



A New Family Camp Experience

Family Camp Extends Summer Camp Magic to Children and Families Facing Unique Challenges

Sleep away camp has become a quintessential summer experience for millions of American children. At Hole in the Wall, we strive to provide a safe and transformational camp experience to seriously ill children who would not be able to attend a traditional summer camp. But despite the dedicated doctors and nurses who take time each summer to serve our campers and our state-of-the-art medical facility, there are still some children simply too sick to spend a week at Hole in the Wall.

With this population in mind, this summer Hole in the Wall launched two new Family Camps, which take popular activities from our summer program - like swimming and Carnivarty – and combine them with the best of traditional family weekends to provide a summer camp experience the entire family can enjoy. The result: fun, friendship and healing that can only be described as magical.

"For many of the parents, Family Camp was the first time in a long time they could take a moment to reconnect as a couple," said Executive Camp Director Hilary Gerson. "And for the children, it was often the only time in their lives that they

experienced activities like the pool. The impact was profound."

This summer, two weekends were offered, bookending our summer season with unbridled joy and laughter.

The first Family Camp, which took place in late May, played host to 22 families whose children had diagnoses ranging from mitochondrial disease to cancer to extremely rare metabolic diseases, and several were in palliative care. Although these were some of the most seriously ill campers we've ever hosted, what was most noticeable were the connections, the laughter and the obvious joy found in every corner of Camp.

"This was our first experience at Hole in the Wall, and all I can say is: Amazing!" said a camper mom. "I loved how everyone included my daughter; we can't wait to come back. I am looking forward to meeting and speaking with other families for support."

The second Family Camp was dedicated to families coping with progeria, a rare genetic disorder causing rapid aging, with life expectancy in the teen years. Of the 20 children in the United States and Canada with progeria, 11 were able

to attend the Family Camp session with their families.

"A lot of these kids have never met another kid with progeria," said firsttime camper mom Heather Kudzia. "It's really powerful to see three little girls who have the same ... rare disease, one in 8 million kids, sitting next to each other talking. It's awesome."

But it wasn't just the children with progeria meeting others facing similar challenges for the first time – it was the entire family - including siblings.

"It's really powerful to meet someone that you've been talking to for four years, but really just over a computer," said Heather. "And what I wasn't prepared for was the sibling thing. I didn't know what was going to happen with that...[My boys] bonded with all the other siblings, and I didn't think about that. I didn't know that would happen. That was the biggest surprise for me. It was awesome to watch."

Looking ahead to next summer, we look forward to hosting Family Camps and sharing these experiences with even more families facing the most severe illnesses with their children.

a serioüsfun camp

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What's New at Camp

Once again, it was a busy summer here at Camp. For starters, the front of our Theater experienced some swanky updates. The updated space honors our Founder with movie posters from some of Paul Newman's most beloved films and also features fresh paint and improved lighting. In the Archives building behind the Theater, we established a permanent exhibit detailing Camp's history from its founding to today. The display, created with the help of students from Eastern Connecticut State University,

uses iconic Camp imagery and artifacts to showcase the amazing evolution of Camp from Paul's dream to the year-round organization that now serves more than 25,000 seriously ill children and family members.

To accommodate growing interest, the Hero's Journey program added an additional session to the program this summer. Hero's Journey offers former campers, aged 16 to 17, a seven-day wilderness adventure program that teaches self-reliance, positive communication



Hole in the Wall is thrilled to welcome actress and long-time Camp ambassador Bridget Moynahan to our Board of Directors.

and teamwork through a variety of exciting challenges that allow participants to move from the role of care-recipient to caregiver.

Camp was thrilled to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors this summer as well – Bridget Moynahan and Christina Horner. Bridget was first introduced to Camp by a friend who was the mother of a former camper. Since then, she has emerged as a reliable and passionate celebrity ambassador, appearing in Galas, at the Travelers Championship and at the Polo for Children benefit. Christina and her husband, John, are longstanding and generous supporters of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, regularly attending various Camp events with their family and serving as co-chairs of the Fandango Benefit Gala in 2012.

And lastly, Camp's new website at www.holeinthewallgang.org received two industry awards – the Silver Award from the Connecticut Art Directors Club and the Gold Award from the Connecticut Ad Club. These accolades highlight the enhanced digital experience all website visitors can now enjoy. It's never been easier to find out what's going on at Camp and how you can stay involved!



Camp's updated Theater entrance (above) and new Archives exhibit (right) pay homage to our Founder, Paul Newman, and his extraordinary legacy.



From the CEO

What a summer! From the arrival of our first camper to the last award given to Ben (see picture below), delight, wonder, joy and friendship filled each and every glorious day. Ben's excitement was unmistakable



Camper Ben was so excited for his award at Awards Night, he couldn't even keep his feet on the ground!

when he was called to the stage, and this image fills my heart with deep satisfaction and appreciation.

This is the season of gratitude, and all of us at Camp have so much to be thankful for. In recent years, new buildings have cropped up on Camp and our programs have grown by leaps and bounds – today reaching more than 25,000 children and family members annually – completely free of charge. In this issue, you'll read about another shift for us – how we modified our summer schedule to bookend eight weeklong sessions with two new Family Camps, serving children simply too sick for a full week of Camp.

But even though Hole in the Wall may look a little different now than it once did, it is still guided by our Founder's spirit of generosity, shaped by enduring core values and supported by a community whose compassionate support allows us to shine the healing



Camp CEO Jimmy Canton stopped by the Red Unit to visit with campers.

light of friendship on our children and families. At Hole in the Wall, the more things change, the more they stay the same – in the best ways imaginable.

Thank you for being a constant in our community, making Hole in the Wall the hub of so much laughter and joy.

Camp Holiday Cards Are Here!

Share some Camp spirit by recognizing clients, family and friends with Camp's holiday tribute cards this holiday season. Featuring several choices of camper artwork, Camp's holiday cards let you make a donation to Camp on behalf of others. Order today at www.holeinthewallgang.org/holiday or contact Maureen Farrington at maureen.farrington@holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522.



Hospital Outreach on the GO

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

Horses. Fishing. Themed weeks. These are all things you would expect to find at Camp. But in the hospital? Not so much. Unless you happened to encounter our Hospital Outreach specialists this summer. From Philadelphia up to Boston, children at our hospital partner sites were able to experience some summer camp fun through a variety of events and activities.

In New Jersey, themed weeks brought Jurassic Camp, Tie Dye



Always a favorite, Slime is a prescription for guaranteed smiles and laughter.

Extravaganza and more to kids and their families through one-on-one projects and playroom sessions. It was a great way for kids to be connected to some of the magic that takes place onsite at Camp and brought a summer camp flair to all the programming.

"Anyone who has been a part of our summer program in Ashford knows that the weekly themes are a big part of making each week special," said New Jersey Regional Manager Mike Dauphin. "By bringing weekly themes into our hospital programming, not only were we able to make each week throughout the summer unique, but for many of the patients, knowing we were doing similar activities throughout the NJ region was truly a fun way for them to feel a part of something bigger than just that day's activity."

Down in Philly, CampWeek once again took over the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, with a full week of programming. Unit pride was everywhere as banners, posters and cheers were found on every floor of the hospital. Carnivarty and perennial



HOP participants got to experience Hole in the Wall magic with special summer activities like CampWeek at CHOP.

favorite Slime Day were just a few of the events in which children and families could participate.

Up in Boston, Camp programming was also experienced with Camp Days at MassGeneral and Boston Children's. These day-long Camp experiences were jam-packed with summertime activities like fishing, horses and even Woodshop 500.

And the HOP fun doesn't end with summer. Our teams continue to bring Camp-style activities right to patient bedsides and playrooms all year long now in 40 locations!

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

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

- * The Central New England team recently hosted an "Evening of Fun" at Connecticut Children's and participated in an "Evening of Remembrance" with Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.
- * The New York City team recently hosted a Camp Day at the Ronald McDonald House.
- * It was slime time at MassGeneral, thanks to our Boston HOP team.
- * The New Jersey team recently began programming at PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ.
- HOP teams across the Northeast are getting ready for holiday fun, with holiday themed programming and parties planned in every HOP region.
- * Our HOP teams continue to grow, with new hires in New York and Boston. In New York, Caren Hoffman, Annie Bridson, Tucker Legerski and August Stadnik have joined the team as Hospital Outreach specialists. In Boston, Logan Kearny and Brian Lynch have come on board, also as Hospital Outreach specialists.

Family Flats Stories from current and former camper families.

Love. When former camper Lannette describes her Camp experiences, that word - love is repeated over and over. Whether she's talking about dancing in the Dining Hall, her senior camper sneakout or a week at Hero's

Journey, it's clear that each experience has been one she treasures.

"Camp is my favorite place in the whole world," she said.

Lannette, who has sickle cell disease, first learned about Camp while in the hospital in sixth grade. She wasn't feeling well, and her social worker, Jackie, thought Hole in the Wall would be good for her. She has since been to Camp four times as a camper.

"As a camper, I loved it. I had so much fun riding horses, going to the recording studio and learning how to shoot an arrow," Lannette said. "The counselors were so nice, and it was such an amazing experience."

But her Camp love keeps growing. This past summer, she participated in Hero's Journey, a seven-day wilderness adventure program that teaches selfreliance, positive communication and teamwork through a variety of exciting challenges. She says it was the best experience she ever had in her life.

She also participated in the CampOut program, both at a regional event and through a home visit, with great impact. At a Paint Bar event, Lannette created a painting of Pearson Pond and got to experience Camp fun with her family for the first time. While at her home visit, her family joined in a variety of campy activities, like baking, games and painting.

"CampOut was an amazing feeling," she said. "It was like having Camp right in my house – something I've always wanted! I didn't want them to leave!"

Her brother and sister also got in on the fun by attending a sibling session, an opportunity Lannette is thrilled they were able to experience.

"When I first went to Camp, I got to have all these amazing experiences and stories but wanted my siblings to experience Camp themselves," she said. "I love that they ... get to have their own stories from Hole in the Wall."

Today, Lannette is a freshman at UMass, studying music education. She hopes to one day be a Hole in the Wall Camp counselor.

"Camp helped me to be more confident in what I'm doing here at college," Lannette said. "It's helped me be a better person to everyone I meet."



You may recognize Lannette, here with Camp board member Lissy Newman, from Camp's 25th Anniversary Gala or the Wonder Sing-A-Long.



Thanks to a generous grant from the Diebold Foundation, families were able to have a true Family Camp experience this summer.

Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

Diebold Foundation

Infrastructure is the glue that holds an organization together.
Thanks to generous gifts from the Diebold Foundation, Hole in the Wall has got some super glue. Whether it's rewiring the Camp Theater, building new laundry facilities, or upgrading a 25-year-old PA system, the Diebold Foundation has always been there to ensure some of our most critical capital projects have the funding to be completed.

This year, though, our friends at the Diebold Foundation took on something brand new – both for them and for Camp – when they agreed to fully fund this summer's new Family Camp. Their \$75,000 leadership grant covered round-the-clock medical care, transportation, accommodation, staffing and other needs for the two four-day sessions that served children too ill to attend the summer program.

"The Diebold Foundation is truly making Camp magic possible for children and families who previously might never have been able to attend Camp due to the severity of illness," said Ray Shedd, senior development officer. "As Camp continues to identify ways to serve those with increased medical needs, gifts like these are instrumental in supporting our programs. We are so grateful for their longstanding generosity."

In total, the Diebold Foundation has provided more than \$200,000 in support for Camp's programming and infrastructure, and has helped ensure the best possible experience at Camp for the children and families we serve.

"As a family we are truly blessed to be able to do the work that we do," said Caitlin Diebold, grants administrator, Diebold Foundation. "The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is providing such amazing opportunities to a population of people greatly in need and traditionally underserved. We are the ones who are lucky to be a part of such a life-changing organization."

For more information on The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Corporate Partners Program, please contact Ray at ray.shedd@holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522.





Our Events

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

On a beautiful afternoon in
September, Camp kicked off its 25th
Fandango Benefit Gala, celebrating the
rich history of Camp's largest annual
fundraising event. At this year's event,
Camp's grounds were transformed,
incorporating rustic, Camp chic
elements into every corner, from the
festive silver balloons along Pearson
Pond that greeted guests as they
entered Camp's grounds to the lighting
that projected intricate artwork onto

the walls and floors of Sports & Rec. Video monitors featuring retrospectives from Galas past were scattered throughout the space, adding an air of nostalgia to the effect.

The day began with a clam bake and BBQ on the Dining Hall lawn.
Guests enjoyed tasty snacks, cocktails and music by the band Business Time, while reconnecting with old friends.
The silent auction, which featured Harry Potter memorabilia autographed

by Daniel Radcliffe, a VIP shopping experience with Bridget Moynahan, VIP tickets to a Billy Joel concert at Madison Square Garden and more, was also open for guests to peruse.

As the day progressed, guests moved into Sports & Rec for a short program and the live auction, which was emceed by board member Alec Baldwin. Camp CEO Jimmy Canton welcomed guests, and he and Camp board chair Ray Lamontagne presented

C&S Wholesale Grocers with this year's Most Wanted Award in celebration of their unwavering generosity, support and friendship. Then the auction began. Bidding turned heated and Alec forced a karaoke sing off over exciting lots, including tickets to *Hamilton*, currently one of the hottest shows on Broadway, an opportunity to throw out the first pitch at a Mets game, and a VIP red carpet experience with Camp board member Bradley Cooper at the

Alumni Antics

Camaraderie – it's one of Camp's core values and a driving force behind our Alumni Society, Stars in the Sky. It is within this group that old friendships are rekindled, new friendships are forged and the Camp connection remains strong.

Throughout the year, Stars in the Sky hosts numerous events, ranging from full weekends at Camp to one-on-one home visits for isolated former campers and everything in between. The goal is simple – ensure that those who still want to have Camp and the Camp family in their lives have an avenue to participate, even if their time as a camper, volunteer or staff member is long over.

One of the most popular activities is the ongoing Alumni Family Dinner series. These dinners bring together local members of our Camp community for good food, good conversation and lots of laughs.

"I'm always amazed how these meals transform strangers into fast friends," said Rebecca Patenaude, alumni affairs coordinator. "Family dinners become a chance to reconnect with the magic of Camp; you meet volunteers, former campers and medical team members who are all excited to relive a little bit of experiences at Hole in the Wall. It is our common understanding of safety, respect and love that brings us together, but pair that with yummy food, and there is a pretty good chance we are all going to leave with a renewed spirit and a smile on our face."

At a recent family dinner, 12 alumni and family members gathered at Trinity Bar and Restaurant in New Haven to share reminisces about their time at Camp and to hear what old friends were doing. The table included aged-out former campers, former volunteers and folks who have been involved with Camp in multiple capacities. It was a great



The New Haven Family Dinner brought together former campers, volunteers and Camp staff for an evening of fun, friendship and laughter.

opportunity to catch up, and also hear more about what was going on at Camp.

Interested in joining Camp for an upcoming dinner or reconnecting with your Camp family? Contact Rebecca at rebecca.patenaude@holeinthewallgang.org or at 860-429-3444.

Team Update

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

The impact of Hole in the Wall is enduring, providing not only a much needed respite from the challenges of illness, but also shaping the lives of those who are involved, as it did for Team Hole in the Wall athlete Evan McGloin.

Evan first came to Camp in 2004 as a camper. "I went from being an angry teenager to being able to deal with the hand life gave me," he said of the experience.

Since then, he has been an LIT, served on summer staff and volunteered in the cabins. He credits these experiences for leading him to his current career as a social worker.

Though the demands of his career no longer allow him to spend time in the cabins, Evan remains dedicated to being a part of Camp, now through Team Hole in the Wall. His first race was a Turkey Trot in Denver in 2013.

"I have had so many positive experiences at Camp," Evan said. "And while I can't continue to work on summer staff and have an impact and make Camp what it is that way, by running and fundraising, it's a way of contributing to Camp and making that Camp magic happen."

This year, Evan joined Team Hole in the Wall for the Ragnar Relay Cape Cod, heading up a team of runners who conquered the 200 miles from Hull to Provincetown, Mass.

"What's really cool about Ragnar is you get to bring in so many other people who may not have that experience with Camp," said Evan. "Then they run and experience all that love and that positive energy. They come onto Camp the night before and they start to see what it's all about. Being able to raise the money to help keep this place doing what it does is even better."



 $\label{prop:condition} \textit{Evan and his team show their strength before the Ragnar Relay Cape Cod.}$

Evan also showed his Camp spirit at this year's Bandit 5K. This annual event brought 275 runners and walkers to Camp, and together with the Camp Challenge Ride raised over \$300,000.

Feeling inspired? Visit www. holeinthewallgang.org/team to learn more about how you can get involved.





"...while I can't continue to work on summer staff ... by running and fundraising, it's a way of contributing to Camp and making that Camp magic happen."

New York City premiere of his latest movie, *Burnt*.

Following the auction, guests enjoyed a live performance starring campers Angelique, Anya, Cooper, Gwendolyn, Jeremy, Kathleen, Lorenzo, Michael, Nicholas, Siani, Sierra and Stephanie. These amazing performers were joined by celebrity friends, including Camp board members Bridget Moynahan and Jim Naughton, tap dancer Ryan Casey, cast members

from the Broadway production of *On* the *Town* and comedian Jim Gaffigan.

The lively show got the crowd excited for the post-performance party featuring a buffet dinner and dancing. In all, this year's Gala raised more than \$1.2 million for Camp's growing programs, thanks to our generous guests and supporters including presenting sponsors

American Packaging Corporation and Travelers.



Jim Gaffigan got the crowd laughing at the Fandango performance (above), while guests showed their generous natures at the live auction (left)

Pardner Profile

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

Summer camp: Horseback riding. Marshmallow roasting. Campfire singalongs. And...scuba diving?

While it may not be an activity that ordinarily comes to mind when one thinks about summer camp, thanks to the Frogmen Volunteers of Connecticut, Hole in the Wall campers have been scuba diving into the depths of the pool since 1989.

After learning about Camp when it opened in 1988, Lee Prettymen, one of the original founders of the Gillmen Scuba Dive Club, and several club members approached Camp about providing a scuba experience for the campers. Camp was glad to accept, and our campers have been getting a glimpse of the underwater world in our Camp pool ever since.

Today, the Frogmen Volunteers are headed up by Bob Buettner and Eric Simon, who bring a team of volunteers out for each Camp summer session. They teach campers how to use the masks, regulators and tanks. The campers, in turn, don the scuba gear and hang out on the bottom of the pool, oftentimes playing games like tic-tac-toe.

"Camp is all about challenge by choice, and the Frogmen Volunteers really offer our campers a very unique challenge to take on," said Dan Allen, program coordinator at Camp. "The kids all love the opportunity to try something in a safe environment that they never even imagined doing."

The Frogmen Volunteers work with local dive shops to secure air donations, repairs and donations of gear. The community also rallies around the Frogmen, helping with monetary donations to purchase and



Anyone up for a game of underwater tic-tac-toe?

maintain equipment. But the lasting success of the program can only be attributed to the dedication of the volunteers themselves.

"We're here for the kids – that's all," said Eric Simon. "It gives us a feeling of fulfillment to see the smiles on their faces when they do something they never thought they'd be able to do."

For more information about volunteering at Camp, visit www.holeinthewall gang.org/volunteers or contact volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org.

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.

Bill Hahn played Santa Claus at Camp's very first holiday party back in 1988. But his spirit of giving was more than an act for the holidays. Bill continued to give back in other ways, becoming a loyal Camp supporter by launching a walk-a-thon in 1995.

The premise was simple:
Raise money to support Camp's programming while getting members of the community out to see Camp firsthand. Attendees stroll the scenic grounds of Camp to experience Camp magic, and they solicit donations for their walk. There were 15 participants at the event the first year.

Twenty years later, the event is still going strong. Though Bill passed away in 2009, his friends, especially Cindy Lehman, and his wife, Linda, carry on his legacy.

Cindy, who initially met Bill because he was her banker, became close with Bill as she became more involved with supporting and planning the walk. She was honored when he asked her to take it over.

"Bill was always concerned about what would happen to the walk-a-thon if something happened to him," said Cindy. "So it's fantastic to see that people continue to be there to support the walk, me and, of course, the kids."

To date, the Bill Hahn Walk-a-Thon has raised more than \$175,000 for Camp. But in the true Camp spirit, it's done so much more by fostering a dedicated community who truly understand the impact of Hole in the Wall.

"When you go to Camp, the people you meet there become a second family," Cindy said. "As you get to know the camper families, you see how important it is to continue the walk-a-thon and make sure the kids get their chance to 'raise a little hell.""



Walk-a-thon founder, Bill Hahn, and current organizer, Cindy Lehman, welcome participants to Camp at the 2008 event.

Interested in starting your own event? Contact Andrea Keefe, community events coordinator, at andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org or 203-772-0522 for more information. Or check out Camp's online event calendar to see what events are coming up near you: www.holeinthewallgang. org/eventscalendar.



a seriousfun camp

Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a community dedicated to providing "a different kind of healing" to seriously ill children and their families through a variety of year-round programs. The Camp delivers fun, friendship and a healthy dose of mischief through its signature summer program and weekend sessions at the Camp facility in Ashford, Conn. as well as outreach to hospitals, clinics and communities across the Northeast. All services are free of charge.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp never sells or shares its donor names and addresses. This policy reflects our commitment as a charity to maintain the highest integrity in order to protect and ensure privacy, while building a personal relationship with each donor.

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The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Paul Newman, Founder Ray Lamontagne, Chair, Board of Directors James H. Canton, Chief Executive Officer

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The campers starring in the 25th Fandango Benefit Gala sure didn't "mail-in" their performance!

Fall 2015

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP

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Look inside to see the new way families can experience camp

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