

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP GAZETTE



Our Friend and Founder, Paul Newman

By James H. Canton, Chief Executive Officer

In the weeks since his passing, people all over the world have shared wonderful stories about Paul. He was an extraordinary actor, philanthropist, humanitarian, visionary and racecar driver, as well as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a tireless example of doing right, allowing others to see in him the qualities they would like to develop in themselves.

There is another attribute, however, that we were privileged to witness over the past twenty years at Camp that most of his admirers never saw. Founder's Syndrome is the phenomenon that prevents founders of organizations from allowing for the continued growth of ideas that were born from their own creativity. Paul had not a shred of it.

I should have expected no less after hearing his toast to the staff that very first summer Camp was opened. It was the night before the first seriously ill children arrived. He went to the head of the dining hall, raised his glass, and said to the staff, "I've taken it this far, you take it

from here. Raise a little hell." Always short and sweet, but remarkably wise. He empowered and trusted others to do their jobs, and in doing so inspired an army of staff and colleagues who were just as ferociously committed because we all had a share in the success of his dream. That's brilliant leadership.

He remained passionately involved at Camp, whether ours in Connecticut or sibling camps around the country and the world. What sheer delight the stories of the camps' successes would bring to him. Smiles, quiet gestures of thanks, hugs and pumped fists would often be an indicator of his joy. And I think part of that joy came from stepping away and watching the hands and hearts of hundreds of other people take up his dream and charge ahead. The satisfaction that he experienced is less possible for leaders and founders who cannot step back.

But Paul was human after all and there was one instance when I witnessed him succumb to the

unyielding control of a founder. We were celebrating the grand opening of a new feature at Camp, the world's largest wheelchair accessible tree house. He was giddy when he stepped out of the car, with a package under his arm. "Canton," he said to me, "what do you say we fly this from the top of the tree house." He opened the package to reveal a huge, black pirate flag, complete with skull and cross bones. I didn't want to dampen his enthusiasm, but found it a little unsettling to have this image of death at a camp for seriously ill children. So I suggested we paint a colorful cowboy hat on the skull or add a bandanna. Seeing the dismay in his eyes, I said, "Well, just think about it." His response came immediately, "I just did. Let's put it up." And that flag, unaltered, has flown over the tree house for the past five years, to the delight of every camper who ascends to the top by foot or wheelchair.

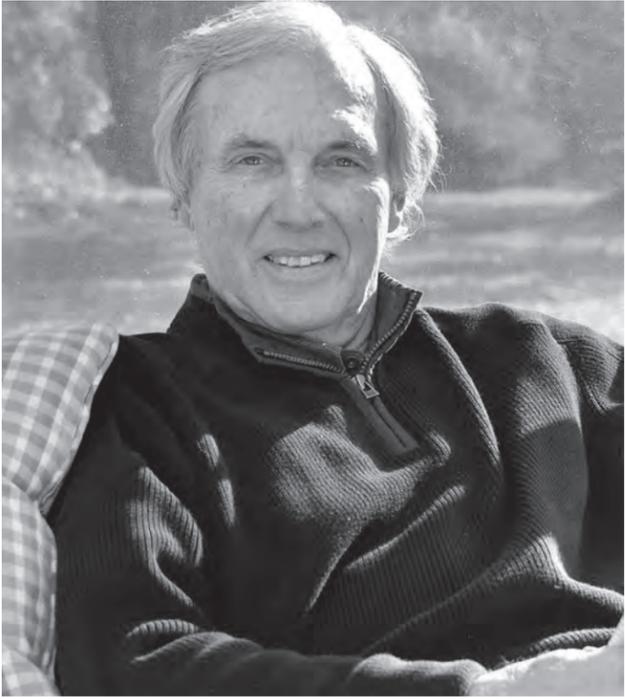
All of us affiliated with Camp share a deep sadness right now. We know we will never be the same without Paul's remarkable guiding spirit.

However, there is a much stronger feeling that rises to the surface: profound gratitude for knowing him and being inspired by his examples of compassion, humility, loyalty, mischief and leadership.

This past year was Camp's 20th Anniversary. We served a record number of summer campers – 1,055 – and a record number of children – 15,000 – through our programs during the year.

Thank you for believing in the dream that our founder imagined more than 20 years ago. Your support as volunteers, donors and well wishers has brought healing and comfort to thousands of children – not just in Connecticut, but around the world. Paul's dream is alive and in our hands. Please help us continue to make his vision a reality.

(Portions of this article originally appeared in *The New Haven Register*, October 2, 2008.)



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Board Chairman Raymond Lamontagne.
Photo by Bryan Haeffle.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Paul Newman

Paul Newman is our founder and guiding light. He is irreplaceable, but he has left us with a clear vision. He believed profoundly that we all have an obligation to help others and that there is great joy in so doing. He accomplished so much in his all too brief life and he has now passed the torch on to all of us to carry on. There is much to be done. Let us all recommit ourselves to follow his example. Newman believed in "having fun and raising a little hell" but he always put his service to others as his first priority. If we follow his example, we will do our part in preserving and growing his legacy.

Making a Splash at Camp

Splashdown! At the heart of Camp overlooking Pearson Pond lies an expansive swimming pool complete with newly created "zero-entry" capacity; expanded shallow end for lots of pool-hoops, Marco-Polo games, snorkeling and swoosh ball; and new bathhouses for boys and girls. More campers than ever piled into Camp's newly renovated swimming pool warmly named "Charlie's Pool" this summer.

"The new, zero-entry format enables children to access the water under their own power and at their own pace," says Jimmy Canton, Chief Executive Officer. "It's one of the most popular and attractive program areas at Camp."

The improvements of access and expanded swimming space – approximately 25% greater – make for more inclusive group activities. The modifications also allow campers to enjoy the pool as they feel most comfortable. We are deeply grateful to the Charles P. Ferro Foundation for the gift of the new pool and the Ames Family Foundation for that of the new bathhouses.



There's nothing like the pool on a hot summer day at Camp! Zero-entry means that all can swim and play at their own pace.



The Ferro family and Foundation members prepare for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Charlie's Pool.

2008 – Another Spectacular Summer!

By J. Michael “Mike” Smiles

Each summer, Chief Development Officer Mike Smiles volunteers for a session at Camp. And, each summer, he comes away from that experience full of fresh enthusiasm for the Camp’s mission of supporting children and families. Here, he shares with us a glimpse of his 2008 Camp experience.

This past summer, I was a volunteer counselor at Session 7, one of our general sessions. The campers in our cabin were older boys, aged 14 and 15, eight youth in all – two in wheelchairs and all but one on active treatment.

Camp is especially poignant for these senior campers who know they will soon exceed our age limit of 15. Their experience is heightened by memories of past summers at Camp and an interest in strengthening the bonds of friendship that will sustain them into the future.

Camper Jorge is a huge Yankees fan. Thanks to “Charlie’s Pool,” newly built and zero-entry, he was able to participate in water fun in a special wheelchair at exactly the water depth he chose – two feet – where he decided to pitch a “swoosh ball.” Seizing the moment, his cabin mates and counselors created a baseball diamond in the shallows. Infielders used a pool noodle “bat,” while the outfielders dove for the ball in deeper water. How marvelous to witness the joy on Jorge’s face, as he pitched those blazingly fast swoosh balls! STEEE-RIKE!

Camp games are just as amazing. One day, our unit played “Mine Field” along the wheelchair-accessible nature trail. This team-focused game was engaging enough to hold the attention of our oldest campers, yet managed so that youngsters in wheelchairs could participate equally with the others. We recounted their achievement at a cookout that evening.

The cookout and bonfire are always special events. We enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and s’mores around the fire, followed by Camp songs. Many of the older campers knew the words to “Stars in the Sky” – a signature Hole in the Wall song – by heart, having sung it now for three or more summers in a row. Many of our campers live in urban settings, so an evening in the woods by the campfire is indeed memorable. Often, this peak experience features an overnight camping adventure, weather permitting.

The excitement of Stage Night is almost palpable as each camper shows off their own special talent. The older campers help organize the evening and perform together at the end. This particular Stage



Chief Development Officer Mike Smiles (right) makes a new friend in Camper Andy.

Night, Camper Andy chose not to participate because of his sensitivity to loud noises. I sat with him just outside the theater. Artist-in-Residence Sherry Talley happened along bearing a gift of glow sticks –

lots of them! We used them to make Andy’s wheelchair shine like a star. When the theater performance was over and the campers filed out, Andy chose to give a glow stick to each one, his special way of contributing to the fun of the evening.

We call it the Magic of Camp, but it is really the environment of Safety, Love and Respect that makes youngsters feel empowered to try anything, be anything and embrace the moment. People often think of Camp as a place where the children make memories to last a lifetime, but truly, it is that for volunteers as well.



Camp Magic

By Cora Weed

It is difficult to describe the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp experience without using the word “magical.” From first-time campers to ten-year volunteers, the magic of camp is felt day in and day out, and this summer was no exception. The best part of the magic is that it is unique to each individual who sets foot on Camp.

For one 2008 camper named Hakeem, Camp magic was synonymous with the word “kindness.” One afternoon, Hakeem signed up for a program that was new to Hole in the Wall this summer, called “Do-Rak” (Do Random Acts of Kindness). Do-Rak campers spend about three hours of their afternoon performing surprise acts of kindness for various people at Camp. The campers are empowered to think about the people for whom they want to do something kind, as well as how best to honor that person. From there, the group scrambles all over Camp delivering flowers to the

kitchen staff, singing a song for lifeguards at the pool, planting a surprise thank-you note on Leo’s piano in the dining hall, or delivering a stuffed animal to a homesick camper.

As part of his signature contribution, Hakeem helped campers and counselors come up with a “theme rap,” which they performed for everyone they visited that afternoon. It added an element of magic to the Do-Rak activity. But the true magic of Do-Rak comes from campers like Hakeem who chose to spend at least one afternoon of their week giving back to Camp and thinking of ways to make others feel special.

Camp Magic for Austin took a different turn. This was Austin’s first summer as a Hole in the Wall camper. It was also the first time he had been away from his parents for more than a

few hours because of the seriousness of his illness. Yet, from the moment Austin arrived, he was on the move. He seemed to go seamlessly from air-hockey in the recreation building to wood burning in the woodshop to juggling lessons on the dining hall green.... and he never stopped smiling for an instant. Austin topped off his session with a “Standing-O” from the crowd at Stage Night in honor of his first-ever, on-stage performance. The experience left him grinning from ear to ear, full of pride and independence.

It’s magic, all right – from the camper who was told that she would never walk, yet made it to the top of our climbing tower, to the child who had never been more than ten miles from his home in Kansas and discovered his natural ability to disco-dance at our Camp party. As one 2008 camper put it, “Camp is kinda like a dream. But not like a regular dream... it’s like the best dream I ever had.”

Cora Weed is Cabin Life Coordinator for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.



Left: Bette Midler wows the audience in the Hole in the Wall theater with a spectacular performance. Photo by T. Charles Erickson. Below: The remarkable Irina Markova and her performing dogs delight Gala theater-goers. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

GALA 2008

Just like in Camelot, the rain could only fall after sundown at this year's Gala, held at Camp on September 6th in the wake of Hurricane Hannah. The result was a fun-filled and lively day (despite the humidity) filled with a gourmet picnic, live and silent auctions, and games to benefit Camp. This year's Gala highlights included our "Most Wanted" Award to Louise "Lulu" Crowley in honor of her extraordinary philanthropic leadership and support. The event was a joyful gathering for the Crowley family who chartered a bus for the occasion so that all the moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and grandchildren could enjoy the ride to Camp together. Later in the day, the Crowley family honored Camp with the announcement of a visionary leadership gift of \$200,000 for needed cabin renovations.

Thanks go to our Gala Auction Advisory Committee for their commitment to securing stellar auction items. Highlights included a magnum of champagne autographed by Sandy Koufax and other National Baseball Hall of Fame pitchers selling for \$50,000 and an election night experience with Brian Williams at NBC Nightly News selling for \$60,000. Another special feature of the day was the 70 (count 'em!) camperships brought in through the auction, generating a flurry of activity as campers and

parents raced from bidder to bidder, taking information and giving out medals. More than 400 friends of Camp attended the event. All in all, the Gala raised a record of more than \$1,200,000 for Camp.

The Fandango performance capped the day. A host of celebrities graciously gave of their time and talent with featured performances by Alec Baldwin, Tituss Burgess, Irina Markova and her performing dogs, Jessica Molaskey, board member James Naughton, guitarist John Pizzarelli and mentalist Jon Stetson. Quipping that she had wondered if she would have to stay in a tent, Bette Midler delivered a sparkling performance of lyrical favorites expertly backed-up by "Harlettes" Elaine Caswell and Margaret Dorn, and The Fandango Orchestra. But the real show-stoppers were these remarkable Hole in the Wall Gang campers: Joseph "TJ" Buchanan, Maisy Cyr, Mitchell Gonzalez, Carly Laverty, Autumn Lewis, Greg Mandara, Braulio Andre Pena, Austin Pierce, Darien Pierce, Anne Rowe, Micaela Shutt and Kweli Taylor.

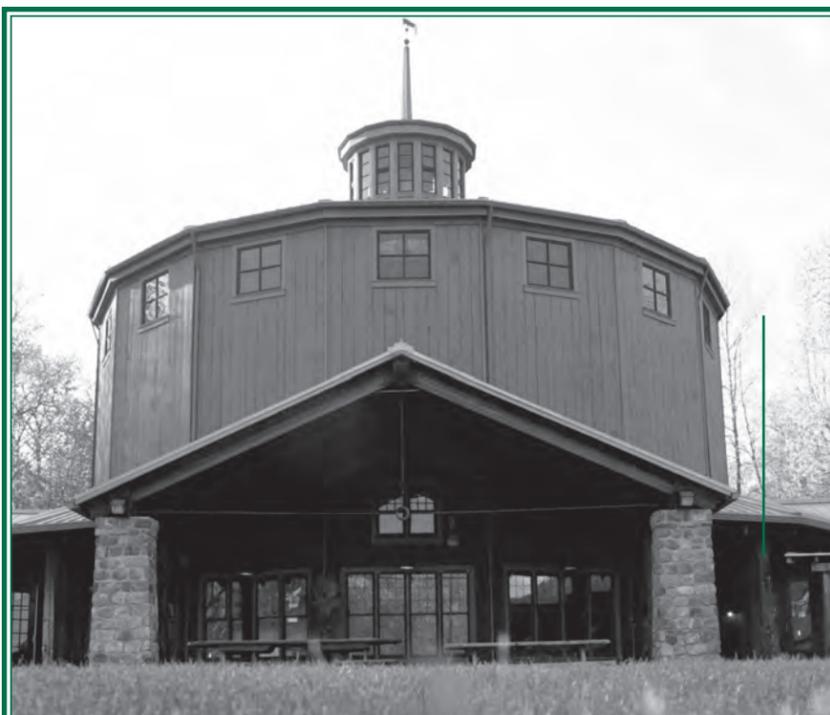
Kevin Duncan produced the Fandango (as he has done since 1994); James Naughton directed the performance (as he has done since 1998); and Wendy Stuart designed the costumes (as she has



Louise "Lulu" Crowley (center) receives Camp's "Most Wanted" award from Board Chair Raymond Lamontagne (left) and Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton. Photo by Bob Stone.

done since 1994). They were joined by Mary Mitchell Campbell, Annie Keefe, Rose Winters and a host of theatre professionals dedicated to the mission of Camp. Like each of the eighteen fall Galas before it, this year's event reflected

the hard work of performers, professionals, volunteers and friends of Camp alike. We are deeply grateful for the gifts of time and talent that made the Gala an exceptional day in support of our courageous youngsters.



Welcome New Legacy Society Members!

Daniel G. Jimenez
Kathy and Hank Kalt
Howard and Irene Kazuska

Richard D. Propper, M.D.
Michael J. Tomlinson
Dr. Morton Zivan

We are so pleased to honor our new Legacy Society members. These individuals made estate and endowment commitments in 2008 to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Leaving a legacy to Camp acknowledges your faith in our efforts to continue the mission of serving thousands of seriously ill children each year. We are most grateful.

To join the Legacy Society or for more information about planned giving, contact Mike Smiles at (203) 772-0522 or mike.smiles@holeinthewallgang.org.

A Hero's Journey

The Hero's Journey program is a seven-day, wilderness-based program for young adults whose lives have been impacted by a chronic or life-threatening illness. "This program provides its participants with the opportunity to experience difficult, real-world challenges in a context of Safety, Respect and Love," says Camp Director Matthew Cook.

As part of their experience, participants camped outdoors every night for a week in an area of Camp property separate from our regular summer program. They practiced low-impact camping skills, orienteering, search and rescue, and wilderness first aid. They faced an increasing level of challenge throughout the week, both individually and as a group, helping to foster interpersonal communication skills and leadership.

"Eric started out the week somewhat shy and nervous about his new surroundings," recalls Mark Dwyer, Program Coordinator for Hero's Journey. "He was particularly concerned about the campfire, but by the end of the week, he was able to help with preparing the fire and his awareness of the environment we were in was modeled by the other participants. His confidence level rose noticeably over the course of the week," says Mark.

Amy was a participant who had not spent any significant time in the woods before accepting her call to adventure during the Hero's Journey. "She made us take pictures

of her doing everything," smiles Mark. "Hiking, swimming in the river, cooking, and building the campfire – because she said her friends would never believe her when she told them about all the new experiences she had had."

"Some of these youngsters have come to Camp over the course of many years," notes Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton. "It was very moving to see them build their confidence level over the course of the week and take on the role of caregivers and helpers – given that they themselves had been the ones being cared for in the past."

All of the new skills developed on the Journey by our young adults were called upon during the final exercise known as the "Abyss." On the morning of Day Six, the group received an "emergency" radio call for help and sprang into action, participating in a mock rescue scenario made very real by the presence of the Connecticut State Police K-9 Search and Rescue Unit and Ashford Fire Department's ambulance and crew.

In the end, all of these experiences helped our young Heroes to see themselves as effective actors on the stage of their lives. The Hero's Journey seeks to give participants the opportunity for a rite of passage and, having had that experience, to raise their eyes to the horizon and ask the world, "What's next?"



Above: Hole in the Wall Heroes enjoy a hike in the woods at Camp as part of their Journey.



Left: The Hero's Journey program gives participants like Camper Julia a chance to measure themselves against real world challenges.

Caps off to Travelers

This summer saw the unveiling of the new, wheelchair-accessible Travelers Mini Golf Course at Camp. And the response from our campers has been loud and clear: Golf is an awesome sport!

Appropriately, the idea for a mini golf course at Camp took shape on a professional golf course with Travelers Chairman of the Board Jay Fishman, and Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Board Chair Ray Lamontagne – both golf enthusiasts and both men focused on the needs of our seriously ill campers. The mini golf course soon became a reality, thanks to a very generous grant of \$100,000 from Travelers.

Travelers has been a champion of Camp in many ways over the last few years, from its lead sponsorship of Camp's annual Fore a Very Good Cause golf tournament in Fairfield to

establishing the Camp as co-beneficiary of the Travelers Championship Golf Tournament that takes place each June in Cromwell.

At the program area's dedication this past spring, Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton saluted Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Travelers, and Marlene Ibsen, Travelers Director of Community Outreach, expressing thanks for Travelers' visionary partnership with Camp in supporting creative programming for our campers through the joy and gift of golf.

"The mini golf program allows us to revitalize this area of the Camp," observed Jimmy, "which has been dedicated to outdoor play. Thanks to Travelers, this area will now encompass outdoor golf for all campers, welcoming everyone with an equal opportunity to enjoy the game."



Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton is joined (left to right) by Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube, former camper and current Travelers employee Amanda Garbatini, and Travelers Chief Administrative Officer Andy F. Bessette in celebrating Camp's new mini golf course, a gift from Travelers. Photo by Bob Stone.

As Camp continues to develop the mini golf program, it will be adding additional architectural details – structures and obstacles that reflect the theme of Camp such

as the boat house, the dining hall, and the Wild West buildings – that will make the course even more challenging and fun, yet uniquely Camp's own.

A Hop, Skip and a Jump

By Ray Shedd



Above: New Haven, Connecticut's Hopkins School students participate in a unique fundraiser for Camp.

Right: Sanam Rastegar pictured (left to right) with Greens Farms Academy faculty members Jennifer Duncan, James Fitzpatrick and John Cissel, along with Camp friend and Advisor Ted Knetzger and Paul Newman.



Each year, more than 100 events organized and hosted by third parties generously support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and its mission. Perhaps even more remarkable is that a number of those events are created and run by young people who are inspired to help their peers by sending seriously ill children to Camp.

Last year, Sanam Rastegar, a freshman at the Hopkins School in New Haven, had a brilliant fundraising idea – jumping rope to raise funds. Sanam and fellow students gathered pledges and donations from friends, family members, and local businesses in the weeks preceding their rope-skipping fundraiser. Students challenged one another to “hop” for 3 minutes straight before passing the rope off to a fellow classmate. The event raised a phenomenal \$11,000 for our campers.

“Three years ago, I was introduced to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp through a Bike-A-Thon held at my old school Greens Farms Academy,” explains Sanam. “I never thought that, at age 12, I could make a difference in someone else’s life.”

Raising funds to send four kids to Camp was very satisfying for her. When Sanam had the opportunity to meet Hole in the Wall campers, she was moved to see how much Camp meant to them. “Once I went to my new school, Hopkins School,” she says, “I knew I had to continue contributing to Camp. I created the Hop-A-Thon and I am hoping for it to continue annually. It is hard to express how amazing helping so many people can be!”

Over the past two years, the Hopkins School Hop-A-Thon has raised a total of nearly \$30,000, enough to send twelve campers to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp free of charge! We are so grateful to Sanam and fellow Hopkins students for their compassion and commitment to the brave and beautiful children whom we serve. Sanam hopes to continue to grow the event in coming years.

“I never thought that, at age 12, I could make a difference in someone else’s life.”

STARS IN THE SKY SOCIETY

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Alumni

Rising Stars

One of the strengths of Camp is that, although our overall mission and focus remains unchanged, we have continually sought ways to enhance our offerings to best serve the needs of our campers. In recent years, Camp recognized the growing need to reach out to former campers who are now entering young adulthood and former staff who have all helped shape Camp into the thriving program it is today. Late last year, the Stars in the Sky Society Alumni Association began to take shape.

“The intent of the Stars in the Sky Society is to rekindle old friendships and create opportunities for former

campers and staff, 18 years and older, to remain an active part of our growing Camp community,” says Sarah Eio Smithson, Director of Alumni Affairs.

What better symbol of Camp connection could have been chosen than the wonderful lyrics sung by our campers around the campfire year after year? *Stars in the Sky, Stars in the Sky, Bring the summer right back to me.* “It is our hope that through newsletters, regional gatherings, and the launch of the alumni social networking website, we can help to keep alumni connected to Hole in



Mallory Cyr, former camper and Alumni Committee Member and Jo Senecal, Camp volunteer counselor

the Wall and the sense of joy they felt while here at Camp,” says Sarah.

The program has enjoyed a warm reception on the part of former campers and staff alike. Alumni Committee Member Mallory observes, “Being a member of The Stars in the Sky Society has helped me stay connected to people I grew close with at Camp. That special bond can’t be created anywhere else, and I am so glad I don’t have to lose it just because I’m no longer a camper. I’m thrilled to have the

opportunity to be involved in planning events and working on ways so that other people can maintain their Camp relationships as well!”

Camp has played an important part in the lives of all our alumni, campers and staff, teaching Safety, Respect, and Love. It is that Camp Spirit we want to continue to bring to our alumni no matter where life has taken them after leaving Camp. For more information about the alumni program and how you can get involved, contact Sarah at sarah.smithson@holeinthewallgang.org.

Too much mail? Duplicate mailings?

Let us know. We are happy to accommodate your mailing wishes. Call our office at (203) 772-0522 or email newhaven@holeinthewallgang.org.

Our Policy on Donor Names

It is important that our donors and friends know that The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp never sells or shares its donor names and addresses. This policy reflects our commitment as a charity to maintain the highest integrity in order to protect and insure privacy while building a personal relationship with each donor.

A Top Team Performer

New Canaan resident Mike Havard had run the ING New York City Marathon prior to 2004, but in that year, he decided to use his participation in the race to generate funds to send campers to Camp. His fundraising efforts brought in close to \$40,000 for our campers!

Mike's enthusiasm was contagious. He was soon the captain of a team of 40 runners, all with the goal of raising funds for Camp. Together, they raised a whopping \$150,000! As the number of team members grew, so did the number of team events. Today, Team Hole in the Wall features 570 members taking part in a dozen events.

Last year, Mike decided to raise funds to send one child to each camp in the Hole in the Wall family. He raised \$44,000, making him the team's top performer. "One of the things I find so compelling about the Team," explains Mike, "is the application to all the camps no matter where you are in the world.



Mike Havard (left) joins videographer John Rice of Above the Line, who generously donated his time and resources to create the new Team Hole in the Wall video.

Whether you are running in Chicago, Berlin, New York or L.A., there is a camp that serves seriously ill children that is not far away. And the act of training and running 26.2 miles to send a child to camp is itself a universally compelling idea that reaches across any country and any border." With dedicated friends like Mike Havard, the magic of Camp can reach around the globe.



Holiday Tribute Cards

Celebrate the holidays with a full-color, 5"x7" tribute card from Camp. Give us your recipient list and we'll do the rest, sending each recipient an attractive, personalized card featuring camper artwork indicating that a gift to Camp was made in their honor. Minimum gift is \$10. Or consider underwriting the cost of a campership – \$2,500 – in honor of someone special. To participate, contact Pete McBride at (203) 772-0522 or email pete.mcbride@holeinthewallgang.org. Our holiday card order form is also available online at holeinthewallgang.org. Your gift will help a seriously ill child make memories to last a lifetime!

Gearing up for Summer 2009

Volunteer and staff applications for summer 2009 will be available in December. Camp begins accepting applications after January 1. All summer (salaried) staff positions will fill up quickly thereafter. To print an application or to learn more about summer volunteer and staff opportunities, please visit holeinthewallgang.org.

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.

Through our Camp programs, year-round outreach to seriously ill youngsters in hospitals and clinics, and ongoing services for children, families and care givers, the Camp serves more than 15,000 annually. All of our services are provided free of charge.

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

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Visit our web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org

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.



A Tribute to Our Friend and Founder, Paul Newman

PAGE 1

Fall 2008

2008 FALL GAZETTE | 8

"I just happen to think that in life we need to be a little like the farmer, who puts back into the soil what he takes out."
 —Paul Newman



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