



Kerry's Kids

Kerry's Kids Looks Back on Nine Years

—By Kathy Dean, Board Member and Mother-in-law of Kerry Spooner Dean.

In 1998, Kerry's Kids started with a small group of dedicated pediatricians from Children's Hospital and Research Center of Oakland who wanted to carry on Kerry's dream of providing medical care to the uninsured children of Oakland. Kerry's Kids' mission is to provide free health care and education to underserved children in their neighborhoods and to facilitate that each child ultimately receives care in a permanent medical home. Over the past 9 years, Kerry's Kids has provided free medical services to over 2,500 children. Many more children have benefited from Kerry's Kids educational outreach programs, an annual asthma camp, and through our recent developmental playgroups.

Kerry's Kids Van

Before her death, Kerry had completed some preliminary work with Bobbie Miller of Oakland Head Start to secure a renovated RV for the purpose of providing a mobile clinic. Bobbie and Kerry found



that many homeless families feared they might have their children taken away if they went to the hospital. The plan was for the van (staffed by volunteers) to go to where these families lived. Bobbie and Kerry identified several sites that would benefit from the free medical assistance. The van went out under the **Kerry's Kids** banner for the first time in the fall of 1998.

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"Welcome" To Our New Director!

Greetings all!

Well, as always this past year has been a time of changes and challenges for Kerry's Kids. We said good-bye to our magnificent Medical Director, Laurie Bostick, M.D. We wished her good luck as she moved onto a position at Santa Clara Medical Center.

Following her resignation, Kerry's Kids went into a short hiatus as we took the time to search for a successor up to the task of moving our organization forward. Now, as we are about to usher in a new year,

we are so pleased and excited to be welcoming our new Medical Director,



Christine Ma, M.D.

in September and has jumped in with two feet, ensuring that all of us at Kerry's Kids are back working at the family shelters. The Kerry's Kids

Christine Ma, M.D. Already Christine is proving that our due diligence and patience will be rewarded. She officially took her position with Kerry's Kids

Board expects that with a new Medical Director, 2008 will see our organization collaborating with new community partners, expanding our health education services for our clients, and increasing our pool of volunteer providers.

Most of all, I want to thank all our supporters for always standing behind Kerry's Kids and Kerry's dream, making what we do possible.

Diane Halberg, M.D., President of the Board, Kerry's Kids

As a tribute to what one woman did for Kerry's Kids, we dedicate this newsletter to Jennifer Hackney. Jennifer passed away in October. Please see Page 5 for her story.

Nine Years Remembered

(Continued from page 1)

I first visited the van at the Brookfield School in Oakland where students were receiving their necessary vaccines for admittance to the fall school session. It was a bittersweet moment for me. I was thrilled to see the children receiving medical services from Bob Savio, MD, one of our dedicated volunteer pediatricians, but my heart caught in my throat when I realized that Kerry would never see the reality of her dream coming true. That fall, one of the local media reporters interviewed Bobbie Miller who was sharing the importance of Kerry's dream. Bobbie said that having the van operational was like having Kerry still with us. "It's like she never left us and she is still with us—she's such a blessing." That was over 9 years ago. What a journey since those beginning days in 1998.

We were able to continue using the mobile clinic through the generosity of Oakland Head Start until federal budget cuts to Head Start in 2006. Thankfully, the Director of Health Care for the Homeless, GG Greenhouse, generously agreed to allow Kerry's Kids use of the Alameda County Health Care van. This arrangement continues to date and we are grateful to GG and staff for making it possible for Kerry's Kids to continue providing free medical services at several homeless and transitional shelters.

Volunteer Group Grows

Our small dedicated group of volunteer pediatricians has grown over the years to include physician assistant students from Samuel Merritt College, UC Berkeley undergraduate students, Nurse Practitioners and non-medical volunteers from the community. Many of our volunteers are bilingual, allowing them to communicate with our non-English speaking clients and their parents. We have remained a grassroots organization with many of our services given pro-bono—including our Accountants, Bookkeeper, Attorneys, Clinical Volunteers, Board Members and clerical assistance.

Thanks to our Medical Directors

In August of 2002 we hired our first Medical Director, Laurie Bostick, MD (now Cammon) who was



ambitious and passionate about her work with our uninsured patients. We are forever grateful for Laurie's leadership and dedication to ensuring that uninsured children received medical care for free through Kerry's Kids. She was instrumental in receiving an "Every Child Counts" grant and a Capital Improvement grant from First 5 Alameda County. These grants allowed us to branch out to offer developmental playgroups for our families and their children, to develop our infrastructure, to develop a strategic plan, and to buy needed equipment. Unfortunately, Laurie had to resign in January 2007 when she accepted a full time position with a

clinic in the South Bay.

This past year, we have had two wonderful interim Medical Directors, Edward Chu, MD and Gena Lewis, MD, who took on this responsibility in addition to their full time jobs. In September, Christine Ma, MD became our new medical director. We are already benefiting from her extensive knowledge of homelessness and how it affects children and their families.

Recognizing Katherine Castillo

Our one constant has been our Medical Intake Coordinator, Katherine Castillo ("Jack-of-all-trades"), who continues to be the person ordering and transporting vaccines and medical supplies, scheduling sites, answering and directing all inquiries, maintaining our medical records, and being the first contact for families when they come to the mobile clinic. Many of these families have difficulty trusting anyone, but with Katherine's easy, inviting presence, their trust is soon gained.

Because of our very low overhead, the gift of many pro-bono hours, and the gifts received from so many of you, Kerry's Kids continues visiting homeless and transitional shelters to serve uninsured children. When I visited the Harrison site, one of the residents told me if it wasn't for Kerry's Kids, she was not certain how her children would have received health care. We indeed are making an impact in the lives of families who could be lost in the delivery of services.

Kerry's Kids is a testament to the fact that Kerry's spirit is still with us and that her dream did come true.

Physician Assistant Students Help Kerry's Kids

The Physician Assistant students of Samuel Merritt College hosted the second annual talent show in April 2007 to raise money for Kerry's Kids.

The show featured a wide variety of talent, from professional bands to poets. A silent auction was held in conjunction with the talent show and guests bid on items such as acupuncture treatments, artwork, jewelry, and dinner at local restaurants. The talent show and silent auction were a tremendous success, raising almost \$4,000. Due

The talent show and auction raised \$4,000!

to the diligence and hard work of the talent show organizer, Kelly Mullarky PA-S, Kerry's Kids recently received a generous donation from Pixar Animation Studios in the amount of \$5,000. Thanks to employee Erin Harrison (Pixar Community Relations) who recommended Kerry's Kids to Disney Worldwide Outreach, (the foundation fund for Pixar).

PA student volunteers working closely with Kerry's Kids for many years find the experience rewarding as they are able to practice their skills as future clinicians in addition to providing a much needed service to children of the community. In the process of volunteering, PA students gain a better understanding of the importance of rapport building with patients. It is also a tremendous learning experience—as students collaborate with pediatricians, social workers and program leaders with the common goal of providing essential medical care to children.

Wells Fargo Gives \$2,500



Board Members Mike DeRosa, PhD and Edward Chu, MD, (also a volunteer pediatrician) gratefully receive a check for \$2,500 from Wells Fargo's Trailblazer Awards program. Presenting the check are Wells Fargo personnel, Lisa Stevens, EVP and DeWayne Walton, team member.

Corporate and Foundation Sponsors

California AAA, Oakland Office
 Downtown Design Partnership
 The Israel and Mollie Myers Foundation
 Tri-Counties Horse Show and Jennifer Hackney
 Physician's Assistant Foundation
 Samuel Merritt College
 Physician Assistant Program's Talent Show
 United Way, for assistance in collecting contributions
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Novato Presbyterian Church
 Pixar Animation Studios
 RightNow Technologies

Special Thanks, also, to EVERYONE who has donated individually to Kerry's Kids

Helping Temple Sinai Preschool Provide Holiday Gifts for Children in Need

Temple Sinai Preschool is a 90-family preschool located at Temple Sinai, a Jewish synagogue near downtown Oakland. Each year, preschool families participate in several community-building projects. This year, with the help of Kerry's Kids, preschool families will be matched with families currently residing at Henry Robinson Multiservice Center to provide a holiday gift for each child at the shelter.

Temple Sinai Preschool is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with the families at Henry Robinson and thanks everyone for their assistance in making this project a success.

A Volunteer Reflects On His Service With Kerry's Kids

—by *Lesly Gonzalez, Kerry's Kids Volunteer*

David Grunwald was an undergraduate volunteer in 2006 with Kerry's Kids through UC Berkeley's Biology Scholars Program and is now a first-year medical student in the UC Berkeley/UCSF Joint Medical Program.

What did you learn from Kerry's Kids?

I wanted to get hands-on experience working with the homeless population. I learned how patients and doctors develop trust and I loved that I worked directly with the child patients. Kerry's Kids was a unique opportunity because, as a volunteer, I followed doctors and helped do things that more experienced people usually do. The work becomes more personal when you make frequent visits to the sites because your relationships with the patients becomes stronger.

A very special aspect about Kerry's Kids is that I was able to see things that UC Berkeley students do not usually see, such as the living conditions of people without homes. I saw the food the families ate, where they ate, and I learned about their living environment. Another great opportunity was being able to talk to the families

and learn a lot about their day-to-day lives and what they were going through.

What was your most memorable experience?

My most memorable moment was playing with a rambunctious little boy at Henry Robinson. I still remember him crashing against the wall when he did not want to get shots. I teamed up with my volunteer partner, Kenneth, to try to get the child in a better mood after his shots.

How has Kerry's Kids influenced you now and where you would like to be in the future?

Kerry's Kids allowed me to meet great role models and mentors, such as Dr. Laurie Bostick, Katherine Castillo and Dr. Bob Savio. I learned from people that are devoted to helping the underserved. They provide full undivided attention to all their patients, regardless of their economic status. I learned the value of the relationship between the parent, child, and pediatrician. My experience made me want to learn more about the root causes of people living in the streets. Kerry's Kids strengthened my commitment to help the underserved—and not only through medicine.

Teaching Parents How to Play with Kids

By *Kenneth D'Oyen, Developmental Coordinator for 2007 Parent-Child Playgroup*

Preparing two- to four-year olds for preschool was the mission we set out with this year in the developmental parent-child playgroup program. We soon realized that initially we would need to teach the parents how to appreciate play for themselves!

Introducing Developmental Tools

Through songs and fun activities, we were able to introduce necessary developmental tools for things such as language and fine motor skills. Aside from the language delays, social delays, and motor delays of our particular child population, the most challenging issues usually dealt with the parents' social pressures. Many of the par-

ents did not remember reading *Green Eggs and Ham* as a child. Many had never helped to carve a jack-o-lantern before Halloween or decorated a gingerbread house from graham crackers during Christmastime.

What was intended to be a time for the parents to share an activity with their child often times developed into a means for the parent to relive their own childhood. Our playgroup, designed to focus primarily on the children, had also evolved into a forum for the parents to personally learn the value of play. One of the mothers and her son still make their own play dough from the home recipe that we gave them. Today, our kids are enrolled in various preschool programs from Head Start to Lafayette Elementary School, but most importantly the parents continue to play with their children outside of school.

Gifts in kind continue to come in: Teddy Bears and other stuffed animals, hand knit hats, toothbrushes, coloring books and crayons, stickers and reading books.

We are grateful for these many expressions of support for Kerry's Kids.

What One Woman Did...

Jennifer Hackney donated many hours to raising funds for Kerry's Kids through her passion for horses. Jennifer began the Tri-Counties Horse Show in 1998 and as the show manager, she donated the proceeds every year to Kerry's Kids. She just completed her 10th Horse Show on September 23, which she conducted from her truck as she was suffering from the ravages of her progressing cancer. Jennifer died on October 5, 2007, two weeks after her final show.

Over the past 9 years she almost single-handedly raised over \$17,000 for Kerry's Kids.

Kerry loved horses and loved to ride. We're sure she is enjoying meeting this wonderful woman who raised money for her dream.



Center For The Vulnerable Child

In collaboration with Kerry's Kids and Children's Hospital of Oakland Ambulatory Care Services, The Center For The Vulnerable Child (CVS) was awarded a grant from Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) to launch a new clinic targeting homeless families.

With this new clinic, outreach is conducted into the community to reach children and families who do not have a primary pediatric provider and do not know where to go to obtain one. The goal is to provide a medical home with comprehensive medical and mental health services for children, ages 0-21 years, and their families who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

Volunteers

Kerry's Kids couldn't fulfill its mission without many volunteers. Thanks to the following people who have generously donated their time.

Laurie Bostick Cammon, MD
Addie Brown, GG Greenhouse, and Joe Reedy from Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

David Caldwell

Katherine Castillo

Patricia Chase, MD

Edward Chu, MD

Kenneth D'Oyen

Michael De Rosa, PhD

Deb Dean, Esq.

Greta and Jennifer from Ghirardo, CPA

Diane Halberg, MD

Joan Jeung, MD

Gena Lewis, MD

Christine Ma, MD

Beatriz Mares, MD

Nancy Bateman Nottingham

Robert Savio, MD

Stefanie Smitherum

Kam Tam, Pharm.D.

Students from Samuel Merritt College
Physician Assistant Program

Students from University of California,
Berkeley Biology Scholars Program

Kerry's Kids relies on donations from corporations and individuals.

Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope. Online donations can also be made through www.guidestar.org. We are a

501(c)3 organization, so your contributions are fully tax-deductible.



Our Mission Statement

"Kerry's Kids provides free health care and education to underserved children in their neighborhoods and seeks to facilitate that each child ultimately receives care in a permanent medical home"

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A Word From Our New Medical Director

With great excitement and anticipation, I joined Kerry's Kids in September as the new Medical Director. It has been inspiring to learn about all of the work that Kerry's Kids has done over the past nine years.

Over 1700 children are homeless in Alameda County. Homeless children have a higher risk of acute and chronic health problems and have multiple barriers to accessing regular medical care, including transportation and time. In the past five years, over 1000 children have been served by Kerry's Kids and we have admin-



istered over 1200 vaccines. In addition to one-day health fairs held at various sites in the community and an annual asthma camp attended by over 160 children, we also currently hold

weekly mobile clinics visiting three family shelters. Kerry's Kids will end 2007 with a bang, with over 100 children signed up for doctor visits at Oakland Head Start.

I am looking forward to working with all the wonderful volunteers in 2008 that give so much of their time to make this work possible. Please contact me if you have any questions about our work.

Christine Ma, MD

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