



Kerry's Kids



Kerry's Kids Moves Ahead in 2003

Laurie Ann Bostick, M.D.

THE SPIRIT OF KERRY'S KIDS

In Dr. Kerry Spooner-Dean's pediatric residency application she quoted Richard Bach who said, "You are never given a wish without also being given the power to make it come true."



Kerry's wish was to provide free medical care to the children living in homeless shelters and battered women's ref-

uges who are often alienated from the traditional health care system because of a lack of health insurance, resources and transportation. Ever since Kerry's Kids was established in May 1998, Kerry's spirit and her strong commitment to service have inspired dedicated volunteers to carry on her wish. Kerry's spirit has continued to be a driving force in guiding Kerry's Kids to continue to provide essential services to the high-risk, underserved, uninsured children we serve.

This past year has certainly been no exception, as Kerry's Kids has grown in many ways. We have improved our organizational structures, increased our volunteer participation and established community partnerships in an effort to provide increasingly better care to the children we serve. The initial changes began with improvements in our medical record organization and vaccine documentation along with improved organization of the mobile van itself. These changes helped to improve the efficiency of what was then a small but dedicated team of volunteer physicians. We began to see more extraordinary

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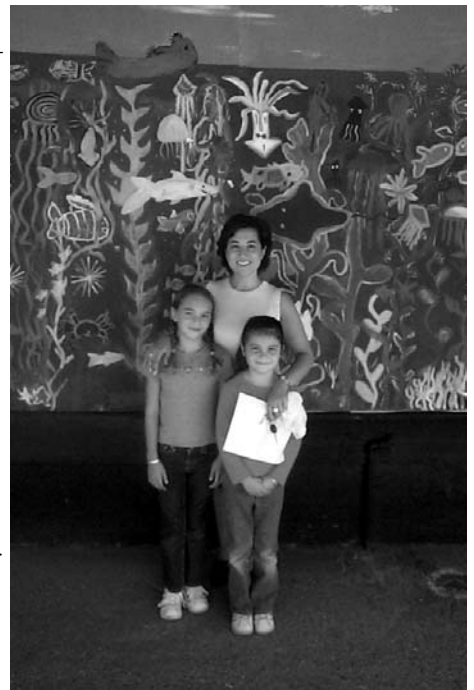
Kerry's Kids Partners with Leo's Legacy

As a result of our ongoing partnership with Multi-Cultural Program (MCP) at Children's Hospital, a new and exciting opportunity was proposed for Kerry's Kids to partner with a Latino Outreach Program. The Dreisbach Family, who lost one of their trusted workers in a tragic accident, sought a way to honor his memory by providing health care for the children of their Latino workers. A proposal submitted by Eddie Chu, M.D. Director of MCP, offering the services of Kerry's Kids, was approved. Roxanna Martinez, M.D., the appointed physician, began targeting the Latino children in the East Bay. She started services at several schools (see photo at La Escuelita School) and Leo's Legacy was born. The program honors the memory of Jose Leon Marquez who died in May 2002.

Leo worked for the Dreisbach Warehouse in Oakland, managing their entire facility and the local freight program. When asked about Leo, Marianne Dreisbach replied that "Leo was very much a part of our family. He is missed every day in every way. The hole he has left is not just that of a manger, but of an energy and drive that is all too absent in today's world. His love of his family, his devotion to his friends (which included everyone in the business – from president to janitor), and his incredible energy and will to succeed will never be forgotten by those who experienced it. It is for all of these reasons that the Dreisbach family has dedicated a program that begins to provide some free basic health services to the Latino children of Oakland. Perhaps we will provide a better and healthier life for a

young Latino child from Leo's village – who can then begin to further Leo's dream and achievements."

We are grateful to the Dreisbach Family for providing MCP and Kerry's Kids with these funds. Thanks to Eddie Chu, M.D. for envisioning the partnership. Thanks also to Katherine Castillo, the Site Coordinator for Kerry's Kids, who is a major source of support for Roxanna when she goes to the schools. Katherine provides translated health care materials, brings vaccines, directs the student volunteers and does all of the same administrative duties for Leo's Legacy as she does for each of the Kerry's Kids sites.



Kerry's Kids Moves Ahead in 2003 (con't)

changes as we reached out to other like-minded organizations and began to expand our volunteer base and to make new connections and alliances in the community.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

In addition to our core group of dedicated volunteer physicians, which has grown modestly over the course of the year, Kerry's Kids has also welcomed a number of student and young professional volunteers. We have continued to have a strong volunteer commitment from the Pediatric Residents at **The Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland**. In addition, we have recruited student volunteers from the **University of California (UC) Berkeley** through the **FACES for the Future** program as well as Physician Assistant students from **Samuel Merritt College**. We have developed an educational alliance with Samuel Merritt College Nurse Practitioner students. And we have worked with high school students participating in **The Upward Bound Program** at UC Berkeley. Together these groups of young physicians and students have brought a wonderful energy and enthusiasm to the over 270 children who have been served by Kerry's Kids thus far in 2003.

The student volunteers, many of whom want to be doctors or mid-level medical providers, are drawn to Kerry's Kids not only to get an introduction to pediatric medicine, but also to give back to their communities. These students incorporate themselves into each site which operates like a very busy primary care clinic. The students serve in numerous capacities depending on the current need at each particular site. They have served as receptionists and clerks helping to register the families

who are to be seen, many of whom cannot speak or read English. Other times they must serve as medical assistants, taking weights, heights and vital signs of the children who are to be seen by the physicians. And still other times they may spend their time reading and playing with the children who are waiting to be seen by the physicians. Together, our resident physicians, mid-level and student volunteers have greatly enhanced the level of efficiency and overall quality of the medical care we provide. They have also enabled us to provide our families with an increased level of individualized attention and care.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

In addition to the growth of our exceptional volunteer staff, this year has also seen our presence in the community grow through the maintenance of our long-standing alliance with **The Head Start Program** as well as through many new collaborations. We participated in **The Children's Summit** in an effort to build a united and sustainable advocacy network in our community. Additionally, we have developed collaborative and advisory relationships with other medical providers seeking to serve the homeless and uninsured children and families in the East Bay including the **Rota Care of San Leandro Free Clinic**, **The Suitcase Clinic** and the **Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program**.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

The momentum we have gained over the past year

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Kerry's Family Visits Kerry's Kids

On June 23, 2003, Dan Dean and Kerry's parents, Herb and Mary Spooner, traveled to Henry Robinson Center in Oakland to visit with the volunteers of Kerry's Kids and the families whom they serve. What may seem like a simple visit at first glance was a truly remarkable, inspiring and healing experience for Kerry's family.

Kerry's mom had the following to say about her visit that day: "On the way to the site, I had many mixed feelings – anxious to see the van in action, proud that it bore Kerry's name, but also afraid that it would reopen a hole in my heart for Kerry. What I observed, instead, filled my heart. My first impression was of a very busy, noisy clinic – children laughing, children crying, parents asking questions. The volunteer doctors, nurses and assistants were high energy. Most of them had never met Kerry but it was clear that they understood her mission and were carrying it out with a passion. They gave of their talent with love, respect, caring and selflessness."

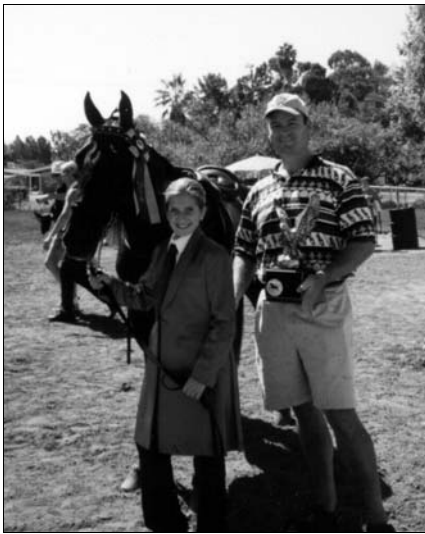
Dan remarked how the program has evolved from its humble beginnings in 1998. "It was so wonderful to come to a site and see the hallways full of children awaiting their check-ups, but more importantly it was fabulous to see the numbers of volunteers. There were approximately 30 kids and families, and

over a dozen volunteers. The volunteers are all extremely busy people with a mix of backgrounds: the doctors Eddie, Laurie, Roy, Demetra, and David; the nurse Danielle; Mark, Russell and the other physician assistants from Samuel Merritt College (thanks to Karen Kruger for extending Kerry's Kids to include this group); Nicole, Sahar, Rudy and Kim the students focusing on health services as a profession; initial intake volunteers Jenny and her sister; Katherine who provides intake assistance and Spanish translation; and driving the mobile health van, Benjie. All volunteers provided the families with unconditional acceptance and the smiles on the faces of all the kids and their parents created a terrific atmosphere. I am so grateful for these volunteers who truly emulate Kerry's spirit by their actions. Thanks!"

Former Head Start Coordinator, Bobbie Miller, once called Kerry "their angel." That night, we met true angels. Though we saw only Henry Robinson, we know that the same feeling and same selfless caring is present at every site. Thank you doesn't seem like a big enough word for the volunteers who have made Kerry's dream come true – but it says it all. Thank you from Kerry's family."

Kerry's Kids Would Like to Recognize...

Bobbie Miller, Head Start Coordinator, was honored at a retirement party on August 22 at Zazoo's Restaurant in Oakland. Bobbie spent the last 31 years working tirelessly for indigent children through her connections with Head Start and Alameda County Health. Approximately 80 of her colleagues, city, county and state officials attended to honor this special woman. Kathy Dean along with doctors Edward Chu, Diane Halberg and Bob Savio honored Bobbie with a Kerry's Kids apron and a silver bowl engraved with Bobbie's name and acknowledging her as a key contributor to the founding of Kerry's Kids. Bobbie, along with Kerry, was instrumental in encouraging the City of Oakland to purchase a van with the mission of recruiting for Head Start and bringing medical care directly to the children in their neighborhoods. In closing, Bobbie Miller thanked all those who attended "for continuing Kerry's dream and mine that the neediest of Oakland's future will not go unserved."



Thanks to **Julie Treppa** for organizing a fundraising effort for Kerry's Kids around a triathlon in which she and some of her Preston Gates & Ellis co-workers participated. Julie got the idea after reading in the previous Kerry's Kids newsletter about a group who raised money by climbing Mount Whitney. Thanks to all of those who participated including **Alexander Shiling, Eric Chen, Lily Lee, Larry Low, and Julie Treppa**. In addition to having a lot fun, their efforts helped raise over \$2,000 for Kerry's Kids.

On September 20th, the **6th Annual Tri-Counties Gaited Horse Show** benefiting Kerry's Kids was held at the Solano County Fairgrounds. Over \$2,000 was raised. The event featured 61 Tennessee Walking Horses, Missouri Fox Trotters, and Spotted Saddle Horses. We continue to be grateful to **Jennifer Hackney**, show manager, who almost single-handedly put this show on to benefit our programs. Kerry's Kids' volunteers catered the food and drinks raising over \$550. This year's winner of the Kerry Spooner Dean Memorial Trophy was **Ashley Diamond Pollack** (pictured left with Dan Dean) riding Mr. Chili Pepper.

Each year Kerry's Kids and CHO present the Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean award to the resident who most represents and supports Kerry's vision of providing care to the underserved. In June 2003, **Carolyn Celi Brookhart** (pictured with Medical Director, Ted Chaconas, M.D. and Jim Wright) received this award. Carolyn was introduced to Kerry's Kids during a sub-internship at CHO. Carolyn said the following of her experience: "While at CHO, the time that I spent with Kerry's Kids helped affirm my interest in community pediatrics. Working on Kerry's van taught me the value of bringing health care into a community with limited access to it. Whether it was educating a young mom about her infant's runny nose or allowing a 7-year-old girl, who wanted to be a doctor when she grew up, listen to my heart, my experience with Kerry's Kids gave me both the opportunity to make a difference in peoples' lives and to develop confidence as a physician." She is committed to making a difference in the lives of underserved children and their families and we wish her luck as moves forward in her pediatric career in Massachusetts where she now lives with her husband.



The Kerry's Kids Mission

Kerry's Kids is a group of volunteer pediatric health care providers committed to bringing free health care and education to underserved children in their neighborhoods.

Attention All Donors

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, Kerry's Kids has served over 270 children so far this year. We hope Kerry's Kids can count on your continued support in the future.

Kerry's Kids received 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS in December 2002 so donations can now be made directly to Kerry's Kids, EIN # 02-0569175 (see enclosed envelope for your convenience). Donations can also continue to be made via the Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation.

Kerry's Kids
PMB 420 936B Seventh St
Novato, CA 94945
EIN 02-0569175
Phone #: (510) 444-4326

EBCF/Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean Fund
200 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
EIN 94-6070996

United Way donations can be made by designating either Kerry's Kids or EBCF/Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean Fund as the recipient. You will need to provide the name of the organization, EIN, and address as outlined above.

Thank you for your continued support of Kerry's Kids. It is greatly appreciated.

Kerry's Kids
PMB 420 936B 7th Street
Novato, CA 94945

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LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

continues to drive us forward as we develop internal projects such as **Leo's Legacy** and the **Multicultural Diversity Program's Home Visitation Program**. We are also forging new relationships with students participating in the **UC Berkeley Biology Scholars Program (BSP)**. In addition, we will continue to work with the UC Office of the President's project, **The Health and Wellness Initiative**, in an effort to provide quality health care in school settings. And we will begin piloting a developmental screening project in collaboration with **Every Child Counts (ECC)** in an effort to better screen the children we serve and to provide prevention and early intervention for possible developmental problems.

In the coming year we hope to see our volunteer staff continue to grow so that we may serve more children in need. We also hope that each family's experience with Kerry's Kids will help them to feel less alienated by medical professionals and the health care system in general. As Kerry's Kids continues to bring high quality free health care and education to the children we serve we hope we may also become even more instrumental in building connections between the families and community pediatricians. Through their interactions with Kerry's Kids, we would like to see all of our uninsured under-served children acquire medical insurance and transition into medical and dental home offices within their communities.