

WILD WOMEN AT CAMP K

Another Year for the Books

The rain couldn't stop the fun at our 8th Annual Wild Women Retreat at Camp K on Kenai Lake! Attendees participated in traditional camp activities like kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, and hiking as well as specialized classes by local instructors including beaded earring making and macramé! 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, all in support of Camp K. This year's event was no exception, raising over \$35,000 for the maintenance of Camp K and camp scholarships to send more youth to camp!

We look forward to this weekend every year and this year one of our returning attendees shared why it's important to her, "What was most touching for me was learning about the different camps that are hosted at Camp K. It is why I will continue to donate for years to come."

This event would not be the same without the amazing committee and team of staff who bring it together. We are already looking forward to next year!



Thank you to our sponsors!

LYNDEN



Donor Impact Report



FALL 2023

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

DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Camp Scholarships Support Families

Camp is a special place where youth can be themselves, learn more about the environment and nature surrounding them, and connect with other youth who are navigating the ups and downs of growing up. It is an important place that all youth should have the opportunity to experience, but for some, there are barriers beyond their control including the cost to attend. With support from generous donors, this past summer 736 sessions of camp were provided with scholarships. And while that number is big, what it represents is even bigger. It represents joy, for youth experiencing new adventure, for staff seeing youth thrive, and for parents knowing their kids are in a safe environment where they can learn and grow.

One mom recently shared with us the impact of camp on her family, "I was able to send my kids to Camp K because they were offered a scholarship. My son absolutely loved the experience and I cannot express enough my gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity this has given my kids to experience an amazing summer camp program in the outdoors that is safe, fun and engaging." And another mom shared



this, "My introverted middle schooler had a fantastic time at camp. She was animatedly talking about shooting a bow and arrow and how she made friends and loved that she got time in the pool. It was wonderful and refreshing to hear. Being 12 is hard for kids, but a program both she AND her little brother can enjoy really means something to this mom who has been so busy."

Sometimes we don't know the impact camp has on a youth or family until long after and sometimes we can see the impact clearly right away. Regardless, thanks to the generosity of donors, we know the impacts are far reaching beyond what we could imagine.

UPCOMING EVENT



Camp Fire Alaska's
Champions for Children

Breakfast

Support Kids Now

You're Invited

**Camp Fire Alaska's
Champions for Children
Breakfast**

Thursday, November 9, 2023
7:30 am-8:30 am

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center

If you are interested in attending or being a Table Captain, reach out to Melissa Webber, mwebber@campfireak.org.



DEAR CAMP FIRE FRIENDS,

This year has been a historic one—we celebrated the legacy of Barbara Dubovich’s career, bringing together partners, volunteers, donors, and alumni spanning four decades of service to Camp Fire’s mission and work. I listened to stories of gratitude, care and love for our community, one another and our children in those transition spaces. I am humbled by the support of so many who bring our mission to life. I am honored to build upon the foundation that has been built as I begin the start of my CEO journey at Camp Fire Alaska.

As the Camp Fire CEO transition continues, I continue to be honored to work beside the most thoughtful and passionate leaders and volunteers. I recently overheard staff sharing with one another that they are so grateful to work with this team—one that is focused on caring and supporting one another and the larger mission of supporting youth and families. The culture and resilience of this organization is evident and continues to flourish as we enter these times of change. I am grateful.

As I visited our summer programs in June and July and listened to children talk about their excitement and the fun they were having, I was reminded of the power summer camp brings to our children—connection to oneself, others and the natural world developed from a sense of awe and wonder in the outdoors. While the school year is well underway, I am still hanging onto the successes in my first summer as CEO. Our Rural Alaska Program continued to grow, serving 34 rural Alaska communities. Camp K expanded partnerships with the National Military Family Association who added a family camp in addition to Operation Purple Camp this year! Identity Inc. also saw the power of camp to connect and support teens and adults with two separate camps this year!

As you embark on your fall and winter adventures please consider spending time with Camp Fire at some of our upcoming opportunities for connection and service. Please look for details on these events enclosed.

*With warmth and gratitude to each of you,
Melanie Hooper*



Your 2023 Summer Impact!

34 Rural Communities Reached

14 Leaders in Training

736 Summer Camp Sessions Scholarshipped

263 Partner Group Camp Sessions Supported

88 Operation Purple Campers

FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you, Matson!

Over the years Matson has generously made youth development, and support of youth and families in our community a priority through their corporate giving. “One of the pillars of Matson’s corporate culture has been a long-standing tradition of community involvement based upon a desire to improve the quality of life where we do business and where our employees live and work. Matson supports a wide range of community needs,” shares Dylan Faber, Government and Community Affairs Manager for Matson in Alaska.

Matson’s partnership with Camp Fire Alaska helps support affordable childcare and youth development in the state including before and after school programs and a variety of summer camp programs. In 2022, with support from Matson, 631 scholarships were distributed, ensuring that finances are not a barrier to accessing safe and reliable out of school time care. We are grateful for Matson’s continued support and leadership in our community!



FIRE TENDERS SOCIETY

Camp Fire Alaska’s Fire Tenders Society recognizes those individuals and organizations who have contributed over \$100,000 in lifetime giving to support Camp Fire programs, youth, and families. This year we inducted nine new members to the Fire Tenders Society. Thank you to our 2023 inductees!

Association of Village Council Presidents
Atwood Foundation
GCI
Judy Rasmuson
SOA, Department of Health

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
The Alaska Community Foundation
thread
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.



Have you seen our 2022

Annual Report?



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