





CAMP KNUTSON IS DEDICATED TO
NURTURING THE WELL-BEING OF
PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN
A SETTING WHICH CELEBRATES GOD'S
LOVE FOR COMMUNITY AND CREATION.



Camp Knutson provides camping services for individuals with disabilities and medical needs. Camp is open year-round, also hosting retreats, conferences, meetings and trainings September through May.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS





Jared Griffin
Jared.Griffin@lssmn.org



Caitlin Malin
Caitlin.Malin@lssmn.org

Reflecting on our first full year together as Camp Director and Program Director, we are humbled and amazed. It has been a year full of learning and growing – for camp, for our campers and for ourselves.

We started our fiscal year with a strong retreat season, hosting 24 retreat groups. Our incredible summer camping season was extended when several organizations came in late August or early September. We were especially thrilled this year to welcome a new camp partner, Firefighters for Healing, serving young burn survivors and their families.

This year we had a record number of volunteers, a full summer camp schedule and several improvement projects. With the help of volunteers, we were able to restore our signature Bell Tower. In addition, we completed a new waterfront accessibility project that will make life for our campers safer and more comfortable. The variety and complexity of orchestrating all that happens at camp over the course of the year is truly amazing. Seeing it all come together and experiencing firsthand the healing and joy of individuals who come here is magical. It is what inspires us and keeps us striving to make camp the absolute best it can be.

Our theme this summer was family. We intentionally work to build an accepting, inclusive community. It is who we are, who we strive to be and what makes camp remarkable. The longer we are here, the more we understand that what happens here is more akin to family. Family in how every person who touches camp in some way, contributes to camp's well-being. Family in how staff, volunteers, and campers all look out for one another. Family in how camp has become a seedbed for hope and healing for so many.

We are grateful to be part of Camp Knutson. In looking ahead, we continue to strengthen our programming, improve our facilities and look for ways to best serve individuals and families with identified needs.

We are deeply appreciative of your stewardship of time, talent, financial gifts, and most of all, your steadfast friendship. You help keep Camp Knutson strong.

Warmly,

Jared Griffin
Camp Director

Caitlin Malin
Program Director





"It's been amazing seeing Lizzy here. She's grown in confidence and poise at camp."

~ Sue, Grandmother and guardian to camper











"It has been fun with the other people. At camp you get to be yourself. You get to be with other people who know what you're going through. You don't have to hide things. There's no judging."

~Gabe, Camp RED camper





1302 RETREAT PARTICIPANTS



"He has just blossomed. He's running around camp. He's so willing and excited to try every single thing that's available to him. He's engaged, he's laughing, he's happy and he's free."

~Sharyl, mother of camper

















VOLUNTEERS •

THANK YOU

what we do without your amazing support!

Our deepest thanks to all the volunteers for the time and energy they gave to enhance camp during 2017. Each of you has made a significant impact on our camp community with your involvement in the work crew, beading, gardening, mowing, cleaning, airport support, fishing, special events and more. We truly couldn't do



NIGHT UNDER THE STARS



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



\$234,031

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED THROUGH CAMP K FUNDRAISERS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS HELD ON OUR BEHALF.



QUILT AUCTION

ICE TEE OPEN



VOLUNTEERS •



NORTH AMERICAN BANKING

A group from North American Banking spent a weekend with us in May to prepare the camp grounds for summer. One of their largest projects was restoring our signature Bell Tower.



MOWERS

The 2nd Friday of every summer month, a group of volunteers assist with maintenance and facility needs. Every Friday our volunteer mowers keep our grounds looking pristine.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Nearly 200 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Cloud Area Stake, gave a day of service to Camp Knutson, painting buildings, winterizing waterfront equipment and prepping the waterfront for our Accessibility Project.





MN TEEN CHALLENGE

Individuals from MN Adult and Teen Challenge joined us for a day in the spring and day in the fall to help put in and take our waterfront docks.



ZION LUTHERAN

Amor Zion volunteers helped prepare camp for the summer camping season.

2017 **CAMP KNUTSON ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Le Boyer Annalisa Eckman - Rudser

Char Erikson

Dick Frikson

Dave Fischer

Ally Garin

Jared Griffin

Deb James

Steven James

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Karin Smalkoski

Caitlin Malin

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CAMP RED – NEW PARTNERSHIP SERVES YOUNG BURN SURVIVORS

This summer, Camp Knutson welcomed a new partnership with Firefighters for Healing to offer Camp RED (Realize Every Dream) for the very first time to young burn survivors and their families. Former firefighter Jake LaFerriere founded Firefighters for Healing after he was badly burned fighting a house fire. Jake's dream included a camp for young burn survivors, a place where their stories, and emotional and physical scars could be shared, not hidden. That dream came true at Camp Knutson.

Camp RED served young burn survivors aged 5 to 15 and their families. While the youth participated in camp activities, the adults shared their experiences – the journey of their child's trauma and recovery, rehab and easing back into daily life.

Nothing demonstrated the success of camp like the campers' first activity at the waterfront. The campers were at the water's edge, wearing long sleeves and pants, or intentionally positioned towels, all covering scars. Dr. Jon Gayken, their Hennepin County Medical Center burn surgeon, joined them. There he was standing on the beach in swim trunks, 40 percent of his own body scarred by skin grafts. He encouraged the hesitant campers to join him swimming – then, one-by-one, the campers stripped to their swimwear and pranced into the water.

Planning for next summer's Camp Red has already started. One teen learned to joke again at Camp but declared in all seriousness: "When I am 18, I would like to come to Camp RED as a volunteer counselor."

"It has been fun. At camp you get to be yourself. You get to be with other people who know what you're going through. You don't have to hide things. There's no judging." ~ Gabe, Camp RED camper

BEGINNING ANEW WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: AT CAMP KNUTSON

Weddings are not an everyday occurrence at Camp Knutson. So when Jake Garin and Ally Taubenheim got married there in September, it was an extra-special occasion. Ally started coming to Camp Knutson as a camper with the American Academy of Dermatology's Camp Discovery when she was 10 years old. She has been coming faithfully ever since. She has experienced camp as a camper, a volunteer counselor, summer program staff and now as program director for Camp Discovery, one of Camp Knutson's national partners for the same skin camps Ally attended as a kid.

Jake met Ally at camp when they were both volunteer counselors. It was only fitting that they got married where it all began. Jake now serves as Camp's airport logistics coordinator and Ally has also recently stepped into serving on Camp's Advisory Council. We are thrilled they both remain a close part of the Camp Knutson family.







• CAMP STAFF 2017 •



2017



OCTOBER 4 – 5 **LSS Safety Committee**

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5 – 10 **Scrap Around the Clock Scrapbooking**

OCTOBER 11 - 16 Scrap Camp 1 Scrapbooking

OCTOBER 27 - 29 **Women's Spiritual** Network

OCTOBER 28 - 30 **Utrinkets Knitters' Retreat**

NOVEMBER 4 – 6 **Celtic Spirituality Retreat 1**

NOVEMBER 9 – 10 LSS Leadership Forum

NOVEMBER 27 Crosslake Lutheran Advent Appetizers

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 13 **Crosslake Lutheran Choir**

JANUARY 3 Crosslake Lutheran Board



MARCH 4 Ice Tee Open Fundraiser sponsored by Moonlite Bay

MARCH 16 - 19 Minnesota Knitters **Guild Retreat**

MARCH 23 - 26 **Llama Mamas Knitters** Retreat





Zion Lutheran Church of Amor

APRIL 28 MN Adult and Teen Challenge put in docks **MAY 15** Activities coordinators arrive

MAY 19 LSS Brainerd Group Homes -**Adults with Identified Needs**

MAY 22

Summer staff arrives

JUNE 11 - 15 **Down Syndrome Foundation**

JUNE 18 - 23 Camp Discovery JR (Skin Conditions)

JUNE 25 - 30 Camp Hand in Hand I (Autism)

JULY 10 - 14 Camp Odayin I (Heart Disease)

JULY 15 **Night Under the Stars**

JULY 17 - 21 Camp Odayin II (Heart Disease)

JULY 24 - 28 Camp Odayin III (Heart Disease)

JULY 30 - AUGUST 4 Camp Hand in Hand II (Autism) AUGUST 18 - 20 AA Men's Retreat

AUGUST 21 - 24 Camp RED (Realize Every Dream) (Burn Survivors)

AUGUST 25 - 27 **Bridging Hearts (Young** Adults with Mild Disabilities)

AUGUST 28 - 30 LSS Youth Experiencing Homelessness

SEPTEMBER 15 - 17 **Duluth East Choir**

SEPTEMBER 23 Wedding: Jake & Ally Garin

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27 LSS Senior Corps Staff

SEPTEMBER 29 MN Adult and Teen Challenge take out docks

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER **Waterfront Accessibility Project**

THANK YOU!

Children and youth find joy and selfacceptance at Camp K. They find out just how strong they can be. Volunteers come for a day's work and return year after year. Partners align with Camp Knutson and continue summer after summer. Staff retain strong allegiance to camp and return when they are able.

What is it about Camp Knutson that invites such deep loyalty and love? Camp is filled with the spirit of joy and possibility. It is inclusive, welcoming and designed so each individual discovers their best.

Your generosity and great heart for camp make our work possible. It is your unfailing support that helps us create this incredible community for our campers, staff, volunteers, and visitors. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of love that comes to us through you – through financial gifts and gifts of time and talent. We truly would not be able to do what we do best without you.

From our heart to yours - thank you!



DONORS

This list reflects gifts received during our 2017 fiscal year.

Our fiscal year runs October1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

INDIVIDUALS

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Adele J. Suomela

WATERFRONT GETS AN EXTREME MAKEOVER!

Our biggest concern was for the safety and comfort of our campers."

~ Jared Griffin, Camp Director, on the new improvement project to our waterfront.

As most campers will tell you, sunny days spent at the waterfront are a highlight of camp. But after countless summers of fun, camp's waterfront was due for a much-needed facelift.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, camp's Waterfront Accessibility Project was completed in October.

The new waterfront boasts:

- Additional seating and towel storage by the boathouse
- A new sloped pathway to replace steps to the bathhouse
- A wider, paved path to replace the wooden boardwalk, increasing accessibility
- Wider steps to the patio
- Rebuilt rock wall to protect against erosion
- Two new outdoor rinse stations

We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to this project, including the volunteers who helped with the heavy lifting of preparing the grounds for LA Lawn Care and Landscaping to come in and complete the project.





WATERFRONT PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION



INDIVIDUALS continued

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Zion Lutheran Church of Amor.

Zion Lutheran Church Women.

Zion Lutheran Church Women of Amor.

Battle Lake

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NIGHT UNDER THE STARS in-kind

3 Cheers Hospitality Ace Hardware, Crosslake Adirondak Coffee House American Legion Post 500



NEW MEDICAL BATHTUB HELPS PUT WORRIES TO REST

Every summer, campers with certain skin conditions need to go through hours-long excruciating bandage changes. The process is made safer and more comfortable for both campers and medical staff with the use of our Advanced Medical bathtub. Our old tub was leaking and it was getting harder to maintain the strict temperature control needed for campers.

Camp Knutson received a very generous gift of a brand new medical tub! Having the tub means campers have the opportunity to experience all the activities at camp they want without the added worry of risking infection due to soiled bandages.

"Because I am so tall, this is the only tub I have ever been able to lay flat in. I am absolutely grateful to have this at camp for my bandage changes."

~ camper, American Academy of Dermatology





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Marie & David Fisher Carolyn & John Forney Friday Morning Coffee Group David Fuhs Linda Gates Grand Casino Mille Lacs **Grand Champion Meats Great Furniture Gallery** Guthrie Theater Stephanie Haider & Jon Rappath Pat Hesli Holiday Inn Express Holly's Hair & Nails Ideal Fire Dept If The Shoe Fits Indulge Your Senses Lola & Phil Johnson Johnson's Personality Plus Interiors Jean & Dave Jones Judy's House of Gifts Kelli Engstrom Photography Judy & Dan Kenobbie KICKS on "Route 66" LA Lawncare & Landscape Lake Country Crafts and Cones Lakes Area Gallery & Frame Shoppe Lands End Development Landsburg Nursery Larson Group/Keller Williams Mary & Doug Larson Jan & Jeff Laurel Leisure Day Rental at Al's Marine Leslie's Dr. Linda Lewis Loide' Oils & Vinegars, Nisswa Ed Lounsberry Lucky's Tavern Lundrigan's Clothing John Manning Martin's Sport Shop Linda and Max Martz Caroline & Dan Mason Massie Creek Maucieri's Jack McChesney

Meas Cabin Cindv & Lee Melsby Merritt Jewelers Mike's Tree Company MN Zip Line Adventures Moonlite Square Convenience Store Morgan Design Judy Morgan Kathy & John Morgan Bonita Morris Colleen Murray Natural Tone Furniture Kathy & Larry Nelson Susan & Jon Newsome Mary & David Nielsen Nordic Haus North American Banking Northland Pet Lodge Northland Press Northwoods Inne Old Log Theater Gwen & Dale Orred Tom Otteson Owls N' Things Passages of Time Pequot Lakes SuperValu Pine Peaks Gifts and Restaurant Quirks Rafferty's Crosslake Rapid River Water Park Julie Rose Route 66 Marine North Rustica Home Furnishings Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge Safari North Wildlife Park Salon Couture Shari & Don Schumacker Seaberg Motorsports Seeds of Sommer Helen & Ted Silva Simonson Lumber Co Gail Smith Betty & Dan Soller Stonehouse Coffee & Roastery Karen Struve

FINANCIALS





NIGHT UNDER THE STARS in-kind continued

Studio Posh
Sunset Cinema
Sandi & Dan Thorson
Timberjack Smokehouse
The Village Inn
Waterfront Services
Wes Hanson Builders
White Birch Golf Course
Whitefish Auto / Craig Paulson
Whitefish Golf Club
The Wild Daisy
Kate & Tom Williams
Zorbaz

QUILT AUCTION in-kind

Anonymous Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Mounds View Lvnn Achtelik Pamela Anderson Ascension Lutheran Church Quilters, Burlington, Vt. Bear Creek Lutheran Church Women, Grand Meadow Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aitkin Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd Brainerd Area Catholic Churches, Baxter Cambridge Lutheran Church Sue Carroll Nancy & Robert Christensen Community of Grace Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake Cormorant Lutheran Church, Lake Park Crosslake Lutheran Church

Crosslake Quilters

Jenny H. Davis East Chain Lutheran Church Women. Blue Farth Emily Quilters Group Kathy C. Everson First Lutheran Church, Aitkin First Lutheran Church, Brainerd First Lutheran Church, Little Falls Linda & William Forsythe Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rochester Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Saint Paul Grace Lutheran Church, Andover Sally & Rick Gusso Halstad Lutheran Church Women Gretchen Hanson Marilyn A. Harder Hazel Run Lutheran Church Catherine Hendrickson Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Duluth Hope Lutheran Church, Walker Ruth & Darrell Howieson Tamara Hudrlik Sharon Hultgren Sharon & Daniel Jacobson Carolyn & John Jentink Cindy & Paul Johnson Twila & Flmer Johnson Yvonne I Kalahar Tammy Kepner Susan M. Krabbenhoft Connie Krueger Katherine Kunkel Ladies of the Lakes Quilt Guild Dawn Leitch Kathe L. Lemmerman Laura Lemmerman Shari & Denny Loechler Lord of Life Lutheran Church Women, Baxter Jovce & Carl Lotze Gloria Lund Shirley Ann & Harley Luttrell Carol & Lawrence Madison Pam Marlatt

Diane Marsolek

Barbara J. McKay Leslie N. Milde Debbie Mirau Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church. Crosslake Diane Mover Barbara Neal Carol Neil Kathleen& Larry Nelson Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Outing Brenda Peterson Linda & Andy Peterson Quilt Chicks River Valley Quilters Linda & John Schultz Colleen Sheehan Barb Sikora Anita Smythe Nancy & Ronald Soderstrom Elizabeth & George Soldner St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Mahtomedi St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Le Center St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hackensack Laurie Sweeney Julie Thomason Trinity Lutheran Church, Brainerd Trinity Lutheran Church, Hayfield Jackie Viestenz Dianne & Brian Wermager Linda Youngs Theresa Zeug Zion Lutheran Church of Markville Women Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka

Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids

*deceased

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If we have forgotten a name or made an incorrect listing, we apologize.

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