



The Patel Family were able to reconnect with each other during Family Camp, while making connections with other families who are facing similar challenges.

A Place to Call Home

Family Camp Focused on Rare Diseases Offers Support to a Truly Unique Community

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp has always been a safe haven for those facing serious illness, providing an escape from the loneliness and isolation that is so often encountered in their everyday lives. Camp has also been dedicated to building a community of support that embraces the entire family, and it continues to expand its efforts to reach those families that are the most isolated those with children facing incredibly rare illnesses.

This summer, for the first time ever, Hole in the Wall hosted a Family Camp specifically for families of children with rare diseases. These families often never meet anyone else coping with the same diagnosis. Some have children with illnesses so rare that they don't even have a diagnosis. Working closely with the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), Camp offered these families something they don't frequently experience the opportunity to meet others who are walking a very similar path and can truly understand the unique challenges they are facing.

"One of the biggest issues facing the families we serve is just fitting in," said Lisa Phelps, director of marketing and community relations for NORD. "We want to be a partner and resource to these families. Recognizing the value Hole in the Wall provides in helping them feel normal and part of something bigger and better, we couldn't wait to be a part of Family Camp."

During four days in early June, 24 families gathered at Camp to experience all that Hole in the Wall offers. What they found was a place where acceptance was the norm, and they had the opportunity to let go and have fun while all their medical needs were expertly tended to. Some of them even met families with a shared diagnosis for the very first time.

"At Camp, you can let your guard down because everyone there has their own challenges," said Irfan Patel, who attended with his wife and children. "It really puts your life in perspective – you realize you are not alone, and you can just be yourself. It's a huge burden off of your shoulders."

Similar to Camp's Family Weekends, each family in attendance is supported by their own Family Pals counselors who help facilitate the fun

and ensure parents are afforded the time to interact with other parents.

"One of the most amazing things about Family Camp was the parent chat," said Camp's Medical Director Sharon Space. "As the parents shared their stories, they were amazed to learn how much they had in common. They were able to share resources as well as support. It was really inspiring to see."

The children, too, gain so much from the experience.

"I have four children: Yusuf, Miriam, Khadija and Ibrahim," said Irfan. "My oldest, Yusuf, who faces medical challenges, got a big boost of confidence at the climbing wall, while my third child, Khadija, who also faces medical challenges and is ordinarily very shy, found the one place where she opened herself up to activities."

As Camp continues to expand its offerings, these families will continue to be a growing focus.

"There are 30 million people looking for support," said Lisa. "Hole in the Wall can provide a really unique and transformative experience for those families who get to take advantage of it."

a serioüsfun camp

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From the CEO

Connections. When I think about one of the universal experiences Camp brings to our families – and a resounding theme of this issue – it's connections.

Since our founding, the connections made by the campers with the staff and each other have always been at the heart of what Paul Newman described as "a different kind of healing." Over the years, when our programs expanded to serve siblings, parents, caregivers and hospitalized children, additional connections were made as our year-round services provided more frequent Camp touchpoints for families. This allowed Hole in the Wall to become so much more than a physical place or momentary escape.

As I reflect on the summer, I smile when I think of all the connections made during eight weeklong sessions and at our Family Camp for those coping with very rare diseases. We always tell our campers on the final night of their session that they can stay "connected" to Camp by bringing Camp back to their worlds and sharing the kindness, acceptance and friendship that defines our community with those in and around their homes. When they do this, they make Camp happen then and there.

Camp can happen anywhere, at any time.

Meaningful connections were also made in Philadelphia this summer when our Hospital Outreach Program took over CHOP for CampWeek, which brought Hole in the Wall mischief to every corner of the hospital; as our CampOut staff brought fun activities right to camper homes and also hosted a drive-in movie night in Wickham Park for some of our regional families; and as our Boston alumni enjoyed a Red Sox Game together in Fenway Park. Rest assured, these connections will go on and on, continuing during our fall and spring weekends and beyond.

Hole in the Wall connections are as enduring as they are endless – a fitting testament to a community united by our Founder's dream. Thank you for staying connected to us, and for making these and so many more Camp connections possible.



Camp CEO Jimmy Canton shares a Carnivarty smile with one of the nearly 1,100 campers who attended Hole in the Wall this summer.

What's New at Camp

Summer is always a busy time here at Camp, and this year was no exception, with exciting news and events in the works.

We are over-the-moon happy that our tower is being turned into a more robust high ropes course thanks to a generous gift from longtime Camp friends Mike and Eileen Kolakowski. The new course, which has been named Henry's High Hopes Course and Audrey's Air Lines after Mike's parents, is being created with Project Adventure, a respected leader in adventure-based experiential programming. The new course will allow our younger campers to participate in various activities with tiered, progressive learning experiences that culminate in the senior camper tower climb.

We're also thrilled to be expanding our Change of Pace Experience (COPE) program for parents. To make the program more accessible to all camper parents, Hole in the Wall is now offering regional, one-day retreats and reunions, providing the healing power of traditional COPE weekends without the need for travel or overnight childcare. The new format also allows parents to get to know other parents from their area, helping to build the support network for our families.

Our celebrity friends have been very active these past few months as well. In August, actors Luke Wilson and Dane DeHaan represented Camp at the Travelers Championship Pro-Am. Both also joined our campers in the celebrity mini-golf tournament, putting their putt-putt skills on display

while showing their support for Hole in the Wall.

In September, actress and Camp board member Bridget Moynahan once again participated in the BGC and GFI Charity Day events. Bridget joined professional traders on the stock exchange floor to make trades and represent Camp. All the commissions for the day are donated to hundreds of charities, including Hole in the Wall!

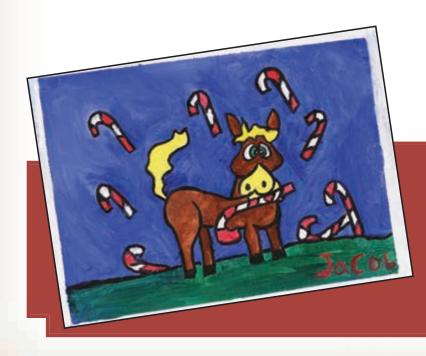


Actress and Camp Board Member Bridget Moynahan makes trades on behalf of Camp at BGC Charity Day and GFI Charity Day.

In this issue and the coming months, you'll start to see some new logos featuring our beloved Bandit and fun new color treatments to identify our broader program areas including Hospital Outreach, Family Outreach, Alumni and FUNraisers, our peer-to-peer fundraising program, which includes our athletic and community events, as well as our Kids for Camp program.

Below: Actors Dane DeHaan and Luke Wilson brought their best game to support Hole in the Wall at the Travelers Championship Pro-Am. Left to right: Dane DeHaan, actor Kevin Nealon, 2013 Travelers Championship winner Ken Duke and Luke Wilson.





Camp Holiday Tribute 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/holiday or contact Maureen Farrington at maureen.farrington@holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522.

Hospital Outreach on the GO

Highlights from our exciting year-round program that brings the joy of Camp to seriously ill children in locations across the Northeast.

Special events help our hospital partners experience Camp magic in big and beautiful ways. No matter the location, a sense of community fills the air, as children, family members and hospital staff all join together in the laughter and excitement. This was the experience once again this summer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), when our Hospital Outreach Program (HOP) teams took over the hospital for CampWeek, bringing a full week of Camp programming that ranged from Carnivarty to the WoodCHOP 500 and everything in between.

And while not all HOP events are weeklong extravaganzas, they all spread that same sense of community and connection.

In New York this summer, our
HOP team hosted Slime Day at New
York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley
Children's Hospital for the very first
time. And our New Jersey HOP team
hosted its first Slime Day at BristolMyers Squibb Children's Hospital at
Robert Wood Johnson University
Hospital this fall. These ooey, gooey
days capture the simple joy of getting
messy – both for the children and staff
members. Kids have the opportunity

to create their very own slime, in a color of their choice, and then vote on which staff members they would like to see slimed later in the day. The result is laughter and cheers across the hospitals – and an escape from medical treatments for a few hours.

"All your efforts created such a magical slimy day for our patients, families and staff," said Ana Furnari at New York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. "I received nothing but rave reviews about the green, the activities, the enthusiasm – everything!"

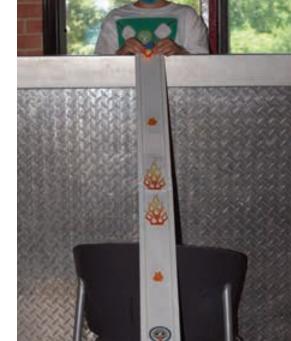
The New York HOP team also hosted its very first Camp Day at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center this summer. With activities like archery, arts & crafts, woodshop and more, there was something to excite every child. And the hospital staff showed their support by donning Camp shirts for the day. The event is the starting point for what will be many more at the hospital.

Looking ahead, all of our HOP regions will be supporting holiday parties and other festive activities. Supporting our partners is just one piece of what makes Hospital Outreach such a valuable offering.

If you'd like to learn more about our Hospital Outreach Program, please contact Mary Naumec, director, Hospital Outreach Program, at mary. naumec@holeinthewallgang.org or 860-429-3444.

Left: Sliming hospital staff is always a popular activity, no matter the region!

Above: Camp Days feature Camp favorites, like the WoodShop500, bringing the magic of Hole in the Wall right into the hospital setting.



What's New at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program

- ★ The New Jersey HOP team is now offering bi-monthly evening groups at PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital, providing regular doses of fun and friendship to children who often have extended stays.
- ★ The Boston HOP team offered multiple Camp Days at Boston Children's Hospital and MassGeneral Hospital for Children this summer. The team also hosted Slime Day this fall at MassGeneral.
- ★ The Central New England HOP team once again joined forces with Connecticut Children's Medical Center to offer programming for Super Hero Day.



Family Flats

Stories from current and former camper families.

Camper families from across
Connecticut gathered together
at Wickham Park in Manchester
to experience what was once a
summertime rite of passage – a drivein movie. But this one, organized by
CampOut, had a Hole in the Wall twist:
All of the "cars" were crafted by hand.

"We had so much fun at the drivein movie," said Camper Mom Kathy Platt. "The kids loved the popcorn and park, and just being with their friends, and our family was able to get some needed time together."

Even a heat advisory couldn't keep Camp families away, and the steamy night didn't damper the fun.

After filling up on an outstanding buffet dinner courtesy of Camp friends Clarke Corporation, campers and their families put their creative energy to work. With only their imaginations as the limit, families created colorful cardboard cars decorated with lightning bolts, duct-tape roses, starry skies and more.



Campers then took their nifty new rides and giggled their way through the bubble blast car wash before going through the rigors of a driving test. Taking on a variety of driving challenges, everyone proved they had what it takes to hit the road and were rewarded with a driver's license.

As the sun began to set, it was time to take in the movie. As children relaxed in their cardboard cars with popcorn and other treats, they enjoyed a series of Pixar shorts, while their parents moved inside the cabin for their own activities. Parents sipped fancy lemonade and nibbled on gourmet popcorn while gathered around tables discussing their Camp experiences. It was a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about the ways Camp can support their families.

"Hole in the Wall provides us with opportunities to do things we wouldn't have done before with new, amazing friends," Kathy said.

As the final credits rolled, families headed home in their real cars with their hearts full of Camp love and plenty of long-lasting Hole in the Wall memories.



A camper proudly shows off his driving test passing grade before picking up his license at the recent CampOut Drive-in Movie event.





Our Events

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

performance of Sunday in the Park with

George among the once-in-a-lifetime

close, camper Giana shared her Camp

story and how Hole in the Wall helped

her overcome her fears and live life to

Fandango performance featuring 11

Braeden, Dmitri, Emily, Fred, Jessica,

Jerty, Kiana, Martina, Ngosso, Vanessa

and Varda. They appeared in a camp-

celebrity friends Dane DeHaan, Anna

Mandvi, Natalie Merchant and more.

performance, everyone made their way

outside to enjoy a buffet dinner under

the stars. The evening concluded with

dancing to music by The Barnstorm

and a make your own s'mores station

amid tiki torches and twinkling lights.

Following the memorable

themed performance alongside

Wood, Bridget Moynahan, Aasif

extraordinarily talented campers -

Then it was time for the

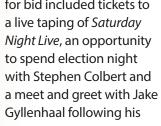
its fullest.

offerings. As the auction came to a

On Saturday, September 17, Camp hosted its 26th Fandango Benefit Gala under picture-perfect blue skies. More than 350 donors gathered together to enjoy the sunshine and Camp love while raising more than \$1.3 million for Hole in the Wall's growing programs.

The day kicked off with gourmet food trucks and a clambake, as well as cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the Dining Hall lawn, with entertainment provided by the band The Barnstorm. As guests mingled with old and new friends, they enjoyed the silent auction, which included many exciting items like tickets to the Broadway sensation Hamilton; a weeklong stay at a private Italian villa; and autographed memorabilia from Muhammad Ali, Sigourney Weaver, Joe Montana, Mindy Kaling, Sylvester Stallone, Kevin Costner, Tom Cavanagh, Tim Wakefield and more.

As the day continued, guests moved into the gym for a short program and Live Auction featuring actor and comedian Michael Ian Black. Bidding began with a loaf of banana bread – paying homage to the slice of banana bread Paul Newman tried to auction off at the press conference announcing his plans to build Camp, exactly 30 years prior. The items up for bid included tickets to

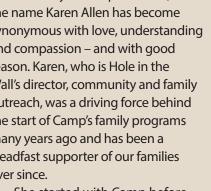




Pardner Profile

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

For many of Camp's families, the name Karen Allen has become synonymous with love, understanding and compassion - and with good reason. Karen, who is Hole in the Wall's director, community and family outreach, was a driving force behind the start of Camp's family programs many years ago and has been a steadfast supporter of our families ever since.



She started with Camp before the gates were even open – setting



Karen Allen (center) is always ready to support our Camp families with a smile.

out to find the organization after hearing about it from her daughter, Becca. What she found was a construction site and a mission to which she was immediately attracted.

"I had a strong feeling we were supposed to be there," Karen said. During her 29 years at Camp, Karen has taken on a variety of roles, many focused on supporting camper families. As she began meeting them, she saw the challenges they were facing and realized there was more that Hole in the Wall could do to help.

"Karen's enormous heart immediately went out to the family members suffering alongside their sick child, and she was so focused on understanding what they were going through," said Camp CEO Jimmy Canton. "She, more than anyone else in the organization, helped us to realize that our focus should not be centered just on the child but also considerate of the needs of their loved ones, understanding that if we helped to strengthen them, we could further help their child."

Camp soon began offering Family Weekends, and then COPE Weekends, which were just for camper parents. Over the years, Camp's parent and family programs have continued to grow and blossom under Karen's dedicated leadership.

"Karen has helped thousands of parents feel heard and supported during a time of great uncertainty," said Sarah Eio Smithson, director, outreach programs, at Hole in the Wall. "So many people know of her work in the summer program and at COPE, but few know her behind-the-scenes dedication to helping campers feel welcomed and loved through countless care packages, camper gift bags, quilts and birthday surprises. Her contributions to the 'Camp magic' are immeasurable and span generations of campers."

For many parents, Karen has become a trusted confidant and she has gone above and beyond to ensure all Camp families are supported during times that can be incredibly isolating.

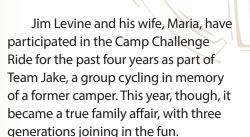
"Karen has such a warmth about her from the minute you meet her," said Camper Mom Dawn Horton. "She makes parents feel so comfortable and at ease about allowing their child to come to Camp and remembers the tiniest details of what is going on in your life."

At the end of this year, Hole in the Wall will say "happy trails" to Karen, as she enters into a well-deserved retirement. Her contributions to the organization, however, will be felt for many years to come.

"Camp was never about a single person," Karen said. "It is a healing place where families can be reminded that people care about them and haven't forgotten them. I am making the most of the precious time I have here at Camp."

Trail Blaze

Amazing athletes wrangle friends and family to support Camp



"Our family is constantly looking for positive forces in our lives that are all about giving back and philanthropy," said Jim. "Camp Challenge is always awesome and magical and extremely fulfilling for the entire family. It's one of our favorite days of the year."

Jim and Maria once again bicycled to support Camp. They were joined by their son, Zach, and Jim's brother,



Tom, who both volunteered last year. Additionally, their daughter, Nicole, who also volunteered last year, joined the 5K. And for the first time, Jim's mom, Catherine, made the trip down to volunteer at the event.

The family feels a special connection to Camp, as Nicole was diagnosed with cancer when she was nine. Though she never attended Hole in the Wall, she received visits from Jimmy, one of Camp's Hospital Outreach specialists.

"What Camp is doing is heavenly," Jim said. "It's impossible not to feel completely compelled to help as soon as you set foot on the grounds."



The Levine family made this year's Camp Challenge Ride and Bandit 5K a true family affair, proving generosity runs in their genes.

Jim and his family were among a group of nearly 500 cyclists, runners, walkers and volunteers who participated in this year's Camp Challenge Ride and Bandit 5K. In all, the event raised more than \$200,000 for Camp's growing programs, while providing a fun-filled day for the family.

"Simplistically speaking, as a cyclist, the ride is awesome," Jim said. "The

event allows my kids to be kids, but with an appropriate level of seriousness about helping people who need this. Being able to give back in some way is very meaningful for them."

To learn more about getting active for Camp and becoming a FUNraiser, contact Andrea Keefe, manager, peerto-peer programs, at andrea.keefe@ holeinthewallgang.org or 203-777-0522.

saddle Up for Camp

P

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.

When an entire community gets together, it is capable of amazing things. Mike Barnett has proven this many times over as a FUNraiser and host of The Barnett Luncheon in support of Camp, which has been held every year since 1997.

"When Paul Newman started the Camp, I thought 'What a wonderful thing to do for these kids," Mike said.

The event – which Mike hosted at his auto-body shop in Norwich, Connecticut, up until 2014 – has raised more than \$110,000 for Hole in the Wall. At the community-wide luncheon, individuals donate what they can and enjoy a meal that includes something for everyone.

"We do all the cooking on the premises, and everyone's invited to

come out," said Mike. "Even people you don't get along with – on that day, they are there offering support."

The offerings include ham, turkey, leg of lamb, roast beef, seafood, salads and more. Norwich community friends, including Seafood Etc., Salem Prime Cuts and Vocatura Bakery, provide free or deeply discounted food to support the event.

Though Mike is retired now, Bob and Fawn Kleemann have taken over and host the luncheon at Kleemann Service Center in Norwich. The Kleemanns were excited to jump right in, and Mike and his family plan to continue their involvement for many years to come.

To learn more about hosting or joining an event, contact Andrea Keefe, manager, peer-to-peer programs, at andrea.keefe@ holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522.



Mike Barnett is joined at The Barnett Luncheon by his wife, daughter, and current event organizers,



Alumni Antics

Take me out to the ball game. Take me out with the crowd – especially if that crowd is filled with old Camp friends!

Recently, our Boston-area alumni spent an afternoon taking in the sights of Fenway Park as the Red Sox hosted the Kansas City Royals. For many of those in attendance, it was their first opportunity to reconnect since the alumni weekend held in the spring.

Thanks to a generous donation of box seats from Phill and Liz Gross, friends of the SeriousFun Children's Network, our alumni were able to enjoy the game in style. In the privacy of their very own box, they not only enjoyed the game but also good conversation. Top topics included baseball knowledge, as well as how to best navigate life in Boston.

The game was a nail-biter, with the Royals besting the Sox 10 – 4. But this outing was about so much more than the game. Similar to all Camp programming, alumni events provide a much-needed network of support for our former campers, who are often coping with the already difficult transition into adulthood along with special challenges that come with serious illness. The program brings together former campers, staff and volunteers who uniquely understand those challenges and can provide a community of acceptance that may otherwise be lacking.

To learn more about or to become a member of the Stars in the Sky Alumni Society, visit Camp's website at www.holeinthewallgang.org/alumni.

Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

Since before the first campers set foot through the gates of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Ken's Foods has been a staunch supporter. Through the years, the relationship has grown, and for more than two decades, Ken's Foods has been at the helm of the annual Boston Big Top Bash, one of our signature fundraising events.

Ken's rallies its devoted customers, vendors and business partners for what is one of Hole in the Wall's largest annual fundraisers. The event, which raised more than \$1.3 million last year alone, also provides a special opportunity for many of our Bostonarea camper families, who attend free of charge. It's an extraordinary evening that brings together our Camp family for fun, friendship and laughter.

"The team at Ken's Foods not only rallies their network to generate critical support to help make Camp's year-round programs possible, but they have done it again and again without wavering for so many years," said Ken Alberti, chief development officer for Hole in the Wall. "Their dedication to the mission is admirable and greatly appreciated by all of us here at Camp."

But the generosity of Ken's
Foods employees goes beyond
the Big Top Bash, with employees
supporting Camp further, both by
volunteering and fundraising. Each
year, many employees make the trip
down to Camp to help us get ready
for programs and events through
Helping Hands Workdays. These
employees make beds, clean up after

programming and get our facility ready to welcome folks to Camp. Additionally, a dedicated group of employees participates in various athletic events for Camp, taking on running, walking and cycling challenges while encouraging friends and families to support Camp too.

"Our employees, partners and vendors are honored to play a small
role in making a differe

role in making a difference in the lives of the seriously ill children and families served by Hole in the Wall," said Andy Crowley, CEO of Ken's Foods and Camp board member. "We proudly share the work of the Camp and encourage oth-



Ken's Foods' employees have generously given their time to spruce up Camp during many Helping Hands Workdays over the years.

ers to be inspired by the mission just as we have been for so many years."

For more information about Hole in the Wall's Corporate Partners Program, please contact Ken Alberti at ken.alberti@holeinthewallgang.org or visit www.holeinthewallgang.org.



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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THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP

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At Camp, a community finds acceptance and support. Look inside to learn more.

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