



Camp spirit took over Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during this summer's CampWeek.



a seriousfun camp

HOP Brings Camp Magic to CHOP and Philadelphia

Banners lined the atrium. Pool noodles became horses. Unit cheers filled the hallways. And everyone from doctors to patients raised a little hell.

For one week this summer, the children, families and staff of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) experienced Hole in the Wall magic, as the facility was transformed into Downtown Camp for CampWeek.

"CampWeek this year surpassed everyone's expectations. It was fantastic," said Elana Brewer, director of child life programs & volunteer services at CHOP. "It has been an amazing partnership, and we couldn't be more pleased."

From the opening campfire – complete with s'mores, of course – to the closing singing of "Stars in the Sky" and everything in between, the week brought joy, friendship and mischief into every corner of CHOP.

Led by our Philadelphia Hospital Outreach team, and supported by hospital staff, nearly 30 Camp staff and volunteers, and more than 60 CHOP volunteers, CampWeek @ CHOP featured five full days of Camp programming. CHOP campers showed their creativity in arts and crafts, hit perfect bullseyes at archery and rode pool noodle horses around the hospital atrium, bridges and playrooms, while counselors brought fun and games

directly to children unable to venture out. Events were televised across the entire hospital, so no one missed a minute of the excitement.

A Camp favorite, Carnivarty, brought a carnival atmosphere and dancing into the cafeteria, with an afternoon of fun where campers belted out tunes in karaoke, snapped silly pictures in the photo booth and feasted on cotton candy, popcorn and Rita's Water Ice. Face painters turned children into beautiful butterflies, heroic supermen (and women) and even a few Porky Pigs.

Slime Day also proved to be a day marked with laughter and mischief, with 380 calls and texts to a hospital-wide slime hotline to vote for who should be slimed. Both group and individual slime-making sessions ensured enough of the goey stuff to publicly slime three child life specialists, as well as an attending physician from the Division of General Thoracic and Fetal Surgery.

Ending the week with a bang, the WoodCHOP500 gave patients, even those unable to leave their rooms, the chance to race handmade cars. With a racetrack set up in the atrium, the HOP staff suited up like NASCAR pit crews and gave special shout-out to children racing from their rooms. It was a day filled with excitement and high-speed antics.

But CampWeek didn't just provide activities for the children of CHOP. Parents and teens got in on the fun as well, with special teen nights and a parent painting night. In all, there were approximately 800 healing experiences with children and families throughout the week, bringing the safety, respect and love of Camp to many families in Philly.

"The goal of CampWeek was to create a session of Camp to its fullest potential within the confines of the hospital, and we did," said Michele "Gill" McKenna, regional manager, Philadelphia Hospital Outreach Program. "One of the things most telling about our success was seeing the child life specialists and CHOP staff get so caught up in unit pride. Not only were we creating this completely fun time for the kids, but we also boosted the morale of the staff."

Building on the success of the week, the Hospital Outreach team will be looking to create similar events across our network of partner hospitals, including those in the just-launched New Jersey region.

For more information about Camp's Hospital Outreach Program, please contact Mary Naumec at mary.naumec@holeinthewallgang.org or (860) 429-3444.

IN THIS ISSUE

- What's New at Camp.....2
- CEO Message.....2
- Holiday Cards2
- Alumni Antics3
- Family Flats.....3
- Sheriff's Spotlight
- Our corporate partners3
- Camp-Around Care.....4
- Our Events6
- Summer Update.....6
- Pardner Profile
- Remarkable Camp staff & friends ... 6
- Saddle Up for Camp
- Highlighting community support .. 7
- Team Hole in the Wall Update... 7



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What's New at Camp



Bradley Cooper joined Camp's Board of Directors, carrying the torch left by Paul Newman.

There is always an air of electricity surrounding summer, and 2014 was no different, with exciting announcements and amazing updates to Camp's facility. As we started off the season, Camp was delighted to welcome actor and Academy Award winner Bradley Cooper to our Board of Directors. Cooper, who previously served as a volunteer cabin counselor, is part of a next generation of celebrity friends who hopes that his involvement will inspire others to get involved and support our mission.

As campers arrived, they got a glimpse at the first of our cabin renovations – the yellow unit. A peek at what's to come over the course of the year for all of our cabins, the lucky campers in yellow experienced updated bathrooms, improved storage and increased energy efficiency. Both campers and counselors enjoyed the refreshed features, which included new bathroom fixtures and cabin furnishings. Heating and cooling units in the sleeping quarters made the areas more comfortable on cool evenings and hot summer days, and also mean the cabins are usable during the chillier days of fall and spring.

As our campers moved on to activities, they found even more exciting updates. For starters, the back of the theatre now features a completely renovated music room

with a sound booth where our future Beyoncé's and JTs can write and record their own songs on group and solo CDs. Those campers channeling Julia Child at the Cooking Zone found a new sink and dishwasher to help keep up with our dirty dishes. And Pioneer Park, the picnic area newly dedicated to our Founding Directors, was beautified with the addition of lovely spaces to congregate and share a meal.

For some of our past campers, there was a special treat – a trip to a pre-season New England Patriots game. There were eight families in attendance, with special seating in a VIP tent right

on the practice field. The campers were thrilled to get souvenir Patriots footballs and to meet some of the rookie players after the game. It was a great way to bring a little summer Camp spirit to these campers and families.

Later in the summer, Camp learned that the documentary created in partnership with Connecticut Public Television, *The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp: A Different Kind of Healing*, won a New England Regional Emmy in the Health/Science category. You can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/user/THITWGCamp>.



The newly renovated Pioneer Park space provides a peaceful spot for meals and just hanging out.

From the CEO

As I reflect on the many healing moments that filled The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's 27th summer, Camp continues to bustle with a robust calendar of year-round programming. While the chorus of unit cheers, songs and laughter continues, I find myself filled with appreciation for everyone who makes the magic of Hole in the Wall possible. I am thankful for the sacred trust that our families place in us to care for their brave and beautiful children. I am also grateful for the compassionate staff, dedicated volunteers and loyal supporters

who continue to make Paul Newman's dream their own.

Amid all this gratitude, it is always humbling to receive letters from campers and family members who are eager to express their appreciation for Hole in the Wall. This summer, I received a letter from a camper who shared: "Two weeks before I came to Camp this year, a mentor on a retreat told me that I was strong, and when I tried to correct him about how it wasn't me, it was the chemo that made me survive, he continued to say that I'm strong because I was able to hold onto a shred of hope and

happiness despite the struggles in my life. The truth is that Camp is the reason for that ... I can never thank Paul Newman enough for this Camp. In truth, I owe thanks to everyone who has ever been at Camp and helped to create the atmosphere. That attitude of safety, respect, and love will carry me through my life and allow me to be the best person I can be."

Stories like this and so many more fill our hearts and fuel our commitment to continue to expand Hole in the Wall's programming, not only to serve more seriously ill children than ever before, but also to provide year-round services to campers, their siblings, their parents and their caregivers – what we call "Camp-Around Care." In this issue, you will learn more about "Camp-Around Care," the extension of our Hospital Outreach Program to Philadelphia and other stories that showcase the ever-expanding reach of Hole in the Wall's commitment to providing "a different kind of healing."

Thank you for being part of our Camp family, and please accept our best wishes for the happiest of holidays.

Camp Holiday Cards Are Here!

Share some Camp spirit by recognizing clients, family and friends with Camp's holiday tribute cards this holiday season.

Featuring several choices of camper artwork, Camp's holiday cards let you make a donation to Camp on behalf of others. Order today at www.holeinthewallgang.org/holidaycard or contact Andrea Keefe at andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org.



Jimmy got in on the Carnivarty fun with some campers.

Alumni Antics

Our campers weren't the only ones enjoying some pre-season football action this summer. Camp alumni got in on the fun as well when 15 former campers, staff members and summer volunteers gathered at Gillette Stadium to watch the New England Patriots take on the Carolina Panthers. It was a perfect day of sharing stories, rekindling Camp connections and just plain fun, made even better by the Patriots' victory.

The event was one of many that take place throughout the year as part of our Stars in the Sky Alumni Society, which is open not only to former campers but also former staff and summer volunteers. The group aims to keep Camp friendships going for those whose time at Camp has come to a close while providing an opportunity for members to continue their connection to Camp. Events range

from regional alumni dinners to reunions and Stage Nights at Camp.

"The Alumni Association is a wonderful way to experience the spirit of Camp beyond Ashford," said Rebecca Patenaude, Camp's alumni coordinator. "No matter where you are in life, Camp wants to be a part

of that journey. Come play, be silly, give back and remind yourself of the magic of the Hole in the Wall."

Interested in finding out more or reconnecting with your Camp family? Contact Rebecca at rebecca.patenaude@holeinthewallgang.org or at 860-429-3444.



Camp alumni and their families take in a pre-season Patriots game.

Family Flats

Stories from current and former camper families.

It's never easy for a parent to leave their child at sleep-away camp for the first time. Add to that a serious illness that requires ongoing medical attention, and you have the unique challenge faced by Hole in the Wall camper parents – parents like Lindsay and Dave Knops, who dropped off their daughter Ava for her very first week at Camp this past August.

"I was nervous ... but when I got to Camp, my worries left," said Lindsay. "Once I saw the energy and

saw the grounds, I knew Ava was in the best place she could be."

The Knopses first heard about Camp many years ago, when they moved to Boston from Florida for Ava's care, but Ava didn't decide she was ready to attend until this year. Now that she's gone, she can't wait to go back.

"Camp brought out so much independence and confidence in Ava," said Lindsay. "It was a great way to end the summer and start fourth grade. It was exactly what she needed."

But Ava wasn't the only one with a first-time Camp experience this summer. Her parents attended a Change of Pace Experience (C.O.P.E.) weekend in August, which happened to coincide with their daughter's time at Camp.

At C.O.P.E. weekends, new Camp families spend time with current Camp families and share their experiences. Similar to the Camp experience their children have, parents find a community that understands the challenges they are facing.

"We weren't expecting to make so many friends and be with people who get it," Lindsay shared. "None of our friends really understand, and I wouldn't want them to. But to be with people who have been there is comforting. You are able to share and not feel like you're burdening them. We could show the real us."

The Knopses were also able to rediscover themselves through the experience, gaining insight about the importance of taking care of themselves in order to be the best caregivers to Ava that they can be.

"We left Connecticut in a wonderful frame of mind ... and I picked up the happiest, tired child in the world," Lindsay said. "The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has changed our lives in a single week, and Ava is already excited about next year. After a weekend of self-care at C.O.P.E., there is no better medicine for a mom's newly healing heart than a little girl with new-found independence and amazing stories from Camp."



Left: Ava enjoyed a week of fun, friendship and bushy tail shaking while her parents experienced the healing power of C.O.P.E.

Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

When The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was thinking about how to celebrate its 25th anniversary a few years ago, the organization was very fortunate to be forming a fast friendship with the New York-based Grey Group, which ranks among the world's top advertising and marketing organizations. Not only was Grey's creative prowess behind the Wonder sing-a-long with Natalie Merchant and the launch of the inspirational "Healing Feeling" series that kicked off the year-long celebration (you can watch the videos at www.youtube.com/user/THITWGCamp), but their ongoing pro bono support of Camp communications has turned into an agency-wide love fest for all things Hole in the Wall.

"Working with the dedicated team at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has truly shown the sincere and positive effect our partnership can create," said the Grey team. "Being a part of the Hole in the Wall family is an incredibly fulfilling honor and goes beyond our immediate team. At Grey, we continually look for ways to support the Camp and contribute to the fun-loving spirit of Hole in the Wall."

Indeed Grey's support of Camp's mission extends far beyond the 25th anniversary celebration, with their expertise enriching several Hole in the Wall initiatives. The team is supporting the development of marketing materials for Camp's programs and is also behind the whimsically colorful artwork on the CampOut van. In addition, Grey has hosted several Camp events at their offices in the Flatiron District and agency staffers frequently fundraise for Hole in the Wall in various ways.

"Grey is an absolute creative powerhouse, a world-renowned agency that is constantly shaping campaigns of distinction for their clients," said Ryan Thompson, Camp's chief communications officer. "The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is extremely fortunate not only to be a beneficiary of their extraordinary inventiveness in taking our message of 'a different kind of healing' to exciting new places, but also for the passionate, beautiful ways that the entire agency continues to embrace our community."

For more information on The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Corporate Partners Program, please contact Ray Shedd, senior development officer, at ray.shedd@holeinthewallgang.org or visit www.holeinthewallgang.org.

GREY



Stars in the Sky Alumni Society

The Stars in the Sky Society is open to former campers, counselors and volunteers age 18 and over. Its purpose is to rekindle old friendships and create opportunities for Camp alumni to participate in Camp's future through a variety of alumni events.



Summer Program

At the core of all of our programming is our signature summer program – eight glorious week-long sessions in Ashford, Conn., that serve seriously ill children, and one week dedicated to their healthy siblings. Campers aged seven to 15 ride horses, create crafts and swim while bonding with other children facing similar challenges, all while learning they are capable of so much more than they ever thought.



Hero's Journey

For campers who have aged out of our summer program, we offer Hero's Journey, a seven-day, wilderness-based program where participants learn self-reliance, positive communication, teamwork and leadership by becoming an on-call search and rescue team in a simulated setting.



CampOut

CampOut brings the joy and fun of Camp to campers and their families right in their hometowns. The program helps the magic and connections of Camp continue throughout the year as a team of traveling specialists drive a whimsical van filled with camp-style activities, crafts and games to locations throughout the Northeast, including camper homes, schools and other community venues.



Weekend Programs

Running in the fall and spring at our facility in Ashford, weekend retreats continue the healing power of Camp beyond the summer months and create a memorable experience for the entire family. Families share in Camp activities and enjoy the company of other families who understand the issues they are facing.



At Hole in the Wall, we are dedicated to providing year-round services to not only campers, but also their siblings, parents and caregivers – what we call "Camp-Around Care." These programs, both at Camp and across the Northeast, address the needs of the entire family and keep the spirit of Camp going all year long.

Hospital Outreach®

The year-round Hospital Outreach Program brings the hopeful, playful spirit of Hole in the Wall Gang to children and families in the hospital setting. Taking the activities and experiences of Camp and transporting them to kids' bedsides and playrooms, the program helps restore joy and laughter in a time of fear, stress and uncertainty. Camp specialists work collaboratively with hospital staff to create experiences defined by fun activities and enduring friendships.



Change of Pace Experience (C.O.P.E.)

C.O.P.E. extends the magic of Camp to camper parents and caregivers. Current camper families share their experiences with new families, creating a community of acceptance based on common understanding.



Our Events

Highlights of our latest benefit events and those to come...

When leaves start turning an autumn hue and chilly mornings begin, you know it's time for an exciting season of Camp events. This year, the first two weeks of September brought two outstanding fundraisers.

The month began with the 12th Annual "Fore a Very Good Cause" Golf Tournament, which moved this year to one of the country's most prestigious golf courses – Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y. Camp friends enjoyed a gourmet brunch and 18 holes of golf at the celebrated club. The field was made up of 170 players – including actor Kevin Dillon, best known for his role as Johnny "Drama" Chase on HBO's *Entourage*.

Following the round, guests returned to the clubhouse for a dinner reception featuring a buffet and live auction, where Board Member Dennis Poster received the Most Wanted award for his exemplary leadership, generosity and loyalty in support of Camp. A short program featured camper Maggie, who shared the story of how her seven years at Camp will stay with her forever.

The event raised more than \$350,000 for Camp programs serving seriously ill children and their families. We are grateful for all who attended and helped make this year's event so amazing.

Just 12 days later, Camp friends joined us back in Ashford for the 24th Fandango Benefit Gala. Camp's grounds were transformed into a festive carnival that featured cocktails, amazing snacks from a variety of food trucks, photo booths and a silent auction.

The rain held off until our guests moved into Sports & Rec for the live auction, which was masterfully hosted by Stephen Colbert. Leading up to the auction, CEO Jimmy Canton welcomed guests and shared updates from the year, and camper Liam offered a glimpse of the healing power of Camp through his experiences climbing the tower and at Project Bliss. The auction was spirited, as guests bid on sought after lots that included an America's Cup Yacht experience, lunch with actor Ryan Reynolds, tickets to opening night of *The Elephant Man* on Broadway with a post-performance meet-and-greet with star Bradley Cooper and tickets to the premiere taping when Stephen Colbert takes over *The Late Show*.

Following the auction, guests were treated to the Fandango performance, which was directed by Board Member James Naughton, and featured an appearance by Christopher Walken. But it was the performances by our campers –

Camryn, Stephen, Zoe, Reyna, Braeden, Amari, Dylan, Selam, Caroline, Anna, Kylie and Benett – that stole the show.

During the event, Board Member Lynn Fusco was recognized with Camp's Most Wanted award for her exemplary leadership, generosity and compassion in providing "a different kind of healing" to seriously ill children and their families.

The evening closed with dinner and dancing to music by Boston-based band Business Time. The Gala raised \$1.4 million for Camp's year-round programs. Thanks to everyone who came out for such a wonderful day and made the event a success.

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.holeinthewallgang.org/campevents or contact Jennifer Weeks, director of special events, at jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org.



Above: Guests and performers hit the dance floor to close out this year's Fandango Benefit Gala.



Actor Kevin Dillon and his brother Paul take a break from golfing to meet camper Maggie and Camp CEO Jimmy Canton.

Summer Update

This summer, we welcomed 1,130 children during nine magnificent week-long sessions filled with fun, friendship and, of course, a little mischief. Like every summer, campers had the opportunity to participate in a wide array of programming designed to meet them where they are medically and physically, with the option to choose their favorite activity to participate in each afternoon. What did they like best? This year's campers reported the most fun at pool, stage night, horses, Carnivarty and XPro.



Pardner Profile

A place to shout about a few of the people who make Camp the remarkable place it is.



Jane D'Arcangelo Adams is making a difference in the lives of seriously ill children.

For the past two years, she has volunteered her time and skills in Camp's development office in New Haven, at Camp and Team events and during Family Weekends.

"Having dealt with some significant medical issues of my own, I knew I wanted to help children who were also facing medical challenges," she said. "But I thought the only way to do that was if you had a lot of money to donate. Finding out about the opportunities in the New Haven office, that was great. I can really make a difference and share what I know and what I'm good at."

Whether staffing information tables and spreading the word about Camp, preparing event invitations or helping out with one of the many other administrative tasks, Jane's contributions provide tremendous support to Camp's development team.

"Jane's hard work and can-do attitude are such valuable assets to our office," said Amanda Garbatini, the New Haven office's volunteer coordinator. "Our volunteers are a vital part of our team, and Jane's commitment and dedication to Camp make that even clearer." But the benefits are not only one-sided.

"Volunteering for Camp has opened up so many doors and friendships," said Jane. "Finding this community has made me become braver because it allows me to be who I am."

The New Haven office welcomes volunteers to assist with answering phones, preparing Camp mailings, organizing materials and other general office duties. Want to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, including our summer and weekend programs? Visit our website at www.holeinthewallgang.org.

Saddle Up for Camp

Camp is at the epicenter of a caring community. Our gratitude goes out to all who host and organize fundraising events in support of Camp's mission.



Above: Maialino restaurant was transformed to provide a true Camp experience.

Right: Terry Coughlin poses with camper Zak, Board Member A.E. Hotchner and Chief Development Officer Ken Alberti.

Take one part Camp magic. Add in a heaping cup of generosity. Sprinkle with equal amounts of dedication and gratitude. The result? Camp Maialino – one of a cadre of new community events benefiting Camp this year.

Whipped up by camper parent Terry Coughlin, Camp Maialino created a true Camp experience at Maialino restaurant in New York City where Terry is a managing partner. The normally cozy trattoria was filled with Camp spirit that was further bolstered by campy decorations including a canoe, miniature Adirondack chairs and even a welcome sign mimicking our own.

“We really wanted to bring the feeling of Camp to Maialino – to take this Italian restaurant and turn it into a summer camp,” said Terry. “We set the tone right off the bat, making it fun, creative and not too fancy so people would want to come back. Everyone loved it.”

From the decorations to the whimsical food presentations to the members of the Camp family in attendance, Camp could be felt in every corner of the restaurant. Camper Zak shared his story of how Camp helped him become more independent, while

Founding Director A.E. Hotchner shared stories about Camp's history .

In all, the event raised \$365,000 to support Camp programming through event tickets and live and silent auctions. Seth Meyers added an extra splash of fun as the celebrity auctioneer, while “Fonz” and “Heisenberg” auction packages, among others, whetted everyone's appetite for bidding.

But for Terry, the opportunity to share Camp was the highlight. “I feel so grateful to be part of the Camp community,” said Terry, who attended

a family weekend with his two daughters after his younger daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia last year. “Even though this last year has been incredibly challenging, I feel like I am a better person because of Camp.”

To organize your own event, please contact Andrea Keefe, development associate, at andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org or (203) 772-0522. To see when events are coming to your area, check out Camp's online event calendar at www.holeinthewallgang.org/eventscalendar.



Team Update

What's new and exciting at Team Hole in the Wall...

The 2014 Boston Marathon was one to remember. Because of the commitment displayed by Team Hole in the Wall members who participated, it was the most successful Boston Marathon fundraising event for Team to date, raising a remarkable \$425,000 for Camp.

But what made this year's event truly special were the individuals who represent the spirit of Camp while going the extra mile – literally – to raise money for campers. Folks like Larry Grogin and John Renaldo, who ran an additional 224 miles from their homes in Franklin Lakes, N.J., to the marathon starting line. They then proceeded to complete the marathon for a grand total of 250 miles. Or Vinny Caruso, who was told by doctors that he may never run again after being diagnosed with a heart condition in 1998. When they allowed him to participate in one last marathon, he chose to run inspired and represent The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp at this year's Boston Marathon.

Team's 37 runners in this year's event were able to maximize the value of their fundraising efforts through the support of the John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program, which provided the entries for our runners. Additionally, event partners like Golf Fights Cancer, which donated \$125,000 toward this year's event, were also integral to the fundraising success.

Interested in joining this team of amazing individuals? No need to run 250 miles or even a marathon. Our events range from 5Ks to marathons, from cycling events to paddling events, and beyond. Through our Create Your Own Event option, Team members can even ride roller coasters or play 18 holes to help provide the joy and possibility of Camp to children battling serious illnesses. Visit us at www.teamholeinthewall.org/ for more information. Hop on board and help spread the happiness!



Camp Challenge Ride and Bandit 5K

This year's Camp Challenge Ride and Bandit 5K was the most successful ever. Thanks to our dedicated participants, and a generous matching gift from one of Camp's Board members, the event raised more than \$460,000! We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the day so successful.



Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a community dedicated to providing “a different kind of healing” to seriously ill children and their families through a variety of year-round programs. The Camp delivers fun, friendship and a healthy dose of mischief through its signature summer program and weekend sessions at the Camp facility in Ashford, Conn. as well as outreach to hospitals, clinics and communities across the Northeast. All services are free of charge.

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 ensure privacy, while building a personal relationship with each donor.

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Stephen Colbert posed for a selfie with one of our talented campers just before the Fandango performance at Camp's Gala in September.



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Take a look
inside to see how
Philadelphia spent
a week at Camp

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