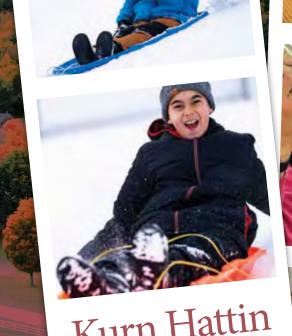


Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children



Kurn Hattin
Home and School for Children





2025 | ANNUAL REPORT



Home and Scho



Kurn Hattin
Home and School for Children



I've been here eight years, and the best part of Kurn Hattin for me is the teachers ... and the food! The teachers are just really good here, they're very nice.



ELIJAH Class of 2025



# For a child arriving at Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children, the first turning point often comes quietly.

It could be a warm hello from a houseparent, a bed made just for them, or a seat saved at the dinner table. For many, it's the first time they feel truly safe, seen, and understood. Though the first days can be unfamiliar, steady routines soon bring comfort. Small certainties—when meals happen, where their classroom is, who they can talk to—become anchors in uncertain lives.

Then come moments of discovery: joining the band, reading aloud in class, planting in the garden, or running with teammates. Bit by bit, they begin to feel they belong. One day, they look in the mirror and see someone not just surviving, but thriving. That belief in themselves is the true turning point. It's the beginning of a future they once couldn't imagine, now suddenly within reach.

Every child deserves a fresh start. At Kurn Hattin, we offer that to children and the families who love them.

Families come to us during times of difficulty. Whether they're facing financial stress, emotional hardship, or family disruption, they make the courageous choice to give their child the stability and care they need to grow.

Kurn Hattin offers more than a safe home or classroom. It's a community of belonging. And for families, it's a chance to regroup and stay connected through every step of their child's growth. With your support, we provide these new beginnings and help shape the bright futures that follow. From a child's first day on campus, their transformation takes root here and grows beyond their graduation and into the future.

When students cross the graduation stage, their eyes reflect hope. Some head to high school with honors. Others enter vocational programs or continue artistic pursuits. But all leave knowing they are capable, valued, and ready for what's ahead.

That's the power of a new beginning. That's the promise of Kurn Hattin.

This report celebrates those journeys in the voices of the children themselves, reflecting on turning points from nervous first days to confident farewells.

Thank you for believing in new beginnings and helping build bright futures, one child at a time.

Dear Friends of Kurn Hattin.

## This year's theme of new beginnings and bright futures couldn't be more fitting.

**Sue Kessler Executive Director** Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children

The theme captures the essence of what Kurn Hattin provides for the children and families we serve, and describes the exhilaration of renewal we are experiencing as an organization.

After years as Assistant Executive Director, with an enduring belief in this mission, I am honored to step into the role of Executive Director. This place has been part of my heart and life for many years, and I've seen firsthand how new beginnings can change the course of a child's life. I've also seen how strong communities like ours can grow, evolve, and increasingly make positive changes over time.

This is a season of fresh starts, not just for our students, but for Kurn Hattin itself. We're welcoming a number of new leaders in key roles, including in development, public relations, and program leadership. We're introducing an updated brand identity that reflects our values and bold vision. And, we're carrying forward the deep care and commitment that have always defined us, while renewing our focus on expanding our reach and broadening our impact.

I'm filled with hope for what lies ahead. Together, with your continued partnership, we will keep helping children and families find their footing, discover their strengths, and begin again with purpose. Thank you for believing in our work and for helping to build a future every child deserves.

With gratitude,

Sue Kesslei



**TRINITI** Class of 2027











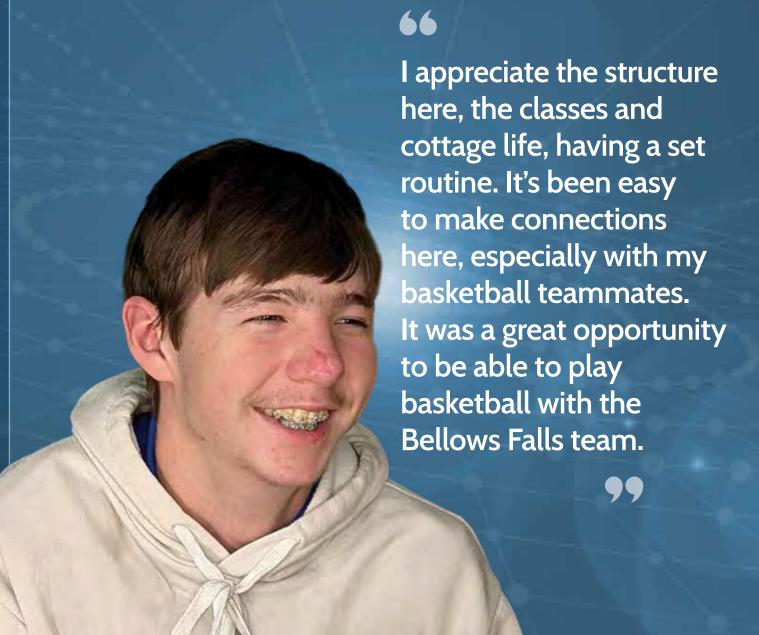
A few years ago, if you were to tell me I had to read a speech at graduation, I would most definitely not believe you and would probably argue back. Like most of you, middle school wasn't always easy for me. During my first years here, there were struggles—like getting along with the other kids in my cottage, being respectful to staff or even just following a simple instruction.

One thing that helped me in my time here was playing sports like basketball because I learned to be a better teammate and trust in myself. My time here has been a lot like a basketball game, actually. Some days there were some turnovers and missed shots, but here I am today reading this speech to you in my final minutes at Kurn Hattin, ready to hit the game winner.

Excerpt from his 2025 graduation speech

#### **PHOENIX**

Class of 2025 Salutatorian









Kurn Hattin
Home and School for Children

As Co-Presidents of the Kurn Hattin Board of Trustees, we are honored to help steward an institution that has been changing lives for over 130 years. While the legacy of Kurn Hattin runs deep, 2025 has been a powerful reminder that renewal is part of our DNA. This year brought meaningful change to every part of Kurn Hattin—in the school, in our administration building, to our brand identity, and on our Board of Trustees—reflecting

a promise that remains unchanged: to offer children a safe, nurturing

environment in which new beginnings lead to bright futures.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS

To the families who entrust us with their children, thank you. It's a profound responsibility and privilege. And to the dedicated staff, volunteers, Incorporators, and generous donors—your steadfast commitment makes transformation possible. From the first day a child steps onto our campus to the moment they step into their next chapter, your support surrounds them with care, opportunity, and hope.

We look forward to all that lies ahead, and we are grateful to be walking this path with you.

With deep appreciation,
Christopher Hackett and Eric Velto
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees
Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children

### A Fresh Look for a Bright Future

Updated image showing adult guidance for a child on their journey forward

Updated clean type treatment



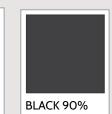
On July 1, 2025, Kurn Hattin introduced a refreshed brand to reflect both our legacy and our forward momentum. Our new name, Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children, highlights what's always been true: Kurn Hattin offers both a nurturing home and a strong educational foundation.

The updated logo and tagline, "New beginnings. Bright futures.", capture the heart of our mission. You'll see this new identity across campus and beyond—from signage and letterhead to newsletters and this annual report—serving as a daily reminder of what's possible here.



Thank you to our donors and supporters, our staff, and the entire Kurn Hattin community for your ongoing support as we move into this new chapter together.











Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children



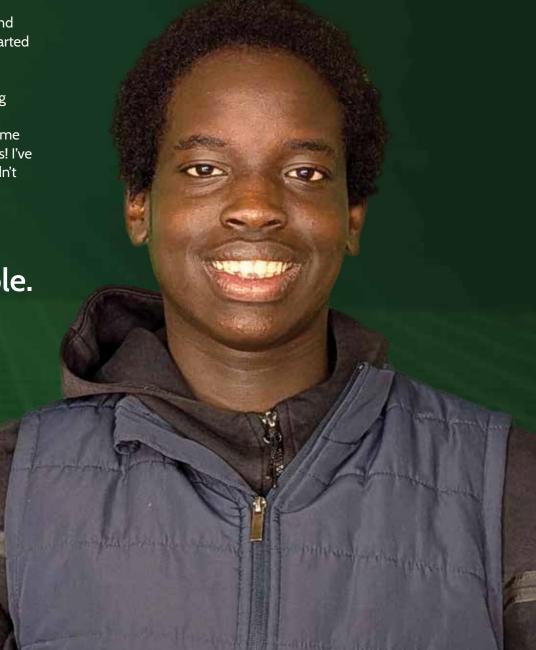
I've been at Kurn Hattin for four years. I first came here in the summer, and while I was welcomed, I really felt comfortable in the fall when school started because some of my cousins were here with me.

I'm proud of my athletics here—I've won a lot of medals in track, including MVP of the CVL meet in Lebanon, New Hampshire. But I especially love basketball. Kurn Hattin worked with Bellows Falls Middle School to let some of us play on their team. We won a lot of games until we got to the finals! I've also played with the AAU. I don't think I'd be as good at basketball if I hadn't come here.

If I could talk to my younger self here, I'd tell him to tolerate people. I used to get so annoyed by others—but since I've been here, I've changed.



REZIG Class of 2025 Valedictorian











I've been at Kurn Hattin for five years, since I was five. It was scary at first because I didn't know anybody, but everyone was so supportive. They made me feel like I belong here. In my cottage, everyone is nice to me, and it feels like home.



**CHRISTIANA** Class of 2029

#### Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2025

#### **OPERATING INCOME**

Investment Allocation Contributions and Charitable Gift Annuities Income from Outside Trusts Support from Parents and Guardians	\$ 4,478,996 715,532 712,541 11,748	74.0% 12.0% 12.0% .2%
Other Income*	130,535	2.0%
Total	\$ 6,049,352	100%

#### **OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

Residential, Education, Counseling, and Childcare Administration, Human Resources, and Finance Development and Institutional Advancement Insurance and other expenses	\$ 4,579,461 685,572 500,122 436,550	74.0% — 11.0% — 8.0% — 7.0% —	
Total	\$ 6,201,705	100%	
Depreciation of Capital/Assets	\$ 418,465		
ADDITIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT			
Restricted Contributions for Endowment	\$ 27,872		
Unrestricted Bequests and Contributions to the Endowment	576,858		
Total	\$ 604,730		

<sup>\*</sup>Other income includes the lunch program, meal reimbursement, rents, farm products, and grants.

#### Fiscal 2025 Bequests and Contributions to Endowment

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#### Financial Disclosure:

The purpose of this Financial Report is to inform the public and contributors of the financial operations of the organization and to acknowledge and recognize the support of our Trustees and

Our Financial Statements are examined by the firm of Oster & Wheeler of Keene, NH, a certified public accounting firm. Audits are conducted annually in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and include an assessment of accounting principles used as well as an evaluation of our financial procedures, controls and presentations.

The audited statements may reflect different classifications than presented above and will reflect investment unrealized gains or losses and other non-operating activity. The information above is pre-audit and therefore will not include any audit adjustments at the conclusion of the audit that follows the issuance of this report.

#### ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL MANAGER

I'm often asked why Kurn Hattin isn't like a traditional, tuition-funded residential school. The answer is simple: our mission doesn't align with a model where a child's attendance depends on a family's ability to pay. Admission to our program is based solely on the needs of the child and family, and on whether we can provide the support and positive change they need. No child is ever denied for financial reasons.

In fact, Kurn Hattin received less than \$12,000 in financial support from families in the last fiscal year.

**97.6%** of the expenses in Fiscal 2025 was philanthropic sources.

Our total budget is just over \$6 million. This funds residential cottages, an accredited K–8 school, a dining facility, a state-of-the-art auditorium, health center, gym, pool, campgrounds, a working farm, and 280supported through acre campus. Kurn Hattin children make full use of all of this. However, our most powerful asset is the dedicated, caring staff who support their growth every day.

As the financial table shows, philanthropic support covered 97.6% of our FY2O25 expenses. This includes \$2.03 million in charitable giving (annual contributions, estate gifts, outside trusts, and gifts to the endowment), and \$4.5 million in support from the endowment itself.

The endowment earned a 13.5% return in the past fiscal year, with a market value of \$36.1 million as of June 30. Sustaining Kurn Hattin's mission into the future depends on continuing annual support and growing our endowment through new gifts.

Financial Manager

### Westminster Club

\$15,000 and up

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

limenez/Givens Donor Family Fund/lavier limenez and Iulia Givens Ms. Cynthia M. Latta Mr. Richard T. Nash '42 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation/Ira S. and Gertrude S. Hubbard Memorial Fund Ms. Sharon E. Owens-Avey Chris and Donna Thomas

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

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

Diana G. Bacon Fred Dill, Ir. Andrew Fugua Gillian Fuqua William and Paulette Gray Marya Holcombe Mr. William B. Hurd, Ir The Pabis Foundation Rite Aid Healthy Futures Savings Bank of Walpole, NH Linda Thomas John Alan and Mary L. Watson

#### Reverend Charles **Dickinson Club**

\$5,000-\$9,999

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

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#### W.I. Mayo Club \$2.500-\$4.999

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The Director of Kurn Hattin Homes from 1927-1963.

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

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LLC. Keene. NH

Beloved Staff Member from 1938-1980 (Girls' Campus Supervisor 1960-1980)

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L.L.Bean

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

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

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Ackerman Susan Bacon Linda Baird H. Valentine and Deborah Barnes Mrs. Linda Bazin John and Susan Beaman Ben & Jerry's Foundation Mr. Harry Biela '58 Ms. Barbara A. Bodine Nacklie and Tanya Bou-Nacklie/ American Online Giving **Foundation** Carlton and Micheline Boyat Chroma Technology Corporation, Bellows Falls, VT Mr. Gordon Clark Mr. and Mrs. Burton J. Cohen John and Teresa Corrigan Mr. Timothy A. Cunningham Mr. William J. Danilich Ms. Char Delabar Susan Reis Dugan Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Feltus Fenton Family Dealerships, Swanzey, NH Brenda Ferriero Ms. Barbara L. Fischer Mr. and Mrs. William Gamache

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Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Rounds

Streeter, LLC, Westminster, VT

Robert and Margaret Omartian

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

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

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Denotes an honorary alumnus/alumna

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Denotes a spouse of a deceased alumnus/alumna

Every effort has been made to ensure that the donor list is complete and accurate. Regrettably, errors or omissions can occur. The Development Office gratefully accepts all submissions of correction.

Thomas and Christie Winmil Dr. and Mrs. Cliff L. Wood

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

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

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