

# CAMP BEECH CLIFF

2021 Annual Newsletter

## ECHOES 2021

*Welcome Back!*





# Leadership



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Camp Beech Cliff  
PO Box 381, 264 Beech Hill Road  
Mount Desert, ME 04660-0381  
(207)244-0365  
[www.campbeechcliff.org](http://www.campbeechcliff.org)

**Welcome!** Camp Beech Cliff couldn't exist without the hard work of our volunteer boards. Board members give their time and resources in support of our mission.

Welcome to incoming Directors: Maria Ikwugwalu, Jennifer Jones, Rob Kelley, Claudine Lurvey, Faith Pulis, Angela Smith, Welles Tisdale, and Wendy Worrell; and Trustees: Matt Bartlett and Elizabeth Salvi.

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board members for their years of volunteer service: Lori Bartlett, Caitlin Dunston, John Fitzpatrick, Mary McCall, Bob Seddig, and Lynn Sleeper Orav.



Maria Ikwugwalu



Jennifer Jones



Rob Kelley



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Faith Pulis



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**Our Mission:** Camp Beech Cliff MDI enriches the lives of people of all ages through its summer camps, year-round outdoor education, and recreation programs inspiring personal growth, connections among people, and an appreciation of the natural world.

# Let's Celebrate!

There's nothing like a pandemic to really shake things to the core. As a mother of daughters in middle school, high school, and college, I was in the thick of it with everyone else. I was worried for our families and children everywhere. And I was worried for Camp Beech Cliff because we could not open last year and really did not know until the spring months if camp would happen in 2021.

Remember that Joni Mitchell song Big Yellow Taxi: *"Don't it always seem to go / That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone"*? Our paradise was put on hold for a while (and it certainly wasn't paved!) but we could not return until assured that campers and staff were going to be safe. This was very worrisome for me and quite difficult as we thought about changing the camp operations; however, it was worth it as you will read in the remarks of Matt, our Camp Director.

The joy that I saw this summer from campers said it all. In fact, it was unlike anything that I've known in the past from parents, campers, and staff! With a reduced camper capacity, masks, new schedules and program models, new staffing structure, and the loss of large group gatherings and camp-wide singing, it wasn't what we'd normally think of as a perfect summer. But it was the summer we needed, and 661 campers and 45 staff had a true CBC experience of outdoor fun and togetherness.

*Photo: Deb Deal with outgoing Trustee, John Fitzpatrick at the 2021 Summer Soiree.*



**In the Spring a teacher at Pemetic Elementary School in Southwest Harbor told me, "At least four times a week, I get asked: 'When can we go back to CBC?'"**

I think about all of you who helped us to accomplish this by supporting CBC in different ways through your gifts, volunteerism, words of encouragement; your involvement enabled us to stay open and plan, allowing CBC to move forward with creative ideas and new programs, such as an afterschool outdoor club on early release days and on-line programs.

In 2022, all of us will have reason to celebrate again as we commemorate our 25th anniversary! It's remarkable how we have grown during the past 25 years since being incorporated as an independent, non-profit camp. I am also excited about where we are heading in the next 25 years. Stay tuned: We look forward to announcing 25 ways to celebrate next year. Plan to celebrate with us!

*Deb Deal*



# CBC Year in Review

## Fall/Winter 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic curtails the camp's fall schedule of community programs and school programming but the staff is hard at work brainstorming covid safe activities for the eventual return of campers.

Inaugural Trail of Treats is a great success. Lots of candy, lots of friends, and lots of new ideas for next year!

## January 2021

The decision is made to host a camp program in summer 2021. We don't know what it will look like yet but Ecky insists that campers return to the shore of Echo Lake.

Matt hosts an online puppetry class for local school children in virtual learning due to covid.

## February

Campers finally return to CBC! The afterschool Outdoor Club hosts children on days with early dismissals. All of a sudden everyone at CBC is smiling again.

## March

Summer Camp registration re-opens on Monday March 1st and the community's hunger for a return to camp is immediately evident.

## April

Wet days can't keep our intrepid April Vacation Campers indoors or away from the S'mores.

*"I'll go on a hike as long as you don't make me do anything when we get to the top"*





## May

A great turn out for the annual camp cleanup as the boardwalk is swept, fallen branches are cleared away and Mike Duffy's batteries are changed.

Matt gets certified as a Mental Emotional First Aid Instructor. Adding another resource to CBC's quiver of community support resources.

## June

Finally! The cars & buses pull in, the campers unload and the fun begins!!!

## July

The *Ladies Who Loonch* event returns to CBC and the fabulous participants raise over \$100,000 for our campers.

## August

Neither heat, nor rain, or mask of face will slow down the joy of so many campers even as the summer winds to an end.

Has anyone seen Mike Duffy? Did someone forget to charge him?

## September

Oh so many weddings. Making up for lost time, couples young and old gather with loved ones in the amphitheater to share vows and relish the opportunity to gather once again.





## The Kids are Alright!

Reflecting on a summer shaped by a global pandemic is challenging when I am writing while said pandemic is still actively impacting the community around me. However, these reflections are still driven by the knowledge and evidence that this past summer was one of the most important in recent history for our campers, our staff, and our families. What is the story that can fully capture that experience for all of you? The beautiful truth is that, when looking back over the summer, there is not just one story that can serve to adequately illustrate the impact that this summer had on those who have found a place of comfort, safety, and acceptance in CBC. That impact can perhaps best be seen by exploring what was lost and what was reclaimed.

For many families, one of the silver linings of the pandemic was unexpected time together. We live in a perpetually busy culture that moves from one commitment to the next and this can leave little time to be together. As wonderful as those moments of shared experience were during the pandemic, it is equally important to have independent exploration.



**“As a single parent, with few options for childcare, this time meant my daughter and I had separate experiences for the first time in over a year. It was fun to get back together and discuss our days and share.”**

**-Camper Parent**

Essential in youth development, children need time to explore the things that intrigue or excite them as individuals. Camp does this for a lot of children. This summer allowed children, and even their parents, to rekindle the true joy of discovering new aspects of who we are and want to be.

Our youngest campers, the Starbursts, come to us on the cusp of big shifts in their lives. About half of them are just about to start school for the very first time, while the other half have just finished their first year of a real school experience. The pandemic halted that transition into school for so many. Even

if these campers were attending classes virtually, this hiccup was occurring at a crucial developmental time.

This meant that camp was serving as more of a bridge for these students. I heard from multiple parents that they were grateful for their children's time at camp as it ensured that they would be entering the classroom this fall having regained some of the important social skills they would need in the coming school year.



# 2021 Summer Camp



**“Many of my campers had never been in a large environment with other kids their age before because they had never gone to in-person school.”**

**– Starburst Counselor**

It was not just campers and families that experienced the benefit of summer camp this year. Whether it was something to look forward to or the joy of finally being in community with other young adults who were devoted to the same cause, I watched staff thrive while building a community that included their peers and their campers. Our staff included people who had not had a formal graduation ceremony in 2020, who spent their first year of college in virtual classes, or who had simply been disconnected in one way or another. Community was re-discovered

and the excitement and camaraderie were evident in the culture we welcomed our campers into as well.

Let's be honest – we are not ‘out of the woods’ yet when it comes to this pandemic; however, until we are, we will continue to work to provide the experiences that only summer camp can to meet the physical, developmental, and emotional needs of our campers, and find ways to do so in the safest manner possible. The summer of 2021 has shown us that it is worth it!

**“The pandemic hit me hard in many ways and having summer camp to look forward to and knowing the difference it was going to make to these children, made a world of difference for me and my personal/professional growth.”**

**-Staff Member**







Welcoming  
Starburst  
Campers





# Recharging Thunder Campers







# Homecoming for Skills Campers





# Re-engaging Teen Campers





# Reinventing Specialty Camps



S.T.E.M.







# Junior Maine Guides



# Arts





*How is he doing that?!*

All gifts are gratefully received and recognized.

Annual named levels are based on cumulative household giving totals, excluding in-kind donations between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Your contributions help us deliver a quality summer camp experience.

Our loyal donors are our greatest asset. Donors of five or more consecutive years are recognized in bold type.

We make every effort to ensure an accurate and complete listing of contributors. Please let us know of errors or omissions.



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*“Marshmallows and  
playing with fire.  
What more could  
you ask for?”*







"I know we are picking these berries to make dyes but what would happen if I ate one?"



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### **Robert and Margaret Flynn**

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*"I'm not sure what they're doing but it looks like fun!"*



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*William Blair*

Camp Beech Cliff receives tremendous support from our business community. Thank you for the specialty camp and event sponsorships, support for the free bus service, and everything else you do for our campers!



### *Special thanks to the 2021 Loonch Committee Volunteers:*

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Co-Chairs, Lynn Barrett,  
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Jacquelyn Weiss, Anne  
Woodman, & Lee Worster.





## The 14th Annual Ladies Who Loonch: Friends, Fun, Fashion & Philanthropy

The 14th Annual Ladies Who Loonch Luncheon & Fashion Show looked slightly different this year; however, by all counts it was a huge success! Over 160 ladies gathered at Camp Beech Cliff on one of the most beautiful days of the summer and enjoyed a delicious lunch outdoors under a beautifully decorated tent. It was a joy-filled day as everyone was so happy to be back together, and all for a good cause. Although attendance was slightly lower than previous years due to Covid guidelines, these generous ladies showed their support and raised over \$100,000 for CBC's Campership and Transportation Funds, which is incredible!

The Loonch was as much fun as always with beautiful, themed raffle baskets ranging from camping to cooking, highly desired auction

items including MDI experiences and paintings by local artists, and a group song led by CBC's animated camp director Matt. The fashion show featured beautiful on-trend designs for all ages provided by Bramble & Stone, The Kimball Shop & Boutique, J.McLaughlin, Main Street Mercantile, Sailor Rose, and Vivian Badlook. This year even featured an adorable mommy and me outfit!

This event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteer Loonch Committee as well as all the individuals and businesses that generously contributed to the event. This was quite a different year that required extra time in planning, communicating and thinking about new ways of doing things. Thank you to the 2021 Loonch Committee for going above and beyond for our campers!





## 2021 Summer Soiree

CBC's Summer Soiree was an evening of gratitude in honor of our donors and volunteers and it was like no other as we had so much to celebrate! Continuing with this summer camp's theme of "Welcome Home", this year's Soiree celebrated being back together, camp opening this summer, and most importantly, all our amazing donors and volunteers who carried Camp Beech Cliff through 18 months of a global pandemic. John Fitzpatrick and Diane Templeton were honored for their years of leadership and guidance; offering their strengths,

talents, and resources to help build a stronger more sustainable organization. Executive Director Deb Deal shared a celebratory toast, expressing her gratitude to all in attendance for their important contributions to CBC. Deb also shared the best news - the kids were having a great summer!





Thank you to the many volunteers that make Camp possible! These past 18 months have been such a reminder of how Camp Beech Cliff is truly a community, and that what we do here would not happen without our volunteers. Whether you have been part of a camp cleanup day, or helped on a committee, or served on the board, Camp Beech Cliff would not be here without you, and we thank you!

## IN-KIND DONORS

Acadia Charter Company  
Acadia Dance Festival  
Acadia Outdoor Center  
Acadia Trail Sign Company  
Allen Associates  
**John and Liz Angelbeck**  
**Anne Woodman Jewelry Design**  
Bar Harbor Oyster Co.  
**Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company**  
Lori and Matt Bartlett  
**Beal's Lobster Pier**  
Beeswax Candle Co  
Ben & Bill's Chocolate Emporium  
Carol Berman  
Blaze  
Bramble & Stone  
Nancy and Stuart Brown  
Carisa's Hair and Nail Salon  
Carol and Steven Perreault  
**Causeway Golf & Tennis Club**  
Claremont Hotel  
Clark Point Catering  
**Colonel's Restaurant & Bakery**  
**Michael and Lyn Cook**  
**Debra Deal**  
Del Sol  
Echo Salon  
Eden Therapeutic Massage  
Felting for Fun  
**Susy Flach**  
Alan Flowers  
**Shannon Froehlich**  
**Frost Farms**  
Gigi Georges Oxman and Jeffrey Oxman  
**Nancy and Alexander Gleason**  
**Shelia Greene**  
**Hammond Lumber**  
Harbor Florals  
Hearth & Harbor  
Hilts Landscaping  
InstallerNet

Islesford Pottery  
Jean Forbes Art  
Jennifer Jones  
JK Putnam Photography  
**J. McLaughlin**  
Ali Kassels  
Christina Baker Kline  
La Rochelle Mansion and Museum  
Lindenwood Inn in memory of Fred Hullaby  
Little Notch Baker and Café  
Brenda Lombard  
Maine-ly Delights  
McKay's Public House  
**Milagro Coffee & Espresso**  
Debbie Mountford  
Nor'Easter Pound & Market  
Northeast Harbor Golf Club  
Scott and Elly Preston  
Project Social, Kitchen & Bar  
**Faith Pulis**  
Quietside Art Gallery  
Quietside Café & Ice Cream Shop  
Quietside Snacks  
Donna Reis  
Salon Zen  
**Salsbury Hardware and Organic Garden Supply**  
Salty Feather Salon  
**Kenneth and Sidney Salvatore**  
Samsara Wine Co.  
**Sawyer's Specialties**  
Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park  
**Shaw Contemporary Jewelry**  
**Barbara Shelley**  
**Sherman's Bookstore**  
**James and Kathleen Shields**  
Slack Tide Shop  
Snowman Group  
Edward Stewart  
**Kim and Doug Storey**  
Swallowfield

The Advertising Specialists of Maine  
The Great Maine Lumberjack Show  
The Naturalist's Notebook  
The Screenprintery  
Steven and Kay Theede  
**Thurston's Lobster Pound**  
Triple Chick Farm  
**Howard and Paula Vogel**  
Wallace Interiors  
**Waves Hair & Nail Salon**  
Whistle Pig Farm  
**Lee Worster**



*Wendy Worrell and her daughter Hannah volunteered every week this summer to make sure that every camper had access to a nutritious lunch.*

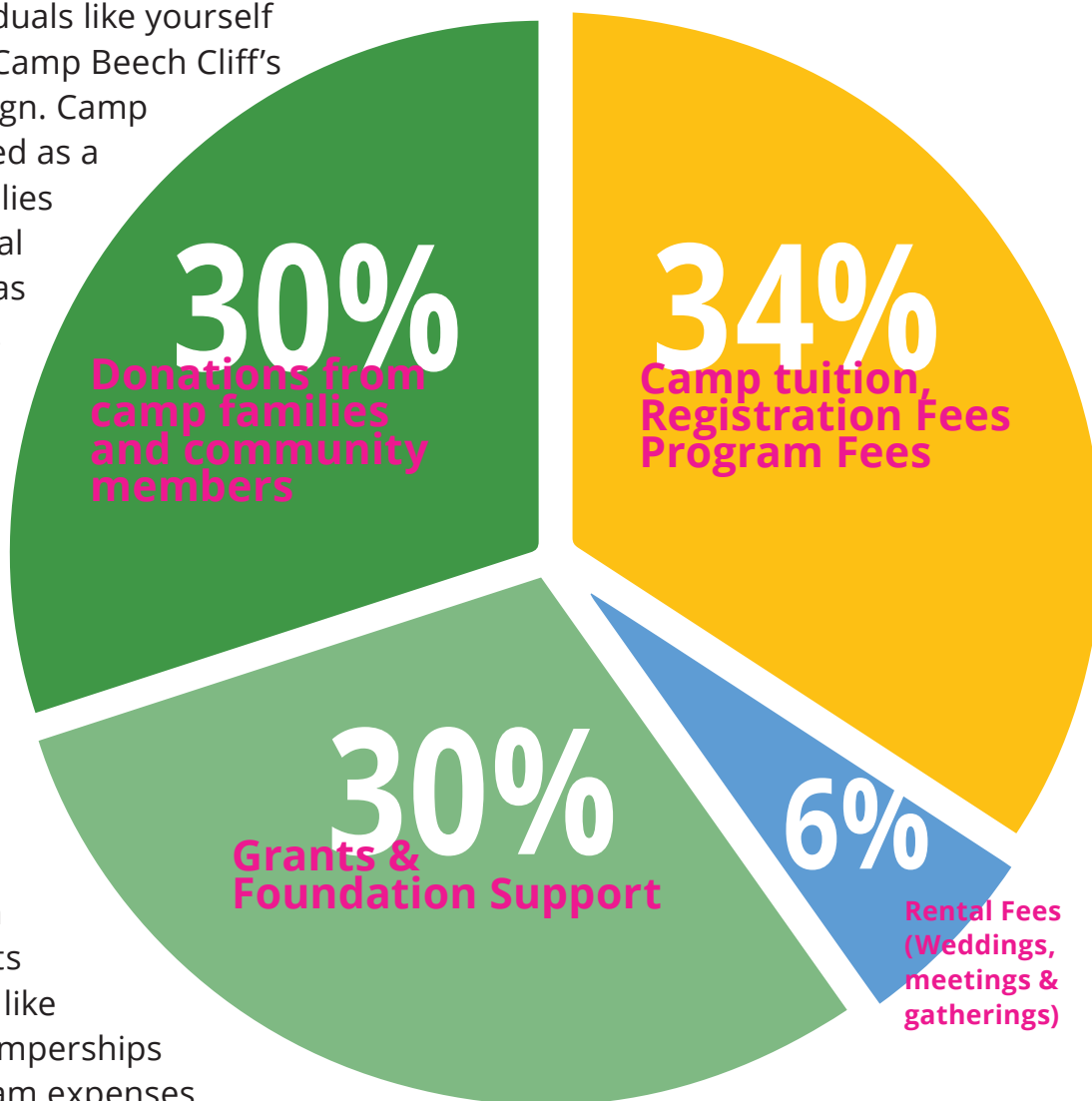


## Why does Camp Beech Cliff ask for donations?

Donations from individuals like yourself make up one-third of Camp Beech Cliff's income. This is by design. Camp Beech Cliff was founded as a resource for local families with the expressed goal of keeping camp fees as affordable as possible. Each donation received offsets a tuition increase or allows us to maintain a camp program.

### What kind of grants does CBC receive?

Grants are written to offset fixed costs for summer camp like transportation, camperships and certain program expenses. Grants are also obtained to pilot programs as we expand Camp Beech Cliff's outreach. This summer a very generous grant allowed us to provide a steep weekly discount to assist Hancock County families impacted by the 2020 covid-driven economic downturn.



### What other ways does Camp Beech Cliff raise money?

During the school year, Camp Beech Cliff shares our expertise and facilities with school groups from MDI, Maine, and elsewhere in New England. CBC also plays host to about one dozen weddings a year... some of them even want to use the climbing wall during their reception! Don't forget about the indoor pickleball games and family climbing nights.



Camp Beech Cliff is proud to have achieved the highest possible rating with GuideStar. This rating reflects the transparency of our operations and our ability to ensure that donations go to support programs and campers, not administrative costs. Learn more at [guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org)

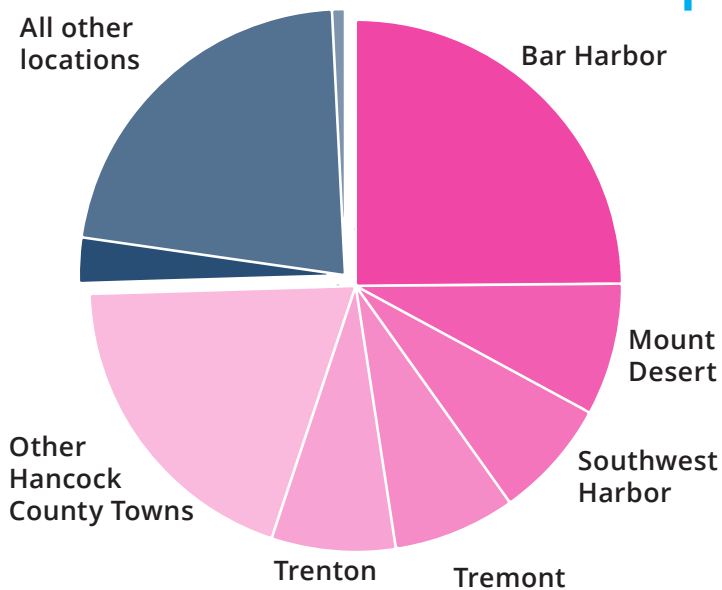


## Who attends Camp Beech Cliff?

While most of our campers are from MDI, Ellsworth and elsewhere in Hancock County, we welcome campers from all over Maine, other US states and even other countries. The diversity of camper backgrounds is an integral part of the camp experience.

Naturally our summer visitors attend fewer weeks of camp so fully 75% of all the camper spots are taken by local residents.

## Your Impact



Hello! My Name is Elly Preston and I joined the CBC team in 2021. It is such a treat to take part in all of the joy, imagination,

and discovery of camp. In my role as the Development and Community Relations Coordinator, I have met so many wonderful people and been inspired by the impact of the camp experience shared in their stories.

Our Executive Director, Debra Deal, mentioned in her article at the front of this newsletter that we will be celebrating Camp Beech Cliff's 25th anniversary in 2022. I was curious just how much has been raised and provided to local families through the Campership Fund over the years so I investigated...

I am astounded by the generosity of the Camp Beech Cliff community!

**Hey John...** Just how many campers have benefited from the CBC Campership Fund over the last 25 years?

*"Well, I have only been for been here for nine of those years and the earliest records are in some very dusty filing cabinets, but let's see if we can find out for next year's newsletter."*

While John is pulling out old files from the archives, let's see if we can work together and **bring the total to \$1 Million** this year. The donors that provided these funds have achieved a lot of good over the years, let's keep the smiles and cheers coming!

**\$999,145.77**  
raised for the Campership  
Fund since 1997





Join us in 2022 to celebrate  
25 years of memories,  
discoveries and joyous  
moments that have been  
and are still yet to come!

## CBC Calendar

Trail of Treats October 30, 2021

Winter Pickleball Mon/Wed/Fri 9-11am

Mental Health  
First Aid Training Winter 2022 TBD

February School  
Vacation Camp February 14-18

Summer Camp  
Early Registration March 1-10

April School  
Vacation Camp April 18-22

First Day of  
Summer Camp! June 20\*

15th Annual  
*Ladies Who Loonch* July 13



Camp Beech Cliff  
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