current student best express what Kurn Hattin has meant for her family:

*"My grandchild is flourishing. She loves the opportunity to make lots of friends. She is benefiting from the smaller class sizes and the extra attention from the teachers. The opportunity to play sports and be involved in other activities has been a real bonus. Having my granddaughter at Kurn Hattin allows me the opportunity to feel more like her grandparent than her full time parent. It has given me the time and the help that I've needed to be able to be available to her and to take better care of myself. Kurn Hattin Homes has truly been a haven for my grandchild."*

~ Sue Kessler  
Director of Admissions

## SEEING *Is Believing*

Thank you for your support this past year. Your gifts for daily care and special programs and projects for the children have made a big impact. We have a beautiful new school bus, a Smart Board for our music room, and enhancements and renovations throughout the school, cottages, and campus. The children studied and learned new skills, went on educational and recreational field trips, performed music for a wide range of audiences, and practiced being thoughtful, competent, and compassionate individuals. The school-year ended with twenty-seven of our amazing students graduating with a brighter outlook on life and much to look forward to.

We are frequently asked what else can one do to help support Kurn Hattin. Perhaps the single most important thing that all of us can do is to tell more people the story of how Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families. This past April, we hosted a Get Acquainted Day. Our Trustees and Incorporators introduced several new friends to the transformational services offered at Kurn Hattin. Seeing is believing, and many have become our new friends and have been inspired to support the Homes. Increasing the number of generous supporters is so very important for our future sustainability.

Come see for yourself. You don't need to wait to be invited. Everyone is encouraged to get acquainted with Kurn Hattin, and it can take place on most any day of the week. We are always happy to share our wonderful home and school with you and your guests. We know how you feel about the Homes and the difference that Kurn Hattin makes in the lives of children. Please take advantage of the opportunity to introduce more potential friends and supporters. To schedule a visit, please call Kim Fine at (802) 721-6914 or email [kfine@kurnhattin.org](mailto:kfine@kurnhattin.org). I hope we'll see you soon.

~ Kim Fine  
Director of Development & Public Relations

## KURN HATTIN *Album*

The road ahead is a lot less bumpy thanks to all of the generous supporters who contributed to Kurn Hattin's fundraising campaign for a new bus. With your help we raised the funds necessary to purchase a safe, efficient school bus. Each year, the children attend approximately 200 engagements off campus, including performances for the music program, intramural sports games, educational and recreational field trips, and community service activities and projects. It is truly wonderful to travel safely and comfortably to these destinations. Thank you for joining us on this journey.



This summer we had a ten-week summer program filled with arts and crafts, swim lessons, tutoring, archery, hikes, literacy, sport camps, technology wizard camps, horse program, farm, field games, board and card games, and field trips. We met together for lunch, auditorium games, and a large group game outside until snack time. Then the children could choose free swim, open gym, or game time in Haps Room. (Hap's Room is named for alumnus George "Hap" Pierce, who attended Kurn Hattin from 1909–1913. At age fifteen, he left to embark upon a 5-year plumbing apprenticeship and was the successful owner of his own plumbing business in the Bennington, Vermont region. Hap shared his success by giving back to the Kurn Hattin children as an adult. He was known for organizing fundraising drives on behalf of Kurn Hattin, arriving each December with a truck full of toys, clothing, and monetary donations from his community.) We took field trips on Wednesdays to the Boston Science Museum in Massachusetts; Magic Forest in Lake George, New York; Six Flags in Agawam, Massachusetts; Calvin Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth, New Hampshire; the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, Vermont; and to local lakes. Another highlight of the summer was a weekly science unit: Tech Wizards, taught by Debbie Fajans, from UVM Extension and Houseparent

Adam Lansberry; Archery, taught by houseparent Robert Anderson; and Baseball Camp taught by José Mendez' 64, and Food Services Director Richard Johnson. There were several overnight camping and cycling trips including to Cape Cod; the Christmas Tree Farm in Springfield, Vermont; and local camping and recreation areas. These trips and activities were made possible thanks to the generous support of our many Kurn Hattin friends and donors. Appreciation also goes out to all of the staff and volunteers who taught our children new skills, and supported their summer fun and safety.



Six of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a rare opportunity when they met U.S. Astronaut Clayton C. Anderson at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Anderson, who recently published his autobiography, The Ordinary Spaceman, spent 167 days living and working on the International Space Station, including more than forty hours of space walks. He retired in 2013 after a thirty-year career with NASA. The children were visiting Washington DC from June 19 to 22 to participate in the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives (NFCCE) Youth Leadership

Summit. Our students joined students from four participating children's homes from around the country to learn leadership skills, gain historical knowledge to build a sense of community and civic responsibility, and forge new partnerships across the country. Over four days, the children traveled, toured, and learned about the history and culture of the United States. They attended empowering leadership workshops helping them develop self-esteem and communication skills, and set both short and long-term goals. The classes were attended in the mornings, and in the afternoons the collective group visited educational museums, national monuments, and historic places. This special opportunity was made possible by fundraising events and a number of other donors and events including: Bellow Falls Rotary Club, NFCCE, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, bake sales and Kurn Hattin Day sales, the Spring Fling/Thomas Fahner 5K Fun Run, soup and bread sales, and other 8th Grade Class of 2015 fundraisers. Thank you everyone who supported these efforts.

At the end of June, Magic Mountain Resort in Londonderry, Vermont hosted the 2015 Frendly Gathering (no "I" in friends), an annual music festival and family friendly event on the mountain. The event featured the popular Vermont-based quartet, "Twiddle," and a diverse line-up of styles and sounds from over 30 different bands. Twiddle is a favorite among snowboarders and festival-goers, appealing to a broad range of age groups due to their positive message of finding peak experiences through music and healthy activities. Twiddle's White Light Foundation coordinated a fundraising raffle for the event to benefit two Vermont organizations, LoveYourBrain Foundation and Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. The raffle raised over \$2,000 which was split between the two organizations. The Grand Prize, donated by Burton Snowboards, was a Burton Board signed by all of the musical artists featured at the festival. Steve Perlah coordinated the fundraiser. Pictured are White Light Foundation Coordinator Steve Perlah (l) and Twiddle lead singer Mihali Savoulidis (r) pulling a raffle winning ticket.







For many years José Mendez, Class of 1964, has wanted to return to Kurn Hattin to teach baseball camp. This summer he made that happen and traveled all the way from California to coach a one-week intensive baseball and softball camp. José carefully instructed the boys and girls with clear tasks to practice, assigning individual and team-building exercises to help build their confidence and skill. Asked about his time coaching the summer session, he stressed the importance of spending uninterrupted time with children.

“Whether it is teaching the kids to play

ball or just reading a book with them, that attention makes such a difference in their ability to listen, to focus, and to follow instructions.” Kurn Hattin Coach Richard Johnson agreed, “José is a wonderful teacher and by far the most knowledgeable guy I’ve ever met when it comes to the ins and outs of the game. I’ve learned a lot.” José has always loved baseball and played for Kurn Hattin’s Varsity Team. After graduating Kurn Hattin and high school, he was picked up by the Cape Cod College League. He even took a shot at the pro leagues, trying out for the Cincinnati Reds. At that time, he realized that it was important to diversify his talents. So he focused on his college education, graduating with a Major in Physical Education and a Minor in Spanish with a larger goal of teaching and coaching. His unique combination of skills enabled him to become the Athletic Director at Paul Revere Junior High in Brentwood, California for five years, and then at Los Angeles High School for thirty years before retiring. Before departing Kurn Hattin, Jose waved his arm out over the expansive meadows and cornfields of Kurn Hattin Homes, “This is it right here. This is the real Field of Dreams.”

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the children, led by Music Director Lisa Bianconi, sang a pitch-perfect “God Bless America” and “The Star Spangled Banner” at their first major sporting event engagement. The children opened the match-up between the two American Hockey League teams, the Wilkes-Barre Penguins and the Portland Pirates at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, Maine. The impressed crowd responded heartily in appreciation. Afterward, the children were treated to prime seats to watch the game. For many, it was the first time that they had ever been to a professional ice hockey game. Since they were in Maine, the children cheered loudly for the Pirates. Though in the end, the Wilkes-Barre Penguins won the game. They enjoyed the fast-paced, high-decibel action; taking home autographs, a puck or two, and enough memories to last a lifetime. Thank you Kurn Hattin friend John Zimmerman for this special treat.



The students in our science classes were rising to new heights, thanks to Debbie Fajans, Site Coordinator from UVM Extension and the Tech Wizards program. The children learned about rocket science and technology and launched their own rockets at the conclusion of the study. 4-H Tech Wizards is a skill-building and mentoring program for under-served youth. Efforts focus on teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum, as well as the important life skills of goal setting, critical thinking and communication. STEM topic areas are aerospace, digital photography, Global Positioning Satellite (GPS), robotics, videography, bridges, forestry and solar energy. Debbie came by to observe the launch and was given her own specially made rocket with her name on it to thank her. She has coordinated many STEM projects with the Kurn Hattin children.



The Kurn Hattin Holiday Bazaar was a great success this year. We raised over \$1,300. The proceeds from the Bazaar helps fund the 8th grade class trip in June. The Bazaar which is for the children, their families and the staff, is held in December before the children’s Family Holiday Concert and the children’s departure home for vacation. The class of 2015 thanks everyone who made donations, helped set up, wrapped gifts for the children, and cleaned up after all was done. We accept items throughout the year for the Bazaar. We



appreciate items that are new or slightly used and in good condition. They may be anything that would be appropriate to resell to our students and their families. Items range from knick-knacks, kitchen gadgets, games, puzzles, toys, dolls, stuffed animals, and jewelry. We do not sell clothing, but accept children’s clothing that is appropriate and in good condition for our clothes locker. If you have any questions or would like to donate for our next Bazaar, please contact Carol Bazin, Assistant Residential Director at (802) 721-6927 or e-mail at [cbazin@kurnhattin.org](mailto:cbazin@kurnhattin.org).



# THE *Bridge Builders*

Building bridges to the future for children in need since 1894

## Why Invest in a Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a contractual agreement between you and Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in which you make an irrevocable gift of cash or property (often long-term appreciated stock) to Kurn Hattin. Only qualified charitable organizations may issue gift annuities.

### Reasons to fund a Kurn Hattin Gift Annuity:

- › You receive fixed payments for life
- › Your payments are safe and guaranteed by Kurn Hattin's assets
- › Part of each payment you receive may be tax-free
- › You can add a second annuitant to receive payments
- › You may defer payments until a later time
- › You receive a charitable income tax deduction if you itemize your tax return
- › If you fund your gift annuity with appreciated stocks, you may avoid some of the capital gains tax
- › After the annuitant(s) receive payments for life, the balance of your annuity will support Kurn Hattin Homes for Children

Are You 65 years or older? Are you wondering how your assets can continue to generate needed income into the future? A Charitable Gift Annuity can do just that and provide tax benefits.

Best of all, you will be helping to change the lives of children in need. Contact Kim Fine for a confidential illustration tailored to your circumstances. (802) 721-6914 or [kfine@kurnhattin.org](mailto:kfine@kurnhattin.org)

### PLANNED GIVING TIP: CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Your payment rate does not change after the annuity is funded. And the older you are, the higher the payment rate. Annuity payments may be set up for loved ones.

## SOCIETY NEWS:

For generations, Kurn Hattin has been blessed with friends who have endowed its work. In January 1993, the Bridge Builder Society was founded to recognize donors who make a permanent gift to New England Kurn Hattin Homes. Since the last issue of this newsletter, the following gifts and bequests have been added to Kurn Hattin's Designated Funds and Endowment Fund received July 26, 2014 – August 31, 2015 (\$5,000 or more):

Alice Farrand  
Harriet Fisher  
Willard & Elizabeth Hale  
Lucy Stone Higgins  
Patricia Kelsey  
Fred Matteson  
Memorial Fund

Ryan Ostebo  
Robert W. Owens,  
Jr. Memorial Fund  
Hattie Sherwood  
John & Nancy Sinclair\*  
Lawrence Thomas  
Natalie Wheeler

\*Charitable Gift Annuity

## John & Nancy Sinclair

### "Kurn Hattin is Our Favorite Charity"

John and Nancy Sinclair met in Colorado while John was serving in the U.S. Army and Nancy was teaching. They later settled in Springfield, Vermont where Nancy taught elementary education and was a guidance counselor, and John partnered in a dentistry practice from 1968-2006. Together they are committed to helping children and are long-time friends of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. John's mother was a Kurn Hattin supporter, and so are several of his good friends. The Sinclairs attend the annual holiday visitors' day luncheon and children's performance and other events whenever they can. They've declared Kurn Hattin their favorite charity because they've always felt strongly connected to Kurn Hattin's mission and have seen the positive results the programs provide.

In continued support, John and Nancy have decided to leave a legacy to Kurn Hattin now, while they can see the good it does. They have invested in two Kurn Hattin Charitable Gift Annuities. It's always



special when someone shows their support for Kurn Hattin Homes by investing in a CGA, and it's certainly extra special when they multiply that support by investing in more than one. The fact that the Charitable Gift Annuity provides a major gift to Kurn Hattin while giving them the added benefit of receiving income from it for life was appealing to the Sinclairs. "We had an IRA we didn't need for our retirement and instead of giving it after we were no longer here, we decided to give it now," John explained. "It's a win-win."

Like many of our donors, John and Nancy were introduced to Kurn Hattin by family or a friend. If you know someone who would appreciate knowing about the Homes and our Charitable Gift Annuity program, please give us a call.

~ Kim Fine

Director of Development and Public Relations

## 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."



# Alumni Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Only by growing some food for yourself can you become acquainted with the beautiful energy cycle that revolves from soil to seed to flower to fruit to food and offal to decay and around again."*

*~ Wendell Berry, The Pleasures of Eating*

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin children and staff have sustained and nourished themselves by working the farm to provide food for the table. I remember the bushels of produce delivered to the Girls' Department where Miss Ward would teach us the joy of eating fresh produce from our own gardens. (Of course our appreciation was enhanced by the chance to see the boys who worked the farm.) We joined the 4-H Club and the Grange. We went to the Vermont Fair with the band or just for an outing. We loved the apples freshly picked from the trees in the fall. And spring, oh, that delicious maple syrup we took such pride in! We made it ourselves from the sap of tapped trees on campus. It was a way of life.

Farming and the study of agriculture have remained part and parcel of Kurn Hattin life today. Indeed, it has grown under the direction of past and current farm managers. Farm Manager Pat Barry is in his 5<sup>th</sup> year managing the farming program. Along with the children, he has been growing vegetables on 4.5 acres, raising pigs, making maple syrup along with Real Bazin, and apple cider from the apple tree grove. I am impressed that the children study in class and also get practical application. They are doing hands-on work, paying attention to detail, participating in team work, being good stewards to the land, trying new foods they've grown and communing with the natural world around them.

I am most grateful for my experience working on the farm. The children at the Homes today are learning important skills and practices and will garner the same appreciation of working the land.

*~ Jackie LaDue Mallory, Class of 1954  
Alumni Association President*

## FROM FACEBOOK



**Kurn Hattin Homes  
for Children**



Like 1,630

*"I miss this place so much; they did so much for me. I thank every one of the staff for all you did, you made me the woman I am today. Thank you so much."*

*~ Dawn Richardson, Class of 2005*

## Consider Making a Monthly Donation

*You can do so online or call Megan Manley  
at (802) 721-6912 or [mmanley@kurnhattin.org](mailto:mmanley@kurnhattin.org)*

# Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF  
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

## This is Home

This is Home

This is where I've laughed.

This is where I've cried.

This is where I started to reconstruct  
my life.



I've walked these halls and climbed  
these stairs.

This is where I found out who I am.

This is home.

This is where I learned that I am perfect  
even with my flaws.

This is where I learned that the best  
memories are achieved through hard times.

This is where I learned that I am worth it.

This is where I learned to succeed.

This is where I learned to love.

This is where I live.

This is Home.

*~ Maia Brow, Class of 2015*

## Stairs

These stairs represent my life at Kurn Hattin. Each step was a day at Kurn Hattin. Each step was a new day. While taking each step, I have met my friends that I came to love. Some have come and left. The steps were long and I took many of them. All of the steps on the stairs led to moments. Happy moments, sad moments, and led to adventures. When you finish walking the steps you get to the top of the stairs. Also known as Graduation Day. Every graduation day, the eighth graders take their last few steps on these stairs. Now it's my turn to take my last few steps. I now look at the stairs and each step and look back. I will have more to worry about in the future other than Kurn Hattin. However, I will never forget the steps I took in Kurn Hattin. All of the times I have laughed and cried while taking those steps, the things I learned, and the people I loved. These stairs will always be a part of me.

*~ Jaime Minor, Class of 2015*





## THE ROAD LEADS *Back to Home*

We were pleasantly surprised earlier this year by a visit from Steven Lee, Class of 1996. Steven was in town visiting family with his five year-old daughter Ashley. He stopped by to visit with the teachers and staff members who helped him develop his strength and confidence as a child. Steven caught up with teachers Mary Kay Pfadenhauer and Julie Barry; Food Services Director Richard Johnson; and his good friend and mentor, Steve Barry, in maintenance. Steve emphatically recalls Steven's work, "Steven Lee was one of the all-time best student maintenance workers that I ever had. He was so trustworthy and dependable, a really hard worker. He was very humble and proud of his job, and he always did his job well." While at Kurn Hattin, Steven learned useful manual skills such as how to use hand tools and repair things, and how to set-up and put together staging and lighting during the school's musical performances.

After high school, Steven served in the military for four years as a construction equipment repairman and wrecker driver, spending a year overseas in South Korea. He loved music, and his talent and dependability would eventually lead to working in the music industry doing set-up and staging in Nashville. He attended Auto Diesel College while continuing to do set-up work and eventually toured North America with the well-known top-selling country band, Rascal Flatts, as part of their crew.

When Steven became a father, he wanted more stability in his life so that he could spend more time with his young daughter. He leveraged the skills he had learned into a career specializing in Heavy Recovery, the towing and mobilization of large vehicles and equipment such as tractor trailers. Steven now works for Dad's Towing, a West Nashville, Tennessee wrecking and towing service, coordinating recovery. Not everyone can be licensed to drive a heavy recovery wrecker. It is a specialized skill that requires knowledge and experience in scene management, truck driving and crane operation, quick clearance, and safety regulations. Steven frequently has to remove huge damaged trucks and tractor trailers safely from potentially dangerous accident scenes under heavy traffic conditions, while coordinating with emergency personnel. Contemplating his career he said, "I guess one way or another, I will always be on the road."

Steven and his daughter Ashley's visit included lunch on campus, a popsicle, and visiting our horses. It was a nice trip back home.

~ F. Lisa Bloch  
Assistant Director of Development

## HELPING *Each Child Shine*



The Counseling Center at Kurn Hattin has been very busy over the past several months. It is with pleasure that I have taken on the role of head of the department as Lead Counselor, and as such the daily operations and tasks have been redistributed. In addition to leading the department, I continue to offer counseling to students and am thoroughly enjoying the mix of my leadership role and providing therapeutic support. This summer we have been extra busy conducting interviews for prospective students, going on excursions with the summer recreation staff, offering counseling as needed to our students, and welcoming our incoming students and their families. In the summer and throughout the year, we help our students adjust to their program and daily campus life. We get acquainted with the children, develop an understanding of their strengths and individual needs, and identify ways to best meet those needs therapeutically.

The Counseling Center has also welcomed a new counselor, Tress Zuverino, to the counseling team. "Miss Tress" is a skilled professional and is quickly developing therapeutic relationships with her students. Her perspective and passion for her job are illustrated in her following words:

*"Joining the Kurn Hattin Community in the middle of the long cold winter was a bright spot in my life. I feel privileged to work alongside capable and caring individuals who are cultivating resiliency, hope, self-esteem, and discipline in children."*

*I look forward to seeing the smiling faces of the students every day. Working in a community that focuses on creating a safe, positive, and nurturing environment naturally speaks to my strengths and creativity. In my counseling work, I rely on the power of relationships to create a trusting and accepting environment knowing how rewarding and healing an experience can be when one is not being judged or evaluated. As children feel understood, they are safe enough to explore their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors often resulting in an acceptance and willingness to change."*

*Working with the children at Kurn Hattin, I have been struck by the level of maturity, manners, and self-awareness that many possess. I am often awed by their enthusiasm to have counseling and willingness to engage in the therapeutic process. What makes Kurn Hattin so effective is knowing that the work I do with children in counseling is reinforced in the greater community by their experiences at school and in the cottages. I cannot say enough about the positive impact that this community has on the lives of the children who are loved enough by their parents to do what is best for them and send them to Kurn Hattin Homes for their upbringing and education."*

Miss Tress' words have truly captured the essence of the work we do at Kurn Hattin. It is a pleasure having Miss Tress on our staff. And it is indeed a distinct honor that we, as a team, help each child shine.

~ Kathleen Allen  
Lead Counselor



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**IN HONOR OF PRISCILLA WATSON  
ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Alan Watson  
Ms. Margaret Watson  
**IN HONOR OF THE WOODHULL COTTAGE**  
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Owen

# Kurn Hattin Homes FOR CHILDREN

*Founded and incorporated in 1894*

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Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has been awarded the top-level 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest independent charity evaluator in the U.S. The rating is the highest rank an organization can receive in recognition of sound fiscal management practices and a commitment to accountability and transparency. Only a quarter of the highest-performing charities listed by Charity Navigator hold the four-out-of-four star distinction.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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