

# Notes from the Board President

Dear Board Members and Camp Team Members,

Another summer camp season is in the books and the transition back to school has begun. What a wonderful summer – being immersed in nature, exploring new places, making new friends and trying new things with NO COVID Cases due to the measures Brad & Team had in place. We always end each camp season with an eye toward the future and the excitement that lies ahead, but I think it's also important to take a moment to consider the specific joys and struggles of the past 10 weeks of Summer. As I pause to reflect on it all, my heart is full of gratitude for our staff, for our campers and particularly for you, our camp supporters..

**To our dynamic staff** who worked tirelessly all summer long to provide your children with an incredible camp experience – BRAVO Brad & thank you! These counselors gave their best to their jobs as each day brought new challenges and new successes – they were energized, they were exhausted, they were inspiring, they were inspired. They were interested in their campers, invested in them and committed to knowing what made each one tick and how to connect in meaningful ways. From making special friendship bracelets for each camper to singing – yet again – their favorite silly songs to crafting awards specifically for every child, our counselors gave it their all to make sure your kids had a summer to remember. They are a terrific group, and I am grateful for each one's dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.

**To our campers** who woke up every morning with a zest for life and who are the reason we do what we do – thank you! These kids were engaged and engaging, open to trying new things and ready to get down and dirty, appreciating the many gifts that nature has to offer. Because of their days spent at camp, they have acquired an increase in confidence, a deeper connection to nature, and a greater sense of their own independence. The wonderful thing about camp is that it's more than just a place to spend summer days. It's an experience that becomes a part of who each child is – it's learning and growing, having the strength and courage to stretch and be flexible and explore the world.

**And to our camp supporters** who trusted, supported, and encouraged us along the way – thank you! We absolutely could not do this without you. We are grateful that you shared your greatest treasures with us this summer. We appreciate the ways that you supported our camp's growth by encouraging the staff, asking them meaningful questions, and allowing them to lean into their newfound sense of independence. We care about our camp families and we are so grateful to count each of you as a part of our larger Camp Family.

As the days ahead grow cooler and the leaves begin to change, my hope for each of our campers is that they will not only remember their camp experiences with fondness but that they'll build upon them, continuing to take charge and go for it, learn from mistakes, set goals and pursue them and enjoy the company of new acquaintances who quickly become friends. And of course, I hope that all of our campers will nurture a love for the outdoors and an appreciation of our parks and of the natural world.

As a review of our Summer, we had a tremendous Summer Gala personally, socially & financially with fun games in our new Pavilion now properly titled the "Otzen/Vaughan Friendship Pavilion!" Our Capital Campaign has received new fresh supporters and funds and looks like we may be able to accomplish our goal in 2022-2023 plus we have added our new the Legacy Wall!

Thank you for being an important part of Camp! We can't wait to have you back again next year- as always please consider your donations to the various groups needing funds at Camp: Capital Campaign, Endowment and Operations. Cheers! Andrew



*Andrew Fritz*

President, Board of Directors  
Fall 2021



## HONORING HOLIDAY HOME CAMP'S LEGACY INDUCTEES

Since 1887 the magic of Holiday Home Camp has been made possible with the generous donations of time, talent and treasures from some amazing women and men. These individuals and families sought to ensure that the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association and Holiday Home Camp stood the test of time and helped to provide a nature based fresh air experienced to underserved communities throughout the Chicagoland and Wisconsin regions. Many involved families made Holiday Home Camp a focus of their volunteerism, passing down their legacy of hard work and philanthropy from generation to generation. A select few of these amazing historical change makers were even campers and staff throughout the years! HHC was so important to them that they made sure to remain connected, help out, and guide the future of our beloved program for future campers. It's the inspiring stories like these that make it undeniable - H.H.C. has the best volunteers and donors around!

With some very special people as the inaugural honorees, Holiday Home Camp is proud to announce our Legacy Honoree Award! The prestigious award seals the honorees into Holiday Home Camp history with their picture and personal story on our Historical Legacy Wall.

This display is located in our "Legacy Hall" room within the newly renovated Founders Hall building. The Legacy display is uniquely made from, and displayed with historical items from HHC history!

In addition to the legacy wall, each honoree also had a tree planted at camp as a living symbol of their strong roots with our organization.



Additional stories and faces will be added as our story grows!

Will the next highlighted story be yours?

### 2021 LEGACY HONOREES PROUDLY INCLUDE:

-Ulla Brunk & the Brunk Family

-Charles & Dianna Colman

-Bill Herron

-Mary Anne Kirchsclager & the Kirchsclager Family

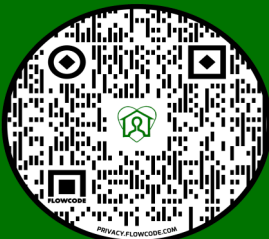
-Marie Kropp

-Karl & Lucy Otzen

-Heidi Vaughan & the Vaughan Family

-Jim & Abra Wilkin

THANK YOU HONOREES – FOR HELPING MAKE THAT  
UNFORGETTABLE HHC CAMP MAGIC FOR SO MANY!



## ARE YOU A HOLIDAY HOME ALUMNI?

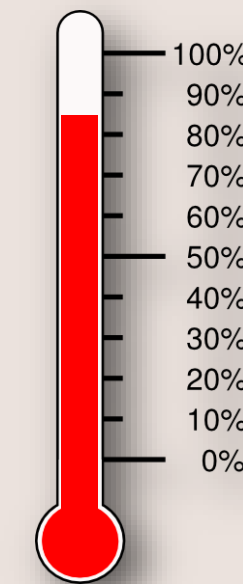
KEEP THE CAMP SPIRIT GOING BY JOINING US AT  
"HOLIDAY HOME CAMP ALUMNI"  
FACEBOOK PAGE!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



Your show of generous support is nothing short of amazing! Its clear to us that contributors take our success seriously. Want proof? We are officially over half way to realizing our goal and have raised over 1.6 M dollars! The Capital Campaign is well on its way to our 2M goal, and we are on the path to successfully accomplishing all of our objectives. There are still some great strides ahead of us. To accomplish all of our program goals we still need your help!

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 summer after 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 needed projects include, repairing the nature stairs from lower to upper camp, updating the Crane Max building into a corporate retreat center (see picture), retrofitting girls village for winter usage and much more!

If you are interested in helping with a capital 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



### OUR PROUD ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS CONTINUE

### TO HELP MAKE THE HHC MAGIC POSSIBLE!





# SOARING WITH OWLS!

Despite the unpredictability of Covid-19, OWLS was fortunate to continue running programs this season, and have we had fun! Our full-time staff for the season: Mark (Director), Philly, and Bailey were a great team. However, we could not have run some of our programs without the help of Holiday Home Camp staff, especially the full-time personnel. The biggest highlight of the OWLS summer was hands down the ability to run programs for the amazing HHC campers again!

Programs with campers entailed two days of hosting the weekly OWLS Olympics, rock climbing with the four youngest cabins, and ziplining for the two oldest! They earned points by displaying their three "R's" (Respect, Relationships, Responsibility), teamwork, positive encouragement, and good sportsmanship. It was a tough co-opetition between the girls and the boys' villages that helped them develop character while earning points to win tasty, frozen treats!

When OWLS wasn't working with campers, we partnered with various groups, like McNeel Intermediate and NIU Upward Bound. We also worked with high school leaders from Badger High, 4H's (Racine/Kenosha), and Cicero Boys Club. During programming, it's always rewarding seeing someone try something new and/or get out of their comfort zones!

Continuing collaborations with young people, we saw large school groups. St. Charles East High was a new program to OWLS. There were 170 individuals who took part in experiential learning and rock climbing! St. Charles North High was off-site this year, with 157 students and teachers, OWLS staff members brought our programs to their sport complex for the day. We operated alongside Peer Leaders and Assistants to help ensure team building goals were met while having a good time. There was even an impromptu dance party at lunchtime!

We also recently hosted a wedding onsite! Wedding guests in attendance had the privilege to stay onsite, go swimming, and kayaking. Thunderstorms rolled in, but the rain couldn't stop the event as the ceremony and reception continued as planned, through the downpour. The majority of the event goers were kept dry underneath the shelter of our new Otzen/Vaughan Friendship Pavilion! The rain did clear up and rainbows appeared, making for great photos. Overall, the wedding was a huge success and a great deal of fun for all involved.

We've had more excitement as the OWLS Tailgate Hoot made a comeback this year! The much-anticipated game between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers took place on October 17<sup>th</sup> in a decked-out pavilion. Guests bought tickets to watch the live game on a large screen, with plenty of food/drinks and even a bags tournament! There was a great turnout, and we would like to thank everyone who came and supported Holiday Home Camp and OWLS.

With the 2021 season ending, OWLS reflects on the amazing opportunity to keep serving many communities, assisting in their growth to "Learn! Lead! Grow!" through outdoor experiential education. From April to the beginning of November, OWLS has served nearly 1,600 people! Fortunately, no Covid-19 cases! With heartfelt gratitude, the OWLS team thanks you for your continued support. Now, more than ever, it has been needed and deeply appreciated. Thank you!



Mark Feldman,

Assoc. Director OWLS



## MORE WAYS TO GIVE BACK...

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



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.

- Compact Tractor
- Commercial Kitchen ovens
- Tree Trimming
- Landscaping services

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!

amazonsmile



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

### Board of Directors

President - Andrew Fritz

Vice President - Rita O'Brien

Treasurer - Donna Egly

Secretary - Liz Ring

Colleen Anderson

Bette-Jane Austin

Ann Brunk-Peterson

Nancie Freeborn

Sue Griffith

Bill Herron

Molly Keller

Ellen Liljeberg

Cindy Mason

Merritt McClayton

Colleen Mygatt

Rita O'Brien

Mary Beth Schirmang

Jim Wilkin

Kathy Yih

### Staff

Executive Director - Brad Cripe

Assoc. Director - George Pascoulis

Assoc. Director - Mark Feldman

Registrar & Community Outreach

Adriana Miranda

P/T Registrar - Linda Garant



With safety guidelines in place and there are new opportunities to get involved every month! We enjoy customizing your volunteer experience to reflect your interests! If you'd like to help, then we'd love to have you or your group.

Spring projects, summer programming, event help and more!

Call us at 262-245-5161 to get involved.

## THE SEASON OF GIVING

Join us at camp for our 6th annual X-mas of the Kids event!

Enjoy dinner, cocktails, and silent auction on

Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6pm

100 Holiday Home Camp road, Williams Bay, WI, 53191

Money Raised will help fund Holiday Gift boxes that will be sent in December to our campers in need. Help us provide 600+ gifts to some amazing children this season.

\$75 / Person

Please Make reservations by November 30th

By visiting or contacting us at:

LakeGenevaFreshAir.org/Donor-Events

Email: Brad@holidayhomecamp.org - Call: 262-245-5161



@HOLIDAYHOMECAMP



@HOLIDAYHOMECAMP

@OWLSATHHC

@HHCBENEFIT



@HHC1887



@HOLIDAYHOMECAMP

@OWLSPROGRAM

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association

Holiday Home Camp • Owls Leadership

# The Waterfront

FALL 2021



## HOLIDAY HOME SUMMER CAMP

7 sessions, 14 transportation days, 18 hours of water day activities, 24 hours of rest period, 61 days of camp and over 350 campers later... THE COMEBACK IS COMPLETE! Summer '21 had extra importance to us all after a year without being able to open our gates. From the moment our amazing staff began to arrive in late May, the buzz of camp returned and things were starting to feel like home once again!

Along with several guidelines, capacity limitations were placed upon summer camps this year in an effort to combat the pandemic. Although we were disappointed to not be able to fill every bunk in our cabins, we were determined to create a safe and fulfilling experience for those that could attend! We had rapid testing sites at both our pick-up locations and on camp property - I'd like to thank our parents and guardians for their patience throughout this process each week. This, along with regular sanitization, mask-wearing and social-distance adherence at necessary times, and some adjustments to the locations of flag and meal time meant we were able to have a COVID-FREE HHC for the whole of Summer '21! This is a huge credit to everyone that set foot on camp property during the summer - thank you for going the extra-mile to ensure the safety of our staff, our campers and our community! Special thanks to our camper's Rockstar parents for supporting the 2021 program changes!

We had some incredible theme days at camp this year! A new addition was Shrek Day. There were some pretty awesome outfits that did justice to the big green ogre, and some questionable Scottish accents to go along with! Our campers always enjoy experiencing new activities each year, but love to make sure we hold onto the classics, especially Rainbow Tag because what's camp without getting covered in paint every once in a while! With renovations to Founders building, along with the gorgeous new Pavilion and middle-field, it was amazing to run activities in new and improved locations. In just one summer, these new spaces have already established character and facilitated wonderful camp memories for our kids - thank you to all who made this possible!

After a year lacking in-person event weekends, our ELITE Program is ready to thrive once again! We'll be welcoming 60 teens on various weekends between now and Summer '22 to work on leadership skills, college/job preparation, counselor training and more. The focus of a work-play balance continues to be of utmost importance in this program. The world in which our teens are growing up in changes year by year which is why it's so important for us to establish new ways to improve the program and ensure that this is of huge benefit to its participants. I'm personally really looking forward to watching our Seniors continue their growth and potentially become influential staff members in our Summer '22 team!

There's no place like Summer Camp. There's also no place like Holiday Home Camp. It takes nine months to prepare for a very special three. Everything we do has to keep in mind our ultimate aim of improving the experience for our campers who deserve every single fulfilling moment. A new bench outside a cabin can bring conversation between two campers who have never interacted before. A freshly painted sport court can excite the young camper who aspires to be the first NBA player from their town. An organized library filled with great books can inspire our next visionary to do things they've never dreamed of. Everything has a purpose and that's why we're here. We can't wait for Summer '22, it'll be the best one yet!



George Pascoulis,

Holiday Home's Camp Director