



Photo courtesy of The Aspen Institute.

A “HOLE” NEW LOCATION IN MARYLAND



Bringing Hope and Healing to Children and Families in the Mid-Atlantic

This May, Hole in the Wall announced some exciting and historic news—that Camp will be opening a second location on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, bringing “a different kind of healing” to more children with serious illnesses and their families in the Mid-Atlantic.

This announcement came after several years of the Camp’s leadership exploring the possibility of adding a second location in the region, which included, among other necessary steps, conducting a thorough medical needs assessment. Then things took an exciting and unexpected turn when the Aspen Institute’s Board of Directors decided to donate a majority of its 166-acre Wye River Conference Center in Queenstown, Md. to Hole in the Wall, paying forward their previous gift of the property in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.

“For 35 years, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has been guided by Founder Paul Newman’s creative spirit, expanding programming to bring joy and hope to more children with serious illnesses while also increasing opportunities for their families to experience the healing power of Camp all year long,” said Jimmy Canton, Hole in the Wall CEO. “This same commitment that expanded our reach from 288 campers in 1988 to now more than 20,000 children and family members annually also inspired us to pursue this opportunity to bring Camp magic to thousands more children and family

members in the Mid-Atlantic—a region that Hole in the Wall has served to some extent since its earliest days. We are thrilled for this next chapter and humbled by the Aspen Institute’s incredibly kind and generous donation—it’s a gift that will keep on giving.”

Just like in Connecticut, the new Maryland location promises to be a magical getaway and scenic escape with its beautiful water views, tree-lined pathways and majestic meadows—not to mention an occasional sighting of the world-renowned Wye Angus herd grazing in the distance. The property also contains several residential buildings and other facilities that will be renovated to provide a helpful starting point towards a planned opening in summer 2023.

Though many children and families currently travel to Connecticut from the Mid-Atlantic or are served by the Hospital Outreach Program (HOP)™ in area hospitals, the new Maryland location will provide a much more convenient destination for those families as well as thousands of others not currently served by the Camp’s on-site programming. The new site also allows Hole in the Wall to



a serious fun camp

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FROM THE CEO

“To those who are given much, much is expected.” For 35 years, these words and the innovative spirit of our Founder Paul Newman have driven The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp to dream the biggest dreams for those we are privileged to serve. During that time, we have been given a great deal. The faith of families who have entrusted us with their precious children. Caring staff and volunteers who have kept fun and friendship at the heart of our programming. The support of donors whose incredible generosity has allowed us to expand programming to reach more children and provide more frequent Camp connections to families. As we share the exciting announcement of adding a second Hole in the Wall location on the

Eastern Shore of Maryland, we do so with grateful hearts for everything we have been given and excitement for all the healing experiences that await some brave children and families in the Mid-Atlantic. With the continued support of our incredible Camp family, there is nothing we can't do—and won't do—when given the opportunity to provide joy and hope to those most in need. Thank you for making this historic moment and so much Camp magic possible.



James Canton, CEO



A careful balancing act as CEO Jimmy Canton joins campers for a game of Jenga in this archival photo.

Continued from A “Hole” New Location in Maryland

draw from a three-hour radius in the Mid-Atlantic containing some of the nation's most prominent pediatric hospitals treating populations that this new location hopes to serve. These hospitals will not only provide the pathways for these families to experience Hole in the Wall's overnight Camp programming but will also provide access to local medical volunteers and potential partnership opportunities to benefit those the Camp serves.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp-Maryland will be shaped by the organization's 35 years of experience not only serving children with serious illnesses, but also answering the diverse needs of their families. The new

location and all programming will be family inclusive so that those most devastated and isolated by serious illness, including those with rare diseases, will be able to connect with a community of support that understands their unique challenges.

“The opportunity to have a weekend with no limits makes the more than five-hour drive to Connecticut worth it,” said camper mom Heather. “But we are so excited to have Camp closer to our family, and to all the families who are not able to make the long trip. It's great that so many more families are going to experience the magic of Hole in the Wall.”

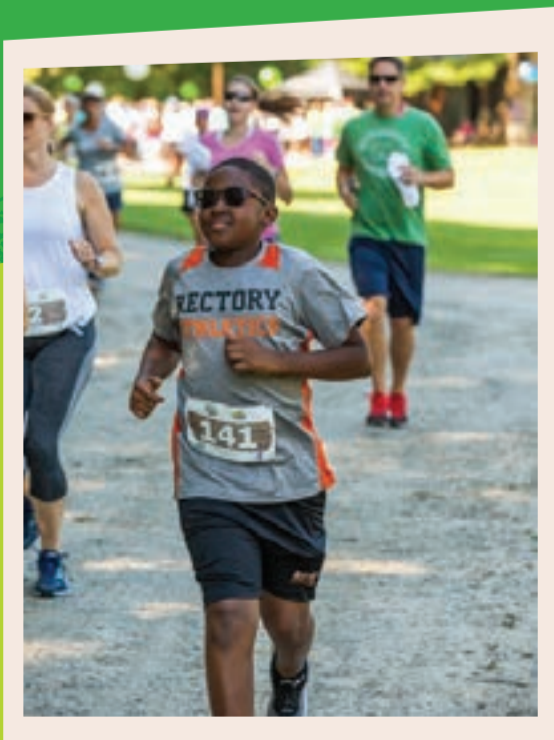
Actor, producer, director and Camp board member Bradley Cooper is serving as honorary chair of the committee leading the launch of the new location and is excited to see the Hole in the Wall expanding to the region. Cooper, who volunteered as a cabin counselor in Connecticut in 2006 and joined the Board of Directors in 2014, has a deep, personal connection to the Mid-Atlantic, having grown up near Philadelphia and graduating from Georgetown University.

“I've seen firsthand the life-changing impact of Hole in the Wall's programs, which is why I'm honored and excited to see that Camp is bringing a much-needed escape, a support network and empowering experiences

to the lives of some incredibly brave kids and families in the Mid-Atlantic,” said Cooper. “Just like when Paul Newman first started the Camp, this expansion into Maryland will rely on the generosity of many new friends who want to see these kids become campers and their family members experience all the healing magic Hole in the Wall has to offer.”



QUEENSTOWN, MARYLAND



SHERIFF'S SPOTLIGHT

There's just something so special about a friend who has been by your side since day one, lifting you up during challenges and cheering you on in good times. Hole in the Wall is incredibly fortunate to have such a friend in Newman's Own Foundation, who was not only instrumental in the Camp being established but has always been there for us in every way that matters.

Over the years, Newman's Own has supported Camp not only by donating their products like popcorn and salsa, but with their financial support as well. Their \$1 million gift following the fire in February 2021 is just one of many examples of how the Foundation has steadily and readily surrounded Camp with love and generosity for 35 years.

"Newman's Own Foundation's abiding concern for our children and families is nothing short of extraordinary and serves as an inspiring example to the thousands of Camp donors each year who continue to make Paul Newman's dream their own," said Camp CEO Jimmy Canton. "The world is truly a better place because of Paul Newman's legacy of philanthropy, which the Foundation carries on today so effectively."


Newman's Own has always given all of its profits to good causes, following Paul Newman's belief that making a difference in the lives of people in need—especially children who face adversity—is an important, rewarding and meaningful endeavor. To date, the Foundation has donated more than \$570 million to thousands of charitable organizations around the world, including The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Newman's Own employees also come out to Camp regularly for Helping Hands Workdays. They make beds, sweep floors

and do whatever is necessary to get things ready to welcome our children and families. That willingness to jump in whenever needed was further exemplified when the Foundation rushed to Camp's side following the fire to provide their support.

"We knew we needed to act, and we knew we needed to do it quickly. It was just the right thing to do," said Newman's Own Foundation President and CEO Miriam Nelson. "What Newman's Own Foundation did was no different than what Paul Newman always did, as an individual and as the Founder of Newman's Own. Show up, ante up and as quickly as possible."



We knew we needed to act, and we knew we needed to do it quickly. It was just the right thing to do. 

—Miriam Nelson



Not only is Newman's Own Foundation incredibly generous with financial support, but their employees also frequently provide in-person support at Helping Hands Workdays.



The CampOut team was absolutely thrilled about their first in-person home visit in two years. It was great to bring fun and friendship right to our camper's family at home!

GETTING ACTIVE FOR GOOD

Running, Walking, Riding—All to Support Camp!

This spring saw the exciting return to in-person Camp FUNraiser events, starting with the brand-new Pedal for Pies event at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, Conn., on May 7. This cycling event offered three cycling distances—15 and 33 miles, and a metric century—winding

through blooming apple trees. The sweetest part—all participants received a pie after their ride!

Camp Challenge also took place in May, making the move from its traditional timeframe of September. This year's event

featured the Bandit 5K run/walk, which our participants have come to love along with a brand-new trail running component. This six-hour run through Camp put participants through their paces as they enjoyed a beautiful and inspirational setting.



OUR IMPACT IN 2021



18,000 gifts
DONATED TO CAMP

1,800 volunteers
GAVE THEIR TIME

generously providing “a different kind of healing” to thousands of children with serious illnesses and their families.



★ **820 Children & Family Members**

were served in spring, summer and fall on-site programming at Camp.

★ **3,119 Children & Family Members**

experienced Camp connections and a “hole” lot of fun through 126 Family Outreach program offerings including weekly caregiver cabin chats on Zoom, summer mailing series, virtual and in-person CampOut events, virtual home visits and the first Parent and Caregiver Retreat since 2019.

★ **17,000 Healing Experiences**

Hospital Outreach provided by bringing Camp fun and friendship to patients’ bedsides, hospital-wide events and virtual activities.



When I arrived at Hole in the Wall, I felt like someone had turned the light on in my life, finally clearing out all of the darkness that had consumed me.



—Camper AJ



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE TREEHOUSE



For nearly 20 years, Camp's Discover Card Treehouse was a beloved symbol of playful mischief and the spirit of childhood—from the musical instruments lining the rampway to the pirate flag hoisted by Paul Newman himself. When it opened in 2003, it was thought to be the world's largest wheelchair accessible Treehouse, and it quickly became a favorite spot where campers could enjoy a meal out, families could recharge playing boardgames and lifelong friendships could be formed as the sounds of laughter tickled the treetops high above Camp.

Unfortunately, the Treehouse has not been open for the last few years due to safety concerns caused by the movement of the trees that supported the structure and its rampways. After careful consideration of all the available options, Hole in the Wall made the difficult decision to remove the Treehouse this winter and plans to build a new inclusive play structure at Camp that will carry on the same whimsical tradition of wonder for our children and their families.

Understanding how special the Treehouse was to so many members of our Camp community,

we asked them to share some of their favorite memories and here's what they had to say:

"I remember going up in the Treehouse when I came to Camp for the first time for an open house," said former camper Giana. "I honestly think it was there that I made the decision to go to Camp."

"We love the Treehouse," said camper parent Margaret. "Our Alex was diagnosed in 2016 with a brain tumor, and we were able to go on our first Family Weekend that fall. Our first trip was the Treehouse, and we loved the accessibility since Alex was in a wheelchair. We always made sure to visit the Treehouse every visit. Such a special place."

"I remember going inside the Treehouse for the first time with my little sister and playing with the fuzzy caterpillars all around it," said former camper Cecilia. "They have always been one of my small all-time faves at Camp."

"My favorite memory is when we had a 'tea party' for our younger girls cabin," said former summer staff member Emily. "We made Shirley Temples and all the girls



While we'll be sad to see the Treehouse go, we're excited for the inclusive new play structure that will be coming soon.

started speaking in English accents and wore crowns and fancy dresses from the Theatre. So many giggles."

"My family has SO many amazing memories...one of our favorites is playing 'zombie chase,'" said camper mom Sherry. "Every Family Weekend we would play this game with Camp friends that

we have made along the way. Such treasured memories."

While it's sad to see the Treehouse go, it's exciting to look forward to a brand-new program area that will allow our Founder dream of "a different kind of healing" to continue in new ways, with so many more beautiful memories to be made.

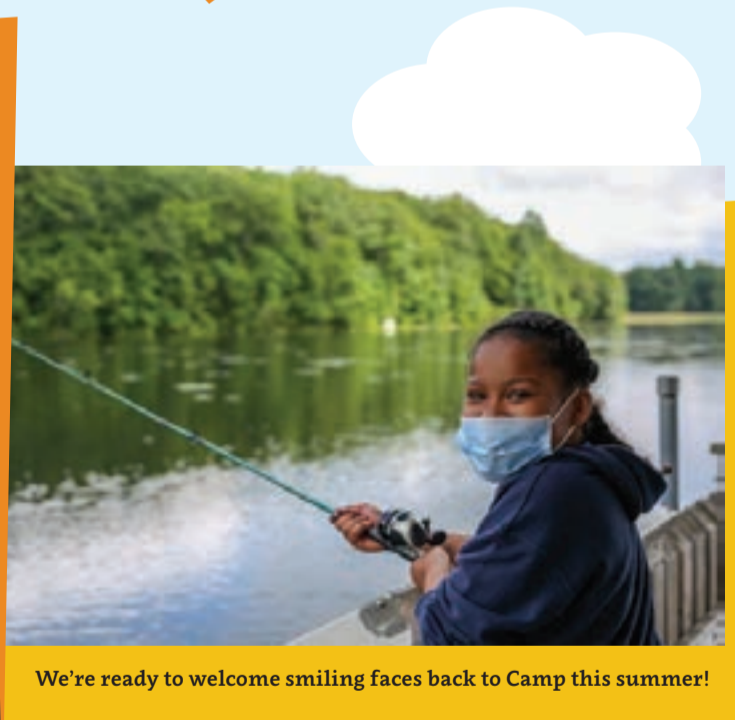
A HOPEFUL HOMECOMING



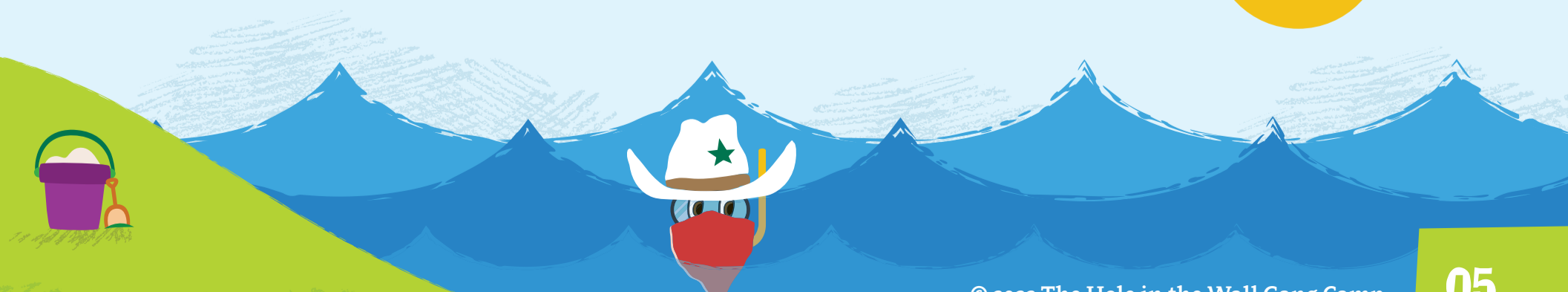
After two years of uncertainty, we are over the moon excited to see things looking a little bit more like the good old days here at Camp, with the return of our traditional summer program for children with serious illnesses and their siblings.

Our staff and volunteers cannot wait to welcome our campers back for seven, five-day sessions featuring their favorite Camp activities and a variety of COVID-19 safety measures, including a reduced occupancy and vaccination requirement for all participants, staff and volunteers.

In addition, we will also be offering two, four-day Family Camps as well as virtual programming so that everyone who wants to have a Camp experience this summer can share in the joy of Hole in the Wall.



We're ready to welcome smiling faces back to Camp this summer!



PARENT & CAREGIVER RETREATS RETURN

In November, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp hosted its first in-person Parent and Caregiver Retreat since 2019 at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury, Conn. With COVID-19 safety measures in place, a group of 26 parents and caregivers were thrilled for the opportunity to connect with each other, have some fun and enjoy much needed “me time.” For two “hole” days, attendees basked in sleeping in, listened to meaningful speakers, enjoyed traditional Camp activities

like arts & crafts, took trail walks around the hotel and even made some mocktails!

“I try to stay strong but as a mother sometimes you lose that battle,” said camper mom Duriya. “I felt like the Camp refreshed my mind and body for all the emotional carryover I had for my son’s illness. Meeting other parents gave me some strength and support that I needed.”



SADDLE UP FOR CAMP

Since 2013, a group of Camp supporters have played 18 holes each September at Hackers for Cancer, a Family of Friends Golf Event, to support Hole in the Wall’s children and families. The event, which has raised more than \$45,000 for Camp over the years, also honors the friends and family of participants who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis.

“My mother was the one to start this event—supporting Dana Farber Cancer Institute—when her brother, my uncle, got sick then passed because of cancer,” said Mark Sagan, the event’s organizer. “When I took over, I made the event more about family and friends because I wanted to keep my

uncle’s memory alive while also honoring the lost loved ones of our supporters as well. Hence the name, ‘Family of Friends!’ And the gratitude we have received from Camp as well as all involved has made our efforts so rewarding.”

Each year, a committed group of event volunteers come up with a fun theme and different hole challenges to keep the festivities fresh, which has led to a loyal group of annual participants—many of whom have been involved since the very beginning. And a portion of the funds raised also go to help some event participants themselves who may be going through a difficult time.

“We have a special ‘most trees hit award,’ of course longest drives, closest to the pin,” Mark said. “We try to change it up even with what some may call ridiculous. But anything to raise money is a win-win. Nonetheless, nothing beats the fun we have on the course and during dinner when we’re all together.”

If you’d like to learn more about becoming a Camp FUNraiser, visit holeinthewallgang.org/get-involved or email FUNraiser@holeinthewallgang.org.



HOSPITAL OUTREACH PROGRAM ON THE GO

Some fan favorites have been making the rounds at our hospital partners bringing fun and laughter during some very different times. From Scooby Doo and Super Mario-themed events to Bob Ross-inspired bedside visits and more, our Hospital Outreach specialists continue to find creative ways to keep children engaged and smiling.

“Hospital Outreach specialists bring so much energy, so much creativity, flexibility and knowledge to the table and the ideas and programming are so incredibly special, fun and refreshing, not only for patients and families, but for staff as well,” said Max Svec, Media Program Manager, Seacrest Studios, Boston Children’s Hospital. “HOP’s impact on families and staff runs so deep and the genuine camaraderie is genuinely inspiring.”



PARDNER PROFILE

Meet Alison!

Alison Haigis has been a dedicated Hole in the Wall volunteer for more than a decade, starting during a Helping Hands Workday at Camp with her then employer—Newman's Own. As she was preparing for the arrival of campers and their families, she knew right then and there that she wanted to do more. As her own children got older, she volunteered more and more, starting with a summer session in 2012 when she and a work colleague were counselors in the same cabin. From that moment on, she was hooked and has been spreading Camp magic to her family and friends ever since.

"I came home from my first summer session and told my son that he needed to work at Camp," Alison said. "And when he turned 19, he applied for his first summer as a counselor. Three years later, my daughter also worked at the Camp. It's become a family affair, and the highlight of my time volunteering was the summer session where I was in the Blue Unit with both of my children."

While Alison's first summer session at Camp will always hold a special place in her heart, she's branched out over the years and volunteered in various capacities during Family Weekends, CampOut events,

Hospital Outreach playgroups and even fundraising events. She can also often be found in the Administration Building at Camp stuffing camper birthday cards or helping with mailings. And for the past two years Alison has been a virtual fixture, volunteering to help support Hole in the Wall's alternative programs.

"It's the people who keep me coming back," Alison said.

"Not only the kids and families, but the other volunteers and staff. There are not many places where the people who are there want to be there. But at Camp, everyone does."

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a volunteer at Hole in the Wall, email volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org or visit holeinthewallgang.org/volunteer-opportunities.



Alison joined her family as a volunteer in the Blue Unit, describing it as the best volunteer opportunity she's had.



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Many thanks to our Camp friends and families who have generously shared their personal photography with us as they participate in alternative programming.

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CREATIVE COMPLEX

TIME LAPSE

Curious to see how Camp's new Creative Complex is coming along? Check out these recent construction photos and stay tuned in to our social media channels for the latest progress!



1/27/2022



2/17/2022



05/11/2022



 **SAVE THE DATE!**

Hole in the Wall is absolutely thrilled to be returning to in-person benefit events! We cannot wait to safely gather with Camp friends—old and new—to help bring “a different kind of healing” to those who need it most. So, grab your calendar and

a bright red pen, and make sure you don’t miss out on our upcoming events. Visit holeinthewallgang.org/benefitevents for more information or contact our Director of Special Events Jennifer Weeks, at Jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org with any questions.



Mon. 8/15

20th Annual “Fore A Very Good Cause” Golf Tournament

Tee off with Camp as we hit the links at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, Connecticut and celebrate our Tournament’s 20th anniversary! Friendly competition during the 18-hole round will include putting and long drive contests with foursomes vying to be named the inaugural winners of the “Camp Cup.” Brunch, on-course “Chuck Wagons” featuring grab and go hearty fare, a dinner reception and auction round out a day you won’t want to miss!



Sat. 9/24

With a Little Help from our Friends: A Fandango Benefit Gala Celebration

Don’t miss your chance to get back to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, Conn. for our annual fundraising tradition started by Founder Paul Newman. The festivities feature an inspiring and entertaining variety show with campers performing musical numbers, families sharing inspirational stories and celebrity friends joining the fun. In addition to this one-of-a-kind show, the afternoon and evening will be filled with silent and live auctions, music, good food, great friends and so much more—all outdoors under a festive tent.



Sat. 11/12

31st Annual Big Apple Bash

Join Hole in the Wall in the heart of New York City as we take a bite out of the Big Apple during an unforgettable evening filled with plenty of fun Camp activities and awesome entertainment. Oh, and did we forget to mention cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and dinner too!?!?

Look inside a “Hole” to learn about new location!

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