

Kathi's Kids™

Where children learn & have fun!

A FREE Community Program Fall 2008

The Story of Kathi's Kids....

The story of Kathi's Kids begins with a little girl, born in 1956 in Kornwestheim, Germany. Her birth name was Carolyn Michele Baumgart. She was the child of a white woman from Czechoslovakia and a married military man, who was black. Because she was a biracial child living in Germany shortly after WWII, she was not welcomed in very many places. Her mother was homeless and had no place to raise her children. Eventually her mother, under pressure, had to give her up for adoption, due to poverty.

She was considered "homeless and stateless" by the German courts, however, officials believed that she still *deserved the best*. Carolyn Michele Baumgart was adopted by an American family and her name was changed to Kathy Hill. Growing up with her new adopted family from the age of two, Kathy did not know of her traumatic past until she was told of being adopted at the age of 18. Shortly after finding out about her unbelievable past, Kathy experienced a strong sense of loss, rejection, broken heartedness, abandonment and hopelessness.

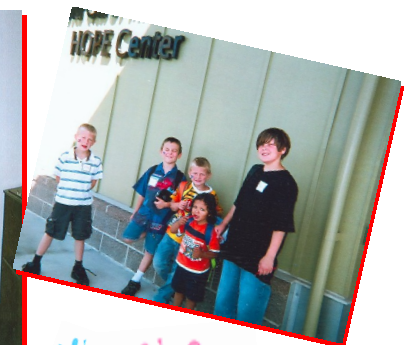
Several years later Kathy realized, how she was truly helped as a young child by unseen hands. Kathy married her high school sweet heart Donald Shorter and raise a wonderful family and has become a very successful and fulfilled woman. In her heart, and to God, she vowed to help hurting children for the rest of her life. It was with this strong desire for every child to be cared for, to feel special, and to belong, that Kathy Lynette Shorter founded Kathi's Kids

Kathy Shorter is joined by a dedicated crew of volunteers, who share her dedication to children....Thank you volunteers!



Back to School Supply Giveaway!

Every August, the Kathi's Kids program hosts a back to school supply giveaway. This year the event took place at the Gary and Carol Milgard Family HOPE Center, in Lakewood, WA. Children and their families were able to pick up much needed school supplies, to get ready for the upcoming school year. In addition, the children were treated to face painting and a special story time with "Grandma Ruby".



A special thank you to the Gary and Carol Milgard HOPE center and to Maria Johnson, the director of the center, for hosting the event.

Growing, learning and having *fun*
all year long with Kathi's Kids!

Program Highlights



Native American Culture.



Children enjoying their sombreros.

MULTICULTURAL DAY

The children of Kathi's Kids had a chance to tour the globe at the Multicultural Day program. Special guests representing various cultures came to speak to the children. The children learned about the language, foods, and customs of cultures from Africa, Asia, Germany, the Native American nation and Mexico.



Children learning about African Culture.

Career Day

Career Day at Kahti's Kids is always a big hit with the kids. Individuals from the community are invited to come and share their field of work with the children. Last year, kids were visited by a policeman, a visual artist and other career professionals. Children had a chance to operate a real production camera and even conduct a science experiment with a scientist.



SPACE SCIENCE

Last June the children had a chance to learn about space science. They learned about the planets of the solar system and did some really cool space science experiments. They even got to build their own comet!



BUILDING CHILDREN UP



Kathi's Kids is a program designed to build confidence and self esteem in children from single parent homes and from all walks of life. Monthly themes and activities are purposely designed, so children feel safe to express themselves. They can "kick up their heels" and just be a kid.

At each program, the children are taught a "special word" of the day. Special words include Thankfulness, Respect, Vision and Love. The children are encouraged to apply these special words to their own lives and to people around them.

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