



WHEN CAMPERS BECOME STAFF

Former Campers Vanessa and Nitya were just two of 32 former campers on summer staff last summer who shared some Camp magic with our incredible campers.

Vanessa first came to Hole in the Wall when she was just six years old for a Family Weekend. She was already no stranger to hospitals, having been first diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma at the age of two, and then relapsing at the age of four. After years of treatment and surgeries, it was a relief to have a place she could escape to and be her truest self.

Over the next several years, Vanessa became a fixture at Camp, returning year after year for the summer program, Family Weekends and even CampOut events. At Camp, Vanessa found kindred spirits and a “hole” lot of fun.

“Camp brought me a community where I could be truly unjudged and not worry about what people thought of how I looked from my treatment,” Vanessa said. “At Camp, no one questions you or what you’ve gone through. I could just be myself and enjoy the programs. Camp has also gotten me a lot of confidence.”

After years as a camper, this past summer, Vanessa joined with 31 other former campers to experience a new side of Camp as a summer counselor. Each year, Camp is blessed to see a significant number of our campers return to share their experiences and skills in this important way. When they arrive, they bring an understanding of shared challenges and help campers see that they too can accomplish their dreams.

“The benefits of former campers coming back and joining our summer staff team are endless,” said Connecticut Camp Director Alan “Pendo” Pender. “Not only are they an incredible resource to the campers because they have been in their shoes, but I also notice how they go the extra mile to ensure the campers have the most amazing week ever.

I am so grateful for that. But the most impactful part of former campers becoming counselors is that they provide the current campers with motivation, inspiration and HOPE that they too one day can be a Camp counselor.”

For Vanessa, being on summer staff was something she always planned to do. She was determined to bring Hole in the Wall magic to other children facing serious illnesses, knowing first-hand how those Camp experiences stay with campers and can positively impact them.

Now, with her first summer on staff behind her, Vanessa has also found that she’s not only sharing “a different kind of healing” with her campers; she’s also still experiencing it herself. She has continued to build confidence and become more comfortable with herself through her time leading the music program.

“I enjoy getting to see the reactions in other people when they get to experience things at Camp,” Vanessa said. “I think seeing myself in the kids and the things that they do helps me heal my inner child in a way too. Just being able to see them have these happy experiences even though they are dealing with things that are very tough. And being able to relate to the kids and have them know you understand them makes a very big difference. I like being a part of that experience for them.”

If you are interested in learning more about Camp’s summer program, visit www.holeinthewallgang.org/summer



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FROM THE CEO

As we prepare for our 36th summer, there is so much to be grateful for. We will be entering the season with a new Creative Complex, symbolic of the love and support of our generous Camp family. New adolescent and young adult programming will extend Camp's healing power to even more young people who may not have been able to join in the past. And renovations on the new location in Maryland are underway, bringing us closer to the anticipated opening in 2024. Hospital Outreach programming continues to grow as well with new locations and new offerings and Family Outreach is spreading Camp magic both in person and virtually to families all across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. None of this would be

possible without you – our loyal families, caring staff and volunteers, and generous supporters. Thank you for always standing faithfully by our side and allowing us to continue to dream the biggest dreams possible to bring “a different kind of healing” to those brave children and families we are so privileged to serve.

James Canton

James Canton, CEO



COME PLAY WITH US!



There is almost nothing more universal in childhood than playing at the playground. The laughter that reverberates through the air as children swing, climb and simply have fun feels like a rite of passage. And soon, children at Hole in the Wall will be able to have these experiences right here at Camp.

Coming in fall of 2023, Camp's new playground will keep inclusion at the heart of play, with options for all children, regardless of their physical or medical challenges. Swings, a merry-go-round, a see-saw and monkey bars are just a few of the options that will be available for our campers, and we cannot wait for the fun to get started!



Coming in
fall of 2023

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARYLAND

This summer, renovations are beginning in earnest on the new location in Maryland! It's been exciting to see the progress so far in preparing the site, and we cannot wait to welcome families in 2024!

A big shout out to the volunteer groups visiting our new space and helping to clear things out, clean things up and get everything set up for success. We wouldn't be where we are without you, and we are so grateful for your support!



These intrepid volunteers from Travelers were the very first folks to join us in the new location, spending a morning moving furniture and cleaning up, and closing out their day with a tour of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp – Maryland!

THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF LOVE



“This is the most important piece I've ever done, and I'm really honored to be creating this piece for Camp.”

-Mia Schon



HOP UPDATE

Camp's DC Metro Area Hospital Outreach team has been busy since kicking off programming at Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital in November. The small but mighty team of three – Bryan Ballard, Matt LaBolle and Meagan Collins – are already sharing smiles and friendship in four locations across the region with plans to expand further this year. As of now, the team is bringing hope and joy to children and families at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital, Georgetown Medstar University Hospital and Children's Inn at NIH in addition to Inova.



When the building that housed arts & crafts, woodshop and the cooking zone was destroyed in a fire in February 2021, our hearts were broken into thousands of pieces. The iconic structure held more than 30 years of memories and special moments and was central to so many camper experiences.

Now, after an outpouring of love and support from our community that included significant gifts from Travelers, the Travelers Championship and Newman's Own Foundation, Camp celebrated the rebuilding of this space with the opening of the new Creative Complex! It is exciting to see what has arisen from the ashes – a space where memories will be made and friendships forged while creativity shines. The Creative Complex includes not only beautifully appointed rooms for arts & crafts, woodshop and the cooking zone, but also some brand new spaces – the Serenity Room where parents and caregivers can gather around the fireplace and The Quiet Corner sensory space with cozy chairs and bookcases flanking the walls. And with sustainability always in mind, the building will also use geothermal for heating and cooling, which will prevent 77 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

But perhaps the most significant part of the building is the centerpiece located in the creative space – a Camp-inspired mosaic comprised of more than 4,000 pieces representing the more than 4,000 donors

whose gifts allowed for the construction of the new space. Created by professional mosaic artist and former summer staff and Hospital Outreach specialist, Mia Schon, the art captures the spirit of Camp with symbols like stars, pine trees, sunflowers and more, pulled from the lore and history of Camp. It even has some hidden elements tucked away for campers to find within the piece and help get them excited about creating.

“This is the most important piece I've ever done, and I'm really honored to be creating this piece for Camp,” Mia said. “I was in Israel when I heard about the fire, and I was heartbroken. But mosaics are very symbolic, depicting how though things you love may break, you can put them back together to make something different, new and beautiful. I feel that symbolism fits really well with what happened here and what is to come in the future.”

Mia got her start working in mosaics as a Hospital Outreach specialist in Boston, where she not only learned the modality, but shared her passion with her colleagues. She later moved to Israel, where she soon began receiving commissions for her work, primarily partnering with non-profits to create murals. Now, returning to Camp to create this piece brings her artistic work full circle.

Over the three months of the mosaic installation, Mia has also had some Camp friends stop by to provide some help and bring back memories of her time at Hole in the Wall. Donors, volunteers, staff and others have had the opportunity to carefully select and place their own piece within the mural, making the work all the more special. The piece is truly representative of Camp and all the people who make the community so incredible.



OUR IMPACT IN 2022

MORE THAN

9,000 donors

from 48 states and seven countries provided “a different kind of healing” to children with serious illness and families through nearly 14,500 gifts

HOSPITAL OUTREACH SHARED JOY AND HOPE THROUGH MORE THAN

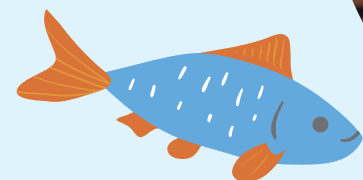
27,000 healing experiences

in dozens of hospitals from Boston to Washington, D.C.

MORE THAN

1,000 children and family members

made lasting memories at Camp during Family Weekends and the summer program.



FAMILY OUTREACH BROUGHT FUN AND CONNECTION TO MORE THAN

2,300 campers and family members

all across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic through regional and virtual events, home visits, parent & caregiver retreats and more.

Nearly 2,300 volunteers

shared Camp magic with our community by donating nearly 40,000 hours of their time and talent.



PARDNER PROFILE



Every summer at Hole in the Wall, you'll spot a familiar group of nurses volunteering in the infirmary and hear their laughter echoing throughout Camp. Sue, Noel, Diane and Maryanne, fondly called the Golden Girls around these parts, have been a fixture in the OK Corral since 2011, bringing years of healthcare expertise and plenty of silliness.

The four, who all have spent decades dedicated to nursing careers, met at Camp. First Sue and Noel, who began volunteering as nurses in 2004. Then in 2007, Diane had her first Camp experience. And in 2011, Maryanne joined in the fun. Their stories and backgrounds are unique, coming from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and even Kansas, but all of them say they leave Hole in the Wall better than when they arrived.

“Camp makes me a better nurse,” Sue said. “It feeds the soul.”

Watching the campers grow from year to year is a source of happiness for the group – especially when they find one of their own patients joining them onsite for the week or when one of their former campers comes back as a summer counselor. And seeing what all the campers take from their experiences is inspirational.

“It's really heartening to see the kids grow and develop,” Noel said. And Diane added, “Kids with hemophilia learn how to self-inject the factor they need. They buddy up. If one kid is afraid, another will come and help. They all fit in here – no one looks at each other differently.”



The Golden Girls

And while the group keeps in touch over the winter and even plans an annual trip to Florida, they can't wait to get back to Camp each summer to share in the magic.

“You're doing good work in a beautiful setting with people who care about you and who you care about,” Maryanne said. “It makes me refreshed and able to face whatever comes my way.”

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at Camp, contact our volunteer team at volunteers@holeinthewallgang.org or visit www.holeinthewallgang.org/volunteers.

You're doing good work in a beautiful setting with people who care about you and who you care about.

- Maryanne

HOP ON THE GO - GET YOUR GAME ON!

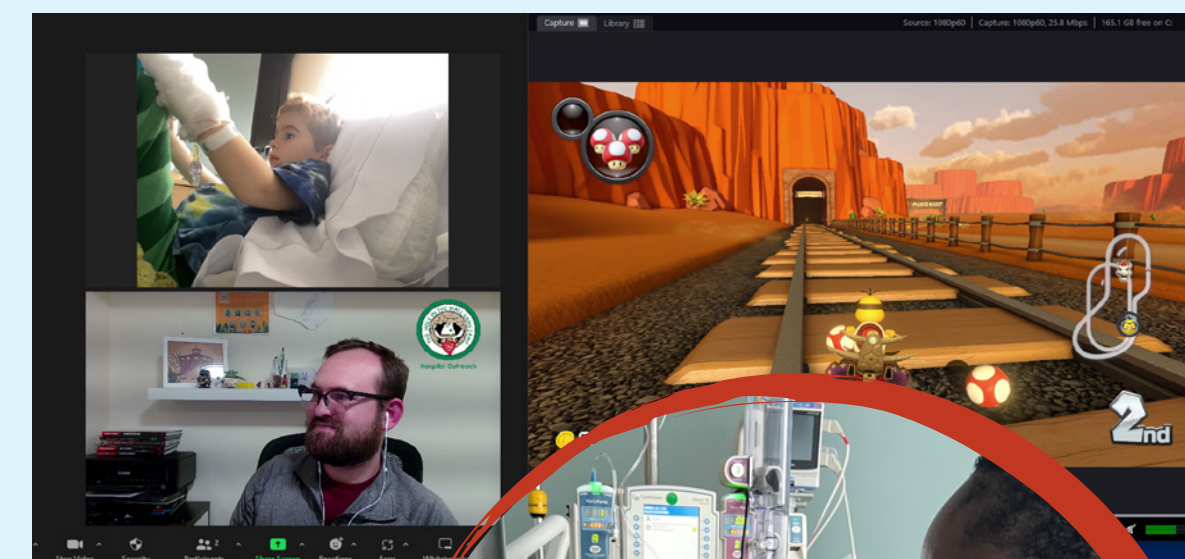
Hole in the Wall's Hospital Outreach program kicked off the year with something new in Boston. Inspired by the broad reach of virtual programming, the team has recently begun a gaming program at UMass Children's Hospital!

Spearheaded by virtual programming lead Hospital Outreach specialist, Brian Lynch, the new program uses Nintendo Switches to connect with children in a different way, offering fun and friendship even when they may not be able to have physical visitors to their room.

“It's been a big dream to give hospitalized children the opportunity to connect with their peers through video gaming,” Brian said. “Imagine a bunch of teens sitting together in a friend's basement playing video games. That's the experience we are hoping to recreate here.”

While for now, children are primarily interacting with just Brian during the pilot, as the program expands, participants will be able to connect with others in their hospital, and potentially even other hospitals in the region. The program provides a sense of normalcy and fun in situations that are often anything but.

For more information about the Hospital Outreach Program, visit www.holeinthewallgang.org/hospitaloutreach.



SADDLE UP FOR CAMP

This past holiday season, theater goes in New York City were treated to something unique – “A Sherlock Carol” – a combining of two classic tales into an exciting theatrical experience. Conceived by long-time Camp friend, actor, playwright and director, Mark Shanahan, the show pulls from Mark’s love of both mysteries and Dicken’s stories, and also found some special inspiration from the children and families of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

The show, which starred Drew McVety as Sherlock, opened in 2021 to rave reviews. It depicts a grown-up Tiny Tim, who enlists Sherlock Holmes’ help on Christmas Eve to investigate the mysterious death of his benefactor – one Ebenezer Scrooge. Tim, who overcame childhood illness and grew up to run a hospital treating children who faced similar challenges as he had, was drawn not only from the classic tale, but also from the campers Mark met while writing and directing Hole in the Wall’s annual Fandango Benefit Gala over the years.

“I remember the first time I went to Camp I was blown away by the people and their stories,” Mark said. “This play and the character of Tiny Tim were really influenced by my work at Camp and the campers I’ve met.”

Mark first began to toy with the idea of a show that brought together the characters of Sherlock Holmes and “A Christmas Carol” in 2019, bringing Drew in on his idea. After seeing the script and participating in a read-through, Drew jumped on board and brought in his producing partner as well. Unfortunately, dreams of a full production were put on hold when COVID-19 struck in 2020, but the team was rearing to go in 2021.

As the production took shape, both Mark and Drew saw an opportunity to build a charity component into

their performances. Given the context of the show and its ties to Hole in the Wall, supporting Camp in some capacity seemed a natural fit.

So, in 2022, following in the footsteps of many storied productions over the years, the show closed with a curtain call encouraging patrons to give back and carry the spirit of the season – and the show – forward. Each night following the performance, Drew would step on stage to share about Camp and ask patrons to donate.

“The first few times I did it, I was almost overly emotional, as the message of the show lined up so well with the mission of Camp,” Drew said. “It was truly an honor to be able to do this and help in any way that we can.”

Looking ahead, Mark and Drew are hoping for the show’s return to New York City, and its continued expansion across the U.S. and internationally. Their dream is that other productions will be able carry the message of being charitable forward as well and also support charities near and dear to their cast and crew.

“We are so grateful to Mark and Drew for not only raising funds for Camp through this exciting opportunity, but also raising awareness for Hole in the Wall each night of the performance,” said Andrea Keefe, director of corporate and community partnerships at Hole in the Wall. “It’s wonderful to see a partnership come together that is such a natural fit, and we look forward to working with them both for years to come.”

If have an idea for a FUNraiser of your own, or would like to learn more, contact Andrea at funraiser@holeinthewallgang.org.



“I remember the first time I went to Camp I was blown away by the people and their stories.”

- Mark Shanahan

PARENT PROJECT DAY



We are lucky to have some of the best volunteers in the world at Camp, but it’s always extra special when our camper parents come out for a day of giving back. Parent Project Days are organized by Camp’s Family Outreach team and invite current and alumni camper parents and caregivers to come back to Hole in the Wall to help with various tasks. Whether organizing the basement, getting the Dining Hall ready for the Holiday Party or any number of other activities, the days not only offer appreciated opportunities to give back to a place that has given them so much, but also give parents and caregivers the chance to build connections with others who understand their challenges. For many participants, it’s also incredibly healing just to be at Camp – a place that holds so much meaning for their families.

“The world of Pediatric Oncology/ Hematology requires strength I did not believe I had as a parent,” said camper parent Sachoy James. “It can all be chaotic, stressful, heartbreaking and confusing. But The Hole is the Wall Gang Camp community has brought such joy, love and support to the families like ours who truly need and deserve happiness. Being a volunteer parent is just a small way of showing my appreciation. It was an honor and pleasure to have been a part of the volunteer staff for the 2022 Holiday Party.”

BOXES OF GOODNESS



This holiday season, Camp’s Family Outreach team spread some cheer to camper families in need of a little pick-me up, sending out boxes chock full of goodness. Over Thanksgiving, the team packaged up and mailed out 32 boxes stuffed with turkey and all the trimmings – ensuring families were able to enjoy the holiday despite any challenges they may have been facing. And if that weren’t enough, another 74 Winter Magic boxes brought a festive fun to Hole in the Wall families. Stuffed to the brim with Camp goodies like quilts and shirts, along with games and other activities, the boxes brought a little bit of happiness right to families’ doorsteps.

“I couldn’t wait for the kids to see the stuff,” shared the Thomas family, who have been working through some health challenges. “The box came on their early release day, and when they opened it, let me tell you! I should have recorded their faces. PRICELESS!! They love EVERYTHING! Thank you, AGAIN, for making my family full of extra Camp joy! We would be lost without our Camp family.”



Camper Kyleigh shows off her Thanksgiving Box.

OUR BENEFIT EVENTS

It was incredible to return to the iconic Tavern on the Green in Central Park this past November for the 31st Annual Big Apple Bash! Bringing together friends old and new, this year’s event raised an outstanding \$1.8 million for Camp’s growing programs, thanks to the leadership of “Bandit Brigade” presenting sponsors American Packaging Corporation and LiDestri Food and Drink.

After a two-year hiatus, we were thrilled to celebrate back in person with more than 450 guests who enjoyed live entertainment, themed rooms, cocktails and mocktails, hors d’oeuvres, dinner buffets and more. Circus performers from Omnium Circus wowed, while Shake Rattle & Roll dueling pianos got toes tapping. And everyone was reminded why they were there when Camper Shariah took the stage to share about her experiences at Camp, and Camper Andrew showed off his amazing dance moves. With music, dancing, a hopping Kid Zone and more, it was a night guests won’t soon forget.



FAMILY FLATS

This past holiday season, campers and their families had a wonderful opportunity thanks to long-time Camp friend, Lisa Brown, who treated them to a showing of the Rockette’s Christmas Spectacular. One hundred campers and family members joined in the memorable CampOut event at Radio City Music Hall in the heart of New York City where they enjoyed the iconic 90-minute show while surrounded by other Camp families.

The day provided an opportunity for families to simply relax and experience the joy of the season. And it brought a much-needed Camp connection during the hectic holidays, bolstering them for all that the year ahead holds.

“Thank you so much for giving us the special opportunity,” shared Camper mom Shizuka following the event. “We never thought we could see the amazing show again this year. We really appreciate Camp’s wonderful gift. Ririka’s next major surgery is scheduled in January. The Camp always encourages her. You are the light of our life.”

If you’d like to learn more about CampOut or Hole in the Wall’s Family Outreach programming, visit www.holeinthewallgang.org/program/family-outreach-program.

SHERIFF’S SPOTLIGHT



When Aaron Corona, senior director of Regulatory Operations in Global Regulatory Affairs at Amicus Therapeutics, first heard about Hole in the Wall during a Lunch & Learn at work, his first thought was “How can we do more as an organization?” Amicus was already a supporter of Camp, providing four camperships annually, but Aaron thought the company’s impact could be bigger. So, he reached out to Camp to see what else they could do.

“We started off by supporting some of the programs with Hospital Outreach at Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital in New York and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Slime Day, Carnivarty, and more,” Aaron said. “It was fun for the employees to all be together, and even though it wasn’t designed to be a team building activity, it ended up being a great bonding opportunity!”

Over the years, Amicus expanded its support, bringing volunteers to events every summer and even offering its Central New Jersey office space for a CampOut event. But when the pandemic shut everything down in 2020, in-person volunteering came to a halt as well. Amicus was not deterred in their efforts to support Hole in the Wall though. The company has a partnership with Building Impact, a nonprofit that plans impactful volunteering and giving experiences by connecting companies with charitable organizations. Led by Anthony DeVergillo, Amicus’ Head of Digital Employee Communications, Building Impact was approached

for ideas on how to support Hole in the Wall virtually during the Global Month of Service at Amicus. They ultimately decided to create Writing Kits for our campers, sharing writing tools so campers can capture their Camp memories, along with notes of encouragement from Amicus staff. For Anthony, being able to support campers has special meaning.

“I myself was a camper at different camps (for children with serious illnesses),” Anthony said. “Any camp you go to is a safe space. It allowed me to open up and talk about my disease.”

Amicus’ generous support goes beyond camperships and volunteering. Their partnership with Hole in the Wall over the past few years has been a part of Amicus’ Healing Beyond Disease® corporate initiative for philanthropy and volunteerism. Under this initiative, the company also encourages employees to contribute to causes they find meaningful and then supports those gifts with corporate matches. For many employees who have been a part of activities with Camp, this is a natural next step.

“We are so grateful to Amicus and the amazing employees who have donated so much of their time and resources to Camp,” said Andrea Keefe, director of Corporate and Community Partnerships at Hole in the Wall. “We are so inspired by their dedication and determination to continue to provide support, even under less-than-ideal circumstances, and are honored to count them among Camp’s friends.”

If you’d like to learn more about becoming a corporate partner with Hole in the Wall, contact Andrea at andrea.keefe@holeinthewallgang.org.



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The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund
555 Long Wharf Drive
New Haven, CT 06511

Tel: 203.773.0522
Fax: 203.782.1725
info@holeinthewallgang.org

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp – Connecticut
565 Ashford Center Road
Ashford, CT 06278

Tel: 860-429.3444
FAX: 833.210.8494
Ashford@holeinthewallgang.org

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp
Paul Newman
Founder

Ray Lamontagne
Chair, Board of Directors

James H. Canton
Chief Executive Officer

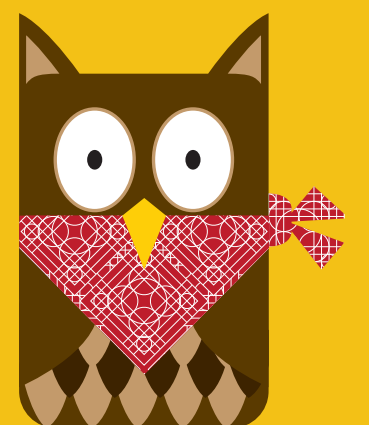
Editor:
Beth Starkin

Contributors:
Sarah Smithson

Photography:
T. Charlie Erickson
Alexander Pretorius
Chris Taggart
Evan Zimmerman

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SAVE THE DATE

There’s some serious Camp fun on the calendar this fall, so get ready to mark those calendars. You don’t want to miss these unique opportunities to join in the magic while helping to bring “a different kind of healing” to children and families most in need!

September 30, 2023



35th Anniversary Celebration Fandango Benefit Gala

Saddle up as Hole in the Wall celebrates 35 years of fun, friendship and Camp magic. “Raise a little hell” with us at Camp in Ashford, Conn as we enjoy a festive evening featuring cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and dinner, culminating in a performance by Hole in the Wall campers and celebrity friends. There will be silent and live auctions, music and more! You don’t want to miss it.

November 11, 2023



32nd Annual Big Apple Bash

We can’t wait to welcome Camp friends - old and new - back to New York City for an unforgettable evening packed with a “hole” lot of fun for the entire family! With food, drinks, dancing, games an so much more, there’s something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Look inside to see how campers grow into counselors

a serious fun camp



555 Long Wharf Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
holeinthewallgang.org

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