







WHO WE ARE



Staff, board members, volunteers, campers, students, and guests work together to live at Westwind in harmony with the natural world and ourselves.

2016 STAFF (YEAR ROUND)

Matt Brown - Site Assistant

Monalisa Diamond - Development Coordinator
Scotty Evens - Site Manager
Craig Henderson - Site Assistant
Beth Jacobs - Guest & Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Keplinger - Business Manager
Janette Kunkel - Program Director
Jean Norwood - Administrative Assistant
Angelo Regalbuto - Site Assistant
Michael Smith - Executive Chef
Matt Taylor - Executive Director



2016 STAFF (SEASONAL AND YEAR ROUND)

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Gail Baker
Duncan Berry
Saskia Dresler
Elizabeth Morrow McKenzie
Mary Kyle McCurdy
Julie McMurchie
Kerry Carlin-Morgan
Karen O'Connor
Peter Samson
Molly Schmitz
Anne Squier

LETTER FROM MATT

Dear Friends,

This Annual Report summarizes Westwind's notable achievements and realities in 2016. I hope it conveys the breadth of work achieved by Westwind's dynamic staff and volunteers, and tells the stories of community building and adventure had by campers, students and guests touched by the Westwind experience.

Groundbreaking projects marked 2016, including the start of a large exterior renovation of Wilson Lodge centered on replacing the old wood deck with a larger concrete terrace, adding functional new roofing and decking around the the building. Furthermore, Westwind was awarded a \$100,000 by the Pacific Power Foundation to install solar panels on the former horse barn (now called 'Tillicum'). A \$45,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, along with other grants and donations, will further improve Tillicum to adequately store naturalist and riverfront gear, as well as serve as a multi purpose covered outdoor space.

Westwind's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion was further realized in 2016. Through outreach efforts and partnerships, new campers came to Youth and Family camps, hailing from communities traditionally not served by the camp community. With the support of generous donors, partners, and foundations, Westwind raised \$106,000 dollars in Campership funds and provided 240 campers with financial aid.

Westwind celebrated its 80th Anniversary this past year. Alumni testimonials confirm what Westwind lovers already know: Westwind changes lives, one camper at a time. These testimonials spoke of the land's breathtaking beauty, friendships forged and pure joy.

This annual report is one way to share Westwind's joy. I invite you to visit us and experience the happiness so many alumni point to. Westwind beckons...

Sincerely,

Matt Taylor
Executive Director

Westwind Stewardship Group







LETTER FROM MARY KYLE

To the Westwind Community,

As you can see in this report, Westwind programs, site, and staff are successfully collaborating to create the magic that is Westwind. The benefits of transitioning the Camp Westwind program from the YWCA to the Westwind Stewardship Group in September of 2013 continue to create immense growth and richness in the organization. You can see improvements in the camp programs as well as for rental groups, volunteers, and other program participants. Westwind is thriving, and we have its staff, volunteers, donors, campers, students, and other lovers of Westwind to thank.

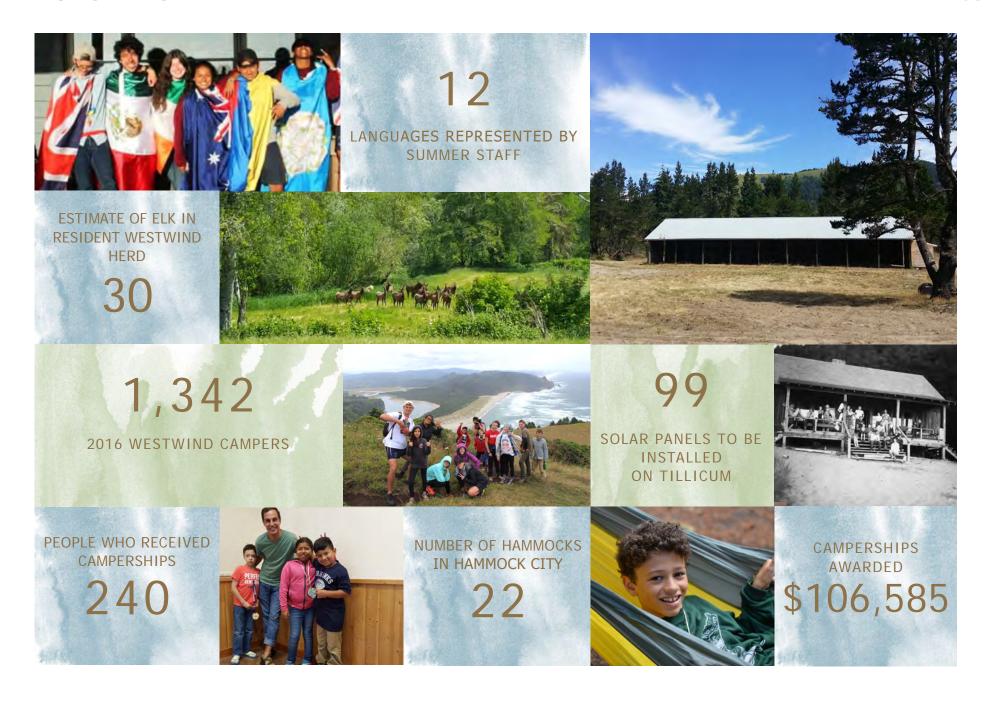
This has also been a year of maturity for Westwind. Just as we all watch children make sudden leaps in their growth, our organization has done the same. As you will see in this report, this past year the board and staff worked together to make great improvements to the site, continue to grow and create an amazing Camp Westwind program, and work with our many partners to increase the richness and diversity of our campers, user groups, and staff. In particular, our work with the Center of Diversity and the Environment helped us to focus and prioritize equity, diversity, and inclusion. This is a continuation of the great legacy of the YWCA, and commitment to and action upon these values is central to Westwind's current and future success.

My family has almost 20 years of deep engagement with Westwind as campers, volunteers, and employees. The ethos of Westwind helped shape the people we are today. I believe we are better citizens of the world because of what we have learned and experienced at Westwind. Read further about Westwind in 2016, and see for yourself how it changes lives.

Sincerely,

Mary Lyle McCurdy

Mary Kyle McCurdy Board Chair Westwind Stewardship Group





DONORS SUPPORTED WESTWIND



CORDS OF WOOD SPLIT BY CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



TREES GROWN IN WESTWIND'S NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

1,000

DIFFERENT SPECIES FOUND DURING MUSHROOM CAMP

121



NUMBER OF TEEN TREKKERS



CLEARED/MAINTAINED



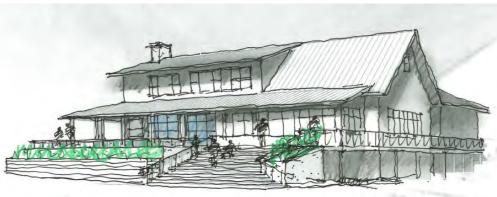
SMORES

thousands

NUMBER OF BENCHES BUILT

OREGON COUNTIES SERVED





WILSON LODGE DECK DEMOLITION

In December, with volunteers and staff, Westwind demolished the old deck to make way for a long awaited exterior renovation. Construction will start in early 2017. The new front area will be a large terrace, made of concrete, connected to a new southern deck that wraps around to the back of the building. There will also be a wraparound roof (extending the current deck roof) to cover the north side of the building. The stairs will be made of large planks of Douglas Fir, and the new porch benches made from Western Hemlock.









NEW WATER SHED

Westwind's water comes from a well drilled deep in the sand just along the path from the Salmon River to Wilson Lodge. Few guests notice the pressurized storage tank or well-head assembly, but they are critical to function of camp. Now, thanks to grant funding provided by the Gray Family Foundation, the well-head is housed in a new 'Water Shed.' The small building not only protects the well hardware, it will also house a booster system and the well's generator. The shed will get covered in rot-resistant juniper siding in 2017.

SMALL MAMMAL AND BAT SURVEY

A small mammal survey was conducted at the Fraser Farm by researchers with the U.S. Forest Service, and a bat survey was conducted at the edge of the Beaver Pond by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The bat survey used a powerful microphone (shown in photo - it sits at the top of a long skinny pole), six different species were confirmed: Hoary bat, Silver-haired bat, California myotis, Little brown bat, Long-legged myotis, Yuma myotis. The biologist noted this was an amazing array of diversity for one site. The small mammal survey revealed a number of chipmunks, moles, voles, shrews and mice live in the field - as expected.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



NEW CHALLENGE COURSE ELEMENTS AND TILLICUM AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to a grant from the YWCA of Greater Portland, a new challenge course was built in the dune forest near the river and old horse barn (now called Tillicum). New elements like the Whale Watch and the Eagle's Nest were added to old favorites, and a new Tree Climbing challenge was built up the hill from Tillicum.

In the Tillicum vicinity a Gaga Ball court was built, along with a new archery range and shed, tether ball, slack line, and fields for kickball and soccer.

TEEN TREKKERS

Westwind's newest summer program, Teen Trekkers, welcomed twelve teenage campers to a week filled with adventures at camp and beyond. Campers snorkeled in a deep series of pools on the upper Salmon River, surfed the waves near Otter Rock, swung in the trees in Yamhill valley, and rafted the North Santiam River.





WELCOME THE SALMON HOME

Westwind's third year hosting this community event, Welcome the Salmon Home brought a record number of visitors who enjoyed river and forest tours, arts and crafts, and a delicious lunch featuring local salmon traditionally cooked over an open fire. Participants made Gyotaku prints with real fish and learned about the Salmon cycle.



MUSHROOM CAMP

Fall at Westwind brings a fantastic flush of mushrooms, including gourmet edibles like matsutake, chantrelles and porcinis. Mushroom enthusiasts foraged at Westwind, collecting and identifying over 125 wild mushroom varieties, a few of which proved to be edible and choice (i.e. delicious). Guests heard talks and were led on field forays by Michael Bueg and Paul Pryzbylowizc, former and current professors at the Evergreen State University, and by Debbie Veiss, founder of the Bay Area Mycological Society. In addition to fantastic outdoor forays, guests also learned cooking and wine pairings from chef Maxine Borcherding.



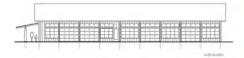
TILLICUM 'SCIENCE & ART' BARN

Westwind was granted \$45,000 from The Oregon Community Foundation and \$23,000 from an anonymous donor to support 'Arts & Science' learning at Westwind through improvements to Tillicum (former horse stables). The barn's tack room is being rebuilt to store wetsuits and other aquatic gear, as well as to house Westwind's growing collection of education supplies. The rest of the barn will remain open on one side and serve as a multipurpose covered activity space.

Westwind was also awarded \$100,000 from Pacific Power to install 99 solar panels on Tillicum's roof. The power generated should offset a quarter of camp's electricity use, and Westwind will develop education programming to track and understand the importance of sustainable energy. In conjunction with the installation of solar panels, Tillicum renovations begin in 2017.













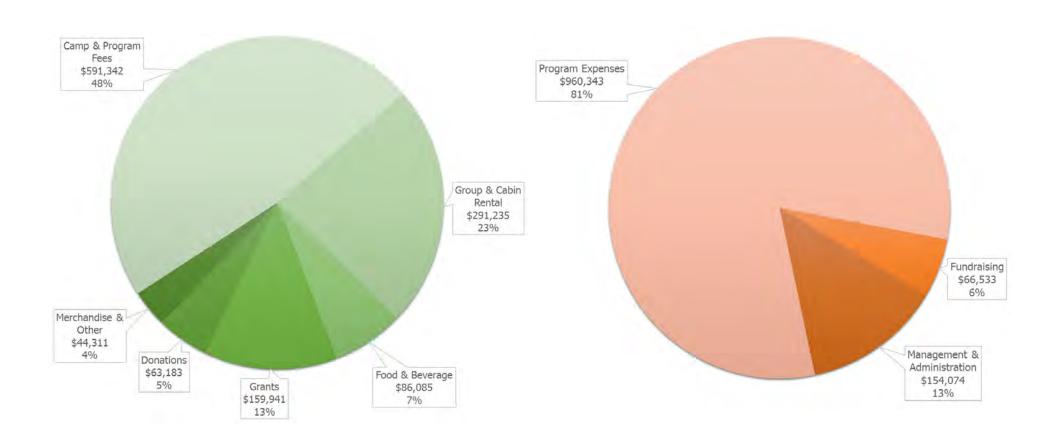




ABUNDANT WESTWIND

Westwind celebrated its 80th birthday by hosting its largest philanthropic event to date, "Abundant Westwind." The event was held at the Laurelhurst Club in SE Portland and began with a happy hour and folk music followed by a meal of salmon, elk, mushrooms and other fare foraged from the Pacific Northwest. The night ended with a spirited auction and paddle raise interspersed with testimonials from alumni. Through the generosity of attendees, Westwind raised \$78,000, all of which will go towards Westwind's Campership Fund. In addition, Westwind's participation in Portland's 2016 Give!Guide generated \$7,450 towards Westwind Camperships.

REVENUE \$1,236,097 EXPENSE \$1,180,950



THANK YOU!

TO OUTSTANDING STEWARDS (DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS)

GRANTS AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

A-Z Wineworks Amazon Smile Foundation Anonymous Foundation Boeing Company Cambia Health Solutions Columbia Costco ebay Foundation - Employee Engagement Fund Food Services of America **Full Heart Productions Grav Family Foundation** Hopworks Urban Brewery **Human Access Project** Intel Corporation Joseph E. Weston Foundation Laughing Planet Literary Arts M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust OCF Regence Fund **OMSI** Oregon Community Foundation Oya No Kai Ponzi Vineyard Popina R/West Rose Hill Flower Farm Tom Dwyer Automotive

Special thanks to YWCA of Greater Portland for their generous support of Camperships

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Cruz Miller

Widmer Brothers

Kim Bailey & Maran Sheils in honor of Sam and Jo Karen Belsey in honor of Amelia Hillery Sara Butcher & Christopher Canida in honor of Carolyn Butcher Maureen Cassidy in honor of Stella Denise Connell & David Godein in honor of Lucille and Frank Connell Jennifer Eng in honor of Ruth Eng Christine Frost in honor of Jean Frost Jennifer & David Gregor in honor of

Sally Holtzman in honor of Noah Shapiro Joni Marie Johnson in honor of Dorothy Marie Ueland Dorottya Fanni Kovacs in honor of Janette Kunkel and Sarah Keplinger Esther Lerman Freeman in honor of Asher Lerman Freeman Sara Matijascic in honor of Grandma, Mom, and Brother Kathleen McMurchie in honor of Westwind McMurchies Richard Meeker in honor of Ellen Rosenblum RuthAnn Parvin in honor of Annabelle Parvin Katherine Paxton-Williams & Brian Williams in honor of Lois Miller (Sisters of the Road) and Ann A. Paxton (Planned Parenthood) Kim Silva in honor of John Jackson & **Chad Stewart** Anne Squier in honor of Jean Frost Rebecca Swing in honor of Jeaneen Gann Jill Wieseneck in honor of Yankee

GIFTS \$50,000 AND UP

Springer Foundation

Westwind Board of Directors

GIFTS \$5,000 AND UP

Virginia Ammons Dike & Didi Dame Brad & Julie McMurchie

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

Matthew & Laura Barry Janey Belozer Rich Burt & Maxine Bauer **Zachary Cross** Anonymous Donor Nancy & Theo Downes-Leguin Saskia Dresler Bob & Peggy Fowler Karen & Jon Kruse Bill & Emmy Lawrence Vi Martin

Kennon McKee Elizabeth Morrow McKenzie Carolyn McMurchie Lindley Morton Luisa Ponzi & Eric Hamacher Robin Schauffler & Peter Samson Molly Schmitz Anne Squier Kurt Squier Charlie & Darci Swindells Amy & Rand Thomas

GIFTS \$500 - \$999

Alicia Ahn

Brian Atwater Gail Baker Duncan & Melany Berry Ken Edwards Matt Farnham Daniel Flo & Lynn Archer Marcelle Furrow-Kiebler & Rob Kiebler Carrie Gotkowitz Esther Harms

Jeff Hopper & Karen Tingey Scott Jerger

Angus MacLane Doug & Shelley Muir Kris Olson

Milo & Bey Ormseth Richard Parker

Stuart & Jollee Patterson

Cathy Schar Stafford Squier

Fred Stewart & Kathryn Silva

Jane Stickney Donna Strom Brenda Taber Dan & Kate Twitchell Scott Vahlsing Lorenzo Wood VI

GIFTS \$250 - \$499

Sarah & Peter Ames Erik Bergman & Susan Crabtree Craig Chee Peter & Debbie Dresler Cindy Ewers

Jere Grimm Jacque Heavey John & Sally Lawrence Elise Lind Laurie Matthews Kerri Meeli Fred & Karla Miller Megan Murphy Verna Schauffler Rennie Squier Nicholas Stroud Kathleen Sutherland Josh Taylor **Debra Timmins** Elizabeth Turnbull Drusilla Van Hengel Nick & Chena Weitzer Peter & Aira Williams Kirsten Wyatt & Family Meghan Wysong Jennifer Zickel

Sara Frost

GIFTS UP TO \$250 Aislinn Adams & Tom O'Connor Jeff Allen Ken & Katie Allen Holly Alswel & Paul B Greenbaum Betsy Ames Finlay Anderson & Amy Turnbull Roger Andrews Alicia Arna Gavle Archer Kregg Arntson Crystal Ashton Michelle & Richard Auchter Kimberly August Kimberly Aziz Heather Bacon-Stone Kim Bailey & Maran Sheils

Ellen Baltus David Bany Mike Smolin & Barbara Schreiber

Melanie Barker

Peter & Ann Barr-Gillespie Sarah Barrett Barbara Barry-Doyle

Celeste Baskett

Brenda Baumgart & Brian D Cratsen-

berg

Genoveva Bekleven Bruce & Betty Bell Karen Belsey Steven Bennett

Susan Benson Dirk Bergman Jeff Best

Nancy Best Larry Bingham Kristin Binkley Madeline Bisgyer

Desiree Bix Connie Blumhardt

Frin Bowman Dan Bozich Hallie Bradford

Jennifer Bradie Rutherford Brakke-Pound

Irene Brodsky

Lois & Benson Bronfman

Karlaina Brooke Barbara Brookman Marcia Brown Lauren Brown

Angus Brown & Kimberly Higgins Cheryl Brown & James Kaldy

Michele & Jeff Brown

Chris Bucci Elizabeth Bull Jill Burnham Blake Burns Melinda Burpo Claire Burt Sara Butcher

Jean Cady Chelsea Cain Gordon Campbell

Shelby & Andrew Campion

Mel Canal Elisa Canum

Kerry Carlin-Morgan Kim Cash & Steve Smucker

Maureen Cassidy Sumiko Chambers Elisabeth Charman Gail Chastain

GIFTS UP TO \$250 continued

Sandra Childs Erica Chiotti Anna Choe & Don Lee Robin Christian Anthony Cirino

Brinton Clark & Craig Hubbard

Deborah Clearman Sarah Cleveland Stacey Comstock

Bruce Clark

Denise Connell & David Godein

Suzanne Cooper Char & Dave Corkran Laura Craford Ericka Crane

Charmian Creagle & Sean Doran

Misten Daniels Loraine Datena **Douglas Deaton** Diane Dedrick Kathleen Diamond David Dowell

Shane & Rachel Downing

Patricia Dresler Sam Drevo Robin Dunit

Jennie Sue Dunn-Dixon Megan & Ben Dyer

Cameron Edens & Sarah Buetens

Barbara Edmonds Andrew Ekman

David & Lisa Ellenberg

Jennifer Ena Lise Engber

Barbara & Martin Engel Beth Essex & Paul Ecker

Scotty Evens Megan Fairbank Hannah Ferber Julie Flannery Meagan Flynn Robert Fouse Val & Geoff Franklin

Tana Franko Nicole Fravel

Rhonda Frick-Wright Kory Friedman

Ray Friedmann-Tesauro

Page & Fletcher Frisch **Christine Frost** Christine Fthenakis Rosemary Furfey

Donald Geddes & Mona Todd

Brian & Julie Gefroh

Nick Gideonse & Miriam Higgins

Mike & Cathy Gidley Aleksandra Giedwoyn

Lori Gluck Kerry Godfrey Jocelyn Goodall Steve & Diane Gordon

Karen Gragg

Beth Gates

Darby Granberry & Gretchen

Schnepper Stephen Grant Jenny Grayson Catherine Greenblatt David & Jennifer Gregor

Tim Greseth Anna Griffin Heather Grossmann Anthony Guerrero Virgil Hall Tiffany Halsey

Stephanie Halvorson

Will Hampson & Amy Wroblewski

Gina Hanchett Elizabeth Hardee Allyson Harris Andrew Harris Pamela Hartzell Catherine Harvey William Hathaway Dave Heller

Nicole & Ted Helprin Cathy Hertler

Johanna Hibbard & Michael Annus

Cameron & Jason Hill Jennifer Hilton Karen Hohndel Kathy Holland Lisa Holtz Sally Holtzman

Alan & Dorcas Holzapfel

Heidi Hopfer

America Hopson

Sheryl Horwitz & Larry Knudsen

Thomas Huff Kathleen Hurley **Avery Hurst** Trudy Hussmann Jenelle Isaacson Wendy Jackson Raj Jain

Mark Greenfield & Jane Hartline

Joni Marie Johnson Nancy Johnson Edith Johnson Katherine Johnson Laura Johnson

Lucia & Charlie Johnson Catherine Johnston & Peter Donley

Ben Jolley

Elizabeth & Matt Jolley Barry & Kathy Keller-Jones

Heather Jones **David Jones** Jon Jones

Carrie Jones Bohara & Amit Bohara Elizabeth Julee & Peter Neketin Deanna Jurgens & Keith Cook William Kaltenthaler & Lisa Fratianni

Shelby Kardas Merilee Karr

Anne Kimberly

Karen Katz & John Castor Matt & Claire Keeler

Rebecca Kennedy & Ethan Caughey

Ruth Klann Louise & Josh Kling Sara Kobak Sebastian Kopf Dorottya Fanni Kovacs Andra Kovacs Katharine Kremer Kathy Kremer Katherine Kruse

Sarah Kuhn & Jeff Staab Janette & Dustin Kunkel

David Laborde Susan Laing

Andrea Lamonica & Derek Stotz

Danielle Lanier

Steve Laskey

Maria Carmen Lasso De La Vega

Girona Anton Leof Angela Leonardo Esther Lerman Freeman

Natalie Leslie Esther Lev

Will & Lulu Levenson

Jonathan Levy & Nancy Stone Susan Lienhart & Noel Holley

Brandi & Karl Lisle Kelly Lombard Kristin Lottig Paul & Dana Lucas

Bryan & Jennifer Lundstrom

Donna Lusthoff Tom Lux Steven Lytle Aimee Macdonell Erin Madden Julie Maher Katie Mangle Srilatha Manne Cliff Marhoefer Griffin Marieb Victoria Martin

Joseph Martinez Anna Marton Sara Matijascic Clare McClellan Mary Kyle McCurdy

Jennifer McIlhenny Meara McLaughlin & Philip Graham

Celia McLean Kathleen McMurchie Tim McNichol Jennifer Means

Richard Meeker & Ellen Rosenblum

Katherine Meeker

Deb Meiser & Vincent Policelli

Melissa Michaux Guenevere Millius Jennifer Millar Katie Mills

Ronald Mitchell & Amy Reiss

Sharon Moore Dorte Morse

Sara Morton & Alex Millkey

Michael Moylan

Dan Mulholland & Pamela Miller

Delia Mulholland Irma Murauskas Owen Murphy Sonva Murrett

Cynthia Nawalinski & Charles Turner

Sara Neill Linda Nelson

Allen & Martha Neuringer

Quoc Nauven

Peter & Solveig Nilsen-Goodin

Amy Nist & Doug Lyons

Jennifer Noble Nan Norene Kelly Norling Kristen Norquist Amy O'Connor Julie O' Connor Mary & Nicolas Okon Chandra Oleksiewicz Mark & Harumi Olenich Margaret Olney

Lucia Parker & Melinda Howard

Patti & Brian Parker Duncan Parks

Heather Parks-Huitron & Raul Parks

Griffin Parr Ruth Ann Parvin Margot Nelson Erin Patterson Kirk Paulsen

Kathy Paxton-Williams Molly Pfaff & Renee France

Philip Philip

Michael Phillips & Shannon Connelly

Megan Pingree John & Marlo Porter Morgan & Mari Powers

Julie Proksch Claire Puchy Barbara Reed Sharon Reese Allison Reid Kathryn Renard Alyssa Resnik Julie Richards

THANK YOU!

TO OUTSTANDING STEWARDS (DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS) continued

GIFTS UP TO \$250 continued

Katie Richards Carrie Richardson Peter Ritson Vicki Roan

Patricia & Walter Robertson

Nick Rodrigues Jane Rondthaler Christine Rontal Darlene Rose Lauren & Ewen Rose Elihu Rosenblatt Erik Running John Rusoff Aubrey Russell Anna Russo

Gregory & Jennifer Saliba

Ben Salzberg Velma Samson Debra Sankovitz Jennifer Sanow

Jana Rygas

Naomi Savage & Joe Sundby

Audrey Schaab Debby Schauffler David Schell Lauren Schempp Stephanie Schmieding Uwe Schneider & Leslie Constans

Astrid Scholz & Steve Cowan Jennifer Schuberth & John Urang

Michael Schulte

Laura Scobie & Edwin Johnson Dunn

Michele L. Sequeira Stephanie Shanley Susan Shugerman Todd & Joanne Siegel Monica Sievertsen

Kim Silva

Stephanie Silverman & Mikki Kistler

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Christopher Siverly

Caroline Skinner Jeff Skoke

Elaine & Ron Sobel John Soelling Janeen Sollman Dick Springer

Elizabeth & Stephen St. Amand

Karen Stahr Kristin Stallman Jeff Stanton Frank & Penny Starr Sarah Stascausky Sarah Steele Charles Stilson Elizabeth Stoltzfus Rebecca Stone Lynne Strasfeld Becky & Ben Straub

Lisa Strausfeld & Brad Cloepfil Dan & Nancy Stueber

Donald & Roslyn Sutherland

Rebecca Swing

Barbara Talbert

Matthew Taylor & Kieran Cannistra

Jeanne Taylor Amanda Theissen

Andrea Thomas & Chris J. Zanger

Maye Thompson David Tilchin Claire Tobin Amy Tongue Morgan Towle Jill Tuleya Amber Turner Michael Van Kleeck Jordan Van Voast Laurie Vancott Jessica Vanderploeg Melissa Vaughan

Summer & Jean-Pierre Veillet

Sabine Volchok Kate Baron Ben Waggoner Alison Walcott

Jason Miranda

Vi Watson Donna Wax

Rvan Weeden Lawrence Weisberg Charlotte Weiss Harry Weitzer

Bill & Amanda Welch Jenny Weller Katherine Wenner Rebecca Werlin Jill Wieseneck Amy Williams

Ryan Windus Anna Winthrop Margaret Wolszon **Bob Workmeister**

Iris & Ronald Wright

Esther Yan Carrie & Dutch Yerton

Karl Zabel Adam Zucker

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Russell Barnett Carrie Bartlett Adin Bartlett Susan Benson **Duncan Berry** Melany Berry Vanessa Best Lauren Best Jeff Best

Spencer Boverman Billy Branum Alex Brown **Emily Brown** Kerry Carlin-Morgan Cassie Chard-Hamilton Jacqueline Chard-Hamilton

Caden Clark

Megan Clark

Job Clark Caryn Corwin Ericka Crane Brett Delgado Hans Dresbach Saskia Dresler Thomas Dunn Ellis Dunn Cole England Eloise Erickson Nash Evans Cindy Ewers Matthew Fleet Daniel Flo Janet Funk Jenny Grayson Kindra Grey Matt Gross

Bear Jackson

Jeremy Johns

Virgil Hall **Emery Hamilton** Kathleen Hardman Ashton Horst

Edwin Johnson Dunn Jon Jones Burt Keplinger Nana Khing Christian Khing Kathy Kremer Hans Kretchmer Sophie Kruse Lily Kunkel Steve Lasky Porter Levenson Johnny Levenson Ambery Levy Alyssa Levy Jonathan Levy Erin Madden Sarah Marguir Terek Martin Briar Maynard Karen McCarthy Mary Kyle McCurdy Owen McLaughlin Celia McLean Julie McMurchie

Elizabeth Morrow McKenzie Lindley Morton Michael Moylan Samuel Myer Kayla Nichols Karen O'Conner Tom O'Connor Sorcha O'Connor Kris Olson Rebecca Patterson Carolyn Patterson Stuart Patterson Dominique Price Duncan Reid Peter Ritson Schon Roll Anna Rollins Darlene Rose Julian Rudd Peter Samson Debra Sankovitz Molly Schmitz

Justin Schmock

Kathryn Schulz Renard Laura Scobie Noah Shapiro Karen Shay Anne Squier Laura Stanton Elijah Stewart Charles Stilson Chelby Strike Alison Strike Casey Strike Imo Talbert Oliver Tawney Ted Volchok Elena Volchok Seth Walton Violet Watson Hannah Weaver Nick Weitzer Delilah White Cassandra White Angela Wright Stephen Young Brady Zickel

My son Danny celebrated his 4th birthday at Camp Westwind, in 2011. Many of the campers present knew that birthday had the potential to be a sad one for him. All of them sang and celebrated with him, and made sure that didn't happen. Since then Danny has been at Camp Westwind, again and again, for Mother-Child camps and on his own. Camp Westwind has a significance to my family that I cannot entirely express nor ever adequately show appreciation for.

I first heard about Camp Westwind when I was a teacher in Oregon and was lucky enough to take my students to Outdoor School there. It was an amazing Outdoor School experience, the best I'd had as a teacher. I wish I could remember the moment when I learned that I could go to Camp Westwind with my own child. I tucked that information away, thank goodness, because it came in handy in 2011. I had moved away from Oregon years earlier, after marrying a man in the Air Force. We were living in Switzerland when

we found out that he would be deploying for 14 months. My husband departed, and Danny and I moved to Oregon. It was a difficult move because I had to explain to my three-year old son that his father would not be joining us for over a year. Danny was devastated. He was most upset that his father would miss his birthday. Fortunately, I had already made reservations for us to be at Camp Westwind for his 4th birthday.

From the moment we arrived at the boat landing to make our way to camp, we were enveloped with love. The Camp Westwind staff is always comprised camp. We sing camp songs all year long, and apply the lessons learned at camp throughout the year.

My husband's career has taken us around the world. Danny has moved 6 times in his 8 years, but nearly every summer we've been able to fly back to Oregon to go to camp. It's become our touchstone, our stable place in the midst of our nomadic life.

Last month, I overheard someone ask my son where he's from. That's a question that causes many military kids anxiety – it's a classic issue for them. Do they say where they were born, though they may have lived there for just a few weeks? Do they say the place they lived the longest, even if that was only for two years and they have no family or friends who remain there? Do they say where their grandparents live, even if they've only visited that place for a week each year? I'm an Army brat. I know how hard that question is, and I generally hesitate when asked, then launch into a long explanation. I was curious how my own child would answer the question. But Danny didn't hesitate. He smiled and said, "Camp Westwind."

