



Dogs and Puppets: A Winning Combination for Teaching Kids about Dog Safety

Kids on the Block/Powerful Puppetry and DoveLewis' Animal Assisted Therapy and Education (DLAATE) program have teamed up to teach local children how to be respectful and safe with dogs. "Dogs and puppets! What better way to teach kids about preventing dog bites and being kind to animals?" That's what popped into Heather Toland's head when she came across a volunteer application from Barbara Dunnette, a long-time Kids on the Block puppeteer. Heather is Director of DoveLewis' DLAATE Program. That thought initiated this unique new partnership and inspired the latest Powerful Puppetry program, *Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs*.

It turns out that almost half (46%) of all children experience a dog bite by the time they enter 12th grade (according to the CDC). The majority of bites involve kids in our target age group, 5 to 9 year olds, during unsupervised play time, and, surprisingly, with familiar dogs. Most bites, furthermore, can be prevented if kids (and adults) understand how dogs communicate with us, why they might bite, and the best ways to interact with

them. Kids in the Portland-Vancouver area have even more contact with dogs than most children. In 2006, we were voted the "Number 1 all-around best city for dogs in America" by *Dog Fancy* magazine. This award took into account that within the city limits of Portland alone, there are over 136,000 dogs and 33 parks with off-leash areas. Children clearly need to know how to behave around all dogs, especially if no adult is present to help them.

Participating children will watch a puppet performance with two characters discussing why a dog bit one of them and how to avoid a bite in the future. The scripted portion is followed by a live demonstration, with a DoveLewis therapy dog, of the correct way to approach and pet a dog, and an interactive question and comment time. The show's script, created by Portland actor and playwright, John Steinkamp, is informa-



tive, humorous and empowering. "*Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs* helps children realize they don't need to be afraid of dogs. They can learn to read dogs' cues and act accordingly. It also teaches them empathy. When kids understand that dogs want to be treated with kindness and respect, they are reminded that people deserve the same consideration," says Laura Raymond, Communications Officer at Kids on the Block.

Continued on Page 2

Our Mission

To use the power of puppetry to
Inspire children to
Appreciate differences,
Say no to all forms of prejudice,
And develop skills to grow up
Healthy and safe.

Kids on the Block / Powerful Puppetry Offers FREE Educational Programming!

Health & Safety Issues

Preventing School Violence
& Bullying
Saying "No" to Gangs, Violence,
& Prejudice
Healthy Choices: Reducing
Childhood Obesity
Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Prevention
Preventing Child Abuse
Say "Yes" to Helmets *
Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs *

Social Issues

Adjusting to Divorce
Appreciating Cultural Differences
Understanding Feelings

Disability Issues

Living with Cerebral Palsy
Understanding Intellectual
Disabilities
Understanding Learning Disabilities
Understanding Visual Impairment

* *New Powerful Puppetry programs*



Yoshida's Sand in the City
We raised over \$170,000

Winners

Golden Shovel - 1st Place

Con-way Enterprise & LRS Architects

Silver Rake - 2nd Place

Andersen Construction &
 Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

Bronze Bucket - 3rd Place

Harland Financial Solutions

Sandy Gravel - Judges' Choice

Coffman Excavation &
 Scott Edwards Architecture

Rookie Team Trowel

Burgerville & Yost Grube Hall Architects

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Hoffman Construction Company ? Coffman Excavation ? KeyBank
 ? AMR ? Burgerville ? Chipman Mayflower ? Con-way ? El Gaucho
 Gatto & Sons Produce ? Lamar Advertising Company ? Mt. Hood Beverage
 NW Natural ? TriMet ? Wieden + Kennedy
 92.3 KGON ? 94.7 Alternative Portland ? 97.1 Charlie ? 99.5 The Wolf

If you are interested in participating in Yoshida's Sand in the City 2008 as a Sand team or sponsor, please contact the Kids on the Block office!

Dogs & Puppets Continued

Lynette Jelinek, Program Director, adds "The pairing of puppets and real dogs, since it is such a novelty, will leave a lasting impression on children. Another thing that makes this partnership special is that all our puppeteers and DoveLewis dog handlers are community volunteers. That keeps costs down and allows us to provide *Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs*, like other Kids on the Block's educational programs, free of charge to all audiences."

Heather's own dog, Andy, is one of the dogs that will be going on-stage follow-

ing each *Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs* puppet show. Andy has been a therapy animal for the past 2 ½ years. His gentle nature and experience going to senior care centers as well as working with children with dog phobias or other psychological challenges make him a great addition to our new show. Young audiences will easily be able to connect with Andy and learn from him in a non-threatening way. Dogs and puppets have a similar effect on children; they are more approachable to kids than adults and, therefore, better at teaching, plus the experience is still as

interactive as a person-to-person conversation.

Heather says, "I think that our collaboration is important because of the number of children bitten each year. I hope that we can make a difference in how children (and how their parents allow them to) interact with both familiar and unfamiliar dogs. I hope that by using such a friendly and effective means (puppetry) of providing the message, that we can save some dogs from being put in the compromising position of having to bite someone to get their point across. Dogs and kids have a natural affinity for one another and we wanted to give kids information not only to keep them safe, but to also foster that special bond."

Be Smart. Be Safe around Dogs officially debuted in mid-November at Minter Bridge Elementary School in Hillsboro. We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time and talent to create this exceptional program, including Barbara, Heather, other DoveLewis dog handlers, Crista Wakefield, another experienced puppeteer and current trainer of new Kids on the Block performers, and Kathy Sheinin, a new puppeteer. Soon, Jeannie Verkest will be performing this show too.

A sincere thanks also goes to Kids on the Block's All-Star donors, as well as the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Meyer Memorial Trust for their financial support.

To schedule a program for your school or youth group, or to learn more about volunteering or making a donation, contact:
 lynette@powerfulpuppetry.org

Contacting Kids on the Block

824 SE 12th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97214
 Phone 503-736-3200
 Fax 503-238-4445

PMB #273
 13023 NE Hwy 99, Suite 7
 Vancouver, WA 98686
 Phone 360- 433-5697
 Fax 360-258-1573

www.powerfulpuppetry.org

Staff

Carol Wire
Executive Director

Lynette Jelinek, *Program Director*
 Elizabeth Anderson, *Dev. Director*
 Laura Raymond, *Communications*
 Bethany Leong, *Admin. Assoc.*
 Lizzy Gomez, *Program Assoc.*
 Nancy Gaston, *Clark County Rep.*

Board of Directors

Miles Woofter
President

Jim Shannon
Vice President

Jared Holum
Treasurer

Debra Bosworth
Secretary

Lynne Bangsund
Founding Member

Anne Bell
 Carollyn Farrar
 Louis Fontenot, Jr.
 Dave Garske
 Nancy Gaston
 Tracy Remington
 Paula Richard
 Lynne Root-Ferguson
 Veronica Valenzuela
 Deb Veach-White
 Traci Wheeler
 Bob Williams
 Gretchen Yost



Opportunity to Reach More Children with the Abuse Prevention Program

The newest Oregon Health Education Standards call for all elementary schools in the state to teach their students (and parents) about child abuse prevention. (Teachers and administrators will need additional training on the issue as well.) Kids on the Block is thrilled that the new mandate will potentially open the door to serving thousands more children a year with this critical prevention topic. Portland area Catholic schools have already invited Kids on the Block to provide this abuse prevention education to all their students. We are also thankful for the continued support of the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation and Target Stores Foundation, which will help us stretch to meet this demand.

According to Children First for Oregon's just-released "Report Card 2007: The Status of Children in Oregon," the number of children victimized by abuse or neglect jumped 10% from 2005 to 2006. At least 7.6 out of every 1,000 children in Oregon were either documented victims of abuse or neglect, or deemed at substantial risk. It is hard to measure the full extent of child abuse since so many cases go unnoticed and unreported. Sexual abuse, in particular, is much harder to detect because of fewer concrete, outward signs in victims. Researchers agree on one thing, however: statistics drastically underestimate the actual occurrence of child abuse and neglect in our communities.

Board Changes at Kids on the Block

This fall, Kids on the Block said good-bye to long-time board member, **Alexa Shock**. We thank Alexa for, among other things, actively recruiting new board members, introducing Kids on the Block to many new friends and supporters, and participating in Yoshida's Sand in the City, both as team captain for WebMD and as an event volunteer. We also welcomed **Dave Garske** and **Carollyn Farrar** back to the board of directors. Dave served as Board President in the past and has been a dedicated fundraiser and advocate for Kids on the Block for over a decade. Dave, from Hoffman Construction, is passionate about our mission and cares deeply about the children we serve. Carollyn, from NW Natural, has served on the Board Executive Committee, the organization's Program Committee, and as Co-Chair of Yoshida's Sand in the City. She brings incredible energy, commitment, organizational skills, and long-term knowledge of the organization to her role.

Preventing Child Abuse: Between Friends is truly one of the most important programs Kids on the Block offers. Consequences of abuse can be devastating to children and to society. We receive an average of 25 disclosures of abuse per 1,000 children participating in the *Preventing Abuse* program, and additional requests for help during other shows. Innumerable other abusive situations are avoided – cases that we never hear about.

Kids on the Block has a unique niche to fill. Other programs in our area tend to focus on giving abuse prevention information to caregivers instead of directly to children. The *Between Friends* show helps children understand what constitutes abuse and what they can do if someone tries to abuse them. It also gives kids the confidence to trust their gut feeling when a situation doesn't seem quite right, and to ask a safe adult for help (or several adults, until someone listens). The school setting is the one place outside the home in which nearly all children have ongoing contact. Therefore, it is particularly well suited for identifying endangered children. Because abuse usually happens in the child's home or with another familiar adult, not with strangers, it is even more important that children are educated and empowered in the school environment.

Would you like to help kids avoid the heartbreak of abuse? We are seeking several new puppeteers to be able to reach this much bigger audience. Kids

on the Block provides excellent training and support. Training sessions start in early January, so contact Lynette Jelinek right away if you're interested or would like more information: lynette@powerfulpuppetry.org, (503) 736-3200, (360) 433-5697.

Your donations towards this program are also much appreciated and should be directed to Elizabeth Anderson, Development Director: elizabeth@powerfulpuppetry.org.

Our Children's Store Buy Once. Give Twice.



By shopping at Our Children's Store, you not only support Kids on the Block, but you also benefit 44 other local children's charities! Please visit this unique gift shop this holiday season. You'll find stationery and cards, toys, holiday decorations, gourmet food, books, calendars, one of a kind products made by children, and much more. Our Children's Store is located at Lloyd Center Mall. Hours: Monday - Tuesday, 10 AM - 6PM, Wednesday - Saturday, 10 AM - 9 PM, Sunday, Noon - 5 PM

www.ourchildrensstore.org

Leave a Legacy for Children in Our Community

Ever wonder what is meant by the term “planned giving?” Planned gifts allow you to combine your charitable goals with your financial goals. These contributions can take many forms, including remembering Kids on the Block/Powerful Puppetry in your will or trust or donating stock, land or other assets to the organization. Planned gifts can offer you and your family significant tax-saving benefits, immediately, or in the future. They can also make the most of your charitable donations. A planned gift to Kids on the Block will ensure that your dedication to the well-being of local children will continue for years to come, and it may even allow you to make a larger gift – and a greater difference – than you ever thought possible.

Please talk to Elizabeth Anderson, Development Director, to find out more. Of course, you will need to speak to your financial planner or attorney as well. Please also let us know if you have already included Kids on the Block in your will or trust.

Help Kids on the Block Save Some Paper

In order to keep costs down and improve our efficiency, we’ll be using email more often to communicate with you. Kids on the Block will be sending email-only news updates as well. Please send a message to bethany@powerfulpuppetry.org to get on the list! Thanks for your help.

Murals at Kids on the Block

A special thanks to Michele and Erika Hansen for brightening up the Kids on the Block office! This mother and daughter team, who also puppeteer together, spent many hours painting the office and adding some original artwork to the walls as well. Stop by and check out our colorful space.

“Thank you Kids on the Block for all that you do for me. As puppeteers, my daughter and I have a platform in which we are able to interact as friends, not mother/daughter, thus enabling us to build upon our relationship. The mural project has allowed me to fully realize my artistic capacities as well as my daughter’s.”

- Michele Hansen

Visit our website at www.powerfulpuppetry.org!

824 SE 12th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214



Non-Profit
Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 4545