



a Hole in the Wall Campsm

I Am Because We Are

By Matthew Cook, Camp Director

Summer 2011 at Camp was characterized by the African concept of Ubuntu, defined by Nelson Mandela as: "I am because we are." This theme celebrated our connectedness and shared commitment to living each moment dedicated to Camp's core values of Safety, Respect and Love.

At our opening campfire at Session Five, I asked, as I often do, who had

been to Camp before and invited those campers to share why they were excited to be back. The inevitable answers came: "To swim in the pool." "To catch a fish." "To play my clarinet at Stage Night."

Then one girl said, "Because it feels good to be with people who understand what it's like for me to be dealing with my illness." With that, a bond began to form – because every child around the campfire had individually felt the isolation underlying her statement. *I am not alone because we are not alone.*

This summer, New Haven band Mean Carlene played their hearts out for us. Their music energized Camp. In the theater, 200 joyful campers and counselors danced and sang with abandon. *I am joyful because we are joyful.*

Checking on our oldest campers in Adventure one session, I spoke with a young man preparing to climb the Tower. He put on his helmet. Then he bent down and removed his prosthetic leg.

"Are you doing that to make the experience more challenging?" I asked.

"No," he answered matter-of-factly. "I think it's just going to get in the way."

With that, he hopped over to the Tower, climbed to the top and

zipped to the cheers of his Unit. *I am courageous because we are courageous.*

All the highlights of a successful summer, however, pale in comparison to the stories of two of our 2011 campers – a little boy, age eight, and a young lady, age 15. Both battled cancer for years. Both experienced friendship, joy and freedom during their session. And both died within a week of returning home from Camp.

In speaking with the boy's father shortly after his son's passing, I was reminded of how critically important Camp is for our campers and their families. Like all our camper parents, this boy's parents trusted us to give their son an experience he could not have enjoyed elsewhere. They selflessly gave up a week of being with their son so he could live out that experience. They took it on faith that this Camp experience would be exactly what their boy needed.... It was.

I've heard it said that Camp is not a noun but a verb. Camp happens. Those of us who make Camp happen know it is much more than a good time or dream come true. It is critically important in the lives of the children we serve. I am grateful for each magic moment that we lived and created with all of our campers this summer.



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Director Matthew Cook

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What's New at Camp

Celebrity sightings at Camp this summer included actress Bridget Moynahan of CBS's prime time TV show *Blue Bloods*, and PGA Tour Golf Champion Bubba Watson. Bridget climbed the Tower with our Blue Unit campers, while Bubba joined us for lunch and a special Camp tour. Bubba is the 2010 winner of the Travelers Championship – an exceptional golfing event that takes place each year in Cromwell, Conn., and has raised more than \$1,175,000 in support of Camp's mission since 2007.

Share the love – view our Best of Summer 2011 video and the other great videos in our library at www.holeinthewallgang.org/summer2011.

This holiday season, recognize clients, family and friends with Camp's holiday tribute cards. Featuring camper artwork, Camp's holiday cards let you make a donation to Camp on behalf of others. An order form is located at www.holeinthewallgang.org/holidaycard.

In addition, Camp offers holiday giving opportunities for corporations looking for a way to recognize valued clients through a significant gift to Camp. For more information, see www.holeinthewallgang.org/corporholidaygiving.



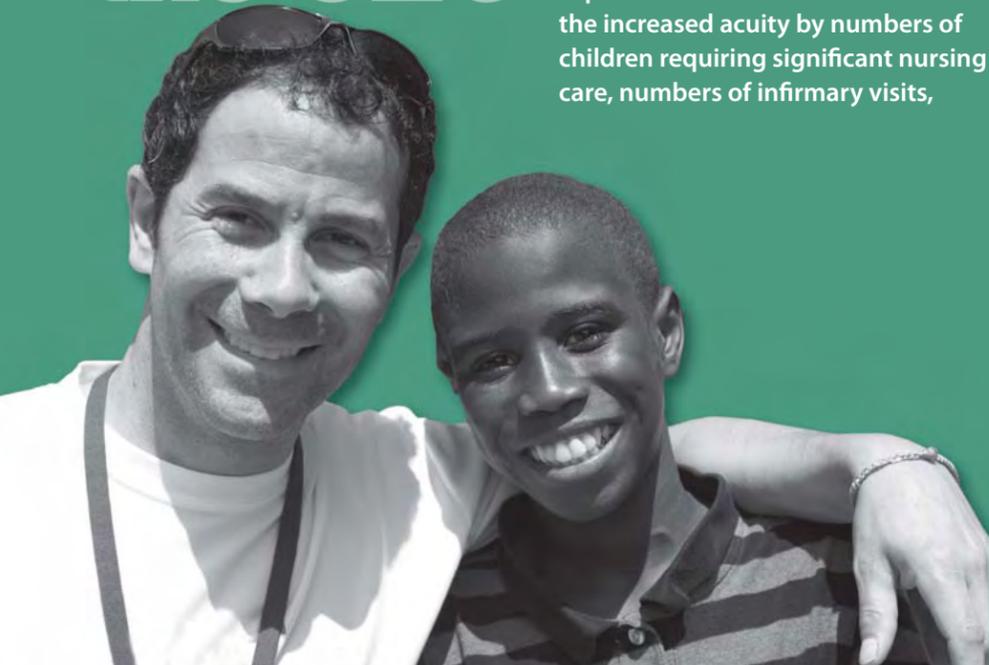
Above left: 2010 Travelers Championship Champ Bubba Watson enjoyed his visit to Camp.

Right: Actress Bridget Moynahan visited Camp this summer and climbed the Tower with the Blue Unit.

Above: Our Holiday Tribute Card features camper artwork and lets you make a donation to Camp on behalf of recipients.



From the CEO



For the past several years, Camp has increased its commitment to serve more acutely ill children. Summer 2011 pushed our capabilities even further. We measure the increased acuity by numbers of children requiring significant nursing care, numbers of infirmary visits,

numbers of non-ambulatory campers and numbers of campers sleeping, out of necessity, in the infirmary. Our infirmary staff is in a constant state of balancing increased care with the requisite living space for additional medical staff. As a result of this past summer, we will add housing for more nurses and doctors and plan on modifying our infirmary to accommodate more campers and those who care for them.

Our summer program, this year serving 1,070 children, will always remain at the center of our programming. What new friends are surprised to hear, however, is that we serve more campers and their families in fall and spring programs

than we do in the summer, and our Hospital Outreach Program continues to increase service in new hospitals. Altogether, Camp will serve more than 2,500 seriously ill children and their families on-site, and more than 15,000 off-site in 20 hospital locations.

As we look forward to celebrating our 25th summer next year, we are grateful for the support that has brought us to this point in Camp's history. We thank you for believing in the mission of Camp and helping us to bring joy, healing and friendship to thousands of seriously ill children craving acceptance, support and the opportunity to just be normal.

Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton with a 2011 camper

Thanks to Our 2010 Volunteers!

We celebrate the hundreds of volunteers who helped to make 2010 an exceptional year for Camp and our campers.

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Phil Gauvin
Susan Gerr
Janice Gregory
John Jaworski
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Lorrie Kubicek
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Craig Naumec
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Arthur Simoes
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Aaron Weiss, DO

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Session Eight
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Session Nine
Howard Pearson, MD

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Nicole Kucine, MD

Session Three
Sarah Teasdale, MD

Session Four
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Session Five
Abby Gross

Session Six
Abby Gross
Nicole DeVincenzo, MD

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Justine Zoeller, RN

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Blanca Johnson, RN
Joyce Manning, RN
Marie Parks, RN

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High School
North Stonington
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Sasha Zatyarka
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Janice Zink



Volunteer counselor Andrew Creighton and camper



Longtime Camp volunteers Amy Barker and Patsy Shawver

Thanks to our 2010 Team Members

Our thanks go out to our team members who helped make 2010 a successful year for Team Hole in the Wall.

Mrs. Donna Abbott
Rich Abbott
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Mr. Jeff Smith



Team Hole in the Wall Member
Daisy Kosack at the ING New York
City Marathon.

Team Hole in the Wall Member
Jessica Smith at the ING New York
City Marathon.

Team Hole in the Wall Member
Kathryn Urbanowski at the ING New York
City Marathon.

Team Hole in the Wall Member
Michael Urbanowski at the ING New York
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Jessica Smith at the ING New York
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City Marathon.



Team Hole in the Wall
cyclist and
Aetna Foundation
Vice President
Chris Montross
in the Camp
Challenge
Ride.



Left: Like many of our Hospital Outreach Specialists, Elke Perez draws on her experience as a former camper in working with families. Elke is pictured here (back row, far right) with a family at one of our Hospital Outreach sites in New York City.

Below: Aetna volunteers gather for the camera before preparing the cabins for more summer campers.

Hospital Outreach on the GO

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

Hospital Outreach Program Specialist Elke Perez is a former camper, and like most of our Specialists, found time in her busy schedule working with hospitalized children to volunteer for a session at Camp this past summer. She works with our New York City Hospital Outreach Program team and is a licensed social worker.

Elke first came to Camp as a camper 20 years ago. "At first, I was really confused," she recalled. "It took me awhile to take it all in – that there were other people with the same illness I had, that there really was a heated pool where I could swim and not get sick. I was waiting for someone to come and say I had been dreaming it all. It meant so much to me not to stand out, not to be different in a way that others couldn't understand. At Camp, everyone 'got it' and no explanation was needed. I could just be a kid and play."

Later, as a counselor, "what drew me back to Camp," said Elke, "was getting to be one of the people who makes that great feeling happen for someone else."

Elke served as a summer counselor at Camp for four years and has volunteered nearly every year since. Working as a Hospital Outreach Specialist, said Elke, now allows her to "spread the joy, fun and childlike spirit of Camp" all year long.

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

- ★ This summer, Camp's Hospital Outreach Program offered a pilot, day-camp experience at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, gaining new knowledge and expertise in how to bring such a program to clinical sites in the future.
- ★ Hospital Outreach Program Director Mary Naumec is interviewing to fill Outreach Specialist openings in Boston, Connecticut and New York that will bring the total number of our Hospital Outreach Specialist staff to 18.
- ★ Today, more than half of our Hospital Outreach Specialists are former campers.



Sheriff's Spotlight

A Shout-Out to our dedicated corporate partners.

Aetna's Helping Hands

Aetna volunteers played a critical role readying Camp for our eager campers before the 2011 summer sessions.

In all, 230 employees from Aetna's Hartford Volunteer Council helped out by making beds, washing buildings, preparing vehicles, cleaning the pool, delivering cabin supplies, organizing activity areas and landscaping gardens.

"Aetna employees have provided more than 18,750 volunteer hours since this partnership began in 2009," reported Denise Zachmann, Chairman of Aetna's Hartford Volunteer Council. "We look forward to attending more Helping Hands Workdays in the months to come to help the Camp prepare for its year-round programs," she said.

"Aetna volunteers are proud to support the work of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp," added Floyd Green, Head of Community Relations and Urban Marketing at Aetna, Inc. "Aetna employees take a very hands-on approach with assisting our community partners, and it is a unique privilege to impact the Camp in this special way." To date, Aetna has contributed more than \$550,000 to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp to help expand the Camp Challenge Ride to five associated camps across the United States. Additionally, more than 70 cyclists from Team Aetna Riders participated in the events, supported by dozens of Aetna volunteers.

For more information on The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Corporate Partners Program, please contact Ray Shedd, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, at ray.shedd@holeinthewallgang.org or visit our website at www.holeinthewallgang.org.

Camper Corral

Stories from our campers and former campers.

Kingdar Prussein

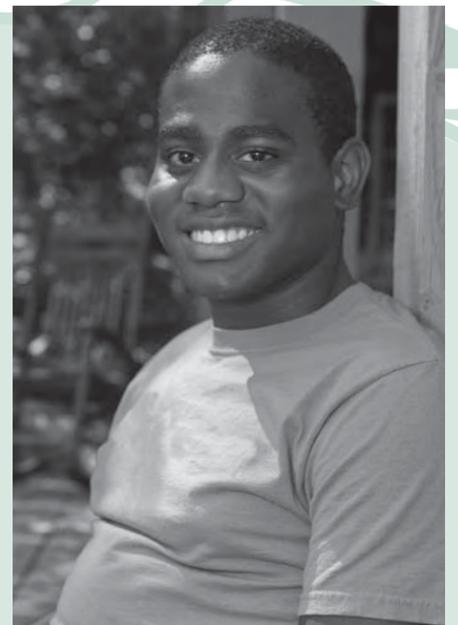
After spending Summer 2011 at Camp as Unit Leader in the Blue Unit, Kingdar boarded a plane for California to begin his first year at Stanford Law School. While at Camp this summer, King shared how moved he was by the insights of some of his campers. He explained how one boy described his illness, sickle cell anemia. "It was how he said it," recalls King. "His combination of innocence and introspection – that really stood out to me."

King's camper told his cabin mates, "I get sick because some of my cells are shaped funny and they don't fit in my blood, so that's why I go get treatment..." Then he paused, and added, "...and that's why I'm here. So I guess it's OK."

A former camper himself, King added: "When you are sick with a serious illness, you are in and out of the hospital. Even coming home to your own bed feels temporary. Camp sometimes feels more like home than home does. It's where

you can feel comfortable. Where things stay the same. Coming to Camp feels like coming home for me and, I can only believe, for many of the campers and counselors who come here, too."

Along with one-third of our summer counselors, Blue Unit Leader Kingdar Prussein is a former camper, making Camp magic happen for a new generation of seriously ill children. We congratulate Kingdar on his accomplishments and wish him the best as he begins his first year at Stanford Law School.





Longtime Camp friend Alec Baldwin, top, joined us for this year's Gala at Camp and did a smashing job as our celebrity auctioneer. Here, he joins (left to right) Hole in the Wall Gang Camp CEO Jimmy Canton, a former camper and Board Member Lynn Fusco. Board Member Melissa Newman continued her father's legacy by giving a beautiful performance of "Love Me Like a Man" at our September Gala Fandango.

Our Events

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

This year's Gala was held September 17 at the Camp in Ashford, Conn., and featured a true "love-in" – from classic 60s songs and costumes on-stage to the outstanding generosity of our Camp friends, who raised an unprecedented \$1,552,405 for our campers. The afternoon featured a cocktail party with live music by Mean Carlene and a live auction presided over with skill and humor by longtime Camp friend Alec Baldwin. Camp's Most Wanted Award recipients, Jane and Bob Coppia, were recognized for their extraordinary philanthropic leadership and Camp love. The evening featured an incomparable Fandango performance by celebrity friends and campers, and buffet dinner with live music by swing band Hot Cat Jazz.

Comedian, actress and talk show host Whoopi Goldberg led a star-studded Fandango cast, including Cheyenne Jackson, Bridget Moynahan, Melissa Newman, Tim Robbins and Lillias White, as well as our talented Hole in the Wall campers: Yarrell Ametewee, Devir Carrera, Vanessa Cunha, Andrew DiGiovanni, Rachael Duncan, Jocelyn Gentile, Cameron Greenwood, Eric Johnson, Roxie Kubis, Halle Middleton, Candice Reed and Zak Stengel.

Special thanks go to Board Member James Naughton, who has directed the performance since 1998, and Kevin Duncan, who has produced the Fandango since 1994. They were joined by Production Supervisor Janet Beroza, Production Stage Manager Annie Keefe and Stage Manager Robin Kevrick Baker, Musical Directors Mary-Mitchell Campbell, Laura Bergquist and Chris Haberl, MMC, and by these talented stage professionals: Zoë Hanson, Polly Wood-Holland, JoAnn M. Hunter, Carol Ingram and our Fandango Orchestra.

As this issue of our Gazette went to press, Camp's Annual Halloween Bash in New York City was scheduled to take place October 22. Each year, this family friendly event features a private performance of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center for donors, campers and their families. Campers and their families attend free of charge. A post-Circus party at the Hard Rock Cafe-LIVE Venue in Times Square was planned, complete with children's activities, dinner buffet and live performances by Tony Award Winners John Lloyd Young and Lillias White.

Be sure to save the date for our Founder's Day celebration at Westport Country Playhouse on January 26, 2012. Details coming soon.

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

Team Update

Catch up on Team News

Team Hole in the Wall launched its new blog (<http://blog.teamholeinthewall.org>) this past September as a resource for a growing online community. Here, users can find team news and announcements, information on upcoming events, training tips, fundraising ideas, and Camp videos, stories and updates. Visitors can subscribe via email or RSS feed and engage in the community by leaving comments on posts and asking questions of fellow members or Team Hole in the Wall staff.

Initial posts featured Team Challenge Member Mari Arnaud, who hiked the Long Trail and used her hiking adventure to raise funds for Camp. The oldest long-distance trail in the United States, the Long Trail runs 272 miles from southern Vermont to the Canadian border. The 24-day journey challenged Mari both physically and mentally, and her efforts resulted in nearly \$14,000 in

donations to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Team Challenge is an exciting Team Hole in the Wall registration option that provides individuals like Mari with the opportunity to create their own events – anything from lemonade stands and penny drives to golf tournaments and hikes.

Mari explained her motivation for raising funds through the Team Challenge this way, "The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is one of my favorite places on the planet..." she wrote, "Just as I return from my hikes with renewed inner reserves to meet life's challenges, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp fortifies its kids with happy memories, and the strength and courage they need to face their difficulties." You can read more from Mari on the Team Hole in the Wall Blog at <http://blog.teamholeinthewall.org/longtrail>. Or, see her Twitter updates and photos sent from the Long Trail at www.twitter.com/MarisHITWhike.

Team Hole in the Wall can be found at the following sites:



flickr™ YouTube

"There's no shortage of deserving causes, but I just can't find a better one than The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp."

Camp Challenge Ride
Cyclist Charles Collison,
age 81



Registration is now open for many team events. Please visit www.teamholeinthewall.org for more information.

Above: Charles Collison participated in the Camp Challenge Ride at the Camp in Ashford, Conn. The event raised nearly \$200,000 for Camp.

Team Member Mari Arnaud (below) hiked the Long Trail to benefit Camp.

Team Hole in the Wall 2012 Event Calendar

New York City Half Marathon	March 18
MORE/Fitness Women's Half Marathon	April 15
Boston Marathon	April 16
Five Boro Bike Tour	May 6
AngelRide	May 26-27
Fairfield Road Race (5K & Half Marathon)	June 23-24
Ironman US Championship	August 11
New York City Triathlon	August 24
Camp Challenge Ride	September 8
ING New York City Marathon	November 5
Team Challenge	Ongoing



TEAM
Hole in the Wall®

Saddle Up for Camp

Camp is at the epicenter of a caring community. Our gratitude goes out to all who host and organize fundraising events in support of Camp's mission.

Our Boston Community

For 17 years, Boston area support for Camp has been driven by the Crowley family and Ken's Food, Inc. through the successful Boston Big Top Bash. This year, that same generous spirit spread to more Boston area community leaders who volunteered their time, good will and passion for Camp to produce an array of exciting fundraising events.

Camp is grateful for funding provided by Boston community events organized by dedicated individuals like camper parent and Caron-Wood Charity Golf Classic Tournament Director Marcy LeBlanc.

"As parents, we cannot begin to describe what Camp has done for us," said Marcy. "We felt like we had finally found a home. As they say at Camp, 'You may leave Camp, but it never leaves you.'" Together with her husband Dave, Marcy LeBlanc connected with Cape Cod professional golfers and tournament founders Jason Caron and Carri Wood to present the tournament's inaugural year for Camp. The event

raised \$32,000 for Camp and featured Boston sports celebrities.

The Varsity Fund is a Boston-based group of young professionals working to raise funds for our Boston Hospital Outreach Program. Their First Annual Winter H.O.P. at the Grand Circle Gallery in February was filled with tremendous energy and enthusiasm for Camp. Also on The Varsity Fund agenda was their Halloween H.O.P. party at Boston's Mandarin Oriental Hotel on October 28. "Seeing just one child smile, seeing them forget about their illness... that is what motivates our tireless group, The Varsity Fund," said Brandon Smith. "Camp is a special place that recognizes that the patient is not the only member of the family affected by a disease."

Additional Boston fundraising events this year included The Big Game Battle – a fishing tournament held on Nantucket Island; Camp Cuts – a hair-cutting extravaganza hosted by photographer and South End personality Izzy Berdan; and The Prasco Charity Stripe Challenge – a basketball-shot fundraiser at TD Garden.

To learn more about our community events or how to organize your own event, please contact Michael Hund at michael.hund@holeinthewallgang.org or (203) 772-0522.



Caron-Wood Charity Golf Classic's Marcy LeBlanc and Jason Caron (center and second from right) with Camp staff Ryan Thompson (far left), Matthew Cook (second from left) and Michael Hund (far right).



Varsity Fund members were joined by Hole in the Wall Gang Camp staff Maria Gomez (back row, far left), Michael Hund (back row, far right) and Camp's Hospital Outreach Supervisor/Specialist Kevin Rice (front row, second from right.)

Pardner Profile

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



Kevin Magee

This year, Kevin Magee celebrated 20 years of successfully stewarding the finances of Camp in his management role as The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Chief Financial Officer. He is also a dedicated volunteer counselor in Camp's signature summer program.

A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Kevin holds a B.S. in accounting and is a member of the

Left: Camp's CFO Kevin Magee celebrates 20 years with The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Right: An avid fisherman, Kevin enjoys sharing the pleasure and excitement of boating and fishing with our campers – many of whom catch their first fish off the dock at Pearson Pond.

AICPA and the CSCPA. "How fortunate we are at Camp to have someone like Kevin," said Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Canton. "Kevin's selfless example as a consistent volunteer in the summer

and off-season programs inspires all of his colleagues. And his unwavering attention to financial matters ensures that Camp stewards the gifts it has been given to maximize its full healing potential."



Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a nonprofit, year-round center serving children and their families coping with cancer, sickle cell anemia, and other serious illnesses. Through summer sessions and family weekend programs at the Camp in Ashford, Conn., and year-round outreach to hospitals and clinical sites throughout the Northeast, the Camp will serve more than 17,500 children in 2011. All services are free of charge.

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

Contributors: Matthew Cook, Michael Hund, David MacNiven, Ray Shedd. Photography: Craig Naumec, T. Charles Erickson, Casey Mandell, Bob Stone, Kenneth Stone, Sherry Talley. Editor: Willow Ann Sirch. Design: Angell House Design. *The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Gazette* is published by The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, Inc. © 2011 The Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, Inc. All rights reserved.

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James H. Canton, *Chief Executive Officer*
Kevin M. Magee, *Chief Financial Officer*
Sharon Space, MD, *Medical Director*
Matthew Cook, *Camp Director*



Comedian, actress and talk show host Whoopi Goldberg performed with our talented campers at the Gala Fandango performance held at Camp in September. See inside this issue for more about our Gala and the many celebrities who helped make it an outstanding experience for our donors and Camp friends.



a Hole in the Wall Campsm

**Camp welcomed
a host of famous
faces during the
summer and
fall. Take a look
inside...**

a Hole in the Wall Campsm



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