

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



Summer 2009 at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp saw the largest number ever of former campers serving as counselors.

That Special Something

By Kevin Rice

There was something special about Camp this past summer. Camp is always beautiful, inspiring and, to most of us, a piece of heaven on earth. This summer, though, there was something especially remarkable. Yes, there were still campers fishing with anticipation in hopes of catching Wee Pee. Holidays were still celebrated on any given day. And, of course, connections and magic moments were countless.



Kevin Rice is Hospital Outreach Program Supervisor/Specialist and Artist in Residence for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program in Boston, Massachusetts.

Old traditions were back – and so were twenty familiar faces! For those of us who have been part of Camp for a decade or more, a joyful surprise awaited us. Twenty former campers came back to Camp as counselors. There they were – the kids that you had listened to in Cabin Chat, that you painted faces with, danced with in the dining hall and perhaps spent a night or two with in the infirmary. How incredible, and yet, how perfectly normal. The campers that you loved on – that changed your life – were right there changing the lives of new campers. We took great delight in having the largest number of former campers ever serving as summer counselors.

Jillian Basile led the pack as our first former camper Entertainment Director. Her Assistant and Theater Specialist, Sarah Cooperine was also a former camper. It seems like just yesterday Jilly and Coop were in the “big kid” unit getting ready for Stage Night and now, there they were running the show. Sarah was excited to come back to Camp, this being her fourth summer on staff. “Camp helps us realize that we all have our own individual challenges. At Camp, we can learn to deal with

some of those challenges in a safe, loving environment. I felt honored to help create that environment,” observes Sarah.

Jill put it this way. “I consider myself blessed to have Camp in my life, which has guided me and given me the confidence to be the person I want to be. I will continue to give back to Hole in the Wall for as long as I can, in one capacity or another, for the gift Camp gave to me during the hardest years of my life,” says Jill. Following her summer stint as Entertainment Director, this past summer, Jill joined Camp’s full-time staff as Assistant Program Coordinator. She continues building on her history at Camp by helping to organize family weekends and all aspects of program development leading in to next summer.

A camper from 1996 to 2004, this was Kyle Smith’s second summer as a counselor. What did he like best about being part of the summer staff? “–I liked knowing that I could be impacting a camper’s life the way some of my counselors impacted my own life,” he explains. Kyle, a junior at Temple University, is looking forward to continuing his work at Camp. “It’s funny, how you can be hanging out with a camper and have

this flashback of an event or moment you had when you were a camper. Not only is it a great memory, it hopefully gives me ideas to help these campers have some of the positive experiences I had.” Kyle remembers a couple of times when he was sick in the infirmary, falling in and out of sleep. “I don’t remember feeling that sick, but I do remember that each time I woke up, I would have one of my counselors there beside me,” he recalls. “I felt safe and at ease, and was back out playing with the other kids in no time.”

When Paul Newman created this astonishing place for kids to “raise a little hell,” did he also know it was a place where generations of campers would grow up to become leaders – both at Camp and in their own communities? We like to think so. Today, many of our campers have gone on to become doctors, nurses and caregivers. This beloved place, that provides a week of respite from serious illness, has created a ripple effect of love and leadership extending far beyond the Camp gates in Ashford.



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

How often our greatest challenges reveal who we really are, what we are truly made of. Despite an extremely difficult year, our programs are as strong as ever. In 2009, more than 15,000 seriously ill children and their families will be touched by Camp – either through our signature summer camp program, one of our 20 weekend family retreats and camper reunions or through our year-round Hospital Outreach Program, which today places twelve of the most talented young people we can find to bring Camp to a child's bedside in sixteen children's hospitals from Boston to New York City.

In a time that has proved economically challenging to many, Camp experienced profound loss with the passing of our beloved founder a little more than a year ago and two other Camp giants – Bob Glass, our Gala's auctioneer for the past 20 years and previous Camp Director; and Leo Nevas, founding board member and Camp's legal counsel.

In the days and weeks following news that Paul had died, there was a palpable air of gratitude that hovered around Camp. How lucky have we been to know him – to laugh with him and at him, to be awed by his creativity and unpredictability, to be forever altered by his friendship and the faith he placed in us.

This remarkable man has handed us the torch. For years he gladly served as the needle to Camp's compass. He built an organization that doesn't simply make a difference by touching and healing seriously ill children. He built an organization that stands unwavering for the values of acceptance, selflessness, love, and the healing that follows close behind. He created a culture here that puts the needs of others first and celebrates the beauty of life – in all its fragility.

No one epitomized the values of that culture of putting others first more than our friend Bob Glass. Bob dedicated a tremendous amount of effort over the last 20 years to making Camp a better place – in that time he wore the hats of Camp Director, Volunteer Cabin Counselor, auctioneer and fundraiser. At a time when Camp was very young and needed structure and tradition, Bob was there to offer both. He took a program in its infancy and gave it confidence and direction. We have been nurturing those original seeds for many years and the success of Camp testifies to his mastery.

This past year was made all the more challenging by the added loss of Leo Nevas, the man Paul Newman once described as “the oar and the anchor of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.” A founding board member and Camp's legal



Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton has served Camp as a staff member since it began in 1988. He served as the Camp's Director for eight years and has been its Chief Executive Officer since 2002.

counsel, Leo guided the Camp's legal affairs, helping to preserve its honor and ensure its safety. His wisdom and vigilant oversight contributed immeasurably to making Camp a place of great healing and distinction.

Despite these painful losses, I am prouder than ever to be associated with this organization precisely because of what made this year so demanding. I recall a story of our founder that captures the irrepressible joy and gratitude encircling Camp. Paul was up at Camp, distracted by something that

was making his heart heavy. A little girl camper walked up to him, greeting him with the most precious smile and sincerest question, “Are you OK?” And with that, Paul melted in front of her, his troubles receding to their proper place. “I'm fine now,” he answered. That's the beauty and magic of Camp – reminders in every moment of how good life is right now and how fortunate we are to be here to experience it.

The torch is in our hands – I am honored to be carrying it along with you.

Flashes of Hope Comes to Camp

It's about looking and feeling your best, savoring the moment with family and close friends who understand. When Flashes of Hope photographers join the fun, you know that good things are bound to happen. Flashes of Hope is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating uplifting portraits of children fighting cancer and other serious illnesses. This past year, a number of award-winning Flashes of Hope photographers have been part of family weekends and other events at Camp. Their portraits provide a loving memento of the camper's experience.

Flashes of Hope photographers created images of camper families at Family Weekend, held on Mother's Day last spring. Karen Allen observes, “Years ago, I decided to begin

hosting Family Weekend on Mother's Day. It can be particularly helpful for the moms to spend Mother's Day with other mothers who understand what they are going through – the mixed emotions of pain at their child's illness and joy at being in this special place of deep healing and love. Flashes of Hope added to the experience by taking photographs of families by request. They were very sensitive and wonderful to work with.”

Many of our camper families would find it an expensive proposition to have a professional family photo taken. Flashes of Hope provides all photos to the family in portrait form and on disk so they can produce more copies whenever they like. And of course, all without charge.

“I talk a lot about how important it is to give from a well that is full as opposed to trying to give from a well that is empty,” says Karen. “Family weekends at Camp are a time for mothers and other caregivers to fill their well and give from a place of fullness and

abundance, instead of having to dig deep for their resources. Flashes of Hope gives them a visual reminder that can help bring their time at Camp right back to them.” Learn more about Flashes of Hope at flashesofhope.org.



Caryn B. Davis, Courtesy of Flashes of Hope

The Folly Farm Classic

by Peter McBride



With support from Folly Farm Stables, Hole in the Wall campers enjoy an outstanding summer camp experience that includes horseback riding as one of many exciting program activities.

Upon arrival at Camp, many of our campers have their faces glued to the windows as their car or bus rolls past the grazing horses just beyond the Camp's entrance. Crazy for all things Camp, the kids love the horses. And not just in the way you love a good read, or a well-made S'more... more like a chocoholic's love for a generous helping of Ghirardelli's finest after abstaining from all things cocoa for twelve months. A natural fit for Camp's western theme, the riding program has been a staple at Camp since the beginning, and for twenty years, children have been smiling ear to ear as they ride along the dirt roads and wooded trails. For children with serious illnesses, especially those that have mobility issues, Camp is often the only place where riding is an option, and the kids carry those memories for years to come.

The affinity for riding horses is probably best appreciated by those who engage in the sport. Our friends at Folly Farm Stables have a true passion for riding and fully understand how it can help children break through the limits placed upon them. Folly Farm Stables is a public riding school and equestrian facility located in Simsbury, Connecticut. This National Historic Registry farm helps riders of all ages and abilities develop their riding skills. Folly Farm riders have successfully competed in horse shows at the local, state and national levels. On top of it all, Folly Farm provides unwavering support for Camp through The Folly Farm Classic, a regional benefit horse show now in its seventeenth year in which riders from all over New England compete in a variety of class competitions.



Folly Farm Stables provides generous support for Camp through The Folly Farm Classic, a regional benefit horse show now in its seventeenth year.

Each fall, the parking lot at Folly Farm fills with spectators eager to enjoy a full day of competition, as well as family-oriented activities, including pumpkin painting and hayrides. Although this year's outdoor activities were somewhat curtailed because of rain, the horse show went on indoors and the undeniable sense of community and playful energy throughout the two-day event bore an unmistakable resemblance to Camp. Over the past several years, the Classic has raised more than \$70,000 for Camp.

"We are so pleased to be able to hold this annual event to benefit the seriously ill children at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and its local Hospital Outreach Program at nearby Connecticut Children's Medical Center," said, Jen Volanski, Folly Farm Classic chairwoman. "Camp is truly a remarkable haven of joy, hope and healing and we are proud to be a part of it."

Together, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and Folly Farm Stables present seriously ill children with an outstanding experience they cannot have elsewhere. Thank you to all those who support the Folly Farm Classic!



Richard Freeda, Courtesy of Flashes of Hope

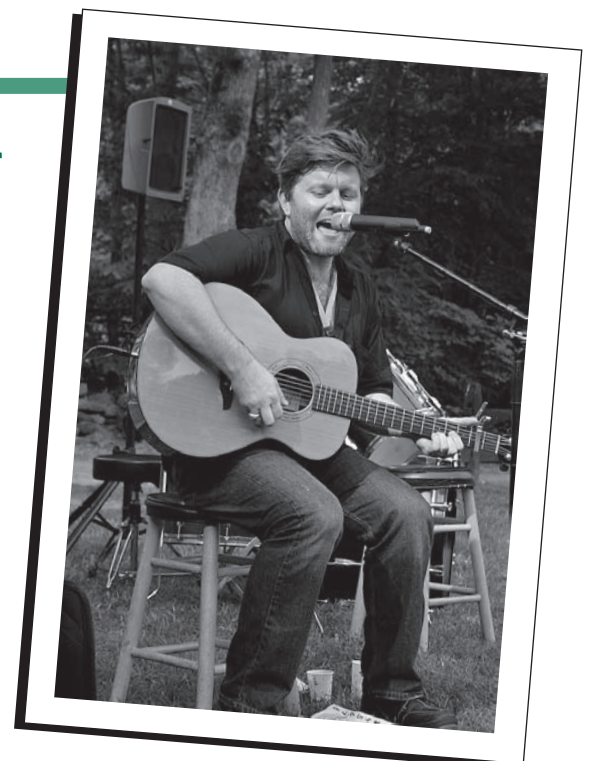
Above and left: Flashes of Hope photographers gave Spring Family Weekend participants a visual reminder of their special time at Camp.

From the Summer

Singer/songwriter/artist Roesy shared his music and art activities in the Creative Zone, coming all the way from Ireland. He also gave an awesome outdoor concert at Session 5.

Roesy writes, "The short workshops that I and my friend Mary Pipolo got to share with the campers were very special. I rarely get to be in a position of making music and art together in a group like that. I felt right away from everyone in the room, that this was a safe place to be yourself and express whatever you needed to express. That was instant and it really struck me... [Camp is] a truly unique, inspiring and magical place."

Each summer, Camp welcomes a host of talented performers, who give generously of their time to our campers and we are so grateful for their support.



Guest artist Roesy performed at Camp this summer.

Gearing up for Summer 2010

Volunteer and staff applications for summer 2010 will be available in December. Camp begins accepting applications after January 1. All summer (salaried) staff positions fill up quickly thereafter. To learn more about summer volunteer and staff opportunities, please visit holeinthewallgang.org.

Monthly Giving Program

At the beginning of each session at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, we gather around the campfire and set the tone for the camper's experience. The warmth of the flame is reflected in the smiles of children and counselors alike. The infinite nighttime sky above reminds our campers to reach for the stars and dare to dream the impossible.

With that warm and welcoming image of Camp in mind, we invite you to become one of a group of donors who support our campers by joining the Campfire Partners monthly giving program and making a donation automatically each month. Even a small monthly gift of as little as \$10 provides big benefits to Camp. It brings reliable income we can count on. Best of all, it says that you care about Camp enough to provide on-going support.

When Michelle Strouse of Sarasota, Florida decided to join the Campfire Partners, she knew it would provide benefits both to Camp and to her as a donor. "Giving in small increments on a monthly basis allows me to make a much larger annual gift, and it's automatically taken out of my account every month so I don't even have to think about it," she observes. Camp's Monthly Giving program makes supporting our campers easier than ever. It also makes the most efficient use of your generous funds by saving the organization on gift processing and paperwork.

Becoming a Campfire Partner is easy. Many people have recurring payments charged to their credit card for everything from car payments to tuition loans. As a Campfire Partner, you can make monthly gifts in the same way through a recurring gift charged automatically to your credit card every month. Joining brings these benefits:

- Recognition in our annual report
- On-going support to the seriously ill children served by Camp
- An annual e-statement of your gifts
- Staying informed with our e-newsletter
- Knowing that your gift is being put to use most efficiently, saving Camp's time and paperwork
- You can cancel anytime, with a simple email or phone call.

Joining is easier than ever. Just visit holeinthewallgang.org/campfirepartners and sign up today. It's a great way to help "make the summer come right back" to our campers.

TEAM Hole in the Wallsm

Team Hole in the Wall: Ahead of the Game

As a volunteer cabin counselor this summer during Session 3, Ryan Thompson was able to bring along close friends and family members, thanks to Team Hole in the Wall's Team Challenge* program. And he did not have to run a single step.

"I never went to summer camp as a kid and with Paul Newman being one of my heroes, volunteering allowed me to finally get to Camp and get to know something of Mr. Newman in a very profound way," observes Ryan, who lives in New York City and oversees the East Coast regional development office of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. "Being a fundraiser, I also wanted to mark my stay by

raising some money – and the Team Challenge program allowed me the flexibility to do just that."

In no time, Ryan built his Team Challenge website and the "Ryan Goes to Camp Gang" was born. His effort raised nearly \$3,000 and he even used the website tools to send the family members and friends who supported him an email update from Camp during the session. As a special thank you, he later edited and disseminated a commemorative video chronicling his week in "Yellow 5."

The Team Challenge component of the team website is extremely versatile," explains Team Hole in the Wall Director Ken Alberti. "Team supporters have used it for

everything from birthday parties to climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. It can be part of almost any special event designed to raise money for our seriously ill campers."

"Camp was an amazing experience and having raised enough funds to support a camper for their stay was a tremendous bonus," observes Ryan. "Thanks to the Team Challenge program, I had the flexibility to be as creative as I wanted and it allowed me to share a little Camp magic with a lot of people."

Team Hole in the Wall had yet another amazing year, thanks to visionary supporters like Ryan and strong participation from athletes across the country. Overall, the team had more marathon participants than ever before, with runners in the Boston Marathon in particular nearly doubling from 45 runners last year to 85 this past spring. In all this year, the team sent runners to twelve marathon or half-marathon events in the U.S. and around the globe, including the London Marathon, Vermont City Marathon, Marine Corps Marathon and the Chicago Marathon.

The ING New York City Marathon saw the largest ever group of Team Hole in the Wall participants on November 1 when more than 200

team runners raced through the five boroughs along with some 40,000 other marathoners. Team participants in the ING New York City Marathon, along with team runners in the Boston, London, Berlin and Chicago Marathons, ran to support all full-member Hole in the Wall Camps.

Individual camps in the Hole in the Wall family were active in developing and hosting their own team events as well. The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp sponsored its first Camp Challenge Ride in the fall with a choice of 15- and 30-mile loops that started and ended at Camp. A total of 195 cyclists took part in the event that was generously sponsored by Aetna, The Konover Company, Newman's Own, Inc., Poland Spring, and CDW Corporation. Flying Horse Farms did a wonderful job incorporating the Team Hole in the Wall program and software tools for their new event, "Ride 'Round Lake Erie," an inaugural three-day motorcycle ride that covered more than 600 miles, with nearly 100 motorcyclists taking part. The Painted Turtle once again coordinated a team of runners for the Disneyland Half Marathon in California in the fall. Twenty-five runners utilized the team program to register and conduct their fundraising campaigns using Team Hole in the Wall software and services.

*Formerly known as "Camp Challenge."



Ryan Thompson (center) with Team Hole in the Wall Director Ken Alberti (left) and Assistant Director Ray Shedd

Gala 2009

Our Twentieth Annual Fandango Benefit Gala overflowed with vibrant song and dance – just like Camp itself. This year’s celebrity artists came to us with an astonishing array of performance credits – from popular television shows, smash Broadway hits and the concert stage at Carnegie Hall. A host of caring stage and screen professionals joined twelve remarkably talented campers to put on a program that reverberated with the joy and magic of Camp.

Each year, the Gala Fandango performance caps a busy day filled with a gourmet picnic, live and silent auctions, and our eagerly anticipated Most Wanted Award. This year’s recipients were Fred Brooke and Lynn McCarthy in honor of their extraordinary vision and philanthropic leadership in creating and managing AngelRide – Connecticut’s premier cross-state cycling event – the proceeds of which go entirely to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program. In accepting the award, Fred remarked upon how he personally deepened



Melissa Newman graciously continued her father’s tradition of appearing in Camp’s Gala Fandango performance.



As always, our talented Hole in the Wall campers stole the show.

his connection with the Camp this past summer by serving as a volunteer cabin counselor. “After years of riding arduous AngelRide miles and finding strength in each camper’s journey, I elected to volunteer at Camp this summer to meet the focus of my inspiration... What I found was not just a camp, but a transforming experience; not merely counselors, but pure positive energy; not sick kids, but unimaginable strength and optimism. My parting thoughts as I walked toward the parking lot were of Paul, our founder, who left in our care an incredible place of integrity, dedication and love from which we can all replenish our souls.”

Like the nineteen others preceding it, this year’s Gala reflected the hard work of performers, professionals, volunteers and friends of Camp alike. These artists lent their talents and made this year’s Fandango an evening to be remembered: Tony Award Winners Laura Benanti, Jane Krakowski, and James Naughton; Melissa Newman, Kelli O’Hara, Steven Pasquale, John Lloyd Young and “Dynamites” Nedra McClyde, Amber Williams and Aurelia Williams. They were joined by these remarkable Hole in the Wall Gang



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton (left) held up the Most Wanted Award shared by AngelRide co-founders Fred Brooke and Lynn McCarthy.

campers: Kayla Brielle Chanté Brown, Alyssa Casson, Justin Kirk, Bridget Dwyer, Matthew Gates, Skylar T.F. Lobdell, Kate McGuire, Lixzy Mota, Austin Pierce, Darien Pierce, Casey Roche and Liam Talbot.

This year, as in those past, we were privileged to have the time, effort and support of Camp Board Member James Naughton and Producer Kevin Duncan, along with a host of talented theatre professionals, including Janet Beroza, Annie Keefe, Alison Harris, Carol Ingram, Rose Winters, Wendy Stuart, Polly Wood-Holland, Lisa Shriver, Mary-Mitchell Campbell and Adam Ben-David. On

show night, guests gathered in the theater to watch the live performance, which was also presented as a giant screen Simulcast to guests in the sports and recreation building thanks to expert videographer and longtime friend of Camp Craig Naumec.

This year’s Gala featured a special guest star. Paul Newman’s daughter Lissy continued her father’s tradition of appearing in the Fandango by sharing a heartwarming musical performance of her own. We are grateful for the generous gifts of time and talent that make the Gala the beloved Camp tradition that it is.

The Perfect Gift

Holiday tribute cards allow you to recognize your family and friends by making a contribution to Camp on their behalf. Celebrate the holidays with a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp holiday tribute card and help let others know about what a difference Camp can make in the life of a seriously ill child. Each of your honorees will be notified that a gift to Camp was made in their name through receipt of an attractive card featuring artwork by a child who has been touched by Camp. Consider celebrating the holidays by underwriting the \$2,500 cost of a campership, the amount to underwrite the cost of sending one child to Camp for one glorious summer session.

To order holiday cards or to make the gift of a campership, contact Peter McBride at (203) 772-0522 or email peter.mcbride@holeinthewallgang.org. The order form for holiday tribute cards is also available on our web site at holeinthewallgang.org. Your gift this season will help a camper make memories to last a lifetime!



The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Holiday tribute card features artwork by a child who has been touched by Camp with mentorship from Kevin Rice, our Hospital Outreach Program Supervisor/Specialist in Boston.

Turning Pocket Change into Real Change

When kids help kids, amazing things happen. This past spring, Ian Clemens (age 12), along with his younger brother Dylan (age 8) and mother Kate Nolan Clemens, communications consultant to Newman's Own, received a special Camp tour during AngelRide. They took away a host of warm, positive memories, and it inspired them to give back to Camp to make more such memories for even more children.

"At Camp," says Ian, "we met a camper family that was volunteering to help out for the AngelRide event. We especially enjoyed hearing what Camper



During a visit to Camp, Ian Clemens (center) and his brother Dylan (left) visited with Camper Shannon.

Shannon had to say about her experience at Camp. As we walked with her and her family down to the dining hall, we passed some of the staff. When they referred to our newfound friend by name, from among dozens of campers, I realized that Hole in the Wall is more than just a camp; it's a community of friends who care deeply about one another."

Ian soon approached the student council at his school with the idea of a coin collection to benefit Camp.

With their support and that of students, teachers and administrators, Gideon Welles Middle School in Glastonbury, Connecticut proved that it is possible to turn pocket change into real change, collecting more than twenty thousand dimes to raise \$2,348 for Camp. "Our coin counter filled multiple times," says Ian, "and it took two-and-a-half hours to complete the counting task."

Ian's younger brother Dylan also helped out by getting his school,

Eastbury Elementary School in Glastonbury, Connecticut, to donate toys and games posted online on the Camp's wish list. It is Ian's hope that his account of establishing a coin collection on behalf of Camp at his school, and his brother's idea of collecting items on Camp's wish list might inspire other students to start similar school projects to benefit Hole in the Wall campers.

Travelers: A Champ for Camp

This year, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was pleased once again to be one of two primary beneficiaries of the proceeds from the Travelers Championship, Connecticut's premier PGA TOUR event. The 2009 tournament generated more than \$340,000 for Camp.

This year's Travelers Championship was an exciting weeklong event for all involved. The festivities commenced on Monday, June 21 with opening ceremonies presided over by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell, along with other state dignitaries and business leaders. Former Camper Aaron Baral hit the best opening shot of the day and was on hand to talk with reporters about his Camp experience.

Wednesday's Pro-Am saw a host of celebrities who generously gave of their time, playing to benefit the Camp, including Sandy Koufax, Joe Pesci, Aidan Quinn, Luke Wilson and Board Member Jim Naughton. Several television stations broadcast their weather and other segments

from the tournament, featuring interviews with former camper Amanda Garbatini, Chief Development Officer J. Michael "Mike" Smiles, Team Hole in the Wall Assistant Director Ray Shedd and other Camp spokespersons, providing wonderful exposure for the Camp and its mission.

The actual tournament took place over the following four days. On Sunday, June 28, PGA Tour veteran Kenny Perry shot 63 to finish with a tournament-record of 258 to win the 2009 Travelers Championship. The Travelers Championship had its best charitable fundraising year ever, generating \$1.08 million for its two designated co-charities – The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and the Greater Hartford Jaycees – as well as 130 Connecticut nonprofit organizations throughout the state.

"The proceeds from this year's Travelers Championship will enable us to share the special warmth and



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Development Officer J. Michael "Mike" Smiles joined PGA Tour professional Kenny Perry moments after he won the Travelers Championship tournament this past June. Along with the Greater Hartford Jaycees, the Camp was a designated co-charity of the event, which raised more than \$1 million for charity.

joy of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp with more children than ever," observes Mike Smiles. "And, for that, we are deeply grateful to everyone who helped to make this event so successful."

Last year, the Travelers Championship generated \$250,000 for Camp. In addition, its lead sponsor, Travelers, made the visionary gift to Camp of a wheelchair-accessible,

mini-golf course, complete with handmade log cabin-shaped "obstacles." The Travelers Mini Golf Course is especially designed for wheelchair access to every hole, welcoming all with an equal chance to enjoy the game, supporting creative programming for our campers through the joy and gift of golf.

A New Look for an Old Friend

Want to know if summer volunteer registration has begun? What's new at Camp? Who's supporting our campers and how? Then take a look at holeinthewallgang.org and enjoy all that information and more in a colorful and updated format we think you'll enjoy. Camp's new web site was launched this past spring and has garnered waves of enthusiastic feedback. "My goal was to make the site more colorful, more engaging, and very simple to navigate, so that users of all ages could enjoy their experience," observes Web Master Linda Cassidy. New features include spotlights on special Camp staff members, events or supporters, an easier-than-ever monthly giving program, and loads of Camp photos to keep everyone connected to their summer experience. We hope you will visit often and enjoy the frequently updated content.



Along with the face-lift, there's a special option for Camp friends – the opportunity to join **The Hole in the Wall Gang Online**. When you register with this online community, you will be able to manage how we communicate with you, make your online donation process easier and update your contact information. Being part of that community saves the organization paperwork and helps ensure that we are communicating with Camp friends in the way that they prefer. It also keeps you up-to-the-minute on what's going on at Camp, whether that means events, ways to support our campers or just plain fun.

Camp has joined the online world in more ways than ever. Of course, there is still our campers-only web

site to strengthen critical bonds between campers throughout the times when our youngsters are not attending Camp. And for those who have aged out of our programs and are at least 18 years of age, there is our new Stars in the Sky Society at starsintheskysociety.org. You can also visit Camp on YouTube.

In addition, you can now read reviews of Camp online at <http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/hole-in-the-wall-gang-fund-inc> or see guidestar.org, which links to this site. When visiting, be sure to input Camp's legal name, The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund. Both Great nonprofits and Guidestar are online information services specializing in U.S. nonprofit organizations. They are frequently visited by potential

donors in an effort to choose the charities most deserving of their charitable gifts. Take a look at the reviews that have been posted by Camp friends. Or, post a review of your own. It's all about letting others know what a magical place Camp really is.

Camp is also featured on another charity web site called Charity



Navigator that rates the performance of nonprofits according to specific fundraising standards. The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is proud to have Charity Navigator's highest excellence rating. According to Ken Berger, President and CEO of Charity Navigator, "This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator differentiates the Hole in the Wall Gang Fund from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust." Go to charitynavigator.org and navigate to The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund to view their complete rating report for Camp.

Our Policy on Donor Names

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. 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.

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.

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 annually. All of our services are provided free of charge.

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A sunny day, a tower to climb and new 900-foot zipline to zip! What could be better?

Fall 2009

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Everyone around the Tower was cheering me on. They were my wings. From now on, when I come face to face with fear, I know that I'll always have those wings cheering me on."

—Camper Helen

a Hole in the Wall Camp™



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