



Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

Annual Report 2025

Teen Leaders!

At **Camp Exclamation Point** we believe that leadership isn't just a title, it's an action. Our **Teen Leadership Program (TLP)** continues to be the cornerstone of our mission, providing Vermont teens from rural communities with the tools to transition from campers to confident, capable mentors.

Our program is a multi-year journey designed to foster resilience, empathy, and practical life skills. By stepping into increased responsibilities, our teens learn the "behind-the-scenes" heart of camp life. They have been campers experiencing the magic of Camp, and now they learn to create magic for others.

Mentorship in Action: TLP participants work alongside seasoned staff, gaining hands-on experience in group management and conflict resolution.

Skill Acquisition: From leading community workshops to organizing camp-wide events, teens develop public speaking and organizational skills that translate directly to the classroom and the workforce.

A Culture of Belonging: Perhaps most importantly, the program provides a safe space for teens to explore their identities and build a life-long network of peers who share their lived experiences.

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"CAMP! gave me a place to belong when I was little, but the Teen Leadership Program gave me the voice to help others find that same feeling. I realized I'm not just a kid at Camp anymore; I'm a leader in my community."

2025 TLP Member



Have you ever wondered why our logo is a bridge? When Camp was founded the site that we rented had a bridge across a creek. Pretty simple in many ways. But our logo represents something so much deeper.

For many of our campers, the journey to Camp is more than just a ride across town, it is also a bridge across many kinds of divides. From the quiet ache of isolation that so often haunts Vermont's rural hills, to the difficulty of leaving friends behind when you have to move yet again. Our campers and their families face some obstacles that the rest of us have never even imagined.

In the glow of the final campfire, we can see a transformation that cannot be replicated anywhere else. Heads resting on new friends' shoulders, hands clasped tight as the last songs fade, and the tearful realization that, for the first time, they are truly seen and understood.

These bonds are forged in the shared vulnerability of trying something new and the simple, profound joy of belonging to a family that doesn't ask them to be anything other than themselves. When a child whispers a secret to a cabin mate in the dark or leans on a peer to find their courage, they are weaving a safety net of connection that will hold them long after the summer sun sets, reminding them that wherever they go, they are never truly alone.



Moore from the Director

Being part of the Camp Exclamation Point legacy means standing in a circle that has remained unbroken for over three decades. A circle built on the radical idea that every child, regardless of their zip code or economic circumstances, deserves a week where the world feels big, bright, and full of possibility.

I am proud to be part of this legacy because Camp is more than a summer program. It is a promise kept to Vermont's children. It is the pride of watching a shy ten-year-old find their voice during a pod song, only to see them return years later as a confident Teen Leader, ready to guide the next generation. It is the profound honor of sustaining a space where "belonging" isn't just a goal, but a lived reality, woven through the music of the morning band and the quiet serenity of an evening campfire.

To be part of this history is to believe in the power of a single week to change the trajectory of a life. I am proud because we don't just provide a camp; we provide a home for the heart, proving year after year that when you give a child a place to truly belong, they discover they have the power to reach the stars.

Scott Moore, Managing Director

2025 Financials

Revenue	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual
Grants	\$28,000	\$29,500
Special Events	\$5,000	\$4,664
Individual Contributions	\$18,000	\$16,999
Board Member Fundraising Campaign	\$6,000	\$6,000
Summer Food Service Program	\$4,500	\$1,834
Program Fees	\$2,250	\$1,908
CD Interest	\$2,800	\$2,852
Total Revenues	\$66,550	\$63,757

Operating Expenses

Administration	\$15,400	\$15,400
Direct Programming & Supplies	\$22,950	\$22,152
Fees (Accounting & Misc.)	\$500	\$90
Fund Raising	\$500	\$230
Insurance	\$3,300	\$3,421
Life Guard Certification	\$1,000	\$275
Office Supplies	\$500	\$253
Operational Reserve	\$2,000	\$1,000
Postage	\$400	\$410
Printing Costs	\$500	\$273
Site Rental	\$12,000	\$12,779
Storage Rental	\$2,600	\$2,594
Telephone/Internet	\$1,950	\$2,395
Transportation	\$3,000	\$1,503
Total Expenses	\$66,550	\$62,775



Camp Exclamation Point, Inc.

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Board of Directors:

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The Heart of Rural Connection: Camp Exclamation Point

For one week each summer, **Camp Exclamation Point** transforms the lives of over 110 children from Vermont's rural communities. Often facing geographic or economic isolation, these campers find more than just activities; they find a vital sense of belonging.

By removing financial barriers, Camp ensures that every child can experience the magic of the outdoors. From shared meals to evening campfires, we foster a unique, supportive community where kids can simply be kids. This dedicated space provides the stability and joy necessary for building lifelong resilience and lasting Vermont friendships.



After dinner on the first day of Camp, Head Counselor Keegan Sullivan gave an annual reminder of these important words: “at camp, we are kind to ourselves, we are kind to others, and we are kind to camp.”

These words seem simple but kindness is not always easy. By centering kindness at Camp, we strive to make it something our campers will live by every day of year.

This August, there was kindness to be seen in every aspect of camp, and it was...kind of wonderful!

Kindness is musicians leading us in songs about joy and friendship...or just being silly. Kindness is rising early to make healthy and delicious food from scratch with love. Kindness is volunteer staff members bringing ideas and materials for activities with them to camp and sharing their fun creativity with the campers. Kindness is every camper receiving two new books from the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF). Kindness is storytellers driving many miles to captivate and entertain; thank you once again Joy Smith, Andrea Kamens and dear friend of CAMP! Simon Brooks.

Our Teen Leadership Program exemplifies kindness as they work together as a team to learn new skills and give back to camp. We are grateful for their help cleaning the dining hall, setting tables, leading activities, and helping to build our Friday evening carnival. We look forward to our 2nd year graduates returning as Junior Counselors!





Our skilled Aquatics and Boating staff exemplify kindness by working long days with utmost care to keep our campers safe and having fun in the pool and on the lake. Both were popular places to be throughout a hot and sunny week!

CAMP! cannot exist without the kindness of others. Giving up a week's vacation to be a volunteer staff member is a genuine commitment to our organization. Planning an engaging and interactive staff training takes hours of preparation; we are grateful to Michael Bochenek for leading this effort and for all who helped. We appreciate Jessyca Nellé from Roots to Rising sharing her time to help our staff be better counselors. Russ Humphrey drove a box truck across the state and back – twice – to help us set up and close up camp, and several staff members carried dozens of boxes and bins of camp supplies.

All acts of kindness, all gratefully accepted. At the beginning of the week, campers helped Sherlock Holmes solve the case of the missing jewels of kindness. Which weren't really missing at all. And which really aren't needed to power the kindness of Camp, because that kindness flows like a river from everyone who is a part of this organization. We wouldn't want it any other way.

Our 2025 session ended with a perfect blue sky summer Friday...one last time to visit the lake, the pool, the nature room, or the art room. A few last meals and favorite tunes. A joyful Carnival that could have gone on for hours. An exciting rocket launch. An emotional evening of songs and celebration. Reliving the week in pictures set to music, thanks to the kindness of Great Scott. Hugs, ice candles, stars in the sky, and warmth in our hearts. It's kind...of magical. See you next August.

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, and Shelburne Farms.

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! \$500 for one child to attend for the week. That includes transportation between home and camp, food, lodging, and activity supplies. Camper families are asked to cover only \$30 and this registration fee is waived in the event of hardship.

Did you know?

- * It costs \$500 to send one camper to CAMP! for the week.
- * It costs \$83 to send one camper to CAMP! for a day.
- * 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

Contact us!

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

855-802-2267

You can find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/campexclamationpoint

Our eemail is:

CampExclamationPoint@gmail.com

CAMP! Traditions

Here are some of the fund CAMP! Traditions that we look forward to every year!

The final night of Camp is always a Carnival, a hand-made country fair built and run by the campers and staff. The most exciting part? The theme is kept highly top-secret until the very last moment, creating a week of anticipation and "insider" whispers across the pods.

In partnership with the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), it's a well-loved tradition that every camper chooses two brand-new books to keep! Camp also hosts an annual Storytelling Night where professional storytellers visit the for an evening campfire program, bringing stories to life under the stars.

The Pool and the waterfront are home to Polar Bear Swim & Penguin Paddle: For the early risers, the day starts with a brisk dip or a morning canoe session.

The Egg Protector Competition is a classic engineering challenge where campers build contraptions to protect an egg from a high drop, often involving a lot of cheering and creative use of camp supplies.

Clapatory Exclamations where we share acts of Kindness all week long.

TLP: Muh Ha Ha!

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	Edward & Lisa Guy	Sasha Petukhova
George & Paula Bellerose	Joan Hanson	Susan Profeta
Michael Bochenek	Bill & Lianne Hegman	Hannah Provencher
Marilyn Billings	Jan Hilborn	Heidi Racht
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Kerry Gaj	Gordon Lucey	Square & Compass Club
Emily Gibbs	Martha Marciel	Keegan Sullivan
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Todd Goodwin	Scott & Robyn Moore	Eric Thomas
Alan Graham	Linda Myers	Stanton William
Celia Graham	Ed Paquin & Gini Milkey	Bard Wyman
Michael Haefner	Prudence Pease	

Camp Exclamation Point, Inc
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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 they had been working with, and created Camp Exclamation Point, Inc. as a way to meet that need.