

Spring 2015



YMCA CAMP
FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY
CONISTON CHRONICLE

A classic Spring
day on the Lake ...
buds just coming out!

**THE LIFELONG IMPACT
OF A CONISTON
CAMPERSHIP**



Read our camper's stories starting on pg6



A PUBLICATION OF YMCA CAMP CONISTON • PO BOX 185, GRANTHAM NH 03753 • WWW.CONISTON.ORG



Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935

“We were driving along, and I asked my daughters, ‘Hey, would you guys rather go to Camp Coniston, or to Disneyworld?’ They thought for a second, then said in unison, “Coniston — *definitely!*”

George Caccavaro

Coniston Parent and Hypertherm Inc. Volunteer

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THE QUIET VALUE OF A CONISTON CAMPERSHIP

There are people in life who quietly go behind the scenes and make things happen. **Erma Sanders** and **Sherm Horton Jr.** were those people. The Coniston Community is missing both after their passing away this past winter.

Erma Sanders helped direct Coniston, quietly and unassumingly, with her husband Bob from 1969 to 1991. Her impact on creating the Coniston Community was immense.



Sherm Horton Jr. and his wife Judy would underwrite any CIT experience for a child who couldn't afford it, for

the past 15 years. In fact Sherm and Judy paid for **Rachael Jennings** and **Carter Bascom**, who are featured in this *Chronicle*.

As a rule we don't talk about which of our kids receive Camperships. The summer staff doesn't know, other campers don't know ... sometimes, even Campership kids themselves don't know.

This is intentional. We want Camp to be a welcoming community, where strengths and differences combine — ages, religions, geographic and economic backgrounds. It's the *blend* that creates an environment where we discover something new, and learn and grow.

DIRECTOR'S 2¢

We raise Campership money so *anyone can come to Camp* ... so that changes of circumstance (divorce, death, economic hardship) don't prevent kids from experiencing what Coniston offers. That is why we are saying thank you to our donors while telling the value of Camperships over the next 28 pages.



BY JOHN TILLEY
CAMP DIRECTOR

For this issue, Rachael Jennings and Carter Bascom talk about their Camperships in some detail. These are adults who grew through Camp and contributed enormously, and they share so others will know how much Camp changed their lives — and in turn, how much they've been able to change the lives of others.

Those changes often take place in small moments ... being welcomed on the first day of Camp, talking with a kid about homesickness, guiding a camper through their fears and celebrating an achievement.

Over and over, we've seen those contributions develop into enormous growth and benefit. Rachael and Carter tell you what their Camperships mean to them.

I hope you will see the value in donating through Coniston, and make a difference in the life of a camper. ➔




ERMA SANDERS



SHERMAN HORTON JR.

YMCA CAMP CONISTON

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YMCA CAMP CONISTON ANNUAL GIVING ▼ 2014

▼ We Thank You For Your Gifts! ▼



In 2014, donations to children through YMCA Camp Coniston totaled over **\$193,000.**

Many gifts are small donations, often under \$150 ... *and they do add up!* We also wouldn't be as

successful without the many major contributors and foundations who support our campers.

So, for every kid who loved their campership and Camp this summer, **thanks for your support.**

Chairman's ▼ Triangle

FROM \$5000 TO \$40,000

Carl Witherell
Foundation

Fidelity Charitable
Gift Fund

Harmon
Foundation, Inc.

Hugh Gallen Special
Children's Fund

The Jack & Dorothy
Byrne Foundation
Dorothy Byrne

KRES Sunshine Fund

New Hampshire
Charitable Foundation

Platinum ▼ Triangle

FROM \$1000 TO \$4999

John Aaron
Neil & Kim Abramson

Richard Altman
John Worrall & Cynthia Bakon

The Boston Foundation

John & Ann Calcutt

Toby Lester &
Catherine Claypoole

C O N T I N U E D

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#10:
"The view
of the
lake!"



CONTINUED

Platinum Triangle

FROM \$1000 TO \$4999

J. Michael Deasy
Lynne & Bob Delise
Andrea Seebaum
& Steven Deutsch
Susan Dugan
Flying Goose Brew Pub
Tom Mills
William & Kathleen Gillett
Granite United Way
Foundation
The Greenspan Foundation
Brian & Mary Jo Hogan
Jonathan & Sara Holley
Sherman Horton
Josh Young Memorial Fund
Robert & Mary Helen Morris
Nina & Bill Regan
Mel & Pamela Shaftel
Karen & Bill Stetson
Thomas & Diane Tessier
Apple Chapman & Paul
Versace
Nancy & John Walters
Andrew White
YMCA of the USA

Gold Triangle

FROM \$500 TO \$999

Hedy & David Adler	Dick & Nell Leach
Duncan & Cathy Beardsley	Jessie Levine
Antonio & Kim Casola	William Spears & Robin MacIlroy
Clarke's Hardware Read Clarke	Belinda & Don Maggioli
Celeste & David Cook	Jennifer & Todd Mailly
Phillip & Jane Currier	Anne & Michael Moran
Jared Reid & Karen Freedman	Frederick & Marjorie Moss
Roger Goring	Steven Scudder & Donna Palley
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC	Martha Regan-Smith & Roger Smith
Mike Tilchin & Linda Greer	Amy & Joe Sweeney
Ford & Patricia Hutchinson	Stefan & Karen Timbrell
Nancy Johnson	
Philip & Bonnie Kearns	



TOP TEN MEMORIES
FROM A KID WHO
CAME TO CAMP ON
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#9:

"Singing
outside the
dining hall"





Silver Triangle

FROM \$250 TO \$499

Jeffrey Aaron
American Express Charitable
Anonymous
Bank of America Matching
Gifts
Shannon Sawyer & Brian
Beale
David Berkowitz
Helen & Norm Boucher
Shaun P. Carroll
Holly Dickey
Charles & Annie Ernst
Lois & Evan Evans
Elyssa Feins
Susan & Craig Foscaldo
Beth Friedman
Jon & Katie Gardner
Jack & Lisa Garrahan
Brian & Kelly Grip
Dan & Kristin Grip
Jim & Missy Haas

Jane & Stephen Handley
Sara Hiipakka
Rachel Hitch
Nancy & Michael Howard
Gretchen & Rick Hutchinson
Richard & Arlene Iannella
Gen Izutsu
Howard & Tina Kalfus
LaValley Building Supply
Mary MacNeil
Jon & Sarah Marvin
MBIA Foundation Inc
Dana & Nelson McCormick
James Nielsen & Kathy Navid
Ofer & Shelly Nemirovsky
New London Rotary Club
Bob Odell
Tara & Christophe Oliver
Margaret & David Salvat
Julie & P.J. Schaner

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO
CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#7:

"Learning how to canoe!"



Jill & Bill Schoonmaker
Shray Family Fund
Carey & Dan Shugrue
William & Sybil Sloan
R. Bruce & Janet Taylor
Margie & Jack Tierney
Wendell Veterinary Clinic
Jolyon Johnson
Sarah Whiting
Jenny & Stan Williams
Chris & Cindy Winship
Michael & Christine Work
Michael & Claudia Zegans

TOP TEN MEMORIES
FROM A KID WHO
CAME TO CAMP ON
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#8: "How cool the
counselors
were!"



Bronze Triangle

FROM \$100 TO \$249

Andrew Albee
Anne Albert
Laura & Scott Anderson
Anonymous
Ashley Farrar &
Pat Ashe
Fitz, Vogt & Associates
Ed & Lillian Astrachan
Neil Atkins
Paul & Joanne Babson
Banwell Architects
Ingrid Nichols
Dave & Fay Barden
Amy Stephens &
Charles Barlowe
Tom & Kate Barnico
Carter Bascom
Linda & Matthew
Belamarich
Allen & Karen Belknap
May Wakamatsu &
John Berk
Kenneth Kohlberg &
Justine Bloch
Joseph & Leanne Boyer

Richard Buckley
Megan Morey & Nate
Budington
Jeffrey &
Kristina Bunce
Susan & John Calcio
Viva Hardigg &
Beverly Carter
Jeff Whittemore &
Robin Cassel
David Poole &
Rosanna Cavallaro
Curtis & Amy Chase
Win & Barbara Chase
Carol & Joe Chirico
Saint Andrew's Church
Hilary Cleveland
Hannah Coleman
Elizabeth Colucci
Nancy Kolb &
Jeff Colucci
Matt Comstock
Duffy & Jen Conner
Barbara & John
Connors
Nancy Kane &
Barry Cox
John Cushing
Linda & Larry Dacey
Steve Dacey
Cao & Liz Deambrosio
Jennifer Deasy
Mason &
Elizabeth Delafield
Priscilla &
Dom Delmonico
Richard Denise

Cheryl & Scott Devoe
Bill & Patty Dewhirst
Amy Dickens
Christina &
Carter Dodge
M. Eugenia &
Mark Doncov
Beth & Brian Doucet
Mary Doyle
Jean & Richard Dulude
Sophie Sparrow &
Chris Eldredge
Stephen Ensign
Jeffrey &
Brenda Estella
Charles &
Charlotte Faulkner
Jen & Dana Fletcher
Stephen & Lisa Foley
Karen Fox
Judy & Jeff Freedman
Ken Tanabe &
Michele Gadd
Gardner Resources
Consulting LLC
Hannah Gesen
David & Camille
Gillespie
Glaxo Smith Kline
Barry & Patty Glynn
Faye & John Gmeiner

Eleanor &
Walter Goddard
Cynthia & Steve Gorey
Debra & Bryan Grad
Patty Graf
Larry Griffin
Alex Grip
John & Nancy Grout
Danielle Gilbert &
Louis Guertin
Margo &
Harold Haddock
Bill & Tina Helm
Nancy & Bruce Hickey
Deborah &
Charles Hilton
John &
Roberta Hollinger
Bill & Betsy Horn
Sally Horton
Douglas &
Katherine Houghton
Jack &
Carolyn Hubberman
Elizabeth Hunt
Matt & Laura Hunter
Stephen &
Betsy Hunter
Dawn &
Osaro Ighodaro

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 14

TOP TEN MEMORIES
FROM A KID WHO
CAME TO CAMP ON
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#6:

"Dancing at the
Ice Cream Social!"





THE LIFELONG IMPACT OF A CONISTON CAMBERSHIP



Every year, members of the Coniston Community

donate to campers through the Coniston Annual Fund. Some send \$25, others \$100, while some are fortunate to be able to send one, or even several kids to Camp.

This has been the case in our Community from the beginning. Donations have always ensured Coniston is vibrant and that anyone is able to attend.

We imagine this generosity may be forgotten by donors — *but your money impacts individuals.* In fact, it made its way into Rachael and Carter's childhoods, and quite literally changed the course of their lives.

In turn, they impacted Camp and every child who attended.

Rachael Jennings

Coniston Camper, Girls Camp Director

Rachael says her cousins Martha and Stan Rigby got her interested in Camp ... "I learned the Coniston Clap and our favorite songs before I ever got here!"

Rachael and her sister Sarah grew up near Philadelphia, "... and Coniston was *magical* to us! Clean air, a beautiful unexplored place — the first time I ever saw the stars at night was at Camp! This place let me explore what I loved, and it was a total privilege being there."

Rachael wasn't really aware she was on a Campership for her CIT year ... "I kind of felt like, coming from Pennsylvania, the other kids thought we dressed differently because maybe we were Amish!!

"But I know people made sacrifices to send us here. Without those Camperships I would have never known how transformative Coniston could be, and how much it ended up guiding my life."



Rachael Jennings and Carter Bascom tell us how their Camperships at Coniston changed their lives.

Rachael became an East Coast CIT ... "I still remember that Mt Washington Climb, we hiked Mt Monroe and saw the sunrise! And I started a bit of Coniston tradition with that great quote from *The Lorax*: 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better, it's not.'" To this day the CITs read *The Lorax* on the trip.

That philosophy of caring "a whole awful lot" shines through in Rachael. She returned, summer after summer until she became the Girl's Camp Director. Her care and attention changed Camp — and everyone in it. Rachael is a nurturer and she brought that to homesick campers, programs, and all of Camp.

On her climb up Mt Washington, her CIT Director **Molly Jepson** wore a "Love Middlebury" T-shirt. That shirt, that friend, and that climb got Rachael interested in attending Middlebury College in Vermont. After college, Rachael became a teacher in an all boy's school. She just accepted the English Chair position at the Dublin School in Dublin, NH.

All this change through Camp ... all this change to children ... all this change because of a donation. —



Carter Bascom

*Coniston Camper,
Adventure Camp Leader*

Looking back, Carter knows that he was fortunate that his parents pieced together a way for him to come to Camp, when not attending was a real possibility. "I kind of knew it was caused by circumstances outside my control, my parents divorced when I was young and it was hard to afford Camp after that.

"But I'll tell you, Coniston was always my 'haven' — the place where I could let everything go. It was only 20 minutes from home, but for me, it truly was another world."

The examples of Camp, the caring people, the sense of community — these things impacted Carter immensely. Carter was a mainstay in Boy's Camp, impacting campers with his enthusiasm and care. He eventually directed Coniston's Adventure Camp program.



Carter says his parents told him years ago he was coming to Coniston on Camperships, "and now, I realize there were people, right in this community, who will pay to support kids like me. It's what brings me to volunteer, to work with kids myself ... it completely changed the way I view people, my local businesses, friends and neighbors."

Looking at Carter's life now illustrates how it changed him. After graduating from UNH, he became the Program and Special Events Director for the New London Outing Club, a local non-profit working with kids to bring them the outdoor experience. Carter also gives back to his community as a Kearsarge School District board member.

Because of camperships, because of Camp, because of donors, Carter spends his life giving back. "If I hadn't had the experience of being on Camperships, and realizing that people in my local community made it possible, I would not be doing what I am today." —



For the Coniston Community these stories illustrate an incredible Return on Investment.

The ROI of donations through Camp ripple to youth in many communities today.

Thank you to Rachael and Carter for making a difference — and thank you to the Coniston Community for making it happen.





... FROM AROUND THE
LAKE AND ELSEWHERE

CAMP NEWS

John Tilley traveled on behalf of the YMCAs of New Hampshire to meet with Legislators in Washington, DC regarding the Childhood Protection Improvements Act.

The act will allow youth-serving agencies like Camp to have access to the Federal Data Base, in order to screen staff and employees.

Passing this legislation is a priority for both the YMCA of the USA and the American Camp Association.

While meeting with legislators, John snapped a few selfies with the Senators and Congresswoman for fun, along with several representatives of the Concord Y.



Concord Y Staff and **Senator Kelly Ayotte**, pose in a series of selfies with Coniston Director John Tilley on a recent trip to Washington, DC.

John with **Kevin Washington**, new CEO of the YMCA of the USA.

Lorraine says Thanks!



Registrar **Lorraine Newcomb** wants to thank everyone on how well the switch to online registration went.

"The new platform has been well accepted by camper parents, and it's truly environmentally friendly.

"And please — **continue to send us your feedback.** We plan to continue to improve the process, and the user experience."

John Tilley and Y CEO Meet in Washington

While in Washington DC, **John Tilley** had a chance to meet with the new CEO of the YMCA of the USA, **Kevin Washington**.

Kevin was hired as the CEO out of the Boston YMCA this past winter. We at Camp Coniston are excited to work with the Y and continue to improve Camping on a nationwide basis.



US Surgeon General **Dr. Vivek Murthy** took time to speak and meet with YMCA representatives during John Tilley's recent visit to Washington DC. The meetings gave Dr. Murthy a chance to address some of the important work community work where YMCAs can address national issues and produced several regional meetings around the country where YMCA's hosted the Surgeon General on speaking and fact finding sessions.



John with Surgeon General **Vivek Murthy**

We like your likes!

Visit Us on
Facebook!



Friend **YMCA
Camp Coniston** on

Facebook, and we can all stay up-to-date on meetups and events, changes in our friend's lives, and exciting news from Camp.

Also, please send us your updates on school, jobs, family, and your travels (and photos too!) We'll share them with the Camp community on the web, and here in the *Chronicle*!



CAMP NEWS

SHOUT-OUT TO HYPERTHERM:

Thanks for Five Years of Great Volunteering!

In 2010, **Carol Marsh** at Hypertherm thought volunteering at Coniston was a good idea. Five years and countless sweaty, dirty and happy hours later, **Hypertherm Inc.** of West Lebanon NH has become one of Camp's most dedicated supporters.

"Hypertherm takes a grass-roots approach to 'giving back'", says **Stacey Chiochio**, Corporate Responsibility Manager. "Community service, and in particular volunteering our time and labor, is very much a part of our DNA."

"Every associate receives 24 paid hours per year, to volunteer in any way they like. If you're in a machine shop all day, Coniston is a great place to get out into — some of the most beautiful territory in the Upper Valley. We can't even advertise Coniston work opportunities, they fill up too quickly!"

George Caccavaro, Hypertherm volunteer and longtime Coniston parent, agrees. "We've been here in Croydon for 15 years, and both of my daughters go to Coniston. I became Hypertherm's

Hypertherm



'Coniston champion' after Carol Marsh, and I can tell you, our people are ready to work.

"We sent over a team from the Finance Dept., and it was raining and they were moving logs, and they all came back scratched and bruised. I said, 'Why didn't you just quit?' and they replied, 'No way! Work to get done!'"

George told us that his daughters feel the same ... "we were driving along, and I asked them 'hey, would you guys rather go to Coniston, or to Disneyworld?' They thought for a second, then said in unison, "Coniston — definitely!"

George also reminds us that any Croydon school child in the fourth grade gets a two-week stay at Coniston, for free. "That's the kind of support this Camp gives to its community — and people are willing to give back." ↗

"Shovels — ready!
Rakes — ready!
Backs — sore!
Spirits? High!"
Hypertherm
volunteers dig
in at Camp
for a weekend
of work.



Another reason
Camp looks so
beautiful —
countless hours
of behind-the-
scenes labor
by Hypertherm
volunteers.



Conistonians past and present prepare for another great summer of camping at the ACA New England Camp Conference. **Eric Rightor, Jen Deasy, John McNair, Dylan Lustig, Jen LeBlanc**, Front: **John Tilley, Asie Makarova**

Coniston #2 in the USA!

Campratingz.com, the leading summer camp rating website, shows Coniston has maintained our position as **the #2-rated summer camp in the country!** Keep those Ratingz coming in ...can we get to #1?!



"Top 5 Summer Camps in the US"

Nelson McLean, Coniston's longest employee retires!

Since 1983 **Nelson McLean** has served as Coniston's bookkeeper and chief historian. Nelson retired in February after 32 years of service.

John Tilley said, "Nelson is the type of person who impacts Camp with his gentle demeanor, his ever-present style and his keen memory of the past." Even though most of the staff and campers only met Nelson on an occasional visit, Nelson made certain every bill was paid, every staff member compensated and all things financial were always in order.

Look to the Fall issue of the *Chronicle* for more on Nelson's work at Coniston!

Link Up With Coniston's Finest on LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a professional networking site. As an employer or job seeker, imagine being able to easily locate others who understand the value of the Coniston Experience with a simple search.

That is why Coniston is building a presence on LinkedIn for everyone in the Community.

By following YMCA Camp Coniston on LinkedIn, everyone can start to network with each other, and find great employees as well as old friends.

Join us at **www.linkedin.com**, and start linking up with Coniston talent!



CAMP NEWS

NEW CONISTON WEBSITE ROLLED OUT

Another show of thanks to Coniston webmaster **Sherm Horton III** — the new Camp website is public!

"We're ready to go, just a few details to iron out!" says Sherm (the standard line from any web developer!)

But it's been well worth the work. The site's look, content and navigation are completely redesigned — much easier to find the information you need. And check out our "phone app" version, specially adapted for mobile use.

Same address, as always!

www.coniston.org



THANKS SO MUCH!



Durgin & Crowell Lumber Company Springfield, NH

For providing all the wood used in Woodshop for the summer of 2014!



Durgin and Crowell
delivering the highest
quality, fully sustainable
Eastern White Pine
603-763-2860
www.durginandcrowell.com

YMCA Camp Coniston extends our appreciation to these local business partners — thanks for helping us to build great kids!



Sturm Ruger & Co.
rugged, reliable firearms
for the commercial
sporting market
336-949-5200
www.ruger.com

Sturm Ruger and Co. Firearms Newport, NH

For providing new rifles for the Coniston Riflery program.

Camp Photos!



"So That Nothing Stops People From Coming To Camp."



"ONE THING WE CAN DO — AND ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO DO — IS ASSURE THAT CONISTON REMAINS AFFORDABLE REGARDLESS OF FAMILY MEANS."



THE QUOTE ABOVE FROM JOHN CALCUTT, Coniston Chairman of the Board, is even more relevant now than it was in 2011, when the Board of Directors established the Centennial Endowment.

The goal is simple ... to ensure that **any child is able to come to Coniston** regardless of financial difficulties in their families.

IN 2014, ALMOST 1500 KIDS EXPERIENCED A SUMMER OF FUN AT CONISTON, MANY THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS.

Your contributions are fully tax deductible ... and you can help more kids through Coniston than you ever thought possible.

WILL YOU GIVE TO KIDS THROUGH CONISTON THIS YEAR?

REDUCE INCOME TAXES:

As with all gifts to Coniston, your gift of capital assets qualifies for a full, fair-market value, charitable deduction from your income taxes. You can take a deduction of up to 30% of your adjusted gross income in the year of your gift and carry it forward up to five years.

AVOID CAPITAL GAINS TAXES:

Giving appreciated capital assets will allow you to not recognize any taxable capital gains. You take the full, fair-market value deduction and Coniston gets the full

benefit of your gift because Coniston is tax-exempt. Even if you have only modest gains in your stocks, it's still nice to be able to avoid paying tax on the gain.

AVOID ESTATE TAXES:

By removing these assets from your estate, you not only reduce income taxes and avoid capital gains taxes, but you lower your future estate tax liability. This can help you distribute much more of your estate to family members and charity and less to taxes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE IN DONATING TO CAMP PLEASE CONTACT JOHN TILLEY AT JOHN@CONISTON.ORG OR CALL 603-863-1160.



CONTINUED

Bronze Triangle

FROM \$100 TO \$249

Rafael La Porta &
Veronica Ingham
Catherine Johnson
Phyllia & Don Kalfus
Stacy &
Jonathan Kamisar
Kati & Steve Kelley
Becky & Andy Kingston
Pete Kirven
Elizabeth Miller &
Glenn Kleiman
Anne & Peter Kobbs
Christopher &
Michelle Kobbs
David & Linda Koch
Brett & Nicole Krause
James Lantz
Todd & Stacy Lawrence
Kelley & Timothy
Leonard
Mrs. Theodore C.
Lockhart
Linda & Scott Lowell
Doug Lyon
Claire Macfarlane
Haitham & Lauree
Mansour
Lee & Lynn Mark
Victoria & Patrick
Marsh

William & Janet
McCarthy
John McCrillis
McCrillis & Eldredge
Insurance Co.
David & Stephanie
McCusker
Douglas & Elisabeth
McLane
Nelson McLean
Graham & Jane Ann
McSwiney
Susan & Joe Melia
Carolyn & Peter Mertz
Morgan Milardo
Katie & Tom Miller
Troy & Paige Moody
Emily Morse
Ruth & Joel Moses
Joan Moyer
Bert & Ann Myer
Frederick & Elizabeth
Myers
Daniel & Karen Nash
National Life Group
Charitable Foundation
Network for Good
Doug Newton
Andrea & Chris Nielsen
Wilfred Wollheim &
Maria Niswonger
Sandra & Don Noordsy
Sarah & John O'Connor
Caitlin & Josh Orintas
Andy & Michelle
Pelletier
Robert & Norah
Peterson
Randi & Steve Piaker
Marcy & Alan Pike
George Quackenbos
Doreen Quinn
Klaus & Lisa
Radermacher



Mark & Donna Reed
Nicole Reiss
Eric Rightor
Matthew & Devon
Rinkin
Michael & Jodi Riseberg
Jon & Nancy Roemer
Edward Hahn & Joanne
Rossetti
William & Karen Ryan
Doug & Sandy Sampson
Bob & Erma Sanders
Scott & Tamar Sanders
F. Augustus & Mary
Seamans
Greg Shenstone
Christine Flynn & Carl
Ship
Meghan & Brad Ship
Sarah & Matthew Silver
Patricia & Jay Sinacole
Berta Sinclair
Mike Slafsky
John Pizzuto & Marian
Slavin
Gabrielle Soucy
Sugar River Bank
Joan & Bill Tarkulich
Jason & Linda Temco
Peggy & Steve Theroux
Thomson Reuters
Linda Myers-Tierney &
Steven Tierney
John & Tricia Tilley

Faye Penn & Joel
Tishcoff
Alex Trowbridge
George & Carole Turner
Peter & Susie Twadell
Scott Fabozzi &
Autumn Van Sice
Boris Makarov & Olga
Vandychева
Carolyn VanPutten
Jeanette & Dru Vinton
Terra & Patrick
VonKanneurff
Jenny & Peter
Wasserman
Marc & Donna Wayne
Timothy & Joanna
Weaver
Stuart & Anne
Weinberg
Kelley Whalen
Linda & Walter Wiewel
Joseph & Mary Will
Linda Wilson
Andrew & Rebecca
Winter
Laura & Geoff
Witthoford
Jenna Zadeh
Yingqing Zhong
John & Patty
Zimmerman
Paul & Terry Zuschnitt

TOP TEN MEMORIES
FROM A KID WHO
CAME TO CAMP ON
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#5: "The smell of
the Lodge!"



Camp Donors

FROM '1 TO '99

Joshua Adler
Katie & Ahmed Al Jenaibi
Catherine Dumont &
Frederic Albert
Erin & David Almeda
Anonymous
Babson Capital
Rachel & Nat Barker
Kerm & Carol
Bartholomew
Dana Bascom
Tyler Bascom
Pierce Baugh
Kurt & Patricia Beek
Steven & Cynthia Bensen
Diana Blazar
Joe & Sue Bombard
Dustan & Katy Bonnin
Philip & Shelly Bonomo
Nancy & Stephan Braun
Evan Rosen & Eve
Bridburg
Steven & Patricia
Brogdon
Robert & Elizabeth
Brooks
Richard Eichenberg &
Drusilla Brown
Liana Bunce
Brian Calcutt
Jack & Katie Calcutt
John & Mary Anne
Calcutt Sr.

Philip & Frances Calcutt
Colin & Emily Campbell
Amy & Larry Candell
Paul & Pam Carlson
Carolyn & Jeff Carney
Warwick & Lyle Carter
The Charitable Giving
Card Program of The
Community Foundation
of Middle Tennessee
Gwyn & Robert Claiborne
Marie Cote'
Country Houses Realty
Paul & Barbara Couturier
Terence & Edna Dancy
Patricia DeLoughrey
Morgan & Loretta Dewey
Jeremy Silverfine &
Louise Domenitz
Jon Scarlett & Janet
Domenitz
Caitlin Elgert
Dr. Ross & Marlene Elkin
Neal Brown & Laura
Emmons
Katia Ferland Lavigne
June & Peter Fichter
Alan Finlay
Janet Flynn
Dave Franklin & Julie
Forte
Steve & Nadine
Freidlander
Conrad Frey
Frank & Adele Furdyna
Valerie & Gary Gaines
Elise & Dozier Gardner
Amy & Jon Gworek
Travis & Shirley Hall
Megan & Bruce
Hammond

Lynne Haney
Jesse Thomas & Leah
Hannan
Brooke & Philip Harrell
Harvard Community Gifts
Diana & Chris Hatton
Helshi Lockwood Hewson
Amy & Ed Hogan
Carol Ann Howe
Kyle & Alexis Johnson
Julie & Mike Kaneb
Bob & Susan Kessler
Marilyn Kidder
Carla King
Josee Dupuis & Eric
Kolaczyk
Lauren & Allen Kropp
Camlin Tierney &
Michael LaValley
Francis & Marjorie
Lichtenberger
Steven & Victoria
Lombardo
Judith Lonergan
Susan & Kenneth Lubar
Joaquim Miro & Nathalie
Lucas
Sandra Luckury
Mary Beth & Andrew
Mahoney Jr.
Jesse & Kimberly
(Sanders) Marcum
David & Kim McCabe
Lisa & Don McCabe

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#3:

"Feeling
sad that
Camp
was
ending"



Laura McCrillis Kessler
Elizabeth & Stephen
McDonough
Heidi & Bryan
McPherson
Jessica Meyer
Marc & Ann Morris
Michael Mosley
Mount Sunapee Resort
Doug Phillips & Eileen
Mullen
Susan Murray
Burton & Rozanne
Neiterman
Marsha Neubert
Carine & Tucker
Newberry
Jane & John Nickodemus
David & Monika Olken
Michael & Donna O'Shea
Catherine Otis-Cote
Lark Palermo
Michael & Bonnie
Pemberton
Paul & Lorraine
Pendergast

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#4: "Overnights!"





CONTINUED

Camp Donors

FROM \$1 TO \$99

Timmie Poh
Rebecca & Dan Proskauer
Bernie & Jane Quigley
Todd & Ingrid Quillen
Antoine Auger & Isabelle Rayle-Doiron
Beth Robbins

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Peggy Stokes
Nicole & Ritchie Strom
Ian & Jennifer Swope
Julie & Rhett Taber
Alva & Gail Taylor
Lawrence Howard & Susan Taylor
Gail & Edward Teach
Zoe Temco
Susi & Floyd Thompson
Lauren Torres
Weber & Diane Torres
Maria Trachy
Neal Hughlett & Kerri Valentino
Donna & Richard Volpitta
Stephanie Vorndran
Laura & Will Wear
Scott & Carrie Weigley
Sally Weylman
Kevin & Irene Whelan
Judy & Bennett White
Lisa Whiting
Don Phipps & Heather Willis
Cheryl & Rodney Wilson

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#2: "Winning a canoe race!"

"... I never did anything like that before!"



Samantha Rosen
Tom Ross
Holly & Richard Sanders
Rose Dieffenach & Marc Schafer
Carol & Dorsey Schaper
Edward & Reka Schmidt
Kathy & Dana Seero
Linda & Scott Sepsy
Kris, Jackson & Sam Seymour
Stephen & Anne Sharp
Elysa & Bruno Sicard
Patrick Magari & Elaine Silverman
Karen Dubois & Kerry Smith
Kitter & Erica Spater
Clinton & Francesca Springer



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Flying Goose Brew Pub
Gardner Resources Consulting LLC
Glaxo Smith Kline
Granite United Way Foundation
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC
Harmon Foundation, Inc.
Harvard Community Gifts
Hugh Gallen Special Children's Fund
Josh Young Memorial Fund

KRES Sunshine Fund
LaValley Building Supply
MBIA Foundation Inc
McCrillis & Eldredge Insurance Co.
Mount Sunapee Resort
National Life Group Charitable Foundation
Network for Good
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New London Rotary Club
Shray Family Fund
The Boston Foundation
The Charitable Giving Card Program of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
The Greenspan Foundation
The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation Dorothy Byrne
Wendell Veterinary Clinic
YMCA of the USA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

TOP TEN MEMORIES FROM A KID WHO CAME TO CAMP ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

#1: "My friends!"



..... "Autonomy, Competence and Connection"

Jessica Lahey, Nationally Published Author
(and Proud Coniston Parent!) Talks About Independence,
Strength, and the Power of Good-Byes at Camp



In 2013 **Jessica Lahey** began working on an article titled "A Summer Camp Lesson: Good-Bye And Go Away, Thank You Very Much", based on her experiences dropping her son Ben off at Camp Coniston.

Two years later she's been published in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times* and *ACA Magazine*, she's a radio and TV commentator and blogger, and she has a newly-released book now on the shelves.

In March she was the key-note speaker for the American Camping Association's national conference in New Orleans.

"I grew up as a YMCA camper, starting at age 12 with my sister at Camp Chimney Corners in the Berkshires. But I've also been a teacher for many years, and I began to realize that both experiences gave me a very unique perspective.

"Camp is not school!", Jessica states emphatically. "First, it's a place where you can shed the baggage that follows you through school. Second (and this seems obvious until you consider it), *parents aren't there!* Parents can help to sustain that reputation.

"So camp becomes 'a clean slate without any influence from home', where kids can explore and take the necessary risks to grow.

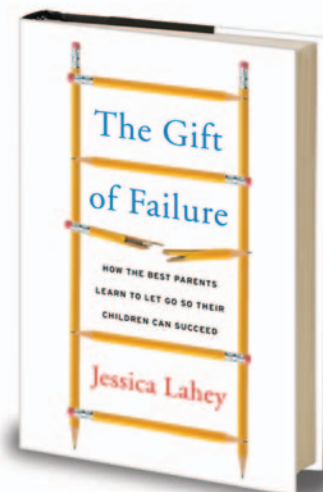
"It's about autonomy, competence and connection ... a growth philosophy that makes camp uniquely valuable."

Jessica's new book **The Gift of Failure** has been an immediate success. "The book hit the shelves on Monday, and by the next Thursday I was doing national TV!" Written from the perspective of both a parent and teacher, the book's message is, "Please, parents, back off a bit ... give your kids safe room to explore and grow. The majority of the book is very 'how-to', with real tools to help make the fixes."

"The message is, 'give your kids room to fail and be autonomous' ... one of the things that camp does best." —



Jessica during one of her many appearances on NBC's Today Show





ALUMNI NEWS

Colin Forbes writes with a treasure trove of news: "Personally, my wife and I moved from Brooklyn to Boston in September, where I joined the Enforcement Division of the Securities & Exchange Commission. Our first daughter **Anh** was born on November 20. Here's a picture!"



"Alumni news on Facebook: I think **Brad Ship** got a new job within the past year, and they moved

back to Mass. from DC. It appears that **Jenna Weiss-Berman** is a hotshot media producer, formerly at NPR, now at BuzzFeed in NY. Looks like she's lighting the world on fire!

"Also in the 'lighting the world on fire' category, **Matt Bagley** was appointed to coach a lax team in Germany. He also had a baby recently, I believe.

"**Nick Bentley** had a new baby within the past year — his second, I believe. I think he

also left his firm in Boston and joined Axiom, a new internet-age type law firm.

"I seem to recall seeing that **Doug Scott** left his dealership and took a higher position at another dealership.

"**Emily Friedman** moved from LA to NYC and got a new job with the Clinton Global Initiative. Her sister **Julie** finished nursing school and got a job at Georgetown Hospital, so is moving from Boston down to DC, where **Jen** lives. Jen is a Deputy Press Secretary in the White House — I think that happened in August."

An update from **Zach Zimmerman**: "I started a new job in November, working for Naviance by Hobsons. We help students achieve their post secondary goals."

From **Joey Marzelli**: "I was celebrating with **Alan Finlay** this past weekend after he got engaged. To think that ten years later we would start a company (Boomtown) together, which has now received

\$3 Million in seed funding. Even while we're in the same office together non-stop, we never missed a day without sharing a memory of Camp.

"I wanted to point out just how powerful Coniston relationships are, and that Camp is truly something special."

Tommy Tessier hits the pages of the *New York Times* in fine style, in an article titled "The Lives of Millennial Career Jugglers." He talks about balancing his day job in the admission office of Stanford University's online high school, with his nighttime gig as a fitness instructor at the San Francisco branch of Barry's Bootcamp.

We are sad to announce that **Anne Raeburn**, of Berlin Corners Vermont, passed away on March 25. Anne was a '92 CIT



Chapin Bassi and **Patrick Noble** visit **Bell Richard** and family in Telluride, Colorado in March.



ALUMNI NEWS

and a long time Conistonian, along with her sister **Sarah**. Anne's camp friends have begun to donate to camp for a Campership in her name.

Kelly Muller Condon and husband Tim have new house, new baby, and new jobs news!

Both were happily practicing Attorneys in NY until Kelly and a handful of '97-'99 girls (**Bridget O'Connor Parker, Jenna McRee Bisset, Kim Sanders Marcum, Lindsay Torres Banks, Chelsea Quann, Katie Kavanagh, Catie Borbotsina, and Jill Albee**) got together for a long weekend at Kelly's family lake house two summers ago, and she felt called back to NH.

She and her husband razed the aging cottage many Conistonians knew, and built a year-round home to fit their growing family. They moved in late last fall after welcoming **Blake Killian**, their



Bonnie Rice (right of Senator Ayotte) meets with Brig. Gen. Carolyn Protzmann, CMSgt. Jamie Lawrence, Col. Paul Loiselle, Lt. Col. Robert Cordery, MSgt. Adam Hart, Jim Protzmann, Col. (Ret) Brandie Rice and Dean Rice

third son. Tim is now a Business Attorney at Cook, Little, Rosenblatt and Manson in Manchester and Kelly an Agent at Sotheby's in New London, working alongside fellow Coniston alum **Carter Bascom**.

The New New Londoners look forward to reconnecting with old friends in the area, like good ol' **Ben** and **Maureen Kadish Adams** who live just around the corner! ➡



Bell Richard, Alexa Apisson, John Apisson, and Patrick Webb in New York City during the holidays.



Shannon Sawyer and Brian Beale get married — and send kids to camp as a gift.

Last September, Coniston Alumni **Shannon Sawyer** and **Brian Beale** got married. So what does one do for a couple, both of whom were Coniston CIT Directors? How about send a child to camp?

When the couple approached John Tilley about the idea, we immediately thought of tying in the gift with another alumnus, **Ben Mark**. Ben is a camp friend of the couple and is working with children in Lynn, MA. So together the couple, Ben, and the many friends and family of Brian and Shannon are combining to send a kid to camp who otherwise would never have the experience.

What's more, the idea was so successful that they raised more than they needed for the Campership — so one of our CITs is also being helped through their generosity.

Congratulations Shannon and Brian, and thank you from the camper, the CIT and everyone and Coniston!



Sara Berg Horseback Fund underwrites campers for the First Time

It was a year ago that Coniston received the sad news that Alumna **Sara Berg** passed away. After reconnecting with Coniston at the Centennial Celebration, Sara's family asked that donations be made to Camp.

As we announced in the fall, we were able to combine the donations together with Sara's love of horses, to support any child who wants to take horseback at Camp but cannot afford to do so.

We are happy to announce that this summer, Sara's memory will be honored by three campers who will learn the love of horses at Camp, just like Sara. These will be the first of many children who will be introduced to horses and feel the exhilaration of the wind as they trot into future summers.

Byrne Foundation underwrites Waterfront Improvements!

Last fall, YMCA Camp Coniston received a pledge of \$30,000 from the **Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation** to help reconfigure the activities on the lake.

As you know, last summer was the final summer of waterskiing on the lake.

The donation from the Byrne Foundation helped Coniston pay for a new Boston Whaler type boat, a beautiful new docking system at the boathouse, new paddleboards and more!

Thanks to the Byrne Foundation's generosity, every camper can look forward to some great splashy summer fun!



Harmon Foundation underwrites new Upper Valley Camperships

Harman Family Foundation
Supporting arts, education and human rights

Last summer we received interest from the **Harmon Foundation** about helping provide camp experiences to more local children.

It seems that one of the Foundation's board members knew a person whose child came to Coniston on a Campership, and she knew the child otherwise could not attend. After a few e-mails and a visit to Camp to see us in operation, the Foundation said they would like to underwrite \$5,000 worth of Camperships.

The Foundation's generosity will help send several campers to Camp as well as help with a CIT experience! Thanks to the Harmon Foundation, lives will be changed this year.

Sunshine Fund sends 5 Campers to Coniston

Each Christmas season, a group of local New London area citizens meet to share in fellowship, food, and pass the hat. When we say "pass the hat," we mean LITERALLY pass a straw bowler!

The money raised is used for a variety of local children's needs, but one special project is always sending children to Camp. The group has also furnished winter clothing, food, and even braces for children in the past!

YMCA Camp Coniston thanks Coniston Grandparent Dick Leach and the entire Sunshine Fund committee, which designates Coniston as a recipient each year! Thanks for making a difference in the lives of local children. —



In 2014 we can add another milestone to Carl Witherell's gift to Lebanon NH kids through Camp

... an additional thirty local kids who experienced a Coniston summer, at no charge, through the foresight of this local businessman.

Carl's endowment to Lebanon, NH children has provided remarkable results over thirty years. Over 1,500 campers in total — *an entire summer's worth of kids* — became immersed in the Coniston Experience, and brought the life-changing results back to their families, their schools, and society.

Your foresight can achieve the same for us — please consider an endowment gift for children through YMCA Camp Coniston this year.



Erma Sanders

1931 – 2015 • Co-Camp Director 1968–1991

Scott Sanders says one of the more enlightening moments of his mother's memorial service was when **Howie Kalfus**, who worked with his parents, came up to pay his respects.

"He told me how apparent it was that Mom and Dad were always a team, and how aware he was of their partnership. But he also said, over the years, he began to realize how much Mom 'kept it together' in the background while Dad was running Camp.

"Did you know," Scott continues, "that for most of the time Mom and Dad were at Coniston, they ran the camp with *one maintenance person*? Mom did the work of three or four people ... she was Registrar, she was Secretary, she did the bookkeeping, she made sure people paid their bills ... and at the same time, she had a full-time job working at Stevens High in Claremont NH as a secretary during the off-season!

"Then during Camp season she helped run Camp, she did whatever needed doing. In all the years I remember them directing Coniston, they rarely took a night off ... that was a *real* occasion!"

One of Scott's fondest Camp memories of his mom was **Erma's Garden**. "Right outside the office Mom created a big flower garden that she tended and maintained ... a beautiful addition to Camp."

John Tilley says, "This was a beautiful 'working marriage' of over sixty-three years, and Coniston was the beneficiary. When I reached out to the family after Erma's passing, it was so clear to me that her life was defined by the contributions she made to Camp ... and ultimately, to society." ↗

John and
Scott share
a moment
at Camp



Quotes on Erma

.....

"Sparkle Plenty", "Sweet Blond", "Future Ballerina", "Very sweet chick you can have a lot of fun with", "I'm warning you don't go with Goldilocks", "Swell Gal", "Best of luck with Bob!"

From Erma's High School Yearbook

"Mom and Dad flew by Piper Cub to visit Coniston. Soon thereafter we moved to NH and a new life, where Mom became a Mom for thousands of kids a summer, and an inspiration for generations."

Scott Sanders on his Mom

"Erma was doing the thankless work that made Coniston run so smoothly. She did so tirelessly and with a smile ... and she also disclosed her knowledge of some shenanigans I thought were pretty well hidden!"

Howie Kalfus, Coniston Counselor & Pgm Dir

"After recovering from illness at Camp, I was wide awake in the middle of the night. Erma asked if I felt well enough to walk to the lodge. It was empty but the old movie projector was set up. Erma had someone replay the whole movie, and I close my eyes now and see Erma and me in the lodge, empty except for the two of us ..."

David Lewis, Coniston Camper

"Mrs. Sanders was an amazing lady! She had an enormous heart full of love and understanding. I remember her taking the time to calm me, when I was eight and afraid of the bats flying low. Sweet memories of Coniston in the 70's and 80's!"

Kimberly Fellows, Coniston Camper

"We will always remember Erma for her warm smile, her generous and accepting spirit, and for being the coolest Mom we knew."

David and Kyle Messier, Family Friends



ALUMNI NEWS



Sherm Jr. on the Lake, circa 1973



Sherm Jr. and Judy at the dedication of the Horton Pavilion, 2001

Sherman Horton Jr.

1931 – 2014

NH Supreme Court Justice, Coniston Parent


Coniston parent and alumni **Sherm Horton III** clearly sees his father as a man of accomplishment. "Dad did his undergrad work at Dartmouth, graduated from Harvard Law, established a private practice in Nashua, and was on the state Supreme Court ... you'd expect he'd be pushing his kids toward his career.

"But that was the thing about Dad — he never pushed. He was always extremely open, and encouraged us to follow our own paths, and he saw Coniston as a great place for us kids to grow up."

Sherm Jr. was very much involved in the New Hampshire political scene. He was a partner with Hugh Gregg, former NH governor and father to Congressman Judd Gregg, and he actively participated in the Youth in Government Program, sponsored by the NH YMCA.

But the Horton family is also woven into Coniston history. In 1963 **Judy Horton**'s brother in law helped facilitate our original land purchase here at Coniston, and Judy was a board member for 20 years.

Coniston recognized the Horton family's contribution by dedicating **The Horton Pavilion** to Sherm Jr. and Judy in 2001. "My parents wanted to create a multipurpose space that was weather protected." Sherm III says, "Also, in that day, all-camp events were held in the Main Lodge — tight quarters! The Pavilion was a gathering place where we all could congregate."

Sherm III says his dad was very modest. "At his memorial, people I never knew kept coming up and telling me what a mentor he was to them. For the things he did, he felt it was a service ... something he did to 'give back.'" 

As a side note of interest, John Tilley says that Sherm Jr. and Judy Horton paid for both Rachael Jennings and Carter Bascom's CIT trips!



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Steven Deutsch
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Sophie Sparrow &
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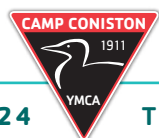
Michael & Claudia
Zegans

5-9 YEARS:

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Charles Barlowe
Tom & Kate Barnico
Dana Bascom
Pierce Baugh
Linda & Matthew
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Belknap
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Ford & Patricia
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Zimmerman



Camp Coniston Mission Statement

As a nonprofit service organization with a focus on youth, YMCA Camp Coniston creates experiences that build spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Camp Coniston

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web: www.coniston.org



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1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935



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