



Camp CEO Jimmy Canton started out as a cabin counselor during Camp's very first summer in 1988 and still volunteers in the cabins every year.



a seriousfun camp

## Celebrating 30 years of "a different kind of healing"

### An interview with Camp's CEO, Jimmy Canton

It has been 30 years since Paul Newman's dream of creating a camp for seriously ill children became a reality. In that time, a great deal has changed, but at its core, Hole in the Wall has remained the same – committed to bringing joy, hope and healing to children and families coping with the most serious illnesses.

A part of the fun from day one, Camp's CEO Jimmy Canton came to Hole in the Wall in 1988 as a cabin counselor. "In high school, I lost a friend to bone cancer," Jimmy said. "His passing led me to volunteer at Stanford Children's Hospital in college, which then led me to Camp in the summer of my junior year."

Over the years, Jimmy went from cabin counselor to unit leader, to assistant director and Camp director before becoming Camp's CEO in 2002. He is still amazed that the smell of wood in the cabins is the same today as it was 30 years ago, and marvels over how life-changing Camp is for everyone who comes in contact with it.

"When I'm here, I always have a sense that Camp invites me to be the best person that I can be," Jimmy said. "It is an enormous privilege to befriend our campers as they experience what it is like to just be a kid in a place filled with joy, acceptance and most importantly, friendship."

Given his background, perhaps it is not surprising that he believes the best part of working at Camp is the opportunity to volunteer each summer as a cabin counselor, trading the corner office for the bottom bunk and marathon meetings for marathon games of Monopoly Deal.

"Being in the cabins reminds me that the work remains powerfully transformational and impactful," he said. "I remember sitting around a campfire holding my camper Wilson's hand and singing a closing song for the night. I thought I felt rain drops and looked up to a cloudless sky, realizing it wasn't rain, but Wilson silently crying onto my hand."

Looking back over his time at Camp, he notes how Hole in the Wall has become more than a fixed place; it's a way of being. Wherever there is safety, respect and love, there is Camp. Realizing Camp can happen anywhere, Hole in the Wall is now reaching thousands of children in hospitals, homes and communities. "We heal the souls and spirits of children battered and frightened by illness. We do it through mischief and play and hugs, open ears, piggyback rides and new friendships."

And for the future, he sees Camp continuing to find bold new ways to accomplish its mission. "Camp will continue to reach out to new children who are profoundly isolated, medically complex and living very challenged lives. What a gift it is to be tasked with identifying creative and impactful ways for our campers and their families to 'raise a little hell,' connect with others and realize that they are so much more than their illness."

This is what Paul Newman called "a different kind of healing."

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## What's New at Camp

What happens when you take all the fun of a Hole in the Wall Family Weekend, and move it south to Pennsylvania? A magical, first-ever offsite Family Weekend! In early September, 12 families from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's neurofibromatosis/neuro-oncology clinic joined Camp in Lancaster, Pa. for three days of joy and friendship. Just like at Camp, they conquered the tower, showed off their creativity at arts & crafts, ate way too much food and found a community of support among others who understood their challenges. And, they got to experience some new activities as well, giggling in delight while petting a skunk at the Nature Center, and testing their aim at laser tag, once again proving that Camp isn't just a place, it's a transformational experience that can travel anywhere!

But that's not the only exciting news from the south. The Hospital Outreach® (HOP) program is expanding in the mid-Atlantic as well! We currently serve many campers from this region and have received requests from hospitals for HOP programming.

So, over the next two years, Camp is planning to add additional hospitals in Delaware, Maryland and Washington D.C., along with a new office to service these locations.

The Travelers Championship also created plenty of excitement for Camp this summer. For the first time, Hole in the Wall campers Carly, Jeremy and Tyler represented Camp as honorary co-chairs for the event. Additionally, this year's winner – Bubba Watson – donated \$200,000 of his winnings to Camp! Hole in the Wall is recognizing Bubba's generous gift on the recently renovated Travelers Mini Golf Course at the Camp where a whimsically western building near the first hole will be named "Bubba Watson's Trading Post."

And lastly, the Change of Pace Experience program, aka COPE, has a new name – Parent and Caregiver Retreats. While the name may be different, the program experience remains the same, allowing parents and caregivers to get away for time to relax, reconnect, recharge and find their own community of support among others who just "get it."

*Photo top left: The Nature Center was a huge hit at Camp's first ever offsite Family Weekend.*

*Photo top right: Campers Carly, Jeremy and Tyler join 2018 Travelers Championship winner Bubba Watson and Camp CEO Jimmy Canton following the event.*

*Photo right: Actress Melissa Joan Hart reacts to an awesome shot by camper Genevieve at the Travelers Championship Celebrity Mini Golf Tournament.*

## Camp's Time Capsule

When Hole in the Wall was still just a dream, the fantastic four – Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, A.E. Hotchner and Ursula Gwynne – set out to determine WHERE Camp should be. There were just a few requirements – it had to have a pond, have plenty of space and not be too expensive. The group visited many sites all across Connecticut, but it was Ursula who discovered 300 untouched acres in Ashford, which has since been transformed into the old west hideout we all know and love today.



*Camp when it was first discovered (above) and today (below).*



## Camp Holiday Tribute Cards Are Here!

Share some Hole in the Wall holiday spirit by recognizing clients, family and friends with Camp's holiday tribute cards. 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](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/holiday) or contact Anna Grace Barry at [anna.barry@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:anna.barry@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.*

Part of the magic of the Hospital Outreach® program (HOP) is its ability to build community and a sense of “Camp” in a hospital setting. Fun crafts, slippery slime and silly games bring children together to experience friendship and the joys of being a kid. But how do you engage teens and tweens, who are notoriously “too cool” for silly games and crafts? By creating programming just for them, which is exactly what HOP has been doing all across the Northeast.

All four HOP regions provide regular programming for these older children, helping them find peers with shared experiences while enjoying a laugh, and perhaps a snack (this is Camp after all). Though games and crafts are still at the core of many of the group activities, they have a decidedly older feel, with tie dyeing, Mario Kart and bowling among the more tailored activities for this discerning age group.

At Boston Children’s Hospital, teens and tweens can join bi-monthly evening programs in the hematology/oncology resource room, where they are encouraged to just be kids. “The outcomes we have seen have been stellar,” said Brian Lynch, Hospital Outreach specialist. “One particularly powerful moment sticks out involving a shy patient who reluctantly came to a tween group. He was comfortable sitting off to the side and just observing. As the game continued, he seemed to be more and more interested and kept edging closer, as if to test the water to see if he was going to be accepted. Noticing this, the HOP staff asked him to help play our hand, and before long, he was laughing and playing with the group, seemingly having found his way back to being just a kid.”

Philadelphia also offers weekly teen groups – one at the adolescent unit at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and one during the Survivorship Clinic at CHOP’s

oncology center. The team also facilitates a March Madness Teen Event at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children each year, complete with brackets and prizes.

And in New York, HOP is collaborating with the Council of Helping Advisory Teens (CHAT) at Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, a group that provides teens the opportunity to impact their world in the



*Sometimes teens need fun all their own, and HOP offers them just that.*

hospital space. Participants collaborate and share ideas to develop and shape activities within the hospital that will positively impact all patients.

To learn more about HOP, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/hospitaloutreach](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/hospitaloutreach), or contact Chris Pontbriant, interim director, Hospital Outreach at [chris.pontbriant@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:chris.pontbriant@holeinthewallgang.org).

*Stories from current and former camper families.*

## Family Flats

For first-time Hole in the Wall campers, there are always feelings of anticipation. For some, there is hesitation to sleep away from home for the first time. For others, there are nerves about finding new friends or experiencing new things. But for Micaela, it was all excitement.

“I’m just really looking forward to going to Camp,” Micaela said a few days before she left for Ashford. She had already attended a Family Weekend and was certain that a week of fun was ahead of her. As it turned out, she had no idea just HOW much fun was in store.

“It was much better than I expected,” she said. “Half of the things we did, I didn’t expect to be doing.”

As a senior camper, Micaela took part not only in swimming, arts & crafts, boating & fishing and all the other activities Camp has to offer, but she and her cabinmates also got to participate in additional activities reserved just for Hole in the Wall’s oldest campers. Their first night, her cabin gathered to make a list of everything they wanted to do during their week: watch a movie in the treehouse, start a paint war, and the perennial favorite – senior sneakout.

While Micaela had a great time soaking in all the fun, quieter moments connecting with her cabinmates were also an important part of her experience. She especially liked reconnecting one last time at the boathouse their final night, where the entire unit came together to share their thoughts about the week and each other. But most of all, she learned a lot about herself.

“At Camp, I learned how to love people and love myself for who we are,” she said. “I learned how much fun I can have if I just embrace the challenge in front of me and go with it. If something was hard to do, or I didn’t want to do it, or even if it was just plain awkward, I would embrace the inelegance of it. Nobody cares; it’s Camp! It’s the best place to mess up! I learned to leave worries behind me and step into the future. I learned how to maintain lasting friendships. I learned to embrace the wilderness and disconnect from the world around me.”

As the summer drifts further into the past, Micaela is looking ahead to the future. She is thinking about attending Camp’s Hero’s Journey® program next summer and is hoping to one day be a Leader in Training and eventually a counselor. But for now, she keeps her summer memories and friendships close to her heart, texting with her cabinmates, and making plans to get together as soon as they can.



*Micaela shares a laugh with friends at arts & crafts.*

*“At Camp, I learned how to love people and love myself for who we are. I learned how much fun I can have if I just embrace the challenge in front of me and go with it. ... I learned to leave worries behind me and step into the future. I learned how to maintain lasting friendships. I learned to embrace the wilderness and disconnect from the world around me.” – Micaela*



# SUMME

Joy, laughter, hope, smiles, friendship. This is just some of the experiences of Hole in the Wall campers. And this summer, nearly 1,100 children experienced the magic of camp. Thousands of other children enjoyed Camp magic through summertime.



# R 2018!

me of what makes up "a different kind of healing" for  
ced all this during the summer and Hero's Journey® programs. Even better,  
me Hospital Outreach® and Family Outreach programs. Yes, yes, yes!





Ten-year Camp Challenge Rider Paul Greenhill (left) is ready for his ride.

## Trail Blazers

Amazing athletes wrangle friends and family to support Camp.

This year, Hole in the Wall celebrated the 10th anniversary of its annual Camp Challenge event. Over the years, thousands of cyclists, runners and volunteers have showed their support for Camp, raising more than \$2.3 million in total for our children and their families. Among those thousands are a handful of dedicated friends who have returned every year – including Paul Greenhill.

At the time Camp Challenge launched, Paul was actively looking for a charity where he could see the impact of his support. He was aware of the good work Paul Newman was doing, but wasn't familiar with Hole in the Wall until a flyer for Camp Challenge arrived in the mail. And the rest, as they say, is history.

"It was a simple decision, really," Paul said. "Camp is incredibly inspirational. You can see where your dollar goes, and you feel good about it. What could be more fun for a sick child than being able to fish and climb a climbing wall when everyone before told you that you can't?"

At each year's event, a camper shares their story about how Camp has impacted their life. As he listens, Paul

knows these are the words that will carry him to the finish line and keep him coming back year after year.

"It's helped me as much as it helps the kids," he said. "In 2012, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had rare complications from the surgery. While this was happening, I kept focused on surviving by thinking of not letting down my family and my second thought was not letting down the Hole in the Wall Gang kids. I knew they wouldn't give up."

This year, Paul took on the 30-mile course. He's also made many lifelong friends over the years. He enjoys the opportunity to get outside and train for the event, and notes the positive impact it has on his health.

"It's a beautiful countryside and a challenge," he said. "If you're thinking of joining, do it! It's good for you and great for the cause."

To learn more about becoming a FUNraiser for Camp, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/FUNraiser](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/FUNraiser) or contact Andrea Keefe, manager, peer-to-peer programs at [andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org) or (203) 772-0522.

## Saddle Up

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.

It's not often a friendship spans 25 years – in fact, it's pretty incredible when it happens. So celebrating this milestone with the International Longshoreman's Association, AFL-CIO/United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd. (ILA/USMX) is nothing short of special.

It all started in 1992 when John Bowers, then president of the ILA, had the idea to identify a primary charity partner to which the organization could consolidate its giving through the ILA Children's Fund. With the help of Camber Communications, they found Camp, and thought it was a wonderful charity.

"Camp was only four years old then, so we had a great opportunity to really make a difference," said Jim McNamara, director of public relations for the ILA. "Being able to help a camp for seriously ill children immediately appealed to all of us."

That first year, they raised \$100,000. The following year, the organizations began hosting an annual golf tournament. They have since raised nearly \$4 million in support of Hole in the Wall's year-round programs. It's a relationship that has spanned three different organizational presidents and many changes in officers.

"Initially, we had no idea this partnership would last a quarter of a century," Jim said. "But Camp is magic, and it's the easy and natural thing for us to continue to be involved. From the outset, all the officers and members up and down the coast immediately fell in love with Camp. When you meet the campers and families each year, it would be impossible not to."

Harold Daggett, current president of the ILA, has also become a huge advocate for Camp, bringing the partnership to a new level and working tirelessly to increase donations.

"Hole in the Wall is incredibly fortunate to have had such stalwart friends in the ILA/USMX," said Jimmy Canton, CEO for Camp. "We are humbled by the generosity extended at all levels of both organizations and championed by the outstanding advocacy of Harold Daggett at the ILA and David Adam at USMX."

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Harold Daggett (left) joins his fivesome at the 25th Annual ILA/USMX Charity Golf Tournament in May.



## Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

For more than 15 years, Nestlé Waters North America has been a key supporter of Camp's fundraising endurance efforts, helping to grow Hole in the Wall's peer-to-peer program from one athlete to more than 700 annually. Through financial support of more than \$1.2 million in total, and the donation of more than 10,000 bottles of Poland Spring® 100% Natural Spring Water annually, the company has been instrumental in bringing Camp's FUNraiser events to

more people looking to get active while supporting Hole in the Wall.

For Nestlé Waters North America, it's a partnership that just makes sense, as the organization's purpose is to enhance the quality of life and contribute to a healthier future. Poland Spring, the specific brand that supports Hole in the Wall, is committed to community and bringing folks back to what matters and what's real. It's a great fit for everyone.

"Camp's FUNraisers are all about coming together to get active and make a difference for seriously ill children and their families," said Andrea Keefe, Camp's manager, peer-to-peer programs. "We are humbled by the longstanding friendship of Poland Spring, who have helped make this possible through their generosity and the commitment of their employees."

In addition to Poland Spring brand's incredible donations, its staff is

heavily involved in a variety of Camp events. They also volunteer regularly for Helping Hands Work Days, helping Hole in the Wall prepare its facility for summer sessions, Family Weekends and other onsite events.

"We are so grateful to have built a strong and long-lasting partnership with The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp," said Yumi Clevenger-Lee, vice president & chief marketing officer at Nestlé Waters North America. "Our employees love it when they have the chance to volunteer and help out whenever there's a need, as they always come back inspired and energized, and we look forward to many more years working together."

For more information about Hole in the Wall's Corporate Partner Program, please visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/get-involved](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/get-involved) or contact Andrea at [andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org) or (203) 772-0522.

Poland Spring® 100% Natural Spring Water has been keeping campers and FUNraisers hydrated for more than a decade.

# Our Events

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

There's a new show up for best performance on Broadway in 2018 – the Bandits in the Big Apple 30th Anniversary Celebration, which took place September 24 at PlayStation Theater in New York City. The funny and inspiring mainstage production was the cornerstone of the evening celebration, bringing the audience of more than 400 supporters to tears and infinitely closer to Hole in the Wall's mission as they experienced a "day at Camp."

The show featured performances by nine awesomely talented campers – AJ, Alex, Amaya, Dylan, Eli, Hannah, Joanne, Merry and Zaire – as well as some amazing celebrity friends including Matthew Broderick, Christopher Plummer, Whoopi Goldberg, Jewel, Alec Baldwin, Bridget Moynahan, David Hyde Pierce, Laura Benanti, Ellen Burstyn, Dexter Darden, Christy Altomare and Richard Thomas.

When guests arrived at the event, they were all assigned to a unit – Blue, Yellow, Red, Purple and Green – just like at Camp, and got to show their pride throughout the production, sporting buffs and light up bracelets in their unit colors. They even got in on the fun, learning the hand jive with their cabinmates during the show.

As they mingled before the show, attendees were treated to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before sitting down to dinner in the transformed

theater space, which prominently displayed unit banners from the summer and felt very much like Camp's dining hall. A pop-up Camp store completed the transformation and allowed guests to bring a little piece of Hole in the Wall home with them.

As the show wound down, Alec Baldwin took center stage for the campership appeal, where 100 pledges brought the grand total to more than \$1.75 million raised!

During the post-performance dessert reception, the guests erupted into wild applause when the camper performers emerged from backstage, glowing from their experience, closing the evening on an even higher note.



Top photo: Camper Joanne belts out "Journey to the Past" from "Anastasia" with Broadway's Anastasia herself – Christy Altomare.

Above: Actors Matthew Broderick and Laura Benanti join camper Eli for a Stage Night skit.

Left: Recording artist Jewel performed three songs at this year's celebration.

## Pardner Profile

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

In 1988, Eric, a young man from Kansas, attended Hole in the Wall's very first summer. He felt so lucky to have been able to be a camper that he wanted other children from his community to have the same experience. So he asked Camp to hold 10 spots each summer for Kansas City-area children if he raised the funds for their travel. Of course, Camp agreed and has been happily hosting these children ever since.

Each year, at Eric's request, Patsy Shawver has accompanied this group of children, acting as a chaperone for their travel and spending the week volunteering as a cabin counselor. Over the years, Patsy has accompanied more than 300 children to Camp.

"I love the remarkable story that this one kid had an idea, and it impacted so many other children who

are so far away," Patsy said. "I am the luckiest person in the world to be a part of this program and Camp."

After that first year, Patsy began coming back to Camp for a second week each season, volunteering in August for sibling session. While she jokes that it is to make the time shorter between visits, it's really the kids who keep her coming back twice every year.

"I love meeting the kids and seeing them grow up every year," Patsy said. "They are so inspiring; it really puts your life in perspective."

As she looks back over her 30 years as a volunteer, Patsy fondly remembers a kickball game that took place one summer in the mid-90s. The pitcher wasn't able to stand, so he was sitting in a chair as he rolled the ball to the kicker. "It sounds so simple

but the look of delight on his face let me know that this was probably the first time he had ever been invited or been able to participate in a game of kickball, and here he was the pitcher, receiving cheers and accolades from his many fans. And I realized that though he may not play kickball again, he had this moment forever."

That is the magic of Hole in the Wall – a magic that is only possible because of volunteers like Patsy.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer at Camp, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org/volunteeropportunities](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org/volunteeropportunities) or email [volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org).



Thirty-year volunteer Patsy Shawver relaxes by Pearson Pond.



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.

In keeping with Camp's core value of Camaraderie, Hole in the Wall fosters a community of purposeful inclusion through a commitment to diversity and equity.

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*



Nine incredibly talented campers joined Camp celebrity friends Ellen Burstyn, Dexter Darden, Bridget Moynahan, Matthew Broderick and Alec Baldwin to sing "Stars in the Sky" during the finale of the Bandits in the Big Apple 30th Anniversary Celebration.



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Look inside to read  
CEO Jimmy Canton's  
reflection on  
30 years at Camp.

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