Summertime is almost here, and we are getting ready to welcome back our Campers and their families. The snow has finally stopped! We haven’t seen accumulations of over 5 feet stick around for several months in many years.

The Camp just completed our largest fundraising event of the year, our annual gala auction. We had a fabulous night celebrating our campers and raising $212,000 to support our programs. I want to take a moment to thank the two families who gave their time and energy to share their personal stories with our guests—Lage O’Berg and his mom, Rebecca Adams, and William Feekes and his Mom, Carin. You all did a beautiful job sharing how Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp has become an important part of your family’s life and we are grateful to you.

With the start of Camp less than a month away I have a few thoughts and reminders to share with our families. I bet you’ve noticed the past few years that nursing check-in has gotten longer—we’ve noticed too. To tell you the truth, to some degree it’s intentional. This isn’t driven by any wish to lengthen your check-in process, we know it’s time-consuming already, but it is driven by our strong desire to protect the health and safety of our campers in order to allow them to enjoy their week at Camp to its fullest. By collecting as much information as we can at check-in, and discussing with you your camper’s medications, current conditions, and overall health, we attempt to set in motion your camper’s successful camp experience. We greatly appreciate your patience, and want you to know we will continue to work as efficiently as we can to move you through the lines and onto the fun. There are a few ways you can help us to do this.

• **Please honor your camper’s check-in time.** You will receive their scheduled arrival time via email one week before your camper’s summer camp week. Plan for traffic and do your best to be on time, this really helps us to keep the check-in process on schedule.

• **Label everything your camper brings to Camp.** You’d be amazed at how many personal items make it to Camp, but don’t seem to make it back home with our campers. We recognize this is frustrating for you, and the process of trying to return items after you’ve departed for home is hard for us too. One of the best ways to make sure that your camper’s items aren’t lost is to label everything you send to Camp. We have a new relationship with StickerKid, who makes washer safe, non-irritating clothing and personal item labels. Go to the Camp’s website, www.mhkc.org to use the link provided for a 20% discount on label stickers with the Camp logo, as well as any other items in their online store.

• **Bubble pack medications for faster check-in.** One of the best ways to shorten your nursing check-in is to bring your camper’s medications in a bubble pack. Not only does bubble packing medications save you time at check-in, it is very helpful to our nurses all week long. I bet you can imagine how long it takes them to pour medications for 60+ campers several times each day. Most pharmacies now provide bubble packing services if you give them advance notice. If you google bubble pack or blister pack medications, you will find several online resources for this service as well.

Goodbyes are never easy, and the one I am making in this article is especially tough. After eleven amazing years, we are saying goodbye to our 2006-2010 Program Director, and the dynamo who has lead our Development Department for almost seven years now, Skye Burns. Skye is moving on to pursue her passion in public health and infectious disease. We wish her every success, and know she’ll be a tremendous asset to her new organization just as she has been to us. To many of us—campers, families, staff members, board members and volunteers—Skye is more than a colleague, she is a friend. We will miss her a lot, but are consoling ourselves with the knowledge that we will see her at future events and up at Camp this summer. Congratulations Skye, you will always be an MHKC Rockstar!

Just as we hope to see Skye in Camp this summer, we would like to see you too. Don’t be a stranger, come up to a Thursday night BBQ. Enjoy a burger and watch some of the best entertainment on the mountain—6pm Thursday nights, June 22nd through August 10th, cost is $10/person.

Thank you for all that you do for Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp. Together we change lives every day.
Camp is around the corner! May is like Christmas Eve at Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp—the month before the magic of camp begins. To kick off this edition of Trail Mix, we are shining the spotlight on our dedicated Onsite Program Team Leaders. Along with Kathy Werschkul in the Portland office, these incredible and hardworking staff members work tirelessly year round to make sure our campers have a safe, healthy, and fun summer experience at MHKC. Right now, in preparation for this summer’s American Camping Association reaccreditation, they are reviewing over two hundred camp standards, ensuring our practices are up to date and the health and safety of our campers are protected. They are also in the process of interviewing and hiring over 80 highly qualified and experienced summer staff members. From Speech Pathologists to dishwashers, to lifeguards and bus drivers, every single staff member is critical to making MHKC run smoothly. The Program Team is also revising and updating all of our staff and counselor training materials in preparation for upcoming trainings in May and June.

**ALLAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS FOR MHKC**

My name is “Sheriff” Allan and I have been a part of the MHKC family for the last 7 summers. I have worked in many positions, from a counselor and ropes facilitator, to the cook and off-season Rentals Coordinator. As the Director of Programs, my job is to make sure that we are continuing to develop new and adaptive programming opportunities and ways to improve the existing programs already at Camp. My favorite part of Camp is watching campers exceed their own expectations. Camp is about pushing perceptions and empowering the individual. During my summers at the Adventure Course, I was able to watch campers overcome amazing obstacles, far surpassing what they thought they were capable of.

**KAYLA, CAMP DIRECTOR**

I help make Camp awesome! As Camp Director, I oversee the day-to-day operation of Summer Camp programs, including activities programming, health and safety, dining services, custodial services, administrative aspects, and camper and staff supervision. I also help develop program growth and implement improvements during the year.

I learned of my love and devotion to MHKC when I started as a volunteer in 2000. Throughout the years, I have worked in numerous areas at Camp including horses, recreation, the fish pond, arts and crafts, as kitchen staff, Assistant Counselor Supervisor, Counselor Supervisor, Assistant Director, and now as Camp Director I am able to give more to Camp than just my summers.

**MARTA, RN, MHKC HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR**

I am the Health Care Administrator and a Registered Nurse. I work at the Portland Camp office year-round helping to plan for the upcoming summer’s medical needs. My job is to ensure the safety and well-being of all campers, staff, and counselors at Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp.

I have worked with children, adolescents, and young adults in hospitals, schools, camps, and medical office settings as an RN for the past 41 years. 20 years of this time was as a school nurse. This will be my tenth summer at MHKC. The thing I love the most about camp are the smiles and joy on campers’ faces when they arrive at Camp!
2017 WINTER RETREAT RECAP

The theme of this year’s MHKC Winter Retreat: SNOW! Every winter, a group of campers and staff spend Presidents’ Day weekend enjoying the snow, friends, and fun at Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp. This year we hosted 20 campers and 13 staff members. The campers and staff bunked with their “buds” in Cy Lodge. With a lot of snow on the ground this year, groups were able to enjoy a day of tubing and snow shoeing. The campers were once again in charge of cooking all of the meals, and they loved showing off their culinary skills. Award winning dishes included pizza, tacos, build-your-own-pasta, and even homemade ice cream sandwiches. In keeping with the winter theme, one evening campers and staff made graham cracker creations reflecting their favorite activities at MHKC. Among them were the giant swing, the stage, and the horse corral. And it wouldn’t be Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp without a dance party! Costumes and new moves were busted out and everyone had a blast. We hope to expand this program to two weekends in the future. If you are interested in learning more about our Winter Retreat program, please contact Allan at Allan@mhkc.org or Kayla at Kayla@mhkc.org.

NEW BIKE PROGRAM, AND YOGA AND TAI CHI CONTINUES

We are so excited to introduce our brand new adaptive bike program this year! Through a generous grant, we will be bringing the Tour de MHKC to the Camp recreation field. Over the next several years, we will be purchasing carefully selected bicycles, tricycles, hand peddle bikes, gondola style bikes, and more. Our goal is to make sure that every camper gets the experience of feeling what it’s like to ride a bike on Mt. Hood!

During rest time this summer, campers will have the option to take a yoga or Tai Chi class. These guided, slow moving, adapted activities help campers improve balance and mobility, promote calm, help them take a physical and mental break from the busy schedule at camp, and begin the second half of the day fresh and ready to take on new challenges.
WHAT IS FAMILY CAMP?

Designed specifically to meet the needs of our youngest campers, Family Camp offers campers ages 9-14 the chance to try out camp life in a safe and supportive environment with their parents or caregivers and siblings present. Structured to mimic our main summer camp program, Family Camp gives campers and their family members the chance to enjoy the outdoors together. Moms, dads, and kids alike experience the adventure course, go horseback riding, swim in the pool, tie-dye t-shirts, canoe and swim in Trillium Lake, and begin learning all of MHKC’s favorite camp songs.

Giving parents and potential campers the chance to come to Camp together does two important things: it allows kids to begin getting comfortable in our camp environment before they come to Camp on their own, and it lets parents get to know our staff and begin developing confidence in our team’s ability to keep their loved one safe and healthy during their stay at Camp. As the 4 days progress, we give the families scheduled activities away from their camper(s) to help everyone transition towards a main camp experience.

WHO CAN ATTEND FAMILY CAMP?

We are inviting future campers and their families to come. Future campers must be between ages 9 and 14. Families must have no one younger than 5 in attendance, and have all members of the family willing to participate in activities. Contact Allan for a complete list of eligibility standards at Allan@mhkc.org.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

$200 per person includes 4 days and 3 nights of housing, food, canoeing, horseback riding, swimming, use of the adventure course, and more.

LIVING SITUATION

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp is located at 83500 Kiwanis Camp Rd, Government Camp, OR 97028. Families can stay in platform tents with 5 beds and a tent flap entry, or dorm-style living, with multiple bunk beds in each room. Bathrooms and meals are shared. There is a large dining hall where all campers eat as a group. Our camp chef offers some gluten-free and vegetarian options, but if you have a more restrictive or further dietary concerns feel free to bring your own food options as there are refrigerators available to you.

If interested please contact Allan Cushing, Director of Programs at Allan@mhkc.org or 971-230-2929 to receive eligibility standards, an application, and with any questions. Registration opened May 17, 2017. Space is limited, so apply now.
In the spring of 2006, I had the privilege of being hired at MHKC as the Program Director. It’s hard to believe that eleven years has already gone by. A lot has changed since that first memorable summer. I can remember participating in aquatics activities in a 2 feet deep pool located in what is now part of our parking lot, which is a stark contrast to the amazing fully accessible pool that we have today. My first few summers, I and one other Assistant Director made up the senior summer staff leadership team and the Portland office year round team consisted of only 6 employees. When I started, there were no ziplines or a giant swing at camp, we owned our own horses, and there was no Doig Cabin.

While a lot has changed at Camp over the years, there are so many things that continue to stay the same. The impact of this place has changed my life and continues to change not only the lives of the people that we serve, but everyone involved in this organization. MHKC from day one has brought so many people joy, love, and a feeling of connection, and will continue for years to come. The work that we do at MHKC has kept me in love with this place for the last 11 years and will continue to hold a very special place in my heart.

One of my favorite memories from Camp is meeting my wonderful husband, Chris Burns, while helping him design his beautiful pink sparkly wood cookie (for those of you who know me, I’m not exactly an artist). My children have grown up with Camp as an integral part of their lives, from dancing to Staff Infection Band’s hits and hugging Smokey the Bear, to meeting all of the wonderful people at Camp, and helping to serve at the BBQ. I will never forget beating Kaleen in a heated Water Volleyball game during her first summer at camp, or being the “best” at tipping the canoes with many of my camper friends. I have eaten more s’mores than should be legally allowed, and met some of the most amazing individuals that I consider close friends. When asked what I will miss the most at Camp...it’s easy...the people. From the incredible campers to the staff who continually go above and beyond, Camp is full of the most wonderful people and I will miss you all dearly.

WE WILL MISS YOU, SKYE!
2017 CALENDAR

JUNE 9: MHKC Golf Tournament, The Reserve Golf Club
JUNE 3-4 and 10-11: MHKC Staff training
JUNE 18: First day of summer camp!
JUNE 22: Thursday night barbecue*
JUNE 29: Thursday night barbecue*
JULY 6: Thursday night barbecue*
JULY 13: Thursday night barbecue*
JULY 20: Thursday night barbecue*
JULY 27: Thursday night barbecue*
AUGUST 3: Thursday night barbecue*
AUGUST 10: Thursday night barbecue*
AUGUST 11: Last day of camp
AUGUST 13-17: Family Camp
SEPTEMBER 10: MHKC Walk, Roll, or Stroll at Oaks Park

*Barbecue dinner: 6pm, $10 per person; Camper skits: 7pm.
EVERYONE WELCOME! Only service dogs allowed at camp.

MATCHING AND RECURRING GIFTS

Have you ever considered giving monthly to Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp through recurring donations?
• It’s Convenient
• It’s Efficient
• It’s Flexible
• It’s Rewarding

Contact Eve Reuter at eve@mhkc.org or Amanda Nab at amanda@mhkc.org in our Finance Department to set up your recurring donation. You can avoid the hassle of managing the donation and feel great about supporting our Campers every month!

Don’t forget to ask if your employer offers matching donations, you might have the chance to double your giving to Camp.

From batteries to camping chairs, bandaids to water jugs, serving over 550 campers each year requires a lot of resources. We get asked every year what kind of things we need for our program, so we made a list! If you are interested in donating items used at summer camp, our Amazon wishlist is an easy route to take. We’ve just updated it for our 2017 summer season! PLEASE NOTE: If you send an item as a ‘gift’ MHKC is NOT sent an inventory list, so we must contact Amazon to find out who sent it to us. Since we want to make sure all of our generous supporters are acknowledged and sent the proper tax-deductible forms, please DO NOT choose to send it as a ‘gift’. Thank you for thinking of MHKC! You can locate the MHKC wishlist at: http://a.co/2okfwFE or go to “Find a List or Registry” on Amazon.com.

ATTENTION CAMPER PARENTS

NEW E-NEWSLETTER AND PHOTOS OF YOUR CAMPER

Last month, you all received our first monthly MHKC Camper and Family e-newsletter, the “Wood Cookie News.” The purpose of this newsletter is to share updates and stories that are informative for our campers and camper families. If there is something you would like us to feature or if you did not receive this e-newsletter, please let us know at: Terri@mhkc.org or Kayla@mhkc.org.

This summer we will be providing online photos of campers WHILE AT CAMP! You will be able to see them through your Camp Minder account. Make sure to remember/write down your password so you will have it available this summer while your camper is at camp. Also, make sure to find out what group your camper is in. All albums will be organized by week and group letter.
The MHKC “Golden Age of Hollywood Gala” was an incredibly exciting and heartfelt night, and raised much needed and greatly appreciated funds for our life-changing programs. Thanks to the passion and generosity of our guests, the evening’s fundraising surpassed expectations. In one night, we raised a record breaking $212,000!


The Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp staff did not put this event on alone. It came together thanks to collaboration with and vital insight from campers and camper families, volunteers, Board members, and program staff. Thank you for your dedication!

Playing to our theme, The Golden Age of Hollywood, Saturday night was kicked off by the Camp’s own Staff Infection Band who set aside time the past few months to learn and play well known songs from 1940’s and 50’s musicals for the crowd. Little known fact: The Staff Infection Band, who is comprised of past camp staff and counselors, has volunteered at Camp every week for the past 18 years to play music at Thursday night barbecues for our campers. They plan their vacations, family reunions, summers, and work schedules around those nights, prioritizing the campers’ summer camp experience. Talk about lifetime dedication! Thank you, Staff Infection Band!

The focus of Saturday evening was a message of love and kindness. The show kicked off with a live performance of the Pharrell Williams song “Happy” by local Portland actor and singer extraordinaire, Dale Johannes, accompanied by a video of campers, camp staff, and camp supporters dancing along. The audience loved Dale and the video, and the room was filled with smiles, laughter, clapping, and dancing right from the start of the evening.

The beginning of the program featured an MHKC camper Mom, Carin, reading a letter of appreciation after her son received a note of love and acceptance from a local elementary school student. Carin was filled with gratitude towards this thoughtful young man, and emphasized the importance of spreading kindness and reaching out to one another. She shared, “This world needs more great people like you who think of ways to love, and not hurt each other with words.”
A HUGE thank you to our generous Gala Sponsors:

Thank you to our leading Silver Sponsors:
Columbia Bank
Consumer Cellular
Hart Family Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Portland Foundation
ProBuild

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors:
The Behunin Family
Boise Cascade
Bullivant Houser Bailey, Attorneys at Law
Cedar Hills Kiwanis Club
Cochran Company
The De Vries Family
Delta Graphics
First Tech Federal Credit Union
IMS Capital Management
International Wood Products
KGW 8
Montavilla Kiwanis Club
MHKC Foundation
OrePac Building Products
Pacific Office Automation
Pam Pariani
Ross Island Early Risers Kiwanis Club
Samuels, Yoelin, & Kantor
Southwest Hills Kiwanis Club
Synergo
Tigard Kiwanis Club
ZRZ Realty

Kelly and Dale, our auctioneer and emcee, were on fire Saturday night, and this year’s live auction raised record funds. Guests were enthusiastically bidding on exciting packages like an African Safari, a trip to Bali, and Beavers and Ducks packages. Thank you to all our bidders and our live auction winners!

During the special appeal, Rebecca Adams, MHKC summer camp nurse and also a camper Mom, shared her son Lage’s story and the importance of Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp in contributing to his life in a meaningful way. Rebecca said it best when she said, “There are three seasons in Lage’s life: before Camp, during Camp, and after Camp.” Thank you Rebecca and Lage for sharing your story and being such strong advocates for the work we do.

Thank you to everyone who believes in the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp mission, to empower children and adults with disabilities. You made this year’s auction a huge success!

See all event photos and videos on our MHKC Facebook page, website, or YouTube channel.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR’S AUCTION

APRIL 21, 2018
SUCCESSFUL ONLINE AUCTION

This past winter, Mt Hood Kiwanis Camp was selected from hundreds of non-profits nationwide to receive one of 100 limited edition hand-cut crystal bottles of Buffalo Trace Distillery O.F.C. Bourbon Whiskey that was distilled in 1980. “These vintages are certainly unique and special whiskies,” said Kris Comstock from Buffalo Trace Distillery. “We hope this O.F.C. collection can pay tribute to the many years gone by here at the Distillery. Each vintage has a story to tell indeed.” On Monday, February 27th, MHKC held an online auction, giving bourbon connoisseurs the opportunity to bid on this rare bottle and raise money for Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp. The auction concluded at 10 pm on the 27th, and after a day of bidding, raised $4,300! ALL of those proceeds went to our program to empower children and adults with disabilities.

We are grateful to our generous auction winner for supporting MHKC in this exciting way. We want to recognize MHKC Board member Andy Jones for helping to procure this rare bottle on behalf of Camp. Thank you Andy! And of course, thank you to Buffalo Trace Distillery for choosing Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp as one of the few non-profit organizations to receive this vintage bottle.

GRANTS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT MHKC

We would like to thank the following foundations for their continual support of our organization. They help make our life-changing programs to our campers possible.

ADAPTIVE BIKE PROGRAM
Funds from this program will be utilized to create a fully adaptive cycling program at MHKC to help foster increased physical activity and mobility.

NIKE COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND AT OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LIGHTING PROJECT IN CY LODGE
Funds allocated to this project will be used to replace the lighting and update the electrical work in Cy Lodge, our female camper and counselor dormitory.

LP BROWN FOUNDATION

JUAN YOUNG TRUST

UPGRADES TO CY LODGE
For Phase 4 of our septic upgrade project, we will be replacing the septic tank underneath Cy Lodge, one of our largest and most frequently used lodging facilities.

AUTZEN FOUNDATION

OPERATING FUNDS
This funding was used to sustain and expand our outdoor adventure programs.

TRIBE COUSINS FUND

BURNS FAMILY FUND OF THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CAMPERSHIPS
Our intention with this effort is to serve the families utilizing our Camp, and to provide financial aid to offset camp fees to as many families impacted by these tight economic times as possible.

WEYERHAEUSER GIVING FUND

UTILITY VEHICLE
Funds for this project will be utilized to purchase a utility vehicle for the camp.

ESCO FOUNDATION

EPI PEN
This grant was utilized to purchase new Epi Pens for our medical team at Camp.

ALBINA ROTARY FOUNDATION

CORVALLIS KIWANIS FOUNDATION

WELCOME NEW MHKC BOARD MEMBER

While Wendy is new to our Board, she has been a friend of Camp for many years. As a Vice President and Senior Commercial Loan Officer at Columbia Bank, where the Camp does our banking, we have a longstanding working relationship with Wendy. As she got to know us, she quickly got excited about the mission of our Camp and over the last several years has organized work parties at our campsite, visited Camp during the summer, and attended, recruited guests, and supported the Camp at our events. When we had a space on our Board, inviting Wendy to join us was an easy decision.
MHKC FOUNDATION

DID YOU KNOW?

• It costs Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp over $3400 per week to serve each camper who attends our programs. We ask our camper families to pay only a portion of that price in registration fees. Our Camp Staff and Board of Directors fundraise each year to bring in the remaining dollars necessary to run our programs.

• Every camper who spends the week in our Main Camp Program has their own personal counselor who works with them one-on-one all week. This fact makes MHKC unique among camps that serve people with disabilities. Many others either cannot offer one-to-one support or charge families an additional fee for this level of service.

• MHKC has partnered with Portland State University for over 45 years. PSU is not only our primary source for the counselors who come up to work with campers every summer, but they also provide us with researchers and educators who specialize in the field of developmental disabilities, and help to train our summer staff team, giving us highly skilled professionals ready to serve our campers.

With over 80 years of service to people with disabilities across our state and throughout the Northwest, MHKC has served over 16,000 campers and impacted tens of thousands of lives. Our Camp was way ahead of its time, successfully serving kids and adults in a recreational setting in the forties, fifties, and sixties when the prevailing trend in our society was to institutionalize those who had disabilities.

Today we want to make sure MHKC stays on the cutting edge, introducing new activities and equipment modifications to make recreation and play easier for our campers, partnering with researchers and educators to incorporate the latest developmental disabilities best practices into our program, and looking forward to anticipating the next opportunities to better serve people with disabilities.

A big part of what will allow the Camp to be successful at achieving our goals is the support of the many families, friends, and businesses who donate to fund our work. As important as it is that we give to the causes we love during our lifetime, if we have the ability to do so, gifts at the time of retirement or when we pass away also make an enormous difference to organizations like MHKC.

A gift to the MHKC Foundation is one way to create a lasting legacy at our Camp. If you or your family is interested in making a planned gift to our Foundation, please let us know. We would be honored to talk with you about your goals and help you to ensure that the Camp we love is here to serve kids and adults with disabilities for decades to come. For more information or to schedule a meeting, please contact Kaleen Deatherage at kaleen@mhkc.org or 971.230.2920

RENT THE DOIG CABIN!

Want to support Camp AND have a relaxing mountain vacation? Come stay at Camp in the beautiful Doig Cabin! The Doig Cabin is our most recent addition to MHKC. It is a lovely two bedroom lodge with a kitchen, full bathroom, living room, and wrap around deck overlooking the serene Little Zigzag River.

The cozy cabin sleeps 5 and can be rented for $135/night, including all towels, linens, TV, and Blu-Ray. All of the proceeds from your rental goes directly to providing life-changing Camp experiences to our campers. Contact Eve to book your mountain escape!

Eve@mhkc.org or (971) 230-2922.

WELCOME ALICIA!

We are so thankful to announce that we have added a new staff member to our year-round team! Alicia Burbidge has been a longtime event volunteer, co-chairing the auction committee, and we are thankful to have her now helping out with the hundreds and hundreds of event details on ALL our events! Alicia’s focus on event planning will allow other members of the team to focus even more energy and time on strategic plans, creating new sponsorship partnerships, and meeting new fundraising goals.

Join us on Sunday, September 10, at Oaks Park for a fun family 5k walk/run along the Springwater Corridor. The walk begins at 10:30 am. After the walk, join us and enjoy live music by the MHKC Staff Infection Band, a barbecue lunch, games, raffles, and more. Walk as part of a team, or come on your own. All proceeds go straight to Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, supporting our mission of empowering children and adults with disabilities. Contact Terri@mhkc.org for more information. Register online at:

WWW.MHKCWALK.COM
The Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp
EMPOWERS children and adults
with disabilities.

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp is an
equal opportunity recreation
provider operating under special
use permit on the Mt. Hood
National Forest, USDA Forest Service.