



# Kerry's Kids

## Greetings from Kerry's Kids Board President

The year seems to go by faster and faster. First of all, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to give much deserved thanks to our Medical Director, Dr. Christine Ma, as well as to our Site Coordinator Katherine Castillo. Both Christine and Katherine have provided a level of organization and professionalism that has ensured that Kerry's Kids continues to be able to provide medical care to children in need. This year we said goodbye to our Assistant Site Coordinator Kenneth D'Oyen as he left to begin his own medical journey at Howard University Medical School. With his departure we welcome Vicky Khoury who has been hired to fill his position.

Over this year Dr. Ma has continued to increase the number of physician volunteers at Kerry Kids as well as added new locations. Kerry's Kids now holds five evening clinics each month, four at shelters including the two sites

added last year, San Leandro Shelter and Midway Shelter on alternating months, as well as the new Berkeley Head Start site each month. The Berkeley Head Start site has been particularly successful with an average of 11 patient encounters during the 2 hour clinic each month!

I look forward to this coming year as we continue our work at each of these sites, building stronger and more lasting relationships with these community partners as we continue to reliably provide care for children that have trouble accessing health care elsewhere. Finally, thank you to all of our donors. Without your support we would never be able to continue the work that Kerry's Kids is doing.

Sincerely,

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

## Kerry's Kids Comes to Pre-School

By: Kate Aveson, Health Advocate

The Berkeley-Albany YMCA Early Childhood Services program serves 500 children ages birth to 5 from primarily low-income families living in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. Our Head Start/Early Head Start regulations require that program staff help parents keep their children up-to-date on the recommended schedule of preventive, primary well-care visits, but this is a big challenge for families who have many other urgent needs. When Dr. Christine Ma asked if we might host a monthly Kerry's Kids clinic, we were thrilled to collaborate. Our main office, which also houses one of our larger childcare centers, is located near the intersection of University Avenue & San Pablo - easily accessible by bus



Kara Garcia, M.D. pictured above with pre-schoolers

and familiar to the families we serve.

Since February 2009 over 100 children (from Head Start and in the community) have taken advantage of this wonderful service to receive much needed health care. Last month one mother who works

as a child care aide told us that her children are on the waitlist for the Healthy Families health insurance program. She saw the flyer and asked if they could come and receive flu shots. When told "yes" she couldn't stop grinning. Other services include well-baby checks, sports physicals, and immunizations.

Grateful parents tell us that they value not only the convenience but also the in-depth conversation and concern the providers extend to them. They feel extremely fortunate to have Kerry's Kids as a partner in this most important work of keeping our children and families healthy. Thank you!

# Looking Back on a Year of Triumphs and Challenges

## Message from Medical Director Christine Ma, MD

This has been a year of continued growth for Kerry's Kids as we strive to meet the increasing need for care in a community with more and more families facing great economic challenges, adversely affecting the health care of their children.

At the start of this year, we opened a new clinic site through a collaboration with Berkeley-Albany YMCA Early Childhood Services. At this monthly clinic site, most of the children that we see are uninsured, often due to a parent losing their job and therefore losing their health insurance. These children come for their physical exams, screenings, and immunizations so that they can enroll and stay in school, play sports, or go to camp. We have seen children with asthma, unable to obtain their medicines once they run out, and so come to us with poorly controlled asthma and in need of new inhalers. Many of the children screened are found to have

anemia, likely due to inadequate nutrition, and are started on treatment. Word of mouth of this clinic has spread quickly so that some families travel as much as 30 miles to be seen by our providers.

The economic pressure also continues to impact a family's ability to maintain stable housing. This year we have seen a tremendous and daunting increase in the number of homeless families in the San Francisco Bay Area. For families staying at Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center, Midway Shelter, Salvation Army Oakland Garden Street Family Shelter, and San Leandro Shelter, we continue to be able to provide health care to the homeless children staying in these family shelters. This helps to overcome some of the barriers that homeless families often face in accessing health care: transportation and time. Through all of our evening clinics, as well as the

many community health fairs that we have been asked to participate in to provide underserved communities with medical services, we have seen the increase in need for children's health care. In the past 12 months, we have served over 400 children, a 35% increase compared to the previous year. It continues to be such a great privilege to work with an ever expanding group of dedicated volunteers who make all of this possible, taking the time to listen and comfort so many families who are shouldering a lot of responsibility and experiencing more and more stress.

Thanks to so many of you for your continued generous financial support which has made it possible for us to provide our free services to so many children in need.

- Christine Ma, MD



### BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS!

A huge thank you to Pastor Daren L. Barron and the World Conquerors Church in Oakland, CA for their donation of backpacks filled with school supplies for young students in need.



## How Kerry's Kids Helped One Family

*"Our first day [at the shelter], my son was sick. We were lost and scared. It was great that we could bring him here [to the Kerry's Kids clinic at the shelter]. Kerry's Kids has made it a lot easier being in the situation that we're in. Everyone has shown a lot of caring and concern about our children. The consistency and follow-up has been great. If we can't handle [our children's health problems] with what we're doing, we can count on Kerry's Kids being here. It's a relief to know the children are up-to-date on their shots. Kerry's Kids has made it easier to take care of the things we have to take care of. The kids are comfortable here [with Kerry's Kids' providers]. It makes us not feel like we're alone, not as lost."*



(R to L) Back Row: Katherine Castillo, Edward Chu M.D., Christine Ma M.D., Carol Miller M.D. pictured with parents and children served by Kerry's Kids.

### **Corporate and Foundation Sponsors:**

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 Schwab Charitable Trust  
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
 The Kansha Foundation  
 Plus Numerous United WAY groups  
 (Capital Region, Metro Atlanta, Bay Area)

**Also, a Special Thanks to EVERYONE  
 who donated individually to Kerry's Kids**

### **Our Invaluable Volunteers**

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

Lela Bachrach, MD	Joan Jeung, MD
David Caldwell	Steve Kowaleski, MD
Donna Carter, RN	Karen Kruger, MD
Patricia Chase, MD	Mike Kubalik, MD
Edward Chu, MD	Gena Lewis, MD
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Addie Brown, G.G. Greenhouse and Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless	
Pediatric Residents from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland	
Physician Assistant Students from Samuel Merritt College	
Students from University of California, Berkeley Biology Scholars Program	

**A special thank you to  
 Katherine Castillo & Vicky Khoury,  
 our two coordinators, for their continued  
 dedication & diligence!**

### **Kerry's Kids relies on donations from corporations and individuals**

Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope.

Donations can also be made online through [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

More information about online donations can be found at [www.kerryskids.org](http://www.kerryskids.org)

**We appreciate in-kind donations of new or like-new items for the children & families that we serve.**

**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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## Dr. Kerry Spooner-Dean Award presented to **JENIFER COOK, M.D.**

This award is given each year to the graduating resident who has best demonstrated the importance of service to the community throughout their residency by volunteering in or developing resources for the community.

Pictured from left to right, Pamela Simms-Mackey, M.D., James Wright, M.D., Jenifer Cook, M.D., Katherine Castillo

