

## 2020 IMPACT REPORT

WE BELIEVE IN A FUTURE WHERE NEURODIVERSITY IS UNDERSTOOD, VALUED, ACCEPTED AND MOST OF ALL, CELEBRATED.

Camp

## HELLO, FROM CAMP WINSTON!

Located on Sparrow Lake in the Muskoka region of Ontario, Camp Winston is a unique retreat for youth with multiple, complex neurobiological disorders who need highly specialized support. At Camp Winston, children have the opportunity to escape their ordinary and often challenging daily lives, connect with others in a way they have never experienced, and build life-long skills. We offer summer camp programs and weekend retreats throughout the year for campers aged 7-13, as well as a Teen Program and weekend retreats for campers aged 14-17. Campers have a complex combination of neurobiological disorders, which includes, but is not limited to, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Tourette's Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and other anxiety disorders.

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## $\Box$ FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Thank you to everyone who supported Camp Winston this past year. We are so very grateful for your generosity in donating and volunteering, especially during Covid-19. You make our programs a reality for our campers, leveling the playing field and making love, caring, belonging, and self-esteem available to all kids, especially our kids. You matter to our community, and your support ensures the quality and quantity of our programs today as well as our long-term sustainability.

Through 2020 and the challenges of Covid-19 we experienced on another level how important Camp is, and the importance of the Camp Winston community working together and connecting in any way possible. We spent this past year checking in on our families and campers and we offered online Camp Winston Connections programs.

We rebuilt our Arts, Drama and Music building.

We moved the site of our animal paddock and in its place built a healing garden.

We are ready and excited for the day, hopefully soon, when we can have our kids come and join us again in person. We're all here at this time in the history of the universe for a special reason. We believe the most important part is love, healing and healthy relationships. Your generosity empowers us to reach our campers and families on such an impactful level. It also motivates our highly trained staff who take our skills with them to help their own families, friends and careers. We appreciate people taking the time to understand our children, their behaviours and their complexities.

We believe all kids want to do well and thanks to your support, we give them the tools to do so.

Denise Frechter

Denise Fruchter Co-Founder and Camp Director

Carolyn Heil

Sister Carolyn Heil Co-Founder and Camp Director



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### 2019/2020

Andrew Schipper Andrew Slivinsky, Treasurer Denise Fruchter, Founder Hartlee Zucker John Joseph Mastandrea Kelly O'Neill Liz Smith Luke Cole, Co-chair Michelle Bourque Pamela Chan-Ebejer Samantha Reburn, Secretary Sara Gottlieb, Co-chair

#### 2020/2021

Andrew Schipper Carolyn Heil David Warman, Co-chair & Treasurer Denise Fruchter, Founder Hartlee Zucker John Joseph Mastandrea Kate Phillips Kelly O'Neill Liz Smith Luke Cole, Co-chair Michelle Bourque Pamela Chan-Ebejer

## $\Box$ FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

While 2020 has been an unprecedented year of change and uncertainty, at Camp Winston our commitment to make a profound impact on the lives and possibilities of children and their families living with neurological and neurobiological challenges was unwavering.

We took the mandatory physical closure of Camp Winston and turned it into an opportunity to launch Camp Connections, our extensive virtual programming that provided regular check-in calls with families (456 hours of calls), a unique care package for all 124 summer campers, a range of online activities (31 activity videos by 26 staff/volunteers), various entertainment evenings including a talent show, pet show, and an end of summer virtual camp fire.

In response to the needs of our most vulnerable families, we piloted the Caregiver Emotional Support Program. Weekly sessions delivered by qualified volunteers helped caregivers overcome burnout and isolation by creating opportunities to vent, share strategies and offer referrals to professional programs and contacts. Instead of our annual Camp Winston Run-Raiser, the Building Hope Campaign successfully raised funds to outfit the newly built Arts, Drama and Laundry building with equipment and fixtures.

The child and family portraits shared during this campaign reminded us to strive for a future where neurodiversity is understood, valued, accepted and most of all, celebrated.

Leadership and the Board collaborated this year to complete a strategic planning exercise that will help us serve our children and families for years to come through Camp Winston's four pillars: summer camp, year-round respite, emotional support for families, and the Winston Way training methods. We will achieve our ambition and bring our beliefs to life through these focused activities.

We believe every child matters, and that every child, regardless of their neurodiversity, deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. As we enter our 30th year, we remain committed to supporting our children and families, whether in person or from a distance.

None of this would be possible without you. We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors, fundraisers and volunteers. On behalf of our Board, staff, children and their families, thank you for believing in the magic of Camp Winston.

Lale I

Luke Cole and David Warman Co-Chairs, Camp Winston Board of Directors

#### 2020 CAMP WINSTON IMPACT REPORT, WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ABOUT US
- FOUNDERS LETTER
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CO-CHAIRS LETTER
- STRATEGIC VISION
- MANIFESTO
- CAMP WINSTON CONNECTIONS
- FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES
- INVESTMENT & IMPACTVOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
- THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
- THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
- LOOKING FORWARD
- GET INVOLVED





## **STRATEGIC VISION**

The pandemic has been extremely difficult, however, it did serve us well in one key area - it gave us the gift of time. Being unable to operate in-person programming in 2020 meant that our team has the unique opportunity to come together and collaborate with an expert in strategic planning. In 2020 Camp Winston conducted a thorough strategic planning review, we investigated historical data and documentation, looked at recently collected survey results, impact statements and compiled information about the services we deliver and would aim to deliver. We will achieve our ambition and bring our belief to life through our 4 key operating pillars: Summer Camp, Respite, Training "The Winston Way" and Year Round Support. We are proud to present the strategic vision of Camp Winston, from our revised ambition and belief, to our brand new manifesto.

## 

To make a profound impact on the lives and possibilities of children/families, living with complex neurobiological challenges through a self-sustaining Foundation.

## BELIEF

We believe every child matters, and that every child, regardless of their neurodiversity, deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

We believe in the power of friendship to build a community of love, acceptance, support, belonging and joy.

And, we believe in the magic of the Winston Way to change lives.



What if there were a way we could stop defining children with neurobiological challenges by their diagnoses? At Camp Winston, we believe uniqueness and differences are gifts that should be celebrated.

#### What if we could meet each child where they are?

At Camp Winston, we believe children should be empowered to find their purpose, their place in life, and the power in their exceptionalities.

What if there were a way to give hope so their imaginations could run wild, confidence could soar, and creativity could flourish?

At Camp Winston, we believe all children want to do well, and some need more help developing the skills to allow them to do so.

What if parents and caregivers had the confidence to send their child(ren) to a safe place where they are understood and cared for, allowing families an opportunity to recharge?

At Camp Winston, we believe that changing the life of one child can heal an entire family.

What if these children could unplug from technology, swim in the lake, experience nature, and make a friend?

At Camp Winston, we believe that making and keeping a friend is essential to developing resiliency and improving quality of life.

What if the impact of summer camp could be greater than a two-week session away from home?

At Camp Winston, we believe in the power of community building to bring hope, support and belonging to children and their families all year long.

What if there were a way to train future educators, social workers and health care providers to nurture the development of children with neurodiversity in a way that benefits everyone?

At Camp Winston, we believe that by nurturing our staff and supporting their development, we widen our impact and serve a greater number of neurodiverse youth.

We believe in a future where neurodiversity is understood, valued, accepted and, most of all, celebrated.

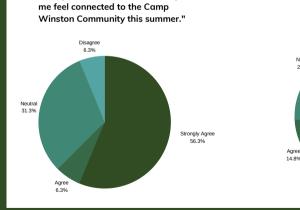


We are for those who see things differently.

WE ARE CAMP WINSTON.

## CAMP WINSTON CONNECTIONS

2020 was a challenging year due to Covid19. We took on the challenge and quickly rallied to support our campers, families and community. Despite the loss of our in-person camp sessions, we are proud of how quickly our staff pivoted to find new ways to connect with our campers and families. We recognized that nothing could replace the experience of in-person camp but we worked diligently to develop accessible and impactful virtual and one-on-one programming options that brought a little bit of Camp Winston into our campers' homes. And so Camp Winston Connections was born!



"Camp Winston Connections helped

"My family and I felt supported by Camp Winston Connections this summer."

Neutra

25.9%

Strongly Agree 59.3% "It may not have been the typical Camp Winston experience but it still added a bright spot in days during this time full of anxiety and uncertainty." - Caregiver of Camp Winston Teen

"I think having this interaction is good for his mental health! It has been a highlight for his summer!" - Caregiver of Camp Winston new camper

"It supported the development of independence skills. I think that it will have a long lasting positive effect." - Caregiver of Camp Winston camper

"Being able to pivot and provide support to our community in such a difficult time was amazing, seeing the kids on Zoom helped maintain relationships and rapport that we, as staff, have spent many years building." - Camp Winston Staff member

# CAMP WINSTON CONNECTIONS

## 55

of Camp Winston's returning campers were engaged in Camp Winston Connections this summer

## 5

caregivers whose challenges were exacerbated by Covid19, were supported in our new pilot project; Caregiver Emotional Support Program

## 124

care packages, thoughtfully individualized for each camper were mailed to their homes to bring some Camp Winston magic into their summers

## 456

hours of one to one support. This cumulative total was the time spent by staff members connecting personally with campers and families

## 1

participants of the Camp Winston Teen Program took part in meaningful paid work experience this summer

## 31

activity videos created by staff and alumni. These were designed to provide support, entertainment and skill development to campers who could not access our live sessions We listened to our children and families and designed Camp Winston Connections to address three areas in which they were struggling: respite for caregivers, feelings of isolation, and a lack of opportunities for community and social engagement. Our programming helped families through the worst of Covid-19 and created a set of year-round tools to use beyond the pandemic. The success and profound impact of Camp Winston Connections was made possible through the generosity of The Northpine Foundation and The Royal Bank of Canada.

#### ONE TO ONE SUPPORT

Our greatest impact from this summer's programming was through our ability to provide one-on-one connections with our campers and their families. This was provided through Zoom, phone calls, e-mails, texts and socially distanced visits. The individual connections and support provided by our staff are critical for many of our campers and families and have continued throughout the year.

#### INTEREST CLUBS

Over the 12 weeks of summer programming, our staff and volunteers ran six recurring interest clubs for campers of all ages. The clubs included: art, creative writing, cooking/baking, Minecraft, games and trivia/board games for teens specifically. The response to these clubs was so positive that we are continuing a select few year round.

#### TEEN SUPPORT PROGRAM

18 of our teen campers completed jobs or projects through our online programming this summer. These jobs involved helpful and meaningful engagement at home or within their community. We even received a wonderful update that one of our teens has been offered a restaurant job, with their parents crediting the Teen Program at Camp Winston for teaching all the essential job preparedness skills needed for a real world job. The GetReal session for teens proved to be a very successful initiative where teens were able to chat about their own 2SLGBTQ+ experiences as well as those of their friends and family. During this session, the teens asked questions that were thoughtful and heartfelt, showing wonderful maturity.

#### $\Box$ ACTIVITY VIDEOS

Camp Winston Connections provided 31 activity videos that were posted on both our Instagram and Facebook accounts with an average reach of 218. Due to their popularity, all the videos are now accessible through our website!

#### CAREGIVER EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Our pilot program provided emotional support from qualified volunteers to five families. The weekly sessions allowed caregivers to vent, identify strategies to cope with burnout, and created an opportunity for volunteers to offer referrals to other professionals and programs. The feedback from participants revealed a great need for this type of support and we are looking/planning for the resources to continue and expand this offering.

#### CAMP CARE PACKAGES

Over the summer we mailed out 124 camp care packages that included tshirts, water bottles and activities that were hand-selected for each camper. The response to these packages has been overwhelmingly positive and truly provided a bright spot for many of our campers during a difficult season.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT EVENINGS**

Our summer entertainment evenings were consistently among our best attended programs for all ages. These evenings consisted of Camp Winston options (talent show, pet show, show and tell) and guest hosted options (Zoo2You, a magic show, a falconry/birds of prey show).



## **BUILDING HOPE** AT CAMP WINSTON

 $\Box$ 

In October 2020, Camp Winston launched its first virtual fundraising campaign. Created to raise funds to outfit the newly built Arts, Drama and Music Complex, the Building Hope campaign surpassed its \$30,000 fundraising goal. The campaign engaged our community, increased awareness of our work and brought new supporters into the fold.

The Arts, Drama and Music Complex is an important aspect of the Camp Winston experience because of the programs it offers. Our building is not just a creative space, it's an opportunity for our campers to learn and strengthen their skills in a supportive environment that is unlike their school or home setting. The building also houses some of our fundamental operations - such as maintenance and laundry facilities.

- **Building Hope** for imaginations to run wild.
- **Building Hope** for confidence to soar.
- Building Hope for creativity to flourish.







#### **CAMP WINSTON CHARITY CLASSIC 2019**

King's Forest Golf Course, Hamilton, September 14th, 2019

A fantastic day on the golf course, with a huge thank you to one of our camper's caregivers, Rachelle Parker, who very generously organized and coordinated an extremely successful event. Thank you to everyone who supported this cause, with 87 registrants and \$21,000 raised, we couldn't have come close to this huge achievement without you.



#### THE 6TH ANNUAL RUN-RAISER 2019

Richmond Green Sports Centre & Park, September 29th, 2019

Our Run-Raiser has grown significantly since starting in 2014, moving locations to accommodate more attendees. The Run-Raiser is an event close to our hearts as it allows the whole Camp Winston community to get involved. With over 80 attendees on site, 23 teams and more than 20 volunteers, you managed to raise over \$37,000! Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were unable to host in 2020, but cannot wait until we are able to again.







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2019/2020

**OVERALL** 

**IMPACT** 

	YOUR INVEST	<b>ΛΕΝΤ</b> <sup>®</sup>		<b>S</b>	456 HOURS OF ONE TO ONE SUPPORT
-				Ø	5 RESPITE WEEKENDS
				Ø	15 TEEN WORK EXPERIENCES
	۵ ه		1600 13	Ø	2 VIRTUAL FILMMAKING WEEKS
	\$1,600,000 RAISED	Ø	Sec.	Ø	1 COMPLETED ARTS, DRAMA & MUSIC COMPLEX
	850 DONATIONS	Ø	11. 18	Ø	5 FUNDRAISERS ORGANIZED BY THIRD PARTIES TO BENEFIT CAMP WINSTON
	600 DONORS	Ø	(C) 19.0		
1	1 VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER	Ø	ALC: NOT		COMPLETION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN
	8 STAFF MEMBERS	⊘		0	EXTENSIVE SITE REPAIRS
	APPROX 120 VOLUNTEERS	<b>S</b>			
	1 GIFTED BOAT	<b>I</b>	K		

"I want to thank you and Camp Winston for the INCREDIBLE gifts you sent the boys. It meant the world to them and Peter and I. We were shocked and moved by such thoughtfulness and generosity. I really cannot thank you enough!"

"It was great to have Michelle be involved in the Teen Job Program as she learned more helpful skills and routines."

"Thank you for the great work Camp Winston has given to Jordon. He has benefited tremendously from his time spent at Camp Winston. He also enjoyed the programs offered virtually this summer. He will miss all of you."

"The sweetest gift arrived in the mail today for Miss Faith. She really did miss camp this year and she only has 2 eligible summers left. Thank you so much for thinking about our kids even though they couldn't be at Camp Winston this year."

**OUR DELIVERY** 

THE IMPACT

(THAT MATTERS MOST)



## Adam Romano, Anthony Romano & Michael Muto

#### 'ALGONQUIN NORTH TO SOUTH'

On September 14th, 2020, Adam, Anthony and Michael embarked on a 200 kilometer canoe expedition in support of the Camp Winston Foundation. The paddle and portage trip spanned the entire length of Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park from the most northern to the most southern access points. The group travelled roughly 200 kilometers, through 40 lakes and over 28 kilometers of portages through Algonquin's interior. The route required travel between 10 to 30 kilometers per day. 100% of the donations received have gone to Camp Winston to subsidize the fees to help children experience the magic of summer camp. We wanted to take the opportunity to thank Adam and his crew and highlight their incredibly generous work in raising funds for Camp Winston.

### \$6,797 TOTAL RAISED

I visited Camp Winston in the summer of 2019, and I was like, this is awesome! I was so inspired by that and all the people that I met, I thought, they need our help - let's do this. I think the cherry on top for me was the affiliation with the outdoors and giving kids the ability to experience the outdoors. When you're outside with nature it just cleanses the mind and it heals the mind, so I wanted to be able to give kids the opportunity to experience that. They may not have those opportunities without Camp Winston, given the stuff they are, or have been, going through.

- Adam Romanoo

## THANK YOU To Our 2019/2020 Donors

\$50,000+



Denise Fruchter Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration The Cole Family

#### \$10,000 - \$49,999

BEUTELGOODMAN BMO



Anonymous Funds raised in memory of Ken Karp George Macri & Family The Henry & Sylvia Waks Family Foundation Judy Litwack-Goldman & David Goldman Mark & Pearl Gryfe McMillan Family Foundation Norm & Honey Schipper Rachelle Parker & CW Charity Classic Sybil Berenstein & the TS Golf Tournament

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (3) The Carol Sharyn Tanenbaum Family Foundation Caroline & Dov Zevy Heather Skoll Jamie Gold, Jacky Fine & Family Marcus Baker Margaret & David Warman Michelle Bourque & Family Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation Patricia Silverthorne Queen's Players Shelly Haber & Rick Greene

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Abrahamse Pinto LLP Ameri-Connect Freight Services Inc. Andrew Schipper Beutel Goodman Private Client Group Brendan O'Leary & Jane Williamson **Carol & Paul Slavens** Chris Samojlenko **CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation Cliff Prophet & Anne Robertson Dayco Canada Corporation** Faith Goldman Fraser Financial Consultants Gary Bluestein Charitable Foundation The Greenberg/Samuel Family Henry Svazas Ken & Rita Karp Kent & Sherry Suitor **Kilgour Estates** Lisa Williams & Andrew Slivinsky Murray Hart & Jill Kamin The Philip Smith Foundation

From summer sessions to respite weekends; Run-Raisers to Building Hope; virtual programs to support, love and care: none of our victories could have been accomplished without the generosity of our volunteers, dedicating their time and energy to Camp Winston.

## **THANK YOU** To Our 2019/2020 Volunteers

#### Virtual Volunteers

Alex Guest Brandy Bond Brenda Enchin Claire Lister Claudia Kemslev Emma Kendrew Enya McKenna Freddie Grav Hayley Bartlett Holly Crump lacqueline Strait de Roy Jenna Simpson Lindsay Summers Katarina Muir Klarissa Bourne Max Denley Navita Segal Tyler Stockton Vanessa Morden

#### Board, Campaign & **Committee Volunteers**

Andrew Schipper Andrew Slivinsky Andrew Reburn Bryan Letofsky Cliff Prophet Christopher Hassell David Warman Heather Skoll lamie Gold lay Feldman Marcus Baker Michelle Bourgue Hartlee Zucker Kate Phillips Kelly O'Neill Liz Smith Luke Cole

Pam Chan-Ebejer Sam Reburn Sara Gottlieb

#### **Events & Third-Party** Volunteers

Ada Bierling Adam Forsythe Anthony Romano Brandy Bond Brent Pumple Cathy Graham Callie Koester Christine Steele Claudia Kemsley Cindy Vogel & Jonah Kaplun: Stay Colourful Crazy D's Sparkling Prebiotic Soda Doug van der Horden: F.A.S.T 101 Elliot Harkin Gus McMillan Heather Skoll Jenna Simpson lill Solnicki loe Toby Joanna Oliver Kate Phillips Kimberly Holli Krista McMullan Kristian van der Krystina Cosentino Molly McPherson Michael Bell Michael Boehm Michael Muto Nairisha Batada

Rachelle Parker Renata Somers Sam Charal Sue Phillips Susannah Osborn Taite Lehov Tavlor Oake Vincent Hui & Ryerson volunteer team

#### Film Volunteers

Amanda Belzowski Paige Kruger Samantha Chung Shivang Thapar

#### **General Volunteers**

Ozzy Jarick

#### Training, **Development &** Programming Volunteers and Supporters

Babins Muskoka Birds of Prev The Get Real The Jay's Care Zoo to You

#### bright and we are so looking forward to it.

#### '30 years of Camp Winston'

2021 marks a milestone for Camp Winston as we celebrate 30 years of building community, relationships and hope. Anniversaries are a time to reflect, reconnect and celebrate. We're looking forward to sharing 30 years of stories, photos and experiences over the coming year. We couldn't have made it this far, or continued to do what we do, without the generous support you have provided over the years, so thank you.

The celebrations keep coming in 2021. Along with our 30th anniversary, we

## U LOOKING FORWARD

will also be celebrating the 65th birthday of our founder, Denise Fruchter. Denise is the heart and soul of Camp Winston and has spent almost half her life creating a place where differences are not only accepted but celebrated. We can't wait to return the favour and celebrate her, thanking her for the magical community she has been pivotal in creating and sustaining for all these years.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing all of you. We are waiting with ever mounting anticipation for the day when we are able to see our campers, families and community in person again. 2020 was a tough year but the future is bright and we are so looking forward to it.

- The Camp Winston Team Alyse, Carolyn, Danielle, Denise, Jason, Judy, Laura & Mike



If you're feeling inspired by the impact, stories and magic that Camp Winston is providing, you can also help play a role in changing the life of neurodiverse youth by joining us today.

(416) 487-6229 x 104

**COME VISIT** us. When our summer sessions or respite weekends are running we would love to welcome you to Camp Winston for a tour and to witness some of the Winston magic.

**VOLUNTEER** your time. We are always looking for amazing volunteers to assist with our fundraising efforts and events. We would love to hear from you if you have a little spare time to come on board and help out.

www.campwinston.com 📈 mail@campwinston.com

**WORK** for us. Our staff, past and present, consistently tell us there is no other place quite like Camp Winston. We are always looking for talented and caring individuals to join our seasonal staff team, having the summer of a life time and learning invaluable skills.

**DONATE** if you are able to, every amount is meaningful. Head to our website today to make a contribution, or call or e-mail us. We can also help you plan your third party event.

@ campwinston

(O) @ campwinston



## **IN MEMORY OF KEN KARP**



We will miss Ken Karp, one of Camp Winston's founders, long-time board president, volunteer, friend & supporter. With his vision, passion, tenacity and love, Camp Winston has had the opportunity to touch the lives of so many. In honour of Ken's memory, our newest Lodge will be renamed Ken Lodge.

