

Letter from the President



What an amazing year. The spirit of *Wildflower* has grown in so many ways. With positive reports from campers, major support of our donors, advisory assistance of many professionals in the community, and the hard work of our board, our combined efforts have led to a very rewarding

year. We are reaching more families in need and are in the position to reach out to others. We are confident that what we provide to grieving families really makes a difference. In the words of one father, *overnight camp for his 13-year-old son was a transformative experience.*

Please take the time to read on and hear more from our board and families. We hope that you are gratified as much as we are by hearing about the impact of our work. Every gift, no matter the size, contributes to our continued success. We thank you for your part!

With Warm Regards,

Cyndi Jones

Please support *Wildflower Camp Foundation* [WCF]:

Your charitable contribution to the *Wildflower Camp Foundation* is greatly appreciated. The more we raise the more families we can help. Consider a WCF contribution to honor a family member or friend on any occasion: birth, graduation, engagement, marriage, anniversary, or holiday greeting. Your thoughtful remembrance will be acknowledged. Please provide us with the honorees name and address.

Wildflower Camp Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 81116, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Check should be made out to Wildflower Camp Foundation, Inc.. WCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.

Mission Statement

The *Wildflower Camp Foundation* grants scholarships for camp and enrichment programs to children who have suffered the loss of a parent. This support provides a restorative experience both for the children and surviving spouse as they recover from their loss.

If you would like to learn more about the story of *Wildflower* visit our website at www.wildflowercampfoundation.org

Inspiration ~ Why Wildflower Works

The following article was written by Matt Ringelheim, WCF Board Member and son of founder, Cyndi Jones. He shares his reflections on the meaning of summer camp to him as a child and into adulthood. It is his story and that of his sisters, that are the inspiration for the Wildflower Camp Foundation's vision and mission.



Camp Counselor Matt with camper

Labor Day Weekend 2007 - The director calls it *Fantasy Camp*, - a weekend where alumni of all ages come back to Camp Wigwam on Bear Lake to become kids again, sharing stories, playing sports and singing songs by the campfire.

On my plane ride home after attending the camp reunion, a flood of the fondest memories from my childhood came pouring back to me, as I reflected on the immense influence my summers at Bear Lake had on me at such a critical time in my life.

I spent six years at this seven-week overnight camp in Southern Maine, starting as a camper at the age of 12 and eventually becoming a counselor and water ski instructor during my final summer. While coping with the loss of my father throughout my youth, camp provided me with a place to feel

normal. No longer was I the kid at school with one parent. At camp I was just another kid having fun. Camp had an incredible healing power, as painful memories and hard times of home faded away under the summer sun. It was an idyllic place; a place where there wasn't a trouble in the world.

As a camper I was able to leave reality for seven weeks each summer, and learn valuable life lessons that I have taken with me and use daily at my job at Ernst and Young in New York City. Counselors, older campers and the director of the camp, Bob Strauss, gave me positive male role models to look up to, something that I truly needed after losing my dad. They taught me the importance of honesty, integrity and responsibility through a valuable and unique education that couldn't be acquired just anywhere. They were there for me as I matured into a teenager, a pivotal time in my development. All of the support I received, confidence I built, and lessons I learned at camp helped me to become the person I am today.

Summer camp changed my life and taught me how to have fun again, and for that I am incredibly grateful. Knowing how positively camp affected me, and seeing the influence it had on the more than 60 alumni this past Labor Day, fuels the fire in my quest to give every child that same unforgettable opportunity.



The author today

WCF Continues to Attract Major Gifts

This year WCF was honored to receive a major donation of stock from Shirley and Joe Glich in memory of their dear friend Herman Ringelheim. With this gift WCF created a named scholarship to honor the life of Herm, grandfather to Jenna, Matt and Kayla. WCF also would like to recognize the numerous other donations we received in honor of Herman.

With special thanks, we would also like to acknowledge Ann and Mark Melanson, of the Bailey Family Foundation for their continued support of WCF.

It has been an eventful year of giving at the Wildflower Camp Foundation. With an increasing amount of donor support, WCF is able to continue to grow and further our mission.

Jenna Ringelheim ~ Development Committee



Courtesy of the American Camping Association

Wildflower Doubles Scholarship Grants

It is wonderful to report that the Wildflower Camp Foundation has doubled the number of scholarships granted to children this year. Each member of the application committee has the rewarding experience of sharing in the success and growth that camping affords our families.

The generous and heartfelt feedback we receive confirms the remarkable strength of WCF's mission. Two brothers, ages ten and twelve, lost their dad four years ago, but were able to attend camp this past summer thanks to WCF scholarships. Their mother beautifully shares her thoughts about her family's experience:

"I would like to thank the foundation for the kindness and generosity that has been extended to my family. For the first time in two years, my son has shown such excitement. He has been telling everyone he can about all the things he will be doing at camp. I think this has given us all hope that not only can we go on but perhaps my children can once again enjoy life".

This story is echoed by all of our families. To see a child regain trust, a playful sense of adventure, the joy of friendship and exploration is priceless.

Jerry. DiMatteo
Application Committee



Board of Directors

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A heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who gave their time and shared their expertise which helped us to achieve our mission.

Adopt-a-Camper

Throughout conversations with donors, board members and friends of WCF, we have identified a new program that seems to be a great fit for the Foundation. We call it "Adopt-a-Camper". This new program allows WCF donors to directly see results from their donations. In this program WCF would match a child with a donor who is fully funding a campership for the summer of 2008. Camp philanthropy is a very satisfying way to make a significant impact in the life of a child.

Lynda Sullivan
Development Committee