

## OUR EVENTS

### Wild Women Retreat at Camp K

Camp isn't just for kids! This past July marked the return of our Annual Wild Women Retreat at Camp K on Kenai Lake after two years away due to the pandemic. This fun-filled yet relaxing retreat gives women the opportunity to unplug from the business of everyday life and connect with the beautiful Alaskan wilderness. This year's event was no exception.

The retreat included massages by students from Alaska Career College, catering from Glacier City BBQ, classes taught by artist Teri Lindseth and Wild North Macramé, as well as personal coaching from Woodrie Burich not to mention all the camp activities like kayaking, hiking, target sports, and arts & crafts. And, best of all, we had an amazing team of counselors and staff at Camp K to make it all come together along with special performances and camp songs that had us rolling in laughter.

The Wild Women Retreat is full of camp magic and fun, the kind that is possible when a group of women come together.

The retreat is a special fundraiser for Camp Fire Alaska, raising vital funds for the continued maintenance of Camp K and scholarships for youth to attend Camp K no matter their financial situation. **This year's event raised over \$22,000 for camp maintenance and nearly \$12,000 for scholarships! Save the date for our 2023 retreat, July 29-30!**



THANK YOU to our retreat sponsors!

LYNDEN



## JOIN US!

### Champions for Children Breakfast

We are excited to host our 19<sup>th</sup> annual **Champions for Children Breakfast on Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 7:30 am-8:30 am at the Dena'ina Convention Center.** This event is free and open to anyone who would like to attend to learn more about and share in the mission of Camp Fire Alaska. We do not sell tables or tickets for event, rather we recruit volunteer Table Captains to invite their friends and colleagues to join them for breakfast. Funds raised during this event go directly to our mission to provide opportunities for youth to discover the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe, learning environment.

If you are interested in attending or being a Table Captain, reach out to Melissa Webber, [mwebber@campfireak.org](mailto:mwebber@campfireak.org).



## Donor Impact Report



## FALL 2022

*Every child will have the opportunity to discover the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe learning environment.*

## LEADERS IN TRAINING

### Camp Fire Alaska's Youth Leaders

This past summer began our Leadership in Training program at Camp K and Camp Si-La-Meo. This special program, supported by grant funds and our Inclusion Fund, gave youth Leaders in Training (LITs) the opportunity to grow their leadership and communication skills while learning more about youth development in summer programs. Some LITs spent four weeks at Camp K shadowing Counselors, planning activities, and supporting younger kids during camp activities, while LITs at Camp Si-La-Meo learned about the specialist positions and what counselors do day to day to make camp happen.

We knew this program would be popular, but we did not know the tremendous impact it would have on our staff and youth. From their initial applications, we saw a clear passion and desire from the LITs to develop interpersonal skills and share their love of the outdoors with other youth. They wanted to be role models and leaders. Many of this summer's LITs were past campers who knew how important camp could be for younger kids. One LIT shared this in their application, "I want to participate in this program so I can be a leader like the ones I looked up to when I went to camp. I want to be that smiling face who greeted me when I first went to camp and made the first night easier."

When their season ended, the LITs reflected on their



time at camp. They recognized the challenges and opportunities from the summer and shared some of the traits they developed or discovered they already possessed: Patience. Boundary setting. Self-acceptance. Responsibility. Accountability. Many of them are already planning to come back next season!



## DEAR CAMP FIRE FRIENDS,

An active and fun filled Summer is behind us and youth and their families are settling into the pace of a new school year. The Fall season creates an opportunity for some thoughtful reflection and for imagining the future. Recently I listened as staff discussed what being adaptive in our agency meant for them along with the impact it has on the children and families we serve. We are all proud of Camp Fire Alaska's ability to meet the challenges that have been presented to us both most recently and in our past. Camp Fire Alaska's resiliency, innovation and perseverance can be found throughout our long history, tracing back to our first Camp Fire club programs in 1913.

Having been here at Camp Fire for the past 41 years, I have had the extraordinary experience of participating in the evolution of the agency and the privilege of serving as the CEO for the past 20 years. Decades of meaningful relationships, opportunities, and sometimes daunting challenges have continued to reinforce the significance of the work we do on behalf of Alaska's children and families.

And now, thoughtful and deliberate planning is occurring in preparation of my passing the torch to the next CEO who will help lead Camp Fire Alaska forward. I believe the agency is poised and ready to embrace this change. The Camp Fire board is well known for being highly engaged and I want you to know you can trust that with this transition before them they are wholeheartedly committed to creating, managing and supporting a successful transition for a new leader to take the reins.

The search is on for CEO applicants and we are grateful to partner with The Foraker Group as they assist our Transition Committee members with this process. We are expecting to welcome our new leader in early 2023 and we will continue to update you as this timeline becomes more defined. Until then, be assured that meeting the needs of our youth and families remains our top priority and the work continues through the dedication of many staff, volunteers and supporters of Camp Fire Alaska.

As you can imagine, one just does not say goodbye to 40+ years of work and the many, many caring staff, families, volunteers and supporters such as yourself without feeling a sense of sadness. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served the Camp Fire mission, youth and families. It has been a distinct honor.

This is not yet good bye – the staff and I hope that we see you at our Champions for Children Breakfast on November 10th! We are excited to be back in person once again and we truly hope you can join us. Please do look for the details enclosed.

*With warmth and gratitude to each of you,*

*Barb*

### CEO TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Special thanks go to Jodi Gould, Board President and Tom Mason, President Emeritus who are providing stellar leadership to the CEO Transition Committee. And, sincere gratitude goes to the Transition Committee Members for their dedication of time and caring to the Transition Process:

Katie Bates, Board Member

Sean Elder, Board Member

Walter Williams, Past Board President

Donna Logan, Donor and Volunteer

Mandy Clark, Partner and ASD Director, Elementary Education

Katherine Burrill, Board Treasurer who is providing support and guidance when needed.



## Your Impact!

**29** Rural Communities Served (23 In-Person!)

**1,408** Youth and Teen Participants in the Rural Alaska Program

**101** Summer Camp Scholarships

**222** Partner Group Camp Scholarships

**86** Operation Purple Campers

## SUMMER PARTNERS

Camp Fire Alaska works with many organizations to grow partnerships that provide more youth with the opportunity to attend summer camp programs, through scholarships and specialty camp sessions. These partnerships resulted in 308 more youth attending camp in 2022!

Denali Family Services

Office of Children Services

Alaska Housing

Peninsula Puffins

National Military Family Association

Tiamuna

ASYMCA

CITC

Migrant Ed



## THANK YOU, CONOCOPHILLIPS!

This year, at Camp Si-Li-Meo, the rock wall was back in action and available to all youth at no extra cost thanks to a generous donation from ConocoPhillips. Camp is a place for youth to try new things, step out of their comfort zones, and find their brave while also knowing that they are safe and supported. We are grateful to ConocoPhillips for ensuring that all youth at Camp Si-La-Meo had access to the rock wall this year.

ConocoPhillips also supported Camp Fire with the purchase of a Side by Side for Camp K! This new

all-terrain vehicle that we named "Connie" provides access for youth to get to places like our Nature Center further out on the trail and helps with camp maintenance. Thank you to ConocoPhillips!



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