

Winter 2015-2016

Dear Friends,

The waiting room is full of chatter from the children and their parents waiting to see the doctor. You may think this is like any regular pediatrician's office, but it is not the same.

Tonight's clinic is at a community center. Among the children are a 6 month old, a 3 year old, a 5 year old, and an 8 year old. Most of these children do not have health insurance, and so their parents are relieved to have a place to take their children for their vaccines, check-ups, and essential medications. The 5 year old starts to tell the doctor about his small red toy car as they walk to the exam room.

This is one of many of Kerry's Kids free clinics. Kerry's Kids is a non-profit mobile clinic providing free health services to underserved and homeless children in Alameda County. We provide care for children in homeless and domestic violence shelters, and community centers around Alameda County. These services include free medications to uninsured children to treat infections and asthma; immunizations; screening for lead poisoning, anemia and tuberculosis; and dental exams and fluoride treatments to prevent dental cavities.

In a few weeks, we will also add evaluations for developmental delays to our growing services. Research has shown that children who live in poverty and homelessness have a higher rate of developmental delays, and when children start Kindergarten already behind, they struggle more throughout their years in school. The children that we identify as having developmental delays will be referred to services to help them catch up so they can start elementary school in the best position to succeed.

**As you and your family prepare for this holiday season, please consider a donation to support Kerry's Kids' mission. Most of our funds come from supporters like you, and 100% of your donation goes to providing direct patient services benefitting children and their families.** Your donation makes a real and immediate impact, helping us to maintain the regular clinic schedule at each shelter and community center that the families and communities have come to trust and know will be there to help.

*It means a lot to me that Kerry's Kids keeps my child's teeth healthy, does it for free here at the shelter monthly, and makes the exam comfortable. Thanks a lot.*

**-Parent of Daughter, Age 6**

*Kerry's Kids is a wonderful program that offers free and friendly service to the homeless. They are awesome!*

**-Parent of Daughter, Age 10**

*I am so grateful to have access to Kerry's Kids. My children received dental care this year because of your awesome staff. Thank you so much. I really appreciate it.*

**-Parent of Two Daughters, Ages 2 & 6**

Kerry's Kids has been making a critical difference in our community for the past 17 years. Parents of our patients are often focused on finding a place to live, getting a job, or making ends meet. Their children's health is a priority but there are many barriers for them to access health services. Therefore, families are happy to learn about a free clinic at their shelter, or in their community center nearby, staffed by over 30 volunteers who provide the compassionate health services to the children. We are grateful to these doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, optometrist and students many of whom go on to pursue health care careers driven by their passion to help those less fortunate.



In the past year, Kerry's Kids provided medical care, dental care, and optometry screenings to nearly 600 children who are homeless or living in extreme poverty. **Please help us reach our goal of raising \$50,000 this holiday. A donation of \$100 will treat 10 children with ear infections, or \$1000 will provide enough medication to help 5 children get their asthma under control.** Donations can be sent in the enclosed envelope, given online at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), or visit our website [www.KerrysKids.org](http://www.KerrysKids.org) for more options. Gifts of any size are appreciated and will directly benefit the children in our community. Thank you for your support and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Diane Halberg, M.D.

President, Board of Directors

Christine Ma, M.D.

Medical Director

**Board of Directors**

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Please support Kerry's Kids when you shop online at Amazon or eScrip!



See [kerryskids.org](http://kerryskids.org) for details.

Kerry's Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to Kerry's Kids are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you for your support.

Tax ID# 02-0569175

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