

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



Just one more super summer memory to last a lifetime.

Getting Ready for Camp

What's the best thing about summer? Camp, of course. Just what goes into making it that way? Is it the great counselors, the terrific programs, the seamless medical care? All that, and more.

The prep starts at the end of August, almost from the time when the last camper heads for home. From that moment until the following June," says Matthew Cook, Camp Director, "our review and analysis of the previous summer program is a big part of getting ready for next year. We analyze all of our programs to determine best practices. We scrutinize a wide range of systems from admissions to medical procedures to facility needs."

For Grahame Marpole, Assistant Director of Programs, self-care is a critical component of getting ready for Camp. "I think it is paramount for new staff in particular to spend any free time they have before Camp doing things that energize them. Our work is intensive and it is important for staff to look ahead and think about ways they can take care of themselves over the summer."

Meanwhile, the medical team is busy preparing as well. In the infirmary, Medical Director Dr. Sharon Space and Director of Nursing Karen Molloy review medical supply needs, place orders, and hire summer staff nurses and medical volunteers. "We are also busy working with camper applications and with the Camp staff to ensure safe programming for the summer," explains Dr. Space.

Area corporations play a critical role by sending teams of employees to Camp Work Days. Debbie Bulger, Assistant to the Facilities Manager, puts the jobs and the people together. "We host more than thirty work days," she observes. "Work day volunteers perform a valuable service. They help clear trails so wheelchairs can make it to the boathouse easily. They rake leaves, paint walls, fix fences and help maintain the grounds."

Keeping Camp looking its best is more than just a nice thing to do; it helps build the comfort level of first-time parents and campers, and

leaves families feeling uplifted. Work Days are a win-win for everyone. Companies get a great team-building activity. Camp gets plenty of help, and campers get a spectacular space for making memories to last a lifetime.

Volunteers are critical to our operations," observes Sarah Eio Smithson, Director of Volunteers. She is in charge of reviewing applications, interviewing prospective volunteers and placing everyone in sessions. Last year, more than 1,000 individuals volunteered for Camp. "Our volunteers are a diverse group," she observes, "ranging in age from 19 to 76. They come from all walks of life and from all across the country. That's great, because where one child may respond best to a "big brother – big sister" approach, another may need the touch of a grandmotherly hand."

Grown-ups are not the only ones preparing for Camp. Many of our campers prepare just as carefully,

packing a year's worth of ambitions into their one special week. Consider Camper Danny who arrives at his session with a backpack full of blueprints. Woodshop was Danny's favorite activity his first year at Camp. The next year, he brought a detailed set of plans for the car he had dreamed of making all year long. "I wanted a fast and aerodynamic car for the Woodshop 500!" explains Danny. With a little help, his dream car became a reality.

Making sure it's a standout summer is all about preparation – from staff, volunteers, donors and campers alike.

From the Executive Director



Spring is a time of renewal. For us at Camp, it is a time rich with hope as we prepare for the arrival of more than 1,000 eager youngsters. Whether we are interviewing volunteers, recruiting new counselors on university campuses, or painting fence posts, our campers remain foremost in our minds. We are well aware that many of them are pursuing their own preparations – seeing themselves flying down the zip line, imagining catching the fabled Wee-Pee or planning a talent to share with the Camp community on Stage Night. Each year, I am humbled and amazed as I watch our campers pack a year's worth of dreams into their one special week at Camp. Creating a space in which our campers can feel safe, respected and loved, where the limitations imposed by serious illness take a back seat to laughter and accomplishment, is more than just the business of Camp. It is our joy and privilege.

All “Fore” Camp

What's better than a great day of golf? Try a great day of golf that raises money for our campers to give them a great Camp experience. Last year, the players and sponsors of golf tournaments to benefit Camp helped raise more than \$400,000. In all, nearly 1,000 golfers participated in support of the seriously ill children who attend The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Golfers can play and help campers thanks to a growing number of events. They include the Country Club of Fairfield's “Fore a Very Good Cause” Golf Tournament (presented by Camp itself each September), the International Longshoremen's Association's Charity Golf Tournament, the Shaner Hotel Group's Annual Charity Golf Tournament, and Connecticut Light & Power Charity Golf Benefit now in its 15th year – to name a few such events that help us serve children and families coping with cancer and other serious illnesses.

Fifteen years ago, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and John Bowers, ILA President, pledged to donate \$500,000 to Camp over a five-year period. Today, the ILA continues to donate in support of our campers with its total contributions more than four times its original pledge. “The International Longshoremen's Association is proud to have raised over \$2.1 million for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp since 1992,” says ILA president John Bowers. “Though we reached our original pledge of \$500,000 through our annual golf tournament and other fund raising activities in a few years, we felt



At the country Club of Fairfield, Andy Hirshberg (left to right) enjoys a round with Steve Kranz, Steve Nassbaum and Kevin Shultz during the Fore a Very Good Cause Golf Tournament to benefit our campers.

compelled to continue to raise funds for this most worthy charity. Our entire union was touched deeply by the Camp and that our contributions allowed even more children to attend. It is our hope that the ILA can continue its annual Hole in the Wall Gang Golf Tournament to raise additional funds and keep the magic alive in Ashford, Connecticut.”

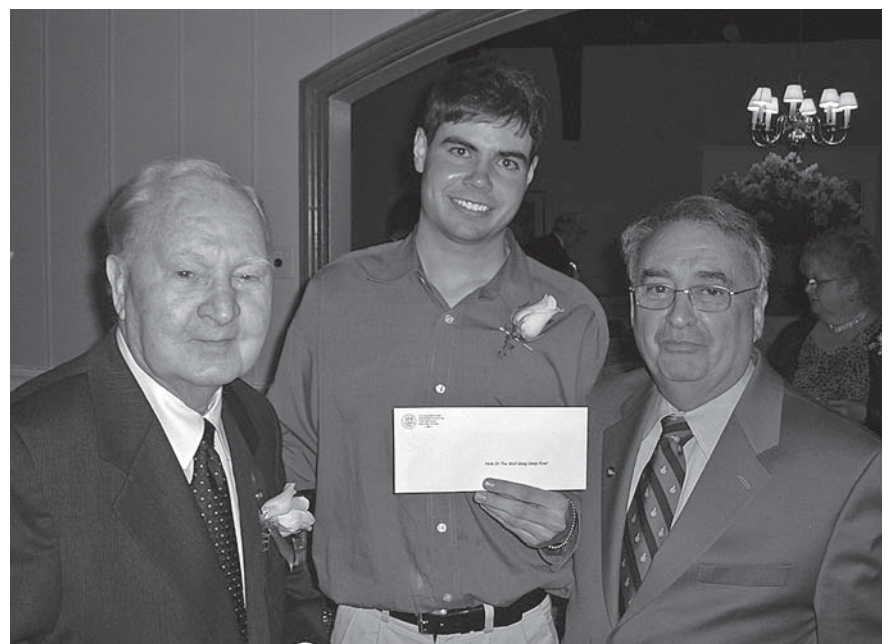
The Shaner family has been an exceptionally dedicated supporter of Camp for more than a decade. “All of us at the Shaner Corporation are honored to have been involved over many years with fund raising for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp through our golf tournament. We have tremendous participation at our tournament and everyone enjoys participating even more knowing that the funds are going to the Camp,” observes Lance T. Shaner, Chairman and CEO of Shaner Corporation.

The Connecticut Light & Power Charity Golf Benefit has raised funds for Camp for the past fifteen years. We are privileged to be associated with this outstanding, long-running event held this year on June 20th. The Travelers Championship (formerly the Greater Hartford Open) has designated The Hole in

the Wall Gang Camp as its “charity of choice” along with the Hartford Jaycees, ushering in our first PGA-sanctioned event to benefit the Camp.

Camp is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated friends and golfers playing to raise money to help seriously ill children. Hitting the links and helping kids. It just doesn't get any better than that!

To learn more about organizing your own tournament, or to get more involved, please contact Michael Smiles, Director of Development at jms@holeinthewallgangcamp.org or call (203) 772-0522.



ILA President John Bowers (left) and Vice President Bobby Gleason (right) present a check to former camper and counselor John McNeil.

Silly Olympics: Meditations on a New Recipe for FUN

By Ray Shedd

On my way to dinner, I didn't think much about the massive tarps being placed on the grounds near Cabin Circle. The pickup truck filled with gallons of chocolate syrup, honey, vats of pudding, cans of various, colored liquids, and sacks of flour didn't spur any concerns either. At Camp, such crazy sights are as common as dino-nugget pizza. Maybe they were fertilizing the grass? Who knows? Our unit had just gotten back from an afternoon crammed with activities, and we were HUNGRY. Off to the dining hall we went.

While at dinner, I dribbled some watermelon juice on my favorite t-shirt. I was mildly upset at the idea that I had ruined a cool shirt. Perhaps it would wash out.

Toward the end of dinner, Sarah Mo announced that the evening's big event was the summer's first Silly Olympics! The dining hall erupted with excitement and cheers. I had always enjoyed watching the Olympics, the pinnacle of athletic competition! Silly Olympics? That must mean silly relay race games

and other fun challenge events! Maybe I'd get the chance to redeem my bruised athleticism after getting destroyed by campers in basketball and table hockey earlier that day.

An air horn blast signaled the start of the mayhem as 120 campers raced to various stations around Cabin Circle. At each station, counselors and volunteers were instructed to arrange themselves on the tarps. As I sat down, a camper kindly handed me a pair of swimming goggles from the pool. At that moment, the reality of the situation was made clear. The faint stain on my favorite t-shirt quickly became the least of my concerns. The line of campers standing above me armed with fistfuls of pudding, pancake syrup, and cheese-puffs were

committed to the task at hand. Victory at these Olympic games meant dousing your counselor in as much colorful, gooey, and sticky material as possible.

In mere seconds, I was covered top to toe with chocolate pudding. Barrages of cheese-puffs and cold spaghetti followed shortly thereafter. The madness ended as quickly as it began with another air horn blast. As I peeled myself off the tarp, I could see dozens of delighted faces

through my pudding-gunked goggles. But the campers' laughter was nothing compared to that of the counselors. Experiencing the joyful abandon of our campers as they broke all barriers by pelting us with goo was the most exhilarating fun of all.

As for next year's Silly O? Count me in. The smiles and laughter make it all worthwhile!



Session Seven counselors and volunteers enjoy the messy fun of Silly Olympics 2006.

A Company with Plenty of Heart

A few minutes before the doors opened in the recreation center, you could just feel the excitement. The room was transformed, thanks to countless hours of preparation and the help of many volunteers. The giant tree sparkled with lights and decorations. Holiday craft stations were piled high with markers, construction paper, yarn, glitter and glue. Santa's gift house was filled with toys waiting to be distributed to eager campers and their sibs. The Holiday Bazaar was packed with items for youngsters to choose and take home as gifts to give family members during the upcoming holiday season. Camp's annual holiday party was about to begin.

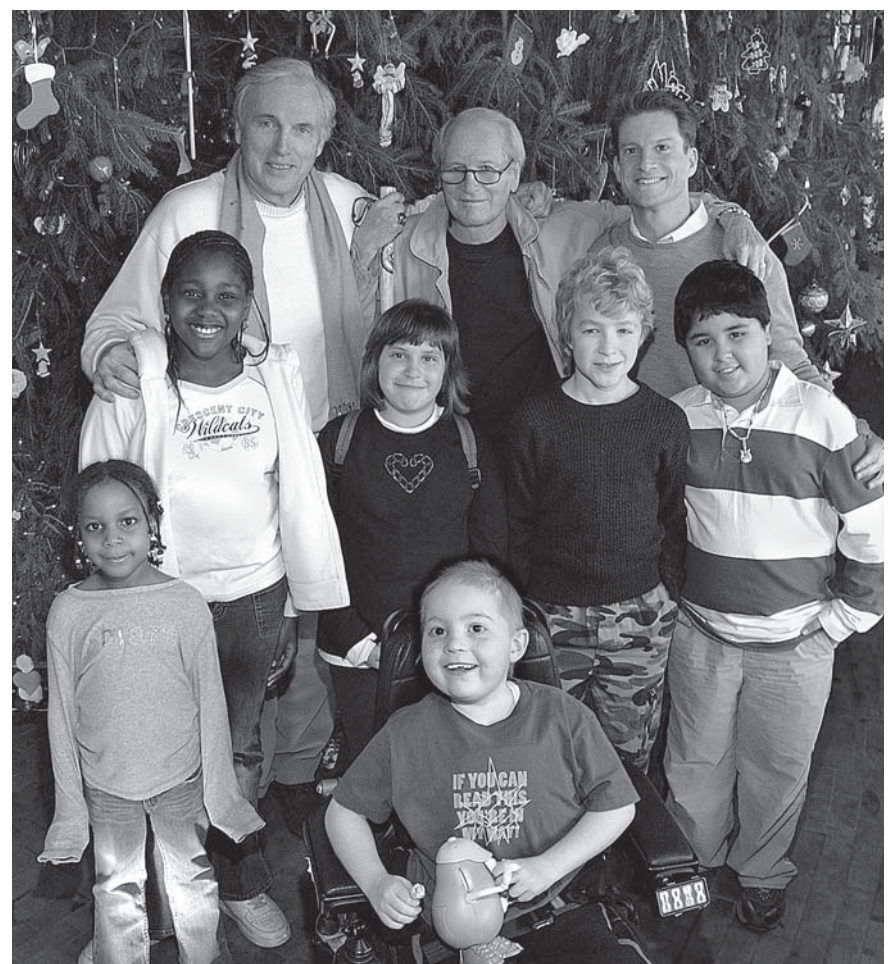
This year, Hasbro, Inc. employees joined the celebration. In addition to a host of fun activities and a delicious holiday meal, the day featured recognition for the Hasbro Children's Fund for its support of all of the Hole in the Wall Camps. It was a fun-filled day for all involved, including children and their families, Hole in

the Wall and Hasbro staff, as well as Hole in the Wall Camps Founder Paul Newman, and Hasbro's Chief Operating Officer, Brian Goldner.

This past holiday season brought with it many reasons for Hasbro and the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps to celebrate their important partnership. The end of 2006 marked the first year of a three-year grant of \$675,000 from the Hasbro Children's Fund for the benefit of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and its sister camps in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to a generous grant to the camps, a portion of the funds also helped underwrite seven one-week sessions the previous summer serving more than 1,000 Louisiana children affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And, Hasbro generously donated more than 5,500 toys to the camps, including more than 600 toys distributed to children at the holiday party in Ashford.

Hasbro Chairman and Hole in the Wall Foundation Trustee Alan Hassenfeld has been quoted as saying that Hasbro focuses its philanthropy on children "because that's what our work is." No one who saw the light

in our campers' eyes as they enjoyed Camp's holiday party could doubt the benefits of that child-centered focus. Hats off to Hasbro!



Ray Lamontagne (back row, left to right), Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Board Chair; Paul Newman, Camp Founder; and Brian Goldner, Chief Operating Officer of Hasbro, Inc. enjoy a holiday moment with our campers. Photo by Constance Brown.



New Staff Members Join the Gang

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is pleased to announce the arrival of several additions to our staff.



Hospital Outreach Specialist Jared Carroll veteran Camp staff member, joins Camp's Hospital Outreach Program in Boston.



Tiffany Talley (pictured right with Executive Director Jimmy Canton) rejoins The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp as Senior Development Officer.

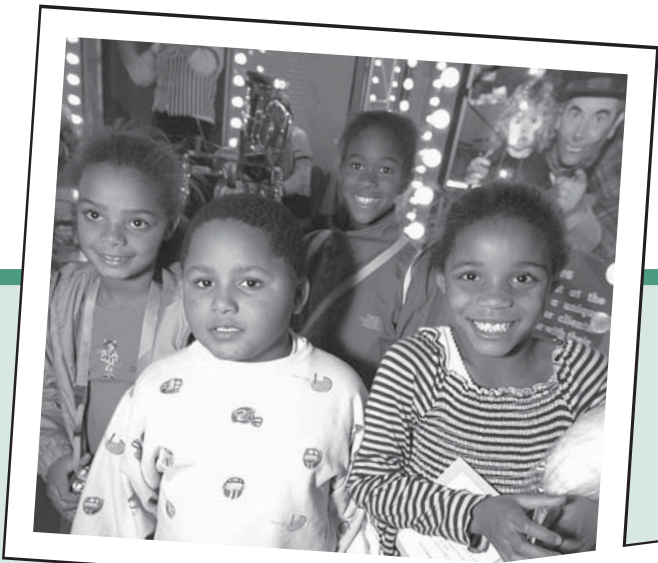


Former Unit Leader Ray Shedd joins the Development Office in New Haven in the newly created position of Development Assistant.

Jared Carroll joined the Hospital Outreach Team in Boston and Worcester this past fall, after receiving his BA in History from Boston College the previous spring. Beginning in 2000, he spent his summers as a camp counselor, joining The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's summer program in 2004 as a member of the program staff in the horse barn. Working with seriously ill children proved to be a seminal experience for Jared, influencing his decision to follow a career in pediatric palliative care. Jared subsequently served at Camp as a cabin counselor, and most recently as a unit leader during the summer of 2006. He is thrilled to be serving the Camp population and other children full time at the Boston Medical Center, The Floating Hospital for Children, Children's Hospital Boston, The Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and UMass Memorial Hospital.

Tiffany Talley's Camp journey began in 1989, when she and her mother, artist-in-residence and Camp Momma Sherry Talley, flew from Texas to volunteer in the kitchen, only to experience a magical summer that changed their lives forever. Just a few years before, Tiffany's younger brother had died unexpectedly, and it was this life-changing event that set her on a journey to work with children and families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. Tiffany witnessed first-hand the healing aspect of Camp, the importance of bringing children together who are experiencing similar medical issues and the life long friendships that are created at Camp. She returned in subsequent summers as a cabin counselor, unit leader, Upward Bound co-director and volunteer. In 1997, she moved from Texas and her work as a Child Life Specialist, to join Camp full-time as Associate Director of Development. Five years later, Tiffany moved to Los Angeles to pursue a graduate degree in theology and work with foster children and families. She is thrilled to return "home" once again to the New Haven office as Senior Development Officer.

Ray Shedd first set foot onto Camp as a fourteen-year-old kid looking for a summer job mowing lawns. In what he regards as a series of adventures, Ray has since served as a program staff member, cabin counselor, adventure staffer, and unit leader. In December of 2006, Ray began work as the new Development Assistant in the New Haven office. In his latest role, Ray shares his knowledge of Camp as a member of the Development Team, helping with external events, outreach, grant writing, and general office tasks. Ray remains deeply moved by the mission of Camp. "Serving Camp in a variety of roles has been an incredible journey," he observes. "The strength of the campers and the vigor of the staff inspire me to no end." Ray holds degrees in History and Sociology from the University of Connecticut.



Save Those Dates

Special events are wonderful social opportunities for our Camp friends to connect with the magic and mission of Camp. Donors and friends of Camp routinely enjoy the Big Apple Circus events in Boston and New York City with their incredible clowns and acrobats; the exceptional Polo for Children; the Country Club of Fairfield's "Fore A Very Good Cause" Golf Tournament; and our Gala event at Camp, with gourmet picnic, auctions and celebrity performance. Such special events allow each of us to celebrate the impact Camp has made in the lives of thousands of children and families for nearly 20 years.

These five annual gatherings are part of Camp's longstanding tradition, offering a little something for everyone to enjoy. They also raise necessary annual funds to support our year-round programs and outreach services. As a guest, you enjoy a delightful event with fabulous food and entertainment, but the biggest gift of all goes to the campers and families who benefit from your generosity. It is only through the generosity of our donors that we are able to bring love, hope, and joy to more than 5,000 campers and their families each year completely free of charge.

We hope you will continue to join us for these special gatherings.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Upcoming Events

Big Top Bash (Boston)	April 7, 2007
Polo for Children (Greenwich)	June 3, 2007
FORE a Very Good Cause Golf Tournament (Fairfield)	September 4, 2007
17th Annual Benefit Gala (Ashford)	September 15, 2007
Big Apple Circus Halloween Bash (New York City)	October 28, 2007

Team Hole in the Wall Moving Forward

There's nothing better than running a marathon . . . unless it's running a marathon that helps campers. Picture this: You're almost to the finish line. Thousands of fans line the route. Wild cheering fills the air. "As I was approaching the finish line of the ING New York City Marathon, the excitement of achieving my fundraising and training goals grew with every step," recalls Team Hole in the Wall member Brian Lee. "A feeling of absolute joy engulfed me in that millisecond when the success I had worked so hard to achieve was realized."

Team Hole in the Wall has a host of exciting events planned for 2007, beginning with a new marathon race series called World Marathon Majors. We are fortunate to have AngelRide scheduled yet again for Memorial Day weekend. The Covered Bridges Half Marathon is another new event for the Team that will take place in Vermont. And, rounding out our Team events calendar is the ING New York City Marathon in November.

As an official charity partner of the World Marathon Majors, consisting of the Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York City marathons, Team Hole in the Wall is guaranteed spots in each of the five races. "We are excited by the opportunity to expand our Team Hole in the Wall program into these great cities and races," observes Ken Alberti, Special Gifts Coordinator.

AngelRide, the only charity bike ride across Connecticut, will once again support Camp and its Hospital Outreach Program that brings the joy of Camp right to the bedsides of seriously ill children in hospitals throughout the northeast. The two-day, 130-mile ride will start on Saturday, May 26th in Norfolk, Connecticut, with an overnight stay at the Camp in Ashford. The culmination of the ride will take place on Sunday, May 27th in Mystic. For additional information, please visit angelcharitabletrust.org/ride.

Taking place in June is an event new to Team Hole in the Wall: the 16th Annual Covered Bridges Half Marathon in Pomfret, Vermont. Vermont's premier half marathon is a scenic run featuring four covered bridges.



And, on November 4th, our Team will once again participate in the ING New York City Marathon – our fourth consecutive year! As one of the official charities of the largest marathon in the world, we hope to attract a team of more than 100 dedicated runners. During the months and weeks leading up to the race, Team members receive such benefits as training information, fundraising advice, team apparel and marathon weekend perks.

In 2006, the Team of nearly one hundred runners, as well as our generous sponsors, raised more than \$465,000 for Camp. Eighty-seven runners completed the race, more than tripling the total from the previous year. Once again, we are grateful to Team Captain Mike Havard, who was instrumental in the overall success of the Team.

Whether you are preparing for your first marathon/cycling event or working towards your tenth, if you are interested in volunteering to help at a Team Hole in the Wall event, we would love to have you join us. Come be part of the Team and help



Pictured left: Team Captain Mike Havard (left to right) with Mike Pengue from Nestlé Waters, and his wife and Team Hole in the Wall member Jill Pengue cut the cake at the post-race party at ABC Studios.



Pictured above, center: NYC Marathon Team at the pre-race gathering at The Williams Club.

Pictured above, bottom: Team members (left to right) at the post-race party at ABC Studios: Chris Catapane, Tim Farrell, Jeanne Potter, Mario Bonsignore, Doug Sklar, Camp Friend Sabine Poisson (who made and donated the delicious cake), June Strunk, Kim Ellefson and Team Captain Mike Havard.

us send more children to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp where they too can realize their dreams and make memories to last a lifetime. Please visit teamholeinthewall.org for more information, or contact Ken Alberti at 203-772-0522. Not ready to run a marathon? Take the Camp Challenge. Create your own web page to broaden our base of support for Team Hole in the Wall. Learn more about it by visiting the web site.

Team Hole in the Wall launches new web site

TEAM
Hole in the Wall

www.teamholeinthewall.org

Learn about our events and how to join our team

AngelRide • New York City Marathon • Covered Bridges Half Marathon • World Marathon Majors



Vinnie and Pattie Basile bring kindness, experience and a healing perspective to their dedicated volunteerism for Camp.

Giving Back to Camp

If tomorrow you were to volunteer at a Camp event, chances are you would run into the warm smiles and infectious energy of two of Camp's most dedicated parent volunteers. It is a joy to share with our readers the Camp journey of Vinnie and Pattie Basile.

The Basiles first discovered Camp in 1999 as a result of their son's fight with cancer. Vinnie Junior attended Camp as a camper in the summer of 2000 at the age of 14. This event marked his parents' first separation from him since his diagnosis in 1997. As the parents of a first-time camper, Vinnie and Pattie understandably had some fears and concerns. The couple admits to being the last to leave on Arrival Day. Following a tour led by Karen Allen, however, the Basiles were struck by the caring and compassion of strangers who would soon become the closest of family friends. According to Pattie, "we got the bug right away!"

Vinnie Junior's session at Camp was transformational. Camp restored his enthusiasm and optimism following three years of aggressive treatments and surgeries. For Vinnie and Pattie, seeing what Camp did for their son galvanized their continued involvement. "The positive energy solidified it. We knew then that it was something to stay a part of." Vinnie and Pattie began their illustrious volunteer career only two months later when they served at several family weekend events. There, they did everything from serving food to sharing their own experiences with fellow Camp families. Later that fall, daughters Gabby and Jill accompanied their parents to several off-season events as volunteer counselors and babysitters. In 2003, both Vinnie Junior and younger sister Jillian attended Camp together as

Leaders-in-Training (LITs), furthering their family-wide involvement. Today, Vinnie Junior, Jill, and Gabby all work and attend school in Boston.

With a Camp resume larger than Wee-Pee, Vinnie and Pattie have volunteered in many capacities. They have served as volunteer counselors, hosted COPE weekends, decorated thirty-foot holiday trees, hammered nails for Camp-cleanup projects, encouraged AngelRide cyclists, and facilitated numerous parent receptions, to name a few. As for their everywhere-at-once volunteerism, Vinnie comments, "We spread ourselves around. We try to touch every part of Camp that we can." Vinnie and Pattie have seen several "generations" of staff and campers pass through the gates and the duo lend an empowering parent perspective to the young staff and volunteers.

As camper parents, Vinnie and Pattie are grateful for what Camp has brought to their family. "Camp provides ways of healing and dealing with illness by opening up," says Pattie. "As your family continues to fight, Camp allows you to share your fears with people who know. Sometimes you're the givers of support, sometimes you're the recipients." To this day, the Basile family remains an integral part of this exchange of love and support. Through their relentless energy, infectious enthusiasm, and willingness to share their world with others, Vinnie and Pattie Basile continue their amazing involvement as valued members of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Vinnie sums it all up by saying, "Ultimately, we are there to share and relate – to maintain the circle of trust and compassion that sustains this amazing place."

WANTED: Legacy Society Founding Members

"I hope that on judgment day I'm standing behind Newman, because I know he's being waved right in. This is truly Paul Newman's legacy – making a difference in thousands of children's (and their families') lives and I am proud to be a part of it, as it makes us all better people."

- John Fabian
2006 "Most Wanted" Awardee

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our estate-giving donors! In 2006, Camp received generous gifts totaling \$1,526,639 from five estates. In addition, more than 100 individuals have made commitments to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp through future bequests or trusts.

Is The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in your will? We'd like to know. We plan to publish a list of Founding Members of our new Legacy Society in an upcoming Camp publication later this year. Become a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Legacy Society founding member. If you have made a

commitment in your estate to The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, Inc., please inform us and let us know if we may include your name as a founding member of the new Legacy Society.

The Legacy Society will recognize, honor and thank forward-thinking individuals who have made a commitment in their estate plans to Camp – helping to influence others to do the same. To be included in the new Legacy Society, or for more information about planning an estate gift to our special Camp, please contact Linda Rapp, (203) 772-0522 or email Lsr@holeinthewallgang.org.





Camp's 20th Anniversary

Here comes 2008. Be sure to watch your mail and upcoming Gazettes for news of all the exciting ways in which we will celebrate this important milestone for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Special reunions and gatherings are in the planning stages. We'll keep you posted as the celebratory events unfold.

Another Way to Help Camp

Throughout the year, we hold fundraising events at which we have both silent and live auctions. We rely on generous donations from companies and individuals to supply those items. Restaurant gift certificates, handmade items, celebrity-autographed memorabilia, use of homes in popular vacation spots, spa baskets and sports equipment are just a few of the many wonderful things we have had donated. One family even donated a "money tree" – a small tree with all kinds of scratch tickets and lottery tickets attached. If you are interested in donating an item or want more information, please contact Karin Jacobs at (203) 772-0522 or kej@holeinthewallgang.org.

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP, located in Ashford, Connecticut, was founded by Paul Newman in 1988. It is a nonprofit 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 free of charge. The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp offers programs in the off-season for campers, their families, and healthcare professionals. Year-round hospital visits are made to thousands of children through our Hospital Outreach Program. In addition, the Camp provides support to associated camps throughout the world. It is through the generosity of many friends that the programs of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp are made possible.

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Spring 2007



Enjoying the peaceful waters of Pearson Pond.

Alana L. Clements, APRN
 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
 Yale University School of Medicine

"I just wanted to touch base with you to tell you what a pleasure it has been recruiting kids for Camp. Two mothers I spoke to today started crying as soon as I told them why I was calling. They both knew about Camp from other contexts and thought their kids would never be able to have any kind of Camp experience because of [the seriousness of] their disease."

Why We Do What We Do



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