

Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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## ROBOT INVASION AT CAMP!

Not only did robots launch an invasion, the campers helped them! The robots came in pieces and the campers put them together. Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to purchase some kits specifically for our new STEM programming



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are all around us. In order to be successful in the world children today need to develop these skills to an even greater extent than before. At CAMP! this year we were proud to help contribute to camper STEM education. We had a number of activities that showed real life implications and applications for this programming.

Hopefully the campers will take home with them not only their projects, but also a newfound sense of wonder and excitement at the opportunities for them to help change the world around them.

Special Thanks to Keegan Sullivan, one of our volunteer counselors, for organizing and running this program for us this year!

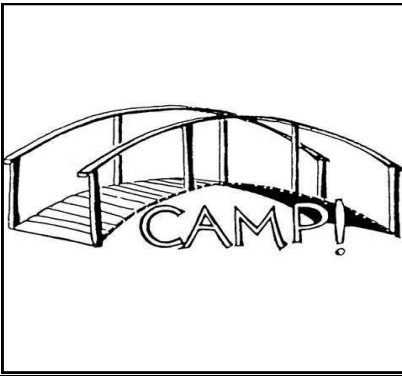
### Moore from the Director

I can say with certainty that CAMP! has changed my life. Not only in the training that I have taken as a counselor and given to others as a Director, but also in who I am as a person. I have said it a number of times over the years, I am the best person that I can be at CAMP! There is something about being surrounded by other adults all working toward the common goal of making children's lives better, something that just makes you, and all around you, better people.

All year long we plan to run the best program we can possibly run. And we often start planning the next year's program before this year's program has even started. Caring for, nurturing, providing a happy, healthy, and safe space for our campers is what we are all about. We serve 115 to 120 campers every year. And through that service we all become Great.

Scott Moore  
Managing Director





### Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

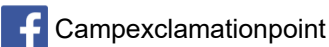
PO Box 91  
Richmond, VT 05477  
855-802-2267

### Board of Directors:

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## 2019 CAMP! Wrap Up

The tide started to roll in on Friday...a tide of almost 100 volunteers who shipped out to Thetford, VT to provide a boatload of fun and meaningful experiences for 110 deserving campers in August of 2019. Much preparation ensued over the next 48 hours so this crew could set a course for a week's magical journey to the land of CAMP! On Sunday afternoon the campers arrived, full of excitement, and sometimes a little trepidation. The crew knew what to do and with the wind in their sails, it was full speed ahead!



As part of our introduction to core activities, campers received a special treat this year – a traveling exhibition from [Little Ray's Nature Centres](#). Watching their eyes open wide at the sight of a tarantula – that they could touch! – and a boa constrictor named Julius Squeezer was a joy, but the showstopper was Flash the sloth, who chomped away on his sweet potatoes while we all looked on in awe. Huge thanks to Little Ray, Cameron McSheffery, and our own Environmental Studies Director Emmi Saunders for making this possible. Thanks as well to the [Children's Literacy Foundation](#) for providing all our campers with two brand new books again this year, as well as the CAMP! library from which campers can check out books all week.



Monday evening was bound to be mythic, once Poseidon appeared and sent the campers on a quest to learn more about our oceans, while having a raft of fun. Tuesday night's activities included waterborne quidditch (!), the making of friendship bracelets, hilarious improv games, and sugar cookie decorating (Eric's favorite). We always look forward Wednesday's Storytelling event, welcoming [Simon Brooks](#), [Odds Bodkin](#), and [Karen Pillsworth](#) back for a night of imaginative tales, music, and wonder. We feel so lucky and appreciative that they share their talents with us each summer! Thursday night is Pod Night, a time for canoe trips, campfires, games and more.

Every day campers participate in a myriad of activities that they have chosen to engage in. Arts and crafts keep the creativity flowing, from weaving and drawing to making shell wreaths and playing with oobleck (“ocean sand”). The pool is bustling from Polar Bear Swim and lessons in the morning to free swim in the afternoon and a popular staff night swim each evening. The action at the lake revolves around canoes and paddle boards, including the ever-popular bilge wars, and this year a band of pirates was sighted as well. Brand new this summer were 10 ukuleles that campers learned to strum, and which enhanced the sound of our morning and evening singing.



CAMP! was also able to purchase new archery equipment this year (thanks to our generous donors!), heightening that popular activity for our campers.

Scrumptious and nutritious food made from scratch is a highlight each year and a hallmark of our program, with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and bread, pizza, and more baked on site. Kudos to Alison and her talented and hard-working kitchen crew! We also say thanks to the young leaders-in-training who make up our Teen Leadership Program for all they do to keep things clean around camp while learning life skills.



As Poseidon promised, our week came to a crescendo with a sea-themed carnival captained by Ken and his mischievous crew. We closed out Friday night with music, drama, laughter, and tears, including a dance through the sands of time (well, one week’s sands of time) with Great Scott’s annual slide show. Campers and staff hugged and said thanks for the week that was, and headed off into the night while the ice candles shimmered in the dark. We all received a special patch to remind us of CAMP! when the cold wind blows or when we just need a warm memory. As the tide rolled out and the campers and crew sailed off for another year, we hope the magic of this week left its mark on all involved, and we thank everyone who gave of themselves to make that magic happen.





## The Many Faces of **CAMP!**

Every year at Camp Exclamation Point we have between 80 and 90 volunteer staff who come serve the campers at some point during the week.



Every year we also have between 110 and 120 campers that come free to be themselves and learn valuable life lessons all week long.



This year we wanted you all to see all of them! Which is a little bit tricky as we only have so many pages!



If you look closely you will see our program volunteers in Art, Boat House, Nature, and Swimming. Our Health and Admin teams, and at the heart of the program the Kitchen!



And most importantly, you will see the faces of each and every one of our campers.



Their bright smiles light up even our darkest days. We cannot wait to see them again next year!



# Wendy Cooper Memorial Fund



Wendy first volunteered at CAMP! in 2002. She worked with the youngest of our campers, the ones in 2nd and 3rd grade. Sadly, she passed away in 2008

As a Senior Lab Technician at the University of Vermont she brought a love of science to the CAMP! community. Every year she would bring science experiments as activities for the campers. They loved learning with her and they loved her gentle nature. As we celebrate our STEM programming this year we especially wanted to remember her legacy.

One of the innovations that she brought to CAMP! was a program we still use to this day! When her cabin full of campers went home, she provided them with luggage tags specifically designed for their luggage. This would help their luggage make it home safely on the bus. Seeing the popularity she expanded it to include all the campers in her pod, Pod 1, and she expanded again to cover the campers in Pod 2.

To this day we provide a luggage tag for everyone to make sure their luggage arrives safely. Our current tags are no where near as colorful or artistic, but we keep doing this to remember her.

Another way that we remember her is through the Wendy Cooper Memorial Fund. The Board of Directors named a fund in her honor. The goal of this fund is to provide camperships for those with the most economic obstacles. Each year the fund creates enough income to allow one camper to come to our program. Our goal is to increase the fund every year so that it will continue to cover the cost of more campers, year after year after year.

Thank you Wendy for teaching us so much, and for your love of CAMP!

**One of our main principles is Core: To offer a program of experiences and activities in art and music, natural science, physical activity, water safety, nutrition and hygiene, and literacy.**

**We believe every camper should have these experiences. Sometimes they are not be able to participate in these things at home. At CAMP! we make sure they get these Core experiences. And we are excited that this year, in addition to natural science, they had a chance to experience STEM activities.**

**Driving  
Principle  
Alert: CORE!**

## Ways to Help

If you are interested in supporting CAMP!, there are numerous ways to help. We are always looking for volunteer staff for camp week in August, and positions range from kitchen staff to group counselors to lifeguards. You or your company may donate products or services to CAMP! Past supporters have included Crossroads Farm, Ben & Jerry's, CLiF, O'Bread, Mirabelles Café, Shelburne Farms, Sue Giovanetti, Tom Moore, and Dennis & Marie Moore.

Financial support is always welcome as well. Even with a primarily volunteer staff and a variety of donated supplies from local organizations, it still costs CAMP! \$400 for one child to attend for the week. That includes transportation between home and camp, food, lodging, and activity supplies.

Camper families are only asked to cover a \$30 registration fee, which is waived in cases of financial hardship.

### Did you know?

- \* It costs \$400 to send one camper to CAMP! for the week.
- \* It costs \$65 to send one camper to CAMP! for a day.
- \* Camper families are asked to cover only a \$30 registration fee.
- \* About half of our Camper's registration fees are covered by their individual school counselors.
- \* CAMP! is a tax exempt organization under Section 501 ( c ) ( 3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You can make your tax-deductible check payable to:

**CAMP!**  
**PO Box 91**  
**Richmond, VT 05477**

Or you can donate online through our website at:

**[www.campexclamationpoint.org](http://www.campexclamationpoint.org)**

Contact us!

If you have questions please feel free to call us toll free at:

**855-802-2267**

Or you can email us at:

**[CampExcl@gmail.com](mailto:CampExcl@gmail.com)**

And you can find us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/campexclamationpoint](https://www.facebook.com/campexclamationpoint)

## 2019 Financials

Thank you very much to all of our donors that make each year possible. Without your help we could not continue to create this amazing experience for our deserving campers!



	FY 2019 Budget	FY 2019 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants	\$21,000	\$23,900
Special Events	\$3,500	\$5,230
Contributions	\$16,100	\$18,349
Government Programs	\$2,800	\$3,625
Program Fees	\$3,500	\$3,260
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$46,900</b>	<b>\$54,364</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	\$12,000	\$12,692
Insurance	\$3,200	\$3,100
Professional Fees	\$600	\$475
Supplies	\$13,475	\$13,140
Telephone/Internet	\$800	\$1,247
Postage	\$300	\$0
Occupancy	\$10,145	\$10,087
Printing	\$350	\$342
Transportation	\$5,200	\$5,600
Training	\$1000	\$1269
Fees	\$100	\$24
Operational Reserve	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,670</b>	<b>\$52,976</b>

**Thank you to all of our donors that have supported us for so many years.**

**Our program could not survive if it were not for the continued generosity of these wonderful people!**

Fanny Allen Foundation	Green Mountain Foundation	Moose Lodge #1618
Krin Barbieri	Edward & Lisa Guy	Tom & Sharon Moore
George & Paula Bellerose	Emi Guy	Aimee Motta
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	Joan Hanson	Denise Murphy
Brad Boquet	Bill & Lianne Hegman	Linda Myers
Jennifer Boquet	Keri Hess	Jessyca Nelle
John and Gina Boquet	Jan Hilborn	O Bread Bakery
Jeremy Boquet Foundation	Hoehl Family Foundation	Ed Paquin
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Roy & Ingrid Cichoski	Russell Ireland	Pool World
Margaret Cootware	Jon Jamison	R&R Foundation
Eileen Courtney	Wendy & Jerry Joyce	Susan Profeta
Crossroad Farm	Melanie Kenion	Heidi Racht & Alan Campbell
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Sara Davis	S. Klaiber	David Rosenberg
Julia Dawidowicz	Shawn & Joanna Ladue	James Rosenberg
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Emily Gibbs	Mascoma Bank	Qin Wen
Peter Gibbs	Ashlei Melendy	Rodney West
Lori Gildemeister	Countess Moira Foundation	Lois Whitman
Sean Gill	Marianne Mollman	Barbara Wyman
Sue Giovannetti	Dennis & Marie Moore	Karen & Don Yaggy
Alan Graham	Scott & Robyn Moore	

Camp Exclamation Point, Inc  
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**80+ Volunteers and 120 Campers. Can you name them all?**



**Our Mission**

Camp Exclamation Point, Inc. provides continuity and community to underserved, rural Vermont children through a week-long residential summer camp.

**Our History**

CAMP! was founded in 1991 by staff members from a discontinued government-funded camp for children of migrant workers. They were committed to providing continuity for the children with whom they had been working, and created Camp Exclamation Point, Inc. as a way to meet that need.

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