On behalf of the families, staff and board of directors of Kindering Center, we are pleased to present to you the 2013 Annual Report. Kindering is proud to have entered our second half century of care for children with special needs and privileged to have helped more than 3500 infants and children this past year.

The number of families seeking Kindering therapies and special education continues to rise. Fueling this demand are increases in the numbers of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, the effects of prematurity, cerebral palsy, chromosomal abnormalities, and general developmental delays. Moreover, in response to critical community need, Kindering has amplified programming to homeless families in transitional shelters, children in foster care, and newly-arrived Spanish-speaking families. Kindering is committed to helping the most fragile young children in our community, whatever their disability or risk factor, and doing so with the utmost expertise, compassion, and dedication.

In service to our work and to our families, Drs. Reinier and Rosie Van Coevorden opened their home to friends of Kindering for a presentation by Mark Usdane, regarding advocacy and early learning. Tom and Lesley Todaro chaired a spectacular auction gala. And four mother-daughter Northwest Charity League pairs hosted the annual Salute to Courage luncheon. The room was spellbound as Emily Perl Kingsley, a veteran writer for children’s television who was inspired by her son with Down syndrome, recounted how she incorporates children and adults of all abilities into countless Sesame Street scenes.

We have spoken to you often in recent years about the tremendous swell in enrollment in Kindering programs and the limits of our Bellevue facility’s capacity to serve all the children who require our care. Guided by the urgency that 80 percent of an infant’s brain develops by age three, the conclusive evidence of effectiveness of Kindering therapies, and the reality that we could not expand our services to more children in need in our present facility, Kindering’s Board of Directors approved the expansion to a second site in Bothell in February of 2014. We will shift several Kirkland and Northshore families north, thus creating space in Bellevue for underserved Renton area children. Moreover, we will open our doors to unserved Snohomish County families. Kindering Bothell shares the north campus building with an established Bright Horizons childcare center and with Pediatric Associates, a primary care pediatric group that has been serving the Eastside since 1967. We are thrilled that this unprecedented collaboration creates a north-end hub of child wellness.

Reviewing the accomplishments of this past year fills us with pride. Our commitment to Kindering’s crucial mission, the health and well-being of the youngest, most vulnerable children in our community, is unwavering. We are honored to be joined in our efforts by a wise and caring board of directors and the most expert, dedicated staff. The wisdom and devotion of parents never fails to inspire, and the achievements of Kindering alumni never ceases to awe. Lastly, we are humbled and grateful for the loyalty and generosity of our concerned community and your trust in our leadership.

Thank you for a highly successful year,
Kindering is the largest early intervention center in the Northwest.

Languages spoken by families: 80

Population reach: 3,500 infants children served in 2013

By families: 1/3 of infants and toddlers with disabilities in King County receive services at Kindering.

Kindering children’s successes:

- Early Intervention: 99% make measurable progress in development
- Narrow the Development Gap: 73%
- Do Not Require Special Education Services after Kindering: 38%
- Cherish: 98% in stable foster placement compared to 80% without Kindering
- PCHP: 80% graduate high school compared to 50% without home visits

$1.8 million saved annually by Eastside School Districts.
When Rachel Robbins was pregnant, doctors monitored her very closely because she had experienced many unexplained health issues throughout her own life. However, after an in-depth ultrasound, Rachel was assured her baby was healthy and thriving.

Rachel was shocked when baby Ethan was born 10 weeks early in November 2011. He was immediately placed in the NICU at Swedish Hospital and eventually diagnosed with cardiomyopathy; his arterial walls were swelling and his heart had trouble circulating blood through his body. New mom, Rachel, had experienced similar heart issues as a child.

Ethan was in and out of the hospital until Rachel received the news that her baby would need a heart transplant in order to survive. While Ethan waited on the transplant list, doctors decided to test both Rachel and Ethan for genetic abnormalities. Their health histories and heart issues were so similar that doctors suspected a genetic component.

Ethan and Rachel received their genetic results on the same day – both of them were diagnosed with Noonan Syndrome, a condition that affects many areas of the body including short stature, heart defects, bleeding problems, skeletal malformations, as well as other signs and symptoms. Rachel said, “when we got the diagnosis, it was bittersweet because at least we now knew what we were dealing with, but it was also so scary.”

Amazingly, after less than a month on the donor waiting list, Ethan received his new heart. The transplant went smoothly and Ethan recovered well. But, he had spent so much of his life in a hospital bed that he never got to “just be a baby” and develop on a typical schedule. At 8 months old, Ethan was not sitting or even rolling over. He quickly became frustrated because he didn’t understand why he couldn’t move or grab for toys. Rachel said, “We didn’t know how to help him.” Luckily, Rachel’s mother is a NICU nurse at Swedish and knew where to go; she told Rachel to take Ethan to Kindering for a developmental evaluation.

At 9 months old Ethan came to Kindering for his initial evaluation and immediately began receiving physical therapy. It was a bit of a tough transition because Ethan was so used to being in the hospital that he had a lot of social anxiety around new adults. With lots of patience Ethan came to love his PT time and, even better, he began to make major strides in his development. After a few months at Kindering, Ethan started to receive speech therapy and now participates in Kindering’s co-op preschool.

Once Ethan had adjusted to his team of therapists, Rachel says that his development rapidly took off. Over a year’s time Ethan began moving more and more and even started walking on his own! Once he began to move more, his speech also improved. His social anxiety lessened and Ethan truly blossomed.

Happily in 2014, Ethan was able to move his services to Kindering Bothell, which is closer to his home, and continues with his therapists in the new campus location.

Ethan is now two years old and continues to shine. “Kindering is wonderful. Ethan’s therapists go above and beyond to exceed all of our expectations. They have helped Ethan not only reach his initial goals but to go even higher,” said Rachel. “I can’t believe how Ethan has
Services

**Comprehensive Developmental Assessment** Evaluates each child's individual abilities and special health care needs.

**Physical and Occupational Therapy** Assist children in reaching motor milestones (sitting, crawling, walking, reaching, grasping) as well as functional skills such as dressing and eating.

**Speech and Language Therapy** Develops and enhances communication skills through spoken or sign language, picture exchange, computers and other communication devices.

**Nutrition/Feeding Team** Evaluates and treats the nutritional and feeding difficulties of children ages birth to five years.

**Special Education, Community Preschool and Family Co-op** Enhance children’s cognitive and social development, support the parent-child relationship, create safe and secure learning environments, and encourage children to socialize with their peers. Children develop self-confidence, independence and the foundation for all future learning.

**CUBS** (Communication, Understanding, Behavior and Socialization) Combines a high-quality early intervention program, extended instruction time, and technical and social support for families of children with autism.

**Integrated Spanish Programs** Offer developmental assessments, early intervention therapies and special education, preschool classes, resource coordination, parent education, and support groups all provided in Spanish.

**Parent-Child Home Program** (PCHP) Works to serve families who experience one or multiple educational and/or economic barriers in accessing high quality early learning services to prepare their children for early school success.

**KidsClinic** Provides center based, private therapy for children through age 11. We currently offer Speech-Language, Occupational, Physical and Feeding Therapy. Most major health insurances are accepted.

**Early Care & Education Consultation** Provides developmental screenings in the community as well as on-site visits to child care programs to observe children, consult with child care staff and parents, make appropriate referrals, and develop strategies to ensure all children succeed in child care. Trainings are individualized to the unique needs of providers.

**CHERISH™** (CHildren Encouraged by Relationships In Secure Homes) Supports young children in foster and kinship care and their families through a carefully structured set of assessments and interventions. CHERISH educates foster and relative caregivers about the attachment cycle, guides each caregiver-child pair through the process of developing this important early bond and provides developmental therapies and early education to prepare children to reach their full social, emotional, physical and academic potential.

**Family Resource Coordination** Links families with appropriate community resources; helps with funding and eligibility requirements; and coordinates services.

**Family Therapy** Supports families facing the emotional impact and unique challenges of parenting a child with special needs. Licensed family therapists provide counseling, facilitate group programs and collaborate with treatment teams to promote healthy family relationships.

**Fathers Network** Provides male peer support, resources and education, father-child interaction sessions, and family social occasions. Fathers become more competent and compassionate caregivers for their children with special needs.

**Sibling Support Project and Sibshops** Support siblings of children with special needs. Through activities, arts, games and discussion, children share their experiences and learn that they are not alone in facing the challenges of being a brother or sister of a child with special needs.

**Parenting Plus** Provides free, multi-lingual parenting education courses for families who may be experiencing difficulties. Monthly support groups are offered to program graduates.

**2013 Financials**

**Revenue & Support** $7,202,073

- **Government** $3,464,001
- **Contributions** $1,451,649
- **United Way** $600,832
- **In-Kind Donations** $53,178
- **Program Fees** $1,632,414

**Expenditures** $7,175,774

- **Early Intervention** $5,462,856
- **Fathers Network** $98,193
- **Foster Care** $225,717
- **Parent Education** $253,574
- **Administration** $445,037
- **Fundraising** $316,617
- **Sibling Support** $120,451
- **Outreach Consultation** $253,329
Heartfelt Thanks To Our Many Supporters

Courage the Lion is our emblem. We admire the perseverance of children diligently learning new skills and of families adjusting bravely to the unexpected journey of raising a child with special needs. You are indeed our clarion call to the community to support and fully meet the teasing need for crisis counseling, therapies and education for young children. Thank you for your continued/longtime commitment. We count your friendship among our children’s blessings.

Alison Danz
City of Bothell
Bellevue Rotary Foundation
Brad & Karen Andonian
Peter Anaman
$2,500 to $4,999
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Symetra
Alexander Silverman and Maia Richardson
Mike & Becky Ronan
Arne Ness and Anne Christensen
Paul & Alison Morton
City of Kirkland
The F. Danz Foundation
Rosanna Bryant
helping our children reach for the stars.

$5,000 to $9,999
City of Issaquah
Bryan David-Ball and Nancy Buyan
$10,000 or more
Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club
Michael & Lisa Anderson
gently removing a thorn from his paw.
Androcles

$25,000 to $49,999
George A. & Marion M. Wilson Foundation
AT&T Services, Inc.
caring and compassion.
Kindering’s programs demonstrates your

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Kathy Lein and Anne Cohan

The Honorable Cyrus Habib
Alan & Lulay Hadfield
Nancy Hamilton
Suzanne Bell
Bruce & Nora Handler
Charles Harbaugh and Elizabeth Bennett
Jason & Tricia Hardman
Cole Hardman
Phillip M. Halgren
Stew & Jewell Harman
Scott & June Harrison
Krista Harris
Weeni Hess
Jeremy & Natalie Hartley
Shawn J. Hartley
Robbie Hastings
Bonnie Hatfield
Bill & Ayako Hayden
Manuel Netty
Brian B. Heidenreich
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This list represents our best effort to recognize those who have generously contributed to support Kindering during the fiscal year January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. If we have mistakenly left out a name, please accept our apologies.
2013 Board of Directors

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Robby Tonkin
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Hon. Anthony Wartnik
Ian Wilson

In loving memory of Thomas C. Wright
Board member, advocate and friend
1931–2014

Mission

Our commitment is to create and provide superior, individualized, family-centered services for children who are disabled, medically fragile, or vulnerable because of abuse or neglect; to develop maximum potential, hope, and community understanding.

Kindering Bellevue
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Bellevue, WA 98008

Kindering Bothell
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Bothell, WA 98011

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