

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



You Can Still Hear the Laughter

By Bob Tedeschi

Last week, my wife Karen and I tucked in the kids, said goodbye to the babysitter and made the short trek down Interstate-95 to New Haven, where eight people we adore gathered at a restaurant a few steps from the green. Like many gatherings of Camp folks, the event was triggered by the thinnest of excuses: Karen and I will fly to Ireland this fall and we're gathering travel tips. With the approaching journey in mind, I've done more than a little romanticizing about Irish village life – good friends dropping everything to welcome each other warmly, trade stories of the day and tales from the past.

It's not much different when Camp friends gather. The bond enjoyed by Camp people no doubt springs from shared values and interests, but we also share the experience of being transformed by a place, by each other, by weeks and days and moments with campers whom we were just plain lucky to know.

What moments?

One early morning, when I was a cabin counselor in the Blue Unit, I was awakened by the knock of one of our "babies," as we called the seven- and eight-year-olds. As I squinted at him through sleepy eyes, Alonzo, a tiny, affectionate, incandescent spark of a city boy, reminded me that we'd promised them a snake-tracking mission in the morning.

Five of us soon set out along the rocky path toward Snake Rock, at the edge of Pearson Pond. Alonzo led the way, talking about how he was going to snatch a viper with his bare hands. I'd never actually seen snakes on Snake Rock, and had come to think of them as the land-based version of Weepee, Pearson Pond's resident leviathan.

As we emerged from a clearing, the glare off the pond was strong. The rock was hot. And there, ten feet away on the ledge, waited two snakes, glistening black and, thankfully, dead asleep.

I felt a rush from behind and thought for a moment the campers might push closer – especially Alonzo. Then I felt them competing for room on my back, peeking around my shoulders and waist. We quietly studied the snakes for maybe five minutes. It was Alonzo's longest stretch of silence that session. Not once did he loosen his grip on me.

Later that same summer, my co-counselor Alexander Grashow and I gathered a group of ten campers for a Cabin Chat. They were about twelve years old. It was late in the day. Everyone was tired.

We lit a dim candle, set it in the middle of the room, and resolved to harness the creative energy of the cabin and build a story, camper-by-camper. Maybe it would be something great; something touching – that we could make into a real book, even, with proceeds given to Camp.

Someone cleared his throat and began. "There was once a boy who went by the name of Houseboat Boy – so named because his head was shaped like a houseboat."

Fifteen minutes of slap-happy, seafaring absurdity later, Houseboat Boy married a woman with a head shaped like a buoy, and Grashow and I stumbled from the campers' room wiping tears from our eyes.

Different people feel Camp's gravitational center in different places. Lately, mine has been Pearson Pond, perhaps because of Board Chair Ray Lamontagne's story of Paul Newman's last visit to Camp. Mr. Newman sat on the dock looking at the water. The summer's last campers had gone. Camp was quiet. "I can still hear the laughter of the children!" he declared.

When former counselors and campers gather now, talk sometimes turns to the great indebtedness we feel to Mr. Newman. Our lives continue to flourish because we were lucky enough to be asked to Ashford.

What can we do?

Find more Camp people to bring into the fold. Give money. Volunteer. Or maybe build a bridge over Pearson Pond, made from ribbons and suspended in thin air, carrying the weight of a million memories too finely spun to hold an entire story, but plenty strong enough to keep twenty thousand campers and counselors bound in their lovely grip.

Bob Tedeschi is a reporter for The New York Times, a former Camp counselor and dedicated Camp friend.

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Our thoughts go out to all who have been directly impacted by the global economic downturn. Close to our hearts are those families that, in addition to confronting the challenge of our economy, struggle to make ends meet while caring for a sick child. To them we commit ourselves every day to raise the needed funding, hire the finest counselors and maintain an extraordinary facility.



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

Last year marked the twenty-first summer that Camp has been in operation. 1,055 brave and beautiful children with cancer and serious blood-related illnesses had an unforgettable Camp experience in 2008. They fished for Weepee (from our newly renovated dock), swam in our new zero-entry pool, sang and danced on stage, putted on our new wheelchair-accessible mini golf course, honed their archery skills and made amazing projects in crafts and woodshop.

It is part of our commitment to the children we serve that we continually assess ways to make Camp the very best it can be. That intent finds voice in the exciting new launch of our Stars in the Sky Alumni Society, which you can read more about in this issue.

As I write, Congress recently passed a resolution honoring our founder Paul Newman. We are deeply moved by this accolade, one which the recipient would never have sought in his lifetime, being the private and humble man that he was. While we are grateful for this momentous witness of Paul's giving spirit, we are mindful that the most enduring tribute to him are the smiles on the faces of our campers. It is fitting, especially in these hard economic times and thanks to Paul's vision, that all of the Camp's services remain free of charge.

It is a privilege to watch the joy of Camp take hold in each child's life. Thank you for being a friend to Camp and for helping us to provide this gift to the seriously ill children whom we serve.

Donor Day Kicks Off the Spring

It turned out to be a beautiful spring day to tour Camp on March 28 when new and lifelong friends of Camp attended Donor Day 2009. Attendees heard about the exciting program and capital updates that make such a difference in the lives of the beautiful children we serve.

"Not only is Donor Day a wonderful opportunity for us to say 'thank you,' it is also a time for our donors to visit the Camp's state-of-the-art facility, and see first-hand the impact of their generosity," explains Senior Development Officer Tiffany Talley. "It is only because of the support and dedication of our wonderful donors and Camp friends that The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is able to provide the highest quality of service and programs to more than 15,000 children each year, completely free of charge."

Donors were treated to a delectable brunch by our new Camp Food Services Manager Kristyn LaPlante and were witness to an inspiring testimony from one of our former camper stars. The day was capped off with a tour of the Camp facilities by staff, including our Hospital Outreach Program Specialists. Participants had a chance to view the newly renovated dock, visit Charlie's Pool – our spectacular zero-entry pool funded by the Charles P. Ferro Foundation and take a putt on our mini golf course generously underwritten last year by Travelers. With a camping facility second to none, our twenty-second summer promises plenty of fun and magic for the more than 1,000 campers expected to come through our gates this June through August.

For information about the next Donor Day, please contact Director of Annual Giving Maria A. Gomez at maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org.



Donor Day, held this spring, gave donors and friends an opportunity to experience the magic of Camp. Pictured left to right are Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Director of Special Events Jennifer Weeks, with members of the Travelers Championship team, including Media-Marketing Manager Anne Marie McLaughlin, Sponsorship Manager Caitlin Champ, Player Relations Coordinator Robin Dziedzic and Director of Sales Jason Soucy.

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

Travelers Championship

TPC River Highlands
Cromwell, CT
June 22 - 28, 2009

'Fore a Very Good Cause' Golf Tournament

Country Club of Fairfield
Fairfield, CT
Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Fandango Benefit Gala

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp
Ashford, CT.
Saturday, September 12, 2009

Big Apple Circus Halloween Bash

New York, NY
Sunday, October 25, 2009
Donor Brunch at Mandarin Oriental Hotel
1 PM
Private Performance of Big Apple Circus
4:30 PM

For tickets and information,

call 203-772-0522 or contact
Director of Special Events

Jennifer Weeks at

jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org.

Bringing the Summers Right Back

The saying goes, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” In a way, that describes Camp to a T. As summer approaches, the swallows still swoop and dive over Pearson Pond, the latest banners are raised high in the dining hall and the totem poles gleefully preside over every kind of Camp silliness just as they have done for ages. In fact, it might not seem like much has changed. But in reality, we never stop considering how best to serve our campers. The Stars in the Sky Society reflects our latest effort to support the seriously ill children at the heart of our mission – even after they have left their Camp days behind.

The Stars in the Sky Society has been more than two years in the making. It came about as Camp recognized a growing need to reach



John McNeil as a former counselor with a happy camper.

out to former campers now entering young adulthood and former staff who have helped Camp to become the thriving program it is today. Headed by Director of Alumni Affairs Sarah Smithson, the Stars in the Sky Society helps former campers and staff stay connected to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp through newsletters, regional gatherings and exciting new social networking web site.

It seems to be working for Camp friends like John McNeil. John has a strong history with Camp going back to his years as a camper from '95 to '97. Over the years, he served Camp as an LIT, counselor, unit leader, development intern (in the New Haven office) and LIT coordinator. It was as a counselor at Camp that he realized the joy he took in caring for sick children, leading to his career in medicine. Today, John is in his fourth year of medical school at the University of Virginia.

“I am a Virginian, born and

raised, and unfortunately The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp isn't too close to Virginia,” said John. “A lot of my closest friends are people I know from Camp, which makes it hard to be so far away. This is one of the reasons I am so excited about the Stars in the Sky Society web site. It's really easy to use. I've already connected with old Camp friends that I haven't talked to in years,” he explains. The site enables former campers and staff, 18 years and older, to stay involved with their Camp friends and counselors year-round, in a safe, secure environment.

“It is my hope that the Stars in the Sky Society will give Camp more of a presence in the day-to-day lives of members of the Camp family,” explains John. “It can bring us a smile on tough days and a reminder that there's always someone from Camp that truly cares.”

For more information about the Alumni program, contact Director of Alumni Affairs Sarah Smithson at sarah.smithson@holeinthewallgang.org.



Calling All Alumni

Are you a former Hole in the Wall Gang camper or staff member? Become part of the Stars in the Sky Society, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's new alumni organization. Through this society, we hope to rekindle old friendships and create opportunities for you to participate in Camp's future.

As part of the Stars in the Sky Society, Camp alumni eighteen years of age and older have access to our alumni web site at starsintheskysociety.org. Registered Stars in the Sky Society online community members can create profile pages, search for old friends, “friend” people, check out posted photos, read alumni news and more.

For more information or to register, please contact Director of Alumni Affairs Sarah Smithson at sarah.smithson@holeinthewallgang.org.

That's Entertainment!

Picture Camp in the early evening hours. It's been a typical fun-filled day, packed with zany clown moments, swimming in the pool, awesome horseback rides, an impromptu game of Squirt and dino nugget pizza for lunch. What could top that? Campers finish up their dinners and head back toward Cabin Circle to wind down a bit before the evening's activity.

But wait! What's this?! As they round the bend past the Admin building, campers and counselors are greeted by startling colors on the wind – red, green, blue – as three, tethered, hot air balloons waft gently in the breeze at the center of the cabins. “It gives me the greatest joy to see the campers stop in their tracks,” says Assistant Camp Director Grahame Marpole. “Knowing that the counselors are as excited as the kids is part of the fun.”

Fourteen-year-old Camper Daniel experiences life from a wheelchair. Learning that he has the chance to defy gravity and see the world from a completely different view is both

intriguing and a little unsettling. He nonetheless chooses to take his turn to have a ride up, up and away. Everyone at Camp shares his excitement as they watch him ascend.

Daniel looks down at Camp from a bird's-eye view. He can see his friends and counselors squinting up at him. He takes it all in and the jitters he was feeling at the outset are gone, overtaken by feelings of happiness and amazement for all that he can perceive from this vantage point. He realizes that it is a special, irreplaceable moment – not just for him, but for the rest of Camp as they read the excitement in his eyes.

The hot air balloons are just one of a host of special attractions that form the basis of Camp's entertainment program. “Our goal is to give our campers opportunities to have peak experiences they may never have had before,” observes Jill Basile. She should know. This summer, Jill will serve in the coveted role of Camp Entertainment Director.

Anticipation is the secret ingredient. “You can feel the excitement in the air,” says Jill, “while campers and staff alike wait to see what is coming next.” Past entertainment offerings have included the incomparable magic of David Blaine, the energy and creativity of STOMP, an outdoor concert with pop sensation American Idol contestant Joanna Pacitti, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the singing talents of Broadway's “Legally Blond” performers and more. For some of our campers, attending a performance may be the first opportunity they have had to be inside a theater or experience a Broadway-quality production.

Impromptu singing and dancing is as high on the list of entertainment attractions as guest performances. No meal at Camp is complete without an energetic sing-along/dance-a-thon. What better way to bring the entire Camp community together for periods throughout the day?



Camp has not yet started, but Jill is already at work in her role as Entertainment Director planning activities and special performances. Like Jill, more than 25% of our counselors are former campers returning to make the magic happen for children who have been through the same challenges they have known.

And just what's on Jill's entertainment docket for the summer? “You'll have to wait and see,” she says with a smile.



Konover Construction Corporation, formerly a Simon Konover Company, built the original buildings of the Camp in a record-breaking eight months.

Building Camp Magic

The year was 1987. Paul Newman had a radical idea. Build a camp for seriously ill children where they could just be kids for a while. Once that great idea took root, things seemed to fall into place like clockwork. The land was purchased, the permits obtained, and except for a few finishing touches, the Camp was constructed in eight months flat. “You can’t get some building permits” that quickly Paul Newman reportedly crowed to a *Life Magazine* reporter, “and we built the whole place in that time.”

Like Atlantis rising from the waves, Camp took shape under the direction of Simon Konover, founder of The Simon Konover Company, hired to construct the 24 original buildings (and all subsequent buildings, which were built by a Konover entity) including the signature Shaker barn dining

hall and fifteen cabins. The task was heroically completed in record time by his young construction manager, 26-year-old Michael Kolakowski.* Twenty years later, those buildings have stood the test of time. Thousands of happy campers have danced, laughed, slept and been fed and cared for in them. That the creation of Camp was a labor of love can never be doubted.

Today, Jane Coppa of The Simon Konover Company continues the tradition of love and commitment to Camp begun by her father Simon Konover, longtime friend and business partner of Paul Newman. Jane has been involved with Camp since its inception – for years as a member of the Board of Directors and now as a member of the Council of Advisors. From the moment she learned of the Camp’s mission, Jane began working to share news and

Polo for Children

For the past seven years, Polo for Children has been a signature Fairfield County event of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, raising an exceptional \$2.8 million for our campers. An exciting polo match combined with live and silent auctions, secret celebrity auctioneer, delectable lunch, testimony from a camper speaker, plus clowns and activities for the young has typically sold out in each of the years in which it was presented. We take this opportunity to thank the dedicated families and individuals who have supported Polo over the years.

The most recent two Polo for Children events have flourished under the gracious leadership of Jennifer Brockman and Lisa Bowman. We thank them and their committee for their initiative and generosity. “Paul’s legendary spirit remains within each one of us who was lucky enough, blessed really, to be touched by it,” observes Jennifer. We remain especially grateful to event founder Board Member Ursula Gwynne, a founder of Camp itself, who initiated the Polo for Children event in 2002 and built it into an eagerly anticipated gathering for dedicated Camp friends.



“Each year, Camp serves more than 15,000 seriously ill children who make friends, discover new talents and make memories to last a lifetime as part of a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp experience,” says Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton. “Polo for Children has raised critical awareness and funds for the seriously ill children at the heart of our mission, and we are extremely grateful for the generous gifts of time and money that have resonated through each Polo for Children event.”



Above: A signature event of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Polo for Children has raised funds in excess of \$2.8 million for seriously ill children.



Left: Jennifer Brockman and Lisa Bowman co-chaired the Polo for Children event in 2006 and 2007, helping to ensure that more children than ever would have an outstanding and empowering Camp experience.

advocate on Camp's behalf with other business leaders. She has been a catalyst in engaging her community in support of the mission of serving children with serious illnesses and conditions, as well as a yearly sponsor of the Annual Fandango Benefit Gala, the Camp's signature fall fundraising event. Jane's cousin, Lisa Barall Matt, also supports the Camp each year through a West Hartford, Connecticut fundraiser.

With Jane's help, Bradley Space & Aviation Day was established in 1997, in part through The Simon Konover Company's part ownership of the Bradley Sheraton Hotel located at Bradley International Airport. Hosted by Bradley Family Day, Inc., Bradley Space and Aviation Day celebrates community and Connecticut's rich aviation tradition, offering fun and discovery for families and aviation enthusiasts each July – all while generously supporting The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Bradley Space & Aviation Day serves up numerous high-energy attractions, including the exhibit of military aircraft flown in for public access at the Connecticut Air National Guard Base and simultaneous events at the Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Air Museum, attracting more than 5,000 visitors. This year's Bradley Space & Aviation Day will take place Saturday July 18 at Bradley International Airport. For more information, see www.spaceandaviationday.org.

Through this and additional successful community gatherings and the leadership of Bradley Family Day, Inc.'s independent board of directors, many new corporate friendships have been forged with enormous benefits for the seriously ill children served by Camp. Those corporate alliances include the CVS/pharmacy Charitable Trust, Pratt & Whitney Military Engine Division – the title sponsor of Space & Aviation Day and the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company.

Stop & Shop's relationship with the Camp also came about through a personal friend of Jane and her husband Robert. Rhoda Weiner of Delray Beach, Florida is a five-time summer counselor volunteer at the Camp, and an advocate and zealous cheerleader for the mission of Camp. Faith Weiner, Rhoda's daughter and Director of Public Affairs at Stop & Shop, brought the work of Camp to the attention of Stop & Shop leaders who became committed advocates themselves. Over the past five years, Stop & Shop has generously underwritten numerous fundraising events on behalf of Camp.

This year, The Simon Konover Company will be the Title Sponsor of the AngelRide Camp Challenge** – Connecticut's premier fall bike ride in support of Camp. The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp salutes The Simon Konover Company and the family behind it for their dedication, spirit and commitment to helping thousands of seriously ill children.



Demonstrations, entertainment, food and fun make Bradley Space & Aviation Day an eagerly awaited event each July. This year's event will take place Saturday, July 18 at Bradley International Airport.



Last year, Camp was privileged to host Jane and twenty guests for a Camp dinner on the newly renovated dock – a special item purchased at our fundraising Gala, which the family attends each year. Pictured from left to right are Lisa Barall Matt, Doris Konover, Simon Konover, Jane Konover Coppa and Bob Coppa.

* Michael Kolakowski is President and CEO of KBE Building Corporation, the former construction arm of Simon Konover's original company (purchased through a management agreement in 2007). KBE Building Corporation of Farmington, Connecticut is also a proud sponsor of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, reflecting yet another deeply appreciated Konover family connection to Camp.

** For more information about the AngelRide Camp Challenge on September 27, 2009, visit teamholeinthewall.org and see below.

AngelRIDE

AngelRide Camp Challenge
Sunday, September 27



Building upon the success and popularity of AngelRide, Team Hole in the Wall will partner with the Angel Charitable Trust to present a fall cycling event at Camp. The inaugural AngelRide Camp Challenge will take place on Sunday, September 27 at Camp in Ashford.

"We are very excited to add a second ride to our feature event lineup," observes J. Michael "Mike" Smiles, Chief Development Officer for Camp. "AngelRide Camp Challenge will provide serious cyclists and amateur riders alike the opportunity to enjoy a quality event to support the Camp."

Riders will have the opportunity to select one of three distance loops, each beginning and ending at the Camp. A challenging 62-mile "metric century" will test the endurance



of more experienced riders while the less intensive 30- and 15-mile routes will promise an enjoyable time for cyclists of all ability levels. Following the event, riders and their families will be hosted to a Camp cookout and entertainment.

The Simon Konover Company, a longtime friend of the Camp, has signed on as the event's presenting sponsor, thereby enabling 100% pass-through of all rider funds raised to the Camp. "We're delighted to join this premier first annual event as partners in the national Team Hole in the Wall effort," said Jane Coppa of The Simon Konover Company.

For more information, please call 203-777-0522 or email info@teamholeinthewall.org

The Fun Starts Here

by Pete McBride

It's pretty unusual for a group of hired contractors to stick around after the job is done to give money back to the customer. In 1988, however, after completing all of the electrical work for Camp's first summer, a group of Connecticut Light & Power employees did just that. Their generosity resulted in a golf tournament that raised just under \$700 for the newly founded Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Today, the Connecticut Light & Power Company Annual Golf Tournament is still going strong. In 2008, led by committee chairman Marvin Plaut, they raised more than \$21,000 for Camp!

The great success of the tournament is truly a win-win for both Camp and Connecticut Light & Power. "The tournament is great for company employee morale, and vendors that employees work with," says Donna Barber-Dunn, who has been on the tournament committee for ten years now. "We try every year to change something and make it better. We now give all of the women golfers a special gift, such as wine or roses, and have seen their numbers increase dramatically."

After hosting fifteen tournaments, this very special group of employees never failed to accomplish its two objectives: give the employees a day to relax and enjoy good company on the golf course, and help support the beautiful summer campers of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. They have become true leaders among the many third-

party events that support the Camp each year, and we are truly grateful for their timeless generosity.

In 2008, more than 100 of these third-party groups selflessly dedicated their time and effort to organizing community events in support of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Thirteen of these groups hosted golf tournaments, using a shared interest in golf among family, friends and co-workers to spread the magic of Camp to new audiences. Many of these wonderful organizers have renewed their commitment to Camp and are ramping up for another exciting season of golf in 2009.

The rising popularity of the game of golf is also evident in the success of our larger tournaments. In 2008, the International Longshoremen's Association, C & S Wholesale and Travelers Championship tournaments each raised \$100,000 or more to support the Camp. Collectively, these three organizations brought the gift of Camp to more than 190 children – nearly twenty percent of our summer campers.

This past February, our friends at Travelers announced that they have extended their sponsorship of the Travelers Championship through 2014, ensuring the presence of a PGA Tour event in Connecticut for at least six years. Camp has been one of two charitable beneficiaries of the Travelers Championship since 2007. The announcement of the sponsorship extension reflects Travelers' strength, not only as a leader in the insurance industry, but also as a model of corporate responsibility in its service to local charities.

"Supporting such an important cause is one of the key reasons why Travelers decided to invest in this tournament," says Andy Bessette, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Travelers. "We applaud The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for their vision to give hope to a group of children and their families who are enduring tough circumstances, and we are so proud to support this vision."

In addition to the financial support and publicity the tournament provides for Camp, tournament



A camper carefully considers his putt on Camp's new wheelchair-accessible Travelers Mini Golf Course.

director Nathan Grube and his extraordinary staff have offered their advice and expertise to all of our third-party tournaments. Tournament staff have helped us negotiate good prices for supplies, brainstorm media opportunities and develop additional ways to grow the tournaments. "Time and again, the staff at Travelers Championship continues to exceed our expectations. We feel extremely privileged to have the opportunity to learn from them over the next five years and bring our golf tournaments to a new level of fundraising," observes Chief Development Officer J. Michael "Mike" Smiles.

While these tournaments present the opportunity to welcome new friends and supporters into our community, they also allow for the celebration of many longtime friendships. Theresa Harper, daughter of Camp Historian Mary Harper, and the employees at Connecticut Medical Group Managers Association are preparing for their fourth annual tournament for the Camp. Bruce Fenimore's tournament to honor his late father Anthony J. Fenimore has been critical in funding a variety of capital improvement projects around Camp. These individuals, and many more tournament committees continue to selflessly and voluntarily give their time and

energy year after year to ensure the progress of our mission.

The tremendous effort in planning these events is fueled by the overriding desire on the part of our friends to support Camp and help our programs reach more children. Despite a wide range in number of participants and dollars raised, each tournament preserves and promotes an unwavering commitment to this wonderful cause. Whether a modest-sized group of dedicated employees, or the masses of spectators and professional golfers at a PGA Tour event, the spirit of Camp resides in every gathering.

During such strenuous economic times, we rely on our golf tournaments as creative fundraising efforts that allow friends and co-workers to spend time together on the golf course, leave their stresses and worries behind, and ultimately, bring the joy of Camp to our most deserving children.

To learn more about organizing your own golf tournament, or to get more involved, please contact Pete McBride, Development Associate at pete.mcbride@holeinthewallgang.org or call 203-772-0522.



Chief Development Officer J. Michael "Mike" Smiles accepts a check from C L & P committee members Marvin Plaut and Lee Oliver.

Too much mail? Duplicate mailings?

Too much mail? Duplicate mailings? Let us know! We are happy to accommodate your mailing wishes. Call Maria Gomez at 203-772-0522.

Visit our web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org

There's always something new to see at our web site. Sign up for our e-mail newsletter to receive quarterly updates about Camp. (Just click on the sunflower.) You can also view our five-minute Camp video or check out the upcoming benefit events.

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.

New Beginnings

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is pleased to introduce these new staff members.

Jill Basile, known at Camp as “Jilly Basile” arrived at Camp as a sibling camper ten years ago and has been deeply involved ever since, coming from a family of dedicated volunteers for Camp. She graduated last spring from Suffolk University, and currently divides her time between serving as Development Intern in the New Haven office and preparing for the demands of her role as Entertainment Director in Ashford this summer.

Deborah Fraser has been dedicated to volunteering and helping the lives of others since her teen years. She first came to Camp in 1998 as a summer counselor and has continued in that role for each of the past ten years. She joins us in the position of Executive Development Assistant and Grantwriter, bringing her dedicated love for Camp combined with a wealth of business experience gained from twenty+ years as a paralegal. She looks forward to continuing to volunteer at Camp each summer.

Maria A. Gomez has always had a passion for helping children. A

California native and University of California, Santa Barbara graduate, she spent the last eight years working at Child SHARE, an organization that finds and supports quality families for foster children. As Director of Annual Giving, she oversees donor relations and helps friends of Camp connect with and be inspired by the mission. Maria looks forward to volunteering in the summer and connecting directly with campers and their families.

No newcomer to Camp, we welcome back Grahame Marpole as Assistant Camp Director. A cancer survivor, Grahame worked at Barretstown in Ireland and Camp Goodtimes in British Columbia before joining The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in 2004. He returns to us after a brief hiatus to spend some time in his beautiful Canadian homeland last year. Great to have you back, Grahame!

Pete McBride has served Camp as a summer counselor and unit leader. He joins the New Haven office as Development Assistant, working with third-party groups and events. He graduated from the University of Delaware last May with a degree in Accounting, running his own business for a



New staff enjoy a moment together at the New Haven office. Pictured from left to right are Director of Annual Giving Maria A. Gomez, Director of Special Events Jennifer Weeks, Media Intern Joanna Toomey, Development Assistant Pete McBride, Executive Assistant and Grantwriter Deborah Fraser and Development Intern Jill Basile. Included in the article, but not pictured here is returning staff member Assistant Camp Director Grahame Marpole.

time as an undergraduate. Pete looks forward to putting his entrepreneurial spirit to work to raise funds for Camp, while staying involved in summer programming.

Joanna Toomey fills the newly created role of Media Intern. An undergraduate in marketing and public relations at nearby Quinnipiac University, she assists with a range of marketing and communications projects to benefit our fundraising efforts. She looks forward to remaining connected to the Camp as a volunteer after her spring internship comes to a close.

Jennifer Weeks manages annual fundraising events for Camp in her role as Director of Special Events. A graduate of Fordham University, Jennifer spent the past eight years as a producer for the television show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” during which time, she planned events, including cross-country audition tours and oversaw the logistics in working with corporate partners and sponsors. “Working to help raise the spirits of ill children and their families hits home for me,” she explains, having a younger sister who is challenged by serious illness.

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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It's never an ordinary day at Camp.

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG FUND, INC.



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a Hole in the Wall Camp™

Dear Hole in the Wall Gang Camp,
Thank you for letting me stay with you all for one awesome week. Ever since I've been home, I haven't stopped wanting to go back. That one week made a lifetime change for me. It showed me the world doesn't always have to be so serious all the time and that a person can actually have fun. It's just hard to find that fun outside of Camp so I guess I've got to bring Camp out to the world and share what I've learned. Thanks for giving me the best week of my life.

—Camper Adam

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