

As spring approaches I am reminded of something that a teacher of mine once told me - "the same force that works in nature - is in you. As the winter thaws, there are little green shoots on the move under the ground - you may not see them, but that doesn't mean that it isn't happening. And one day, you awaken and you notice the green shoots that have finally poked through the earth and are on their way!"



The power of nature is truly an incredible thing - often working, unnoticed in the background, to make all things grow and mature. We often take the important elements of nature for granted - the sun rises every day, the air forever circulates around us, the water flows - either through rain, or a river or stream, but often more mundanely from faucets in our own homes - but we don't really notice how these forces are sustaining us each day and helping to promote inner growth that we don't even see happening. At Holiday Home Camp, our mission has always been to enrich the lives of disadvantaged children through

fresh air summer camp experiences by promoting and celebrating these incredible elements of nature that help make us grow. For 131 years we have known and stayed committed to the power of nature and how it can change and improve the lives of children whose internal growth has been stifled by their tough life conditions. By providing a week of summer camp surrounded by the elements of sun, fresh air, cool water and warm earth we remind these wonderful children of the incredible potential that lies within them - just waiting to sprout forth.

Last year we nurtured the growth of over 700 children! We are ramping up to inspire and enrich even more great kids this coming summer. You, our wonderful supporters, are the reason why we have been able to do this for 131 straight years and we at the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association are so grateful for your belief in what we do. We hope that we can count on your generosity once again to help promote the inner growth of the amazing children we serve. I hope you will join me and our staff and board of directors in making a gift to our annual fund that will bring joy, laughter and hope to hundreds. Together we can bring those powerful elements of nature directly into their lives so that they can realize their inner potential, lift their heads into the air and be on their way! Let's all keep growing...Onward and Upward! Enjoy the spring!

Molly Keller
President, Board of Directors
March 2018



Are you a Holiday Home Camp Alumni?
Keep the camp spirit going by joining us at
"Holiday Home Camp Alumni" Facebook page!



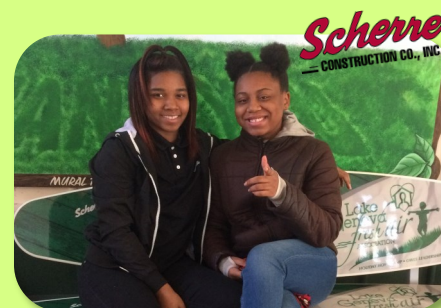
FROM THE O.W.L.S ROOST

2017 was another great year at the Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership School! Before we list all of new 2018 plans, we wanted to recap all of the wonderful things that happened in 2017. Through our year round experiential education programs we had the pleasure of serving over 3,000 participants in 104 groups! Of those 104 groups 24 were brand new to OWLS programs. February is a great time for learning new skills, so the staff have been attending trainings to learn new facilitation techniques and are eager to use them when we see each of those 104 groups back again this year.

Another fun addition to our facility this year is our new Buddy Bench from Scherrer Cares. This program exists to support schools in their anti-bullying efforts by providing students a tool to build and foster friendships. Their main focus for donations are traditional schools, but when they discovered that we were interested in a buddy bench they made a special exception to include us! We are grateful that Scherrer wanted to support our camp and our mission. Our bench will be installed in a prominent place at camp in the spring for everyone to enjoy.

What are the benefits of a Buddy Bench?

- A place for kids to go to if they are being bullied and need help
- A place for kids to be a 'buddy' by spreading kindness and building friendships
- EMPOWERS young people to make socially responsible decisions and create change
- PROVIDES a safe place for kids to eliminate loneliness and foster friendships
- INCREASES awareness, involvement, and positive culture environment
- HELPS reduce and prevent bullying



OWLS Hoot'n Tailgate Party Re-Cap

The first inaugural OWLS Tailgate Hoot at Privato was a fun filled afternoon! Our very own Mark Feldman organized the wonderful event, that hosted great food, wonderful company, and of course an exciting Bears vs Packers football game. With the help of our generous attendees, and our raffle prizes, the new OWLS event raised \$3,173 dollars! OWLS would like to recognize our generous raffle prize donors including The Baker House, The Ridge, LG Clue Room, LG Canopy Tours, and Promo Monster. A BIG OWLS THANK YOU to Kelly Clow for helping us organize and make the raffle a success. 100 people showed up on game day and had a blast socializing, dropping tickets in fish bowls, eating amazing food, and watching the game with an ice cold drink. **THANK YOU to everyone that came and supported this event!**

Giant Swing Initiative



With your support the OWLS team has accomplished some monumental tasks over the past 4 years. In 2014 we moved the high ropes course from GWC property to Holiday Home Camp. We didn't stop there because in 2015 we built a brand new 3 sided climbing tower. 2016 allowed us to finish the OWLS field headquarters and instruction deck. For 2017 we enjoyed our course while we planned and surveyed our programs. Now that 2018 is here we are announcing our plans to add an additional element to our challenge course! The GIANT SWING initiative will add an element like no other that promotes teamwork, trust, communication, and goal setting, all while providing an exhilarating ride into the sky!

Much like the past 3 builds, this element is being strictly funded through smaller individual donations from OWLS supporters. All of our course projects have been successful due to the help we have received from our friends and business partners. We only have \$2,500 remaining to realize our goal. Naming rights are still available to a lead donor! In kind donations are also a big part of this process! We are still looking for the following:

- Skid steer and 6' deep auger
- Plate compactor
- Lull with deck or Pole setting truck.
- Semi truck & trailer to transport three 40' long telephone poles that have a combined weight of 3800 lbs. or a 5th wheel trailer that can handle such a load. Location of the poles are either Adams, WI or Peoria, IL.

If you can help or would like to donate to this project, contact our OWLS team! 262-245-5161

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Dear Supporters,

Holiday Home Camp has served children for **thirteen decades** through times of change and national hardship, including two World Wars, The Great Depression and other turbulent periods of political, racial, economic, social and technological progression. Though our campers' demographics and specific hardships have changed with the times, the benefits that fresh air and the outdoors can provide to their inner spirits have not.

There is abounding evidence on the impact a camp experience has on a child's life, especially children from low-income families. Week-by-week once again this summer, Holiday Home Camp will offer refuge from uncertainty and chaos to nearly 800 campers who would otherwise not afford a life-changing summer camp experience.

Here are just a few reasons, bound by research, *why* we do what we do here at Holiday Home Camp, and *why your continued investments matter*:

- As summer camp is a natural extension of the classroom, by participating in strategically planned, structured summer experiences, summer learning loss is reduced.
- A camp experience allows children who struggle with traditional educational settings to feel successful.
- Camp experiences develop children to become better equipped with skills such as independence, empathy and the ability to work as part of a team.
- Exposure to nature improves a child's resistance to negative stress and cognitive function, as well as reduces symptoms of ADHD.
- A decade of research and over one hundred studies reveal how strongly and positively all humans respond to being outdoors and surrounded by nature.
- A main benefit of spending time in nature is stress reduction, and the protective impact of nature is strongest for the most vulnerable children; those experiencing the highest levels of stressful life events.

We ask that you please invest or reinvest in Holiday Home Camp once again this spring. We cannot do this tremendous and life-changing work without you.

Sincerely,

Eileen Mullin-Gasteier
Development Counselor
(c) 312-909-2395
eileen@holidayhomecamp.org



to our proud Annual Corporate Sponsors that continue to help make the HHC magic possible!



FROM WISH LIST TO REALITY

If you are a frequent reader of our newsletter you might have noticed that a few items have recently disappeared from our big wish list. This is not a typo. In December of 2017 the LGFAA was approached by two separate families with two very generous gifts.



The Griffith family have been long time supporters of Holiday Home Camp and our mission. So much so that Sue Griffith proudly donates her time, talents, and treasures as a board member. When it was time for her family to buy a new vehicle, they didn't hesitate to tell the dealership they weren't going to be bringing in a trade in. They had a better future in mind for their truck, as a new donation to Holiday Home Camp of course! This great set up has already saved us thousands of dollars in plowing costs.

The Ellsworth family are also dedicated to supporting campers at HHC each year by not only donating their time but also donating needed toiletry kits to every single camper. Even with all of their ongoing commitments to our campers, when the family had a chance to direct a large donation to the charity of their choice - they eagerly chose Holiday Home to help us fulfill our long term wish of purchasing a pontoon boat for our campers! Staff eagerly await spring so that we can go boat shopping!



We have stated proudly in previous issues of our newsletter that our supporters are the best around. We know this to be true as these stories are only two highlighted examples of the continued generosity that our community of donors and volunteers show us every year. This ongoing support is what has kept us strong for 131 years and allowed us to create positive change for thousands of kids. THANK YOU for believing in what we do!



Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association
PO Box 10, Williams Bay, WI 53191
262-245-5161

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Make change happen, volunteer!

Holiday Home Camp adores our volunteers! In 2017 there was certainly a lot of adornment to spread around as we had over 211 volunteers come to camp and donate their time and talents! We enjoyed having individuals, families, companies, scout groups, youth groups, churches, and even other non profits that came to lend a helping hand. There were over 600 hours of volunteering logged in 2017 by community members that wanted to invest in our mission! All we can say to numbers like these are "THANK YOU!" - to all of our volunteers and partners. Your generosity has helped us *make change happen*. This change positively effects the lives of our campers, and our community.

There are always opportunities to get involved every month! We enjoy customizing your volunteer experience to reflect what you or your group interests are. If you'd like to help, then we'd love to have you. Call us at 262-245-5161.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 7/8th - ELITE event at Camp - Young Men's retreat.** Male Volunteers welcome
- May 5/6th - ELITE event at Camp - Impressions, scholarship prep, graduations.** Volunteers Welcome
- May 20th - Spring Clean up! - Board members, Alumni, and Volunteers welcome!**
- May 26th - Zip line and Climbing Wall open to public! 12-4pm No reservations needed.**
- June 9th - Annual Gala "South Beach Summer Soiree" - Ticketed event, everyone is invited!**
- June 23rd - Giant Swing open to public! 12-4pm No reservation needed.**
- July 21st - Zip Line and Climbing Wall open to public! 12-4pm No reservations needed.**
- August 4th - Giant Swing open to public! 12-4pm No reservation needed.**
- August 10th - Ladies Luncheon and purse auction. -Advanced ticket purchase required.**

Questions? Please call 262-245-5161 for details.

Support
Lake Geneva Fresh
Air Association.

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Amazon donates.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)

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CAMP WISH LIST

For supporters that want to give the perfect gift directly to campers programs, we have expanded our wish list on

amazon.com

Some items naturally fall outside our annual budget range, for these items we look to our community for leads and assistance. We could use your help finding the items below.

- Passenger Van
- Commercial Kitchen Items
- Mobile storage units for short term use during renovations
- Paving work for eroded paths
- Tree trimming services
- Outdoor lift usage to allow us to wash /paint our taller buildings

LAKE GENEVA FRESH AIR ASSOCIATION

HOLIDAY HOME CAMP - OWLS LEADERSHIP



THE WATERFRONT

Spring 2018



HOLIDAY HOME SUMMER CAMP

Can you believe we're already talking about SUMMER?!! Neither can I--but I'm SO happy we are! Summer 2018 is quickly approaching and we are super excited to welcome back over **52%** of our staff from previous years! Currently, Linda has over 257 campers signed up for camp and the registration papers just keep rolling in! It's such a gratifying feeling seeing how excited our campers and staff are to spend another marvelous summer at Holiday Home Camp. This year, we are adding some exciting new classes and programming to ensure the campers have a meaningful and enjoyable week at camp. Chef Amy is teaching a new baking class, the arts and crafts department has creative new projects, and a new pontoon boat has been donated to the waterfront! We have also added new special days to our calendar, including: Olympic Day, Hawaiian Day, Hollywood Day and Survivor Day!

Speaking of calendars, only 111 days until the first campers of Summer 2018 arrive!! We are so excited and grateful to provide another amazing summer (the 131st summer, to be exact) for our amazing children.



Kayla Wilkin
HH Camp Director



Executive Directors Notes

As I tune into the news each day, more often than not it seems as though I'm finding negativity everywhere I go. Stories of adults that can't seem to cooperate or even agree at a basic level dominate the coverage. Smears, scams, yelling and awful unthinkable tragedies seem to be on every channel and across every page. This constant stream of ugliness begins to dishearten even the strongest among us at times. The problems can seem so overwhelming, and I am often left asking myself what I can do to help.

There are many resources that list the easiest way to help is to think globally and act locally. By changing attitudes, supporting ideas, breaking stereotypes and creating impact we can positively lead the way to making a difference. Naturally for us THE ANSWER IS MORE CAMP! I know it sounds cliché but if you dig into our programs you'll find they a microcosm of respectful discovery, relationship building, and taking personal responsibility for change. At HHC/OWLS we encourage you to try, fail, learn, laugh and grow all while we cheer you on as your biggest fans. Providing adult role models, facilitating the culture of a community, and helping each other understand our differences while connecting our similarities are all things we are proud to be able to highlight as being purposeful. As our campers grow into ELITE teens and emerge as proud young community members we are given a renewed sense of hope. Driven by their ability to be compassionate, intelligent, and mindful leaders, we are confident our youth are going to make many positive changes in the future! Until then - perhaps we should invite our world leaders to attend a few session at camp.

Thank you for helping us to provide these amazing opportunities that we see positively effecting change for generations.



Bradley Cripe,
Executive Director

