

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



Camp is all about making great friends and great memories.

Celebrating Growth

As a camper, Kyle Smith would live for the one week to go to Camp – a place where he could be his complete and total self without judgment. “The counselors were not only my caretakers for the week,” explains Kyle, “but my friends who never showed lack of interest in me. Making the transition from camper to counselor was everything I hoped for and more,” he explains. “I finally had the opportunity to bring the same joy that I experienced into hundreds of campers’ lives.” Kyle shares the experience of having been a camper with more than a quarter of our summer staff counselors.

Camp has grown far beyond that facility that served 288 children its first summer. In this issue, we celebrate our former campers who, like Kyle, have come home to Camp with the express goal of helping make the magic happen for a new generation of seriously ill youngsters. They serve Camp in many ways and Camp is stronger for their experience, insights and participation.

Ann Marie came to Camp in the 1980s. She recalls with joy singing and dancing in the cabin circle with her cabin mates. Today, she is a pediatric oncologist. “Because of my illness,” she explains, “I have had the opportunity to become involved with one of the most wonderful places on earth – Camp. I have experienced The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp from a variety of roles – from camper to leader-in-training to volunteer counselor and, most recently, as part of the infirmary staff. At this place where children with terminal illnesses can be “normal,” I have witnessed their amazing ability to smile, laugh, love and sometimes even cry in the face of mortality. I have watched the Camp’s medical staff implement the important perspective that the patient is not the disease they are treating, but a person with emotions, hopes and dreams. Here, I have gotten to see what is really at the heart of

medicine, treating illness to the best of our abilities so that the patient can be as whole a person as possible and experience as much of what life has to offer as he or she can.”

Galen Didomizio, former camper, is now a Hospital Outreach Specialist in Boston. “As a camper,” he explains, “Camp gave me a week to let loose. It also provided opportunities at holiday parties and circus events for my family to enjoy each other’s company. Camp offered such an infectious and unconditional spirit of love and support that, in my perspective, it only feels natural to allow that attitude of generosity and grace to spill over to those in similar need of regard and attention. What’s more, it excites me to think that I may be interacting with a patient who, partly thanks to their interactions with Camp in the hospitals, will also seek to give back in the next generation of Camp history.”

About half of our dedicated Hospital Outreach Specialists are also former campers. You can read more about some of them in a related article in this issue of the *Gazette*.

After winning an arduous battle against bone cancer, former camper Danny Kayne first came to Camp in the summer of 1995. He passed through Camp’s gate in a wheelchair, feeling insecure about the Camp experience and uncertain whether he would ever walk again. Among the sea of smiles, hopeful voices and new-found friends, he met Sue Lipani, a veteran survivor of bone cancer. She was among many at Camp who showed him he could do anything. Danny says that Camp was the catalyst that transformed him back to a child after spending so much time as a patient. Today, Danny is 28 years old and works as an Investment Officer for a fund of hedge funds. He is most proud of returning to Camp

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Who could forget that initial staff gathering the night before Camp opened its doors for the first time? Paul Newman raised his glass to toast the staff and said, "I've brought it this far. You take it from here." What a wondrous thing – that his call to action has been taken up by the very young people it has served and continues to serve. Today, a host of former campers make a difference for Camp all year long. Sharing that journey with them, watching them strive to give back to Camp all the energy and love that Camp has given them inspires me beyond words.

This issue of our Gazette is a remarkable testament to the increasing involvement of former campers in nearly every aspect of Camp's continuing development. More than one-quarter of our summer counselors are former campers – coming back to Camp as adults to nurture and guide youngsters going through the



Executive Director Jimmy Canton has served Camp since it began in 1988. During that time he has been a counselor, unit leader, Assistant Director and for nine years, Camp Director. He has served as the Camp's Executive Director since 2002.

same challenges they experienced as children. Our cover article illuminates the contributions of former campers, including Adam Jed – our first camper Board Member, new to the Board this year.

You will also read in this issue about our Hospital Outreach Program that includes several former campers who know as well as anyone the value of bringing moments of peace and joy to

hospitalized children coping with active treatments for serious illness.

Team Hole in the Wall is an arena where former campers, counselors, volunteers and camper family members all come together to celebrate the joy of Camp while raising funds to support Camp's mission. Whether participating in AngelRide, Camp Challenge Ride or their own Team event, the love of Camp shines in all their training and

athletic endeavor.

Although no child or family ever pays to come to Camp, many campers find meaning in supporting Camp – none with more inspiring results than Kara Grillo. She used the Pepsi Refresh Project to raise funds for a wheelchair-accessible GEM car for campers who, like Kara, need a little extra help getting around Camp. I hope you enjoy these stories and the Camp love that inspires them.

Clowning for a Cause: Camp Reminiscences

by Jo Senecal

In 1997, I was doing an improv gig with a fellow actress named Hilary Chaplain. We hit it off and she mentioned her work as a clown with the highly esteemed Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit. I had done clown work through my Bachelor of Fine Arts acting program at the University of California, Santa Barbara but never thought I'd take it further. Clowns had always scared me in the way Stephen King was able to convey to the masses. But these clowns would visit certain hospitals in New York City and, after auditioning and being accepted, I learned how incredibly satisfying, healing, professional and hilarious that job would be.

We were highly trained to handle the sensitive hospital nature of working with kids of all ages, from intubated premies to the more rare young adults diagnosed with a childhood cancer. These clowns also had a close professional relationship with this mighty place we call Camp. So, I volunteered as a counselor, got hooked immediately, and came back the next summer as a clown named Toe.

That summer, I ended up spending most of my time as either a clown or a counselor and it changed my life. I still hear the

voices from those first years. They are imprinted on my heart like those of my own kids. The campers taught me to listen – really listen. They taught me that no matter how tired I would become, their resilience would temper me.

These kids are hugely, aggressively life-seekers. They're like Weeble Wobbles that don't fall down. And they're FUNNY. They're allowed to be exactly who they are at the moment and their counselors encourage them and love them, weep for them, laugh with them.

They change you if you let them. And who doesn't want to be changed for the better? We could all use a tune-up at some point. These kids tune you up! This Camp is ANYTHING but sad. It's hilarious... otherworldly...dynamic...colorful and beautifully diverse. Kids from all walks join forces at Camp.

Cancer has no prejudice. Lots of the illnesses are commonly shared by all shapes, sizes and colors. I consider it just another bonus, courtesy of Camp. These kids dare you not to live your life to the fullest. How can I walk away from THAT?

When a mom or dad drops off their cherished child, my

heart bleeds for them and I am so thankful for their strength. If the parents didn't allow it, these kids wouldn't experience this Camp! You've got to have the parents' permission! Can you imagine sending your sick kid away for a week? Impossible! And yet, I'm deeply, deeply grateful they do it. Otherwise, it would be one empty, sad looking Camp, filled with bored counselors. "Thanks, parents. Thanks, guardians." I say that silently all the time.

My husband Matt Senecal came up to Camp one weekend to volunteer and got wrapped up with a kid named Matt. Big Matt and Little Matt – joined at the hip. I have a photo of them fishing together. Years later, sharing a late-night chat with a hearty, beefy, wonderful counselor, my heart jumped out of my chest after realizing I'd been hanging out with "Little Matt!" I still cry when I think about it.



Jo Senecal (second from left) joins summer counselors Stacy May (far left) and Kristen Knies (far right) along with Hospital Outreach Program Supervisor/Specialist Kevin Rice at Camp.

Making a Difference in the Hospitals

by Chris Pontbriant

Camp lore is full of stories of fun times in program areas, exciting adventures during afternoon sign-up, the friendships we make, and great people we meet along the way. Everyone has their own story of how they made it to Camp for the first time. Describing that journey becomes as much a part of the Camp experience as the summer program itself. For the six members of the Hospital Outreach Program team who are former campers, that journey has an extra chapter.

Returning to Camp after that first visit means a chance to relive the joy. In addition to this, for Liz Manning, Hospital Outreach Supervisor/Specialist on the Central New England Team and former camper, “Coming back to Camp after being away feels like coming home.” Strange as it may be, though, during the interim, we become familiar both with how far away Camp is, and also how close at heart our memories and experiences lie.

Jimmy Guity, Hospital Outreach Specialist on the Boston Team and another former camper, takes us back to his initial summer, “My first memory of Camp was seeing and understanding that there were other kids that had the same illness I had.” He describes another camper free to play in the pool, after having his Broviac wrapped and protected before swimming. Following that moment, when he realized his own Broviac would not hold him back while at Camp, Jimmy says, “the pool had no limits for me.”

As former campers and summer staffers, we have many great experiences on which to draw. We consistently look back to our time at Camp as staff and as campers and find inspiration for our site-visits. Only now, instead of finding ourselves on the way back to

Camp, we are scattered throughout the northeast on the three regional teams of Camp’s Hospital Outreach Program: Boston, Central New England and New York City. On the way to work, we see the skylines of cities, the endless stretches of Route 91, the Mass Pike and the winding and weaving tunnels of metropolitan subway systems. Once on site, we see hallways of closed doors, towering elevators, and the sprawling campuses of urban hospitals. The next stop on the journey may not be Ashford, but somehow, we must make it Camp...we must transform all these unfamiliar sites and places into the familiar and fun experiences of the summer.

Closing our eyes for a moment, we remember those joyful times. The memories are so critical to our work. Kim “Kimbo” Babicz, Hospital Outreach Specialist on the Central New England Team and former camper, describes her work with Camp’s Hospital Outreach Program as the chance “to provide a playful experience where these children are able to choose an activity, be silly or just sit in an environment that they are able to manipulate.” The same could just as easily be said about any experience at Camp!

Bringing Camp to the hospitals through the Hospital Outreach Program is exactly where we, as former campers, can share new adventures, fresh experiences, and unexpected purpose with patients in the hospital. Kimbo loves how the Hospital Outreach Program “can make any moment special, from creating a Silly Monster out of puke bins, to just bringing out one small smile. That small smile or large laugh represents a moment where a child in the hospital is elsewhere for a minute.” As far as Kimbo is

concerned, they have gone to a Camp-like place. “It doesn’t matter whether you find yourself at Camp or in the hospitals; the spirit is the same,” she says.

Tommy Simpson, a favorite artist of Camp’s own favorite artist Sherry Talley, sums up the journey home this way:

If you lived in eastern Tennessee, you would be given directions using the word “look.” It is a distance you journey. For example: From where you are standing, look as far as you can see, then go to that spot. You have now traveled the first “look.” Your second “look” follows the same as the first – with one exception. You are now viewing a world you couldn’t see from where you originally stood. A world encompassing the unknown. A second landscape, abundant with adventure, new definitions, fresh experiences, and unexpected purpose. A captivating sight of intrigue and beauty. The second look is the view I love, a home for my eyes, a home for my work, a home for me.

As former campers, we have all made that first “look” back to Camp many times. Over the years, we have learned that all this really means is remembering the fun Camp memories we keep close to heart. It doesn’t matter where we may be when we do this. All that matters is that afterward, we are able to look at life as full of adventure, new experience, and purpose, and that we share this outlook with the new friends we make though our work in the Hospital Outreach Program.



Hospital Outreach Specialist Matt LaBolle makes a new friend.

“That small smile or large laugh represents a moment where a child in the hospital is elsewhere for a minute.”

Growth

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each summer to volunteer with the children, raising awareness and funds for Camp, and cycling across Connecticut as an AngelRider with Team Hole in the Wall.

Early this year, former camper Adam Jed joined Camp’s Board of Directors. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, Adam is an attorney for the United States Department of Justice. Before that, he served as law clerk to Justice John Paul Stevens on the United States Supreme Court and to Judge Guido Calabresi on the United

States Court of Appeals. Even now, Adam can vividly recall arriving for the first time at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Counselors were cheering. The sun was shining. Everyone was smiling. Little did he realize, he says, that his life was about to be changed forever.

“As a former camper and counselor, I carry Camp with me every day,” explains Adam. “I carry a personal understanding of how a group of hard working, dedicated people can make a difference in the lives of others; I remember how

fortunate I have been; and I remain tied to a community of former campers and staff, many of whom I count among my closest friends.” Adam is particularly pleased to serve Camp as a member of its Board of Directors. “Not only is it an opportunity to stay connected to Camp,” he observes, “but it is an opportunity to use what I’ve learned – both inside and outside Camp – to give back.” He looks forward to this new chance “to

make sure that future generations of campers and staff have the same wonderful experiences that I carry with me every day.”

“The trick,” as long-time New York Yankees and New York Mets Manager Casey Stengel once quipped, “is growing up without growing old.” We like to think of Camp as doing just that – growing up, maturing as an organization, yet remaining ever fresh and vibrant – in part because of the dedication of some very important members of our Camp family.



Kara as a camper enjoys a ride at Camp. Her perseverance paid off in making a wheelchair-accessible GEM car available for campers today.

Golf Cart Heart

When is a golf cart an expression of love? When it is donated to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp!

Kara Grillo has been redeeming recyclables for five years with one purpose in mind – to purchase a golf cart for Camp modified so that a wheelchair can go right up into it. “I wanted to help the campers and the counselors, to make it easier for the kids in wheelchairs to get around at Camp,” says Kara. This former camper is also a great fundraiser for the dream she believes in.

Kara was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 3, and attended Camp in 1988, the first year it opened. She and Mom Becky have been part of the Camp family ever since. At one campfire ceremony, Kara was named “Queen Kara, Ridiculous Queen of the Forest,” a title she still proudly claims.

The pair collected recyclables, according to Becky, “...one nickel at a time, and rolled coins, and the money started to build up.” After six years they had raised \$6,400 and redeemed more than 100,000 bottles and cans! But a wheelchair-modified Camp golf cart or “GEM car” costs even more. To make up the difference, Kara decided to go for a Pepsi Refresh grant of \$5,000.

Beginning in 2010, the Pepsi Refresh Project invited individuals and organizations to submit ideas that would make a positive impact on communities. Last fall, Kara posted her grant idea on the Pepsi Refresh Project website at refresheverything.com, then let all of her Camp family and friends know, so they could support the idea by voting for it. Some of them voted every day.

“I am doing this project on my own,” Kara explained on her page. “Nobody else is working on it, except my mother is redeeming all the cans and bottles for me, because I am in a wheelchair. Many kids at Camp have trouble getting into a regular golf cart. This would make it much easier for the campers and counselors.”

She didn’t win the first round, but Kara did not give up. Her persistence paid off. This past January, Kara and her mom Becky were notified that Kara had been awarded her grant. Plans are in place to have the cart delivered to Camp in time for Session 1. We thank Queen Kara whose love of Camp is an inspiration to us all.

Riding for Love

Just think of it. More than 32,000 cyclists pedaling their way across not one, not two, but all five boroughs of New York City. Imagine riding past the Empire State Building, across the Brooklyn Bridge, through historic Harlem and in view of the Statue of Liberty as part of the TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour. “It’s an amazing sight to see so many riders pedaling down 42 miles of car-free streets,” says Peg Carlson, camper parent and longtime Camp volunteer.

For Peg, however, the scenic experience of this spring’s event will be secondary to riding and raising funds in honor of her daughter Emily, who passed away last summer, and Emily’s enduring love of Camp. Emily Carlson determinedly fought brain cancer for 14 years. She attended The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in 1998 and 1999 and volunteered at multiple Gala events and other Camp functions as an adult. Peg and husband Pete Carlson have also served Camp as COPE host parents and Fandango Gala volunteers. Peg, Pete and their son Andrew formed Team “Emily’s Kin” in Emily’s honor at this year’s TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour.

Peg is the first to admit that she is not a veteran cyclist. In fact, this will be only her second major cycling event. With training and fundraising assistance from Team Hole in the Wall, however, she feels confident about her participation and looks forward to the challenge. “I was, and still am, a true amateur bicycle rider,” says Peg. “I will admit I felt a bit intimidated at first thinking about completing AngelRide last year, but I received incredible support and direction from Team Hole in the Wall. I also knew that this wasn’t a race – I could take my time, walk up some of the hills and even hitch a ride if I had to. I was also raising money for something



AngelRide 2010 was Team member Peg Carlson’s first major cycling event. She looks forward to participating in this year’s TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour.

that was very important to me and close to my heart. I came in third from last, but when I crossed that finish line, I felt such a sense of pride and accomplishment. It was amazing and something I will never forget.” Peg looks forward to that same sense of satisfaction upon completing the TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour this year – with Team support all the way!

teamholeinthewall.org



The Carlson family – (left to right) Andrew, Peg, Emily and Pete Carlson

Too much mail? Duplicate mailings?

Let us know! We are happy to accommodate your mailing wishes. Call Maria Gomez at 203-772-0522 or email maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org.

Raising the Curtain on Camp's Accomplishments



Camp's Gala, an honored Camp tradition, returns to Ashford this coming fall.



Camp's circus events in Boston in April and New York each fall provide wonderful performance and get-together opportunities for camper families and donors.

When Paul Newman started The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, who could have foreseen its remarkable growth? Today, Camp serves more than 15,000 children each year through its signature summer program, family and camper weekends from fall through spring, and its outreach program to hospitals across the northeast.

As this issue of the *Gazette* went to press, the elegant setting of the Westport Country Playhouse was about to be the scene of Camp's second annual birthday celebration of its founder on March 29, 2011. (Originally scheduled for January 26, the event was rescheduled because of inclement weather.) The purpose of the event was to celebrate the work of Camp and the values of its founder with a screening of *The Hustler* – just a taste of the exhilaration and good fun in store come next fall when, after a one-year hiatus, Camp's Gala returns to Ashford.

Last October, Camp joined forces with the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps to host "A Celebration of Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Camps" at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. Drawing once again from the strength of the Camp's celebrity friends and

Broadway talent, our 2011 Fandango Gala at the Camp in Ashford this coming September 17 will be sure to delight attendees and, more importantly, make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

For more information, including sponsorship and ticket reservations, please contact Jennifer Weeks, Director of Special Events, 203-772-0522 or jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org.



Save the Date
21st Fandango
Benefit Gala

Saturday September 17, 2011
 The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp
 Ashford, Connecticut

For more information, please
 call (203) 772-0522,
 ext. 19

Camp's Benefit Events

Polo for Children Benefit Luncheon

June 5, 2011

Now in its tenth year, Polo for Children takes place at the Greenwich Polo Club in Greenwich, Connecticut and features cocktails, a gourmet lunch, a silent and live auction hosted by a celebrity guest auctioneer, children's activities and a high-goal polo match.

"Fore a Very Good Cause" Golf Tournament

September 6, 2011

If you love the great game of golf, what could be better than playing to help seriously ill children? Our tournament in Fairfield, Connecticut chaired by Board Chair Ray Lamontagne and Board Member Dennis Poster, hosts more than 125 golfers at the exceptional Country Club of Fairfield. Included in the golf outing are breakfast, lunch and an evening cocktail reception, along with an exciting live auction featuring a celebrity guest auctioneer.

Fandango Gala

September 17, 2011

The annual Fandango Gala returns to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, Connecticut. The Gala tradition continues, with the day featuring afternoon cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, evening performance and post-performance dinner party with live music.

The Halloween Bash

October 2011

Join us for a family-friendly, private performance of the Big Apple Circus in New York City knowing that your ticket purchase supports seriously ill children at Camp. Also, thanks to your generosity, campers and their families enjoy the performance free of charge. Donors and sponsors are treated to a delightful reception.

And, consider supporting these events that also raise funds for our campers.

AngelRide

Norfolk to Mystic, CT • May 28-29, 2011

Join Connecticut's premier cross-Connecticut cycling event organized by Team Hole in the Wall, with all funds raised going to Camp's Hospital Outreach Program.

Travelers Championship PGA Tournament

Cromwell, CT • June 20-26, 2011

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is delighted to be a co-charity of this wonderful, weeklong golfing event hosted by the Travelers Championship and its lead sponsor Travelers.

Camp Challenge for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

Ashford, CT • September 10, 2011

If you love cycling, join the Camp Challenge Ride with its choice of three routes through some of the most beautiful countryside in Connecticut. Sponsored by Team Hole in the Wall with all proceeds going to Camp.

Not So Snooty Beer, Wine and Cheese Tasting Adventure

Windsor Locks, CT • November 18, 2011

Guests enjoy the best of Connecticut's locally produced wine, beer and cheese, all while supporting some of the most deserving kids on the planet at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Sponsored by Bradley Family Day.

Partnering with the Best



Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Andy F. Bessette (far left) and Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube (far right) are joined by Camp staff members and Camp spokesperson Mark Zatyrcza and his wife Sasha (third and fourth from left).

For those who love the great game of golf and are fortunate enough to be in Connecticut in June, the go-to event will be the Travelers Championship held from June 20 to 26, 2011 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. Camp is truly honored to be the focus of this exceptional golfing event, the only PGA TOUR event in Connecticut. Last year, Camp hosted an expanded presence in the Fan Zone with a mini-Camp façade and area where children attending the event with their parents could enjoy coloring activities and crafts. This year's event promises even more Camp spirit and surprises.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has been a charity co-beneficiary of the Travelers Championship since 2007. To date, this outstanding golfing event has raised more than \$1,175,000 in support of

our mission. Drawing major golf and sports outlets such as ESPN, CBS Sports and The Golf Channel, the Tournament helps to raise national awareness and engage more than 200,000 fans in learning more about Camp's mission and services to more than 15,000 seriously ill children each year.

"The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a magical place that has a significant impact on seriously-ill children in Connecticut and throughout the world," said Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube. "The tournament is proud not only to have The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp as a beneficiary, but also as a partner."

To find out more about the tournament and how it helps Camp, visit our website at holeinthewallgang.org.

And don't forget these additional great golf tournaments in 2011 that benefit Camp:

ILA Children's Fund 18th Annual Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Golf Outing
May 23 • Monroe Township, NJ

Christy's Golfing with The Gang
May • New Haven, CT

The Caron-Wood Charity Golf Classic
June 27 • Brewster, MA

KMC Music Charity Golf
June • Simsbury, CT

Lima Classic
June • Colchester, CT

Mark J. Chevrier Memorial Golf Tournament
June • TBA

Golf Fore the Kids
June 16, 2011 • Hebron, CT

Robert M. Barrett Memorial Fund
July • TBA

C&S Wholesale Grocers Annual Charity Golf Outing
August 2 & 3 • VT & MA

CL&P Tournament
August 19 • Portland, CT

CMGMA Golf Classic
August 12 • Farmington, CT

Ceramic Tile Contractors Association of CT Golf Tournament
September • TBA

Lisa Dedrick Golf Scramble
November • TBA

C&S Wholesale Grocers Demonstrates Devotion to Camp

Since 2005, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has been a grateful beneficiary of the annual C&S Wholesale Grocers Annual Charity Golf Outing. In 2010, this event was the company's most successful ever, with \$100,000 going to Camp, as well as generous gifts to four other prominent children's charities. All told, the C&S Golf Outing to date has raised more than \$500,000 in support of Hole in the Wall Gang Camp children and families.

C&S Wholesale Grocers of Keene, New Hampshire is the largest food wholesaler in the United States. The company distributes food to supermarkets, retail stores and military bases across the country. C&S Wholesale Grocers' Golf Outing engages customers, vendors and employees to raise funds and awareness for a select portfolio of nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life for kids and families.

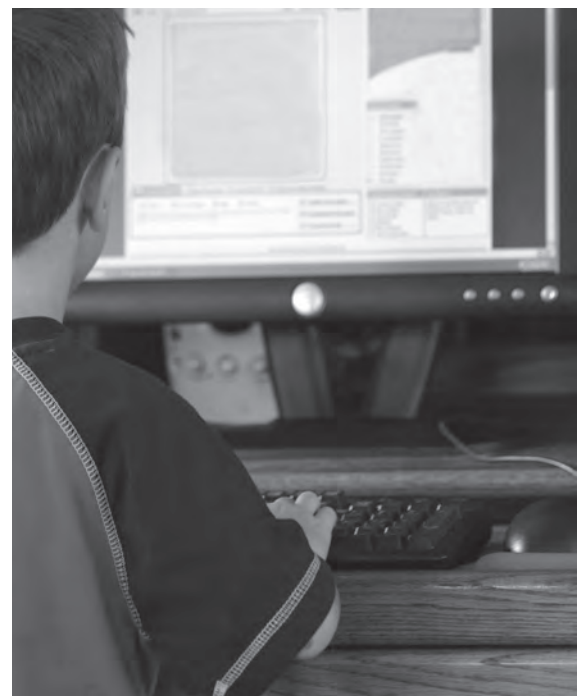
This past year, C&S went above and beyond by agreeing to assist the Camp with a host of specific work projects designed to modernize the Camp's technology infrastructure. Despite the Wild West feel and rustic flare, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp relies upon a wide range of computer and fiber optic technology to ensure strong communications and seamless round-the-clock medical care.

Led by C&S Chief Technology Officer Michael Schmitt, a tech-savvy team of C&S employees braved the December cold to conduct a camp-wide inspection of computers, wiring, servers, databases, power generators and phone lines. Thanks to their expert, pro-bono assessment, the Camp has identified ways to upgrade its technology infrastructure. C&S Wholesale Grocers is working to revitalize the staff computer lab, upgrade the aging PA system, and design a portable wireless database

system for the Camp's hard-working medical team.

"This project is a wonderful example of how a partnership between a company and a nonprofit can deepen beyond financial support. Giving back with our time and technology skills for the brave campers and compassionate staff at Camp is very important to us," said Gina Goff, the company's Director of Community Involvement.

"We are extremely grateful to C&S Wholesale Grocers, their leadership and staff for their generosity and creative employee-driven support," observes Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton.



C&S Wholesale Grocers generously assisted Camp with projects to update technology infrastructure to add to the joy and comfort of our campers.

Donor Name Policy

It is important that our donors and friends know that The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp never sells or shares its donor names and addresses with any other organization. This policy reflects our commitment as a charity to maintain the highest integrity in order to protect and insure privacy, while building a personal relationship with each donor.

Cross-Country for Camp

Think a metric century is tough? Last summer, high school senior Max Berger, along with a group of friends, biked from Tybee Island, Georgia to the Santa Monica Pier. "I'd always wanted to travel across the country," says Max. "Although, I never thought I'd do it on a bicycle! The pace of a bike doesn't let you miss a thing." Max took the plunge, knowing this would be one of the last summers he could just "be a kid" and enjoy a carefree experience, looking forward to college and "the real world" after high school.

Max and his fellow cyclists traveled 3,040 miles over six weeks, pedaling for a whopping 257 hours all told. What's more, this enterprising 17-year-old used his ride to raise more than \$20,000 for Camp! That is enough to send an entire cabin of kids to Camp – a cabinship. "I wanted to couple this adventure with Team Hole in the Wall," says Max, "because it was a way to personify my summer and to help kids much less fortunate than I. I never had to sacrifice elements of my childhood, but by dedicating my ride to the campers, I was able to help others find the importance of being a kid." Team Hole in the Wall helped make Max's fundraising efforts go smoothly, providing a website platform, as well as fundraising and training advice.

No matter if a cross-country bike trip isn't in your immediate future, you too can make a difference for a child with Team Hole in the Wall. Find out more at teamholeinthewall.org.



Above: Max Berger used his cross-country bike ride to raise more than \$20,000 for Camp.

Below: Camp staff volunteers and friends thank their supporters after completing the 200-mile Cape Relay to raise funds for Camp.



Camp at the Cape Relay

By Peter McBride

It may not take up a lot of airtime on ESPN, but many would argue that long-distance running is making the greatest comeback since Steve Prefontaine sparked the golden era of running in the 1970's. With the number of half-marathon and marathon finishers now at record highs, Team Hole in the Wall's fundraising totals are following right along. We expect that running events will make up more than half of the \$3 million Team raises for Hole in the Wall Camps in 2011. While much of this is derived from assembling teams at major marathons, a growing number of individuals are heading out on their own to make a difference through the Team Challenge program.

One such group, including staff members, former counselors, volunteers, and friends of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, made their debut at the 2010 Cape Relay, a 200-mile ultra marathon relay from Boston to Provincetown, MA. Fueled by nothing more than a healthy supply of Vitamin Water and Newman-Os (organic, of course), Team Ashford traversed the Cape in a mere 29 hours.

Like all Team events, the most important part happened before the runners even got underway. Four weeks prior to the race, they launched a Team Challenge website and invited friends and family to support their endeavor by making a donation to Camp. By race day, the team soared past its campership goal and raised more than \$4,000 for the Camp!

"Beyond my early cattle ranching days and some casual rugby, I really didn't do much in the way of fitness training," says Mike Hund, relay team member and Development Associate, Major Gifts and Annual Giving in the Camp's Development Office. "So 18 miles in a 29-hour period was a lot to take in, but dedicating the race to the campers made every bit of the challenge worth the effort."

The team will return to deliver another healthy dose of Camp to the Cape Relay on May 1, 2011. The most important work, however, raising another campership will be complete before they arrive at the starting line. Want to follow their example? Make your next athletic event count for Camp at teamholeinthewall.org.

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP, located in Ashford, Connecticut, was founded by Paul Newman in 1988. It is a non-profit, residential summer camp and year-round center designed to serve children and families coping with cancer and other serious illnesses and conditions. Each summer more than 1,000 children between the ages of seven and fifteen from across the country and abroad attend Camp. Through our Camp programs, year-round outreach to seriously ill youngsters in hospitals and clinics, and ongoing services for children, families and caregivers, the Camp serves more than 15,000 children annually. All of our services are provided free of charge.

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Take a deep breath and enjoy the stillness of Pearson Pond.

Children, I was once in your shoes
 I said, I was down and out with the blues
 I felt no one cared if I was happy
 I felt the whole world was against me
 That's when someone came up to me,
 And said, children, take a walk up the street.
 There's a place there called the hole-in-the-wall
 They can start you back on your way.
 It's fun to stay at the Hole-in-the-Wall!
 It's fun to stay at the Hole-in-the-Wall!
 (from "Hole in the Wall" by former camper Larry
 Therault, sung to the tune of YMCA)

a Hole in the Wall Camp™



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