

Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

# Annual Report 2021

## AND WE ARE BACK!

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Every year the campers and volunteer staff are given a commemorative tee shirt to remember the year. This year the CAMP! logo was made into a rainbow.



After the darkness and storm of 2020 we thought it only appropriate that this year we had a symbol of light and hope!



### Moore from the Director

2020, am I right? I am so glad it is over! On a personal level 2020 saw the passing of my mom, being laid off from my full time job, and the loss of a beloved pet. Not to mention not being able to have CAMP! the way we normally do. So many things went sideways in 2020, I worried a lot when we started to plan the 2021 season. There were so many things we had to get right, where to even begin? But we made a plan, and we worked that plan, and in 2021 **We Are Back!**

And I will also admit, once the first camper arrived on site this year, tears were shed. Theirs and mine! The emotion of having the campers in person washed all the negativity of 2020 right away. My fears and anxiety were defeated by their smiles and laughter. The dark clouds hovering over and around my soul were driven out by the brilliance of their joy.

The volunteer staff, the campers, the site itself, it all comes together to create this environment of love and peace that does so much to heal. I am so glad to see the magic of CAMP! return, and I am so grateful that I can be part of it every year. Thank you CAMP!

**Scott Moore**  
**Managing Director**

## Volunteer Spotlight



“There are not enough words to express my gratitude to Alison for everything she has done over the past 30 years. She has been part of the program since the very beginning and is the heart beat and the soul of CAMP! Now that she is retiring, I am excited that she will have time to spend with her new grandbaby, but I will miss hearing her words of wisdom every summer.”



“Good, healthy food, cooked with love and served with a smile. This philosophy is at the heart of the CAMP! kitchen. For over 30 years, Alison planned and created an impressive array of meals and snacks for campers and staff, meeting the challenges of preparing three daily meals for 200, and meeting with elan a range of dietary needs. She was assisted by a dedicated volunteer staff who she recruited from friends, parents of campers, and also friends of friends. Her enthusiasm for CAMP! got many of us there in the first place. At every meal, the CAMP! family comes together to celebrate the day and all of its joys, challenges, and accomplishments of all sizes. The food served at CAMP! Is a reflection of hers love of seeing people in the dining hall, enjoying a meal. Alison’s “retirement” does not signal retiring the goals of the volunteers who create the food served to the deserving staff and happy campers at our special camp.”



“Thank you Alison for feeding CAMP!’s bodies and souls with fresh vegetables, whole grains, and love through so many years! You created a kitchen community where people were encouraged to try something new, follow their interests, and sing and dance while they cleaned and chopped. We worked hard and laughed more. Love, warmth, and creativity were vital ingredients in what you shared with us. They were mixed into the food for all of camp, making our community stronger and healthier, one delicious peach, sweet cinnamon bun, taste of tofu, fresh green bean, and bowl of oatmeal at a time. Enough cheesy stuff (cheesy breadsticks, tacos with beans and cheese, cheese and hummus sandwiches - think of all the cheese that has been served at camp throughout the years!). Thank you! We love you!”



“Alison taught us all so much about healthy food and took advantage of all the fresh local produce available in August. When I worked as CAMP! director the kitchen was one thing I didn’t worry about and it was a place of refuge when I needed a breather, or a break. After I retired, it was a pleasure to work with Alison in the kitchen. It was a most congenial space with a staff that enjoyed working together and supported each other. As the CAMP! kitchen continues to serve and give so much it will be because Alison has been such a thoughtful leader and a great teacher.”

## 2021 Financials

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>FY 2021 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>
Grants	\$18,000	\$16,500
Special Events	\$7,500	\$14,998
Individual Contributions	\$19,300	\$17,772
Foundation & Corporate Donations	\$1,350	\$6,000
Government Programs	\$3,000	\$1,221
Program Fees	\$3,210	\$2,430
Investment Income	\$250	\$40
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$52,610</b>	<b>\$58,961</b>

## Operating Expenses

Administration	\$12,500	\$11,500
Direct Programming & Supplies	\$22,885	\$24,924
Fees (Professional Accounting & Misc.)	\$750	\$755
Fund Raising	\$500	\$507
Insurance	\$3,100	\$3,100
Office Supplies	\$800	\$791
Operational Reserve	\$2,500	\$10,000
Postage	\$300	\$692
Printing Costs	\$900	\$860
Storage Rental	\$1,500	\$1,496
Telephone/Internet	\$575	\$806
Transportation	\$6,300	\$200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,610</b>	<b>\$55,631</b>



### Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

PO Box 91  
Richmond, VT 05477  
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### Board of Directors:

Ed Paquin, President  
Russ Humphrey, Vice President  
Alan Graham, Secretary  
Eric Thomas, Treasurer  
Erin Shea  
Emily Gibbs  
Jessyca Nellé  
Keegan Sullivan  
Melanie Kenion  
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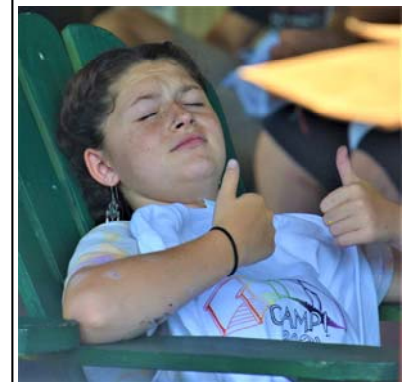
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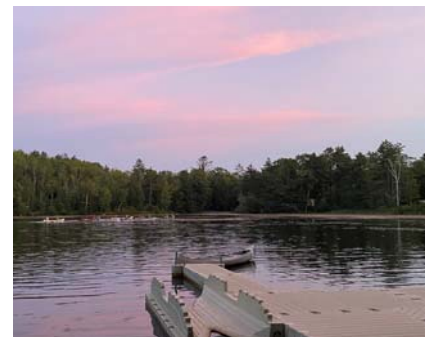
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*Should it happen? Could it happen? Would it happen?* It was difficult to miss our in-person week of camp in 2020, but we know it was the right decision. Throughout the winter, a committee of the CAMP! Board of Directors met regularly to determine whether and how we could hold camp in 2021. Amid positive trends in the course of the pandemic this spring, and with favorable guidance from the state of Vermont, the Board voted to move forward with an in-person session, at about 75% of our usual capacity. Throughout the summer, weekly planning sessions covered all aspects of how we could safely provide our program. We modified aspects of our program with an eye toward keeping the spirit and feel of camp intact while staying safe.



An all-vaccinated staff began to arrive on Friday the 13th – a date which proved most fortunate – with a negative COVID test in hand. On Sunday, the campers arrived! We asked their parents to drive them this year, and we swiftly conducted COVID-19 PCR tests before sending them off to have fun with their pods. Volunteer Steve Kenion drove up from Boston to pick up the tests and get them to a lab in Cambridge that evening. By Monday night, they all came back negative! We held most activities outdoors and everyone stayed masked when indoors. Thanks to the Pomfret Fire Department, we had a nice big tent to hold some programming in. We are grateful to our hosts, Camp Farnsworth, for providing a facility with so much open space for outdoor fun.



It took a mighty effort, but what a reward...CAMP! 2021 was one we'll never forget. In this challenging time, we are so grateful for our passionate volunteer staff members, donors, and camper families who made this week possible for 81 children. We miss you, we are already planning for 2022, and we can't wait to see you all again in the summer air, beside the lake, in these green mountains we call home.

Thanks to our talented program staff, and to our patient and creative camp counselors, the first few days featured fun activities in our core focus areas. Campers took swimming lessons in the pool and splashed about the lake in canoes, kayaks and paddle boards. Outdoor music sessions featured songs both silly and soulful. Campers had fun learning about plants and bugs, and making artistic creations in the ever-popular art room. We were thrilled to welcome back Duncan McDougall from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), with stacks and stacks of books from which our campers selected two to take home.



Campers chose from a diverse catalog of activities. Returning favorites included archery, paddle board yoga, chopsticks, gems, and egg protectors and flubber. Tie-dye became a three-day activity and included special night sessions for staff. Campers strummed ukuleles on the porch and Quidditch returned to the lake. Among our new additions for 2021, campers created fabulous monsters in the art room, played battleship in canoes, made hummingbird feeders and crafted turtles from yarn. We're grateful for our all the work our counselors and program staff put into these fun and engaging activities! Our friend Simon Brooks was under the weather but recorded a special video for our campers, and we were excited to welcome Papa Joe in person.



Friday evening's Carnival was extra special this year, as it was planned out by our Teen Leadership Program (TLP). This group of teens were instrumental to our camp program this year, setting tables for every meal, cleaning up the dining hall, and helping out everywhere. The night ended with funny and poignant songs, Great Scott's annual slide show and a new CAMP! film by Tony Bacon in which campers and staff shared thoughts on a hard year and what it meant to have camp in person this summer. Campers walked home in the glow of the ice candles and held tight to their memories of the week.

## 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, 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](http://www.facebook.com/campexclamationpoint)



There are three rules at CAMP! that we go by:

- 1) Be kind to yourself
- 2) Be kind to others
- 3) Be kind to CAMP!

Being kind is an easy way to boost positive emotions. We encourage all of the campers to be kind and to take the kindness of CAMP! home with them all year long. Kindness reduces stress and increases happiness. The power of Kindness brings with it increased connectedness.

Thank you to each and every one 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!

Daniel Baker	Russell Humphrey	Susan Profeta
George & Paula Bellerose	Judith Jackman	Hannah Provencher
Michael Bochenek	Wendy Joyce	R & R Foundation
Roy Cichoski	Michael Kenion	Heidi Racht
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Betsy Hoehl	Ed Paquin	Barbara Wyman
Jessica Hokenberg	Prudence Pease	Doug & Karen Yaggy

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Camp Exclamation Point, Inc  
P.O. Box 91  
Richmond, VT 05477



### **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.