Undeniably Paul Newman
A Daughter’s Reflection

Board Member Lissy Newman, who continues her father’s legacy at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, reveals a secret about Camp’s Founder and the common ground that he shared with the campers.

One of the things that I think my father hated about being famous was the constant scrutiny. I would imagine that this is not an unusual feeling if you are a celebrity. For some, it may be a simple annoyance; for others, a real constraint.

I can remember being chased by paparazzi through the streets of Paris so tenaciously that we had to abandon our plans and sneak back to our hotel. I remember family meals at restaurants interrupted by an unending barrage of press – some of it insightful, some woefully misguided. And then there were the tabloids, like biting flies, obsessed with nastiness and provocation. I think my father took most of this in stride, as much as a human person can. But I also think it left him with a profound understanding of what it means to be misunderstood.

I told him once that I imagined being him was like standing behind a billboard cutout so large that no one could really see you. I always think that the run-of-the-mill star attributes that were ascribed to him were shallow in comparison to who he really was. They glossed over so many things that he deeply cared about and was proud of. He understood what it was like to have people make assumptions about you based on little or no information. And I imagine that his ability to connect with campers at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp had a little bit to do with that.

It makes sense that he wanted to create a place where kids who might feel some of the same sort of scrutiny and misunderstanding would have a place - a private place, a wonderful place - where they could remember who they are and then be that person with abandon. And they would have lots of company.

I’ll tell you a secret about my Dad ... He was a wacky guy. He liked goofy hats and crazy ideas. He liked inventing things with wire and duct tape, and building noisy, clattering sculptures out of silverware in fancy restaurants. Know how I know these things? Because he had grandchildren, and I watched him hang out for hours and paled in comparison to who he was. They glossed over so many things that he deeply cared about and was proud of. He understood what it was like to have people make assumptions about you based on little or no information. And I imagine that his ability to connect with campers at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp had a little bit to do with that.

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And next fall, CPTV will premiere a documentary profiling The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and featuring an interview with Founder Paul Newman. The documentary “Genesis,” which was produced by Camp several years ago and tells the story of its creation, will also be broadcast this spring.

The documentary “Philanthropy,” a one-hour CPTV re-air of “The Power of Giving: Philanthropy,” is currently being filmed about the evolution of the Camp experiment that later became known as HOP. A decade later, this experiment of bringing the fun and friendship of Camp to hospitalized children has grown to a staff of 20 now visiting 26 locations throughout the Northeast.

In January, Camp launched the first online “Healing Feeling” story, which is part of a series honoring Camp’s 25th anniversary celebration. The first profile shares the unforgettable friendship of Hannah and Janis, who formed a special bond at Camp during the last two years that has allowed them to experience “a different kind of healing.” In the video, the campers and their mothers recall the spontaneous moment when Janis connected with a reserved Hannah and how the two have become best friends as they cope with mitochondrial disease together. The story of Hannah and Janis and other “Healing Feeling” stories are on our web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org.

In 2013, The Hero’s Journey Program will host three “Hero’s Quest” weekend retreats at Camp. Designed to complement the summer program’s five weeklong wilderness excursions for teens and young adults, these new, off-season Hero’s Quest retreats will enable recent participants and alumni to reconnect with their peers, discuss life challenges and confront perceived limitations through adventure-based activities.

What’s New at Camp

This fall, Camp kicked off an exciting partnership with Connecticut Public Television (CPTV), a locally and nationally recognized media service of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network. Throughout Camp’s yearlong 25th anniversary celebration, CPTV is featuring special programming that recognizes Camp’s contributions to bringing joy to seriously ill children and their families. In October, CPTV re-aired “The Power of Giving: Philanthropy,” a one-hour CPTV documentary profiling The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and featuring an interview with Founder Paul Newman. The documentary “Genesis,” which was produced by Camp several years ago and tells the story of its creation, will also be broadcast this spring.

And next fall, CPTV will premiere a comprehensive 25th anniversary documentary that is currently being filmed about the evolution of the Camp’s services. Throughout the year, CPTV is also sharing the magic of Camp by airing a series of PSAs produced by Camp’s pro bono friends at Grey Group. Stay tuned!

In December, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center honored The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp’s Hospital Outreach Program (HOP) and staff for a 10-year partnership with the hospital’s Division of Child and Family Support Services. In 2002, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center was the first-ever hospital visited by a Camp staff member in a then mobile, year-round Camp experiment that later became known as HOP. A decade later, this experiment of bringing the fun and friendship of Camp to hospitalized children has grown to a staff of 20 now visiting 26 locations throughout the Northeast.

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Throughout Camp’s yearlong celebration, we will be sharing the magic of Camp to hospitalized children in a series of PSAs throughout the Northeast, and we will also be sharing stories on our web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org. These stories will be shared on our web site at www.holeinthewallgang.org.

First and foremost, we were fortunate to have the vision and commitment of an extraordinary Founder. We have an exceptionally engaged and caring Board of Directors and a loyal, growing base of supporters. Camp also has strong human resources, attracting hundreds of compassionate, joyful and responsible staff members and volunteers. But most importantly, Camp has the privilege of making a positive, healing difference in the lives of thousands of seriously ill children and family members every year. And the greatest gift we have been given is the faith that our parents, guardians and health care professionals place in us.

To all of you who believe in Camp’s mission, I want to say thank you. We will continue to do all we can to bring “a different kind of healing” and a little bit of mischief to the brave and beautiful children we are so privileged to serve.

From the CEO

A few years ago, as we contemplated how best to celebrate Camp’s 25th Anniversary, we all agreed that we did not simply want to recognize past accomplishments. We wanted to present a vision for the future. What was Camp’s calling for the next 25 years?

This past December, after two years of reflection, planning and discussion, Camp’s Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan. In this exciting next chapter of Camp’s story, we will extend our hand to serve more deeply those we already serve, while at the same time looking to expand more broadly our reach to more seriously ill children throughout the Northeast.

In 1988, Camp welcomed 288 campers. In 2012, Camp served more than 20,000 seriously ill children and family members.

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Thanks to Our 2012 Volunteers

We celebrate the hundreds of volunteers who helped make 2012 an exceptional year for Camp and our campers.

And a special THANK YOU to all of our camp parents!
The Boston team lent its support to the Greater Boston Sickle Cell Disease Association’s 18th Annual Christmas Party and the annual WinterFest at Mass General. The 20 members of the Hospital Outreach Team participated in our annual Wellness Retreat in January. One new Hospital Outreach Specialist joined the Central New England team in mid-February.

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

Former Camper Zach Steinhorn

As a 14-year-old camper back in 1998, Zach Steinhorn teamed up with Camp Clown Noodle to write a song about the biggest baseball story of that summer: Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa’s chase towards baseball’s single-season home-run record. Nine years later, Zach landed a job at MLB.com in New York City, where he still works today. He now spends much of his time during the baseball season lending his fantasy-baseball expertise to panicked fantasy-team owners who write in to the site’s Fantasy 411 blog.

A life-long resident of Manhattan, Zach has always treasured his time at Camp, where he would spend a week away from the intensity of the fast-paced city. As a production assistant to the Fantasy 411 show, main writer-gatekeeper of the Fantasy 411 blog and contributing writer for other areas of the MLB.com site, Zach feels fortunate to be doing what he loves to do and credits Camp with helping him develop the sense of independence that made these accomplishments possible.

“Camp gave me the opportunity to have a space to share my feelings as a childhood cancer survivor while at the same time allowing me to push aside and focus on having a sleep-away camp experience like any other kid my age,” said Zach. “As it was my first prolonged time away from home, it gave me an invaluable sense of independence that I could take back home with me.”

Through his five summers at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and one session as a Leader in Training, Zach always valued the nightly cabin chats, where he felt at ease sharing his experiences with other campers just like him. He looks forward to returning to Camp in May for the 25th Birthday Party, where he will get the chance to reunite with some familiar faces. However, he is quick to give credit where credit is due when it comes to celebrating this milestone in Camp’s history.

“Camp’s 25th anniversary is a testament to the commitment and mission that Paul Newman had for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp,” said Zach.
Our Events
Highlights of our latest benefit events and those to come...

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp’s 2012 event season came to a downy close with the 21st Annual Halloween Bash in New York City on Saturday, October 27th. More than 1,300 campers, camper families, summer staff, volunteers and Camp friends attended a private performance of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center. Dressed as superheroes, goblins and princesses, campers and their families roamed the Big Top prior to the show and enjoyed getting their faces painted and receiving their own red-ball clown noses. More than 350 donors and their children then trick-or-treated and danced the night away during the Halloween-themed post-Circus dinner reception held at the Hard Rock Café in Times Square. Broadway stars Wesley Taylor and Lindsay Mendez wove the crowd with live musical performances, including “The Wizard and F’ronn Wicked” and “Colors of the Wind” from “Pocahontas.” Camper Cameron Meriott brought guests to their feet as he shared how Camp’s programs have impacted him.

"Camp has always been my most wonderful time of the year," he said. "I feel free there to be who I am. I am known to be a kid who will try anything, and at Camp, I can live up to that reputation. Every year, I count the days, hours and minutes until I get to Camp. The counselors are one of the main reasons I love Camp. They give everything to the campers — their time, their excitement and their love. I hope to be a counselor one day.”

Thanks to lead sponsors American Packaging Corp. and LiDestri Foods, as well as the support of hundreds of donors, the Halloween Bash raised more than $1 million to support The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Camp Benefit Events 2013

12th Annual Polo for Children Benefit
Greenwich, CT-June 9
Spend this family-friendly afternoon with the Camper community on the grounds of the Greenwich Polo Club. This fun-filled event features a variety of activities. The afternoon concludes with a high-goal luncheon, and silent and live auctions, with a picnic party planned for children in attendance featuring a variety of activities. The afternoon concludes with a high-goal polo match.

11th Annual “Fore a Very Good Cause” Golf Tournament
Fairfield, CT-September 3
Our annual golf tournament, held at the Country Club of Fairfield, features a gourmet brunch followed by a round of 18 holes overlooking the Long Island Sound. Participants enjoy an evening dinner reception where outing prizes are awarded and a variety of auction items are up for bid.

Bandits in the Big Apple
25th Anniversary Celebration
New York City-September 30
The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is celebrating 25 years of “a different kind of healing,” Big Apple style! The festivities will include a live performance featuring celebrity friends and The Hole in the Wall Gang Campers at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60th Street, New York City. A pre-show cocktail party and post-show dinner reception will bookend this celebratory and momentous evening.

22nd Annual Halloween Bash
New York, NY-October
Join The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp family for a private afternoon performance of the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center, followed by a Halloween inspired evening dinner reception with children’s activities, music and dancing at the Hard Rock Café. Your support allows campers and their families to also attend the private circus performance, free of charge.

Learn more about all of our Camp-hosted benefit events at www.holeinthewallgang.org/ourevents or contact Director of Special Events Jennifer Weeks at jennifer.weeks@holeinthewallgang.org.

Meet “Dr. Jerry”
About three years ago, Camp’s Medical Director Dr. Sharon Space received an unexpected phone call from Dr. Charles “Jerry” Hemenway, a Fairfield pediatrician known for his patient, caring demeanor, offering him his time and services to the infirmary. “Dr. Jerry immediately became a valued and important addition to our medical team and our Camp family,” said Dr. Space. “The infirmary simply could not function without the medical expertise and excellent clinical care provided by our volunteer physician. As a volunteer, he is extremely engaging, capable and compassionate,” he says. “It is a privilege to work beside them.” You don’t need a medical degree to volunteer at Camp. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Camp, visit our website: www.holeinthewallgang.org.

“Gee, I don’t know why I do it,” he says with a smile. “My experience at Camp has made me more aware not just of the illness and how to treat it but of the person who has the illness and what I can do to help them handle it in the best possible way,” he says.

Dr. Jerry also enjoys how people of all ages come to volunteer, which he says fills a range of needs and interactions for the campers. “The counselors and volunteers are extremely engaging, capable and compassionate,” he says. “It is a privilege to work beside them.” You don’t need a medical degree to volunteer at Camp. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Camp, visit our website: www.holeinthewallgang.org.
The 2012 Greenwich Food + Wine Festival

The ingredients: Three nights. Delicious local cuisine. Vibrant entertainment. And 100% of the net proceeds going to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. The menu comes together in one exciting and successful October event - The Greenwich Food + Wine Festival, presented by Serendipity magazine.

The festivities kicked off on Thursday, October 4th with an Ultimate Wine Evening, featuring exclusive wines perfectly paired with gourmet hors d’oeuvres. Friday’s Grand Tasting Gala featured an enticing menu and an enchanting evening filled with live musical performances. Former camper Mark Zatryka spoke to an auction crowd eager to raise their paddles to support Camp Family Weekend programs. And on Saturday, the Culinary Village buzzled with savory tastings and intriguing demonstrations from more than 90 food, wine and spirit vendors.

Members of The Hole in the Wall community were out in full force all weekend, sharing the mission of Camp. Master Sommelier and Team Hole in the Wall Member Joe Campanale showcased his skills with a wine demonstration followed by a great performance by legendary country rocker Greg Allman.

Preparations are already underway for October’s Greenwich WINE+FOOD Festival presented by Serendipity. But you can satisfy your taste buds all year round by checking out other delicious community events supporting The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, such as Dive Bar’s Brew Fest, Delaney’s Chili and more.

Visit www.teamholeinthewall.org to join our Team and become a Bandit for Camp today!

Team Hole in the Wall 2013 Event Calendar

- Five Boro Bike Tour May 5
- AngelRide May 25-26
- Fairfield Road Race 5K June 22
- Fairfield Road Race Half Marathon June 23
- New York City Triathlon July 14
- Camp Challenge Ride September 7
- ING New York City Marathon November 3

Newman - cont. from page 1

a beneficiary of a very serendipitous alignment of the stars. Looking for something to do after he was ousted from the college football team, he decided to join the theater department - lucky for him. His original graduation goal was an executive position with a large department store, but life had other plans.

Being an actor means that there is no real way to quantify what you do. Being a movie star muddies the amount. There is no objective measure for art of any kind, really. I think he was as insecure as any actor about his work, as insecure as any athlete about his sport. He was not on our annual list to be a benefactor, for Camp today!

A box-office success is just a dollar amount. There is no objective measure for art of any kind, really. I think he was as insecure as any actor about his work, which is why he took up auto racing. When you win, you win, and you know it. And he was very, very fast. But I think when all was said and done, he could look back on all the ways that he gave back and know that those things were undeniable. And he could just hang out in the dining hall, drink lemonade, shake his bushy tail, and soak up the joy and chaos that he inspired. And I bet it felt good.

Team Update

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

Camp’s Bandit is breaking out of the Hole in the Wall to encourage not just athletes but community event organizers and other volunteers to join Team Hole in the Wall and “Be a Bandit” for Camp.

The new Team logo, unveiled this year, showcases Team’s exciting evolution, starting in 2006 as an athletic-based program to today, when Team members also include other types of energetic fundraisers.

In fact, you don’t have to be a runner, cyclist or triathlete to be a part of our Team - the opportunities to get involved are endless! From lemonade stands and marathons to golf outings and concerts, you can create an event that’s right for you while raising funds and awareness for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Of course, if you are interested in tackling an athletic challenge, Team Hole in the Wall still offers guaranteed entry into 10 annual athletic events. We also encourage athletes who participate in events not on our annual list to turn their other athletic escapades into Team Hole in the Wall challenges.

Athletes who register through our “Choose Your Event” option are eligible for all of the benefits of being a member of our Team. This includes a personalized fundraising web page and access to our Facebook fundraising app. Team members who raise $250 or more even get a custom Team jersey!

Team Hole in the Wall member and restaurateur Joe Campanale (seated right) served as a judge at the Greenwich 2012 Food+Wine Festival Burger Battle with Food Network stars Duff Goldman of “Ace of Cakes” (seated left) and Ted Allen of “Chopped” (seated center).
A camper busts a move on the Dining Hall dance floor with his counselor during a fall Family Weekend at Camp.

Look inside to read Lissy Newman’s reflection on her father’s legacy.