



Celebrating 40 Years of Courage

Kindering Center Annual Report 2002





Letter from the Executive Director

Families Served by Kindering Center

1962
2002

1,345



5

The popular aphorism that “Life begins at forty” is true for organizations as well as people. At forty our beloved Kindering Center has helped two generations of children and families. We are confident in the support of our community; the heart, wisdom and science that are the foundation of our services; and the integrity of our mission and values. We celebrate our warm, functional new home. And we embrace the synergies and dynamism garnered from experienced veteran staff working alongside newly minted professionals. Strong and confident, Kindering Center looks back with pride at what the Center has accomplished and gratitude to all of you for your unwavering faith in our work.

Yet, we are boldly looking forward. Walk in our doors and feel the energy! Toddlers shriek delightedly; young parents smile; staff perform their parts like practiced musicians in an orchestra. With unparalleled passion, persistence, and professionalism Kindering Center confronts the special needs of our children and families.

Kindering Center is experiencing unprecedented demand for services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. We will serve 50 percent more children in our early intervention program in 2003 than in previous years. And the numbers keep growing. Physicians, hospitals, families, Public Health nurses, school districts, and Child Protective Service workers call daily to refer infants and toddlers for physical and speech therapies, special education, and family counseling. Forty years young, the Center stands eager and willing to expand our programs to meet this mounting community need.

With gratitude for your help,

Mimi Siegel
Executive Director



KINDERING CENTER MILESTONES

1960's

1962 – Five mothers of children with disabilities meet during a King County special swimming program and explore the possibility of a specialized training program.

1963 – The Bellevue School District permits the use of an empty classroom for 12 months. Although still very much a parent cooperative, the agency is able to hire one salaried teacher.

1968 – Eastside Preschool for the Special Child incorporates, parent volunteers gradually replaced with paid professional staff. Agency renamed Merrywood School for Retarded Children.

1969 – Mary Wegwart is hired as first director.



40 Years of Kindering Center Courage

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.



1970's

1974 – King County funds recreation programs; Merrywood initiates the MORE program for school age children (Merrywood's Opportunity for Recreation and Enrichment).

1975 – Education for All Act grants free, appropriate, public education to all students of age. Eastside schools admit students from age three. Merrywood focuses its programs for children birth to three.

1978 – Agency moves to the Ashwood Center, a closed Bellevue School building.

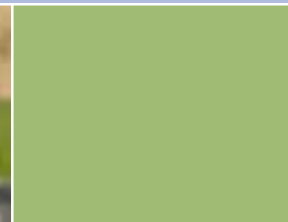
1978 – Mimi Siegel hired as executive director, and remains at the helm 25 years later.

40 Years of Kindering Center Courage



Kindering Center services include:

- Neurodevelopmental therapies
- Family counseling and support groups
- Nutrition and feeding interventions
- Childcare consultations
- Specialized foster care
- Parent education



1980's

1983 – A charming 2500 square foot building is erected in the Crossroads area with the help of Referendum 37, Bellevue Development Block Grants, and private and corporate donors.

1984 – Child care program for disabled, typically developing, and abused preschoolers opens.

1984 – A specialized foster care program for medically fragile and disabled children with behavioral issues is initiated.

1986 – Fathers Network, a support system for fathers of disabled children is established.



Letter from the Board President

"Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."

William Faulkner

Dear Friends of Kindering Center,

The annual report for Kindering Center can be summed up in the words of William Faulkner. Since the opening of the remodeled facility in June, 2002 the Board of Directors, management, staff and volunteers have been working at implementing procedures that make Kindering Center better than Kindering Center was before. If you look at the Center's forty years of history, you can see that goal is quite a daunting task. Born of necessity and grown with professionalism, diversity, courage, caring and quality for forty years, Kindering Center today is in better health than ever, and is constantly striving to improve. Kindering Center is delivering services with a richness and depth previously unattainable, to more children and families than ever before. Clearly the words of William Faulkner apply to the last forty years of growth, and we accept them as guidance for the future.

2002 was my last year as President of the Board of Directors. I leave that position with a great sense of gratitude, in that I was able to work with a dedicated and caring group of volunteers who accomplished so much in such a short period of time on a volunteer basis. I am excited to hand over the reins to the very capable Mr. Iain Rooney as the new President. Knowing that all is well in Iain's talented hands makes my transition to the role of Chairman of the Development Committee easy.

I look forward to chairing the Development Committee because as with most forms of growth like the Kindering Center is experiencing, there are challenges. The core, early-intervention services require more funding than can be generated from Program and Investment Revenue, United Way, In-Kind Donations and government sources. We expend almost \$4,000 per child more than we generate from the sources other than outright fund raising. As our numbers grow, the deficit that we need to fund for those core programs could become unmanageable. The Programs Committee is turning their attention to making of services more efficient but no less effective. The Development Committee is seeking long-term funding opportunities for permanent operating fund sources, interim funding for programs that may not initially be self sustaining and endowment funding for our long term viability. We are searching out ways to be even better than we are today.

There is change in the air at Kindering Center. We acknowledge with great gratitude the stellar community support at every level of need. We take very seriously our responsibility to shepherd our resources to benefit our community. Look to the future with us; give us a hand if you can. With you, it will be a better place to be tomorrow than it is today.

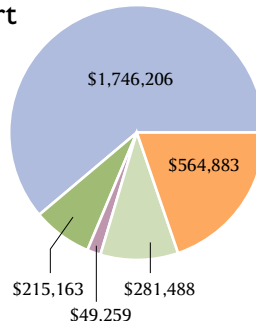
Regards,

James T. Stenson
Past President – Board of Directors
Chairman – Development Committee

Kindering Center Revenue & Support 2002

- Government
- Contributions
- Program & Investment Revenue
- United Way
- In-Kind Donations

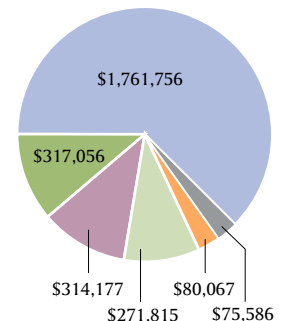
Total \$2,856,999



Kindering Center Expenditures 2002

- Early Intervention
- Foster Care
- Administration
- Fundraising
- Fathers Network
- Parent Education

Total \$2,820,457



1990's

1990 – Parenting Plus, a parent education program, is added to help families in the community at risk of maltreating their children.

1990 – Building expands as a result of first-ever capital campaign, which raised \$450,000.

1993 – Merrywood School changes its name to Kindering Center to reflect the kindness, kinship, and nurturing child development services families would receive.

1996 – Eastside Nutrition and Feeding Team forms. Bellevue School District contracts with Kindering Center to provide special education programs for infants and toddlers within the district.



Kinderling Center Would Like To Offer

KINDERLING CENTER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2002

We successfully completed our \$5.8 million capital campaign "Opening New Doors—from Crisis to Courage".

Kinderling Center erected a new 22,500 square foot facility, designed by ARC Architects and built by Lease, Crutcher, Lewis Builds.

Kinderling Center families and staff moved into our new permanent home in time for graduation ceremonies.

Social Venture Partners welcomed Kinderling Center as a new investee. SVP is helping to fund the Center's parent education programs for Spanish and Russian-speaking families and for parents of children with disabilities.

In collaboration with Puget Sound Educational Service District, the Center secured a grant from the Foundation for Early Learning. Special educators offered intensive technical assistance to child care programs in South King County.

The Seattle Seahawks and members of United Way of King County's Alexis de Tocqueville Society devoted volunteer days to Kinderling Center.

The State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services teamed with Kinderling Center to design and implement the Family Coach Project to address the needs of families reported to Child Protective Services because of chronic neglect.

As a one-time project for King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, Kinderling Center foster care program staff recruited respite care homes for children with autism.

Most importantly, in 2002, Kinderling Center served 1,345 infants and children with special needs and their families.

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2000's

2001 – Kinderling Center partners with the University of Washington's Experimental Education Unit to create the CUBS program (Communication,

Understanding, Behaviors, and Socialization), a research-based treatment program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

2002 – Kinderling Center dedicates newly renovated and expanded facility to house state-of-the-art programs for infants and children with special needs as a result of a highly successful \$5.8 million capital campaign.

Our Many Supporters A Heartfelt Thanks

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KINDERING CENTER VALUES

Caring

We demonstrate our passion and concern for children with special needs and their families in all of our interactions. We vigilantly protect their physical and emotional health and safety. We hold one another in high regard and treat each other with utmost respect.

Courage

Courage is the emblem of Kindering Center. We admire the perseverance of children diligently learning new skills and of families adjusting bravely to their unexpected journeys. The Center exhibits bold leadership addressing community needs.

Integrity

We adhere to the highest code of ethics in our interactions, financial transactions, communications, and daily work.

Excellence

The Center reaches for excellence in all undertakings. We subscribe to the highest service standards. Responsiveness, reliability, dedication, and professionalism are our guideposts.

Diversity

Our unique strengths and differences enrich the fabric of our community.

Wisdom

Children, families, and our organization relish life-long learning. Good judgment, knowledge, experience, and evidence-based practices form the foundation of our decisions.

Responsibility

We steward resources responsibly and partner with families, the community, volunteers, and allied agencies to support our mission.

Ingenuity

Our solutions are resourceful and creative. We eagerly explore innovative and improved methods to help children and families and to support our vision.

Accomplishment

We measure and evaluate program achievements and administrative outcomes. Foremost we celebrate each child's successes and new life skills.



Kindering Center
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