



Making a difference in children's lives by sending kids to camp.

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18

www.caldwellfoundation.org

One GAC dad's donation JON LUKAS

In this issue of the MMCF newsletter we would like to recognize Jon Lukas, who recently donated \$25,000 to the Manny Vezie Fund, which benefits **Gold Arrow Camp**. Below he provides some background on this extremely significant and much appreciated donation.

"I grew up going to sleep away camp with my brother since I was about 6. I realize now, it was probably a great way for my parents to get a summer break as well ;). I attended a number of camps including Gold Arrow Camp every summer until I was about 17. I cherished my summers and would daydream throughout the year about getting to see my camp friends, as it was such a unique group of friendships that were short (2 weeks) but so meaningful as a kid.

I loved everything about camp from the food, the bunks, the activities, counselors, the ghost stories, campfires and feeling a little nervous about what each day would bring, but then going to sleep feeling so calm and happy. I used to get homesick the first few years because at home everything was very easy and safe and comfortable. Camp would push me out of my comfort zone and I am so grateful for that. As a little kid, I had health issues (a defective kidney) that caused tremendous worry for my parents and terrible pain for me and they didn't know for about 1 year

whether I was going to get through this or not. Finally a kidney specialist figured it out and they did the surgery, but I had been left with anxiety and health fears. But camp was the one place I never felt sick or scared or worried about anything.



I think that's why I'm so grateful for camp. In my whole life, now that I'm 50, camp was the one place I let go of my 'life fears' and lived in the moment. I've never felt that way about anything else.

My daughter, Savannah is now 15, in high school and learning to drive. Life can be scary, but just like me, she has been going to camp since she was a little girl. And now, after about 7 years, her camp days are coming to an end. It's bittersweet. It goes so fast. But I know she will never forget her summers at Gold Arrow and those memories will last a lifetime. That is such a rich and valuable gift to give to my daughter. And I am so happy she felt the same way about camp as I did.

I know that there are many people who never get that chance, but I thought it would be nice to help a few families give that gift to their camper."



Kennolyn returns to Huntington Lake

Summer 2024 marks a full return of Kennolyn Camps Huntington Lake, after facing a number of setbacks over the past 6 years.

The Huntington Lake property offered its inaugural camp session back in 2018. That summer 25 current Kennolyn campers were offered a spot to attend the one-week August session, tubing, water skiing and kayaking on

Huntington Lake, along with campfires, crafts, archery and other camp activities. There was a lot of excitement about this new facility and emphasis on water-focused activities, and the summer of 2019 launched with three summer sessions open to 60 campers per session.

The summer campers loved the water-focused activities and laid-back vibe offered at camp. Unfortunately, as 2020

Meet some of your 2023 Campership



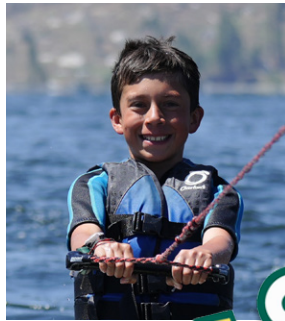
Kennolyn Camps



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Recipients - 43 in all!



Dear Max + Marion
Caldwell Foundation
Board,
Thank you so much for giving my kids the opportunity to attend Gold Arrow this past summer. It was a life-changing experience for them! They met many new friends and tried new activities. They got to be goofy kids 24/7 and that was such a gift. My daughter slept in her sleeping bag for about 3 weeks a further memory! Thank you so much for our incredible gift!
CALDWELL
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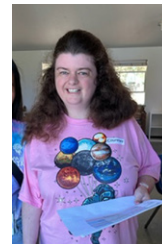
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rolled around the world was hit by the Covid pandemic, shutting down the Huntington Lake site. Then in September of that year, the Creek Fire roared through parts of the Sierra National Forest, lasting for 3 months, burning over 370,000 acres and destroying all but four of the buildings at Kennolyn Camps Huntington Lake.

For all camps the summers of 2021 and 2022 were a time for reestablishing sessions following pandemic safety and protocols. For Kennolyn at Huntington Lake, this was also a time of rebuilding the fire ravaged areas, looking forward to a time when camp would reopen.

As we enter the summer of 2024, Kennolyn Camp Huntington Lake is once again fully open. They are excited for the return of this lake-focused alternative to the Santa Cruz Mountains property and look forward to welcoming back campers.

From our partner camps:



"Courtney attends Camp Via West once a summer, but she dreams of it all year long. She joins in the songs, the sports, and the arts and crafts. She spends time with other people, who like herself, have found a refuge from a more difficult world."
Bruce, Courtney's father



"Via West allowed Joshua to meet new kids, be in a supportive environment to be creative and get his first chance at independence. We are so grateful."
- Jenny, Joshua's mother

Our staff scholarships:



*Erin Pulver
Gold Arrow Camp*



*Sierra Woods and Grace Townsend
Kennolyn Camps*



Thank you
to the 20 donors who gave to MMCF in Connie Wadsworth's memory, raising over \$9000!
We are honored that Connie's legacy of giving continues.

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(in order of donation date)

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There are a number of ways in which you can include MMCF in your estate, and we'd love to help you plan. Please reach out to foundation@caldwellfoundation.org.

Donate here!



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(Gifts of \$50 or more)

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