

Volume 8

Fall/Winter 2017

MEADOWLARK MESSENGER



Providing fun, safe, and adaptive recreational experiences for children, teens, and adults with disabilities.

Fall/Winter Issue

Year Round Team

Chris Liberto

Executive Director
cliberto@camphighhopes.com

Sarah Morgan

Advancement Director
smorgan@camphighhopes.com

Jonathan Mauk

Operations Director
jmauk@camphighhopes.com

Dr. Thomas Wentz

Volunteer Medical Director

Samantha Martin

Program Director
smartin@camphighhopes.com

Teresa Brus

Officer Manager
tbrus@camphighhopes.com

Kinley Miller

Registration Specialist
kmiller@camphighhopes.com

Joe Hlas

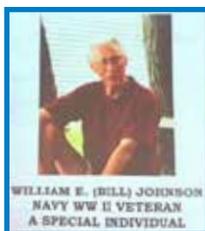
Maintenance Assistant
jhlas@camphighhopes.com

Alexis Seder

Program Fellow

Planned Giving

We are so honored to receive a portion of the late William (Bill) Johnson's estate. This \$66,000 gift will have a lasting impact on Camp High Hopes and our campers. Please consider including Camp High Hopes in your estate plans to help us make smiles for years to come!



Executive Director's Message

It's been a long journey since September of 2012! One that has seen thousands of campers come through our doors and even more smiles and lasting memories created.

The summer of 2017 marked a milestone for all of us at Camp High Hopes. We were honored to celebrate our five-year anniversary with members of the community, friends, and most importantly, the campers who call Camp High Hopes "home." As the crowd gathered for our celebration in Meadowlark Lodge, it was impossible not to think of the thousands of people who have helped create this 90-acre facility in Sioux City. I say it often, yet it cannot be overstated, Camp High Hopes is created by our community, and defined by our campers. For every generous donor, there is a camper who tackles the monkey tree. For every volunteer, there is a camper who hits a bullseye, and for every caring individual who has supported us in any way, there is a camper with a big smile on their face.

As a member of this community, it brings me great joy to know that Siouxland and the surrounding region cares enough to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a truly unique recreational experience at Camp High Hopes. As we embark on new growth and development (see inside for more on the Welcome Center and Boathouse,) I am encouraged to know that the same support we have seen the first five years will continue to guide us into even greater success.

~ Chris Liberto, Executive Director



Getting to Know Your Camper – Dylan Finnesgard

Dylan is eight-years-old and lives in Sioux City with his parents and sister. Dylan's Mom, Sammy, heard about camp through word of mouth. They were drawn to the camp sessions as a respite and opportunity for Dylan to be social, make new friends, and have fun.

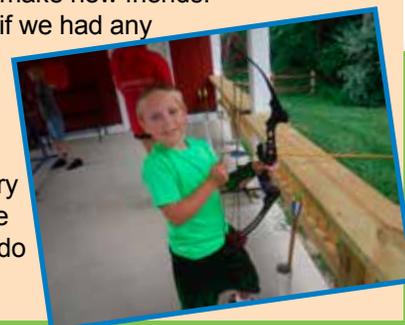
Dylan was born with just half a heart and required three open heart surgeries. At 20-months-old, he had a stroke, and at five-years-old he had a seizure. Dylan gets dizzy easily and tires quickly. On top of his heart condition, doctors also diagnosed Dylan with ADD. This can be exhausting and emotionally draining for Dylan's parents. That's when they rely on Camp High Hopes.

"It's such a joyful place," says Sammy. "It's was the one place we felt completely relaxed to leave him."

Camp offers Dylan's family peace of mind knowing that his medical needs will be taken care of and that the staff are trained and prepared for campers with special needs and behaviors. Camp is a place where Dylan can get away from the rest of the world, try new things, and make new friends.

"When we arrived for camp, they asked us if we had any goals for Dylan," says Sammy. "I got all teary and said, 'I just want him to make a friend.' It was so great for him and for us."

Now, Dylan has made many new friends from the many camp sessions he attends every year. He's also pretty awesome at showing the other campers his archery skills and Taekwondo moves!



Operations Director's Message

Phase 2 Completion: Welcome Center and Boathouse

October 9th marked the groundbreaking for our new Welcome Center and Boathouse, the final pieces of construction for Camp High Hopes Phase 2 Construction. Our long-awaited Welcome Center will provide the camp with much-needed work space, training room, and storage. We are always looking to the future and the Welcome Center will provide the camp with ample space to house our current office needs plus additional space as we continue to grow in the services we provide. Our new Welcome Center will also provide added security due to its location at the front of the camp, just outside the main gate. Visitors will be able to meet our staff without disrupting campers, with the added convenience of no longer trekking down the long hill and hiking from the main parking lot to the offices in Meadowlark Lodge. And if you schedule a tour of camp, we are adding to our fleet of golf carts to better accommodate our visitors' needs!

In addition to the Welcome Center, construction will soon be starting on our Boathouse. This building will be located at the waterfront and provide year-round storage for canoes, kayaks, boating gear, fishing gear, and future ropes course storage, but it will also have a handicapped restroom facility. Both campers and staff look forward to having this new, accessible building available to use in summer 2018.

~ Jonathan Mauk



Camp Session Update

Planning for our summer 2018 camp sessions is already underway. Get ready to register December 1st to be certain you get the spot you want! Can't wait for summer? Fall Sessions are underway and spring sessions will open on December 1st. Visit our website at www.camphighhopes.com for more details and to register online!

After Hours Skill Building

Build your skills After Hours at Camp High Hopes! Each fall and spring, Camp High Hopes offers various six-week skill-building sessions from archery to aerobic drumming. Visit our website at www.camphighhopes.com for more details and to register online!

Advancement Director's Message

Thank you for the summer smiles! If you've given your time or treasure to camp, thank you! You have helped make smiles happen for hundreds of campers this summer! Check out a few of the super summer smiles in this issue of the Meadowlark Messenger!



~ Sarah Morgan

Gilchrist Foundation Matching Grant

Camp High Hopes recently received the Gilchrist Foundation matching endowment fund grant for up to \$100,000. That means we need to raise the other \$100,000 from our generous donors and friends, like you! Remember, you can take advantage of the Endow Iowa tax credits until they run out! Consider donating to this great cause and watch your donation double instantly!!! Call Sarah at camp at 712-224-2267 ext. 107 for details.



Getting to Know Your Staff Member

– Teresa Brus

Give a big Camp High Hopes welcome to Teresa Brus. She's our new office manager. Teresa comes to us from BPI. Originally from Harlan, Iowa, Teresa has lived and worked in Sioux City since graduating from Western Iowa Tech Community College. She lives with her two teenage sons, Matthew and Christopher, and their dog, Cooper.



"I am excited to be a part of camp because I look forward to working with campers and their families," says Teresa. "I also love the outdoors, so this was a perfect fit."

Teresa will be the one answering your calls when you call the camp office and will greet you at the door when you visit. She takes care of the camp's accounting and human resource duties.

#GivingTuesday

Don't forget! #GivingTuesday is coming up on Tuesday, November 28th! Be on the lookout for ways to participate and donate to camp on this world-wide day of giving!



Donations



Wow! Check out the great donation from Vizio in Dakota Dunes. Employees collected much needed supplies for our campers! What a great way to support Camp High Hopes! Thanks, Vizio!



What a unique and cool donation! Take a look at this quilt from Ginny Freyermuth and pillow cases from the Siouxland Quilters Guild! The quilt will help brighten a space at camp, and the pillowcases will go home with some campers! Thanks so much!



Scheels associates collected s'more supplies for us! Lots of yummy, gooey treats in our campers' future thanks to Scheels and their employees!



Ben and Sam helped to sew two of the pillowcases!



We always need quilts at camp! Thanks, Phyllis Woll, for keeping our campers and staff warm in a beautiful way!



Chiropractic First of Iowa makes regular donations to camp from their patients' first visits to the office!



Midwest Family Lending donated a portion of their sales in June to Camp High Hopes!

Donating to Camp

There are so many ways to donate to Camp High Hopes! Check out what's best for you and what the benefits are to all of them!

Cash Gifts: The camp is always in need of direct cash support. These donations pay for operations and programs. We are able to use cash donations immediately and put it to what we need most.

Sponsor An Event: Get your name out there at one of our events, Rib Fest or Haunted Lodge Party! You'll receive tickets and recognition during the event. Not interested in an event? Ability Makers is a great way to support some of the amazing activities at camp.

Harvesting Smiles: Donating grain or other commodities can have huge tax benefits to you. You receive 100% of the tax donation. Ask your tax professional for details!

Planned Gifts: Designating Camp High Hopes as a beneficiary in

your will or estate plans can have long lasting effects on our campers for years to come! Talk about leaving a legacy behind!

Gifts of Real Estate or Stock:

Camp High Hopes is able to receive large donations, such as the gift of real estate or stock. Talk to your tax advisor about the benefits of this donation.

Endowment Funds: Our endowment fund is set up through the Siouxland Community Foundation where donors can take full advantage of the Endow Iowa tax credits.

Camperships: Help pay for campers to attend one of our programs! Camperships are like scholarships for our campers! You can direct your cash donations to go into our campership fund.

Needs or In-Kind Donations:

From toilet paper to art supplies, we need to keep the camp stocked with essentials! Check out our website for the items we need the most!

Special Events

Jami Jam Recap

A little rain didn't keep the 6th annual Jami Jam, held on August 26th, from rolling through the Iowa Great Lakes. The motorcycle and poker run started and ended in Terril, Iowa with an auction and live music. The great event raised \$9,000 for camp! Thanks, Jeremy Thielen, for all your hard work in putting this together for our campers!



Drive 4 UR Community Recap

From heavy duty trucks to luxurious SUVs, drivers could take their pick! Sioux City Ford Lincoln held a Drive 4 UR Community event to help raise much-needed funds for Camp High Hopes. It was so easy to get involved! All you had to do was show up and Ford made a donation to camp! Thanks, Sioux City Ford Lincoln!



Labor Daze Recap

What a great way to spend the Saturday of Labor Day weekend! Labor Daze was a ton of fun, with great music, and awesome things to do! Thanks for raising awareness and funds for camp!



Rib Fest Recap

More than 2,000 people enjoyed tasty ribs and chicken at Camp High Hopes' 2017 Rib Fest. It was a huge success and the amateur BBQ competition raised more than \$60,500 for camp! This money will directly benefit our campers by helping to fund activities, meals, transportation, and other necessities while they are at camp! We'll see you next year for Siouxland's biggest and most rockin' rib cookoff!



Haunted Lodge Party Recap

What a night! The 6th annual Camp High Hopes Haunted Lodge Party was a bone-chilling success! We hit a record number of sponsorships. Local businesses went head to head in the Lip Sync Battle, amazing costumes mesmerized the crowd, the daring got a glimpse into their future with a reading from Psychic Suzanna, and pumpkin carver, Luke Schroder, dazzled the crowd with his talents. There were also plenty of shocks and surprises throughout the evening, but the spookiest part of the event? We raised \$130,000 thanks to our generous sponsors, donors, and guests!



Thank You, Volunteers

Baird Financial Group: Employees from Baird Wealth Management had a day out of the office as part of their long-standing tradition to give back to their communities in which they live and worked. As part of Baird Cares, they helped us put in a drainage line and build a fence.



BioLife Plasma Services: Employees with BioLife Plasma Services in Sioux City spent a day getting their hands dirty at camp! They helped paint, mulch, and put up a silt fence!



Sacred Heart: Students from Sacred Heart spent a part of their day away from the books and out in their community. We put them to work painting benches and cleaning up around camp!



Simple Life: Simple Life Inc. brings volunteers every Friday afternoon to help us sweep, mop, and tidy up Meadowlark Lodge and Cardinal Cabin!



Morningside Into the Streets: A day off of class for these Morningside students. The Sioux City college encourages students to spend a day volunteering in the community. We put them to work staining and sealing our picnic tables!



Rib Fest Volunteers: We had tons of volunteers who helped us make Rib Fest a success this year. From selling t-shirts to taking tickets, we couldn't have done it without our volunteers!



Board and Business Spotlight

Board Members

Ken Beekley (Treasurer)
Siouxland Economic Development Corp.

Allyson Bennett
Kalins Indoor Comfort

Lindsey Buchheit
Buchheit Law

Jeremy Craighead
Security National Bank

Jill Foley
KCAU-TV

Jeanie Hohenstein
Kevin Hohenstein Construction
and Hauling, LLC

Chris Liberto (Executive Director)
Camp High Hopes

Jim Malek (President)
Natural Food Holdings

Marva McMillen
Midwest Alarm

Shane Miller
Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.

Dr. Terry Murrell (Vice-President)
Western Iowa Tech Comm. College

Ann Myers (Ex-Officio)
Hospice of Siouxland

Mark Porter
Seaboard Triumph Foods

Todd Rand
Rand Farms

Steve Schultz
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance

Gary Turbes
Mid Step Services

Darin Turner
Hy-Vee Gordon Drive

Tamera Wauer
Premier Bankcard

Jill Williams (Secretary)
Community Volunteer

Lynn Wold
UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's

Getting To Know Your Board Member - Lynn Wold

Lynn Wold joined the Camp High Hopes Board of Directors in May of 2016. He is currently the President and CEO of UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's, a position he's held for more than two years now. Lynn joined the Camp High Hopes board to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

"I am inspired by Camp High Hopes' mission and I want to help advance it," says Wold. "Camp High Hopes is the epitome of everything that is good in our community."

Lynn serves on the camp's fundraising committee and is dedicated to bringing more opportunities to campers with disabilities. He loves how camp provides experience for people with disabilities to live life without limits.

"Camp High Hopes is a unique, special shining star within our community, providing a unique experience to children and adults with special needs," says Wold.

When he's not at the hospital or out in the community serving with camp and the other non-profits he's a part of, you'll find him in Le Mars with his fiancée, Beth, and their five children.



Board President's Message

September brought about much excitement for Camp High Hopes! Our groundbreaking ceremony kicked off the future of our Welcome Center and our Boathouse, which we are expecting to enjoy in the spring of 2018. Our board and our staff are so very proud of the community support that helped get us to this stage of our growth. These additions will allow our camper families and our staff more comfort, convenience and efficiency than ever before. Thank you to our board, our building committee, and our community for helping us build more smiles.

~ Jim Malek



Business Spotlight

We have several businesses that go above and beyond to help make Camp High Hopes such an amazing place. We want to thank two of the many that consistently help us make smiles happen! Thank you, Pepsi Cola of Siouxland and Bass Advertising!

Pepsi Cola of Siouxland was recently nominated as one of the top distributors in the country. They made a \$5,000 donation to camp which Pepsi Cola matched! With that, camp was highlighted in a special video that was shown to distributors all over the country!

Will and Austin Bass at Bass Advertising have taken Camp High Hopes under their wings and have created our awesome new brochures, newsletters, postcards, and advertisements! Their creativity and generous gift of their time and talents have taken our look to a whole new level!





5806 Correctionville Rd
Sioux City, IA
51106

*Registration opens
December 1st for spring
and summer programs!*



Camp's Biggest Need Right Now- Camperships!

While it only costs campers and their families \$598 to attend one week of sleep away camp, that can still be a financial burden for many. To help alleviate that, and to make sure as many campers as possible can attend our awesome camp sessions, we offer camperships: scholarships for campers! Campers can apply for a \$200 campership to reduce the cost of camp. Our fund is running low, and we need your help! Help fund a campership today!

