



WINTER 2021

Our Mission Statement

Kerry's Kids provides free health care and education to underserved children in their neighborhoods and seeks to facilitate that each child ultimately receives care in a permanent medical home.

936 Seventh Street
PMB 129
Novato, CA 94945

info@kerryskids.org
www.kerryskids.org

During our shutdown we were able to assist our families with:

- Over 17,200 healthy meals delivered over 18 months
- Over 800 bags of groceries over 6 months
- Over 150 backpacks filled with school supplies in the Spring and Fall of 2020 to support students in their academic efforts

How we've been serving our community during the pandemic

Christine Ma, M.D., Medical Director

When Shelter-In-Place closed our clinics last year, we knew we had to adapt. The challenges facing our communities were heightened by COVID-19. We saw huge populations contending with worsening health inequalities, unemployment, loss of housing and an immediate and growing uncertainty about where to get their next meal.

Over the first eighteen months of the pandemic, we partnered with nonprofits and restaurants to provide meals to families experiencing food insecurity. Eating hot, comforting, nourishing food is so beneficial for children - allowing their bodies to grow and their minds to expand and develop. We had to do what we could to make sure the children in the Kerry's Kids network were not going hungry. We didn't want anyone to miss out because they were being careful and staying indoors, because they had nowhere to live and cook, or because they couldn't access transportation. So, with a growing band of volunteers, we drove to the people that needed help with access to food, to ensure that at least twice a week they didn't have to worry about meals. After several months, we added in fresh produce and other groceries, and frozen meals, for those who had access to a place to store or cook food. Throughout the program, we also assisted families with meeting other basic needs, like diapers, cleaning products, and face masks. Many families also asked for help connecting to resources for housing assistance, employment, legal aid, mental health services, and so much more. When the vaccine roll-out started to turn the tide of the pandemic, we began to see a decrease in demand for our food program and we were able to wrap it up in September 2021.

School closures presented new problems for many children. Staying indoors during the shutdowns meant missing out on the vital intellectual stimulation and play-based learning that allow growing brains to reach their potential. Suddenly, many children were disconnected from their teachers. And even if there was access to virtual learning, many children still lacked basic school supplies. Therefore, we partnered with the Alameda County Office of Education, local school districts, family shelters, and community organizations in order to distribute school supplies, educational materials to support learning, and activities to encourage creative play and exercise.

We were able to host our first mobile clinic in May 2021 after a year without clinics. It looked a little different from before – outdoors to allow for easy ventilation, social distancing and PPE. Our initial focus was on check-ups and ensuring children could catch up on immunizations

Continued on page 2

Clinics are back!

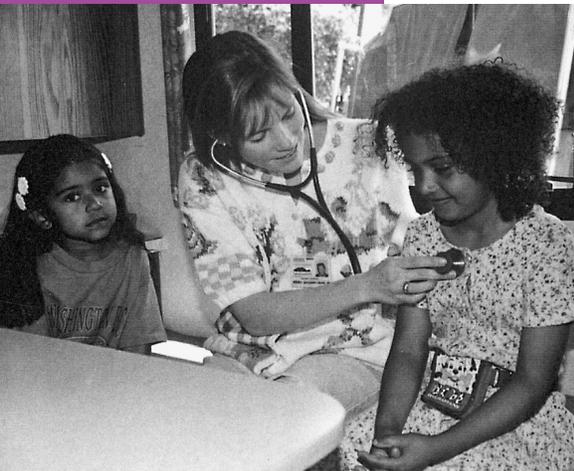
In May, we ran our first clinic in over a year, seeing a full schedule of patients. "It's great to be back!" said one of our volunteers.



Kerry's Kids receives no federal funding. Please consider making a donation to Kerry's Kids. Donations can be made through www.kerryskids.org or by clicking on the QR code below.



Kerry's Kids is a 501(c) 3 organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible.
EIN 02-0569175



Continued from page 1

they missed during the pandemic. With children getting ready to head back to school in-person, these school physicals and vaccines were needed so that they could enroll. With time we'll get back to our previous ways, hopefully bringing with us the lessons we've all learned from this pandemic.

As the holiday season gets into full swing, I've been reflecting on what I have learned from all of this. I have always been committed to the practice of holistic medicine, caring for the whole person, body, mind and spirit. However, over the past almost 2 years, I have really learned what it means to practice holistically: empowering people to meet their basic needs of food, shelter and security is the foundation for good health. I am proud of what we've done through the pandemic and I know that all of us at Kerry's Kids are excited to keep serving our community!

We wish you and your families a joyous and safe holiday season.



Letter from President of the Board

Greetings and Happy Holidays! It goes without saying that it has been a difficult 2 years for everyone. The pandemic required Kerry's Kids to halt our patient care activities at all of our preschool, shelter and transitional housing sites. Along with all the other losses we felt during this time, it was incredibly difficult to not be able to provide our services to children in need. But, in the face of this barrier, our Medical Director, Christine Ma, MD, quickly focused on the true needs of our community and created new partnerships that allowed for a truly innovative system for delivering food to families in need in the East Bay. We were able to distribute food to families twice a week and distributed over 17,000 meals over 18 months. This is an illustration of the true mission of Kerry's Kids. We are here to increase the access to health care for children that may have limitations to that access, and as we know, food IS medicine and nutrition is the foundation to a healthy body. I remain proud and in awe of the way Kerry's Kids has responded to the disruptions wrought by this pandemic and so pleased that we are now at a place where we have started to see children in person and resume our direct health care programs. I hope that you and your family are healthy and safe this holiday season and consider supporting Kerry's Kids, and all our programs as we and the families we serve emerge from this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Diane Halberg, MD

President of the Board, Kerry's Kids

Kerry's dream was to provide medical care to the underserved in her community; that this care would be provided with love, with caring and with respect. While Kerry herself didn't see her dream fulfilled, we take comfort from and have pride in Kerry's Kids and what has been achieved because of the commitments of time, talent, and financial resources. We know that Kerry is watching and guiding and is celebrating the gifts given. We are truly witnessing God's grace through your gifts and prayers.

We thank you for supporting Kerry's dream.

Blessings,

Kerry's Mom and Dad, Herb and Mary

Kerry's sister Erin and family Rick, Ellie and Lane

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."

Albert Schweitzer

A Big Thanks to all of our generous donors along with our many volunteers

Thank you to all of our partners:

Ghirardo, CPA • World Central Kitchen • Community Kitchen
Nourish You • Berkeley Food Network
Alameda County Office of Education Student Support Services