

Fall 2016



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



BOARD ADOPTS BOLD STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADVANCE MISSION

see article on page 2



Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935

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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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INVEST IN CHANGED LIVES

I was talking with the nurses this summer when two great campers, who had obviously formed a friendship during their time at camp walked over. They were playing Kendama, and talk quickly turned to baseball. "What position do you play?" one boy asked the other. "I play shortstop, but I enjoy playing second base more." The other boy replied, "But shortstop is a much harder position." The response, "I know I just like it better."

Anyway, the boys, nurses and I all had this great conversation and I am sure the two boys had no idea where each other was from. One was from a long-time Coniston family whose cousins and siblings had attended for years, while the other was new to our country. It is touching to watch — kids being kids. It is because Coniston has children from all walks of life. This allows conversations like this to happen between every camper, regardless of what their situation is at home. At Coniston, we know that every child's experience is richer because we all come from different places. There are children here that come from different backgrounds and with every possible life scenario ripped from today's headlines.

I hope you can see how this is an important part of the Coniston Experience and will see the value in donating through Coniston, and make a difference in the life of every camper. ↗

DIRECTOR'S 2¢



BY JOHN TILLEY, CAMP DIRECTOR



BOARD ADOPTS BOLD STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADVANCE MISSION

Coniston's board approved a new long range plan based on the idea that any child should have access to a camp opportunity regardless of financial means. We believe that the Coniston community is fully realized when people from different backgrounds learn to live, play and cooperate with each other, creating individuals who will lead our larger communities in the future.

The plan is compiled of three areas of focus: **Camperships, Improvement** and **Endowment**.

SUPPORTING CAMPERSHIPS

By making Camp accessible to any child, Camp becomes better for every child. Two of our goals are to keep the Coniston Experience affordable for as many families as possible, and provide at least 66 additional children with full camperships each summer. Campers from rural Sullivan County, along with campers from more urban areas, will have priority with assistance. By keeping Coniston available to any child, we feel it keeps our program great for every camper.

SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENT

When children benefit from Camp, the growth they experience at Coniston helps them and their communities face the challenges of the modern world. By improving and increasing the Coniston facility and program, the Coniston Experience becomes more accessible and better for every camper.

SUPPORTING ENDOWMENT

As we look to the future, campers, families, alumni, and generous donors each have a role to play. An endowment will provide for future improvements, help keep Camp affordable, and enhance the experience of each Coniston camper. We are creating a fund for these purposes so Camp Coniston will live on forever. ↪

RECENT IMPROVEMENT UPDATE...

This summer the boys enjoyed a new college (bathhouse). The extra showers and toilets were appreciated by everyone — even in Boy's Camp. Next summer, forty additional boys will have a Coniston Experience as we are in the process of building a new cabin next to B1. In addition, campers will arrive back to an expanded Dining Hall which will provide everyone with more space to dance!



FORMER BOARD MEMBER, GREG BRYANT, TO BE INDUCTED AS EMERITUS



Board Member 1997-2010


If you have walked into Camp and appreciated the improvements of the past 20 years, there is a person you will want to thank. Greg Bryant became a Board Member in 1997 and developed a property improvement plan which has helped make Coniston's facility one of the finest in the US. At the time, Coniston had just separated from the NH State YMCA and become an independent YMCA, which allowed the board and staff to put resources into Camp. Previously we had not kept up with facility needs and Greg helped the board focus on how facility improvements were important to Coniston, and every camper's future.

Greg has extensive background in real estate including cost segregation studies covering a wide range of property types and sizes. He is the co-founder of Bedford Cost Segregation and is focused on innovative consulting services to maximize depreciation, tax credits and other financial incentives for sustainable real estate holdings.

When he joined the board, his leadership, guidance and knowledge were extremely valuable. Greg insisted that the board approve a maintenance building twice the size of the initial designs. He knew that the design would not allow for Camp to achieve the improvements he was envisioning. Greg also pushed to clean up the entire front area of Camp essentially laying the ground work for the one of the most beautiful camp facilities in the nation. Most of us forget that in the summer of 2000, what is now lawn was once gravel roads and wood chips.

Not only did Greg help with facilities, he played a pivotal role in procuring equipment. In 1999 when Camp operated on one fully functioning computer terminal and had a very small operating budget — Greg insisted that Camp spend the money to completely wire and network the entire office. Because of this we were a decade ahead of the trend and the centralization of our files enabled the staff to be more efficient, organized and offer better registration and programing.

During this time of year, we really feel the absence of Greg as we are in the midst of expanding the Dining Hall and building a boy's cabin in order to begin serving more kids. We have this capacity thanks to Greg's efforts over a decade ago.

As an emeritus member of the board, Greg will always be listed with the board members in the future, receive board communication, and enjoy alumni and board social events at Camp as often as he can! If you appreciate the way Coniston looks today, thank Greg Bryant! 

TRICIA BROOKS HONORED FOR CHANGING CAMP CULTURE THROUGH THE CONISTON EXPERIENCE STATEMENT



Board Member 2000-2008


Each year, Camp parents sign that they have read and understand the Coniston Experience Statement on their child's application. For many of us, a quick scan confirms that our child is able to participate fully in camp and we never think about the Statement again. But for other families, the Statement helps guide them through a decision process that enables their family to decide whether Coniston is the right fit for them. Tricia Brooks was the primary author of the Statement and these policies were integral in Coniston being chosen as a NH Champion of Children by two different NH Governors.

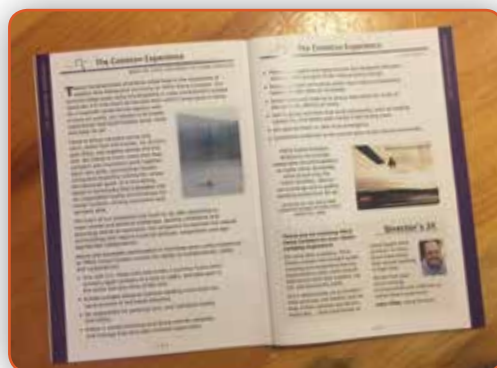
By offering families the ability to decide if Coniston is the right fit, Camp has come to be viewed as a leader in creating an accessible atmosphere which has immeasurably changed our Camp's culture. With the Coniston Experience Statement in mind, Camp has focused on providing opportunities for kids to exercise independence, self-care, and choice — all in a technology free, supervised, and intentional setting.

Because the Experience Statement has allowed families to affirm Coniston as a fit for their child, we have many different conditions and illnesses present every summer. This is just another example of how making Camp available to **ANY** child actually makes Camp better for **EVERY** child. As members of our community, kids learn that every individual has a role to play and is integral in their friend group.

Tricia was a Board Member from 2000-2008 and during that time she was the founding CEO of NH Healthy Kids Corporation and oversaw the development of the children's health insurance program that began covering kids in 1995. NH Healthy Kids is a national leader in providing broad based care and is an important component of NH being annually ranked as one of the best states in which to raise a child. Today Tricia is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Children and Families and an Associate Research Professor at Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy. She works on policy and implementation issues affecting coverage for children and families in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the health insurance marketplaces.

Tricia also wrote Camp's mission statement and modified Camp's financial aid program to offer partial camperships.

Tricia Brooks tenure on the board was only eight years, but the value she added to Coniston is immeasurable. 

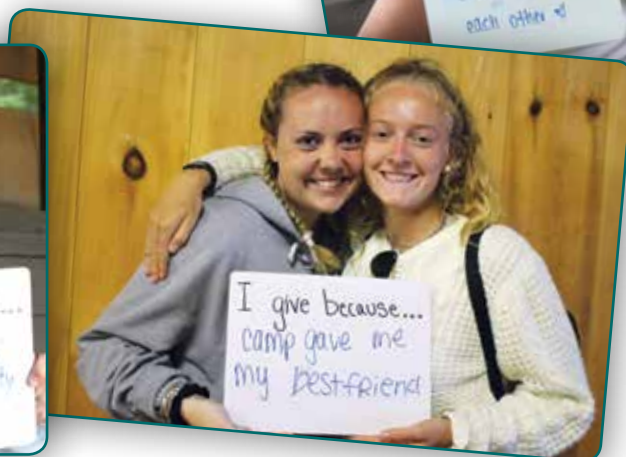


THE 2016 SUMMER STAFF ARE GIVING BACK

You may have read about this story on Facebook or perhaps watched a video on Camp's YouTube channel, but what the 2016 Summer Staff accomplished must be re-told. During staff training this summer Program Director, Parker Olson was on a mission to educate his fellow Conistonians about the importance of giving back.

To educate the staff, Parker first found similar products which would cost the same amount as a campership — a pool table or a fancy laptop. He then asked the staff what value these material items had to them. He received the response of “little value”. Parker then let everyone know that these products are equivalent in cost to sending a child in financial need to Camp. He spoke about his personal memories of his camper days and how much Camp has meant to him. Working together as a group and donating the cost of coffee for a week the staff raised the \$1650 in only a few days with a 96% participation rate.

Do you think a group of people from your office or school could join together like the 2016 Summer Staff to make a summer at Coniston possible for a child? ↗



CAMPERSHIP, CONISTONIAN, AND CURRENT CAMPER PARENT GIVES BACK


Kati "Koehler" Kelley grew up in Newport, NH in a strict, protective family and didn't have many experiences outside of her small town. In 1979, Kati and her older sister received camperships through Coniston from the Catholic Women's Club of Saint Patrick's Church in their town. "Being able to attend Camp Coniston was a true gift as my family didn't have the financial means to send us," said Kati.

Camp was Kati's first time being away from home and meeting children from other states and countries who had different backgrounds. "I felt very fortunate being given the opportunity to have so much independence at such a young age," said Kati. She was able to choose her own activities and it was her responsibility to get there on time. "I loved being able to choose my own path."

The most memorable part about Coniston for Kati was standing in line waiting for meals — singing, dancing and just being overall goofy with her new and old friends. "Camp gave me a positive approach on life and taught me the importance of making choices that make me happy. It was these early years where Coniston gave me the opportunity to be self-reliant and build my confidence. Camp allowed my relationships to come alive and taught me not to be afraid to try new things. I always knew I wanted to give my kids the same experience someday."

Today Kati is the Vice President of Marketing at HarbourOne Bank in MA and she sends her two daughters Ava (13) and Emily (12) to Coniston each summer. "As a mother, I appreciate Camp's policy on having no electronics. My girls are able to learn how to form new relationships in person not online."

"The values Camp Coniston is creating for youth are incredibly powerful and life changing. I not only want this for my own kids, but for as many kids as possible no matter their financial ability. This is why I donate to Coniston. Coniston helped shape the person I am today, is helping to nurture my children and I am happy to give this gift to any child."

We know the Coniston Experience can be enormously transformative in Campers' lives as we have seen with Kati's story. Support from people like you — those who have experienced firsthand the great change Coniston brings to young people — makes this growth possible. 



Kati circa '81
third down on the
right of the tree



Kati's camp trunk given to her
by her father is still being used
today by her daughter Emily.



Kati dropping her
daughters off at
Camp this year.





CONISTON IS CHANGING THE WORLD

We now have two new flags hanging from the Dining Hall, next to **Odeyi Kizungu's** from Tanzania — one for **Manoji** from Nepal and one for **Kody** from Sudan. All three are local refugee children who joined the Coniston Community this summer.

The boy's teacher brought them to Camp and she "was truly impressed by the friendly and kind atmosphere at Coniston, which obviously reflects its leadership."

By making Camp available to any child we help every camper have a chance to be a kid! At Camp everyone is given the opportunity to build friendships, learn Camp and American culture, and make positive lasting memories. Research shows these experiences are important for a child's emotional and social development moving forward, as they try and acclimate to their new world. For some, it is a chance to re-claim a childhood that was stolen from them.

We feel fortunate that Coniston supporters have chosen to give back and we hope to offer this opportunity to even more children next year. —

STAFF IN OUR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES!

It is often said that Coniston staff make the magic of Coniston happen, our Afterschool staff are no different. Afterschool staff work hard all school year to provide care for the children in our community. They spend after school hours creating community, building relationships, helping with homework, teaching healthy living, providing a space for safe play and so much more. Better yet, they do it with a smile. It's for that reason **Nicole Berthiaume**, Afterschool Director, implemented the Above and Beyond Award. This award is given monthly, to a staff member from one of our five Afterschool sites, who has shown exemplary efforts for the children in their program. The first recipient of the award is **Shyann Desrochers**.

Shyann is a staff member in our New London program. No challenge is too much for Shyann. She arrives early each day to help set up and prepare. She always puts her best foot forward and is positive about her team. Shyann is the 'coach' for the most energetic and active group of children in her program. Through consistency, patience and intentional follow-through she has created a safe and fun space for her team. She has helped them develop a sense of respect and care for each other and her as their coach. Shyann received a gift certificate with her award and chose to buy coffee and hot chocolate for the entire New London staff. Her actions demonstrate her selfless nature and we are fortunate to have her working with local children in our community.




Shyann with one of the Afterschool children in New London.

In October, **Jack Hearne** also from the New London program received the Above and Beyond Award. Jack, a senior in High School, continues to impress and (through example) lead us. His quiet, thoughtful way creates a safe and comfortable environment for the kindergarten group he leads. He pays attention to individuals, recognizing what each child needs for support. Jack can always be found playing with his group or staying close to help manage any situation that arises. Jack is an important, attentive, strong member of our team and we are so grateful to have him working with us in the afternoon.



Jack Hearne, October Recipient

Thank you to both Shyann and Jack for helping Coniston's Afterschool program be one of our most important outreach efforts. The love and support you give to these children is invaluable for local families. It takes a village to raise little humans and because of you the communities around us are benefitting. 





PLAINFIELD

Face paint week prior to Halloween!



MOUNT LEBANON

Ice cream week at Afterschool was so cool!



HANOVER STREET

Getting silly with Jenga!



SUNAPEE

Quite the group of creative engineers!



NEW LONDON

Having fun playing games with friends!

CONISTON RECEIVES A \$100,000 NATIONAL GRANT AWARD!

YMCA Camp Coniston was the recipient of a **\$100,000 expansion award** from the YMCA of the USA's Strategic Initiatives Fund and received matching amounts from the following generous donors: Mary Helen & Robert Morris, John & Ann Calcutt, and The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation. These individuals are making Camp better for all and available to more children.

CONISTON HAS THE LARGEST RED MAPLE IN THE COUNTY!

We recently received a **Champion Big Tree Award** here at Camp Coniston. The tree stands 99 feet tall with a circumference of 121 inches. As of June it is the largest reported specimen of its species in Sullivan County. We plan to create a trail leading to the tree so Consistonians and other fellow tree lovers can appreciate its beauty. To learn more about the New Hampshire Big Tree Program you can go to www.nhbigtrees.org and be sure to keep a look out for Big Trees in your area!



CONISTON RECEIVES AN ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT AWARD!

YMCA Camp Coniston was the recipient of a **\$1,000 water quality testing grant** this year. The money allowed our ecology program to teach campers about the outdoors and the importance of clean water.



THANKS FOR HELPING US MAKE A BETTER US!

Once again, **Walgreens in West Lebanon** and YMCA Camp Coniston worked together to raise money for youth in our community. Walgreens recognizes and supports the important work we do every day and they made it even easier for us to do the same! On November 1 -15 customers were able to make a donation to Coniston at checkout and YUSA will be matching all the funds. Stay tuned to see how much we raised this year!



A TOUCHING STORY FROM SESSION 4 NURSE TINA FAVERO

"This evening before dinner I was chatting with a very bright young man. Over the last couple of weeks, we have had several discussions about a variety of things — his homesickness, his favorite subjects in school, his hobbies, and how much he loves his little brothers. He asked me what I was doing after camp, which ended in a few days. I told him I was going back to my regular job. He asked me where I worked and I told him I was a nurse at a psychiatric hospital. He thought for a moment, then said, "Wow. Tina, that must be a really hard job." I told him that there are more good days than bad and emphasized how important it is for people with mental illness to have a higher level of care so they can work through their feelings and remain safe. This young man reflected on my words, then said, "You're a kind person to do that job. Thank you for taking care of people who need that kind of help. You are a very special nurse and I am glad I got to know you." Needless to say I had to turn away after thanking him, as my eyes began to fill with tears. This young man's words touched my heart at its very core. The campers and staff here embody the spirit of kindness, compassion, and caring without judgement. This is what Camp Coniston is all about."

— Tina Favero

REGISTRAR LORRAINE NEWCOMB RECEIVES MOVING EMAIL

"Our daughter had such a great time this summer at the One Week Session that she now wants to return for two weeks! For someone who was very shy about going to her first overnight camp, this is quite the transformation. I have to admit that we (the parents) are both thrilled and torn at the same time. It means she is growing up and this is as it should be and yet she's our baby and it's hard to think of her being away from home for a longer stint. Sigh. Thank you to everyone at Coniston for providing the kind of environment that nurtures the spirit of a social, but often shy spirit!"

— Camper Parent

CONISTON ON
You Tube

FOLLOW US AT [BIT.LY/2DH7DKT](https://bit.ly/2DH7DKT)

Are you interested to see what goes on at Camp all summer and in the off-season? If so, join us on our new YouTube Channel at bit.ly/2DH7DKT. Once there you will be able to browse numerous videos and perhaps see some familiar faces!



THE CONISTON SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

This summer Camp organized a school supply drive on opening and closing days of every session. Generous contributions poured in from Camp families and we donated most to the Upper Valley Haven for homeless families, directly to Newport High School and many local elementary schools. Our combined support made quite a difference for students and their families this year. Thanks for your support!

THANK YOU HYPERTHERM FOR SEVEN YEARS OF GREAT VOLUNTEERING!

Each year over 100 volunteers from **Hypertherm** come help rejuvenate Camp in preparation for summer then return to close Camp down, thus ensuring its beauty for the next season. Like Camp Coniston, **Hypertherm** believes in giving back to its community and it is why every associate receives four paid volunteer days per year. Associates jump at the opportunity to get their hands dirty out in the beautiful Coniston atmosphere.



SNIPPETS FROM facebook

"My daughter was given a Campership to attend Coniston. We as a family would never be able to afford to send her to Camp, but she had an amazing time and made some lifelong friends for sure."

— Camper Parent

Because of supporters like you this young girl was able to come to Camp for the first time this summer despite her family's inability to pay. This being her first time away from home, her parents were concerned she may end up being homesick, however her letters were all about the new friendships she formed. Her mother mentioned she had a hard time with her daughter being gone, but was comforted knowing she was safe and happy.



ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND — SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS AT CONISTON!

For the past 21 years Camp Coniston and Childhood Cancer Lifeline of NH has been hosting a Labor Day weekend camp for families of children with cancer. This year we provided this opportunity to approximately thirty families. Upon arrival Friday afternoon families move into their cabin, children begin to meet each other, and parents begin to share. This process reoccurs throughout the weekend in a never ending cycle of hope and information. The Camp staff offers formal programs beginning with breakfast on Saturday morning. Throughout the day children and families are able to participate in activities that stretch everyone's abilities and begin to build self-confidence and community. Whether it is a recovering child climbing our ropes tower, or the entire family participating in a canoe trip across our lake, each program is administered to help people focus on their family.

All meals are served family style with participants helping each other and sharing in the warmth of the day. What is most important is that **EVERY** family member has these opportunities. Parents are often taken away from the daily activities of their "healthy" children to facilitate the medical treatments needed for their child with cancer. Our program enables families to level the playing field, enjoying all their children, engaging with them freely so their family unit becomes tight once again. Camp Winning Spirit allows families to express themselves in new ways and open themselves to different possibilities — the "magic" of Camp provides a perfect backdrop for the work at hand.

"For us as parents, it is a time to reunite with wonderful friends... to reconnect with the reality of what we've lived through and, for us, survived... A time to count our blessings for our healthy child... A time to offer strength to some of our friends who have not been so lucky... In short, we spend 361 days a year on that crazy treadmill of life! Then we come here for 4 days and remember what life is about!" — Winning Spirit Parent

Camp Winning Spirit is the **only place** where all families, regardless of where they are in the journey, can say, and feel, "You are not alone." This is why our traditional Camp program has become a cornerstone in the lives of participants. —





FLASH BACK TO SUMMER 2016

Live Together, Play Together, Grow Together!

Colors Everywhere! Everything we do at Camp still reminds us of summer... from the office we envision campers running, playing and circling around the flagpole. Reminiscing over a fantastic 2016 is something we can chat about in the office for hours!

This summer, all of the check in days had a big facility change in boys camp: a new **COLLEGE** (bathhouse)! What a great improvement on the inside with more showers, tile floors & walls, toilets and new fixtures. On the people side of check in day, its exciting to see returning staff and fellow campers reuniting. An additional bonus for Coniston was having **Barb Hawley**, Artist in Residence, with us the first 3 weeks of Camp! She was an Arts & Crafts aficionado who taught us about better tie dye and **created a beautiful mural** for us... Barb's personality is so warm, welcoming, and sensitive. She is a true role model that we all have fallen in love with.

Liz Morris & Jack Berthiaume as our Girls & Boys Camp Directors helped all of us bond together, be prepared for anything, and help us resolve questions that arose. They have positive outlooks that are infectious!



Griffin Melia & Parker Olson were our amazing Program Directors who gave us unique themes to evening programs like: The Coniston Stock Exchange, County Fair, Apollo 13, The Financial Meltdown, Battle of Midway, The Broccoli Bonanza, Treaty of Versailles, How the Snake Lost Its Legs, Footloose, Sunday Night Live, Cirque du Soleil and Pokémon Go!

There are so many memories for all of us, staff and campers... Juniors made a foam machine, Middlers had Dinosaur Night, and Girls Camp remembers pink pajamas in the Dining Hall. Session 4 had the color powder explosion on the A-field. Girls Waterfront had a minnow revolution. Horseback welcomed new horses Ranger & Rita. We had the Highland Games, Overnights, Campfire Skits, Drama Shows, CITs running in the lake, Triathlon's, GaGa Tournaments & Snorkel-Offs. The "Townies" band rocked out for us, and the Talent Show participants made us laugh, sing, and watch in awe.

Big and small, old and young, confident and shy, first time Conistonians and returners... together we give each other support and happiness. Camp is an immersion of kindness that is unique in its contagiousness. Thank you to everyone involved in this past summer, bring on Summer 2017!

Conistonians, always be your summer self; do what makes you feel proud all year round!

Live, Laugh, Loon!

JD



SUMMER ADVENTURES

An exciting amount of trips have happened over the years with a total of 108 campers — 72 adventure campers and 36 service campers to be exact. Coniston developed these life changing opportunities for older children as our camper return rate is so high and we wanted to offer new experiences for more campers. The trips teach teenagers how Coniston's values and life lessons can be utilized outside of Camp.

This year, adventure campers traveled throughout New England and Canada visiting several National and State Parks along the way. Fun activities including white water rafting, rock climbing, zip lining, and more all taught youth to build relationships in spectacular locations.

Our service trips brought the Coniston Spirit to several people in need. By partnering with Habitat for Humanity, in both Brandywine, West Virginia and Rochester, New Hampshire our group helped renovate and build housing to assist low-income residents. Campers work in the distribution center with Feeding America to package food to go out to regional soup kitchens in the greater Roanoke, Virginia area. City Mission Boston also receives our support in their soup kitchens and homeless shelters serving meals and working with veterans. In addition, we assist with sorting clothes at their children's clothing exchange and we work in local schools to prepare the facilities for the upcoming school year. —



Sailing from Camden Harbor on **Acadian Odyssey**



Group stand up paddleboarding on **Coastal Navigator**



Tree top obstacle course on **Green Mt. Explorer**



Canoeing the Kennebec on **Maine Voyager**



A game of cards at "Three Rivers" on **Northern New England Explorer**



Kayaking down the Rivière du Gouffre on **Quebec Quest**



The group preparing for a zip line adventure on **Service Trip I**



Lunch break between volunteering in Boston on **Service Trip II**



A night out at the Salem Red Sox on **Service Trip III**




ARTIST WHO PAINTS FOR KENNY CHESNEY COMES TO CONISTON

We sure did have an amazing treat this summer with artist in residence, **Barb Hawley**! Longtime friend of John Tilley's, Barb came all the way from YMCA Camp Piomingo in Kentucky to share her creativity with us. Little did we know how many hearts she would touch in such a short period of time.

As an artist Barb has sold her designs and painted creations to customers all over the world. She has designed and painted thousands of signs, chairs, and tables for Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Stores and Restaurants, along with painting the "Vibe Room" signs and furniture for Kenny Chesney's Summer Concert Tours. However, her true mission is share the joy experienced while creating art and that is just what she did with us.

During Session 1 Barb designed and constructed a huge wood mosaic with campers and staff to grace the walls of the lodge. In addition, she worked hands on with campers creating many creative projects, along with helping the entire camp tie dye.

Thanks Barb for all the memories and we hope to see you soon! —

MESSAGE FROM BARB...

I was amazed at the welcome I received from everyone during my artist in residency stay this summer and I never imagined that I could slip right back into the swing of camp at my age. I cherish the friendships I made with staff and campers and the time I got to share with all. There truly is no place like Coniston for building friendships and experiences that stay with us forever. The time spent in this magical place creates a whole new layer of strength in our heart muscle that moves us to spread the love in all other parts of our lives.

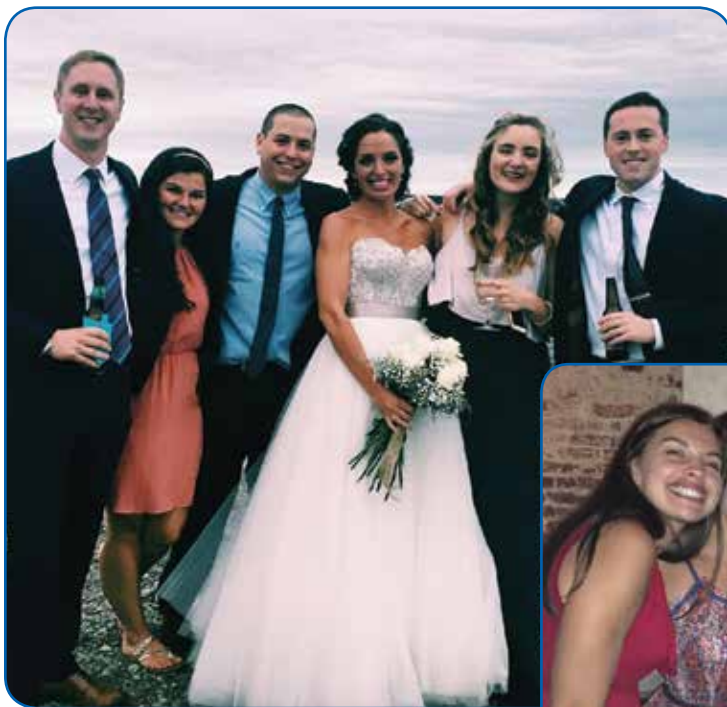


The completed mural now hangs in the dance studio.



Staff and Campers helped create all the pieces which formed the mural.





Lots of alumni at this September wedding of course! **Mia Marzelli** with fellow Coniston friends and '06 CITs, along with lots of Conistonians relatives! Mom, **Mary Marzelli**, Brother **Joey Marzelli**, and Cousins: **Hannah Mauer**, **Amy Mauer**, **Gina Richard**, **Sophie Richard**, **Alex Richard**

Above: **Alex Grip**, **Hannah Gesen**, **Mike Slafsky**, **Mia Marzelli Bragdon**, **Naomi Malam** and **Shane Goodrich**



In May **Berta Sinclair, JD**, and **Nicole Berthiaume** traveled to Belfast, North Ireland to attend the wedding of **Aisling Fenton Bisset** & Stephen Bisset.



This past spring **Max Winer** and **Katie Smidt** got engaged and did you know John Tilley will be officiating the wedding this year!



Jacquie Zimmerman and Michael Wheeler got engaged and everyone got together to celebrate! **John Tilley, Max Winer, Mike Slafsky, Katie Smidt, Hannah Gesen, Brian Doucet, Michael Wheeler, Beth Doucet,** future camper **Nolan Doucet, Zach Zimmerman** and Saphonia Foster.



Ryan "The Hermit" Neumeister and his bride Meg were married on October 1st and alumni **Rob "Hooter" Hooton** attended! Do you remember the Hermit? Well he got married!



On October 1st **Morgan Milardo Schermehorn** got married and many of her fellow '04 CITs and Coniston friends attended (**Eric Rightor, Max Winer, Kevin Cooper-Smith, Tommy Tessier, Brenden Olson, Katie Smidt, Taylor Zadora, Pippa Harriman, Jill Lenson,** and **Jacquie Zimmerman**). Not to mention **Katie Arnold Lipp** (front left) had a baby, Julian Clark Lipp, this fall.



This summer **Paul Marcotte** AKA Paul The Wall was back on staff doing night security. His long time girlfriend **Tina Favero** also joined us for Session 4 as a nurse.

Lindsey Tompkins' newest addition arrived right in the middle of summer on July 14th at 11:18pm. Asher weighed 6.7 lbs and 20.5" long. He loves spending time in the office with his Camp family and participating in Flannel Friday of course!



This September **Lissy Feins** married Mike Nadler and Conistonian, **Jessica Paul Grande** was a bridesmaid!



Another fall 2016 wedding was attended by many Conistonians! From left to right are **Beth Quill's** little sister **Kim**, **Carly Hughes**, Kelsey Hamilton (new sister-in-law), and the beautiful bride **Kelly Hughes**.



Michael Slafsky and **Hannah Gesen** got engaged!

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On their prom nights, this spring, in Catherine Malatesta's gown, from left to right, Jillian Danton, Emma Schambers, Lauren Hourican and Carly Blau.



Emma Schambers wears this bracelet with a charm and yellow beads which are meant to increase awareness of bladder and sarcoma cancers in memory of Catherine.

CONISTON SISTERHOOD HONORING A PAST FRIEND GAINS NATIONAL ATTENTION

You may have seen that the Sisterhood of the Traveling Prom dress made national news this past spring. The sisterhood was made up of two girls from **Catherine Malatesta's** hometown, plus two girls from Camp Coniston **Emma Schambers** and **Carly Blau** and was featured on the Today Show, CBS News, Fox News, Cosmopolitan Magazine and newspapers from coast to coast.

The idea for the traveling prom dress was born when Catherine's mother invited some of her friends over to pick out something to remember her by. The girls saw the sleek blue prom dress hanging on her closet door and instantly wanted to wear it to their own proms. Each of the girls tried the dress on and just like the magical jeans that fit four friends with different builds, the dress appears to contain powers of its own.

The gown has a halter-style neckline that covered the port Catherine had for her medications. Catherine had lost her hair, so her mother bought a wig that a hairdresser styled into an up-do that framed her face with a braid. A makeup artist evened out her skin tone, which had been dotted by her treatments. Catherine was glowing, even though she was frail after being released from the hospital just the night before.

Catherine told her mother that for the first time in a long time, she actually felt beautiful inside and out. Having the four girls wear the dress this year symbolized their strong friendships, and the sisterhood — Catherine was part of the sisterhood. They loved her dearly.

Catherine's mother was struck by the pure joy and magic of Catherine's friends wanting to wear the gown this year — and beyond. She has already received requests from friends who want to claim it for next year, and from a cousin who is still in middle school. Long live the sisterhood.

Donations made in Catherine's honor sent a child to camp last summer whose family also had a cancer story. —

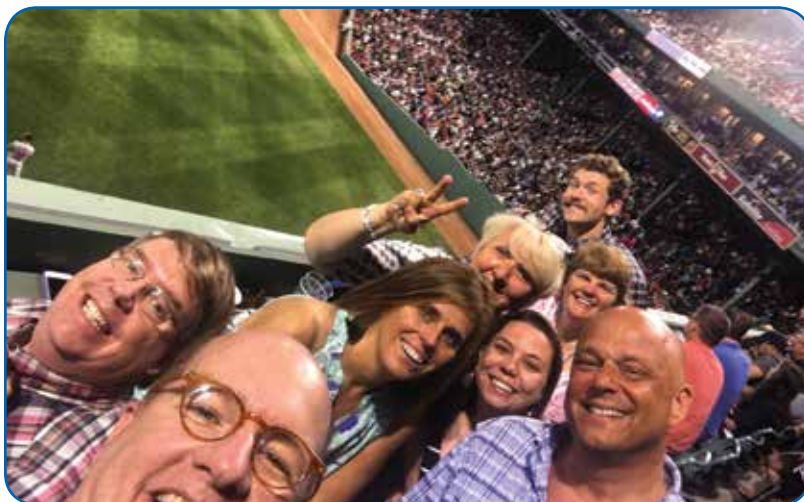


Congratulations **Molly Jepson** for marrying Michael Posa! Many Conistonians were in attendance, from left to right: **Ben Rowe**, **Caroline Glickler**, **Jenny Imrich**, **Gen Izutsu**, **Anna Cooley**, **Kat Cooley**, **Meredith Astles**, and **Emily Morse Rubin**.

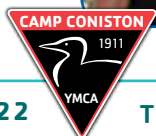
Jake Eaton is in his 4th year as a PHD student studying at Washington University in St. Louis. **Carter Bascom** is hutmaster at the Greenleaf Hut on Franconia Ridge at 4,220 ft!



Memories were made this summer at Fenway with alumni, board and staff members — **Stuart and Rolf Gesen**, **Lindsey Tompkins**, Artist in Residence **Barb Hawley**, **Ellie Mahoney Loughlin**, **Sherm Horton** and **John Tilley**. Not to mention our 5th inning visitor **Rob Morris** who was gracious enough to step away from his Red Sox intern duties and deliver us some snacks!



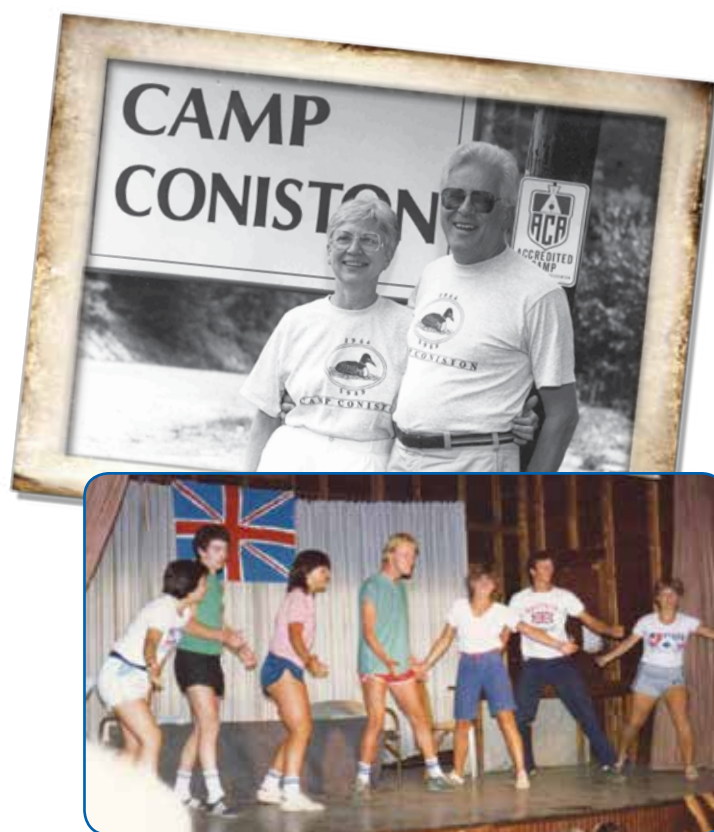
Dan Simonds and his wife Nancy stopped by Camp this summer for the first time in decades! It was great to finally meet an important person in our history. Dan and his family lived in Trillium from 1965–1969 while he was our Girls Camp Director. Dan worked with both Camp Directors **Doug Reed** and **Bob Sanders**!





ALUMNI FROM THE SANDERS ERA ARE HALF WAY TO CAMPAIGN GOAL AND NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

As many of you know Erma Sanders passed away last year and a group of dedicated alumni formed a committee to honor her decades of service. A campaign goal of \$50,000 was set to renovate the boathouse and we are over half way there. Mr. Sanders was incredibly touched by this gesture and graciously donated a leadership gift of \$6,000 to the project. The committee asks that those of us who were impacted by Camp during the Sanders' Era rally together to make up the difference. This way Bob has the opportunity to share in this memorial and celebrate the great memories of Camp with you all. With the donations we receive, we will breathe new life into Camp's iconic boathouse, so that once again friendships and life lessons can be experienced by all campers and staff in this space. I hope you will support the campaign in honor of Erma via check or online at coniston.org/give. You can also reminisce with past alumni from the Sanders Era at facebook.com/groups/SandersEra.



THANKS FOR JOINING US FOR OUR FIRST ALUMNI EVENT HELD IN GOLDEN, CO

Our first of many events took place on November 10th at Table Mountain Inn Hotel & Restaurant. Alumni from many eras attended including, **Doug Newton, Zach & Andrew Rowe, Steve, Holly, Roxi & Conrad Holmes, Caroline Scott**, Board Chair, **John Calcutt, Anna Regan** holding future camper **Asher Tompkins, Andrea & Izze Barsch, Steven Homer, John Tilley** and **Beth Worthington**.



On October 22nd, **Laura Morris** married Tristan Harward! Conistonians in attendance from left to right are **Andrew Concannon, Elizabeth Forbes, Chris Mario, Hannah Gesen** and **Mike Slafsky**.



Horseback staff, **Sarah Maguire Callan** with fellow Conistonian **Jodi Darlington**.



Avery Juniper Orintas was born on May 1, 2016. 7 lbs, 7 oz, 20 inches long to Conistonian **Caitlin (Buttor-Foeder) Orintas**. They are thrilled to be raising her in the mountains of Colorado and spent the summer introducing her to many of the places that are special to them. (This photo is from a hike to Columbine Lake near their home in Telluride, CO). Avery is looking forward to spending her summers at Coniston in about 8 short years!



Julia King is currently spending her year living in El Porvenir, Honduras working for an organization called the Honduras Child Alliance. In a recent Facebook posts she mentions how she is able to teach the children better because of things she learned at Coniston.





Matt Albee and his beautiful wife Rene welcome to the world Whitaker Robert Albee on October 30th 4:39am. Weighing in at 6 lbs and 20 inches tall. Below **Andrew Albee** and his four boys peak through the window to see their new cousin.



After our recent Colorado Alumni Event we learned **Caroline Ritter Scott** was married in the fall of 2015.

On October 22nd **Will Kavanagh** got married to Casey Pereira. Conistonians in attendance from left to right are **Max Winer, Katie Smidt, Beth (Sawitz) Doucet, Will Kavanagh, Katie Kavanagh, Jess (Paul) Grande** and **Brian Doucet**.





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