

Normand's Story: Legacy Circle

"I've been a camp volunteer for 17 years, since I was in high school and did a co-op placement at Sick Kids. I knew right away: I need to do this, I love this. Today, I'm a social worker with a focus on kids and families and camp will always be part of my life and my story. That's why I'm part of the Legacy Circle and leaving a gift in my Will to Campfire Circle.

Actually, I have my own personal 'Camp Bingo Card' filled with all the different ways I can help: day camp, overnight camp, winter camp, bereaved siblings camp, outings, events, eventually I hope to serve on the board... I truly want to experience camp in all aspects. I'm even getting my Bronze Cross right now so I can do more at the waterfront. It's so important to me that I want to do it all!

Over the years, I've come to realize that everything I do is for the kids, every minute, every session. I'm grateful for the breadth of experiences I get at camp: moments of pure joy, individual victories and triumphs, quiet and gentle times of genuine connection... I love it all. And I want it to keep going forever. Part of writing my Will was truly reflecting on my values, and camp is my life story. Someday, in the future, my gift will go to where it is most needed at that time. And, for me, that's a moment of: **DOUGHNUT WAS HERE!** I honestly don't think I can be better remembered."

– Normand (known by campers as Doughnut), Volunteer, Legacy Donor



"DOUGHNUT WAS HERE! That's how I want to be remembered forever."

them as their camp name, Doughnut! It is my pleasure and privilege to help donors like Doughnut—and you—express their values by giving to Campfire Circle. A growing number of donors are joining our Legacy Circle and making a promise to help campers forever with a gift in their Will or other planned gifts. **THESE GIFTS PROVIDE CRUCIAL FUNDS WE CAN COUNT ON TO DELIVER OUR PROMISE OF HEALING THROUGH HAPPINESS, FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY CANCER OR SERIOUS ILLNESS, FOREVER.** I would be happy to send you more information, or have a confidential conversation at any time. You can request more information on the enclosed reply form or contact me directly at **1-888-464-6624 ext. 213** or **angie@campfirecircle.org**. I'm here to help!

– Angie Barbieri



Our dear friend Doughnut—I MEAN NORMAND!—has made a truly remarkable gift to Campfire Circle and I'm proud to share their story today in the hope it will inspire you. I know that their real name is Normand, but I always think of

Friends of Camp

Upcoming Events!



The much anticipated Campfire Circle Paddle Project Auction is coming soon online and in person!

Launched in 2010, the Campfire Circle Paddle Project raises awareness and funds by showcasing one-of-a-kind canoe paddles created by generous artists, designers, athletes and celebrities. Artists are provided a blank 54" canoe paddle and asked

to apply their artistic inspirations. Each year over 90 paddles are auctioned off to raise funds for Campfire Circle through the online **#PADDLE PROJECT AUCTION** in the month leading up to the Bonfire Bash and at the event.

By supporting the Paddle Project you are helping Campfire Circle bring camp-inspired and medically supported programs that promote resiliency, social connectedness and well-being to kids with cancer or serious illness and their families.

Will you please join Spark Club today?

Your monthly gifts will be matched, for the rest of the year, when you sign up now! **SPARK CLUB** members also receive special updates, exclusive invitations and other ways to connect with the impact of your generosity! Find out more on the reply form or contact **416-961-6624 ext. 273** or **michelle@campfirecircle.org**. Thank you!

Spark Club!
CAMPFIRE CIRCLE MONTHLY GIVING



Friends of Camp

An update on how you're an ongoing part of our story!

CAMPFIRE CIRCLE
FALL 2023

Noah's Camp Adventures: Made Possible Because of You!

Together with your kindness and generosity, our pal Noah had an awesome and epic camp adventure this summer! You might remember hearing Noah's story—his mom Ivona describes him as "7-going-on-teenager" and he's been using a wheelchair ever

since he had cancer as a baby. Because of our amazing friends of camp like you, Noah was able to go to camp all by himself for the first time ever this year—10 days of accessible adventures! We are thrilled to share this update from Ivona, Noah's mom. **THANK YOU FOR MAKING THESE—AND MANY MORE—CAMP STORIES POSSIBLE!**

"Noah gave camp an enthusiastic 12/10!"

– Ivona, Grateful Camp Mom

"When we picked Noah up after camp, he couldn't stop talking. Cabin mates! Swimming! Tree top trekking! Fishing! He was all smiles, just pure joy. My heart jumped into my throat when he talked about the treetops. We're both afraid of heights! Me more than him, obviously, but I couldn't believe it! It's one of those activities I had never even imagined—the fact that it's accessible and that he was able to just jump up and do it like any other kid?! And he was so proud

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that he got a swimming band that meant he didn't need a jacket, just a pool noodle. My little fish in the water! He loves swimming and feels so free when he can propel himself so well using just his arms.

Even from the moment he got on the wheelchair accessible bus, I knew he was in good hands. I sent along an essay of instructions and even his medical complexities were never a big deal. He never heard 'no we can't do that'. He only heard about adventures, challenges, and opportunities. And he also had quiet, gentle moments with his cabin mates and counsellors—when he mentioned his buddy Alex, neither of us knew he was talking about the CEO of Campfire Circle! It felt like forever but it also went so quick. My husband and I slept in, stayed out late, even got out of the city for a few nights, too. I didn't realize how much I missed him until I saw him—and he was just beaming, bursting and bubbling with stories. **HE IS COUNTING THE DAYS UNTIL HE CAN GO BACK, AND RECOUNTING AND RELIVING HIS CAMP**



MEMORIES ALMOST EVERY DAY. It's unusual for any 7-year-old to be so overwhelmingly positive about an experience but Noah just raves about camp. We're so thankful and appreciative to everyone who supports Campfire Circle. **THANK YOU!!**

– Ivona, Noah's Mom and Grateful Camp Mom



Joel's Story

"Joel doesn't have any friends who have had cancer. In fact, the only way most kids can relate to him when they find out is to say, 'Oh, my Grandma died of cancer'. I know kids are doing their best, but it breaks my heart a bit every time I hear someone say that to Joel, and I can see that it hurts him, too. I also know in my heart that camp gives him social connections with other kids who can understand what he's been through in a way that most kids can't.

Our daughters Brooke and Claire get the opportunity to attend camp too — it means so much to them and us that Campfire Circle supports siblings of children with cancer too,

"Without Camp, Joel would never have a chance to meet kids with the same experiences. It makes a massive difference to him—and all of us." – Karen, Grateful Camp Mom



as they are directly impacted by the cancer diagnosis as well. If camp wasn't free, and only kids whose families could afford it were able to go, we'd be leaving kids behind in building these crucial connections which will be so important for their whole lives. **ALL KIDS HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BELONG AT CAMP.** And the peace of mind that goes with knowing there are doctors, nurses, and the best resources and medical staff right at camp, it means everything."

– Karen, Grateful Camp Mom



Here are a just a few of the delightful messages we received from donors like you sending wishes to our campers. Thank you for being part of the story!

Enjoy Your Camp Adventures!



Deep breaths of fresh air. Run, walk as far + as long as you can in nature. Love life and all it has to give. Hope, joy, healing happiness!!!

To: A SP CAM ONT



Hi,
I am a senior, BUT HAVE HAPPY MEMORIES OF CAMPING. TOASTING MARSHMELLOWS OVER THE FIRE WAS ALWAYS FUN AS LONG AS YOU DONT BURN IT TOO MUCH. BARBARA

To: A SPE CAM ONT

Campfire Circle is the best camp in the world, literally, because of you!

To: A SPE CAM ONTARIO, CANADA



From Our Camp Mailbox To Your Heart!

Chill Will's Story: A love letter to camp... thanks to you!

We just received this beautiful letter from a camper family and just had to share it with you—because you make these rip-roaring adventures possible! "Chill Will" was given his nickname when he met Campfire Circle in the hospital when he was a teeny-tiny baby. Will was diagnosed with cancer at just 7 days old, and the volunteers, staff and nurses couldn't believe that he was the happiest, most smiley, most



mellow baby. Only a few weeks after his challenging in-hospital treatments, the family went to a weekend at camp, and it was the first time they had ever spent any quality family time outside of the hospital. Will still had a lot of medical needs and complex medications to coordinate, but nothing stopped them from having adventures! **WE HOPE THIS LETTER BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR FACE—IT SURE DID FOR US!**

Hi, Campfire Circle.

Geoff, Will and I are just back from our first family camp session at Rainbow Lake. We cannot thank everyone involved enough for the beautiful time we were able to spend together as a family. Being surrounded by nature, other families who have been through similar journeys to ours, and watching all of the kids able to just be kids was incredibly healing for us. We cannot wait to go back next year when Will, who is currently 13 months, will hopefully be rip-roaring around the place as a two-year-old.

Special thanks to our family guide (Zahra) who allowed Geoff and I to get a whole lot more rest than we have had in a long time and to all of the incredibly creative, energetic and enthusiastic staff who made the week so memorable.

As one of the mom's said in the final gratitude circle, Campfire Circle is the best silver lining to the hand that we have all been dealt.

– Lisa, Geoff and "Chill Will", Grateful Camp Family