THANK YOU! KINDERING AUCTION GALA RAISES $550,000

Kindering recently held our 20th annual Gala and Auction, chaired by Kylee and Robby Tonkin. We were again humbled by our guests’ generosity! Last Saturday, 430 guests stepped THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (our Gala theme this year!) to support infants and children with special needs and raised a spectacular $550,000 to help fund Kindering programs! Special thanks to our families who attended, volunteered, liked our Facebook posts and helped tell our story to so many new supporters.

KINDERING AND PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES PRESENT: THE 2014 SPEAKERS SERIES

March 26- Suzanne Howle, Thompson & Howle, P.S.
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Planning for the Future: Guardianship, Special Needs Trusts & other Planning Issues for Families

When children have a disability, it is crucial to plan for their financial future so that when they become adults they will have the necessary financial assistance to live independently and with dignity. Families will not have to worry about who will take care of their child if they are not there. This workshop will give an overview of what a special needs trust is all about, provide insights on guardianships, and identify a framework for families as they plan for the future. Location: Kindering Bellevue 16120 NE 8th Street RSVP to Colleen Willis at colleen.willis@kindering.org. Space is limited. Childcare not available.

BELLEVUE RUN:
10K
5K
WALK & KIDS DASH

Lace up those sneakers and run for Kindering! Back in its 8th year, the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary will be hosting an exciting road race for the entire family! The event will offer three great options: a challenging 10K route, a 5K route for the whole family and a half-mile Kids Dash open to all children 10 and under!

The event benefits Kindering kids and others in our community. Sign up today! www.bellevuerun.com
SNACK FOOD DONATION REQUEST

Can you help us provide snack foods to offer children who attend our classes? Your contributions off-set our expenses and allow us to use our budget to purchase items such as toys and art materials for our classrooms. Any donations are much appreciated!

- Unsweetened applesauce
- Raisins or other dried fruits
- Crackers (Ritz, Graham, Cheez-Its, etc.)
- Pretzels
- Fritos
- Canned baby corn
- GFCF cookies and crackers—These items enable us to provide options to children who cannot eat gluten or foods that contain milk.

You can bring your donations to class, give them to your child’s therapist, or drop them at the front desk. Thank you for supporting our classroom programs!

EQUIPMENT AND TOY RECYCLE

Equipment and toy RECYCLE request from the Physical and Occupational Therapy Staff

~ If you have any equipment such as walkers, posture control walkers, seats/chairs and table or push toys, ride ‘m toys and tricycles that your child has outgrown then please consider donated them to Kindering. We would love to foster other children’s development through the continued use of your equipment. We can only accept them if they are in good working condition and easily cleaned (thus no cloth items please unless they can be washed). Also please consider any toys; pianos, pop up toys, stacking toys, etc.

~ Please look around and see if staff have left toys, equipment, and other items at your house and they may be labeled ot/pt or Kindering. We would love to get these items back.

Thank you for helping us expand our resources which provides us a “loan and lend” equipment to other families. If you have any questions please email elda.harada@kindering.org or call 425.653.4280.
SIBSHOPS

WHAT ARE SIBSHOPS?
Sibshops are fun, action-packed workshops in which siblings of children with special needs are encouraged to share challenges and celebrate joys with brothers and sisters in similar situations. It’s a celebration of the many contributions of brothers and sisters of siblings with special needs.

WHAT HAPPENS AT SIBSHOPS?
Fun times and connecting with others happens! Each Sibshops mixes information and discussion activities with new games and art.

WHEN & WHERE ARE SIBSHOPS HELD?
Day & Time:
Every 2nd Friday of the month, 4PM-7PM (this month it is on the 3rd Friday, due to Spring Break)
Location: Kindering

WHO CAN ATTEND?
Typically developing 6-11 year old siblings!
Groups will be divided in 2 groups; 6-8y and 9-11y.

WHO FACILITATES SIBSHOPS?
Wendy Olsen, Special Educator, 6-8y group
wendy.olsen@kindering.org
425.653.4316
Sharissa Aromi, Special Educator, 9-11y group
sharissa.aromi@kindering.org
425.747.4004 x5439

MOTHERS CIRCLE

What is Mothers Circle?
We are a community of women raising children 0-6yrs with special needs – sharing emotional support, promoting advocacy, and creating solutions.

Who can join Mothers Circle?
We welcome all mothers who have children with special needs ages 0-6 years to join us for lively conversation, good humor and emotional support in the company of other women who truly understand the unique struggles and celebrations of raising a child with special needs.

When? Where? How do I join?
MEETINGS:
1st and 3rd WEDNESDAY of every month,
6:30-8:30pm.
Confirmation of your attendance is needed (via email or phone).

LOCATION:
KINDERING, 16120 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, WA, 98008
FACILITATOR:
Deb Weiner, Early Intervention Family Therapist, LICSW, 425.653.4306,
deb.weiner@kindering.org

GKSN:
GRANDPARENTS OF KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
The Kindering Center’s Sibling Support Project is pleased to announce GKSN—Grandparents of Kids with Special Needs. We believe that no one understands a grandparent’s unique joys and concerns better than another grandparent of a child with special needs.

On the GKSN website, grandparents will have a chance to meet other grandparents through our Yahoogroup or Facebook groups, share ideas for supporting their kids and grandkids, and even post pictures of their grandkids!
Please visit www.gksn.org and help us spread the word!

Don Meyer

HOW DO I GET INFORMATION FOR MY FAMILY?
Contact deb.weiner@kindering.org for a copy of the registration form.
Unexpected Journey
Raising a Child with Special Needs
Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3
6:30-8:30PM

Moms and dads often discover raising a child with special needs has significant challenges. It is natural for spouses to have different perspectives on family issues, as moms and dads contribute different strengths to their families. Unexpected Journey helps participants understand this situation and many others in a five week structured discussion exploring the most important issues a family predictably experiences when having a child with special needs. In a safe, flexible, and fun environment, we will learn from our challenges and appreciate the joys of raising kids with special needs.

Each week we look at a topic identified by families and research as key in understanding and adjusting to the many challenges couples experience in raising a child with special needs. The overarching topic for the course is ‘resilience.’ A sample of individual topics includes:

* Becoming a parent of a child with special needs
* Nurturing your couple relationship
* What we learn from our family of origin about fathering, mothering, and disability
* Coping with stress and grief and learning to heal
* Myth busting about divorce, disability, and many other issues

Facilitators:
Greg Schell, MEd, is the parent of a daughter with special needs and has been a teacher, principal, and parent educator for over 30 years. Greg is Director of Washington State Fathers Network, a proud program of Kindering.

Kim Gerdes, is mother of two children, including special needs, and has been a social worker for more than 15 years. Kim is currently Program Director, Kindering Bothell.

Meeting specifics:
Where: Kindering
When: Next session dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 &amp; April 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 6:30-8:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: If your child is at Kindering and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under 3 years old, Part C federal funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>covers costs. $250 per couple if not at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindering. (If cost is an issue please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>call for further info.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact & Registration: Call: Greg Schell at 425.653.4286, or email: greg.schell@kindering.org

PARENTS PARTICIPATING IN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY HAVE SAID:

“The most valuable… hours we have invested in our marriage.”
“Very valuable class-wish we had taken it much sooner.”
“I didn’t really know how much I needed this class until I took it!”
“Life changing, and eye opening.”
“This class brought me peace of mind.”
Hi! My name is Brian Lattner and I’m a new occupational therapist here at Kindering. I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina and received my Bachelor of Arts in Biology & Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduating, I spent two years working in research for the Department of Psychology at UNC coordinating National Institute of Mental Health studies on adolescent depression and peer relations. After two years of research, I decided that my true passion lay in clinical work and I returned to UNC to pursue a Master’s of Science in Occupational Therapy. From my research, I knew that I wanted to work with children and after my internship in pediatric private practice, I knew I had found my calling. I feel so thankful to have found such a wonderful organization in Kindering and look forward to meeting all of you this year! Before coming to Kindering, I worked for six summers in Alaska as a rafting, hiking, kayaking, and later fly fishing guide; so moving to the Pacific Northwest has been paradise for me. Needless to say, in my spare time I love spending time outdoors but some of my favorites are fishing, skiing, running, and backpacking.

Hello! My name is Brynn Nielsen, and I am a new assistant educator here at Kindering. I grew up in Wenatchee, WA and received my undergraduate degree at Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Immediately after graduating, I moved to Seattle to start pursuing my Masters degree in Education Counseling (K-12) at Seattle University. It is my first year in the program and I am thrilled to be pursuing a career I truly feel passionate about. I am excited to be a part of this wonderful organization providing early intervention services for children. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends, visiting family, reading, working out, and spending time outdoors.

ILLNESS EXCLUSION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY
Kindering is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and other volunteers of the agency. We view parents as our partners in promoting the safety and health of others by preventing the spread of communicable disease. To that end, we consider the advice of the King County Health Department. Please take a minute to review the entire policy located in your parent handbook. Thanks for your continued support!

Are You a FATHER of a Young Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

The UW READi Lab and ASAP! Program are offering a free 5-session group training for fathers only who are interested in learning a play-based intervention they can use with their children.

We will be providing instruction and practice in Reciprocal Imitation Training (RIT), an ABA-based intervention developed specifically for young children with ASD. RIT has been used effectively to enhance children’s spontaneous imitation, joint attention, and social interaction.

TIME: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS from 6:30-8:00pm*
DATES: March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, & April 16, 2014
LOCATION: The Motor Room at Kindering
16120 NE 8th Street
Bellevue, WA 98008

Snacks will be provided
*Note: Participation in all 5 sessions is expected

For more information, or to register, please e-mail greg.schell@kindering.org or call Greg at 425-653-4286.