# 



CampOut. But for mom, Tyyne, and dad, Brian, a COPE weekend was just what was needed to create some Camp magic of their own.

## Restoring, Recharging and Revitalizing Families

Reconnecting. Having fun. Letting loose. Finding kindred spirits. Learning something new.

The value of these things – things that parents experience at Camp's Change of Pace Experience weekends or COPE - cannot be measured because they are invaluable.

But when a parent admits that this is the first time she's danced with her husband in 10 years, or that she can't even remember the last time she smiled until her face hurt, you begin to understand why COPE is so important.

And when a dad learns about programs available to his child programs that could have an enormous positive impact on his child – from another dad who has been in the very same place, that understanding is even greater.

And when you witness a room of strangers become a family, laughing, sharing experiences and providing support, you can't help but think that's Camp magic.

Five times each year, Hole in the Wall invites parents and caregivers of new campers to share this experience. The group, which includes both

couples and single parents (who often bring a friend or family member for support), gathers together at the Heritage Inn in Southbury, Conn., for a weekend that, for once, is all about them. They are joined by "host parents," camper parents who have been to COPE before and can share their stories and help guide the experience.

COPE begins with cocktails and dinner on Friday evening. Parents often gather around tables unsure what to expect. Conversations start out focused on everyday topics – where everyone is from, future vacation hopes, and expectations for the weekend. By the end of the evening, though, connections are already starting to form as parents find shared interests and an accepting community.

"We arrived at COPE, checked into the room and immediately started to relax," said camper mom Tyyne Kelly. "No medication to give, no fever to monitor, no middle of the night check in, no dietary concerns, no meal prep, just a pass to have fun and let it all go... We hung out with other parents that just GOT it. No sorry looks on their faces when we described our situation, just understanding."

On Saturday, the magic continues, with powerful speakers and a variety of fun Camp activities like woodshop and arts & crafts, and more adult activities like yoga, massages and Reiki. But the heart of the day belongs to the parent sessions. Moms gather with other moms in one room, while dads group together down the hall.

These sessions are designed to provide an experience similar to Cabin Chat, where our summer campers gather each evening and share their thoughts and experiences, or just be silly. Parents find a safe platform where they can share whatever they need with those who have walked in their shoes. Challenges, successes, happy moments or sad – nothing is off the table, and parents and caregivers often find that there is a lot to be learned from each other. It is here that friendships are solidified, and caregivers begin to truly understand that they are not alone.

That evening, filled with the connections of the day, everyone has the opportunity to let loose for a night of dinner and dancing.

"By the end of the second night, Brian and I were ready to paint the

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### a serioüsfun camp

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## What's New at Camp

Things at Camp are just the way we like them – busy! From new offerings to fun events and beyond, there is so much to be excited about.

Looking back at 2015, we were honored to welcome the Life is Good Tour to Camp at one of our Fall Family Weekends. Life is Good is a New England apparel company best known for its optimistic T-shirts. The company also supports kids in need as part of its mission. The visit included games, giveaways and our favorite – a gratitude jar, where everyone could



The Life is Good Tour stopped at one of Camp's Fall Family Weekends to share some optimism.

write what they were grateful for on plastic balls to fill the jar with positivity. The Life is Good Tour's stop also recognized Camp friend Mackenzie Page, founder of The Great Pumpkin Challenge fundraiser for Camp, naming her a Hero of Optimism.

The fall also brought exciting new CampOut events, including our first-ever Fall Ball and Iron Chef: Camp Edition. Fall Ball, hosted by Camp friend Aetna, was an opportunity for campers and their families to swank it up for an evening of fun, games and dancing. At Iron Chef: Camp Edition, hosted by Camp friend Clarke Corporation, campers got to try their hand at creating delicious treats while their parents had some treats of their own, in the form of a cooking demonstration!

At the end of the year, we were thrilled to welcome Terry Coughlin to our Board of Directors. After Terry's daughter Grace was diagnosed with leukemia in June of 2013, the family attended a Family Weekend at Hole in the Wall. Terry credits that with being transformational and providing a profound source of inspiration that eventually found its way into his workplace where he now hosts the Maialino Spring Dinner benefit for Camp. He has been a dedicated member of our Camp community and

we couldn't be happier to have him on the Board.

Moving into the new year, Camp had an amazing opportunity on January 25, the eve of Paul Newman's birthday: ringing the NYSE Closing Bell®! Camper families and Camp Board Members, including actress Bridget Moynahan, gathered together for this special honor, which kicked off our Founder's Day celebration. As the celebration continued, we recognized some of the folks who help make all the Camp magic possible: our volunteers. We invited current volunteers to share their favorite memories on social media and unveiled a new, streamlined way to learn about and register for volunteer opportunities. Check it out for yourself, and see how you can join this outstanding group of individuals at www.holeinthewallgang.org/getinvolved/volunteer-opportunities.

One short week later, Camp was back in NYC, helping Kravis Children's Hospital at Mt. Sinai celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Zone. Joined by former camper turned actor Dexter Darden, our New York HOP



Former camper turned actor Dexter Darden joins a HOP participant in some games at the 10th anniversary of The Zone at Kravis Children's Hospital at Mt. Sinai.

team led an exciting sing-along and Camp-style games.

As we look ahead, we can't wait to host some new friends at Camp during a Rare Diseases Family Camp planned for June and a Histocytology Family Weekend planned for the fall. These sessions reflect Camp's commitment to provide programming to often underserved communities. We can't wait to meet these new members of our Camp family!

## From the CEO

Early in Camp's history, we realized that behind every child with a serious illness is a family in crisis. It was an important realization, leading Camp to intentionally expand its service offerings to include siblings, parents and caregivers.

As I look through the pages of this family-oriented issue, I am so grateful to see that the lessons we learned in providing fun, healing experiences for children are translatable to the entire family. Creating unforgettable memories while facilitating connections with others who have walked similar paths brings the same results in both children and caretakers – smiles, friendships, a restored sense of possibility and a community of acceptance that replaces isolation.



Camp CEO Jimmy with camper Jeremy at the Big Apple Bash.

Camp is now truly a family affair – not just in terms of those who we are so privileged to serve but also with the multiple generations of volunteers, FunRaisers and others who continue to support Paul Newman's dream.

During the last several years,
Camp's Hospital Outreach Program
(HOP) has grown significantly. It is
now made up of a full-time team
of more than 30 specialists who are
delivering daily doses of laughter to
more than 40 hospital locations in six
states. As HOP continues to extend
the healing hand of friendship to
thousands more seriously ill children
and their families across the Northeast,
we are broadening smiles and the
reach of our programming in ways
never imagined.

In the coming years, we will be complementing the growth of HOP with a renewed commitment to deepening our programs for our existing Camp families. The enthusiastic response to CampOut, Family Camps and more frequent year-round programming has demonstrated that there is still more room for more Camp fun in the lives of our families. We will continue to do all that we can to identify those opportunities and surround our families with even more expressions of "a different kind of healing."

Thank you for being part of our family. You are truly at the heart of who we are and all that we dream to be.



## **Thanks to Our 2015 Volunteers!**

We celebrate the hundreds of volunteers who helped to make 2015 an exceptional year for Camp and our campers. Our volunteers support Camp during our various on- and off-site programs - as physicians and nurses, by helping prepare our facilities for summer and weekend programs, at special events and in our administrative offices. For more info on volunteering, contact volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org

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## Thanks to Our 2015 Team Members!

Our thanks go out to our 2015 Team members. To join the Team, contact info@teamholeinthewall.org.

Chaleen Abely Mason Bryant Jane Adams Rylie Bryant Joan Adams Teresa Bucello Chris Aiudi David Buckley Donna Aiudi Jason Buell Satya Alapati Kim Bulkeley Frank Aleman Maureen Bulkeley Melissa Alexa LeAnn Burgess Bellos Tony Alfano Eddie Burke Vincent Allehaut Kevin Burke Brianna Allen Tom Burke Carrie Allen Christi Burton Daniel Allen Michael Bushion Daniel Alperin Heidi Buttery John Byram Brenda Al-Rijleh Paul Altmeyer John Caceres Francis Amara Leo Cain John Ambrose Charles Calabrese Jr Heather Andersen Priscilla Cale Christina Anderson Adam Callahar James Anderson Marc Campanale Peter Anderson Bruce Campbell Mark Andree Hannah Campbell Chris Andrews Ian Campbell Tom Andrix Marcia Campbell Kelsey Ann Donna Campion Brady Antaya James Canton Susan Caperino Cynthia Antaya Keith Antaya Bruce Caplain Bill Appleby **Brittany Capron** Katherine Armstrong Jennifer Carabetta Robert Armstrong Benjamin Carbonetti Greg Arnold Johnathan Cardenas Nathaniel Aronson Meg Carley Karen Audia Kristine Carlson-Koehle Jim Babek Jim Carpenter Diana Baez John Carpenter Rick Baker Kate Carpenter Sarah Bake Richard Carrier Akilah Baldwin Laura Carusone Karen Balik Bernardo Casano Richard Balik Peter Case Matthew Ballard Donald Casey **Candice Baral** Sunny Castaneira Carlos Barreto Kevin Catlin Mary Bartalsky Jennifer Cerrato Alison Bartlett-O'Donald Michael Cerrato Sondra Baseggio Richard Cersosimo Michael Battey Christina Cetti Donovan Battisti Lexie Chabot Ross Bauer David Channell Robert Bavol Tiffany Charrette Lynn Baylis Steve Chasey Mark Chavey Dana Bean Garth Bean Paul Chavey Victoria Beaudoir Jason Cheramie Jessica Bedford John Cherrick Courtney Beinhaur Peter Cherrick Nicole Belanger Scott Childs **Emily Belic** James Christian Chad Bell Patricia Christiana Denise Bel Maria Ciccaglione Yaniv Ben-David Joey Ciccarelli Gordon Bennett Vittoria Ciccotelli Leo Bento Diane Clark Matthew Bergenholtz Jane Matley Clark Erica Bevevino Kevin Cleary Paul Birck Sean Cleary Dean Birdsall Brianna Cocuzzo Sandy Birner Kaitlyn Cocuzzo Carolyn Bissex Steven Cohn Jason Blaine Jennifer Colella Jeff Blinderma Liz Coley Josh Blinderman Matt Coley Charles Collison Ross Blinderman Michael Blitz Kevin Colman W. Frank Bohler Amie Connei

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Chad Kinsmar

Emily Knowles

Anne Koeppel

Valerie Koif

Brian Koonz

Daisy Kosack

Laura Kozak

Jane Krish

Jeffrey Kotecki

Sherry Harrington

Nishat Hashem

Charles Hatton

Janet Hatton

Richard Haus

Michael Havard

Kelly Martino

Mary Marulli

Marta Maselek

Michael Masi

Peter Mason

Kira Masters

Robert Mata

Travis Matheney

Megan Matson

Susan Haves Linda Kronick Dawn Kruger Benjamin Krupienski Jack Krupienski James Krupienski Nancy Krupienski Tannin Kueffner Ronald Kukta Stacy Lacapra Bill Lachapelle Gregg Lachterman Judith Lackey Elliott Laden Kelly Lambert Monica Lamontagne Raymond Lamontagne Randy Landau Heidi Langan Lauren Lanuck Brian Larocco Josh Lattimore Diane Lautier Christian Laverty William Law Rvan Lawler Sarah Lawlor Betty Leach Marcy LeBland Colleen Ledbetter Vern Lee Winnie Lee Cindy Lehmann Jason Leiser Yadira Lemus John Lenihan Courtney Lent Cindy Leon Matthew Leor Andrea Lerude Matthew LeSaffre Chelsea Levesque James Levine Maria Levine Charles Lewis Harrison Lewis Jonathan Lewis Carolina Liberona Entertainment & Licensina Brandon Lieff Kyle Lieff Warren Lieff Matthew Lillis Jennifer Lindsay Ilva Lipsman George Lisi Heather Livingstone Mark Longo Jennifer Loquine Karin Loretz Ray Loughlin Jr. **Evan Louros** Laura Lovelace Cuong Lu Debbie Lubinsk Paul Lubinski Mark Lucas Theresa Lucas Roger Luchnick Sandy Luke Kim Lumbruno-Gomes Deborah Lundgrer Kimberly Lyman Brian Lynch Katie Lynch Scott Lynch Brandon Lyons Catie Macaluso Myles Macey Denise MacFarlane Joshua Mack David MacNiver Rich Madden Magesh Madhanagopal Robyn Magee Rvan Magee Brendan Mahoney Stephanie Makar Beniamin Malburg Kate Maldonado Jeff Mammano Michael Manifold Andy Manos Gregory Marcy Kristin Marengo Christopher Marinelli Valerie Marinucci Andres Marmelo Erika Kincaid John Maroney Alyssa Marquette Andrea King Joyce Marquette David King Jack King John Martino

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Carrie Pace

Stacev Pagington

Laurie Palmerino

Frances Paley

Claire Palme

Al Page

Matthew Ostrowski

Kristen Riley

Jaimee Rizzo

Maria Rizzuti

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Wayne Zorger Kate Zysk

Elizabeth Boig

Sarah Bolan

Noah Boland

Joey Bonanno

**Emily Bonebrake** 

Sarah Bonebrake

Kristin Borowski

Kelly Boucher

Katy Boylan

Nora Brennan

Karen Brewei

Jodi Britts

Timothy Brennan

Amanda Brinton

Shannon Broderick

**Donald Brodeur** 

David Broggi

Fred Brooke

Jim Brooks

Joanna Brooks

Adrian Brown

Carol Brown

Eric Brown

Colleen Brown

George Brown

Steve Brown

Tamara Brumme

Anita Leila Bruno

Eugene Brustolon

Kenneth Bruno

Keif Bryant

Stephen Brooks

Michelle Broggi

Jonathan Brodeur

Claire Conroy

Jason Conte

Kelli Conway

Jim Copes

Robert Cote

Doug Craig

Terence Crean

Alisa Cretella

Alan Critchell

Marc Culver

Shakon

Ryan Cuprak

Kevin Currie

Peter DaDalt

Rylie Dagnall

Armand Daccache

Keith Cyr

Noel Cyr

Jesse Forster

Michael Fortier

**Nathaniel Fortier** 

Anna Fosselman

**David Fowler** 

Troy Fowler

## 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.

On a snowy February evening, children and their families gathered in the fifth floor playroom at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and let their worries slip away. The group was diverse – children in the hospital for the very first time, as well as seasoned veterans. Moms, dads and siblings filled the space. Some were tentative, and others dove right in. But by the end of the evening, fast friends were made, and laughter could be heard echoing down the hall.

The gathering was part of the Tuesday Evening Playgroup that meets each week at the hospital. The activity was simple – decorating water bottles – and one that everyone enjoyed. But more important than the activity was the atmosphere – one where everyone was free to choose how they wanted to participate.

Artistic expression took many forms, from scientific equations to videogame characters, and jokes kept the mood light. And while most in attendance didn't know each other at the start of the evening, as the event

continued, everyone was partaking in good-natured teasing and vibrant conversations. One trickster in particular delighted in placing stickers on the backs of everyone in the room.

"Bringing Camp to the hospital is more than a special program or arts & crafts – it is creating the space of safety, respect and love in the medical setting," said HOP Central New England Regional Manager Bryan Ballard. "By allowing families the opportunity to choose how to enjoy that space, we're providing the greatest possible impact."

Parents, too, found they could just relax and take time to enjoy the moment in their own way. For one mom, that meant pulling up a chair and crafting with her son. Two other parents sat together off to the side, sharing information, insights and tips about everything from treatment challenges and experiences to Disney World vacations. And another was able to find a moment, knowing her son was in good hands and having a great time, to catch up on a phone call.



Laughter at the Tuesday Evening Playgroup at CT Children's Medical Center could be heard down the hall.

While the evening was special, it is in no way a unique experience for our Hospital Outreach Program, which is dedicated to restoring choice to children in a hospital setting and giving them the tools to "raise a little hell." Evening playgroups are just one tool in the arsenal.

For more information about the Hospital Outreach Program, contact Mary Naumec, director, Hospital Outreach Program, at 860-429-3444 or mary.naumec@ holeinthewallgang.org.



## **Family Flats**

**The Blume Family** 

When you have a seriously ill child, many of the things that others take for granted simply aren't possible – like spending time as a family and having friends who share similar experiences. Restoring these, and the sense of normalcy and belonging they bring, is incredibly empowering.

The Blume Family learned this firsthand through their interactions with Hole in the Wall. Though they were reluctant at first to attend a Family Weekend last spring, three hours after arriving at Camp, they were positively thrilled with their decision to participate.

"It was wonderful that our daughter, Hannah, who was on crutches and couldn't do much, could do everything. That was great for her," said mom Michelle. "To see kids with similar issues running around and doing normal stuff is amazing for these kids."

That first weekend, they spent the days just relaxing and having fun, finding new friends in a family with a daughter who also has cancer. While the kids went off to play with their Camp Family Pal, the parents were able to socialize.

When summer came, Hannah and her brother, Ethan, were excited to attend the summer program.
And though both kids came back saying Camp was "better than Disney World," there was also magic taking place back home.

"When Hannah was in and out of the hospital for 10 months, Ethan spent a lot of time with neighbors or with his grandparents," Michelle said. "So, while Hannah was away, I got to spend the whole week with him. And when Ethan was at Camp, I was able





Michelle, Matthew, Hannah and Ethan Camp it up at CampOut's Aetna Fall Ball.

to spend time with Hannah without feeling guilty. We got to do special things with each kid while the other was away."

The family is now fully invested in the Camp experience, participating in every activity that they can. This past fall, that included two CampOut events, a CampOut home visit and a COPE weekend.

"When we went to COPE, it was the first time we'd left the kids since Hannah got sick. I was actually hesitant to go," Michelle said. "It was so much more fun than I thought. When the parents got together at COPE, it was very uplifting."

And they are already looking forward to the summer. Hannah and Ethan can't wait to see their friends from the previous summer, while Michelle and her husband, Matthew, are looking forward to a COPE reunion weekend.

It's wonderful to find a place where you truly belong.

## Sheriff's Spotlight

A shout-out to our dedicated corporate partners.

What could be more fun than a barrel of monkeys? Having an amazing partner like Hasbro, the company behind the ubiquitous game of the very same name.

A longtime supporter of Hole in the Wall and our sister camps through the SeriousFun Children's Network, Hasbro was a welcome and active presence at Camp in 2015. In addition to financial support, Hasbro employees showed their giving natures, contributing in many ways.

More than 50 members of the Hasbro team came out to Camp for Helping Hands work days, getting our facility ready for campers and families to arrive for programming. Additionally, Hasbro fielded a team of runners, riders and volunteers for the Camp Challenge Ride & Bandit 5K, one of Camp's signature fundraising events. Hasbro employees also hosted Hasbro Family Game Night at their headquarters in Rhode Island. This exciting and fun CampOut event brought together regional Camp families for an evening of games and bonding.

"Our long partnership with The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and the entire SeriousFun Children's Network is a clear example of Hasbro's purpose to make the world a better place for children and their families," said Karen Davis, Hasbro's Senior Vice President of Global Philanthropy & Social Impact. "The fun and

truly innovative experiences they provide have a lasting impact on

everyone they touch, from the campers and their families to both the Camp staff and our employees."

As an organization, Hasbro donated more than 1,000 toys and games to Camp last year, providing hours of fun to our campers and their families. These items also were welcome gifts for the campers who attended our annual holiday party, where every child took home a Hasbro toy or game.

"Our partnership with Hasbro is a model of our most effective partnerships, bringing together financial impact, employee and executive engagement, and mission alignment," said Ken Alberti, chief development officer at Camp. "Hasbro truly understands the powerful impact play can have on children facing challenges, and it is exciting to work so closely with them to bring joy and laughter to those Camp serves."

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



Volunteers from Hasbro kept the fun rolling at Hasbro Game Night.

## **Meet our** FUNraisers!

#### What's a FUNraiser?

If you've ever been part of Team Hole in the Wall, Kids for Camp or created a fundraising event, then you're a FUNraiser! That's right, a FUNraiser! So get ready, because later this year, we're bringing all these fundraising forces together and making it even easier for folks to get involved. Together, we can help more kids and their families experience the magic of Hole in the Wall. To learn more, contact Andrea Keefe, manager, peer-to-peer programs, at 203-772-0522 or andrea.keefe@ holeinthewallgang.org.

## Meet Dennis Rinaldi

Hometown: Harrison, NY FUNraiser Activities: The Grove School 2v2 Basketball Tournament

#### How did you learn about Camp? What inspired you to get involved?

I first heard about Camp when my younger brother Daniel was a camper. Daniel has Proteus syndrome, a rare condition characterized by overgrowth of the bones, skin and other tissues. My brother attended Camp when he was 14 years old. I was a stubborn 15-yearold boy who wanted to attend sports camp instead. My mother had to drag me to go. Even though I was reluctant, I came to realize just how much Camp did for my brother, my family and myself. Camp has this contagious atmosphere that encourages everyone to be who they truly are, and I knew I wanted to be a part of creating that magic. In addition to giving back, I truly feel that I am my best self when I am at Camp. I have now been a counselor at the summer program for three years.

#### Why did you choose a basketball tournament fundraiser?

I love the game of basketball. Growing up with three brothers, we would have loved to be a part of a tournament like this to raise funds for Hole in the Wall. Being able to share my love of Camp and basketball has been such an amazing experience.

#### How much are the students involved?

The whole school was involved in the basketball tournament. Half of the students were actually playing in the tournament, some students helped get extra donations while others helped keep score at the games. There were a few students who were DJs at the event and the remainder of the students were there to cheer on their peers. The students did the majority of the fundraising, from bake sales and lemonade stands to change collections. With all the kids' efforts put together, this was the most successful fundraiser that the Grove School has ever had.

#### What do the students think?

The students really enjoyed the event. It was a chance for everyone in the school to get involved in a collaborative project. There was a place for everyone and a chance for all types of people to make some kind of contribution. It was a great way for the kids to become more familiar with Hole in the Wall. I think some of the kids want to continue their involvement.

## Meet Rose DiSanto

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA **FUNraiser Activities:** DiSanto and Starnes 'Tini Party

#### How did you learn about Camp? What inspired you to get involved?

I read about Camp in an article in Life magazine in 1988. The article really moved me – the photos of those happy children, the love just shined through those images. I was hooked and have been volunteering ever since.

#### Why do you continue to be involved?

I have met the most incredible people through Camp. Children who have changed my life in just a week families whose gratitude and tears of joy stay with me years later – the truly amazing staff members, now lifelong friends. Each year, I stand in awe of the counselors and HOP specialists who give so creatively and wholly. All of us share the same profound feeling of privilege and blessedness for being part of it all.



Rose and her friends at the 'Tini Party

(Not to mention that every time we get together, our ribs and bellies ache from laughing so hard together!)

#### Why did you choose a martini party fundraiser?

To be honest, we stole the idea from friends. That first year, we only wanted to thank our friends and families for all of the support they've given us over the years: care packages that they sent along the way, letters they wrote, checks they gave. We were (and continue to be) so touched by the generosity of people friends and family who have never set foot through Camp's opening arches and yet are so moved by its story. Eight years later, our tiny party has grown – we now co-chair with our dear friends, Carol and Dan Boerger. We've outgrown our house. This year's party was held at one of the boathouses on Philadelphia's historic boathouse row.

#### What has your experience with Camp been like? Do you have a favorite?

Impossible to pick a favorite experience with Camp. But one very special one is with a camper, Anique, who was HIV positive due to a tainted blood donation. One afternoon, we were holding hands, sitting in the rocking chairs on the front porch of the infirmary. We were missing the afternoon program because she was getting a blood transfusion so we were soaking up the sun, listening to the squeals and laughter of children playing at the pond and pool. Anique broke our silence and asked, "People are afraid to touch me. Aren't you?" That moment, that question sums up so much about Camp to me. It is a place where there is no fear. Where children are lovingly taken care of - from a transfusion administered in a rocking chair on a front porch to a hand held to games played amid squeals of laughter and joy. Where children are treasured and loved - not because they are sick, but because they are simply children.

## Meet Alan Gousie

Hometown: Lincoln, RI

#### How did you learn about Camp? What inspired you to get involved?

I saw a Team Hole in the Wall shirt on a runner at the 2010 Walt Disney World marathon and soon after found an advertisement in Runner's World magazine. I followed up by researching

FUNraiser activities: Fairfield Road Races 2011, Boston Marathon 2012-2014, Choose Your Event 2013, Bandit 5K 2013, Ragnar Cape Cod 2015, NY Marathon 2015, Choose Your Event 2016

#### Restoring - cont. from page 1

Dennis and the outstanding students at the Grove School.

town red," Tyyne said. "After a delicious dinner and drinks, we got out on the dance floor with our new best friends and spent most of the night dancing. It was thrilling to have so much energy surround us and feel the positive vibes from everyone."

The final day is focused on transitioning back to the world, while still carrying the new friendships and knowledge gained during the past 36 hours. It is a time to reflect on blessings and prepare to return home being the best caregiver, partner or supporter you can be.

"COPE gave us a chance to find each other again and find the love that Camp is so good at giving. We drove home connected, full-bellied, rested, relaxed, and in love," Tyyne said.

If you want to learn more about COPE and our other Parent Programs, contact Sarah Smithson, director, outreach programs, at (860) 429-3444 or sarah.smithson@holeinthewallgang.org.

Camp; I was sold! I was sincerely moved by Mr. Newman's idea that every child deserves a chance to raise a little hell.

#### Why do you continue to be involved?

There's no finish line to this. Being even a small part of giving these children and their families the Camp experience is a thrill that never gets old.

#### How do you stay motivated through the long miles?

During training: By thinking about creative fundraising strategies. During races: By focusing on campers and their families.

#### What has your experience with Camp been like? Do you have a favorite?

My favorite Camp experiences are (1) being greeted at the Team Hole In the Wall cheer zone on Heartbreak Hill by Team staff and my family, (2) staying overnight at Camp for the Cape Cod Ragnar Relay and sitting around the campfire, and (3) anytime a camper or parent talks to us at an event.

#### What would you say to someone thinking of becoming a Camp **FUNraiser?**

Read about Camp, visit Camp, and talk to others about Camp. You'll be joining remarkable, caring people, and the rewards for being part of the Camp experience are immeasurable!



Alan shows off his medals from all four races at the 2016 Dopey Challenge!

## **TEAM HOLE IN** THE WALL 2016

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**Event Calendar** Join us as an athlete or in the

cheer zone!

**JUNE 25 - 26** Fairfield Road Race 5K &

**Half Marathon AUGUST 26 - 27** Ragnar Trail New England

**SEPTEMBER 10** Camp Challenge Ride & **Bandit 5K** 

**SEPTEMBER 16 - 17** Reach the Beach

**SEPTEMBER 23 - 24** Ragnar Relay Adirondacks

> **NOVEMBER 6 TCS NYC Marathon**

## **Our Events**

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

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages, step right up, step right up to the 24th Annual Big Apple Bash, our circus-themed benefit, which was held at Lincoln Center in New York on November 7, 2015. Supported by lead sponsors American Packaging Corporation and LiDestri Food & Beverage, the event raised \$1.4 million for Camp's growing programs a record for the New York circus benefit.

The evening kicked off with preshow face painting and temporary tattoos. Then it was time for Camp CEO Jimmy Canton and event co-chairs Stefani LiDestri and Peter Schottland to welcome guests before the Big Apple Circus wowed with a performance of their newest show, "The Grand Tour."

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, more than 700 campers and family members, including patients from nearby regional hospitals and clinics, attended the private performance free of charge.

Following the circus, donors boarded charter buses and headed to The Hard Rock Café in Times Square for a family-friendly reception. The party was full of exciting new entertainment with aerial acrobatic performances from Cirque-tacular and a dueling piano set from Shake Rattle & Roll that kept the party going with performances of classic and contemporary hits.

The reception showed no signs of slowing down with guests treated to a dinner and dessert buffet, cocktails and mocktails, arts and crafts, caricaturists, Rock Band and air-brush tattoos. Guests crowded the dance floor in celebration as the DJ spun tunes late into the night.

Reminding guests what the evening was all about, camper Jeremy shared details of his battle with neuroblastoma and how Camp helped him and his family cope, and have some moments of fun, while undergoing treatment. Jeremy thanked attendees for making it possible for kids like him to enjoy Camp programs free of charge. Later, Jeremy showed off his tap-dance skills to Walk the Moon's "Shut up and Dance" and closed out the festivities by leading a sing-along to "Seasons of Love" from

the Broadway musical Rent.



need for a great night at the circus!

Bottom photo: This year's after-party was full of new surprises like Acrobats from Cirque-tacular.

#### **CAMP BENEFIT EVENTS 2016**

#### 15th Annual Polo for Children Benefit **Greenwich, CT – June 12**

Spend this family-friendly afternoon with Camp 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 planned for attending children featuring a variety of activities. The afternoon concludes with a High-Goal Polo match.

#### 26th Fandango Benefit Gala Ashford, CT – September 17

Join us at Camp for a fun-filled afternoon featuring a performance by celebrity friends and our amazing Hole in the Wall Gang campers, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and silent and live auctions. All guests are also invited to a Post-Party featuring a buffet dinner, a live band and dancing.

#### 25th Annual Big Apple Bash New York, NY - October 29

Join Hole in the Wall 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.

## Pardner Profile

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

When Deb Heneghan's daughter, Chelsea, was in college and looking for a way to get involved with kids who have cancer, Deb suggested she volunteer at Hole in the Wall. Though at the time Deb had no direct experience with Camp, it was a suggestion that would impact on them both enormously.

That first summer, Chelsea volunteered on her own, befriending a staff nurse and, as a result, decided to pursue a career in nursing. Today, Chelsea is a pediatric oncology nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia It is a career choice her mom credits

The next summer, Deb, who is a teacher in Manchester, Conn., decided to volunteer with her daughter, who showed her the ropes.

"When I first came to Camp, one of the things that struck me was that everyone was on the same page," said Deb. "Everyone followed safety, respect and love, and it really allowed the power of Camp to come through. It does great things for people, especially the campers."

Deb has volunteered many summers since then and has also volunteered for both Spring and Fall Family Weekends.

"Family Weekends are very different from summer because you get to interact with the entire family," Deb said. "You really get a sense of Camp's impact not only on the sick child, but on siblings and parents as well. Family members really get a chance to participate in activities, make friends and just have fun!"

Most recently, Deb has started volunteering with Camp's Hospital Outreach Program at Tuesday Night Playgroup – a volunteer opportunity

that Camp has started offering to those who have previously volunteered for the summer program or at Family Weekends.

"It's not about a craft or an activity – it's about letting go and getting involved and expressing yourself," she said of the playgroup. "Watching the kids and parents have fun makes you reflect on things. It makes you look at life with a positive lens."

Deb notes that her experiences with Camp have had a positive effect on her family and also, she hopes, for the campers she has met

"When you volunteer with Camp, you take away more than you give," she said. "I feel honored to be a part of the family."

Interested in learning more about volunteering at Camp? Contact our volunteer team at volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org.



Deb helping a camper on a leisurely walk on the horse trails.

Or you can see all of our current volunteer opportunities at http:// www.holeinthewallgang.org/getinvolved/volunteer-opportunities/.



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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Spring 2016

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NYSE Closing Bell®

## THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG (AMP

MONDAY

**JANUARY** 

On January 25, the eve of Founder's Day, Hole in the Wall staff, campers and board members, including Bridget Moynahan, rang the

http://www.holeinthewallgang.org New Haven, CT 06511 555 Long Wharf Drive



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