



The Sullivan family find time for laughter and play at a Fall Family Weekend



a seriousfun camp

Family Weekends: Coming Together to Find Joy

For those who have been to Camp, the experience is nothing short of magical. For those who haven't, those who are often living in the day-to-day stress and fear of serious illness, the thought of it can be a bit scary. So, Family Weekends, which bring entire families to Camp together for three days of fun and friendship, can be a great introduction and are often "just what the doctor ordered."

That literally was the case for the Sullivan family when one of their physicians, Dr. Kerry Moss, insisted Camp was just what they needed. They came to Camp shortly after Kiley, who is undergoing treatment for a rare type of cancer, was discharged from the hospital.

"We knew we wanted to get away, and the idea of Camp sounded great, but our daughter was pretty sick at the time – she had just finished up five weeks of radiation," said dad James. "But we could not have been happier with the experience. They made us feel right at home right away. It felt like a weight off of our shoulders."

The Sullivans, like many Family Weekend attendees, had never before been to Camp. These families arrive

uncertain about what lies ahead, but by Sunday they understand what it was all about.

They understand what it means to have family time away from illness and hospitals again. They understand how to connect with each other again. They understand the power of laughter and play again. They understand that illness is not what defines their family.

"For me, there were three great things," said mom Emily. "One, I got to be with my husband and talk to him – that was pretty big. I watched Kiley feel so good about herself when she was climbing up and zip-lining off the tower. And then, my other daughter might not have climbed up, but she was so brave when she performed at Stage Night. It made them both shine."

Each family is assigned a family pal – a volunteer who serves as their Camp liaison. Family pals accompany the family to activities and meals and is a trusted friend who can take over childcare for part of the weekend so parents can enjoy one-on-one time.

"When your child is this sick, it is hard to trust anybody besides each other with her," Emily said. "So when we are out of the hospital, one of

us is with her at all times. To have somebody that we feel confident leaving her with is a gift."

Camp hosts 10 to 12 Family Weekends each year. Like all Camp programs, Family Weekends allow participants to choose how they would like to spend their time, and all activities are designed to meet every member of the family where they are physically and emotionally. It's a welcome escape from doctor visits, medicine and worry.

"The very best part was being with my family, because when my sister is in the hospital, I don't get to see her that much," said big sister Allie. "It felt nice for us all to be together and have so many things we could do."

Families leave rejuvenated, with a renewed sense of hope.

"We reflect on Kiley's tower climb during difficult procedures," Emily said. "We say to her – 'you climbed the tower; you jumped off; you are so brave.'"

To learn more about the Sullivan Family and Family Weekends, watch our latest Healing Feeling video at www.holeinthewallgang.org.

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What's New at Camp

After a long and very cold winter, it's hard to believe summer is finally right around the corner, but it is! Fortunately, our winter was filled with plenty of fun and excitement to get us through the snowy days.

For starters, Camp was named the 2014 PGA TOUR Charity of the Year. This recognition underscores our

incredible friendship with the Travelers Championship and its title sponsor Travelers, and brings up so many fond memories of sunny days at the Championship last June!

As we moved into the New Year, we celebrated a very special Founder's Day with the launch of a new promotional trailer and brand new

website (www.holeinthewallgang.org)! The new video shows how Paul Newman's dream of a summer camp has exploded into an endless summer of year-round programming, which now provides "a different kind of healing" to more than 25,000 seriously ill children and family members annually – all completely free of charge. Meanwhile, the new website captures the fun and whimsy of Camp while providing easy access to all the information most important to you!

More recently, we welcomed a new face to our Board of Directors – Allison Picott. After graduating from Trinity College with a bachelor's degree in political science and from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law with a J.D., Allison worked for six years as a law clerk for the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court. She then worked as a litigation associate for Nixon Peabody LLP and Prince Lobel

Tye LLP. Over the past several years, Allison has worked as a development professional, and currently serves as the principal and founder of Advancement Associates, a consulting firm that helps nonprofit organizations in leadership, fundraising and planning.

As we move into summer, we're looking forward to our very first Family Camp – a very special four-day session targeting families who have never been to Camp before, children with a high level of medical acuity and those who require the presence of a family member or caregiver. We also can't wait to welcome everyone into our newly renovated cabins. After the Yellow Unit renovation last year, we took notes on what worked and what needed to be adjusted, and now, all five units boast updated bathrooms, improved storage and increased energy efficiency. We can't wait to see what else summer has in store!



Camp's new promo video and website capture Camp's whimsical spirit while highlighting the depth and breadth of programming offered.



Creative ZONE

A showcase for our families' creativity

At the Hole in the Wall

Song by Cooper McLaughlin, age 13

It seems like July would never end.
I was waiting so long for summer to be a blast.
And now it came.

Chorus:

Because I'm at the Hole in the Wall
where summer seems like it will never end.
It seems like I am surrounded by family,
and thank you Mr. Newman for this opportunity.
And this week might be too short

And I rise up on my feet
and it feels like the bad thoughts have disappeared...
in me

And I rise up on my feet
And all the happiness is clear as can be.

Chorus

The darkness comes quick but the light always comes from behind
fishing climbing always on the run.
I never want to leave that last day but I am sure I will see you again.
We never stop climbing,
we always want to celebrate.
And we scream and shout until one of us passes out and I'm always
here to join you when you are doing something fun.

Chorus

Bridge:
I seen the world and the world isn't better than this.
And I tell you now that everyone's accepted in this beautiful place.
I was greeted when I came here and it put a smile on my face.

Chorus

Because we're at the Hole in the Wall the happiness never seems
to go away.
Mr. Newman built this place for kids to be happy and free.

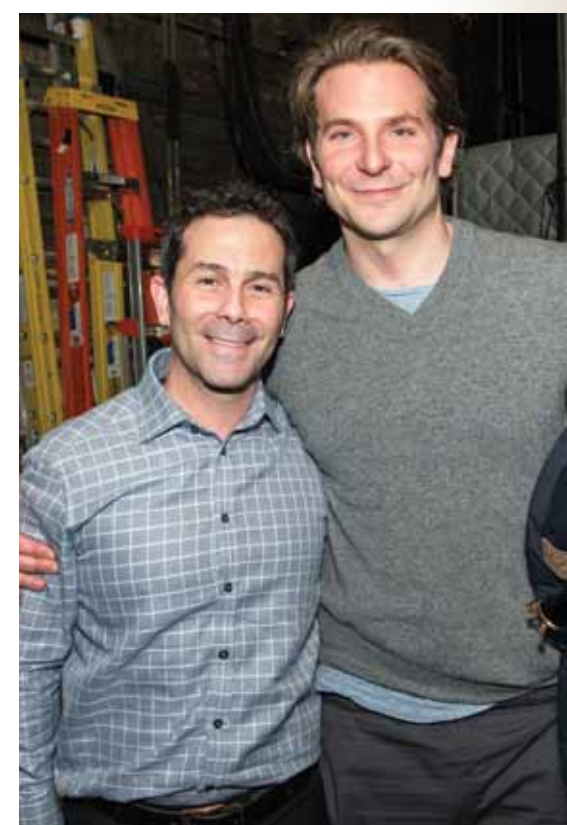
From the CEO

On February 5th, 175 members of our Camp family came to New York City for a very special event – An Evening with *The Elephant Man*. Not only did we share in the experience of watching Bradley Cooper's masterful performance, but we also heard him eloquently reflect on his time as a volunteer counselor at Hole in the Wall.

The show was awe-inspiring, sharing a special resonance with our mission and serving as a reminder of the importance of friendship. Through Bernard Pomerance's masterful play, the audience experienced just how transformational the gift of friendship was for John Merrick and those who knew him. This is not unlike the experience of the seriously ill children in our care. For many of them, Hole in the Wall programs provide an end to their isolation and a comforting realization that they are not alone.

What an enormous privilege it is to create a safe place and welcoming community where child and parent alike can find joy in the most ordinary things. How healing it is to be reminded that amidst the fear, uncertainty and isolation, one can still experience the transformational power of friendship.

Our 28th summer is nearly upon us, and with it, the joy, laughter and camaraderie of Camp. How exciting to welcome these brave and beautiful children for one week of acceptance and possibility. We are blessed to share this healing experience with you.



Camp CEO Jimmy Canton and Board Member Bradley Cooper backstage following An Evening with "The Elephant Man."

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.

A pie in a counselor's face. A teacher taking a dip in a dunk tank. Burying a parent in the sand. Children have long delighted in getting the grownups in their lives messy. For the kids Camp serves through its Hospital Outreach Program (HOP), messy comes in the form of slime.



Inspired by a HOP participant who passed away several years ago, Slime Day culminates in the public sliming of hospital staff chosen by patients. The events have taken place throughout the Boston region, and were a huge hit at last year's CampWeek at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"The thing that's so incredible about Slime Day is that it redefines the atmosphere of the hospital into a place of joy, fun and silliness," said Hospital Outreach Specialist Max Svec. "When you're participating in Slime Day, it feels like you're at Camp, and that's a very special and significant occurrence in the hospital setting. It brings patients, families, doctors, nurses, child life specialists, social workers and the entire hospital community together. It's truly spectacular to witness."

It takes a whole day to prepare for the gooey main event, starting with the creation of the slime itself! HOP staff partner with Camp volunteers to host slime-making groups in playrooms or visit patient rooms for one-on-one mix sessions.

Left: Nothing like a little slime to get the laughter started!

Family Flats

Stories from current and former camper families.

It was 1988 when then eight-year-old Lindsay Morris ran her first Manchester Road Race at the Bennet Middle School in Manchester, Conn. It also happened to be the first year her father, Bill, incorporated a fundraiser for Camp into the race. He has organized the fundraiser every year since, and Lindsay has participated, running and raising money for Camp.

"They've come to expect it at work," said Lindsay. "Every November, the form comes out and everyone donates to support my run. I always knew it was so cool to be able to help these kids. But it didn't really hit me how amazing it is until now."

Last fall, the Camp that Lindsay and her father have supported for more than 25 years took a different role in their lives. Lindsay, her husband and their two children attended a Family Weekend after her five-year-old son, Gavin, was diagnosed with cancer.

"I never anticipated that I would take advantage of the Camp in the way that I have," Lindsay said. "But the Family Weekend came at a point where we really needed it – Gavin's treatment was so intense, and we needed it to regroup as a family. We had a chance to just breathe and everyone – not just the kids – was able to relax and have fun."

Lindsay and her husband, Tim, were able to spend some time together and reconnect, while the kids got to take



(clockwise from top left) Lindsay, Tim, Gavin and Harper Morris

part in some traditional Camp fun – archery, dancing and even Stage Night.

"The first day, Gavin did not want to be part of Stage Night, but by the end of the weekend, he was up there telling jokes that made no sense but the audience laughed and clapped," Lindsay said. "He did things that I thought he would never do. It was so fun to see him come out of his shell."

When it was time to go, Lindsay said she found herself crying because she didn't want to leave. But just a few months later, she was running in the Turkey Trot. And shortly after that, the family was able to reconnect with Camp at the holiday party.

They are now looking forward to the next time they can come to Camp. But in the meantime, Lindsay will be preparing to run in the 2015 Manchester Road Race.

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

- ★ HOP will add expanded special events at Boston Children's, Mass General, Baystate Medical Center and Connecticut Children's Medical Center in 2015 with plans for Slime Days, Woodshop 500, Camp Days and SuperHero Day.
- ★ HOP is working with The SeriousFun Children's Network and Yale Child Studies Center to implement a HOP Impact Study at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- ★ Plans are underway for CampWeek at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in July. We will again offer five consecutive days of programming in public spaces, inpatient units and outpatient clinics, bringing Camp favorites like Opening Campfire, Carnivarty, WoodCHOP 500, Afternoon Sign-Ups and Slime Day to families at CHOP.

While the goop sets, children from across the hospital are invited to call the slime hotline to vote for who will get slimed, helping bring back the element of choice to children who often aren't able to make decisions about their day-to-day activities in the hospital. Child life specialists are the usual top contenders for the sliming, but anyone working at the hospital is fair game, and a world-renowned surgeon has even been part of the fun.

"The hospital staff who bravely volunteer to get slimed are

phenomenal," said Max. "It's pretty incredible to see these caretakers getting involved. They all realize that at the end of the day sometimes the best medicine is to administer smiles, laughter and a little dose of silly, which is what Camp is all about."

Want to learn more about HOP and what Camp's doing in the hospitals? Contact Mary Naumec, director, Hospital Outreach, at mary.naumec@holeinthewallgang.org or at 860-429-3444.

Sheriff's Spotlight

A shout-out to our dedicated corporate partners.

Camp is blessed to be sustained by a community of more than 25,000 donors, but what is even more remarkable is the number of young people counted among these supporters. We are deeply inspired by these children, teens and young adults, who run, perform, rally their communities and do so much more to help us bring "a different kind of healing" to the children and families we serve. Now, thanks to a generous \$50,000 challenge match from our friends at Positive Tracks, their efforts will have even greater impact.

Positive Tracks is a national, youth-centric nonprofit that empowers young people – aged 23 and under – to get active and give back through the power of sport and volunteerism. Beginning this year, Camp became one of 12 Positive Tracks charity partners that are encouraging young people to get active, philanthropic and engaged in their communities. Through the matching grant, every dollar raised through youth-centered fundraising efforts will be doubled.

"This partnership with Positive Tracks is perfectly timed with the launch of our new Kids for Camp initiative, a philanthropic community of school-aged youth who are inspired to pay it forward through community-based fundraising activities supporting Camp," said Ken Alberti, chief development officer. "Positive Tracks' belief that young people are capable of real civic action if given the right tools, incentive and validation is right in line with our own experiences with the amazing youth involved with Camp philanthropy."

Last year, youth and young adults raised more than \$80,000 for Camp through community and athletic events. Through the partnership with Positive Tracks and Kids for Camp, we are excited to see how much greater an impact these amazing young people can have.

Other companies interested in helping grow the match can contact Ray Shedd, senior development officer, at ray.shedd@holeinthewallgang.org



Kids participating in the Camp Challenge Ride are just some of the young philanthropists who will be able to double their fundraising through the Positive Tracks grant.

Our Events

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

More than 1,000 Camp families and friends gathered under the big top November 8, 2014, for the 23rd Annual Big Apple Bash. Guests were treated to face painting, clown noses and a private performance of the Big Apple Circus' "Metamorphosis" at Lincoln Center.

Celebrity guest ringmaster and Camp friend, Josh Lucas of NBC's *The Mysteries of Laura*, joined Camp CEO Jimmy Canton and co-chairs Stefani LiDestri and Peter Schottland in the Center Ring to welcome one and all to the festivities. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, more than 700 campers and their families along with patients from regional hospitals and clinics were able to join in the fun and soak in the show – free of charge.

After the performance, sponsors and donors were transported to the Hard Rock Café in Times Square for a western-themed after-party. The

celebration began with a dinner reception followed by a spirited program emceed by Mandy Lauderdale and featuring a variety of Camp-themed musical numbers. Camper Zak shared his inspiring story of learning medical independence from his counselor who is also a former camper with the same diagnosis.

The DJ kept the celebration going well into the late evening, with guests filling the dance floor! Caricaturists, a balloon artist, airbrush tattoo stations and a photo booth rounded out the evening activities.

Thanks to the support of the "Greatest Sponsors on Earth," LiDestri Food & Beverage and American Packaging Corp., as well as hundreds of donors, this year's Big Apple Bash raised more than \$1.25 million to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp – a record for the event.



Above: Balloon art – one of the many activities guests enjoyed at this year's Big Apple Bash.



Middle: Event sponsors, Peter Schottland and Stefani LiDestri, get the party started.



Bottom: Clown noses were a common sight at this year's circus.

CAMP BENEFIT EVENTS 2015

14th Annual Polo for Children Benefit • Greenwich, Conn. – June 7

Spend this family-friendly afternoon with the Camp community on the grounds of the Greenwich Polo Club. This fun-filled day features cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a luncheon, and silent and live auctions, with a picnic party featuring a variety of activities for children in attendance. The afternoon concludes with a High-Goal Polo match.

13th Annual "Fore a Very Good Cause" Golf Tournament Mamaroneck, N.Y. – September 8

Our annual golf tournament at the prestigious Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY features a gourmet brunch followed by a round of 18 holes at the celebrated club. Participants also enjoy an evening dinner reception where outing prizes are awarded and a variety of auction items are up for bid.

25th Fandango Benefit Gala • Ashford, Conn. – September 19

Join us at Camp for a festive afternoon featuring a performance by Camp friends and our amazing Hole in the Wall Gang Campers, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction and live auction. All guests are also invited to a post party featuring a buffet dinner, a live band and dancing.

24th Annual Big Apple Bash • New York, N.Y. – November

Join The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp family for a private afternoon performance of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center, followed by an evening dinner reception with children's activities, music and dancing at the Hard Rock Café. Your support allows campers and their families to also attend the private Circus performance free of charge.

Learn more about all of our Camp-hosted benefit events at www.holeinthewallgang.org/ourevents or contact Director of Special Events Jennifer Weeks at jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org.

Team Update

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

Connect. Conquer. Celebrate! This may sound like one of our unit cheers, but it's actually the mantra for Team Hole in the Wall's newest partners, the 2015 Ragnar Relay Cape Cod presented by New Balance and the 2015 Ragnar Trail Relay New England presented by Salomon, which have named Camp as their official charity partner.

"Team Hole in the Wall continues to evolve, identifying new opportunities that align with our mission and present exciting challenges for our athletes," said Ray Shedd, senior development officer at Camp. "With Ragnar, we've found the perfect mix of both – a sought-after relay race that is all about camaraderie and challenge by choice. Ragnar is also known for wacky fun, mischief, costumes and music – all things treasured at Camp."

This year, Team is expecting 20 teams of six or 12 runners for the Ragnar Relay Cape Cod and 10 teams of four or seven runners for the Ragnar Trail Relay New England. Each participant is asked to raise a

minimum of \$500, with the goal of sending as many campers to Camp as possible. Current teams include runners both new to Camp and returning, Camp alumni and families, and corporate partners.

"Giving back to the communities who make our adventures possible is at the core of Ragnar," said Courtney Mitchell Trafton, market development manager at Ragnar. "By providing opportunities for our Ragnarians to connect to and run for a cause, the experience not only becomes more meaningful but its impact is amplified in the lives of those who receive assistance through programs like Hole in the Wall."

Want to learn more about Ragnar or join an upcoming Team event as an athlete or volunteer? Contact Ray at 203-777-0522 or at info@teamholeinthewall.org.



YouTube LinkedIn



A group of Team Hole in the Wall runners tested the waters at last year's Ragnar! Their smiling faces say it all - and a partnership was born.

TEAM HOLE IN THE WALL 2015 Event Calendar

Join us as an athlete or in the cheer zone!

AngelRide • May 23 – 24

Ragnar Trail New England • June 26 – 27

Fairfield Road Race Half Marathon & 5K • June 27 - 28

New York City Triathlon • July 19

Camp Challenge Ride & Bandit 5K • September 12

New York City Marathon • November 1

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.

Words have the power to change the world.

That's the lesson Donna Quitadamo, a fourth grade teacher at Nelson Place School in Worcester, Mass., has been impressing upon her students for many years as they spread the word about The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp far and wide.



Students at The Nelson Place School work on a banner to help spread the word about Camp.

It all began when the father of Donna's friend passed away and donations were directed to Camp. As she learned more about the Hole in the Wall, she saw an opportunity to incorporate Camp into her class curriculum and character education.

The very first lesson came as Donna shared with her students how Paul Newman's philanthropy made him one of her heroes. In response, some of her students wrote a story about Camp for the school newspaper, encouraging donations. These students saw firsthand the power of their words as the entire school became aware of Hole in the Wall, and response in the school and community began to snowball.

In the years since that first article, Donna's students have compiled two books of poetry to benefit Camp, collected arts & crafts supplies for Camp's Hospital Outreach teams, and gathered Halloween costumes for the costume closet at Camp's theatre. Each project incorporates writing exercises – whether drafting letters to local businesses, crafting language for the school's morning announcements, penning articles for the school newspaper or more – to drive home how impactful words can be.

"Our students have come to realize they can make a difference in three ways," said Donna. "They can donate money, they can donate supplies, or they can pick up a pen and spread the word."

This year, in response to new Common Core requirements that moved the informational essay writing requirement to the start of the year, Donna's students wrote essays about Camp, which were then shared with members of the community and beyond. One student even sent an essay to the Obamas! While the students understood that they might not receive responses, many did, and one essay even resulted in a story about the project in the *Worcester Telegram* (<http://tinyurl.com/nq75fph>)!

Since 2010, Donna and her students have raised more than \$18,000 for Camp. But most importantly, students throughout the school have learned that, through words and deeds, they have the power to make a difference.

To learn more about how you can host an event to support Camp, contact Andrea Keefe, community events coordinator, at andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org.

Pardner Profile

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

Ten years ago, Kate Carpenter was a new teacher searching for a way to continue the philanthropy she'd focused on as a student at Penn State, where she volunteered to fundraise for children with cancer. She researched camps near her hometown in Connecticut and found Hole in the Wall.

Kate spent one week at Camp that first summer and has returned every summer since.

"I really liked the idea that I was surrounded by a lot of other young adults looking to make the world a better place," she said. "Camp magic is contagious, and I couldn't imagine not being a part of it."

In fact, Kate's time at Camp inspired a career change. Today, she works as a child life specialist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). At CHOP, Kate gets a new perspective on the impact of

Camp, working closely with Hole in the Wall's Philadelphia Hospital Outreach Program (HOP) team on their daily visits and on this past summer's CampWeek at CHOP.

"Our hospital is just far enough away that most of the staff here didn't know about the magic Camp brings to kids," she said. "You can really see how HOP helps build the safety net that lets kids deal with all the scary stuff. They learn there are a lot of people there who want to help them feel safe."

And she still volunteers at Camp, now during the sibling session. "It's a nice balance to the work I do on a regular basis."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Camp, visit our website at www.holeinthewallgang.org or email us at volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org.



Kate shares a moment with fellow longtime volunteer Patsy Shawver.

"Camp magic is contagious, and I couldn't imagine not being a part of it."



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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Families share special moments at Camp's Family Weekends



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Look inside to see
how families find
fun and connect
at camp

a seriousfun camp



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