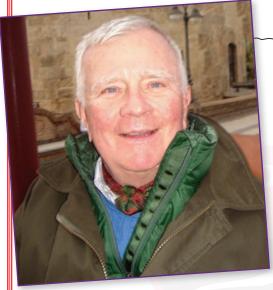
THE NEWSLETTER FOR CAMP CONISTON CAMPERS, STAFF AND ALUMNI • SPRING 2007

CONISTON



Donor Focus

HE

"It was the best thing I could do for my grandkids"

DICK LEACH New London, NH

Dick Leach is very clear on the day he dropped off his eight-year-old granddaughter Hally for her first session at Coniston. "Do I remember *that* morning," he said with a laugh. "I know Coniston works hard to get a compatible group of kids together in the cabins, but this didn't look good. Six of the girls were outdoors-y athletic types, and other six were dressed in the latest fashions with rock-star photos over their bunks. Here they were huddled at each end of the cabin, and I thought, "These kids are from opposite ends of the earth!"

At first the news from Camp was not encouraging. "It was a tough start for Hally—she wasn't happy and neither were the rest of the kids." It was with some concern that Dick returned two weeks later for Hally's pickup, to find her smiling and radiant. "I was amazed and I asked her, 'how did it go?' She said the first day was *awful*, but on the second day the counselors sat them down and said, 'Listen, we're going to live together and have fun together," and it turned out to be the best session ever."

What changed? "Those outstanding counselors, who saw the problem and took steps to cure it. They did what Coniston does best ... they created a *community*, and that's what worked for Hally that summer. It's just one huge family over there."

A Commitment To Coniston's Future

Dick knows the importance of bringing people together—his Air Force training demonstrated the value of team commitment. "In pilot training there were people from all walks of life, but there was one goal—get those wings. It's the same at Coniston. The common goal is to become a good Coniston camper, to carry

themselves well, to have confidence ... just be a great citizen! And it's that confidence that really shows what an 'old-fashioned camp' can do for kids. I've seen it happen myself."

The benefits that Camp brought to Dick's grandkids motivated him to start the Coniston Grandparents Group. "The camp was trying to raise money for the land purchase and I thought, "There are so many grandparents out there who love camp ... we should try to get that money from them, but there was no way to do it." Dick developed a plan to send letters and emails to Coniston grandparents asking them for a dona-

... continued on page 2

THE LEACH FAMILY KIDS: TOP ROW L-R: TOWER BERT, HENRY BIRMINGHAM. FRONT ROW L-R: HALLY BERT, JACK BIRMINGHAM, OSCAR LEACH, MASON BERT AND NELL BIRMINGHAM

CAMP CONISTON



YMCA PO BOX 185, GRANTHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03753



THE CONISTON CHRONICLE

A Publication of YMCA CAMP CONISTON for Campers, Alumni and Staff

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2006 ... what a year! We have much to look back on — our highest camper return rate ever, the old Dining Hall transformed

into a center for the arts, the new Girl's College, and the most successful fundraiser in Camp history. It seems that the world took notice, as we were mentioned from coast to coast—the Washington Post to the Los Angeles Times!

What will we do next to continue the great tradition of impacting kids' lives? As Dick Leach's interview points out, we must continue to build a staff that can deal with and teach children.

I feel our summer staff gets more training for their future here than anywhere else. Where else can college students manage a group of their own

DICK LEACH

... continued from page 1

tion. "We suggested \$100 for every session your grandkids have gone to Camp and that seemed to work well. We're still developing the Group, and we know there's a lot of work to do at Camp with maintenance and improvements ... maybe we could work to fund that." he said thoughtfully.

When asked what other Coniston grandparents could do to help, Dick's response was quick and definite ... "Listen to your grandkids! Listen to the kids who have been there to Coniston. Talk to them about Camp ... 95% of them will have fantastic memories and stories to tell. You'll see in them the confidence and the characterbuilding that will last them the rest of their lives." – 5

Director's 2¢

peers ... not only campers, but other staff? They learn to mediate conflicts, prioritize responsibilities, lead others, and make decisions that have farreaching impacts.

Much of their work may appear effortless, but I can tell you, it results from developing real skills that our staff can take from camp into their future. For example, I have never seen an adult calculate where two trains meet if one left DC at 75 mph and another left Boston at 83 (a classic math problem!) Yet every day, in every occupation, I see adults who must *deal effectively with other people* — the most important skill anyone can get from camp.

So no matter what successes we shared last year, and no matter what we tackle for the future, Coniston will keep "developing young people with bright

futures" at the top of its priority list.

Coniston at College

When our staff leaves camp, here's where they go!

American University Amherst College Bates College Bennington College **Boston College Boston University Bucknell University** Carleton University Centre College Clark University Colby College Colby-Sawyer College Colorado College Connecticut College Dartmouth College **Denison University** Drew University George Washington University Hobart & William Smith Colleges Ithaca College John Hopkins University Keene State College Lyndon State College Miami University Middlebury College Northeastern University Notre Dame University Penn State **Plymouth State College Providence** College Sacred Heart University Saint Lawrence University Saint Michael's College Salve Regina College **Tufts University** Union College University of Chicago University of Illinois University of Maine Farmington University of New Hampshire University of Rhode Island University of Colorado University of Maryland University of Massachusetts Lowell University of Minnesota University of Central Lancashire University of Pennsylvania University of Richmond University of Tampa Westfield State College



Contributions of \$1-\$49

A & A Tree Service Gordy Adell Val Adell **Iillian** Albee Mary Albert Katie Arnold Tyler Bascom Pierce & Peggy Baugh Joanna Benjamin Courtney Blum Martha Calcutt Iames & Maria Concannon Andrew Concannon Catherine Cook Liz Copeland Charlie Creagh Chris Crossen-Sills Charles & Judith Danzoll Jane & Daniel Dausch A. Joseph & Ann Davidson Brian Doucet Caitlin Elgert Aisling Fenton Zach Friedman Frank & Adele Furdyna Michael & Tiziana Getz **GKS** Service Michelle Giggi-Howe Evan Glynn Nancy & Peter Goodell Shane Goodrich Jens & Hede Griem Robert Hooton Kelly Hughes Cathy Imboden Cynthia Smith & Steve Imrich Sarah Jennings Rachael Jennings Marc Kaufman Carole & Robert Kavanagh Katie Kavanagh Rose & Richard Koundakjian

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Contributions of \$50-\$99

AES Corporation Matt Andrus Edward Walsh & Margaret Beck Diana Blazar Carol A.Brown Sarah & Jay Buckey Dena Cherenson

Our Grateful Appreciation to All Our Contributors

Our recent Land Campaign was the most successful fundraising efforts in Coniston history! Thanks to our friends' generosity, we raised over \$325,000 to secure Coniston's future. As you read the comments from our donors, know that we could not have done this without your kind support.

Thank You

John & Sue Clough Duffy & Jen Conner John & Marion Copenhaver Barbara & Paul Couturier Diane & John Crimmins Molly & Dexter Cooper Delaney Susan & Robert DeLong Morgan & Loretta Dewey Christina & Carter Dodge David Fahey David Springledge Farm Alison & Michael Flippin Wachovia Foundation Sarah Garson Martha & Chris Groves Amy & Paul Hoffman Gretchen & Rick Hutchinson Dawn & Osaro Ighodaro Anna Romer & Bruce Jacobson Robert & Gail Johnson Suzanne Kangiser Meg Turner & Lawrence Kaye Roger Keilig Roger Thomas Kent Thomas Molly & Lewis Kershner Jane Dunphy & Gordon Kohse Nancy Kolb David & Marianne Laffitte Marianne & Erwin Lange Beth & Bill Leahy Mark & Kathleen Leven Neil & Kelly Levesque Al Cotugno & Debra Levine Linda Macedonio Terry & Larry Malam Michael Molyneux & Lisa Matthews Michael & Carolyn Mazzucco Heidi & Joseph Milardo Joseph & June Miley



Donor Focus



Steve Scudder Concord, NH

"Camperships may be the most important place for me to donate money. Knowing that we can make this happen for other kids, and having seen what it's done for our own children ... that *depth of opportunity* which some kids never get to have in their lives ... we can transplant those kids into the Camp setting, and give them that incredible experience.

"It's a terrific place ... you can just feel it all the time!"

Ruth & Joel Moses Burton & Rozanne Neiterman John & Cindy Page Robert & Norah Peterson Alan & Marcy Pike Fred & Marjorie Piker Linda Shultz & Clayton Platt Nicole Reiss Shannon Sawyer Elizabeth Seybold Ronald & Ellen Fisher Soriano Nancy & Chris Stafford Boris Makarov & Olga Vandycheva Dale Vincent Robert & Susan Vreeland Peter Dollard & Merle Westbrook Julie & Bob White Donna & Robert Young Lynn & Stephen Zimmermann



Contributions of \$100-\$249

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Jacqueline A Fenn Fleet Matching Gift Program Carl Ship & Christine Flynn Ann & Bill Forbush Judy & Jeff Freedman Conrad Frey Jane Hanenberg & Steven Friedman

Donor Focus



"I usually try to donate at least "a day at Camp" to the Campership fund. To me, it could give another child the opportunity I had ... the chance to become who I am today.

"I started going to Coniston when I was eight years old, and I'm an outdoor educator now. My career—and a large part of my life—is because I went to Camp.

"Until you see for yourself how much Camp can help a child grow and change, you'll never know how much good it can really do."

Susan & Robert Friedman Ira & Anna Galkin Barbara Garson Gartner Matching Gift Center Dee & Chip Gilroy Faye & John Gmeiner Katherine & Will Green David Greer M.D. John & Nancy Grout William Gundy Charles & Katherine Gustafson Margo & Harold Haddock Jane & Stephen Handley Mathew Harlow Darcy Conant Heindel Constance Helfat Hewlett Packard Matching Gift Program

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Donor Focus

Katie Gardner Wolfeboro, NH

"I started coming to Coniston in 1978 when I was 7 years old. As a camper, a CIT, a counselor, and now a member of Coniston's Board of Directors, I've always given what I could to Camp.

"Some of my dearest friendships to this day were started at Coniston ... it means so much more when you start a life-long friendship that way.

"Camperships make the lifechanging experience of Camp possible for anyone ... and that's why I give."



Donor Focus

Karen Freedman and Jared Reid Seattle, WA

"Jared and I met at Camp 11¹/2 years ago, and we've been together ever since ... I guess you'd say we owe our relationship to Coniston!

"But beyond that, we both recognize the value of Camp in our daily lives. It's given us so much self-confidence, and so many wonderful friendships.

"We've always donated as much as our means allowed to Coniston camperships, and recently to the land campaign, because we know what Camp gave to us ... a self-assurance that we've carried into the rest of our lives."

Naomi & Josh Malam Lauree & Haitham Mansour Lynn & Lee Mark Robin & George Martin Elizabeth Matera Rob McGregor John McNair Carolyn & Peter Mertz Linda & David Mooney Joan Moyer Robbie Muller Carine & Tucker Newberry Ken & Susan Nichols Christopher & Andrea Nielsen Herbert & Elizabeth Noll Susan & Bill Nugent Emery & Stacey Olcott Robert & Margaret Patricelli Charles & Virginia Pearce Amelia Piazza Rosanna Cavallaro & David Poole Karen Pushee Brice Raynor Jason Raynor Nina & Bill Regan Richard & Deborah Rein

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Donor Focu

John and Ann Calcutt Fairfield, CT

"Coniston has always been a big part of our family. Jack, our oldest, started when he was 13 (he's 22 now!), and our other three children, Martha, Brian and Maggie, have attended Camp as well.

"Know that we have a strong feeling that Camp has truly helped these kids ... it's a place where they can reinvent themselves ... a safe place for them to become who they truly want to be."

Coniston Fast Facts



Where Do We Come From? Thirty states ... and nine countries!



2006 Coniston campers and staff came from MA, NH, CT, VT, NY, NJ, ME, RI, MD, OH, CA, PA, MN, TX, VA, WA, FL, TN, KS, WI, NV, NC, UT, MO, MS, IA, AL, CO, AK and Washington DC ... plus Canada, the UK, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, China, France and Sweden.

Top Ten List: The generosity of our community enables Camp to tackle many projects every year. While there are many more than this, these are some of our favorites from the past few years:

- **10.** Maintenance building out of main camp
- 9. Facelift for the Infirmary
- 8. Saving the Boathouse
- 7. Horse Barn facelift
- 6. Boys College renovation
- 5. New Photo Darkroom
- 4. Renovation of Arts and Crafts
- 3. New field space and volleyball courts
- 2. New Girls College
- I. Renovation of the Old Dining Hall

John Berk & May Wakamatsu Edward J. Walsh Holly & Geoffrey Walton Debra Walton Paula & Craig Wehde Peter Blumenthal & Iulie Weiman Joanne & Andrew Weintraub Don Wenz Kevin & Irene Whelan Barbara & Jack Widmer Meredith & Dennis Williams Mary & Bruce Wood Thomas & Sallie Yurkosky



Contributions of \$250-\$499

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"My daughter got wind of the fact that there was a Coniston Grandparent's Campaign, and I donated to the recent land purchase. This was the chance to pay back Camp for the great benefits to my grandsons ... I can't tell you how much good it did for them."

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity my grandsons had. This lets us ensure the future—an equally rewarding camping experience-for all the kids to come."

Lois & Evan Evans Linda Fisher Linda Franklin Templeton Investments Iill Goldstein & Philip Freeman Kristy & David Gager Camille & David Gillespie Eleanor & Walter Goddard Brvan & Debra Grad Richard Green Richard & Mary Greene Larry Griffin Jim & Missy Haas Hannaford Bros. Carolyn Cantlay & Alden Hart Michael & Margaret Hooton Stephen & Betsy Hunter Ginger Ryan & Peter Kelsey John Kersey Peter J. Lentz Richard Mannello Victoria & Patrick Marsh Dean S. Matttice Lorrie & Howard Maurer Nelson McLean Joan Goshgarian & Van McLeod

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Contributions of \$500-\$999

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Donor Focus

Carroll Carter Fairfield, CT

"When you're a father, and you see your child meet someone at Camp that inspires them ... a counselor, a CIT or an LIT ... that child will get the kind of solid values and inspired leadership that any parent would want to see for their child."

"Values that have only been discussed with parents and teachers can suddenly become real to that child. Coniston is almost like another world, where kids have the freedom to apply those values in a way that really can change their lives."



Jenny & Charlie Howland Myra & Joseph Hugg J.P. Morgan Matching Gift Program William & Marla Kannel David & Kim Kembel Karen & Joseph Mario Sarah & Jonathan Marvin Mascoma Savings Bank Mr. & Mrs. John **McCrillis** Lisa & Richard Miyara Community Olcott Family Fund Jim & Mary Lou Reid Sugar River Savings Bank Jill & Bill Schoonmaker Mary & Mark Stacy & Family Deborah Hall & James Woods Elizabeth & John Worthington



Contributions of \$1000-\$4999

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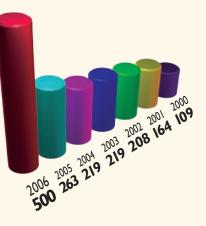
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"I've been a camper, a CIT and a counselor at Coniston for years. It's been such an incredible experience that I can think of no better way to honor the place that gave me so much.

"I guess you could say my experiences at Coniston led me to my career ... I'm now a YMCA Camp Director!"

Coniston Fast Facts



Number of Donations to Camp 2000 to 2006

This graph shows how much our friends have continued to help us over the years. When our community comes together, we really can make a difference!

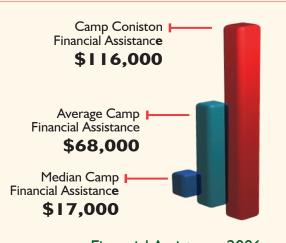
42% of private camps nationwide cost **more than \$1,000 week**

> Median Price for I week of Camp in New England \$780

> > I wk at Camp Coniston **\$468**

Camp Costs 2006

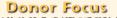
Your contributions let us keep our cost to camper families much lower than most camps.



Financial Assistance 2006 Through your generosity, Coniston can provide more help to our campers.



Diane & Weber Torres Michael & Christine Work Patty & John Zimmerman





Ginger, Andrew and Howard

"When I heard about Coniston's land campaign I thought, what an opportunity to preserve a beautiful piece of nature! I know that my children, and my children's children, can now enjoy this lovely place in the future.

- "It's an awesome 'thinking value', the thought that I can give a gift for future generations ... and a gift that can keep on growing.
- "Suddenly this opens up a whole new dimension to Camp — lakes and mountains, preserved for future generations to enjoy."

Director's Triangle

Contributions of \$5000-\$9999

Maria & Greg Bryant Ann & John Calcutt Bea & Woolsey Conover Rolf & Stuart Gesen Mark & Karen Vachon Laird & Sandy Wiggin



Contributions of \$10,000-\$50,000

Carl Witherall Fund David & Anna Clark Katie & Jon Gardner Melvin & Clare Holmes Virginia & Howard Morgan Robert and Mary Helen Morris NH Charitable Foundation Stefan Timbrell The Hartford Foundation The Byrne Foundation



Imagine Camp in the Local Schools!

YMCA Camp Coniston services over 100 families whose parents work, by hosting afterschool sites in five different schools near camp ... just one way Camp helps families yearround.

Did You Know?

One out of every four Coniston campers lives within 30 miles of Camp.



Coniston Fast Facts Camp Coniston Expenses in 2006 \$1.67 million Average Camp Expenses in the United States \$896,000 Camp Expenses 2006 Any money left over at the end of the year helps to provide new equipment and facilities for the next year. Camp Coniston Income in 2006 \$1.72 million Average Camp Income in the United States

THE 'STATE OF THE CAMP' 2006-2007

\$961.000

Camp Income 2006

Keeping our enrollment high gives us "more to work with" each year for programs and improvements.

Statistics provided by the American Camp Assn., 2005 Business Operations Survey, Martinsville, IN

Where does Camp spend its contributions? In 2006 Camp Coniston gave out assistance totaling over \$116,000!

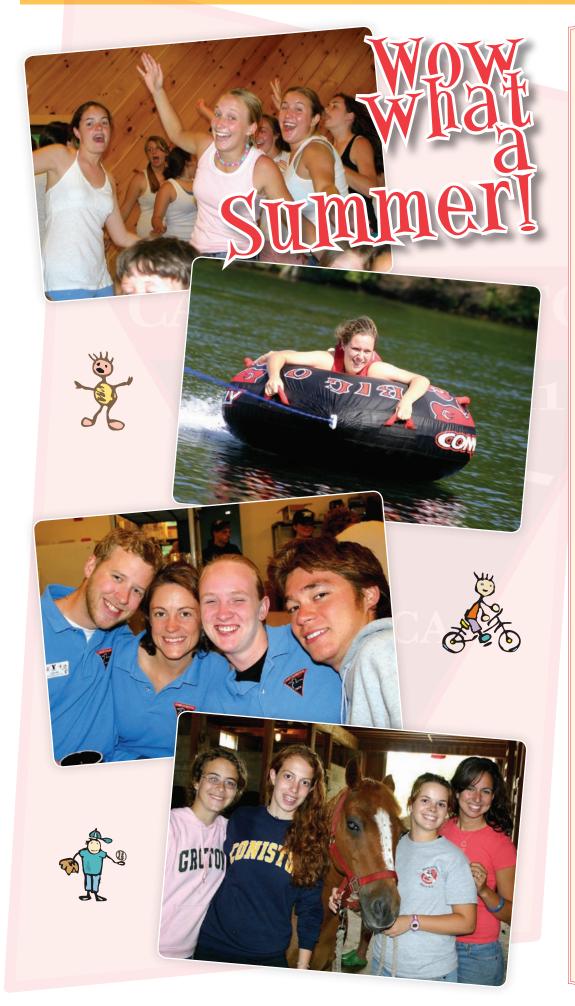
gave out assistance totaling over \$116,000! This is in addition to raising money for the land.

Most of that money helped kids from more than 29 schools & districts attend summer camp. Coniston donors also helped working families afford after-school care, financially supported our resident camp for families with pediatric cancer diagnosis, and administered the Youth in Government caucuses for Claremont, Kearsarge, Newport and Sunapee School Districts in New Hampshire.

Contributed money underwrites this type of work, and enables Camp to direct funds to building projects which make Coniston even better!







Matching Gifts and Vendor Support

The following companies provided support to Coniston during 2006. Thank you to all our vendors and donors who **doubled their gifts** through corporate matching funds.

If your company supports matching gifts, remember that Coniston is a registered 501C3 nonprofit when you make your charitable contribution next year.

A & A Tree Service R.C. Brayshaw Printing Company **GKS** Service Wachovia Clarke's Hardware Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Fleet Matching Gift Program Gartner Matching Gift Center Sherwin Dodge Printers Hewlett Packard Matching Gift Program Bank of America Matching Gift Program Nationalgrid Matching Gift Program Carroll Concrete Hannaford Bros. Franklin Templeton Investments Sugar River Savings Bank Mascoma Savings Bank Bolducs J.P. Morgan Matching Gift Program Fitz Vogt & Associates Beale Consulting Inc. Jack's Coffee Lake Sunapee Bank Bedford Capital

THE 'STATE OF THE CAMP' 2006-2007

Coniston seen throughout the U.S.

YMCA Camp Coniston was recently featured in several journals and cited in numerous newspapers around the country. The following is a partial list of where Camp showed up!

- Camping Magazine, the Journal of the American Camp Association
- Camping Business
- Perspective, the Journal of YMCA professionals
- Discovery, a magazine published by the YMCA of the USA

Two separate articles citing Camp Coniston were picked up by the Washington Post, Boston Globe, Manchester Union Leader, Concord Monitor, Detroit Free Press and the Atlanta Constitution, plus many more.



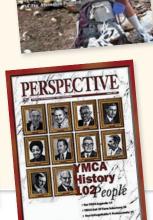
The Boston Blobe

The Washington Post

Detroit Free Press

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution





Cur sincere thanks to all our 2006 Ur sincere thanks



YMCA Camp Coniston PO Box 185 Grantham, NH 03753

