

## Carrying On the Tradition of Helping Children and Families Lead Successful Lives

When Kathryn Klibanoff first encountered Washburn Center for Children, she felt like she was in a time warp. The words used to describe Washburn's work—intake, mental wellness, home visits, best practices—were words she heard throughout her childhood as her mother spoke about being a social worker. "As I learned more about Washburn's center of excellence, an idea for a permanent memorial to my mom began to gel," explained Kathryn.

With a desire to carry forward her mom's legacy and to advance Washburn's support of children with mental health challenges, Kathryn and her husband Jeremy Pierotti, along with Kathryn's father Allen and brother Peter, established the **Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellowship Fund**. With more than 90 founding contributions from family and friends, this new endowment supports Washburn's postdoctoral fellowship program while honoring the late Pat Klibanoff, beloved mother, wife, friend and social worker who dedicated her life to helping children and families lead successful lives.

**"This endeavor has been deeply meaningful for me, for my family, for all who knew my mom,"** Kathryn said. **"But what makes it so sweet is knowing that this fund will help children have the support they need and might not otherwise get."**

Friends and family from across the country gathered with Washburn board members and staff on October 30 to celebrate the fellowship and congratulate the inaugural Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellow, Dr. Melissa Sovak (see story below). A Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellow will be named annually at Washburn as part of the agency's postdoctoral training program.

"It was a pleasure to work with Kathryn and Jeremy to understand their vision and find the best way to memorialize Pat," said Steve Lepinski, Washburn's executive director. "We are grateful that they chose Washburn as the place to develop Kathryn's idea and make it a reality."

Washburn has been continually astounded by the overwhelming response of the Klibanoff family and friends. Many people—from Kathryn's college advisor to Pat's cherished sister and former colleagues—shared that the opportunity to give this donation was like a gift to themselves. **"While the fund directly benefits Washburn, it's clear the act of giving brings great joy to the donors,"** Kathryn reflected.

For more information on the Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellowship, please visit [www.washburn.org/KlibanoffFellowship](http://www.washburn.org/KlibanoffFellowship).



Peter Klibanoff, Melissa Sovak, Kathryn Klibanoff and Allen Klibanoff celebrated the launch of the Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellowship on October 30.

## Letter From the Director: Helping 100,000 Children



Steve Lepinski

We often talk about the direct service we offer at Washburn Center for Children with more than 2,000 children each year. As important and equally impactful is our training of the next generation of child clinicians.

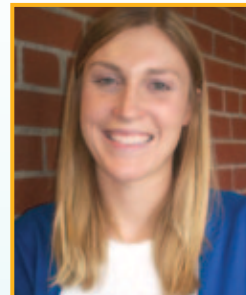
**Training has been an important part of our mission for many years.** During the past five years, we have created a best practice framework as part of our effort to be a center of excellence in children's mental health. The refinement of our practice framework has also strengthened our clinical training. In addition, we have expanded our work with doctoral level psychologists and now have three full-time clinical interns and three full-time postdoctoral fellows each year. As you read in this newsletter, the newly formed Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellowship helps support the postdoctoral program.

A next step in strengthening our training will be to seek accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA). This is a higher level of accreditation than we currently have and will enable Washburn to attract even stronger doctoral level clinicians from across the country.

Washburn provides extensive training for the staff we hire. In addition to our doctoral level psychology training, we train 50 to 60 additional graduate and undergraduate students each year. If over a five year period Washburn trains 70 clinicians on our staff and an additional 30 doctoral interns and fellows, the community would have 100 clinicians trained in a best practice model. Assuming each of those 100 clinicians treated 100 children per year, the impact over 10 years would be 100,000 children treated by Washburn trained clinicians.

**This training—and exponential impact on children—is made possible through the generosity of people like you.** Your gift to Washburn extends beyond the 2,000 children we serve this year—it will provide brighter futures for years to come.

## Dr. Melissa Sovak: The Inaugural Patricia L. Klibanoff Fellow



Washburn Center for Children is proud to welcome **Melissa Sovak** as the first **Patricia L. Klibanoff Postdoctoral Fellow**.

Much like the late Pat Klibanoff, Melissa has devoted her career to supporting children and families in having brighter, healthier futures.

Melissa recently received a doctoral degree from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology, where her clinical research focused on group therapy for domestic violence victims. She has provided individual and group therapy to victims of interpersonal trauma and worked as a crisis line volunteer.

Melissa currently works at Washburn's Minnetonka office, helping children who experience trauma, anxiety, depression and other emotional or behavioral challenges. She joins several other doctoral and postdoctoral clinicians who come to Washburn to learn the best practices of children's mental health.

Washburn Center for Children helps children with social, emotional and behavioral problems, and their families, lead successful lives.



## WASHBURN GAMES

GIVING KIDS A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

### Children Help their Peers through the Inaugural Washburn Games



More than 100 kids experienced the joy and fun of helping their peers at the inaugural Washburn Games on October 3. The event—a non-competitive “sports sampler” allowing kids to test their skills in 15 different sports activities—netted nearly \$40,000 to help children served at Washburn Center for Children.

“Physical fitness and mental health go hand-in-hand,” said Mike Brennan, a Washburn board member who organized the event. “When kids are strong and confident—emotionally and intellectually—they can do anything in life. The Washburn Games were born out of this connection.”

Allianz sponsored the inaugural event at the gold level. Success Computer Consulting supported the event at the silver level and 15 other Twin Cities companies also donated to make the event possible.



Washburn Games Photos © Jen Bischoff

“We are grateful for the commitment of all our Washburn Games volunteers, sponsors and supporters,” said Steve Lepinski, Washburn’s executive director.

Children and families at the Washburn Games were asked to raise \$100 in donations on behalf of Washburn or pay a \$10 registration fee. Participants who raised a minimum of \$100 for Washburn were eligible for a variety of prizes, including two \$1,000 educational scholarships.

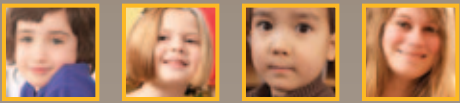
“Most of our Washburn Games participants had experience dealing with a classmate, sibling or friend who felt sad or angry and didn’t know why,” Lepinski said. “We are especially proud of all the kids who showed they could help their peers and have a great time doing it.”



### Give to the Max Day November 16

For some kids, the burden of sadness, confusion or anxiety can overshadow the joy of being a child. Your gift to Washburn Center for Children will give children a chance to experience childhood as it was meant to be.

Use the enclosed giving envelope, or give online at [www.washburn.org](http://www.washburn.org) on Give to the Max Day, November 16. On this statewide day of philanthropy, GiveMN will give \$1,000 to a random donor’s charity every hour.



Photos © 2010 Rich Ryan Photography



#### GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Join us in creating happier, healthier futures. Make a gift to Washburn on **Give to the Max Day, November 16**. You could be selected by GiveMN to have \$1,000 added to your gift. Learn more at [www.washburn.org](http://www.washburn.org).

Washburn Center for Children has been helping children be more successful at home, in school and in the community for 125 years. Your thoughtful gift will help Washburn Center for Children continue to provide quality assessment, treatment and support to children and their families in the future. Visit our website at [www.washburn.org](http://www.washburn.org) to make a gift.

