

# THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



## A Different Kind of Healing

by Matthew Cook, Camp Director

In the spring of 1988, Paul Newman stood in front of a few hundred people in the brand new Sports & Recreation building at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and said, “What we are witness to here is a kind of mini miracle.”

I think he got it wrong. A bold statement, I know, but hear me out. The truth is that there’s nothing “mini” about the miracle that has been happening now for 23 years up here in the woods of Ashford, Connecticut. The miracle of it is simple. Like all true miracles, it’s about the kind of alchemy that turns the ordinary into the extraordinary, and that transmutes calamity into joy.

This summer at Camp we saw 1,097 campers eagerly fulfilling Mr. Newman’s dream. A day at Camp might include riding horses on Camp’s wooded trails, swimming in the pool, catching a fish out on Pearson Pond or creative expression at Arts & Crafts, the Woodshop or the Theater. In the evenings, our campers get to play fun/silly games at the Carnival, show off their best



*“It’s a different kind of healing...” – Paul Newman*

dance moves at the Camp Party and display their talents in front of the entire Camp in the Theater on Stage Night. All of our activities and events are specifically designed to give our campers a chance to

participate fully regardless of their level of ability.

That these activities provide a wonderful Camp experience is certainly true. The real magic of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, however, is that all of our campers participate in these activities side-by-side with other young people who have also dealt with the devastating effects of childhood illness, as well as with a team of compassionate adults who have no other goal than to make each child feel Safe, Respected and Loved! Our three doctors and ten nurses are focused 24/7 on caring for our campers’ medical needs in the same spirit. Our full-time program team and the summer staff are expert in creating an intentional community where it is safe to be yourself and to share your greatest gift... your true self. Part of the

reason these staff members are so good at helping to create this magical environment is that approximately one-quarter of them have experienced it from the other side as Hole in the Wall campers in the past. This is an extraordinary tribute to the impact of their own Camp experience, and we are grateful for their commitment to keeping the dream alive.

This summer, during one of our Awards Night Ceremonies, I heard something that took my breath away. Let me explain that, on the last night of each session after the “Banquet,” everyone on Camp heads up to the Theater to hold an Awards Ceremony that makes the Oscars

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Top photo: With our 23rd summer, we served a record number of 1,097 campers.  
Above: Camp Director Matthew Cook and his young friend share a special moment on Camp.



## FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton has served Camp as a staff member since it began in 1988. He served as the Camp's Director for eight years and has been its Chief Executive Officer since 2002.

**“This is epic. I have always wanted to do something like this.”**

The “this” that my camper was referring to was to join his cabin mates in pranking another cabin. Male bonding and a little bit of mischief do the spirit good. Our Camp Director spoke beautifully in his cover article about the miracles that happen at Camp - the healing that comes from a grateful heart. My camper's enthusiasm, in large part, stemmed from his isolation back at home. His physical size and mobility challenges due to the frequent use of steroids to treat his illness had alienated him from his peers. He wanted desperately to make friends at Camp. Indeed, so desperately that his parents told us he was battling depression on top of his chronic, painful illness.

He found friends at Camp. Our cabin of campers and counselors

became a band of brothers - laughing, conspiring, celebrating, being mischievous, but most of all supporting one another. It is simply indescribable how quickly our campers open up to one another, becoming fast friends. Indescribable, but not unexpected. They long for acceptance by their peers - for a confidant and an ally. And at Camp, they are surrounded by other children who understand their plight and the difficult journey they have traveled. The bonding, those friendships, that acceptance - it's part of what makes the heart grateful. It's part of the miracle of Camp. What a privilege it is for all of us - staff, donor, volunteer - to be associated with it. We had a wonderful, healing summer this year. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who helped make that happen.

## The Travelers Championship: A Winning Partner

Camp was honored to be one of two primary beneficiaries of the Travelers Championship golf tournament, which took place June 21-27, 2010 in Cromwell, Connecticut. The Travelers Championship is Connecticut's only PGA TOUR event. Camp is extremely fortunate to participate as a co-charity, which raises both funds and awareness for the critical mission of Camp.

This year's opening ceremony was presided over by Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell, along with other state dignitaries and business leaders. Camper parent Fran Reed spoke on behalf of Camp, raising the awareness of Camp's message of hope and healing with attending golf enthusiasts, corporate officers and government representatives.

The incomparable Joe Pesci and Board Member Jim Naughton played on behalf of Camp at the Wednesday Celebrity Pro-Am. Camp maintained a wonderful presence all week long in the tournament's Fan Zone, with its appealing Mini-Camp façade set up in front of a tent filled with arts and crafts activities and willing volunteers to help the more than 1,000 children and family members who took time out to visit us at the tournament.

All four local television stations were on course throughout the

week broadcasting golf, the weather and other segments from the tournament, featuring interviews with former campers Amanda Garbatini, Ann Marie Hines and Kelly Foy, providing wonderful exposure for the Camp and its mission. In addition to the local media, the Camp was featured in the 90-second Chairman's Message during Sunday's CBS broadcast to hundreds of countries and millions of people. Nell Newman, Co-founder and President of Newman's Own Organics was the Women's Day keynote speaker and paid a visit to Camp's exhibit in the Fan Zone to greet the hardworking Camp friends and volunteers there.

In an exciting finish on Sunday, June 27, PGA TOUR professional Bubba Watson won the 2010 Travelers Championship in a three-way playoff, earning him his first-ever victory on the PGA TOUR. But the real victory came from the event raising more than \$1 million for its two designated charities, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and the Greater Hartford Jaycees, and more than 130 charities throughout the region.

“We are honored to be part of the Travelers Championship,” said Camp's Chief Development Officer



The 2010 Travelers Championship kicked off on Monday, June 21 with an Opening Ceremony from TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn. Pictured left to right are: J. Michael “Mike” Smiles (Chief Development Officer, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp); Fran Reed (Camper Parent, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp); Nathan Grube (Tournament Director, Travelers Championship); Jennie Davis (2010 Volunteer Tournament Chair, Travelers Championship); Rear Admiral Michael E. McLaughlin (2010 Honorary Military Appreciation Representative, Naval Submarine Base New London); Andy Bessette (Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, Travelers).

J. Michael “Mike” Smiles. “What makes this PGA TOUR event so special is not only the significant proceeds generated from every sponsor and participant, but the broad public awareness it provides for the Camp's mission. The Travelers Championship and its lead sponsor Travelers are true partners in enabling the Camp to serve thousands of children coping with serious illnesses and conditions.”

“We feel privileged to be a partner with The Hole in the Wall

Gang Camp,” said Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube. “The PGA TOUR is unlike any other professional sports entity in that we are able to donate 100 percent of our net proceeds to charity, as well as build the awareness of Camp's mission to fans on course during the week and the millions of people watching the national broadcast on CBS and the Golf Channel.”

### Too much mail? Duplicate mailings?

Let us know. We are happy to accommodate your mailing wishes. Call Maria Gomez at (203) 772-0522 or email [maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org).

### Gearing up for Summer 2011

Volunteer and staff applications for Summer 2011 will be available in December. Camp begins accepting applications after January 1. All summer (salaried) staff positions fill up quickly thereafter. To learn more about summer volunteer and staff opportunities, please visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org).

# It's All About Timing

By Jeff Westhoven

*“The minute I reach the gate and drive up that dirt road, everything from the outside goes away, It's like stepping into a beautiful, new world.”* – Ellen Bobrow

If you've been around Camp long enough, you realize you hear statements like this after every summer session.

But Ellen Bobrow isn't a camper. And she's not a kid.

She's a 51-year-old full-time executive with John Paul Mitchell Haircare Systems, a self-confessed “kid at heart” and long-time, dedicated volunteer summer counselor who gives her time and energy to making Camp the life-changing place that it is.

Ellen is one of 325 summer volunteer staff members. For some, volunteerism is a way of life – it's part of the fabric of who they are. But for others, the call to service can be triggered by a single event.

Ellen's path to Camp started 17 years ago following the death of a family member from cancer.

“Among all the cards and condolences came a note from a friend with a donation to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.” It was the first that this Rocky Hill, Connecticut resident had heard of the camp.

Upon learning that Camp was close to her corner of Connecticut, Ellen says, “I just HAD to get involved.” Initially, she teamed-up with the development office to launch a series of fundraising events in the hair salons she manages throughout New England. That first effort netted more than \$96,000 for Camp and led, in later years, to helping backstage with make-up and hairstyles at Camp's Gala. Today, with a son off at college, Ellen is in her third year of serving as a volunteer summer counselor.

The call to volunteering can happen when you least expect it. That's what happened to Easton, Connecticut resident Mark Rozell. Mark had spent more than 25 years working in corporate communications and media relations when, in 2009, his long-time employer was acquired by a larger, out-of-state corporation. Relocation wasn't an option. So Mark took the opportunity to step back and re-evaluate where he wanted to put his time. “Next thing I knew,” says Mark, “I found myself in Blue 2 with a pack of 10- and 11-year-old boys – feeling like a

Camp changes lives for the campers who attend as well as for the adults who play, eat and live with them during their stay.



Throughout the year, more than 1,000 volunteers help our campers make memories to last a lifetime.

kid all over again!” Mark also volunteers at weekend programs in the fall and spring.

“Camp has changed my life,” says Mark. “It's been an unbelievable experience, and the timing couldn't have been better. I can't wait to do more.”

The way Chris Gibson explains it, sometimes life just points you in a certain direction. “I've always loved working with kids,” says the 24-year-old, second-year UMass Medical School student from Norfolk, Massachusetts. Chris also cites a close relationship with his grandfather as a factor in leading him to Camp. “He was my idol,” says Chris. “We did so many things together.” But when Chris was 10,

his grandfather was diagnosed with cancer. “It was a very emotional experience,” remembers Chris, “but it really made me want to understand why he was sick.”

That childhood curiosity, plus his love of children, led Chris to the study of pediatric oncology and, ultimately, to Camp. After participating in several large fundraisers for cancer research, Chris realized that something was missing. He felt distant from the children he wanted to help. As it turned out, he didn't have to look much further than his own family for inspiration. His father works for Ken's Foods, Inc. – a lead corporate contributor to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

“My dad brought home some information about Camp and it all clicked,” says Chris. He started volunteering as a Camp counselor in the summer of 2008. “I was hooked from the get-go,” he says. Surrounded and supported by staff counselors and more experienced volunteers, Chris felt like a “full-timer” immediately. He was working with 13- to 15-year-old boys, and really began to feel like he was making a difference.

“We finished our last cabin chat of the week. The next day – Closing Day – before the buses left, one of my campers came up and said, ‘I really appreciated you spending time with me this week.’ It's those little moments that make it all worthwhile.”

Three volunteers – each with different timing. Each with their own reason for coming to Camp. Yet all with the same conviction – that the opportunity to make the magic happen for our campers is the greatest gift ever.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jeff Westhoven had his first exposure to The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp experience back in the early 1990s while conducting market and brand research for the opening of Camp Boggy Creek in Florida. More recently, he has served as a summer volunteer counselor and shares his expertise in marketing and communications with the New Haven development office, while volunteering at weekend events for Camp.

# Sharing the Spirit of Camp

by Peter McBride

At nine years old, most kids aren't too worried about what they should eat before a ten-mile run. Ally Lunzmann, however, is not your average girl. A self-described "competitive runner who likes to run the long races," Ally decided she wanted to take her running further than the one- and two-mile races at her school track meets. In the winter of 2010, she decided she would run a half-marathon, and would do it for a great cause. Her mind made up, she and her dad decided she would run the Lincoln Half-Marathon in her home state of Nebraska, and do it to send a child to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

With her parents on board to help her train and spread the word about her fundraiser, Ally quickly set up a web page and began raising money for Camp. "I wanted to help sick kids

go to Camp and have fun like anyone else," Ally commented after the race.

Ally's long runs steadily increased. She was soon running ten-mile-long runs with her dad, taking the occasional water and Jolly Rancher break, compliments of her mom and little sister. With her story on the local news, donations came pouring in from the Lincoln community. When Ally crossed the finish line at Huskers stadium in under 2 hours and 41 minutes, she had raised \$2,880 – more than enough to underwrite the cost of sending a child to Camp for a week!

Nine-year-old half-marathoners don't come around very often, but Ally exemplifies the spirit of Team Hole in the Wall. Each year, more than 1,300 individuals become Team Hole in the Wall



Ally Lunzmann (age 9) pictured with her dad (center) ran the Lincoln, Nebraska Half-marathon to raise funds for Camp.

athletes and use their event to help our seriously ill campers. As Ally says, "All kids, no matter what, should have fun." Getting in shape and making new friends, while bringing joy to a youngster fighting serious illness – what could be better than that? To learn how, visit [www.teamholeinthewall.org](http://www.teamholeinthewall.org).

## Team Update

So far this year, Team Hole in the Wall has...

- Expanded its Camp Challenge Ride Series to three Hole in the Wall Camps - The Painted Turtle, Double H Ranch and our own Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.
- Become a charity partner of the Five Boro Bike Tour, Bike New York's premier event, welcoming 32,000 cyclists annually.
- Continued to grow Team presence in all major marathons with record participation in New York City Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and at the Marine Corps and Disney marathons.
- Expanded half-marathon offerings to include Disneyland, Disneyworld, Los Angeles, Fairfield, Seattle, Falmouth and New York.

Visit [www.teamholeinthewall.org](http://www.teamholeinthewall.org) for more news and info!

**"All kids, no matter what, should have fun." – Ally Lunzmann**

## For the Love of Camp

He was beginning to tire. He had nearly completed his second ascent of a 3,000 foot mountain climb after running 52 miles, and had just 48 to go. At more than 12,000 feet, the altitude was beginning to wear on Peter McBride as he continued to run the 100-mile Leadville Trail. Just then, he spied a Team Hole in the Wall t-shirted runner making his way toward him. "It was absolute shock. I knew I was the only person running for Team in this run," says Pete. Then he realized that the runner must have received a Team t-shirt from participation in another Team Hole in the Wall event – The 2007 New York City Marathon as it turned out. "Newman would have loved this!" was all he could think of. "I think my enthusiasm caught the runner off guard, and maybe scared him a bit, but it completely revived my spirits and helped me get up and over the top of that mountain," says Pete.

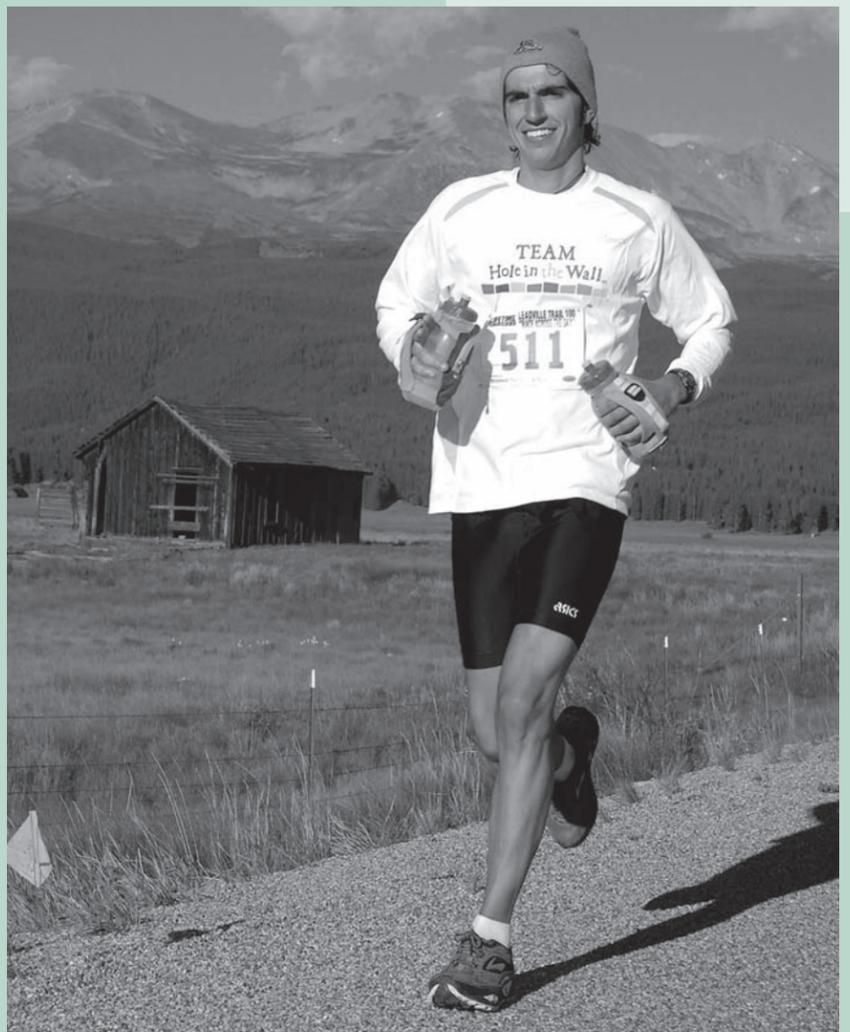
Once a summer counselor and Development Intern, now Associate Director of Team Programs in Camp's New Haven development office, Pete

McBride dedicated twelve months to training for the Leadville Trail 100-mile Run in Colorado, and set himself a goal of doing so in under 25 hours. That he succeeded is attested to by the incredibly large golden belt buckle he earned known as the "Plato Grande." At age 24, Pete has been running marathons for about five years. He came in 33rd among 363 finishers in the Run timing in at 22 hours, 51 minutes, 30.2 seconds. (A whopping 800 runners set out at the starting line; more than half washed out.)

And that would have been enough by itself, but the fact that he did it all to raise funds to send five seriously ill campers to Camp makes it that much more, well – like Camp – remarkable.

"Just before the gun went off at 4 AM," says McBride, "the race director repeated his mantra, 'You're better than you think you are. You can do more than you think you can.' I realized that's exactly what we teach the seriously ill kids at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Growing up with cancer, hemophilia, or any other disease doesn't mean a child's spirit can't thrive. That's what Camp is all about," says Pete.

Pete says that his experience as a Hole in the Wall Camp counselor and staff member changed his life. "I've always loved the sport, but running for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp adds a whole new realm of possibility," says McBride. "Now, your race is about more than getting a free t-shirt and finisher's



Associate Director of Team Programs Peter McBride finished the Leadville Trail 100 in under 23 hours, raising enough funds to send five seriously ill children to Camp!

medal... five children are going to have the time of their lives next summer, and it's a great honor to provide that opportunity."

Founded by Leadville resident and miner Ken Chlouber, the Leadville Trail 100-mile Run was started 29 years ago as a way to bring in visitors to the region during a period of economic downturn. Today, it is one

of the country's premier ultramarathons. The so-called "Race Across the Sky" consists of a grueling 50-mile course up and down a mountain and back again in the midst of the Colorado Rockies. It all goes to show what you can do when you have Camp to inspire you.



# The Power of Poetry

by Maria Angelita Gomez

Nelson Place School teacher Donna Quitadamo of Worcester, Massachusetts, loves her students, loves poetry and loves The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Those three passions converged this spring when several creative students asked for her help in putting together a collection of their inspired poetry. Donna was more than happy to assist. She turned the experience into a fun, creative-writing project for her 4th grade students that quickly involved the entire Worcester community. The city is home to Hole in the Wall campers as well as to UMass Memorial Children's Hospital, where our dedicated Hospital Outreach Specialists visit thousands of seriously ill children each year.

Soon after the project was announced, Donna's 4th grade students had a lot of suggestions. "Why don't we let our whole community contribute their work?" "Why don't we sell it to raise funds for a charity?" "Why don't we pick a charity that improves the lives of children, Miss Quitadamo, like The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp?"

Sales of the collection *Poetic Minds At Work* proved strong. Before the youngsters knew it, the project had raised enough for a campership – the funds needed to underwrite

sending one seriously ill child to Camp (since no family ever pays to send a child to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp). The success led to an appearance on the popular Jordan Levy Show on local radio station WTAG. And, to students' surprise, a youngster from the school came forward to share her experience with Camp. As a result, Donna's students truly understood the meaning and value behind their gift of a campership and their fundraising efforts.

Camp was visited by this entrepreneurial group, including its number one salesman, Christian Irene, who presented the check and copies of *Poetic Minds At Work* that had been purchased by the school's Parent-Teacher Organization on Camp's behalf. All of us at Camp are honored to be a part of this inspiring example of kids helping kids. For more information on organizing a school fundraising project to support the mission of Camp, visit [www.holeinthewall.org/snowflake](http://www.holeinthewall.org/snowflake) for Project Snowflake<sup>®</sup> and other Kids Helping Kids projects or contact Maria Gomez, Director of Annual Giving at [maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:maria.gomez@holeinthewallgang.org); (203) 772-0522.



Nelson Place School students (left to right) Sabrina Switzer, Michele Anderson, Christian Irene, Gretchen Switzer and Parker Switzer join teacher Donna Quitadamo at Camp.

## Save the Date

January 26, 2011

Westport Country Playhouse  
Westport, Connecticut

Join us for festivities and a film presentation of *The Hustler* to celebrate the birthday of our founder and to benefit Camp.

For further information or to receive an invitation to this event, please call 203-772-0522 x22.

## Going Green at Camp

You hear a good deal of talk these days about going green. But what does it really mean? For Camp, it means accepting an inspiring challenge. "We are working closely with Eastern Connecticut State University's Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) to become a 'carbon neutral' camp by 2018," explains Camp Director Matthew Cook.

Most scientists agree that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases cause climate change. Striving to be carbon neutral means doing things a little differently – so that we release fewer of those emissions. Like riding around Camp in a super cool GEM car instead of a gasoline-powered vehicle. Very cool. Very green. Saving energy, so fewer greenhouse gases are released in the production of electricity, is another way (although maybe not quite as much fun as a GEM car.)

"It is important that our Camp family know we are doing all we can to conserve energy and make Camp as environmentally friendly as possible, while maintaining the highest standards of care for our campers," says Matthew.

As part of this ongoing environmental initiative, Camp's horse barn program was honored with an award this past summer. Horseback riding is a peak experience for many of our campers and Camp prides itself on its environmental awareness. So everyone at Camp was thrilled to receive the Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction Award from the Connecticut Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP), a program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The award recognizes those who are especially effective at protecting soil and water resources

while keeping horses. So for Camp, going green is about lots of things: conserving energy and protecting air, soil and water, among them.

So what does "going green" hold for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp down the road? Camp will continue its great work with the ISE, which has extensive experience in working with schools and colleges to achieve a more sustainable operation. Camp is also working with the American

Camping Association (ACA) with the goal of establishing Hole in the Wall as the first "Green Certified" camping facility, providing a model for other camps. Camp already has a 100% accreditation from ACA, the highest possible rating for its facility and programs. So this would just take Camp's great reputation one step further. Nice to know, isn't it?

Camp's horse barn was honored to receive an award this past summer for its responsible environmental practices. Pictured left to right are Haley DiDomizio, Amy O'Brien, Clarissa Brown, Hope Winkler, Andrew Sullivan, UConn Professor Dr. Jenifer Nadeau and Camp's Program Coordinator Scotty Stevens.



## Painting the Town

Downtown, that is. When the Gold Brush Painting team arrives at Camp, they are a long way from their home base in Shirley, New York. But that doesn't deter them from what has become a labor of love. For the past five years, Tony Pitti and his son Jacob Pitti have donated the services of their team of painters to keep the buildings at Camp in tip-top shape.

"We have more than forty buildings on Camp," says Camp Director Matthew Cook. "In the five years that Tony and Jacob and the Gold Brush Painters have been coming here, they have painted nearly all those buildings." Each visit, the Gold Brush team stays overnight anywhere from one to two weeks. "They pressure wash and stain the buildings, do window and building trim, and have saved Camp hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Matthew.

"The Gold Brush Painters have done so much to protect our buildings and make them look their best," says Debra Bulger, Facilities Administrative Assistant.

About six years ago, Tony Pitti was painting the house of a camper parent. She told him all that The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp had done for her son. Tony decided to see for himself, so he set a date to visit the Camp. He was so impressed that he offered his company's painting services as a donation and has been coming back year after year.

"The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a place of inspiration and love," says Tony. "It has been a blessing for me to be part of a belief that encourages kids that through hope all things are possible."



Tony and Jacob Pitti and the Gold Brush Team have donated thousands of hours, not to mention dollars, to help make Camp the amazing and well-cared-for place it is for our campers.

## Former Camper is a Star

This past summer, Former Camper Dexter Darden boarded a giant "megabus" along with fellow performers and set out to tour the country. The trip was designed to promote the new movie "Standing Ovation," in which Dexter plays a leading role. "It's a family film," says Dex, "with something for everyone."

"Standing Ovation" follows five junior high school friends who form a singing group and compete in a national music video contest and win the \$1 million prize. But it's not so easy. There is a rival singing group called The Wiggies – five sisters who will stop at nothing to win the music competition.

Dex first came to Camp at the age of 8, where Camp's founder Paul Newman quickly recognized his talents. Before he knew it, Dex was performing at Lincoln Center alongside celebrities like Jerry Seinfeld, Board Member Julia Roberts and Paul Newman himself to raise funds for the vision of Camp.

Dex says Camp, "lifted my burdens and helped me take each day as a blessing." What is his favorite Camp memory? "Although I have sooooo many great memories of Camp," he admits, "my favorite is passing the swim test. Being a kid with sickle cell, it's hard finding places to swim due to the fact that my joints would cramp up or I could possibly go into crisis. But after going to Camp where the pool is heated and they have the french fryer, it made it easy for me not only to swim, but to pass the swim test. I wore that bracelet until it fell off!"

Dex loved performing at Stage Night. "My first Stage Night, I did a Michael Jackson Impersonation and it was a BLAST! Everyone cheered me on and I have been impersonating Michael in several shows on Cruise ships, and on tv.

Since that time, Dex's acting, singing and dancing credits have grown exponentially. He has performed on Broadway and in other films. You may have seen him as "Chester" in the Disney movie *Minutemen*, or "Charles" in *Cadillac Records*. One thing that he especially likes about his latest film is its positive message about how a group of kids can get together to make music, create music videos and live their dreams. Kind of sounds a bit like Camp, doesn't it?



Former camper Dexter Darden stars in the new film "Standing Ovation."

Credit: courtesy MOA

## CL&P Raises the Bar for Camp

Ann Bazinet high-fived Joe Carnevale after he sunk a putt at the Portland Golf Course, putting their foursome at three strokes under par. It wasn't enough to take first prize, but the real satisfaction of playing in CL&P's 17th Annual Employee Golf Tournament was in knowing the proceeds would benefit some very courageous kids. This year's tournament raised the most ever – \$25,000 – enough to support an entire cabin of eight children with serious illnesses at Camp.

CL&P Account Executive Donna Barber-Dunn, who has been playing in the annual tournament for more than 12 years, had this to say about Camp, "When you walk through

the gate, it just grabs you, and then it never leaves you."

"Twenty-five thousand is the most we've raised to date, and I'm pretty proud of that," said Marvin Plaut, tournament founder and the outgoing chairman after 17 years at the helm. The record \$25,000 contribution is a combination of a CL&P corporate grant, tournament proceeds and employee donations with the goal of making a leadership gift to support the work of Camp.

"It all started out before Camp even opened its gates," says J. Michael "Mike" Smiles, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Development Officer. "In 1988, a group of CL&P employees volunteered to help us establish electrical service at the Camp. They were so engaged by what they saw



Donna Barber-Dunn (left to right), Robin Kebernick and Bill Hebert took part in the 17th annual CL&P golf tournament, raising a record \$25,000 for Camp.

and experienced there that they have continued to support us every year by providing volunteer services, hosting the golf tournament and attending our fundraising events.

We are honored by their long-standing dedication and commitment to Camp."

## Our Policy on Donor Names

It is important that our donors and friends know that 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 insure privacy while building a personal relationship with each donor.



# The Perfect Gift

Holiday tribute cards are a longstanding Camp tradition that allows you to recognize your family and friends by making a contribution to Camp on their behalf. Celebrate the holidays with a Hole in the Wall Gang Camp holiday tribute card (\$10 minimum recommended contribution per card) and help let others know about what a difference Camp can make in the life of a seriously ill child. Each of your honorees will be notified that a gift to Camp was made in their name through receipt of an attractive card featuring artwork by a camper. Consider celebrating the holidays by underwriting the \$2,500 cost of a campership, the amount to underwrite the cost of sending one child to Camp for one glorious summer session. To order holiday cards or to make the gift of a campership, contact Michael Hund at (203) 772-0522 or email [michael.hund@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:michael.hund@holeinthewallgang.org). The order form for holiday tribute cards is also available on our website at [www.holeinthewallgang.org](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org).

And, if your corporation is interested in holiday offerings to show their appreciation for valued clients, consider our Corporate Holiday Giving Opportunities on our website at [www.holeinthewallgang.org/corpholidaygiving](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/corpholidaygiving)

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp features camper artwork created with mentorship from Kevin Rice, our Hospital Outreach Specialist/Supervisor in Boston and Artist in Residence.

## Healing

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pale in comparison! (I have this on good authority from two people who have frequented both events.)

Awards Night is a focused evening of gratitude. This is where we, as an intentional community stop to say thank you to our session volunteers and to honor the wonderful achievements of our campers by giving EVERY camper an award from their favorite program activity area. In true Camp fashion, this is done with enough energy to power the state of Connecticut for about ten years! Every

camper gets to walk across the stage to thunderous applause and cheers from all of their friends and counselors. At the end of the evening, we settle in and watch the "Senior Camper Documentary." Before our 15-year-old campers finish their final session at Camp, they take the time to create a farewell video of interview questions (some silly and some very profound). This is where I heard the quote that stopped me short. The question that this young man was answering was, "What has Camp taught you?" His answer was, "I don't really know what Camp has taught me. It's more what it's done for me... Camp really brought me back to life."

"Camp brought me back to life." As if Camp were a vehicle and "life" was a place separate from where he was. This is also suggestive of the miraculous effects I was alluding to earlier. You see, while it might seem like the only point of this place is to give sick kids a safe place to enjoy a week of fun, you need to know that it is so much more. What happens at Camp is that our campers are given an opportunity to experience themselves right now as fully alive and capable! Realizing this generates gratitude, which is what truly heals the spirit.

Thornton Wilder once said, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." The "treasure," that you have helped to provide in some way, is the Camp experience and this amazing community of Safety, Respect and Love that is created here. This is the gift given by our 20,000 donors and all of the incredible people who work so hard all summer long to care for the children. The campers and I are profoundly grateful to all of you, and to Mr. Newman for the opportunity to be a part of this ongoing miracle.

**THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP**, located in Ashford, Connecticut, was founded by Paul Newman in 1988. It is a non-profit, residential summer camp and year-round center designed to serve children and families coping with cancer and other serious illnesses and conditions. Each summer more than 1,000 children between the ages of seven and fifteen from across the country and abroad attend Camp. Through our Camp programs, year-round outreach to seriously ill youngsters in hospitals and clinics, and ongoing services for children, families and caregivers, the Camp serves more than 15,000 children annually. All of our services are provided free of charge.

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Part of the magic of Camp lies in providing peak experiences for our campers — activities that have been carefully developed to ensure that all campers can participate and none will fail. Horseback riding is one of campers' favorites! Whether in the arena or on wooded trails with one or more counselors in the lead, riding gives our campers a wonderful sense of freedom and empowerment.

Fall 2010

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*"My favorite thing about Camp was the Stage Night because I was amazed by everyone's talents. Even mine!"*  
*—Camper Cassie*

a Hole in the Wall Camp™



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