

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



It's summer at Camp and there's no better time of year!

Looking Back

by Grahame Marpole

Looking back on this past year, our spring Open House was a great success. New families, potential new campers, got an opportunity to wander The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp at their own pace. A mix of honest worry and wonder was on many faces. As a staff, we try to describe and answer questions about the 24-hour-a-day medical care, how children who may have never dared to dream it, can ride a horse safely. All that and so much more with special dietary needs taken care of and hot air balloons. (Really?) Hopefully, families left feeling a little inspired, better able to make the decision that was best for them.

One Chance

As I walked up to the Dining Hall, eager for one of Ken's cookies, I was stopped by a concerned father. "Can you try to convince my son that coming to Camp would be fun?" Almost hiding in his mother's shadow, I crouched down, reaching out to shake a tiny hand. Pretending to be stuck together, we both laughed, clinging tightly to each other's hand. As our eyes met, we

continued to smile, we silently asked/answered the important questions, "Who will take care of me here, can I bring my favorite blanket, can I really choose what I want to do all by myself?" I was thinking, "What an honor to share a moment with this little man." I shook hands with Mom and Dad, then waved goodbye, knowing full well that the decision was entirely up to one brave young man.

Summer Session

Summer 2007 blazed by on the tails of broomsticks; spending the night at the TeePee Campsite, at the tower, walking up to the Tree House, on the deck of a pontoon boat, filling our tummies with just one more serving of ribs, just one more bowl of cereal. Hundreds of young men and women made up their own minds about why The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is an amazing place for them. We sang, we danced, we took time to listen, we learned about ourselves, and we looked out for one another. Oh yeah, and WeePee was sighted, again, maybe?



A former counselor and cancer survivor, Grahame Marpole (right) served as Program Director from 2006-2007. He recently returned to his native British Columbia. We will miss his humor, compassion and amazing ability to be everywhere at once.

On the final day of the final session of the summer, as I walked around quickly touching base with staff, as families, brothers and sisters reunited, the Yellow Unit cart came to a skidding halt at my feet. A booming voice shouted, "Hey Grahame, remember us?" Looking up, I saw a family of four; Dad in the front seat, in the back, Mom, a grinning brother and a sister now full of stories about fireworks, the fish that got away and new friends. "You convinced our son to come to

Camp. He can't stop talking about it and his sister got to come too. Thank you so much, you are all amazing!"

As the cart pulled away, up towards the parking lot, towards the end of another incredible summer, I looked around at staff sharing laughs with parents, hugs with campers, posing for "one more" photo, waving goodbye. All of us, in our own way, choosing to make each moment important, each little chance, meaningful. I am so grateful. One chance.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Looking Ahead

by Ray Shedd

Sometimes we are asked how just one week can have such a tremendous impact on the life of a seriously ill child. Session after session, program after program, Camp has enabled thousands of special children to do more than they ever thought possible. Self-esteems are bolstered, lasting friendships are made, and all aspects of being a kid are celebrated in every way possible.

For Korreen Boyd Mortimer, a former camper and staff member, Camp's 20th birthday coincides with the 20th anniversary of her bone marrow transplant. As one of the first

children to pass through the Camp gates in 1988, Korreen is amazed at how the Camp has grown.

"Twenty years and still going strong – that's so amazing!" says Korreen. "Camp always struck me as a place that was built to be used. The need is certainly there," she observes. "A lot has changed, but when I go there it still feels like home."

A week at Camp provides children with an experience of compassion and joy that sustains them – creating a beautiful ripple effect that touches the lives of parents, siblings, social workers, and medical caretakers.



This ripple effect, perhaps Camp's most magical and enduring legacy, is now celebrating its 20th year!

Summer 2007, Camp's 20th Summer Program, ushered in a year of celebration and festivities. For many, it is hard to believe that twenty years has passed since that first momentous summer. A lot has changed in that time and Camp continues to reach out to more and more children every single year through its summer sessions, family and reunion weekend events, and an ever-expanding Hospital Outreach Program that brings the magic of Camp to the bedsides of thousands of children in hospitals and clinics from New York to Boston.

Since the summer of 1988 more than 18,000 very special youngsters have graced The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp with their smiles, courage, and youthful abandon. And remember that ripple effect? Add to that number tens of thousands of parents, guardians, doctors, nurses, staff, and volunteers that have carried the mission of Camp into its 20th Season of Love.

Tiffany Talley, Senior Development Officer for Camp in the New Haven office is one of many Camp staff who is working hard to make this the best anniversary celebration ever. "We are busy planning some exciting events in 2008 to commemorate Camp's 20th Anniversary in style," she explains.

At least one of those events will bring together former campers and staff members. "Both campers and staff have shared stories with us about how Camp continues to impact their lives, even if they have not been back for over a decade," Tiffany observes. A fun-filled day at Camp is planned with wonderful food, music, activities, and opportunities to visit with Camp friends. "Many of us look forward to reconnecting with dear friends for the first time in years," says Tiffany. Further information will be available in the months ahead.



From the Executive Director

For 20 years, we have been given the sacred task of creating a healing space where seriously ill children can feel safe, respected and loved. This summer was no different from those before it; it was filled with brave and playful children and several hundred loving adults who would do anything in their power to create unforgettable memories for their campers.

It has been my privilege to be associated with Camp for each of these past 20 years. I can still remember arriving on the first day of our staff orientation and preparing the cabins for the very first session (the construction workers had left only hours before). I recall the night before the children came, Mr. Newman charging the staff to bring to life these beautiful but empty buildings. I remember how difficult it was to say good-bye to children you had just gotten to know (some things never change), and I will never forget the outpouring of support when our first camper passed away several weeks after he left Camp.

Although we have grown over the last two decades – serving more children during the summer, running programs year-round and bringing Camp to children in hospitals up and down the northeast – the basics of Camp in 1988 are present in everything we do today. Be safe and loving. Remind the children how beautiful and special they are. Return a sense of normalcy to lives turned upside down by illness.

Thank you all for believing in Camp's mission and for allowing those of us associated with Camp the honor and privilege of befriending these extraordinary children and their families.



Executive Director Jimmy Canton enjoys a moment at Camp with Campers Matt and Nathan.

My Name is Danny's Sister

A Sibling's Story

Camper Ana's brother Danny was diagnosed with cancer when he was twelve. We are privileged to share portions of her moving account of her experiences as the sibling of a seriously ill camper and a camper herself. As of this writing, Danny has been in remission for twelve years.

I was ten years old and thought I knew everything. I woke up in my bed to find my mother spooning me with tears streaming down her face and mucus coming out of her nose. My father looked desperately out the window searching for answers and Nana stood in front of me angrily tearing the hair out of my hairbrush. No one really said anything and when I started fidgeting they started leaving one by one without any explanation. I didn't ask. I didn't know I was supposed to. Nana remained clawing at my hairbrush. There was no hair left to pull out. Her face scrunched up the way it does when she is about to scold me, "I wish it was me. I wish it was me," she said over and over again until she left without telling me what all the drama meant. The air in my bedroom was too tense for questions and apparently too tense for answers. I realized that morning that something big was about to happen to our family and inevitably, I would be the last one to know.

In the beginning I would wake up to myself, send myself to school, and return to an empty house. When I started getting lonely I would spend weeks and weeks at other people's houses. All the while everyone else seemed to notice that something was up with my family, yet I still refused to acknowledge it. I thought I was the luckiest girl in the world to get to sleep out on school nights, never have a bed time, and be able to have parties because my parents were never home. I could get away with murder and I began to test that concept.

This translated into me being the coolest kid in school mostly because of my rebellious nature. I was in advanced level courses but I never did any homework, which led to multiple detentions. When I got used to detention I started getting more vicious. I would throw books at teachers and tell them that they were bad parents. I would hide alcohol in my locker and drink it between classes. When I got caught, it never bothered me because I knew my parents had more important things to worry about. When the letters came home in the mail I would intercept them and when the principal called the house I would erase her messages. I thought I was invincible and had no regard for any of the damage I was doing to myself.

After Danny was home from the hospital, sometimes I would watch him sleep. I kept thinking he would suddenly stop breathing and in a way I almost wanted him to. I wanted my life back and I thought that meant that Danny had to die. I would daydream about the funeral and all the people that would come up to me telling me how sorry they were that I lost my brother. I thought about all of the attention I would get and how safe that attention would feel. I hated myself for feeling this way. I wanted to feel different, so I began taking Danny's pain medication. I was sure that if pills could take away Danny's pain, then pills could take away feelings that I didn't want. And to some extent, they did. I was 12 years old.

Summer came along and my dad told me that we were going to be picking Danny up from some place with a silly name. The very minute we drove through the gate I felt open for the first time in a long time. It was hot and the parking lot was dusty, but I was approached by a band of really happy people wearing cowboy hats and shooting water guns. One of these crazy people asked me if I wanted a nametag and I said, "Yes, my name is Danny's Sister." Instead of looking at me with pity and saying, "You're more than that," this Crazy saw the truth in that statement and replied with, "What an interesting name, how do you spell that?" I thought that was the best thing I'd ever heard.

We got into a golf cart and drove to a giant wooden gazebo-looking building filled with more of what I like to call Crazy's. They were singing and dancing with food and paint all over their faces. I looked for Danny but couldn't find him. Then my dad pointed to him. Sure enough, it was Danny looking better than he had ever looked.

A couple of weeks later, my dad asked me if I wanted to try something called "Sibling Session." "I'll take him up on that offer, but I promise I won't enjoy a second of it," I thought. I was certain that all the other kids there would be thumb-sucking squares who were really into talking about their feelings.

I didn't expect to like any of the other campers but that feeling



immediately changed when I started understanding that despite the similar circumstances that we all had, we were all going about our lives in different ways. Some of these kids knew everything about their sibling's disease and felt very much in the loop about what was going on. I asked my first friend Ashley how she knew and she simply explained that she asked. Something so simple as asking about what was going on with Danny went completely over my head.

Another friend of mine named Yael was quite possibly one of the nicest girls I had ever met. We were young so we could ask questions like, "Why are you nice?" It's really different when kids talk to other kids. Apparently Yael's sick brother was younger than she was so she had a whole different perspective. Yael loved her brother. I never really asked myself if I loved Danny and when I thought about how Yael loved her brother I got really sad.

I was so confused at this point that I tapped one of my counselor's named Jenny, on the shoulder and asked if we could take a walk because I didn't want the other campers to see me, the big tough girl, crying like a little baby. I was terrified that she would say no, but Jenny agreed and we went for a walk. She asked me what was wrong and I couldn't articulate what it was. We sat down and Jenny, this stranger, held me. I hadn't been held in so long that I got overwhelmed and burst into tears. Jenny let me cry and for someone who took it upon herself to be strong all the time, this was huge. In those moments I grew up, not the way a precocious teenager wants to, but the way that a healthy adult has to.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp gave me a reason to stop being angry. I met other kids at Camp who lost their siblings to illnesses and I felt

incredibly lucky that Danny was still part of my life. Not only was I thankful for Danny, but I was thankful for everything that happened thereafter.

I was determined to redress my academic record. I put all of the energy I had wasted on being angry at things I could not control where it was fruitful. You should have seen my middle school principal's jaw drop when the Board of Education unexpectedly presented me with a state leadership award my senior year in high school. In the beginning, I wanted to punish my parents for showering Danny with attention by failing out of school. Now I wanted them to be proud of me. I wanted to lighten their load. After high school, I went on to higher education, graduating from Barnard College at Columbia University.

It's still difficult to express what happened when Danny got sick. I can say that Camp brought about a monumental change and a new perspective that will forever be at the forefront of my never-ending journey toward emotional recovery. This rollercoaster ride that was born out of Danny's illness has inspired me to take advantage of the creativity that came out of my own survival. I am an actress. It's what I always wanted to be and thanks to unfortunate obstacles that I faced at a very young age, I know that anything is possible.

[ed. note: Ana's first feature film will be released in theaters next year.]

A New Path

For the past eight years, Director of Volunteers Sarah Eio Smithson has been identifying new volunteers and preparing them for the critical work of supporting our campers. This fall, she will leave that role for the newly created position of Director of Alumni Affairs. We asked her to share her thoughts on changing one key position at Camp for another.

How did your Camp journey begin? My first experience at Camp was as a cabin volunteer in 1995. As a college freshman, I had read the book *I Will Sing Life: Voices from The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp* and called Camp's phone number in the back. Probably like most volunteers, I had no idea what I was getting into. But my experience was wonderful, a cabin of amazing seven- and eight-year-old girls.

Over the next year, I kept in touch with my other cabin staff members and they encouraged me to apply for a summer staff position. I was hired for that summer and subsequent ones, working in the theater and serving one year as Entertainment Director. After graduating from college, I worked for a year or two before the position of Director of Volunteers opened up. I got the position, and was thrilled to be back at Camp.

What special skills do you bring to your work? Interviewing volunteers is huge. You really have to know Camp pretty well to have a good feeling for whether someone

will be a good fit. Each summer, we have about 80 slots for new volunteers. We want our volunteers to reflect different personalities, skills, ages, and appearances to best serve the wide range of children in our care. Once those volunteers have been identified, it takes plenty of organization and scheduling to bring them together at Camp. I also train the volunteers and develop ways to keep the Camp experience fresh and exciting for our returnees. In the off-season, I coordinate volunteers for our fall and weekend programs and our off-site clinic reunions.

What is your favorite part of your job? It is always a proud moment when someone's volunteer experience at Camp turns out to have a major impact in their life. It is not unusual to hear that a college student who volunteered the previous summer has changed their major to go into working with children. A few years ago, one of our former volunteers changed his major to nursing. Before long, he came back to Camp as a volunteer nurse before



Sarah Eio Smithson (right) and her husband Jeff Smithson (Hospital Outreach Specialist). She looks forward to her new role as Director of Alumni Relations.

moving on to work at another camp in the Hole in the Wall family and eventually, a children's hospital. It's so satisfying to see Camp work its magic not only on our campers, but on our counselors as well.

Why does Camp need so many volunteer counselors? Having a large staff of dedicated volunteers enables us to maintain our 1-2 counselor to camper ratio, of which we are very proud. One year, we had a camper who, because of illness, had severe memory problems. We were able to devote a volunteer counselor to this child for the entire week. At first, the volunteer said, "I routinely lose my wallet and keys. How can I help this child?" But she came up with the idea of using a digital camera to show the camper where they had just been and what they had

been doing. "I'd like to go to Arts and Crafts," the camper would say. The counselor could then let the photos tell the story. "See? We went there this morning. Just look what a beautiful project you made!"

What are you most looking forward to in your new position? It will be great to help the children who have aged out of our program, yet still need support. I'll be helping to identify new programs to assist them and their families. And, I'll be working to keep our staff connected and close to Camp. Camp is a magical place that harbors great memories. Keeping the staff in touch with all we are doing and how we are growing will also be an exciting part of my job. And all while helping to organize the best 20th Anniversary celebration ever!

The Evolution of a Runner

Most of us think of running in the ING New York City Marathon as an event that only seasoned runners would consider attempting. But at least one Team Hole in the Wall runner will count the New York marathon as her first. "I've never run in a marathon before," says Erin Mone. A cancer survivor, Camp volunteer and Deputy Director of the Peace Corps in Costa Rica, Erin has spent months training with friends for the big event.

Erin got interested in running partly as a result of her experience at Camp. "I volunteered in 2006 in the Blue Unit," she recalls. "Camp and the children inspired me so much. I thought to myself, 'If these young children can go through what they go through daily, I can take on the challenge of running a marathon.'"

Two of Erin's campers were especially inspiring to her. Campers Erin and Matty were both fifteen years old at the time. Both had been recently diagnosed and had never been to Camp before. "They had smiles on their faces every minute," says Erin. "To see them taking advantage of all that life and Camp had to offer, having fun and cheering on the others meant so much to me," she explains.

Running was not always part of Erin's life. "I always enjoyed sports,

but didn't like running," she says. "Now I feel like I am learning so much about myself and my body from running. I run every day. It isn't always easy to get up at 4:45 in the morning, but once I do get up and think of the children I worked with, my aches and pains go away, and I can put on my sneakers and get out there and run."

Erin is an expert in children's rights issues, having worked with youngsters in war-torn countries for Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee. How does she feel about running for Team Hole in the Wall? "For me," says Erin, "It is the most important charity out there to run for. In our society, we don't always put a large enough emphasis on taking care of children. As a child protection professional, I feel that taking care of kids is the most important thing we can do as adults. Children don't have a loud enough voice to advocate for themselves. Adults need to make sure they have a childhood that is as safe, healthy and fun as possible." By joining the Team, Erin is making a difference.

Our Team Hole in the Wall is growing rapidly and helping more seriously ill children than ever. Angel Ride, the two-day cross-Connecticut charity ride over Memorial Day weekend, raised more than \$188,000

from 120 riders. With the support of 235 dedicated volunteers, Lynn McCarthy and Fred Brooke organized this terrific event as they have for the past four years. Funds raised directly support the Camp's Hospital Outreach Program for seriously ill hospitalized children from New York to Boston.

The second ever Space Race, a 5K event, was featured at this year's Space and Aviation Day on July 14. The event is sponsored by Bradley Family Day – an organization made up of employees associated with businesses at Bradley International Airport. All proceeds of Space and Aviation Day go to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Nearly 200

runners raced across the tarmac of the Connecticut Air National Guard Base, past military aircraft and local emergency service vehicles.

Team Hole in the Wall 2007 for the ING New York City Marathon on November 4th features 227 runners (up from 98 last year!), each committed to raising a minimum of \$3,000 to send a child to Camp and cover Team expenses. Through the fundraising efforts of runners and sponsors, the Team hopes to raise \$750,000. For more information about Team Hole in the Wall: contact Team Coordinator Ken Alberti at (203) 772-0522, visit teamholeinthewall.org or email kja@holeinthewallgang.org.



Team Hole in the Wall runner Erin Mone enjoys a moment at Camp with Camper Matty.

New Legacy Society Strengthens the Future of Camp

“I have vision and the rest of the world wears bifocals.”
 – Butch Cassidy

Have you ever felt, like Butch, that the rest of the world is wearing their bifocals? Ahem. Or should we say their “progressive lenses?” As we approach our 20th Anniversary in 2008, we are pleased to honor a group of committed donors who, like the character in our founder’s signature film, are people of vision. These friends of Camp have chosen to demonstrate their devotion to our mission through participation in our new Legacy Society.

We are privileged to introduce the Legacy Society’s founding members. Legacy Society members have included The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in their estate plans through their will, trust, retirement plan or other planned giving vehicle. These individuals and families have agreed to be included in this inaugural list in recognition of their commitment to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp with hopes that others will be inspired to do

the same. We are most grateful for their faith in our efforts to continue serving thousands of seriously ill children each year.

In the first 20 years, more than \$6 million were contributed to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp from 46 estates. For the future, we are aware of 118 estate commitments to Camp. This is an amazing testament to the vision of our founder and the long-term vitality of our special Camp. We are eternally grateful.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Mr. Eric Hall Anderson
 James Y. Baldwin and
 Joyce Y. Baldwin
 Beverly Bayne
 Eryn and Michael Bingle
 Linda H. Bissell
 Dr. Elizabeth C. Bluhm
 James H. Canton
 Clinton W. Charter
 The Cotter Family Fund
 Marion D’Alessandro
 Toni L. Daughtrey
 Rose DiSanto and
 Stephen W. Starnes, Sr.
 John and Susan Fabian
 Douglas and Katherine Fisher
 Ms. Ashley E. Fuller
 Ms. Kay Gago
 Ms. Gloria T. Glaser
 Miriam and Leon Glazer Fund
 Ingrid Aguirre Happoldt and
 Robert Warren Whitehill
 Ms. Sheryl A. Helms
 Mrs. Judy Hendrickson
 Nancy Hyon in honor of Ty S. Hyon

Ms. Debra Johnston
 Moshe Klompus
 Mr. John R. Koelle
 Mr. and Mrs. John Kransberg
 Robert A. Kray
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Krejci
 Jeffrey R. and Elaine M. Kubach
 Raymond Lamontagne
 Michael Lang
 Kathleen A. Lavigne
 Michael Manning
 Karen Matthews
 Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius J. Milmoie in
 memory of Stephen Milmoie
 James C. Moore
 Mr. and Mrs. David T. Murphy
 Claire E. Nathan
 Leo Nevas, Esq.
 F. Judith Postemsky
 Dennis B. Poster
 Martha M. Purdy
 Jeannette S. Roth
 Dr. Ira Rosenblum

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Ross, Jr.
 Jerome B. Rounds
 Ann Russell
 Edward P. Salzano
 Lois M. Schechter
 Mary P. Schneller
 Matt and Jo Senecal
 Richard Sheridan
 Mike and Martha Smiles
 Pamela J. Smith
 Charlotte Soifer
 Sherry A. Talley
 John L. Tollack
 Joan Warion
 Susan D. Whiting
 Mr. and Mrs. William Wolfe
 Mrs. Virginia Wrenn
 Antoinette Green Wright
 Mrs. Annette Yush

Endowments

Over the years, endowments have been established as memorials for special programs and camperships to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in perpetuity. Campership Endowment Funds provide a permanent source of funding for the cost of sending a child or children with serious illness to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for one summer session. The minimum to establish a new endowment for Camp is \$62,500.

Endowment Fund Donors

The Alvord Family Foundation
 Carroll W. Brewster
 The Cotter Family Fund
 The Louise T. Crowley Family
 Miriam and Leon Glazer Fund
 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Haroche
 Jack and Judy Hopkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius J. Milmoie
 in memory of Stephen Milmoie
 RBS Greenwich Capital
 Salzano Family Fund
 Steven and Melissa Schottland

Sample Bequest Language

“I give, devise and bequeath to The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, Inc., a Connecticut nonstock corporation with offices in New Haven, Connecticut, (percentage or written amount of the estate or description of property) to be used to carry out its mission.”

To join the Legacy Society or for more information about planned giving, contact Linda Rapp at (203) 772-0522 or Lsr@holeinthewallgang.org. Visit the new and improved planned giving section of our website at www.holeinthewallgang.org. Under “Spotlight,” select Leave A Legacy for comprehensive information, including new articles each month and interactive features that cover estate planning. The easy-to-navigate site offers planned giving articles by topic, a gift comparison chart, e-brochures and more.





Above left: Lisa Loeb sings with Hole in the Wall campers.

Above: Musical Program Coordinator Leo Loginov (left) accompanies camper Larry in a song.

Blow: Renée Zellweger conducts a dramatic poetry reading at Gala 2007.



Scenes from Gala 2007

"One mom couldn't stop crying after the show. She couldn't move from her seat for about 20 minutes. When she was able to find words, she said she was completely overwhelmed. Her heart was so full she didn't know what to do with all the feelings. She couldn't believe that there were that many generous and caring people who were willing to help her children (and all the other campers). She spoke not only of the donors, but also of everyone who helped make the Gala a success. She had never in her life experienced such extraordinary kindness and the coming together of this many different people for a common cause."

-- Karen Allen, Director of Community & Family Outreach

What do you get when you combine joy, creativity and love of Camp? All that and more go into the Gala. This year's Gala Fandango featured moving testimonials by campers and camper parents, and delightful musical numbers with some of the most exceptionally talented youngsters who've ever set foot on Camp, as well as outstanding offerings by some of the entertainment world's most eagerly sought-after celebrities. Performing to a packed and enthusiastic audience were Kendrick Jones, Lisa Loeb, Jessica Molaskey, James Naughton, Paul Newman, Kelli O'Hara, John Pizzarelli and Renée Zellweger. They were joined by these talented Hole in the Wall Gang campers: Cindy Borduin, Matthew Gates, Caprice Gray, Courtney Hughes, Joanne McCoy, Philipp Müller, Brandon Parris, Judith Theriault, Larry Theriault, Dennis Vangel and Cassidy Woods.

For the past eighteen years, the Gala performance has been the capstone of a lively day filled with a gourmet picnic, live and silent auctions, and fun and games to benefit Camp. This year's Gala highlights included our Most Wanted Award to Bill and Tani Austin of the Starkey Hearing Foundation for their extraordinary philanthropic leadership and support.

Kevin Duncan produced the show (as he has done since 1994) and Camp board member James Naughton directed the performance (as he has done since 1998). They were joined by a host of theatre professionals. Our own A.E. Hotchner, who has tirelessly envisioned, scripted and presented the Fandango performances each season, offered a heartfelt farewell. We are grateful to all the generous people who give their time, energy and talents to make the Gala a great success!

Annual Giving Societies Recognize Friends of Camp

We are grateful to all our donors and appreciate each gift in the spirit in which it is given. We also continue to seek out meaningful ways in which to engage and thank our leadership supporters. We were honored by the attendance of our donors of unrestricted annual gifts of \$1,000 or more who participated in the following events this past year.

The **Butch Cassidy Society** gathered for lunch at "The Dressing Room," Paul Newman's newly opened and highly acclaimed restaurant in Westport, Connecticut. A tour of the adjoining Westport Country Playhouse followed.

The **Sheriff's Society** and **Cabin Circle Society** combined forces for their first event, a lovely reception hosted by Gil and Charlene Haroche at their luxurious apartment overlooking Central Park in New York City.

The **Bandit Society** and **Sunflower Society** met for a special brunch and VIP tours of Camp on April 29th.

"We are so grateful for all our donors' support and are pleased to celebrate our most generous donors in this way," says Linda Rapp, Director of Annual Giving. "Our hope is that we can increase support for annual Camp operations through a loyal and growing donor base."



(Left to right) Nathan Grube, Bruce McGuire, Faith Weiner, and Camp's Director of Development J. Michael Smiles enjoy the Sheriff's Society reception hosted by Gil and Charlene Haroche at their New York City apartment overlooking Central Park.



Butch Cassidy Society
Annual Gifts of \$25,000 or more



Sheriff's Society
Annual Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999



Cabin Circle Society
Annual Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999



Bandit Society
Annual Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999

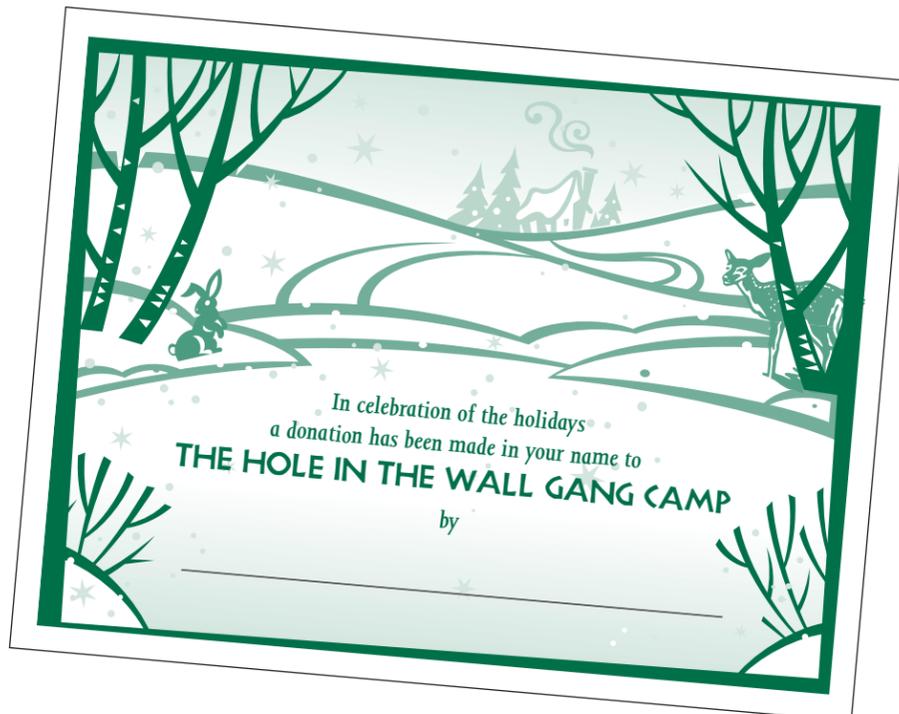


Sunflower Society
Annual Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

Holiday Tribute Cards and Camperships

Celebrate the holidays with a Hole in the Wall Gang holiday tribute card – and help spread the word about what a special place Camp is for the seriously ill children whom we serve. The holiday tribute card allows you to recognize your family and friends by making a contribution to Camp on their behalf. Each of your honorees will be notified of your gift via an attractive card. In addition, consider celebrating the holidays by underwriting the \$2,500 cost of a “campership,” 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 Linda Rapp in the New Haven office at (203) 772-0522 or e-mail Lsr@holeinthewallgang.org. The order form for the holiday tribute card is also available on our web site, www.holeinthewallgang.org. Your gift this season will bring joy to a camper all year long!



Too much mail? Duplicate mailings?

Let us know! We are happy to accommodate your mailing wishes. Call Linda Rapp at 203-772-0522.

Gearing Up for Summer 2008

Volunteer and staff applications for summer 2008 will be available in December. Camp begins accepting applications after January 1st. All summer (salaried) staff positions fill up quickly thereafter. To print an application or to learn more about summer volunteer and staff opportunities, please visit www.holeinthewallgang.org.

Our Policy on Donor Names

It is important that our donors and friends know that The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund never sells or shares its donor names and addresses with any other organization. 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 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 free of charge.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp offers programs in the non-summer months for campers, their families and healthcare professionals. Through our Hospital Outreach Program, our staff members make hospital visits to thousands of seriously ill hospitalized children from New York to Boston. In addition, the Camp provides support to other camps with a similar mission throughout the world.

The programs of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp are made possible through the generosity of many friends.

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There's always something new to see at our web site. Sign up for our e-mail newsletter to receive quarterly updates about Camp. (Just click on the sunflower.) You can also view our five-minute Camp video or check out the upcoming benefit events.



Horseback riding, like piggy back riding, are among a host of peak experiences that campers enjoy most.

"I just wanted to touch base with you to tell you that if I had to think of one word to sum up my time at Camp it would be INSPIRING. Every year, when I volunteer at Camp, I experience amazing people who will stay in my heart and mind forever. I will always remember the sheer joy on one camper's face after she climbed the tower with the rest of her cabin constantly cheering her on. The fact that she was missing a limb wasn't an issue; she was just like every other kid in her cabin. I also recall another camper describing the thrill of riding a horse for the first time in his life. He couldn't wait to tell his brother and sister, so he wrote a letter about the experience before dinner had ended! Thanks to the concentrated efforts of an assortment of people, thousands of children with medical needs have the opportunity to just be kids and feel safe, respected and loved."

Amy – A Volunteer since 1996

A Hole in the Wall Camp



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