



HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

WHISPERING PINES

INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

DECEMBER 2022



Musings and Meanderings...

From the Executive Director

Most social media/marketing professionals will advise to NOT send out important communications pieces on Fridays. *Well, I'm throwing caution to the winds!*

This abbreviated issue of Whispering Pines will focus entirely on our year-end fundraising efforts. By some accounts, more than 35% of all charitable giving occurs in December and almost 15% (of all giving) takes place in the last three days of the year. So, there's a lot riding on the next fifteen days!

Our community is already answering the call with incredible support! It looks as if we will downright shatter our stated goal of \$50,000 in year-end donations. Every gift, every dollar is critically important to the work that we do at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps.

One recent donor shared the following with me (after I reached out to thank him):

My pleasure. Even as I approach my 78th birthday next month, I remember fondly the days I spent at Hayo-Went-Ha when I was 12, 13, and 14. A wonderful experience for any kid!

Another shared this:

My summers at Camp Arbutus as a camper, CIT, and counselor all had a positive influence on my choices – professionally as a teacher and recreationally as a life-long sailor and love of being on the water. I am delighted to be able to support girls in your outstanding programs.

I am so grateful for the support of our worldwide community and so proud to know that a Hayo-Went-Ha Camps experience can be so moving, so impactful and so memorable.

The support that we receive is crucial to our success. As you may know, the fees we charge do not cover the considerable costs of operating two complex overnight camps. The donations we receive bridge this gap and allow us to maintain/upgrade our facilities, recruit/train the best and brightest summer staff, acquire much-needed new equipment and provide that memorable and impactful experience to our campers. In essence, this support secures our future.

In the final analysis, it's not the dollars – it's the change. The change that occurs when all the ingredients – caring and dedicated staff, inspirational natural locations, well-developed and challenging programs – come together each summer. That's when the magic happens:

I had lots of fun on my trip even through the challenges. I can't wait to come back next year and keep growing as a person. I made lots of new friends and bonds that I will cherish for years. (AHHW Kayaker camper)

The counselors helped me out a lot. And I liked that. (HWH Ranger camper)

Camp is like a second home to me and the people here were like family. I always feel like I have a place here and a group to support me. (AHHW Explorer camper)

To those of you who have already made a gift – ***thank you for your generosity and your support.*** To those who are thinking about a year-end gift, I appreciate your consideration.

I remain honored and humbled to be a part of the HWH Camps community.

Best wishes to you all in this holiday season!

Each for All – All for Each.

Dave

[Dave DeLuca/CEO – YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps](#)



Glimpses Into Giving

Camp played an integral part of my life from my days as a Pathfinder through my time on Staff and into my service on the various Boards. It was especially important to me at a time after my father had passed away. It brought me back to a place I had spent great times and gave me an opportunity to meet and spend time with people many of which have become life-long friends. I give of my time and monetarily because I want to preserve for others the opportunity to have the same experiences I had. To make an impact on others and to have others make an impact on them. In the words of a friend of mine who I knew through Camp, I want to provide others with the chance to make memories.

HWH Camps Trustee

We gave because we saw how much Hayo-Went-Ha Camps helped our kids learn how to be more independent and made them more rounded adults. We wanted to give other kids that same camp experience.

HWH Camps Parent

So why do I give? Every summer when my children returned, they came back better than when we sent them. They grew as people every summer. Better emotionally, physically, mentally. Happy. They made lifelong friends and learned a lot about themselves. The camp radically improved their lives and helped make them who they are today. I have no doubts as to the positive experience the camp was to them. Especially in the girls when they were 13 to 15. Behavioral and emotional issues were fixed and forgotten. Just being away from their parents and friends in a safe environment was amazing for them.

HWH Camps Alumnus & Parent

I give so that other kids can experience summer camp at its best; it a beautiful camp on a gorgeous lake, with great counselors and offers trips for every skill level to some of Michigan's best outdoor places. Kids need to be in nature. They benefit in many ways by learning how to swim, camp, cook outdoors, hike, sail, build a bonfire and get along with other campers. HWH gave my son a sense of independence and confidence from the very first summer, he was eager to return every year and went on to work as a camp counselor during his college summers. HWS provided him with many great experiences that helped shape him into the fine man he is today. Giving to HWH is a no brainer for me and something I feel good about as I know kids will benefit in so many ways.

Past HWH Camps Parent



Ways to Give

There are several ways in which you can make a gift to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

- [Visit our website](#). Here you can make a secure online gift. If you wish, you may use PayPal or Venmo as your giving vehicle.
- Go "old school" and send a check to the camp office (919 N East Torch Lake Drive, Central Lake, MI 49622)
- Make a gift of appreciated securities. [Email Dave DeLuca](#) or call the camp office for transfer details.

However you may choose to give, we're grateful for your support!

Please considering forwarding this issue of Whispering Pines to friends, family members and others in your network that might consider making an investment in our camps!



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