



Kurn Hattin Homes
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KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

22nd Annual Conference
with Dr. Terry Levy
& Michael Orlans

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013
8:45 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT

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KURN HATTIN *Bulletin*

2013 VOLUME 2

*Treating Trauma and Attachment
Issues in Children and Families*

My Road Not Taken

My road not taken was a road to violence, skipping classes, and defiance.
I was a very defiant child when I was younger, and I got kicked out of my kindergarten and preschool.
I wanted the world to feel what I did, because I was smacked around quite a lot.
In elementary school, I didn't do my homework and got sent to the principal's office at least once a day.
I would go to school with a new bruise every day. I was very angry at the world.
Then my father wanted to send me to a boarding school, and I didn't want to go.
I ended up going, but I continued the behavior.
I got in trouble so bad, I was almost sent off campus for a suspension, and I was very close to being kicked out.

Then I saw what I was doing, what I was passing up, and opened up my eyes.
I was going down a path that I soon wouldn't be able to turn back on, so I decided to walk backwards.
I saw that there was just darkness at the end — nothing for me.
I knew that I couldn't change the past, or who I was, but I could make a better future.
I went down the road of success, of making better choices after I saw what I could achieve and the person I could become.

This road had a light at the end, and the road before didn't.

~ Krista Gottfried, Class of 2013



KURN HATTIN Bulletin 2013 Volume 2

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On the Cover: Second grader, Eric Noriega hanging out on the playground on a perfect late spring day.

Photo Credit: Jeff Woodward

EDITOR'S CORRECTION

Correction in Kurn Hattin Bulletin 2013 Volume 1

Photo Album Page 9: Andrea Scott Trout has 12 (not 8) grandchildren

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

Editor: Kim Fine
Assistant Editor: Heather Longe
Designer: Rapt Creative
Printed by: SPC Marcom Studio

Photo credits: Kurn Hattin Archives, Kristie Lisai, and Woodward Photography

Please notify us of any change in address.
All communications should be addressed to: The Editor, Kurn Hattin Homes, PO Box 127, Westminster, VT 05158

NEW ENGLAND KURN HATTIN HOMES DONOR PRIVACY STATEMENT
Your privacy is important to us. When you supply personal, identifying information for various purposes, we only use that information for the purpose for which it is provided. Kurn Hattin never shares its mailing list with other organizations.

AN AMBITIOUS *Strategic Plan*

This past April, the Kurn Hattin Homes Board of Trustees adopted a long awaited and comprehensive three-year Strategic Plan. The culmination of almost two years of work by former Kurn Hattin head Chris Barry, staff and trustees, the plan will serve as a guide for our leadership team, our staff, Board members and volunteers.

The plan outlines goals and supporting actions which will serve to strengthen Kurn Hattin's ability to fulfill its mission both today and for the next century. Short and long term initiatives are the key components of the plan, along with an evaluation of our opportunities and challenges; a summary of internal and external forces impacting services and a process to monitor the plan and update and amend it as needed. The plan is our road map to the future.

Kurn Hattin is rich in program offerings, thanks to the loyal support of donors who, since 1894, have endorsed our work with families and children. A primary goal of the organization is to ensure sustainability for generations of children to come. With this newly adopted Strategic Plan, we will focus on strengthening how we deliver services, analyze and refine our operating practices, and monitor processes to control and maximize use of resources.



*Thomas Fahner at 2013
Jazz Invitational Rehearsal*

The plan asks hard questions and offers in-depth answers. It is specific yet flexible. It creates structure while opening the door to creativity in service delivery. It breathes life into the day to day work of dedicated staff.

Launching a capital campaign to build the endowment; evaluating how our Board operates; enhancing continuity between different aspects of the program; creating even more vibrant experiences in the classroom; enriching staff training; increasing the counseling presence in the school; ensuring state of the art medical care; developing a comprehensive agricultural program – these are just a few highlights. We look forward to sharing more as the plan unfolds, and appreciate your input and interest along the way. Throughout our history, together we build bridges to sustain Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. Thank you for your steadfast support now and in the future.

*~ Connie Sanderson
Co-Executive Director*

*~ Thomas Fahner
Co-Executive Director*



*Connie Sanderson with
Evany Rodriguez at the
2013 Graduation Ceremony*

SCHOOL *Life*

The entire Kurn Hattin community was quite busy throughout the 2012-13 school year. Our students traveled, studied, competed, built, played and performed and learned transferable skills that encourage growth and future learning. This spring we graduated an eighth grade class of fourteen students who we be sorely missed, though we can look forward to all of their future successes. One annual highlight is the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives NFCCE Youth Leadership Summit in Washington DC in June. This year, six 7th and 8th grade Kurn Hattin students went to Washington DC to meet students from four participating NFCCE homes from all around the country. Our goal was to develop leadership skills, to build a sense of community and patriotism and to have a memorable time meeting students from all over the country. The students began each day taking part in seminars to build esteem, empowerment and help set both short and long-term goals. We visited museums, national monuments and historic places and paid our respects and learned the historical context at the war memorials. We were reminded of the lives of some of our most influential leaders. Additionally, we visited a few of the city's incredibly rich museums. We walked through the Newseum, which focuses upon the history of news reporting. Their 9-11 display included the twisted remnants of the antennae that had been atop the North Tower of the World Trade Center. It was a solemn time for all of us, standing under the antennae and reading the hundreds of front page stories from news sources from around the country and around the world. We also visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which was a highlight for many of our students. The experience taught us about the historical context of World War II and then extended to include contemporary issues as well. Our students were respectful and asked thoughtful and appropriate questions. Our time at the Smithsonian went too fast! We enjoyed our visit to the National Air & Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History and the National Gallery of Art before meeting up in the outdoor sculpture garden before our visit to the National Archive. There, we were able to see the original Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The importance of each of the documents was framed for us by the Archive's educators. We made new friends with the students from other parts of the country and our students all came home from this rich experience inspired by all that they experienced and learned. These future leaders will add these rich experiences to their classroom discussions and their cottage lives while here on campus, inspiring community involvement and patriotism as they grow to adulthood.



*Kurn Hattin students at
Iwo Jima statue*

*~ Scott Tabachnick
School Principal*

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A *Houseparent*

We assure a child's parent that in her or his absence, the houseparent will tend to all the things a parent would do. A houseparent's day begins with the children at 6:00 a.m. Waking all the children, having them get up and ready for their day: beds made, cottage tour-ready, teeth brushed and ready to leave the cottage for breakfast at 7:20 a.m. make for a hectic morning. It always impresses me that the children arrive on time and ready for their school day. That is not to say that a backpack isn't forgotten on occasion or the t-shirt instead of a school shirt doesn't slip through the cracks. But those problems are quickly taken care of by the houseparent and student. The houseparent eats breakfast with the children, attends assembly and touches base with teachers and the nurse before leaving for free time. Houseparents often substitute in the classroom, have other jobs, go to school, have families of their own and other responsibilities. They all lead busy lives during their time off.

The children return from school at 2:30 p.m. The houseparent is ready and waiting with afternoon snack, and to sit and hear about the day before it's time to get ready for afternoon activities. It is challenging to keep track of 11 children's after school activities, but they do it daily. Many of our houseparents also coach sports or facilitate other after school activities. When not running or participating in an activity, the houseparents and the children are free to attend whatever game is happening that afternoon. No one is idle for very long in our cottages. Sometimes the activity is just going outside to play, an important part of a child's development.

After school activities are followed by dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the dining room. Houseparents eat with the students, work on table manners, supervise and model appropriate behavior. We encourage family type dinner conversation, healthy food choices and good social interaction with peers during meal times. After dinner, depending on the time of year, it may be playground time, pool time or back to the cottage for homework, showers and chores. Houseparents are masters at multi-tasking. They keep 11 children moving through homework and showers, phone calls from families and getting loads of laundry done. They make it look effortless. After evening responsibilities, there is usually a little free time. They may read, write letters, watch a little TV, play a game or other quiet activity before bed time. The houseparents are busy during this time doing laundry, checking homework, or working with a student needing some help. After bed time, houseparents complete their daily paperwork, do more laundry, cleaning or whatever task needs to be accomplished to get ready for the next day. Their shift ends at 10:00 p.m., but their work is never really done. Late night wake up calls for reassurance and the occasional illness all keep houseparents busy even after lights out.

This is a typical day, but our days are often atypical. Being a houseparent takes skill, flexibility and most importantly a big heart. Kurn Hattin has been blessed with staff that love what they do, are dedicated to our mission and work hard to make this a wonderful experience for our children and their families. I personally want everyone to know how much the houseparents are appreciated, respected and valued and thank them for the great job they do for all our children.

~ Karen Lansberry
Director of Residential Services

OFF ON A *Great Adventure*

I'm off on a great adventure! That is what ten-year old Josh told his family this summer as they were packing up their car to come to Kurn Hattin on his enrollment day. His family members were so thrilled to see the big grin on his face and the excitement in his eyes. They knew that being at Kurn Hattin would take some getting used to for all of them. But Josh was already planning to make the most of his new "home away from home" and was eager to take advantage of every single opportunity that came his way.

Life at Kurn Hattin is chock-full of adventure and opportunities. Josh and the other children understand that their school work takes top priority, but after that there is an extensive list of extracurricular activities available to them so that they can explore personal interests and develop useful life skills. From the first-rate music program to the varied sports line up, there are so many choices. Older students may participate in the winter ski program. They're swimming, hiking, sledding, a walking club—the list is very long.

Kurn Hattin's school offers each student a top-notch educational experience. From the computers and state-of-the-art educational technology in the classrooms, to the hands on experiences in the farm science program, the children gain valuable life skills through connecting and applying what they learn to the outside world. Integrated throughout all the programs is the social skills curriculum which focuses on developing essential skills for successful interaction with others, such as making friends, dealing with transitions, respecting others and working out problems by talking rather than fighting.

Josh has just begun his new adventure. It's important for his family to feel confident that they can stay in close touch with him so they'll know all about what's happening. We encourage families to keep in constant contact with their children. Frequent phone calls, letters and visits both on campus and at home are facilitated by members of the Kurn Hattin staff including the Family Outreach Coordinator, houseparents, and counselors so that students can share all parts of their "great adventure" with their families.

~ Sue Kessler
Director of Admissions



Alumni Association PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

About fifteen years ago my mother's side of the family had a reunion. The hall was decorated with balloons and large collages of family pictures going back to the turn of the century. Over three hundred of us were gathered (My mother was the youngest of seventeen.) We've written a family history going back to our immigration from French Canada and down through the Connecticut Valley. Pictures displayed showed many weddings, baptisms, picnics, Christmases from so long ago.

Ten years ago, Alumni Association Vice President, Carolyn Blake-Deyo organized our Kurn Hattin 50th class reunion. We toured the Homes and remembered our days at the Saxons River campus. We spent time in the Archives and found pictures, report cards, and letters from our parents and caretakers. These pictures evoked stories, emotions, and memories. It was like opening a time capsule. We shared so many experiences.



A few years back, Kurn Hattin Class of 1953 organized a Florida reunion. Again, it was the stories, prompted by pictures, which had us laughing and reminiscing for two days. I came away with a better understanding of myself, my classmates, and what the Homes were like in the 1950s. It felt like a snapshot in time that belonged to me.

A Chinese proverb says "a picture is worth a thousand words." I'm reminded of this proverb as we approach the 100th Anniversary of the Alumni Association Reunion next August. Come to Vermont and spend time looking through photographs in the Archives and perhaps bring some of your own to share. Listen to and tell stories of your time at Kurn Hattin, with your classmates, houseparents, special teachers and the staff. I'll be looking forward to meeting you, seeing your pictures and hearing your stories.

Look for an invitation to the 100th Anniversary of the Alumni Association Reunion in the spring.

~ Jackie (LaDue) Mallory '54, Alumni Association President

Alumni DROP-INS: 02/27/13-07/26/2013

*Here is a list of Kurn Hattin Alumni
who have stopped in for a visit recently.
We hope more alums will just drop in!*

KYLE BUSSINO..... CLASS OF 2009
RANDY DAVIS CLASS OF 2006
ADRYAN FOSTER..... CLASS OF 2008
JUSTIN FULLER CLASS OF 1987

THOMAS GILBERT CLASS OF 1954
JOHN IRELAND CLASS OF 2012
KAYLA LOIACONO CLASS OF 2012
JAILENE RAMOS CLASS OF 2012
JACKSON STONE CLASS OF 2009
JULIANNA WHITCOMB CLASS OF 2012
RON WHITCOMB CLASS OF 2012



*FROM FACEBOOK: "Yeah, I can't wait to see this new Bulletin,
I sure do love getting them, I go through them with my daughter
so she sees where her Mommy went to school!"*

~ Kristy Trujillo '86

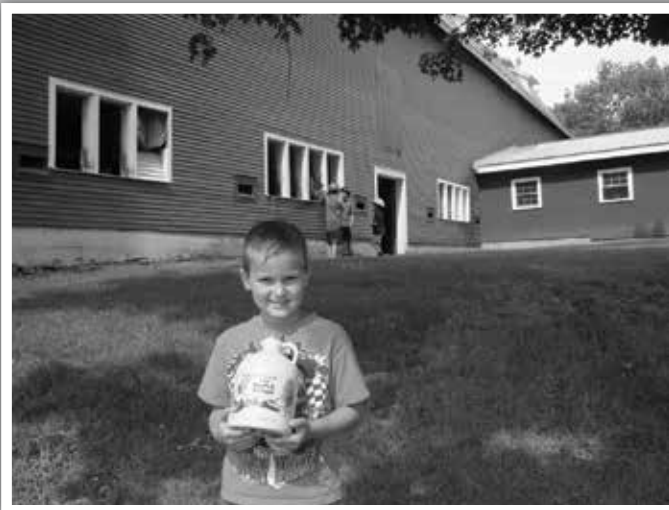
KURN HATTINAlbum



The Kurn Hattin Homes' Select Choir was named Top Performer in the children's gospel category after making it through the final round of the choral competition series "Together in Song." The show is produced and aired by Public Television member station WGBY in Western New England and highlights non-professional children's and adults' choirs in various musical genres. The 40-member ensemble from Kurn Hattin was the first Vermont chorus chosen to compete in the series. The children competed against 35 ensembles for a chance to perform live on stage in the finale showcase held at the Paramount Theater in Springfield, MA on Sunday, April 28. Their performance, a gospel medley arranged by Kurn Hattin's Music Director Lisa Bianconi, was broadcast live along with the final performances of nine other ensembles. Kurn Hattin Homes was awarded the "Top Performer Children's Gospel" honor following the show. The children's Jazz Ensemble also performed at the Burlington, Vermont Discover Jazz Festival.

The Hohokam Colony of the National Society of New England Women met in Phoenix, Arizona on May 1, 2013 with Connie Sanderson, Kurn Hattin's Co-Executive Director, as their program speaker. After a lively business meeting led by Lee Nelson, President of the Colony, the women enjoyed lunch and viewed the popular Kurn Hattin Gift of Childhood DVD. The NSNEW has supported Kurn Hattin on a national level since 1945. The Hohokam Colony, named for a prehistoric Native American tribe, generously supports the Extended Care Fund, which helps female graduates of Kurn Hattin who are experiencing a need and look to Kurn Hattin to help support them.





The children had a busy semester in the Farm Program tapping maple trees and assisting with the making of syrup. With 800 taps over 3 weeks this spring, they yielded enough sap for 75 gallons of syrup. They also helped care for the pigs and worked with the farm manager landscaping and planting vegetables and flowers. They'll be helping with new seeding and planting in the apple orchard soon. Also on the farm, we have a new horse. Ellie is a Bay 14-3 Registered Half-Arabian. She was donated by Scott McCreary

of Shelburne, Vermont. She joins Norwegian Fjord Horses, Samantha, Hjerti and Sophia; Quarter Horse, Pepper; and a Gray Pony, Flicker. In May, we hosted our first riding clinic open to the public with clinicians, Bob Jeffreys and Suzanne Sheppard of *Two-As-One Horsemanship*. Our instructors, who attended this workshop, will use what they learned with the children. With kindness and respect and a new perspective, the children learn to bring out the best in the horses as well as the best in themselves and others.

Despite sizzling temperatures, golfers from all over New England came out to the Keene Country Club for the 22nd Annual Kurn Hattin Golf Classic benefit. Golfer and Kurn Hattin Incorporator Scott Bundy said of the event, "Kurn Hattin is one of those places that gives kids a second chance. You've just got to support a cause like that." Kurn Hattin Homes thanks this year's Tournament Sponsors: Alburg Golf Links/Luke and Diane Bazin, IPG Employee Benefits, Darlton W. Cenate & Sons Inc., Discount Oil, Prime Buchholz & Associates, Sovernet Communications, Summit Distributing, LLC, and Whitney Blake Company; as well as the Putting Contest Sponsor: Savings Bank of Walpole and the Hole in One Sponsors: Durand Toyota Ford, People's United Bank, and MJ Harrington Jewelers; and Hole Sponsors, Charles Kelsey, Peerless Insurance Company, WKVT, and Yankee Signs. Sean Long of People's United Bank, who has been involved with the event for the past 20 years, said, "We're here to support the phenomenal work that Kurn Hattin does. It's a great event; of all the golf tournaments I've been involved with, this is by far the best run and the best organized." A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the golfers, sponsors; raffle and auction donors; the Keene Country Club staff and Golf Pro, and Pro Shop staff as well as the volunteers and Golf Committee. Net proceeds directly benefit the Kurn Hattin children.



Kurn Hattin won the Healthier US School Challenge Bronze Award. Healthier US School Challenge HUSSC is a recognition award for schools that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in both nutrition and physical dedication to promote a healthier school environment for children. This Challenge is a cornerstone of Let's Move!, an ambitious initiative to solve the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation. First Lady, Michelle Obama congratulated the Homes with a letter stating, "As a winner of the Bronze Award, your school is among the very best of the best, going above and beyond the minimum requirements to help ensure your students live full and active lives. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, and you should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved."



Richard Johnson, Director of Food Services and his staff strive to offer the children and staff at Kurn Hattin healthy choices. When told that Kurn Hattin had won the Healthier US School Challenge Bronze Award, he stated, "We're very proud to receive this award. It was a campus-wide accomplishment. Less than 6% of all the schools in the country received an HUSSC award and that puts us in a special class at the top. Next year we're going for the gold!"



During the spring, a Connecticut business shared its filming expertise with the Kurn Hattin children. Ed McKeon and Todd Sanderson of Motion Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut donated iPad tripods and spent an afternoon with five Kurn Hattin eighth graders, teaching them the finer details of video photography on the students' new iPad minis recently donated by Casey Cota, of Cota and Cota of Bellows Falls, Vermont. The children were working with the iPad minis on an autobiographical project filming one another singing a personally meaningful song that each chose. The project was a culmination of this recoding along with scenes they recorded of their daily lives and their personal stories. The children were especially fascinated to experiment with the many techniques of filming with the iPad minis and to be able to see and hear themselves perform.

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Many children who come to Kurn Hattin see and do things they have not had a chance to do before. Kurn Hattin gives them unique opportunities throughout the year, and summertime is one of the best times for exploring. The summer recreation program and outdoor education adventures are filled with days of swimming, games, activities, crafts, and camping. This summer, a child who came from a busy city had the opportunity to go to a lake for the first time. He caught his first fish, went on his first boat ride, and went tubing and wake boarding all in one weekend. His face must have been sore from the constant smile he wore. The summers are filled with first experiences, laughter, and bond building with peers and staff. The heartfelt joy and contented smiles are not only on the faces of children as they experience life at the Homes, they are also on the faces of the staff who share these with them.

The children were in awe when Class of 1942 graduate and trombone legend Dick Nash came home to visit. Dick first learned to play the trombone at Kurn Hattin Homes and then

went on to gain recognition on the world jazz stage during the swing and big band era. He said of his Kurn Hattin roots, “Without my time there, my life would have been totally different. The music teacher at Kurn Hattin handed me a trumpet when I was 10 years old. That’s what started it all.” The whole Kurn Hattin community was excited to welcome Dick Nash back home to Westminster, Vermont. The children said they had goose bumps having a graduate, as famous as Dick Nash, visit them. He inspired them to do well and keep thinking of a bright and rewarding future. Dick practiced with the children in their music classes, answered their questions and performed with the jazz band as a member of the Kurn Hattin family and with members of the Keene Jazz Orchestra at the April Jazz Invitational.



Just in time for Volunteer Recognition Day, Kurn Hattin held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on March 26th to honor the many people who volunteer at the Homes. The team of dedicated volunteers helps with governance, school, sports, music and special events.

Over one hundred volunteers dedicate their time, talent and care for the children in a variety of programs. Their positive impact on campus is huge. Every year, the Kurn Hattin volunteers are recognized at a special dinner

in their honor. Honored this year were: Bill Abbott, David Adams, Laurie Alberts, Donna Aldrich, Danny Bacigalupo, David Baldasaro, Jerry L. Bardwell, Julie Barry, Mildred Barry, Carol Bazin, Diane Bazin, Jeff Bianconi, Sue Bingaman, Carolyn Blake-Deyo, John Bohannon, Bill & Barbara Brackett, Carol Brennan-Johnson, Gordon Bristol, Donald Campbell, Gary Carrier, Fran Cheslock, Edward Clark, Sheriff Keith Clark, Gary Cobb, Pat Crotty, Vincent Cutrona, Marion Daley, Jamie Dansereau, Elizabeth David, Mary Davis, Edward Dinnany, Tim Eno, Tom & Donna Fahner, Carol Failla, Deborah Fajans Michael Fawcett, Sarah Fonseca, Justin & Shannon Fuller, Shari Gladman, Chris Goding, Father Lance W. Harlow, Elizabeth Henry, Elizabeth Hickin, John & Carol Hubbard, Elliott Hunnewell, Matt Hunter, Geoffrey Illingworth, Lyssa Jackson, Tim Janis, Charles P. Kelsey, Kay Kloppenburg, Michelle Knight, Jon Korpela, Bertha Lawrence, Steve H. Lee, Dorriane Lescord, Abigail Littlefield, Richard Long, James A. Lynch, Reverend Sami MacRae, Elizabeth Maiola, Jackie Mallory, Rick Manson, David Maysilles, Tammy Mellish, Michelle Menegaz, Kathleen Michel, Sally Motzer, Merrill Mundell, Keri Newton, Sue Nostrand, Michael J. Obuchowski, Sara & Ben Olson, Virginia Onorato, Frank Patterson, Hugh Perkins, Mary Kay Pfadenhauer, Mrs. Frank J. Prindl, Jasmin Queen, Caryl Richardson, Marilyn Roberts, Daniel Roden, Karen & Stan Rumrill, Carmen Sanderson, Catherine Semans, Donald Shaughnessy, Susie Smith, Tina Smith, Lindsey Soboleski, Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden, Judy Spinella, Malcolm Streeter, Janice Sussebach, Scotty Tabachnick, Polly Thompson, Susan Tidlund, Matt Tomberg, Brenda Turner, Vern & Bobbi Violette, Trudy Walker, Gary West, Ronald M. Williams, Janet Wilson, and Larry & Bette Wunderle.

Several staff members were honored with Years of Service Awards during the May 1st, All Staff Meeting. Staff members receiving five-year awards were Candace Caggiano, Human Resources Coordinator and Sara Stine, Equestrian Program Instructor. Ten-year awards were given to Kim Fine, Senior Development Officer; William McHugh, Houseparent; and Sierra Sylvester, Houseparent. Fifteen-year awards were presented to Kristie Lisai, Teacher; and Darlene Pecor, Admissions & Outreach Associate. A twenty-year award was given to Richard Johnson, Director of Food Services. Ann Hadley, Teacher said when she received her thirty-year award, “It’s great to be part of a loving, caring and extraordinary community.” All the honored staff received a framed certificate of appreciation and an extra paid day off to use in the new fiscal year. The twenty-year honoree also received a Kurn Hattin rocking chair which he donated to the Kurn Hattin library for the children to use while reading. The award ceremony concluded with praise to all the staff for their dedication.



THE Bridge Builders

THE RIGHT STUFF

“Acts of tenderness, of sympathy, of help are gifts of priceless value, pure gold beneath the glitter that attracts.”

With these words, Kurn Hattin’s founder, Reverend Charles Albert Dickinson, began his crusade in 1890 to secure funds to fulfill his lifelong dream, and the seeds of Kurn Hattin’s endowment fund were sown. He enjoined his wealthy friends to support his belief that, in the right environment, children could thrive and grow to become happy, productive citizens.

The word spread about the work being done, and donors began to provide bequests to help the school. Some supporters chose to establish trusts in Kurn Hattin’s name, others bequeathed real estate, bonds, securities or cash. Slowly, as these traditional forms of giving were pooled, the Kurn Hattin endowment began to grow.

The tried and true methods of making permanent gifts remain the backbone of Kurn Hattin’s endowment. In recent years contributors have also chosen less common, although equally important, ways to donate. Naming Kurn Hattin as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is one way, becoming a member of our Charitable Gift Annuity is another.

Today, the endowment fund has grown to provide income to cover almost 15% of Kurn Hattin’s operating budget. In a changing world, the “home on the hill” remains a constant source of hope to families who need help.

A friend described Reverend Dickinson as “heaven’s fadeless beacon.” He would be proud to share that description with the generations of supporters who looked to the future and who imagined the world as Thoreau did when he said, “Every child begins the world again.”

~ Connie Sanderson, Co-Executive Director



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 the Bridge Builder, the following gifts and bequests have been added to Kurn Hattin’s Designated Funds and Endowment Fund between January 15, 2013 – July 26, 2013 (\$5,000 or more):

Paul H. Cross Trust
Charles & Mary Fuqua
Alice Farrand Trust
Mr. Edward Ikerd*
Kunzelmann Estate
Richard T. Nash
Robert W. Owens
Jr. Memorial Fund
Sally Randall
Joyce H. St. Onge Trust

* Charitable Gift Annuity

A STRONG & ENDURING CONNECTION

Mary Beardsley Fenn of Brownsville, Vermont has been a good friend of Kurn Hattin Homes for decades. She continues the tradition of giving started by her mother. Mary is a very gifted published writer. Among her writings is her life story of growing up in Springfield, Vermont and later, living with her husband and three children in West Hartford, Connecticut. Her earlier life was full of wonderful experiences as well as several tough challenges. Knowing full well the challenges faced in life, she wrote an article about Kurn Hattin, at the behest of former director of development Nita Choukas, for Vermont Life magazine that, when read years later, brought Mrs. Frank J. Prindl to Kurn Hattin. At 101, Mrs. Prindl is our grandmother-in-residence and library volunteer. Mary has introduced scores of people to Kurn Hattin, and they in turn have become invested in Kurn Hattin in one way or another.

Mary Fenn is also a Charter Member of the Bridge Builder Society, a growing legion of Kurn Hattin supporters who have donated outright gifts, bequeathed or are making life income gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Homes’ Endowment Fund. She and her husband, Francis were among a team of dedicated friends who in 1993 started the Pooled Income Fund, the genesis of the Bridge Builder Society. Fran Fenn was known for his ability to motivate people to do good things and plan for the future. After his very successful life insurance career, he spent the rest of his life as a volunteer chief fundraiser for his alma mater, Dartmouth College, and shared his extensive fund and friend raising expertise with many area non-profits, including Kurn Hattin. When Director of Development, Connie Sanderson wanted to expand the Homes’ annual giving program, she called on Fran. With his help, she built a planned giving program that sustains Kurn Hattin today. Early on, Kurn Hattin was one of the few non-profits, other than the higher education institutions, to make face-to-face donor visits and to have a first-rate planned giving program.

Phil Morrison, another of Kurn Hattin’s former fundraisers, was known to always greet the donors he visited with a reading of Will Allen Dromgoole’s poem, The Bridge Builder. Hence, The Bridge Builder Society was bestowed the perfect name. Today, the members of the Bridge Builder Society are those who have made a commitment to Kurn Hattin with gifts to its Endowment Fund through the Pooled Income Fund, Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Trusts, Bequests and cash gifts.

There’s no better way of both leaving a strong and enduring legacy and demonstrating how strongly you believe Kurn Hattin’s Mission than to join the Bridge Builder Society with an investment in the Homes and the children’s future.

~ Kim Fine, Senior Development Officer



Mary Fenn with her son Bill at her home in Vermont

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.”

ANIMAL ASSISTED *Therapy*

Here at Kurn Hattin children have been experiencing the therapeutic value of horses for a long time. Sara Stine, our horsemanship instructor, is trained in Centered Riding, a technique that emphasizes body awareness and attunement with the horse. Most students who participate in the horsemanship program do so as an after school activity and even in this recreational capacity they reap the therapeutic benefits of Centered Riding. However, some children need 1:1



instruction for a more supportive experience and do so during their counseling time. Rather than going to the Counseling Center or elsewhere on campus, the children, often along with their counselor, go to the barn to work with Sara and the horses. This has been extremely beneficial to help the children increase awareness of the connections between their emotions and physical sensations, their non-verbal language (i.e. what is communicated with our bodies), and decreasing impulsivity. Simply being around the horses also provides a very calming experience, leaving children more grounded than when they started their lesson.

This spring we had the opportunity to expand our offerings in Animal Assisted Therapy. Abigail Littlefield from Landmark College in Putney, Vermont, volunteered with her certified therapy dog. She was interested in trying out a new program, having done this at nursing homes and at the Brattleboro Retreat. She and Mr. Wells, a delightful black lab, joined two counselors who facilitated the groups – one older group, one younger. For the younger children, who each wanted the undivided attention of Mr. Wells, this was a terrific opportunity to practice many social skills that are needed in everyday life such as waiting one's turn, using an inside voice, listening to others, respecting other's "bubble space." Mr. Wells's own reaction to them provided very tangible reinforcement for desirable behavior. If he liked what was happening he remained close to the children. When they became loud and clamored for his attention, he simply walked away. When the children settled back down he rejoined them. The groups were very successful and we are very pleased that Abigail and Mr. Wells will like to return in the fall.

Opportunities to practice skills for emotional regulation, attunement to oneself and others, and impulse control, among other skills, in the presence of animals can be very effective. Relating to the animals reduces stress levels. It provides immediate reinforcement that has a physical quality to it. Counselors and other adults can then help children transfer what they have experienced and learned from the animals to their everyday lives. This is often done with a word or phrase that helps the children tap into what they sensed and experienced when working with the animal. Expanding our work with Animal Assisted Therapy is helping transform the lives of our children.

~ Jennifer Jacobs
Director of Counseling

Emerging Voices

FEATURING THE CREATIVE GIFTS OF
OUR STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

Just off Interstate 91,
A place of love and care.
Many people enjoy their time there,
After living a life of despair.
For some people it is an advantage,
Some kids can't manage.
For many, it is far away from home,
It makes their heart break.
Like a broken bone.
This is where I belong,
I will remember this place forever.
Like my favorite song.
After four years,
My heart is back together now,
Like a solid bone.
When I leave this place,
I will always, always, remember
Kurn Hattin Homes.

~ Written by Jahyde Bullard
Class of 2013 Valedictorian

This poem was sung by the Class of 2013 at
Graduation to the tune of *Imagine* by John Lennon

A Blessing

There are many wonderful blessings in my life. One certain blessing in my life is an extremely important one. It's Kurn Hattin. They helped me out so much. They loved me. They cared for me. They provided me with hope and they trained me for high school. This home made me perfect. Leaving makes me feel so sad. Pieces are missing when I'm not with Kurn Hattin. Don't say "Nothing is Perfect" because everything about Kurn Hattin is perfect. Kurn Hattin got so close, my heart stopped. I wonder if Kurn Hattin thinks of me. I think of you all the time. I think I've got to let go. I think to myself, "Will I walk out that door and never come back? Will I see the best family that treated me like a king?" I will always think of Kurn Hattin when I leave – everything they taught me, from proper etiquette to how to live in the real world. I think a lot about being on stage with all the other eighth graders; thinking of all those people in the audience there for us all. All lined up in red gowns and caps saying our good-byes. I love Kurn Hattin. You will be missed.

~ JJ Ortiz, Class of 2013



JJ Ortiz Playing his saxophone

AN ENGRAINED *Work Ethic*



Recently a friend sent me a collection of paintings. This one by Robert Duncan, a farmer in Utah, in particular caught my attention. The reason it jumped off the page at me was because in my mind's eye, it reminded me of the farm at Kurn Hattin. It is a near replica of the barn when it was used to house milking cows. For me it has brought back fantastic memories of the time that I worked on the farm doing the milking and daily chores that went with that operation. The milking and cleaning and feeding were done twice a day. That included feeding the whole herd and any calves that might be there at the time.

Each of the milking cows had a name and

prescribed a daily menu so they would produce an optimum amount of milk.

The milk was processed at the farm's dairy where it was pasteurized and then sold to the H.P. Hood milk company. Of course a portion of the milk was saved for school consumption, along with fresh heavy cream. Once the milk for the day was processed, then all of the equipment in the dairy had to be disassembled and cleaned with soap and water and then blown down with steam, reassembled and made ready for the next day.

Once you were given the responsibility to run the milking and dairy operation, then you were on your own and you did the work yourself. Most mornings, there would be a couple other boys assigned to help with the cleaning of the stalls and such, but the overall responsibility was yours.

The morning milking and all of the work that went with it started at 4:00 a.m. and had to be completed before 8:00 a.m. in order to make it to school on time. Then at 3:00 p.m., the cows were herded from the pasture back to the barn and the whole milking process started again.



What a wonderful life, and in retrospect Kurn Hattin became the foundation of my life. Working on the farm engrained a work ethic and sense of responsibility that has stayed with me all through my working career and until this day. And for this blessing, I will always be grateful to the Homes for the numerous opportunities that were afforded to me and to all of the children that have passed through the Homes over the years.

~ Frederick R. Easton, II, Class of 1958

Fred and his wife, Bernadine have raised horses, goats and other animals and today have a healthy array of produce in their greenhouse. The Kurn Hattin farm continues to provide life skills development and personal connection through farming centered on learning, healing and fostering each child's development and understanding of our earth's role in health, well-being and life.



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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.

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