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## *Finding Our Way*

HEALING OUR  
TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN



*Twenty-seventh  
Annual Conference*  
with Nancy Rappaport, MD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018  
8:45 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
WESTMINSTER, VERMONT

KURN HATTIN HOMES FOR CHILDREN

# *Bulletin*

2018 VOLUME 2

**Register:** [conference@kurnhattin.org](mailto:conference@kurnhattin.org) | **Contact:** (802) 721-6913 or [tandrews@kurnhattin.org](mailto:tandrews@kurnhattin.org)



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**KURN HATTIN HOMES  
FOR CHILDREN**

*Bulletin* **2018** Volume 2



**On the Cover:**

Kindergarten student Kahlan sits among the corn stalks during a field trip to pick the perfect pumpkin.

**Photo Credit:**

Kurn Hattin Archives c: 2018

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

**Editor:** Kim Fine  
**Assistant Editor:** Heather Longe  
**Designer:** Nate Terrill  
**Printed by:** SPC Print Integrated  
**Photo credits:**  
Kristie Lisai, Kurn Hattin Archives

Please notify us of any change in address.  
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## AS THE *World Turns*

It seems like everywhere I look these days there is another article or editorial talking about the changing landscape of our nation and the world. This is also true of Kurn Hattin Homes, and while our changes and challenges are more localized and personal, they are just as important and fundamental to our future as larger influences are to the broader world. A few of these issues are highlighted here as the world turns...

Our friends of Kurn Hattin were very supportive this past year, helping Kim Fine and the Development staff reach and exceed both the Holiday and Spring Appeals for the second year in a row. The stock market provided our investments about a 7.3% gain for the fiscal year, income which is always welcome. Additionally, our Institutional Advancement outreach efforts, headed by Tom Oxholm, are expanding the Kurn Hattin community to new and eager friends for the future. Thank you to many of you who provided names and personal contacts with new Kurn Hattin friends—this is vitally important for our future!

I hope you had a chance to catch our children singing the National Anthem for the Red Sox this past summer! This was the second time our choir, led by Lisa Bianconi, sang the Anthem for a Red Sox game. What a wonderfully exciting time this was for our children, being on the field with the players and seeing Fenway “up close and personal.” Being on national television certainly increases our exposure and helps with support for the children.

Other advances and changes at the Homes include moving forward with plans for a new website design. We hope to have it launched by early fall. Additionally, we have a new promotional video (by Motion, Inc. from Connecticut) that you can find on our video page on the website. The Homes has hired a few new administrators: Tom Oxholm (mentioned previously) as Director of Institutional Advancement, Dr. Nancy Richardson as Director of Residential Services, and Christine Reid as Director of Counseling. Clint Plante, who many knew for years as a Houseparent at Turrell Cottage, also was promoted to the position of Co-Assistant Director of Residential Services. It should also be noted that Mark Bodin, President of the Savings Bank of Walpole, will become our new President of the Board of Trustees. We thank Janet Wilson for serving in this capacity for the past two years. Another component of life at Kurn Hattin is the comprehensive self-study being conducted this year in anticipation of being accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Schools—a huge step forward for the Homes.

One last aspect of societal change that is being discussed currently at Kurn Hattin is that of LGBTQ issues. Our Administrative Team is researching and deliberating on policies and practices related to respect for all individuals and their rights and how we should respond to the needs of students and their families in these areas. While no definitive policies have been formulated to date, this is an area of on-going research into the social and legal ramifications of being a respectful and inclusive community.

With great hope for the future,

~ Stephen Harrison  
Executive Director

## *Moving School Conduct* FORWARD WITH PBiS

In the last Bulletin, we shared our response to the following questions: How do we make sure we get the most out of the school day? How do we intentionally create a school climate where our core values drive programming? How do we maintain clear conduct standards that are transparent, community supported, and positive? The answer and overall schema we have adopted in PBiS is a schoolwide schema for conduct and culture that is “...designed to help school teams form a proactive, school-wide systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students” (pbisvermont.org). You may remember that PBiS is a nationally recognized and well-researched framework proven to promote positive conduct, school spirit, social learning, and bullying prevention.

Here’s the update! With a firm foundation long in place here at the Homes, PBiS has been off to an exceptionally strong start. As you may recall, many pieces of PBiS such as the Core Values, Caught Being Good Store, and Tokens have been in place for many years. Adding to these structures a robust framework, celebrations, and the SWIS (schoolwide information system) database has brought us to official recognition as a Universal-level PBiS School! Most importantly, however, is that using the database to track conduct throughout the year, we can clearly see that negative conduct has been strongly trending downward. This means that students are more able to access instruction and the progress they all deserve.



What’s next? After laying the foundation this past year to become recognized at the Universal Level, we will add additional trainings and structures to strengthen our system by providing advanced interventions when needed, layering in academic tiered supports (MTSS), expanding our positive culture, and improving the fidelity of our systems for tracking and problem solving. With additional training and focus on PBiS, we expect to bring negative conduct scores even lower, raise school culture and engagement even higher, and brighten the spotlight on student achievement.

~ Sergio W. Simunovic  
School Principal



## Transitions

Kurn Hattin Homes bid farewell to two retiring staff members this spring at a luncheon on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Jennifer Tallman was an elementary school teacher, educating children in grades 2 and 3 for 21 years. Beverly DeCamp was a houseparent in Hubbard and Maysilles Cottages for 13 years, and her talents in sewing were well-known throughout the campus. The retirement party for both of these longtime Kurn Hattin employees was full of smiles and tears from children and staff alike. We wish Jen and Bev a very happy retirement!

Welcome to two new administrative staff members: Director of Residential Services Nancy Richardson and Director of Counseling Christine Reid. Nancy comes to Kurn Hattin from Machias, Maine, where she served as the Director of Residential Life for Washington Academy. Christine comes to Kurn Hattin from HCRS in Springfield, Vermont, where she provided clinical and administrative supervision to a team of clinicians and case managers. We are delighted to have Nancy and Christine join our Kurn Hattin family!



## WHAT IS THE *IRA Charitable Rollover*?

For individuals age 70½ or older, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows you to make tax-free charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 per year directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). These otherwise taxable distributions can satisfy your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and exclude these funds from your taxable income. If married, your spouse can also transfer up to \$100,000 from his or her IRA annually.

Here are some important benefits/considerations:

- IRA contributions can be made to any tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, such as New England Kurn Hattin Homes.
- You may designate your gift as you have done in the past (annual fund, residential program, academic program, music program, etc.)
- It can be beneficial for individuals who do not, or can no longer, itemize deductions on their income tax.
- Gifts can be transferred tax-free from your IRA directly to Kurn Hattin Homes.
- Transfers can be applied toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- Withdrawals are not subject to annual charitable deduction limitations.

If you are 70½ or older, care about Kurn Hattin, and want to continue to make a difference in the lives of our children, please consider the IRA Charitable Rollover as an option to support Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. For more information, please contact the Development Office at (802) 721-6963.

~ Tom Oxholm  
Director of Institutional Advancement

## Summertime AT KURN HATTIN

The summer was filled with many activities such as soccer camp, camping trips, Cape Cod bike trip, basketball, cooking camp, dance camp, art camp, career exploration camp in Keene, New Hampshire, and tech camp at the Springfield, Vermont Technical Center. This is the time of year where swimming, outside games, and summer fun are all part of Kurn Hattin Homes. We are proud to offer so many choices for our students. There is always excitement on Wednesdays when the students go on special off-campus trips to lakes, museums, and parks.

On the weekends, the students go off campus with their cottage houseparents to spend time with one another in a different setting, where they enjoy such things as eating ice cream, shopping, and playground hopping. While on campus, they use the pool, the gym, and the game rooms to relax and have some fun. The variety of things to do helps the students find interests they may not have yet explored and enhances a joy for healthy fun. Life is never dull, rather it is full of memories in the making.

We have several new staff and students who have joined our community. We welcome them and look forward to getting to know them better.

Life at the Homes is good!

~ Clint Plante  
Co-Assistant Residential Director



We are excited to announce the publication of "A Kurn Hattin Christmas" cookbook featuring dessert recipes from staff and friends of Kurn Hattin Homes. It will include heartwarming pictures of the children and life at the Homes. It will be available for purchase late fall so keep a lookout for it on our Facebook page and website [www.kurnhattin.org](http://www.kurnhattin.org). Sponsored by the St. Nicholas Project.

## New Trends IN TECHNOLOGY



I asked a student what she likes about the school's new media lab. "There's so much more to do now," she told me. "You can learn new things, like how to copy and paste—things that will help me later."

Classes and students have been moving in and out of the media lab throughout the year, using the shared space to work on assignments and collaborate on projects. Younger students learn literacy and math while exploring fun, interactive websites such as *Starfall* and *Brain Pop!* Older students learn the basics of keyboarding and how to navigate safely on the web. We teach them all technical skills and how to be responsible citizens in the digital age.

In our hands-on, minds-on approach to teaching and learning, we prepare our students for an exciting and challenging future. They explore strange new worlds—virtual worlds beyond the borders of their classroom walls. "We got to build our houses in *Minecraft*," said Kevin, who graduated this past June. "First we had to design them on paper, and then got to see what they looked like in another world. I learned to take a screen shot and drag it into a file and how to print it differently. I never did anything like that at my other schools."

Our technology is the framework for an active, multi-sensory learning environment. We use a variety of software and tools to cultivate acts of mind and accelerate our students' progress—we use *Dibels* for reading comprehension, *Inspiration* for visual thinking, and *Minecraft* for spatial reasoning. In the near future, we may be using programs such as *Weebly* to teach web page design, and *Canvas* to teach computer science and the basics of coding.

We aim to remake our academic program into a model of innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century education. And so, we are working on the school's technical infrastructure as well, adding new computers and archiving educational media such as videos and audio books, making it so all of our resources can be shared easily with the entire community.

We are tapping into an innate desire to learn which is alive in all of us. In our library, teachers and volunteers work closely with students to inspire a passion for reading. In the past school year, we saw more chapter books circulating in and out than ever before.

"There's so much cool stuff," added the student with a smile. And still a lot more cool stuff on the horizon.

At the Homes—as the poet wrote—The times they are a-changin'.

~ Alan Chitoff

Ed Tech & Media Center Coordinator

## A Message TO ALUMNI

Let's celebrate Kurn Hattin's 125 years!

Next year, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Kurn Hattin Day on Saturday, May 18, 2019 will be a great time for classes to hold reunions. If you would like to organize your class reunion, please contact Heather Longe so she can help you contact classmates. Email her at [hlonge@kurnhattin.org](mailto:hlonge@kurnhattin.org) or call (802) 721-6916. Please send us your contact information and that of other alumni and former staff with whom you are in contact or share this information with them.

As part of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Kurn Hattin Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award will be awarded. This award recognizes a graduate of the Homes who has gone on to make significant, lasting positive contributions to his or her community and to the world. In 2014, Richard "Dick" Nash, Class 1942, was the first recipient of this prestigious award. Please send us your alumnus/na nomination with an explanation as to why this individual should receive this award. Feel free to nominate yourself!

At the 2018 Alumni Association Annual Meeting, alumna Shirley Bacon Doyle, Class of 1949, graciously offered to sponsor the Alumni Association Graduation Awards for 2019. The Alumni Association Awards provide one graduating Kurn Hattin boy and one graduating Kurn Hattin girl with an award of \$50.00 each. The Alumni Association is seeking a sponsor, an individual or class, for the 2020 awards. Please let us know if you are interested in sponsoring this award for one or more years.

The Alumni Association Constitution was last updated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Coinciding with Kurn Hattin's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Association is seeking to become more engaging and inclusive. Various suggested changes to the Articles of the Constitution will be voted on by members. Some changes include:

- more socialization time at the Annual Meeting
- more outreach via social media and email to engage alumni who live throughout the country
- removing language about dues
- updating the leadership structure

Be on the lookout for an online poll or mailing regarding these changes this fall!

*There is a lot to celebrate! See you all soon.*

## FROM FACEBOOK



**Kurn Hattin Homes  
for Children**



2,783

*"Kurn Hattin was the best choice my family ever made for me. When I was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade I didn't want to leave."*

~ **Kristen McDaniel, Class of 1991**



## KURN HATTIN *Album*

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There are many opportunities for the children to be musical at Kurn Hattin. Thanks to Music Director Lisa Bianconi, Assistant Music Director Jennifer Leonard, and the music program volunteers, the children sing, play instruments, and dance. This year, they were able to do all three in the “Pirates We Shall Be” musical. The students from Kurn Hattin’s younger classes, helpers from the older classes, volunteers, and several talented staff members set sail for an onstage pirate adventure on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This was an original performance, with a 40-minute script and music from many areas, telling the tale of a stowaway who wants to be a pirate. The show highlighted the importance of Kurn Hattin’s Five Core Values (perseverance, nurturance, hope, compassion, and sense of worth) and how necessary they are to live a happy and good life. We would like to extend our appreciation to the New Hampton School students who participated during their service week and helped the Kurn Hattin children in the pirate-themed musical. In addition, the Select Choir was honored to sing at the National Society of New England Women’s Annual Congress on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Hartford, Connecticut. They also performed the National Anthem for the Boston Red Sox game on July 9<sup>th</sup> at Fenway Park. This was the second time that the children were invited to perform for the Red Sox at Fenway. These are just a few of the amazing opportunities given to the children in our care.

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The children interact with animals of all shapes and sizes in the classroom. In science class, the children learned about embryology and the life cycle, using real chicken eggs which then hatched into chicks. The students monitored and turned the fertilized eggs in an incubator for 18 days and then were able to observe the hatching process. The eggs come from the University of Connecticut, and the project is sponsored by the University of Vermont Extension. Another animal in the classroom was Darwin, the bearded dragon! Darwin lived in reading teacher Laurel Harrison’s classroom. He enjoyed being held and hand fed. Bearded dragons are lizards native to Australia that usually have a lifespan of 12-14 years in captivity. Darwin lived to be an incredible 20 years old before his passing in May. The Counseling Department has Mr. Wells, a charismatic black Lab, who visits and helps the children feel comfortable talking about their feelings. “When my brother and I first came to Kurn Hattin, we were very homesick. It made me feel better to talk to Mr. Wells, and one time I fell asleep next to him!” said a recent graduate. Another therapy dog on campus is Kaia, school custodian Rory Longe’s German shepherd. Kaia, who is training to become a certified service animal, helps the children in the school to feel more comfortable in the classroom. The children also participate in the Therapeutic Riding Program with six horses—Comet, Flicker, Hjerti, Julio, Samantha, and Sophie. Handling, riding, and caring for a horse can help a child develop a host of positive traits, including responsibility, accountability, patience, level-headedness, empathy, kindness, and self-discipline.



There are many enjoyable educational activities. The students participated in the maple sugaring process with Farm Manager Real Bazin and learned how to collect and boil sap to make maple syrup. They learn biology (tree identification and photosynthesis), chemistry (how the sugar in the maple sap crystalizes when boiled down), and history (the differences in sugaring technology from the early days of Kurn Hattin Homes to what is used now throughout

New England). The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also worked very hard on provocative presentations for their Cornerstone Projects in the English class taught by Kristie Lisai. The students spent four weeks researching and putting together thesis-like presentations and then spent the morning of February 16<sup>th</sup> sharing their findings with classmates and teachers. Topics included “The Pros and Cons of Methadone,” “The Evolution of the iPhone,” “The Three Best Basketball Players of All Time: LeBron James, Michael Jordan, and Wilt Chamberlain,” “The Use of Performance-Enhancing Drugs Among High School Athletes,” and “The Quantities of Sugar and Caffeine in Drinks are Harmful.” After school on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Kurn Hattin had its first Art Gallery organized by art teacher Michelle Banning. Works of the children’s art were hung on the walls for all the staff and students to admire. Seeing such inspiring projects on display was not only a proud moment for the artists but also for the entire Kurn Hattin community. Twelve upper-grade students, chosen for their academic standing and exemplary behavior, were granted a unique opportunity to tour Yale University in Connecticut. This educational excursion was facilitated by Kurn Hattin Trustee and Yale graduate Terry Holcombe and included a visit to the Peabody Museum, Yale Art Gallery, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the etymology department. The children also had lunch with Yale students and were given a commendation, celebrating Kurn Hattin’s 125 years of service to youth in New England, from President of Yale University, Peter Salovey.

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We all need to stay active. There are a number of activities that take place on campus that give children, staff, and volunteers a chance to be active and play outside. A competitive event that occurs right before graduation is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade vs. staff kickball game. For the past four years, the Kurn Hattin staff have won the games—but this year the 8<sup>th</sup> graders played a tough game and only narrowly missed the victory. All of the children cheered their peers on from the dugout, creating a racket of song and encouragement to boost the 8<sup>th</sup> grade morale. The students’ accomplishments were celebrated with a Field Day event. A community service team from Walgreen’s volunteered on Field Day as well. They, along with the children, participated in tug-of-war, foam battles, and a color fun run that included obstacles and colored powder dusting. It was all smiles as the children scrambled up and down hay bales, emerging from the run covered in all the colors of the rainbow.





We could not transform the lives of children and their families without our exemplary staff and volunteers. Each year, staff members are recognized for loyalty, diligence, and dedicated service during their tenure. Eight staff members were the recipients of these awards at the All Staff Meeting held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Five were recognized for the longevity of their service: Richard

Johnson, Food Service Manager, 25 years; Kristie Lisai, English Teacher, 20 years; Kim Fine, Director of Development and Public Relations, 15 years; Sara Stine, Therapeutic Riding Instructor, 10 years; and Tenielle Stone, Family Outreach Coordinator, 5 years. Three staff received “Above and Beyond Awards” for stepping up to take on responsibilities outside of their normal roles: Terry Andrews, Admissions and Outreach Administrative Assistant; Carol Bazin, Assistant Director of Residential Services; and Kalie Beswick, School Administrative Assistant. We also held an annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to say thank you to our more than 120 volunteers. At the luncheon on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Principal Sergio Simunovic gave thanks to the volunteers, remarking that “the service of our mission would not be possible without your talent, skills, love, and compassion.” The entire Kurn Hattin family thanks these many hard-working individuals for their commitment to the children. Pictured are the volunteers who attended the luncheon, from left to right: James Malley, Terry Gulick, Howard Putnam, Judy Putnam, King Milne, Nancy Hamblet Lightner, Mary Kay Pfadenhauer, Janet Wilson, Darlene Pecor, Mabella Mendez, Karen Noyes, Sue Nostrand, Barbara Brackett, Sami McRae, Donna Fahner, Lynne Reed, and Bill Kopf.

Pinkies out. Not your average fundraiser, the Bishop’s Residence High Tea at St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Burlington, Vermont was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. Michelle LaCroix and several family and friends, including Father Lance Harlow, worked diligently to put on a delightful tea party to benefit a worthy cause—Kurn Hattin’s music program. Tickets sold out fast, and over 40 guests came to enjoy a delicious high tea



complete with all the necessities, from fans to macarons. Before the tea was served, Stephen Harrison, Executive Director of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, and Music Director Lisa Bianconi spoke to the attendees about Kurn Hattin’s mission, services, and the importance of the music program. The guests sat around cozy tables laid with beautiful china teacups, napkins rolled into delicate roses, and platters of assorted finger sandwiches and pastries homemade by Samatha LaCroix. The mood was light and cheery as everyone sipped their tea and raffle prizes were drawn. Fittingly for a tea party, some attendees even wore lavish hats! All the funds raised from the Bishop’s Residence High Tea will benefit the music program, which is an integral part of the opportunities offered to children at Kurn Hattin Homes. This fundraiser was truly a sweet success.

It’s not every day that a Congressman comes to visit Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. The children and staff were very excited to welcome U.S. Representative for Vermont Peter Welch and show him around the campus on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The tour began in the Mayo Memorial Center School, where 5<sup>th</sup> grader Kylie took



Congressman Welch to view the dining hall, auditorium, classrooms, and library. They were then welcomed into Parent Cottage. Congressman Welch took time to speak with the children, and even wore his Kurn Hattin hat as he drove off to another appointment. Pictured is U.S. Representative Peter Welch greeting the children. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Jack Pratt of Walpole, New Hampshire, visited during Kurn Hattin’s celebration of Diversity Month to speak to the children about his experience working with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He explained how Dr. King was called to action in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955 to lead the Civil Rights Movement, and then he answered the children’s questions about segregation, boycotts, and race relations in the southern states. A major point in Mr. Pratt’s presentation was that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said ‘yes’ to becoming the leader of the Civil Rights Movement when he could have said ‘no.’ Mr. Pratt reminded the children to have the courage that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had—to stand up for what is right, even though it isn’t always easy.



The 2018 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony was uplifting and well-attended by the families of the graduates, as well as proud teachers and mentors. Graduation proceedings began with an opening welcome from Executive Director Stephen Harrison, an Invocation from Co-Assistant Residential Director Clint Plante,

and greetings from President of the Board Janet Wilson. Then Salutatorian Sylus LaBarre acknowledged the audience and his fellow graduating classmates. Several students received one or more prizes, including awards for excellence in music, sports, community, writing, and from the Alumni Association. Three alumni were also presented the Thomas Fahner Scholarship Award—Gizenia Boyd, Class of 2005; Jahyde Bullard, Class of 2013; and Chrystal Longe, Class of 2014. Valedictorian Jacob Edwards gave the Farewell speech. He said he would always hold dear what he learned from Kurn Hattin. Diplomas were then presented by Janet Wilson and Principal Sergio Simunovic. Following the ceremony, a long reception line extended to congratulate the graduates, wish them luck on the next phase of their lives, and remind them to come ‘home’ often.



# THE *Bridge Builders*

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



## A Tradition of Giving

Nancy Noonan's family has been giving to Kurn Hattin Homes since the early 1900s. It was a favorite charity of her grandfather and grandmother, Benjamin and Clara Bristol. Her mother, Pauline Noonan, was a longtime supporter of Kurn Hattin until she was 97 years old and passed the family tradition down to Nancy and the rest of the family when she requested Kurn Hattin be the recipient of her memorial donations.

Nancy recently supported Kurn Hattin Homes through her IRA. "I chose to donate through my IRA for two reasons: I know how good Kurn Hattin is and it helps me for tax purposes." When asked why she carries on the family tradition of giving to Kurn Hattin Homes, Nancy responded simply, "When you can afford to donate, you are saying that you can help someone."

Nancy and her family are a wonderful example of the good that can be accomplished over generations of generosity. We are very grateful to all of our friends and supporters who donate in a variety of different ways, including through IRAs, donations of cash and stock gifts, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and bequests.

~ Maggie Rice  
Development Officer

## 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 gift of \$10,000 or more to the Endowment and Board Designated Funds. These may include designated bequests, trusts, outright gifts to the endowment, naming Kurn Hattin as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, purchasing a charitable gift annuity, as well as other deferred gifts designated by the donor for the endowment. The Bridge Builder Society also recognizes trusts established by donors to provide ongoing financial support to Kurn Hattin, and gifts for current use.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, the following have made gifts to Kurn Hattin of \$10,000 or more (Received July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018):

American Legion Bridge  
Wilson Post #77

Anonymous

The Beetham Family  
Charitable Fund

Geoff Branch  
& Kate Spencer

Caroline M. Warren Trust  
Judith Gerrish

William & Paulette Gray  
In Memory of Harold  
& Dorothy Gray

In Memory of Jim  
& Margaret Duncan

Chris Heberlig

Terry & Marya Holcombe  
In Memory of Ray  
& Herthyl Withey

Mr. & Mrs.  
John A. Hubbard  
Eric & Cynthia Lashway

Bill & Cate Leach

Fred Matteson  
Memorial Fund

Robert W. Owens, Jr.  
Memorial Fund

The Pabis Foundation  
David Space

Barbara St. John\*  
James Watson Estate

Mr. & Mrs.  
John Alan Watson

Estate of Harvey  
& Vivian Winn

\*Charitable Gift Annuity

## Proud to Have Family's Name Honored on the Bridge Builder Wall



Our family has supported Kurn Hattin in several ways, from adopting the science classroom in 2017, to adopting Warner Cottage for the 2018-2019 school year, to tutoring. It was very meaningful for us to contribute to the Bridge Builder wall a second time, this time in memory of Marya's parents, Herthyl and Ray Withey. Both were strong advocates of lifelong learning. Ray Withey, a dyslexic, never graduated from high school but spent the rest of his life acquiring knowledge and wisdom. He would have been tremendously impressed with the help provided by Kurn Hattin's wonderful reading teachers. Herthyl Withey, a librarian, had a favorite saying: "If you learn how to read, you will never be bored again." Their philosophy was a seamless fit with Kurn Hattin's values. We are proud that their names will be honored on the Bridge Builder wall, and we are blessed to be able to contribute to the Kurn Hattin mission in any way we can.

~ Terry (Trustee) and Marya Holcombe

## 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."



# Family and Alumni

COMMENTS & QUOTES

“Kurn Hattin has been a lifeline for my child and for my whole family. Without it, I’m not sure where we’d be.” Comments like these highlight what Kurn Hattin has meant for families and the difference it has made in their lives. Each child has a specific reason for being here, depending on individual needs and family circumstances. The common thread is that something has not been going right for the child and the family. Family members courageously decide to look for help and resources to figure out how to improve their situation. That’s what Kurn Hattin is here for—to offer assistance to each child and each family that will give them the chance, the time, and the space to tackle the things in their lives that they would like to change.

If you know a child who could benefit from the opportunities and the structure that our programs offer, we’d love to hear from you. Anyone can refer a child to Kurn Hattin. If you’d like to discuss what options are available, including information about the application process, please contact the Admissions Office, (802) 721-6932 or [skessler@kurnhattin.org](mailto:skessler@kurnhattin.org).

A huge thank you to everyone who completed the alumni survey that was distributed as part of the Alumni Project featured in the last edition of this Bulletin. The response has been fantastic! We appreciate your input and your willingness to take the time to give us your opinions and your feedback. The information gathered is being used to form a comprehensive plan for better supporting current students, alumni, graduates, and their families. A wonderful benefit is that it has allowed us to be back in touch with many alumni from all over the country.

Below are a few of the many, many comments we received:

*“I’m not sure how much Kurn Hattin has changed in the past 27 years, but I really hope it has kept its traditional values. While not enjoying the boundaries at the time necessarily, the boundaries I did have were instrumental in helping to shape my adult life.”*

*“I loved Kurn Hattin. I am still close friends over 20 years later with my friends who became my family there. The one aspect I feel Kurn Hattin is lacking is some type of program for high school students—this is when most kids need the most guidance.”*

*“I feel the KHH way of having tribes and states (skills-based grouping in the school) helped me learn much faster than I ever would have had the opportunity to in a standard grade-based non skills-based setting.”*

*“It was a special place and there’s no question I was better off there—However I was not prepared socially or academically for high school. I think continuing a relationship as a peer mentor would have been great—more continued support during high school and after would have been helpful. I am grateful for all that Kurn Hattin did.”*

It’s not too late to add your thoughts. If you haven’t had a chance to complete an alumni survey and would like to, please contact Terry Andrews at (802) 721-6913 or [tandrews@kurnhattin.org](mailto:tandrews@kurnhattin.org) and we will make sure you have the opportunity to be part of the ongoing Alumni Project.

~ Sue Kessler  
Director of Admissions

# Special Sponsorship

OPPORTUNITIES AT KURN HATTIN HOMES

Consider becoming a sponsor of one of these programs...

The **Adopt-a-Cottage** program enables donors to not only support the special items needed in the residences at the Homes, but also to spend quality time with the children who live there. All cottage sponsors attend a special dinner every September in their honor, and are welcome to visit throughout the year.

Thank you, 2018 Adopt-a-Cottage sponsors:

Kerry & Christopher Auld	Mascoma Bank, Walpole, NH
Cota & Cota, Bellows Falls, VT	Savings Bank of Walpole, NH
Richard Gassett	Streeter Contractors, LLC, Westminster, VT
Keene Elm City Rotary Club, NH	Dave & Lisa Therrien
Elizabeth Woodhull Maiola, Anthony Maiola,	True North Networks, LLC, Swanzey, NH
Dawn W. Ranney, & Joel W. Maiola	Whitney-Blake Company, Bellows Falls, VT

The **Adopt-a-Classroom** program affords donors the opportunity to provide items the classroom teacher and school principal have determined are needed but which are not budgeted. Classroom sponsors are most welcome to visit their classrooms and join the children for a meal.

Thank you, 2018 Adopt-a-Classroom sponsors:

Terry & Marya Holcombe  
Carol Howe  
IPG Employee Benefits, Springfield, VT

Both programs provide a wonderful way to be involved with the Kurn Hattin children!



**Perseverance** is not giving up when things get tough.

"We are kind. We are proud. We keep trying."

**Hope** is believing everything is going to be okay.

"We are kind. We are proud. We keep trying."

**Sense of Worth** is being yourself no matter what other people think."

"We are kind. We are proud. We keep trying."

**Compassion** is opening your heart to those who need love.

"We are kind. We are proud. We keep trying."

**Nurturance** is taking care of yourself and those around you.

"We are kind. We are proud. We keep trying."

~ Morgen Goss, Grade 7

**Kurn Hattin means everything to me.**

It gave me, a chubby kid from the inner city, an opportunity of a lifetime. No matter where you're from or what you've been through, never give up. Continue to do the life skills you learned at Kurn Hattin; you'll do great wherever you end up.

Kurn Hattin will forever be my home away from home.

~ Jahyde Bullard, Class of 2013  
Acceptance speech excerpt for the 2018  
Thomas G. Fahner Scholarship Award

## America's Gift to This Generation

I feel as if America's gift to this generation is freedom. Without Freedom, most people within the United States wouldn't have a chance to have an education. Without freedom, some people wouldn't be able to let their voices be heard, simply because it is illegal. Without freedom, people would not be able to fully express themselves.

Freedom gives all citizens of the United States the chance to earn an education, and without the chance to earn an education, people wouldn't be able to find a well-paying job. If they weren't able to find a well-paying job, they more than likely would be unable to get the things they needed most. So, without freedom, citizens of the United States would not be able to pay for the things they need, let alone survive.

Secondly, without freedom, citizens wouldn't be able to speak their minds to the public. The United States would not allow its citizens to display even the simplest of opinions about our country. People would not be able to express their feelings on the current president and would be arrested if caught doing so. Nobody would be able to write books based on their opinion of the government. So, without freedom, people could not critique the country.

Freedom of expression is also something we would not have without freedom. Being able to express ourselves in the form of art, poetry, and all other methods of speech would be outlawed. We would have no books that express the feelings of our fellow Americans. We wouldn't be able to create art that expressed the feelings of people.

In conclusion to everything that has been said, freedom is a very important part of American culture. Without freedom, this generation wouldn't be able to do things they normally do. I think it is safe to say that without freedom, America would not be the same.

~ Alex Lowe III, Grade 7  
Patriot's Pen Essay



# Hard Work PAYS OFF

Nothing stands in the way of Susanna Compare, Class of 2014, reaching her goals. Not only was she a straight A student for her entire four years at the Milton Hershey School, but she also was nominated for Student of the Year by the National Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for her efforts in raising \$12,000 for research and treatment of blood cancers. Susanna also was the Central Pennsylvania 2018 Rotary Speech District Champion, and a member of the Milton Hershey School Mock Trial team which won the district semifinals in the Pennsylvania Bar Association 2018 competition.

How does someone accomplish so much at just 17 years of age? Susanna is a hard worker who loves learning. Her successes are particularly notable because of her childhood struggles. Things were not going well for Susanna when she came to Kurn Hattin Homes at eight years of age. “I’ve excelled because of the relationships I formed with adults at Kurn Hattin—they pushed me to always try harder and do better,” she says. One of the most influential people in her life at that time was Tom Fahner, then Principal of the school. “Mr. Fahner always told me that college should be my end goal. When I was ready to graduate eighth grade, he was the one who looked into what all my options were for high school.” It’s all about hard work, and her hard work has paid off. Susanna was accepted into Pennsylvania State University Class of 2022. She hopes to further her passion for public speaking and law with a degree in journalism and political science. Kurn Hattin is proud of all Susanna has accomplished and looks forward to hearing about her future accomplishments.

~ Maggie Rice  
Development Officer



# Thank You All FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Because of you, the children in our care are on the road to achieving their full potential. We could not do this without you. We really couldn’t!

There are many ways to support the children, and we look for ways to make it easier for you to do so—including voice recognition technology. Did you know that you are now able to ask Amazon’s **Alexa** to send a donation to Kurn Hattin?

If you would like more information on how you can support Kurn Hattin, please contact me at (802) 721-6914 or [kfine@kurnhattin.org](mailto:kfine@kurnhattin.org). Thank you.

~ Kim Fine,  
Director of Development & Public Relations

## 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 20, 2018 and July 20, 2018:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>CONNEMAN &amp; ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED,</b><br>Montpelier, VT | <b>MIRACLES IN MOTION INCORPORATED,</b> Keene, NH                       | <b>ST. JAMES THRIFT SHOP,</b><br>Keene, NH         |
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### Consider Making a Monthly Donation

You can do so on-line or by contacting Megan Manley at (802) 721-6912 or [mmanley@kurnhattin.org](mailto:mmanley@kurnhattin.org)

SPECIAL *Recognition*

Special recognition to the clubs and civic organizations who made donations between January 20, 2018 and July 20, 2018:

Brattleboro Rotary Club, VT	Manchester Center Baptist Church, VT	Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, South Burlington, VT
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Mary #468, Saint Albans, VT	Middle Branch Grange, Randolph Center, VT	Saxtons River Lodge #33 I.O.O.F, VT
Chicago Colony NSNEW #15, IL	National Society of New England Women	St. Andrew Church, Waterbury, VT
Dorothy M. Clifford Spacecoast Colony NSNEW #177, FL	New Haven Colony NSNEW #44, CT	St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington, VT
First Congregational Church Women's Fellowship, Westminster, VT	Newport Rotary Club, NH	St. Mark Church, Burlington, VT
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Richmond, NH	Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Richmond, VT	United Church of Northfield, VT
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Ladies Church Circle, Townshend, VT	Red Mountain Chapter #41 OES, East Arlington, VT	VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Rutland, VT
Loyal Order of Moose, Springfield Lodge No. 679, VT	Rockford Colony NSNEW #34, IL	Windsor Lodge of Elks #1665, VT

SPECIAL *Appreciation*

Appreciation of Gifts in-kind: Goods and services donated between January 20, 2018 and July 20, 2018:

Kathy Allen	Jennifer Jeffries	Officer Ryan Palmer
Anonymous	Keene Lions Club, NH	Peter Michael Foundation
Kerry & Christopher Auld	John & Carole King	Quality Mailing House, Claremont, NH
Brattleboro Fire Department, VT	Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Knippler	Sylvie Rice
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The Common Man Roadside, Hooksett, NH	Bob Leach	Dr. Margaret Stone/Horizon Dental, Brattleboro, VT
William & Jill Danilich	Randy MacDonald	Watermill Group, Lexington, MA
Sean & Michelle Farrell	Genevieve & Gaitan Mathieu	W.S. Badger Company, Gilsum, NH
Wayne & Jean Harlow	Bill McHugh	
Rod Hewitt	John & Donna McSoley	
	Francese Mills	

*Matching Gifts Can Double Your Gift!*

Many companies will match their employees' gifts to nonprofit organizations, and some even match spouses' or retired employees' gifts. Please check with your personnel office.

*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 20, 2018 and July 20, 2018.

**IN MEMORY OF ARTIE AIKEN**  
Frank & Shirley Aiken

**IN MEMORY OF PHILIP A. BACON, CLASS OF 1944**  
Mrs. Rochelle F. Jordan

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

**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM BARSCHDORF, CLASS OF 1944**

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Michael & Vera D'Avella  
Robert Davenport & Roberta Bianco  
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**IN MEMORY OF HAROLD BLAKE, CLASS OF 1957**  
Carolyn Blake-Bashaw ('54)\*

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**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE CADORET, CLASS OF 1972**  
Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

**IN MEMORY OF NITA CHOUKAS**  
Mary Hepburn

**IN MEMORY OF MY WIFE, GAIL CHRISTMAS**  
William Christmas

**IN MEMORY OF KAY & SKIP CLOUGH**  
Mr. Arthur Morrow

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**IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER, WILLIAM COOK, CLASS OF 1929**  
Helen Elizabeth Cook

**IN MEMORY OF FRAN COYNE**  
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**IN MEMORY OF RANDALL P. DANIELS**  
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**IN MEMORY OF JIM & MARGARET DUNCAN**  
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Nancy Lewis  
Timothy Lyons  
Peg & Phil Mollitor



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Judy Zehentner & Bob Griffin

**IN MEMORY OF CHARLES H. EDMUNDS, CLASS OF 1959**  
Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

**IN MEMORY OF MY GRANDPA, G. LANDALE EDSON**  
Ms. Abigail M. Edson

**IN MEMORY OF DONALD FRISBEE, CLASS OF 1950**  
Gregory (‘49)\* & Charlotte Smith

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**IN MEMORY OF DIANE GRIFFIN & GWEN HITCHCOCK**  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Geist

**IN MEMORY OF BERRY R. & NADINE H. HARRISON**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harrison

**IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER, VIRGIL HAWES**  
Sarah Darling

**IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, DAYTON “DOC” HENSON, CLASS OF 1928 & JOSEPHINE WOODHULL HENSON, CLASS OF 1929**  
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Barbara Westine

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Kurn Hattin Alumni Association

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**IN MEMORY OF GRACE JERSEY**  
Mr. (‘73)\* & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

**IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER, PATRICIA KARNEDY**  
Gary & Tonia Karnedy

**IN MEMORY OF JANE KIRK**  
Janet & Ernest Wilson

**IN MEMORY OF MY TWO CHILDREN, JULIE & JACKSON LAWRENCE**  
Leo Lawrence

**IN MEMORY OF TONY LUCIA**  
Dorene & Ron Lengyel

**IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS, JOHN E. LYNCH, SR. & CARRIE P. LYNCH**  
Mr. James A. Lynch

**IN MEMORY OF FRED J. MATTESON, CLASS OF 1982**  
Barbara Matteson

**IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND, RICHARD J. MATULIS**  
Joan Matulis

**MEMORY OF MY SON-IN-LAW, JONATHAN MORSE**  
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**IN MEMORY OF DONALD MUSGROVE**  
Mr. (‘73)\* & Mrs. Jerry L. Bardwell

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Suzi Owens & Bob Ruehmann

**IN MEMORY OF JUDITH R. PATNO**  
Cindy Bacigalupo & Randall Hickin

**IN MEMORY OF JUDY PATNO, MOTHER OF LISA BIANCONI**  
Janet & Ernest Wilson

**IN MEMORY OF RUTH PUGLIESI**  
Shirley & Frank Aiken

**IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND RICARD**  
Arlene Wright

**IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND, DOMINIC M. RICCIO**  
Stella Riccio

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Kim Fine

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**IN MEMORY OF MY COUSIN, ROBERTA “BOBBI” VIOLETTE**  
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**IN MEMORY OF MY DAD, KEITH WALLACE**  
Rosina Wallace

**IN MEMORY OF MY MOM, JOANNA WOODHULL WEEKS, CLASS OF 1927**  
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**IN MEMORY OF RUTH WHITCOMB**  
Judy Bullis

**IN MEMORY OF ALAN & CAROLE WILLIAMS**  
Mr. Ronald J. Rajewski

\*alumnus/na

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 MUSA ABDI’S BIRTHDAY**  
Mana Frye  
Kristie Lisai  
Keri & Joseph Newton

**IN HONOR OF JOSHUA & LINDA BARDWELL’S BIRTHDAYS**  
Mr. Jerry L. Bardwell (‘73)\*

**IN HONOR OF BARBARA BRACKETT**  
David & Andrea Johnson

**IN HONOR OF JEANNINE ERPELDING’S 60TH BIRTHDAY**  
Frances & David Mount

**IN HONOR OF KIM FINE**  
Patricia & Michael White

**IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW**  
Karla Karstens  
Keith & Hope Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Koch  
Richard LaValley  
Arlene Wright

**IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW ON HIS 55TH BIRTHDAY**  
Wayne & Jean Harlow

**IN HONOR OF FATHER LANCE HARLOW’S SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION**  
Anonymous

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Lucy & Richard Doucette  
Susan Reis Dugan  
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Anne Reed  
**IN HONOR OF CHARLES P. KELSEY  
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO RIVERWOODS**  
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**IN HONOR OF ERIKA LEA ON HER BIRTHDAY**  
Carola Lea  
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Beth Gaiser  
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William & Anne-Marie Litchfield  
**IN HONOR OF JACK & NICHOLAS  
SWERHONE'S GRADUATION**  
Niels Giddins & Lorna Swerhone  
**IN HONOR OF JANET WILSON**  
David & Andrea Johnson  
  
\*alumnus/na

 **Help us preserve the environment  
and program funds.**

**As part of our efforts to preserve the  
environment and reduce printing and mailing  
costs, we are encouraging everyone who uses  
email to consider receiving our twice-yearly  
Bulletin in digital, rather than paper, format.**

*Thank you. The money saved on printing and postage costs will be used for children's care.*

# Kurn Hattin Homes

## FOR CHILDREN

*Founded and incorporated in 1894*

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MISSION STATEMENT

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