

# Camp Wyandot, Inc

# Alumni News

Spring 2017

## Camp Wyandot, Inc Over a Century of Pride and Participation

Our Alumni includes past generations of club members, volunteers, campers, and staff. And by past, we mean as recently as 2016 or as long ago as 1913 when the Ohio nonprofit organization was founded as the Columbus & Franklin County Council of Camp Fire Girls. Camp Wyandot was purchased in 1928. Imagine the number of campers that have hiked those hills or sat by Lake Atagahi. All of us talk about how meaningful those memories are-whenver we talk with alumni the first thing they recount is a shared experience with a friend they made at camp.

Almost four years ago, the organization became Camp Wyandot, Inc., an independent nonprofit, and created a mission statement. Our Mission: *Camp Wyandot provides an inclusive nurturing environment for youth to have fun, make friends and explore the great outdoors.*

Your board has been working on a strategic plan. They discussed whether the mission was relevant today. Are we making a difference in the lives of today's children? They decided it was and not to make a change. The board is committed to the organization and give their time, talents and money. They willingly represent us to the community and funding organizations, and reach out to friends and colleagues who can provide their expertise.

Through our camp programs, Explorer Clubs and special events, youth learn critical life skills that equip them to deal with an increasingly complex world. Our programs continue to allow children safe places to experience the outdoors, connect with others and have the downtime that is so important today, and it allows them to discover what their unique gifts are. These group experiences are a microcosm for the rest of the world.

In 2016 Camp Wyandot marked 88 years of continuous operation as an overnight camp. Camp continues to meet the American Camp Association standards as an accredited camp. Last summer day camp and six weeks of overnight camp were held at Camp Wyandot. The number of campers has been growing for the last five years. Last year 521 campers attended camp and 41 camperships were provided. This shows our commitment to helping children experience camp that would not ordinarily be able to attend.

This summer a new Camp Otonwe day camp will be held at John Beltz Retreat Center near Hoover Dam. Be sure to read about it on our website and help promote to your friends and family on the North side of Columbus.

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## In Memoriam 2016-2017

**William Houston**, husband of former Camp Fire employee, Terri Maloney-Houston. Terri was our office manager and to this day helps with our Staff & CIT mugs every summer.

**Bette Jenks**, became a Camp Fire girl in the early 1930's and remained an ardent supporter of this youth serving agency throughout her life. Spanning 2 generations as a leader for both of her daughters' groups. She also served several terms on the Board of Directors.

**Louise Swartz**, a Camp Fire mom before becoming a Unicef volunteer. We will never forget what our leaders, counselors, and volunteers have done for us & our organization.

**Randall Wilson**, as life partner of our alum, Marie Trudeau, Randy attended several of our Camp Wyandot events over the years.

