

CREATING BALANCE

Yin and Yang. Many of us are intimately familiar with the symbol of this ancient, Chinese philosophical principle of Taoism. The juxtaposition of light and dark, good and evil, masculine and feminine - the black and white tear drops swirling opposite of each other - with a small circle of each in the other's orb - depicting that seemingly opposite forces are actually complementary and interconnected. Yin and Yang represent the constant search for balance that is at the center of all existence. Well known author and professor of Psychology, Jordan Peterson, likes to view this symbol as the bond between "Order and Chaos" or "the Known and the Unknown." And indeed, in all of these interpretations, one side cannot exist without the other.

Our culture has evolved to value and thrive on order. As humans, we like predictability and the satisfaction of knowing what to expect and then having that expectation fulfilled. Governments and laws all exist because of our desire for order. We value order so much that we are caught off guard when it is interrupted, but we need to remind ourselves that the small circle of chaos is always lurking in the background - waiting to disrupt the structure and routine we have created.

The opposite also exists. There are many lives where chaos reigns - where there is no promise of the next meal or a safe place to sleep at night or the embrace of a loving parent. Despite government laws and programs these lives still lack anything predictable - and so their expectations and hope diminish. Yet - as with chaos lurking to disrupt order, there is also order waiting to present itself within the unpredictable life.

At Holiday Home Camp we introduce the wonders and rejuvenation of nature's finest elements - fresh air, warm sun, cool earth and clear water as the order, inspiration and balance that many of our young campers lack in their otherwise unpredictable and difficult lives. While we can't predict weather, we can be certain that nature can boost the spirits and drive of every one of us. And we can attest from 132 years of experience, that the disadvantaged children that we serve, soak these elements up like sponges introduced to water for the first time!

The nurturing embrace of supportive staff, the comfort of three delicious meals a day, the coziness of a warm bed with the crickets chirping outside the cabin window and the exhilaration of participating in so many fun activities amongst the tall, swaying trees of our beautiful lakeside property - all contribute to counter-act the hardship and challenges these children face back at home. Holiday Home Camp is that small circle of order and hope within their orb of chaos and the unknown. And once they realize that this potential exists within their world, we help them to seek it out - by coming back every year to Holiday Home Camp, and then joining our year-round ELITE leadership program - and perhaps by eventually becoming a camp counselor - as many of our recent campers have done over the years.

We are all constantly seeking balance and growth in our lives. Many of us come to Lake Geneva and other similarly inspiring places exactly for that reason - because the surroundings and the friendships we have made here are a counter-point to our busy and hectic lives. The children of Holiday Home Camp are no different.

Holiday Home Camp has been a symbol of balance to thousands and thousands of lives for generations and we are working hard to earn your continued dedication to that principle and interconnectedness that we all share.

If you have already made a donation this year to support a fresh air summer camp experience for a disadvantaged child - thank you! If, on the other hand, you are new to the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association and Holiday Home Camp or there has been a little more chaos in your life than normal lately - please consider making a donation today that will help bring balance and inspiration to many deserving lives!

We are so appreciative of your immense support. Together, with the bonding forces of both the Yin and the Yang, we can all surge forward...

-ONWARD and UPWARD!

Molly Keller

President, Board of Directors

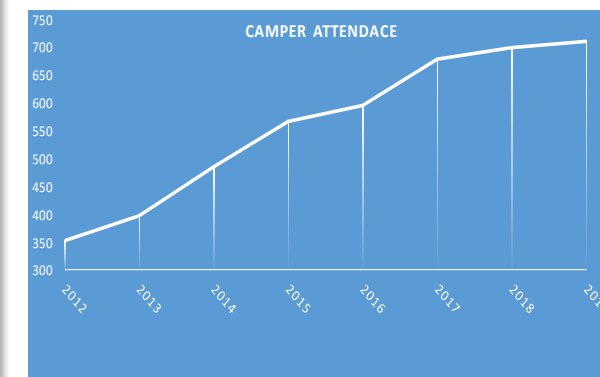
Fall 2019



Camp-by-Numbers

Where did the summer of 2019 go?! It's already the end of September and Christmas is just around the corner. Registration for camp started on December 1st, 2018 and we had 711 campers who spent a part of their summer at camp. This is the 2nd year in a row that we have had over 700 campers attending camp!

In order to get kids to camp successfully, the registrar team work with a number of agencies including Illinois and Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Human Services. We also work alongside schools, churches, community centers and a variety of non-profit and child-focused organizations. This year we have expanded our reach to the schools of Racine, Waukegan and Woodstock. We also continue to strengthen our grant relationships with Camp 4 Kids, Scope and Title XX who directly fund kids for camp. We had campers from 69 cities in Illinois and 41 cities in Wisconsin. We even had parents who felt camp was so important that even after they moved out of state they still sent their campers to HHC! We had campers revisit from Arizona, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Texas. We even had a camper who traveled 4,790 miles from Szczepieszyn, Poland because her cousin spoke so highly about their camp! They spoke with such passion that she had to come and experience it for herself! She had a fabulous time and plans on coming back again in the future.



At the end of September Linda will be retiring as our full-time Registrar and passing the torch to Adriana who is eager to carry on the high standards and expectations of the registrar dept. Linda has happily agreed to stick around and help HHC when we need that extra support with a part-time role here at camp.

"This has been an extra challenging year for me since I was diagnosed with breast cancer in May. Adriana has done an amazing job working with me and learning since coming to work in April. I appreciate all of the staff who have been especially helpful to me and always providing words of encouragement, hugs and even shaving their heads in solidarity when I lost my hair from treatments. I had no idea what this job entailed when I first started 6 years ago, but I have loved learning and contributing to this magical place. Who would have thought I would be passing out camp flyers from my purse to mothers at the store, or find an organization in the Sunday paper that I could send information to about camp."

I'm thankful for the time I've had here and look forward to more memories" - Linda



What a wonderful time to be at holiday home camp. My name is Adriana Miranda and I am very humbled to introduce myself as the **Community Outreach/Registrar** for Holiday Home Camp. It's an amazing feeling to return to HHC and be able to work full time at my home away from home. My first summer at HHC was as a camp counselor in 2014, that summer changed my life in such a positive way. I returned the following 2 summers as the waterfront director and continued to work and volunteer with the ELITE teen program.



Being able to participate in a new role at HHC excites me! I'm so thankful for all the lives HHC changes every summer. I'd love to be able to bring HHC staff and energy into the community and continue to expand our networking with other nonprofit organizations in the area. Most importantly I want to continue to break attendance roles and provide an unforgettable summer to hundreds of children, like my mentors before me.

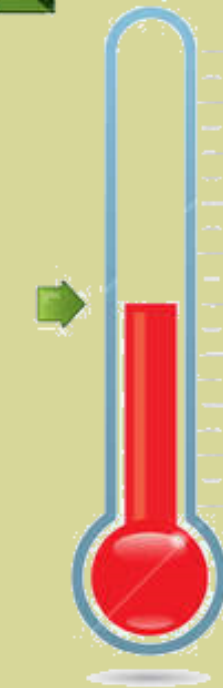


Our dedicated Corporate Sponsors
continue to help make the HHC

magic possible!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



Dear Camp and Capital Campaign supporters,

The Capital Campaign is well underway and the team is eagerly getting some very exciting projects done based on early donations! We are happy to announce that people have been so excited to get involved that we are almost half way to our 2M goal! During our initial phases supporters have generously donated over \$950,600, setting us on the path to successfully accomplishing our objectives!

The purpose of the campaign is to help ensure the growth potential and sustainability of Holiday Home Camp, OWLS, and the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association thru investment into our programs and facility. With record breaking growth again this summer we have officially DOUBLED the amount of campers we serve compared to just 6 years ago! 104% growth means that we must carefully plan key focuses within the campaign that keeps evolving to meet the needs of our kids!

With a target of \$2 Million there are still plenty of ways to get involved and show your support. Sponsorship opportunities can be recognized with your family or companies name proudly displayed on a natural looking plaque or stone near the project. Some of our feature projects include building a new activity pavilion, renovating inside and outside of our beloved Founders Hall, updating the Crane Max staff building, winterizing girls village and much more!

If your interested in helping with a project please reach out us at 262-245-5161. A range of lead sponsorship opportunities still exist and Brad would be happy to discuss all of the possibilities. Lead gifts can even be pledged over 5 years! No amount is too big or too small, as we appreciate them all! THANK YOU!



Bradley Cripe,
Executive Director

This project is almost done and already boasts a new large grass activity field, a proper parking lot, natural prairie plant water control, and a brand new maintenance building!



Our Founders Building is showing off a new patio area, fire pit, accessibility ramp, new doors, and updated paint!

Future World and Local Leaders at Work and Play



It has been a great summer for OWLS, leading into an amazing fall. We have been having a HOOT of a time!

During the summer months, OWLS worked with diverse individuals through programs, as well as with our weekly Holiday Home Campers. This year, the OWL staff introduced the OWLS Olympics, a competition between the boy's and girl's villages, featuring our beginning initiative activities used during programs. They earned points for their respective villages in an afternoon with the two oldest cabins of each village getting a chance to climb our rock wall. The winners would earn a tasty, frozen treat!

When OWLS was not working with our young campers, we were working with various programs, and we have continued to do so into the fall. From Camp to OWLS, we have welcomed a few members to our team! Sam, Amar, Bo, Kathryn, Nnaji, and Cierrae have gone through training to help us facilitate our programs and have had a hand in encouraging our participants to Learn! Lead! Grow!

Not only did we welcome some new staff, but we also welcomed new schools and organizations! Towards the beginning of summer, the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, based in Delevan, and the Wisconsin Center for the Blind in Janesville came to OWLS to learn more about teamwork and leadership. It was amazing to witness new communication techniques being integrated into an OWLS program. Our staff utilized interpreters, writing, and ASL to effectively communicate with the deaf participants, while using descriptive language and a helping hand for the blind participants.

Though One Step is not a new program, it certainly is a rewarding one. It is an organization designed to help children diagnosed with cancer find success, friendship, and answers. Though some had physical limitations, they were still able to take part in the various fun and educational activities that OWLS has to offer, such as our High Ropes course. OWLS also has been fortunate enough to offer safe, fun, and educational learning/challenge-seeking experiences for an organization created as a response to gun violence, such as Read Chicago. New Eclipse Community Alliance (NECA), along with two other nonprofit organizations, also benefitted from a day and a half program to help build relationships between the diverse communities in Chicago.

The diversity of programs that we run at OWLS is vast in terms physical/mental capabilities, age, race, financial means, etc. From January of this year to the end of September, OWLS has worked with 2,171 participants. With still a few months of our season left to go, we look forward in continuing to give customized programs based on goals and objectives to help individuals grow in leadership.

We thank you for your continued support!



Mark Feldman
Assoc. Director OWLS

Are you a Holiday Home Camp Alumni?



**Keep the camp spirit going by joining
us at "Holiday Home Camp Alumni"**

Facebook page!



Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association
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262-245-5161

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Community Outreach



Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

HHC had so many volunteers in 2019 it was hard to count them all! Everyone showed up to camp this year including schools, sports teams, local heroes and businesses all joined us to make the camp magic unforgettable! We owe a great bit of thanks to all of our volunteers this year and want to give special thanks to everyone who participated.

- Our Gala & Ladies Lunch Fundraising teams who are made up of local volunteers work for months to create events that fundraise for our camper scholarships. These events provide the funding that make the camp magic possible!
- Our winter event team (The AB CREW!) that creates a beautiful fundraiser that provides resources for all of our campers to be able to receive holiday gifts!
- The hardworking Conagra Departments who show up rain or shine for a whole week to help us with all of the big spring projects that prep camp! This crew is amazing and we cant wait to see them again for year 4!
- Topstep Traders group came out to camp early this summer to work with our campers & do service projects on one of the hottest summer days. They also donated a new shade tree! We hope to see them again next year.
- The Elkhorn HS Football team. Every year the coaches and team show up to do the heavy lifting. Whether is shoveling gravel, hauling mulch, or stacking firewood the team uses volunteering to bond & build team commitment.
- Cooking with Connie is a crew of locals that volunteer at HHC multiple times a summer to show our oldest campers that good healthy food can be cooked by anyone. Campers get 1st hand kitchen experiences and a delicious themed meal!
- BOAT CAPTAINS!! The "O", "B", & "S" families were absolute heroes to our campers this season by showing up to camp with their own boats to provide rides, some empowerment talks, and a bit of lake history! Campers adore seeing the "VIP Boats" show up, just for them. We cant wait to see you again next summer!
- Williams Bay HS has been coming out for multiple years to honor the Charlie Mestek Day of Community service. Last year we worked on building erosion control landscaping to help preserve our nature paths!
- The construction and landscape crew members that stayed late, came on their days off, ran emergency electrical wires and even had family waiting at a restaurant hold dinner so they could fix toilets before camp hosted an important wedding— THANK YOU!
- There are SO MANY MORE people that we want to thank but didn't have the space to list! Especially our Board Members!

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 2019! All we can say to numbers like these are "THANK YOU!" - To all of our volunteers and partners. Your generosity has helped us make the camp magic happen! These opportunities have a measured positive effects the lives of our campers, and our community.

MORE WAYS TO GIVE BACK...

For supporters that want to give the perfect gift directly to campers programs, please visit our wish list on
amazon.com

Shopping! When you shop on Smile.Amazon.com and select the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association as your charity, a percentage of your normal shopping will be donated to us by Amazon!

amazon smile

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.

- 12-15 Passenger Van
- Commercial Kitchen ovens
- New Laptops
- Tree Trimming
- Compact Tractor
- Hydraulic Auto lift for garage



The Waterfront

Fall 2019



HOLIDAY HOME SUMMER CAMP

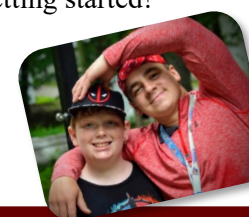
132 and counting! Another successful summer in the Holiday Home Camp books and we feel like we're only just getting started. Growth is something we are striving for every day and summer 2019 provided nothing less than huge strides. From staff to campers we are able to see HHC at its very best when individuals return after a year of putting what they learnt at camp into practice within their families, schools and communities.

Our first success of the summer was certainly a spectacular staff training period. After working incredibly hard alongside Cierrae in the off-season, we were able to hire a full team for the summer and what a team it would turn out to be. We had staff from here, there and everywhere! A great, (free!), hiring trip to London meant we once again acquired a strong contingent of Brits that would complete our lineup. We believe it's so important for us to provide a well-rounded and diverse staff so that we are able to visibly show our campers that unity can be achieved regardless of our backgrounds.

Let's talk campers... we had tons of them! We were visited by over 760 campers making it another record-breaking year lead by our wonderful registrars, Linda and Adriana! With campers coming from Chicago, Milwaukee, Walworth county, Arizona and even Poland (yes, you read that correctly), we are expanding by the year. Both new and returning campers experienced some amazing moments at HHC this summer. We had Pirate day, Hollywood day, our staple Harry Potter day and more with exciting activities ran by our awesome support staff. The waterfront was one of the best places to be this summer, especially during a couple of hot weeks in July! Tim and his mermaids (lifeguards) ensured we had fun-filled water days each session with activities like the water slide and tubing. A special thank you to Rita O'Brien & the Schirmangs for kindly volunteering their time to take campers out on boat rides.

The ELITE program is thriving with a total of 60 teens currently enrolled, all of which attended a Counselor in Training (CIT) week during the summer. While shadowing our Cabin Counselors, the ELITES were able to get first-hand experience on how to handle all kinds of situations involving the campers. They are given the opportunity to run activities, lead songs and guide cabins. It's the skills they learn during their CIT week that help them to become future HHC staff members. On that note, this summer we had a high of 10 staff members who were previously campers and ELITES! This is something we're so proud of and as we enhance the program we're hopeful that this number will only rise in the forthcoming years.

Our 2020 summer schedule is now confirmed and we are well underway with our preparations to make summer 133 the best one yet. There's nothing quite like camp and that's why we love it! We have created such a powerful community around HHC and it's because of this that we are able to continue providing such a valuable experience for our future leaders. Thank you so much for the continued support and like I said, we are only just getting started!



George Pascoulis
HH Camp Director

