



Robert Benson Photography



a seriousfun camp

An Interview with Bob Benson

Bob Benson began taking photographs of Camp just before it opened in 1988. His body of work offers a unique perspective on the evolution of Camp. In a recent interview, Bob shared what Camp means to him.

You initially came to Camp as an architectural photographer. How did it feel to walk onto Camp that first time?
I could tell right away that the buildings represented everything for which the Camp was striving. They have a presence. Like the dining hall. Being round, it gathers you in – everybody faces everybody else. The sound reverberates through it. The high ceiling gives you a sense of freedom and lifts your spirits. In a similar way, all of the Camp buildings embody the purpose of Camp – structurally, emotionally and aesthetically.



*Above: The Benson family: Bob, Olivia, Zoe and Wendy
Top photo: A camper in Camp's early days enjoys recapturing a bit of childhood.*

Please share a favorite experience you've had at Camp.
Early on, I recall a camper who felt comfortable enough to remove her headscarf at Camp, revealing her bald head. I thought, "What a bold act." Today, it is a common occurrence at Camp, but back then, it was a big deal. I was also privileged to be there when Camp opened its doors to a group of campers from Chernobyl following the nuclear disaster. It didn't matter that they did not understand a word of English. They were just on fire with the joy of Camp! It was a testament to how universal Camp is.

You've provided a visual history of Camp from Day One – a huge gift to Camp. What is similar about your Camp photos past and present?
What is similar is the spirit of Camp – born of joy, compassion and trust. I hope that it shows in all the photographs I have taken over the years.

How does it feel to know that your entire family is now involved with Camp?
My family's interest in Camp has been extremely exciting for me. My wife Wendy volunteered last summer and my daughters Zoe and Olivia were summer counselors. My daughters were already very caring and responsible, but I think this has helped them to be even more so. Camp also taught them the value of putting 110% of yourself into the work that you do.

What does Camp's upcoming 25th anniversary mean to you?
It's both exciting and surprising to think that 25 years have gone by. It is very moving to consider both the benefit that the campers have received from Camp and the love that all the counselors have taken out into the world over the years. We know that Camp helps make the world a better place. No matter how grim the headlines, that knowledge gives me hope.

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and follow us on Twitter.
<https://twitter.com/holewallcamp>

See page 4 for more photos by Bob Benson.

What's New at Camp

Our OK Corral got a facelift! The infirmary renovation was completed in time for our 25th summer, featuring additional treatment rooms and doubling the size of the pharmacy. Starting in 2013, it will allow us to provide overnight care for more campers.

During Session 9, we launched the Bliss Project, a pilot program designed to serve the population of aging-out campers who are not physically or medically able to participate in Hero's Journey or our Leader In Training Program (LIT). Tailored to participants' ability levels, the Bliss Project brought some of the philosophy and practices from Hero's Journey into an experience of challenge and self-discovery – giving its teen participants a boost of self-confidence and the opportunity to return to Camp.

To help us celebrate 25 years of “a different kind of healing,” **Natalie Merchant** and The Hole

in the Wall Gang Campers recorded a new sing-along version of her hit single “Wonder,” which is now available for download at www.holeinthewallgang.org. The music video, directed by *Charlie's Angels* director **McG**, is also available and beautifully highlights the many wonders of Camp. We hope that everyone will show their support by sharing our song as we celebrate our community and invite new friends to join us. Together, we can help more seriously ill children experience the magic of Camp.

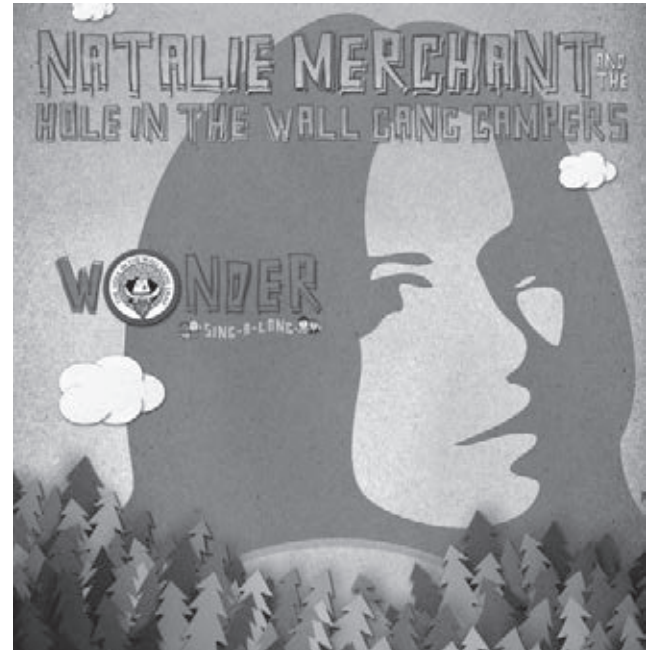
New York-based Grey Group is providing its expertise pro bono to build awareness of Camp's mission and 25th anniversary. On August 13, Grey Group released a 30-second Camp PSA, which may be accessed on the Camp's web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org. Grey filmed a Team Hole in the Wall PSA at our Camp Challenge Ride on September 8. Cyclists decorated their bike wheels



with a specially designed stencil by London-based artist **Katy Beveridge**. The new Team PSA will be released during Camp's 25th anniversary.

Famous faces at Camp this summer included actress **Bridget Moynahan**, taking a break from the CBS TV drama “Blue Bloods,” and **Governor Dannel Malloy**, who stopped off and visited Camp while on a trip to promote tourism in the state.

CBS Correspondent **Martha Teichner** and the *Sunday Morning* crew visited Camp in early August to shoot a segment on Camp that featured beautiful tributes from CEO Jimmy Canton, Board Member Melissa Newman and a host of campers. The segment aired August 26, and before the week was out, Camp's Facebook page had jumped by 1,000 “Likes.” The segment may be accessed on the Camp web site: www.holeinthewallgang.org.



Above top: CEO Jimmy Canton (far left) and Senior Development Officer Ryan Thompson (far right) joined McG and Bridget Moynahan at Camp.

Above: Natalie Merchant recorded her hit song “Wonder” as a single with our campers this summer.

Left: Our infirmary renovation featured additional treatment rooms and doubled the size of the pharmacy.



From the CEO

Hours after our last summer camper had left, I found myself seated in the middle of one of the most beautiful places in the world – Camp's Cabin Circle – preparing my remarks to the staff for our summer closing banquet. It was an absolutely beautiful day – a cloudless blue sky helping to de-clutter my mind. It was the end of our 25th summer. The staff was brilliant all summer long and that would be easy to emphasize. But this moment required something more. It was, after all, the closing of our TWENTY-FIFTH summer!

Time and time again, I come back to gratitude. Grateful for the blessings in my life – in stark contrast to the unjust suffering and misfortune in the lives of the children we serve. Grateful to

work beside the most consistently compassionate, creative, funny and dedicated people I have ever met. Grateful for how Camp has changed my life – bringing me sustained joy, perspective, centeredness and friendship. Grateful to the families who have trusted us with their most precious and vulnerable possessions. And most importantly, grateful for the unforgettable and inspirational friendship and courage from, literally, thousands of children with whom I have played, laughed, hugged, high-fived and consoled over the past 25 years – a handful, in particular, who have taken up permanent real estate in my heart.

Thanksgiving this year means even more as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. To all of you who have opened your heart to Camp and



Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton with camper.

supported our efforts to provide “a different kind of healing” to the children and families we serve – many of you for the past 25 years – you have my heartfelt thanks. On behalf of our Board, our staff, our

volunteers and our campers and their families, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy 25th Anniversary Hole in the Wall! May the next 25 be filled with even more laughter, love, play and friendship.

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.



The day for Hospital Outreach Specialist Arielle "Ari" Linsky usually begins in the hematology/oncology waiting room. Here, she sits with children waiting for treatment, engaging them in scratch art and other projects, listening to their worries and helping to allay any fears or concerns they may have. Later in the day, she visits children who are receiving inpatient care at their bedsides, sharing arts and crafts projects, playing games, talking or just listening.

Ari, a graduate of Wesleyan University, joined the Hospital Outreach Program in 2011. This past summer, she volunteered at Camp, working with the Hero's Journey Program. Her Camp days were filled with hiking, rescue scenarios and team-building activities. Each day ended with a gathering around the campfire – the fire council – to share answers to a special theme or question.

"One night," recalled Ari, "campers were asked to name three things: something they were proud of, something they were scared of, and something they were looking forward to."

After a few minutes, a sudden torrent of rain led the 14 campers and counselors to squeeze into a six-person tent. "The space was unique. The answers were beautiful. The closeness of the community filled the moment with a sort of magic," she said.

"Guided activities like this one showed the campers they could trust and rely on each other," she said. "Throughout the week, they learned to make the most of those opportunities. I was so moved by the program and how it created space for growth, empowerment and connection among the Hero's Journey campers and staff. I can hardly wait to go back next summer!"



Hospital Outreach Specialist Arielle Linsky with a patient.

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

- ★ The Hospital Outreach Program added two new locations: Our Boston Hospital Outreach team started providing visits to patients at Children's Hospital-Waltham Campus this summer, and the New York City team will start programming at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York on Long Island in the fall.
- ★ Three new Hospital Outreach Specialists joined the Boston team this past September and two additional Outreach staff members were added to the New York City Team at the start of November.
- ★ The Boston team hosted its annual HUB CUP scavenger hunt for Boston area hospital teen groups on September 29.

Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

Travelers and the Travelers Championship

Camp was once again honored to be a beneficiary of the Travelers Championship held June 20-26, 2012 in Cromwell, Conn. Camp maintained an exciting presence throughout the week in Corporate Row and the Fan Zone, providing activities for more than 1,000 children and family members. Highlights included Bridget Moynahan's appearance as Keynote Speaker for Women's Day, at which she shared her Camp experience. She also interviewed with FOX-CT. Camp received excellent media coverage all week, with interviews from former campers, as well as the national broadcast of the tournament on CBS and the Golf Channel. PGA TOUR Champion Marc Leishman was the tournament winner, but the real victory came with the event raising more than \$250,000 for Camp.

Both as lead sponsor of The Travelers Championship and in its own right, Travelers has made an outstanding difference for our campers. Travelers' continued financial support for both the Camp's Hospital Outreach and COPE (Change of Pace Experience) Programs has led to transformational growth in those areas, enabling Camp to serve more children and families. Equally inspiring, more than 100 Travelers employees volunteered at Camp this year, helping prepare the cabins and grounds between sessions.

"Travelers is delighted to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and its many transformational programs for these inspiring children and their families," observed Jay Fishman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



Travelers underwrote the cost of Camp's mini golf course, a favorite program area for many campers.

of The Travelers Companies, Inc. "The Travelers community has rallied behind this special mission, and we look forward to celebrating Camp's 25th Anniversary at the Travelers Championship in 2013."

"Travelers' leadership support for Camp represents a comprehensive and transformative partnership that tangibly moves our programs forward," said Hole in the Wall Gang Camp CEO Jimmy Canton. "From direct program support and special event sponsorship to employee volunteerism, Travelers' investment in our mission exemplifies the broad-based partnerships needed to help us serve more brave and beautiful children in the exciting years ahead."

For more information on The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Corporate Partners Program, please contact Ray Shedd, director of corporate & foundation relations, at ray.shedd@holeinthewallgang.org or visit our web site: www.holeinthewallgang.org.

Camper Corral

Stories from current and former campers.

Derek Billings was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma at age 11 and came to Camp for the first time when he was 12. "I had been to a summer camp before," he said, "but not The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, so I was curious about what to expect. It was amazing. The counselors had so much energy and excitement, I recall asking my mom if they ate sugar all the time!"

"As a camper, I met some kids who had cancer and others with sickle cell disease," explained Derek. "Suddenly, in my world there were other kids who had completely different illnesses than I did that were still really serious. Camp helped me feel like I wasn't a 'cancer kid.' I was a normal kid who just happened to have cancer."

This summer and last, Derek said, he felt fortunate to be able to come back to Camp and help other kids facing some of the same challenges. "A couple of years ago, I met a mother whose son had the same rare cancer that I had had. We bonded right away. The next summer, I got to see her son on Camp while I was a counselor. I knew exactly what he was going through. We talked a lot, and he

introduced me to his other counselors as his 'cancer brother.' To be able to be that person to a seriously ill child is a really powerful experience," he said.

"I'm lucky to live close enough to Camp that I can volunteer at Family Weekends," he said. "I don't think I've missed one yet. The weekends are special because we get to give back to the whole family. I think it is helpful for the parents to see someone who has come out on the other side of the treatments their child is going through. By the end of the weekend, you really feel as if you are part of that family."

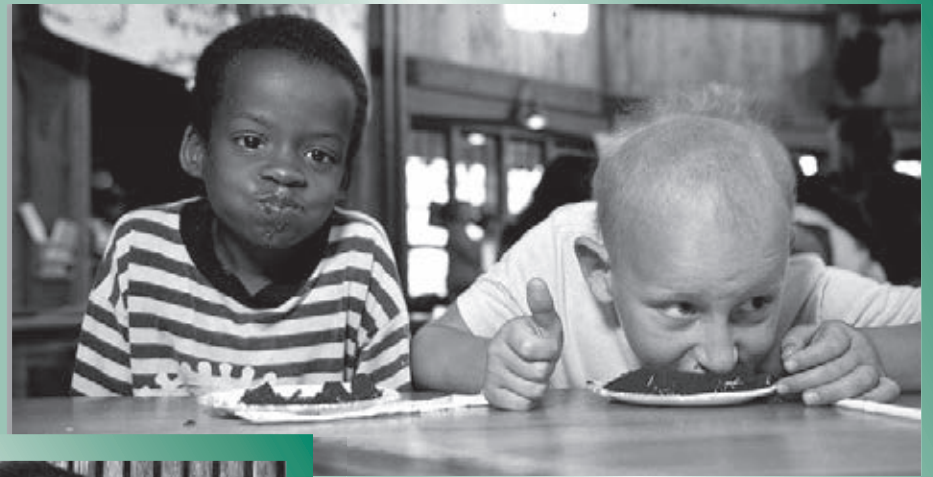
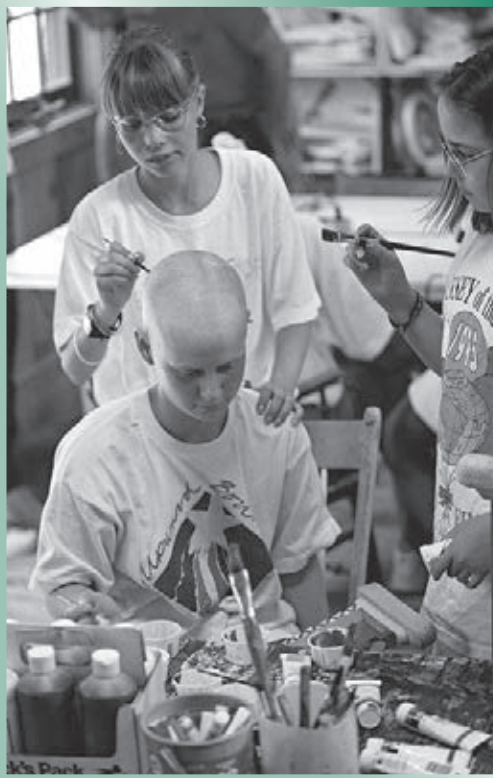
Derek's favorite program area is Expro, "but I'm biased," he explained. "I ran Expro this past summer. It's a great activity because the kids make their own pizzas in our outdoor pizza oven and choose what to put on them. These are kids who have a lot of choices taken away from them because of their illness, so it's fun – but you can tell it also means a lot to them. That's what Camp is all about – giving back choices, giving back fun, giving back a sense of not being alone. I feel very lucky to be part of it."

Below: Former camper, summer counselor and volunteer Derek Billings with campers.

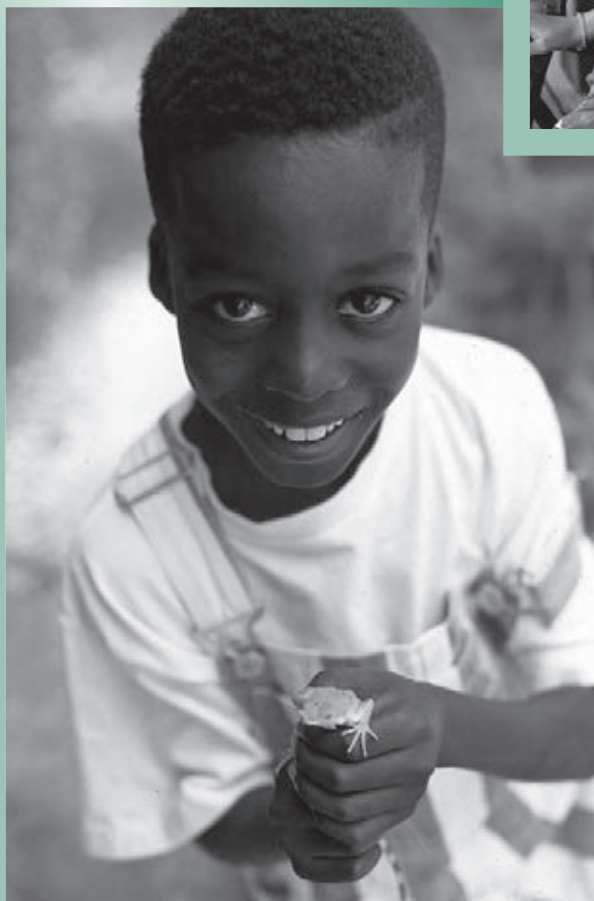


Camp Through the Years

Bob Benson's photographs have provided a visual history of Camp from Day One. Here are just a few of his iconic Camp images.



All photos courtesy of Robert Benson
www.robertbensonphotography.com



Camp's Time Capsule Connecting to our past, celebrating our future

If you were to set the dial on your time machine for Fall 1987 and the location to Ashford, Conn., you would see the start of the construction of Camp. The initial 35 Camp buildings, of which our signature Shaker Barn-style dining hall is one, were built in a record eight months by the Simon Konover Company. Who could have guessed that this skeletal building, once completed, would quickly become the center of so much singing, dancing and no-hands eating?



Above: Camp's dining hall under construction during the winter of 1987.

Left: Camp's dining hall today.



Our 25th Summer



Camp Holiday Cards are Here!

Show your Camp love 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 form is located at www.holeinthewallgang.org/holidaycard or contact Andrea Keefe at Andrea.Keefe@holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522. In addition, Camp offers holiday giving opportunities for corporations looking for a way to recognize valued clients. For more information, see www.holeinthewallgang.org/corpholidaygiving.



Our Events

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

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp kicked off a yearlong 25th anniversary celebration at its 22nd annual Fandango Benefit Gala, which was held at the Camp in Ashford, Conn. on Saturday, September 15.

Guests and longtime friends began the day with a cocktail reception and silent auction before moving on to the Camp's most successful live auction ever, which was led masterfully by Board Member Alec Baldwin.

Camp's Most Wanted Award recipient, Board Member Khaled Alhegelan, was recognized for his outstanding philanthropy, including his

efforts to ensure the successful launch of Camp, which resulted in a \$5 million gift from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia just as Camp was getting underway.

The Fandango, directed by Board Member James Naughton, featured appearances by actress Bridget Moynahan, singer Tituss Burgess, comedian Tom Papa, renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman and others. Surprise guests Nathan Lane and Ernie Sabella, who provided the voices of Timon and Pumbaa in the feature film version of *The Lion King*, reunited on the Camp stage to perform the beloved classic "Hakuna Matata." Best of all were



Thanks to a host of generous celebrities and our talented campers, the Gala's Fandango performance was the best ever!

performances from these talented Hole in the Wall campers: Emily Candaffio, Alyssa Casson, Troy Conger-Bailey, Trent Dunn, Lexi Medina, Cameron Merritt, Justin Najimian, Julius Nelson, Nilmarie O'Reilly, Sahradya Oracius, and Brenna Tobin with The Fandango Orchestra, including their closing song, "Stars in the Sky."

Filmmaker McG (*Charlie's Angels*) introduced the music video he directed of a new, sing-a-long version of the hit song *Wonder*, performed by Natalie Merchant and The Hole in the Wall Gang Campers. The song and music video may be accessed at our web site:

www.holeinthewallgang.org.

Special thanks go to Producer Kevin Duncan, Production Manager Monica Moore, Production Stage Manager Annie Keefe, Stage Managers Robin Kevrick Baker and Rose Winters, and Musical Director Mary-Mitchell

Campbell, along with a host of talented stage professionals.

The event raised an unprecedented \$1.78 million for the Camp's programs serving seriously ill children and their families throughout the Northeast. We are grateful for the hard work of all our performers, professionals, volunteers and Camp friends who made the Gala an exceptional day in support of our courageous campers.

Camp's Annual Halloween Bash in New York City was held Saturday, October 27, featuring a private performance of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center for donors, campers and their families, and a post-Circus party at the Hard Rock Cafe-LIVE Venue in Times Square.

We hope to see you at our Founder's Day celebration on January 24, 2013 at Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn. Watch for announcements of our New York City Gala to take place fall 2013.



Board Member Melissa Newman shares a moment before the Fandango performance with Camper Charlie and Camp friend Jo Senecal. Ms. Newman continued her father's tradition of performing in the Fandango, offering a haunting rendition of "No Moon at All."

Team Update

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

What happens when you take the most demanding and outrageous athletic event ever and combine it with a mission to help seriously ill children? Just ask Jimmy Malthaner. Jimmy took part in the Ironman US Championship 2012 Triathlon as a member of Team Hole in the Wall. Consider for a moment what that means: a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run for a total of 140.6 miles – all to be completed within a 17-hour time frame.

Jimmy said he felt great after his swim and bike ride, but 12 miles into the run, his knee began to give him trouble. By Mile 21, he could no longer run. With an ice pack taped to his knee, he was determined to get to that finish line, "not only for

myself and the dream that I set out to accomplish that day, but even more so for the seriously ill children that suffer from their illnesses every day." Hobbling the remaining 5.2 miles, he reached the finish with a time of 11:51:38 to the cheers of an enthusiastic crowd.

In addition to supporting our campers as the team's top Ironman fundraiser, Jimmy is a tireless Camp volunteer, whether it's ensuring the safety of 300 AngelRide cyclists, cheering on the athletes in the Team fan zone or working 16-hour days to make Camp look beautiful for our campers.

"If I had to pick a word to describe Camp, it would be 'magical,'" he said. "If a child with a serious illness can experience what I feel at the Camp, if



Jimmy Malthaner (center) volunteering at Camp with Assistant Director of Team Hole in the Wall Michael Hund (left) and team friend Patti Newman.

I can help to make that happen, that means everything to me."

You don't have to be an Ironman to join the team. Some of our best team members ride roller coasters or run lemonade stands through the team's Create Your Own Event

option. Or take part in one of the team's signature athletic events. Don't be surprised if Jimmy "Ironman" Malthaner is there at your next event cheering you on.

Visit www.teamholeinthewall.org for more information. The latest team updates can also be accessed at these sites:

Team Hole in the Wall 2013 Event Calendar

New York City Half Marathon	March 17	Fairfield Road Race	June 22-23
More Magazine/Fitness Magazine Women's Half Marathon	April 14	New York City Triathlon	July 14
Boston Marathon	April 15	Camp Challenge Ride	September 7
Five Boro Bike Tour	May 5	ING New York City Marathon	November 3
AngelRide	May 25-26	Choose Your Event	Ongoing



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.

Music is an integral part of Camp, whether it's a great band like Mean Carlene playing for one of our benefit events, Lad in a Battle entertaining campers and counselors, or our campers making their own recordings in the theater. We are grateful for our community partners who bring old and new friends to Camp's mission through outstanding musical events.

This year's musical highlights included Jimmie Rogers, Marshal Lytle and the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band performing at Jazzin' with the Stars in Middletown, Conn in April, and The Hot Steamed Jazz Festival, which celebrated 20 years June 22-24 in Essex, Conn.

"I couldn't think of a better way to combine two of my top loves: good food and a charitable organization that is making such a positive impact on people's lives," said Event Sponsor *Serendipity Magazine's* CEO and Founder Suni Unger of the Greenwich Food + Wine Festival. This exciting event took place October 4-6, featured the Gregg Allman Band, and

introduced many new friends to the mission of Camp.

In November, New York City hosted the 3rd Annual Jam for the Kids with Big Sam's Funky Nation and The Stooges Brass Band, while Connecticut's New England Air Museum rocked to Pratt & Whitney's own Screamin' Eagles Jazz Band at the 8th Annual Not-So-Snooty Beer, Wine and Cheese Tasting Adventure hosted by Bradley Family Day. "What could be better than a celebration of local Connecticut beer, wine and cheese enjoyed to the music of a great Connecticut band? And it all supports Camp – a Connecticut treasure!" said Event Co-Chair Kathy Maznicki.

Watch for more community events in support of Camp at www.holeinthewallgang.org/eventsalendar. Contact Andrea Keefe at Andrea.Keefe@holeinthewallgang.org or (203) 772-0522 for more information about our community events or to sponsor your own event in support of Camp.



Musicians spread joy through traditional jazz styles at the 20th Annual Hot Steamed Jazz Festival.



Bradley Family Day hosted its Not-So-Snooty Beer, Wine and Cheese Tasting Adventure with music by Pratt & Whitney's Screamin' Eagles jazz combo.

Pardner Profile

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

Dave Olson can't get enough of Camp. He has been volunteering as a summer counselor for nearly a decade. In addition to helping out in the Woodshop, he also makes projects for Camp, like the wooden buildings on the putt-putt green and the wooden "ladder" games placed in areas where campers sometimes have to wait for another group to finish an activity.

"I met a volunteer who had been nervous that he would be the only counselor over the age of 35," explained Dave. "Then he met me! I told him, your age goes down 20 or 30 years the moment you go through that gate."

Some of the campers come to "Dave in Woodshop" knowing exactly what they want to make. "They've been planning it all year long," he said. Others need help in deciding what project to do. "There are so many from which they

can choose," he explained. "A few arrive with complicated ideas for something they want to make. Often, they don't realize that it is complicated – but we work with them to simplify their project into something we can create together. I like the Woodshop because you can focus on one camper at a time. As I help them with their projects, they just talk about anything they want. That is the most fun."

What is the best part? "When you get home from spending a week volunteering at the Camp," he said, "you feel like you have made a difference. You know there are campers who had a better time because you were there to be a friend and help them out."



Volunteer Dave Olson and Volunteer Coordinator Ellen Buus



a seriousfun camp

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 children and their families coping with cancer, sickle cell anemia and other serious illnesses. Through summer sessions and family weekend programs at the Camp in Ashford, Connecticut, and year-round outreach to hospitals and clinics throughout the Northeast, the Camp serves more than 20,000 children and family members annually. 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
Paul Newman, *Founder*
Ray Lamontagne, *Chairman, Board of Directors*
James H. Canton, *Chief Executive Officer*



Board Member Alec Baldwin joined our talented campers just before the Fandango performance at September's Fandango Benefit Gala.



**Our 25th summer
was full of exciting
highlights.
Take a look
inside...**

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