



# NEWS FROM ECHO HILL CAMPERSHIP FUND

FALL / WINTER 2010

VOLUME XXII

## WEATHERING THE STORM ...

Greetings and welcome to the EHCF 2010 newsletter, where you'll find all the news that other, more respectable, rags would never consider printing. Yeah, we're kinda proud.

In this space last year, we gamely joked about this recession, calling it a "Great" one. It was great, but only if you looked to the bottom of Merriam-Webster's definition to find the appropriate meaning: "Large in size, number, or event, larger than others of its kind, of major significance or importance." Yup. That makes more sense. Sure, we've heard the experts say it ended in June, but looking around, you really have to question how they earned the moniker "expert".

Our empirical data, culled from EHCF's 2009 - 2010 donor list, points to an obvious conclusion: everyone is hurting. Formerly large, personal donations have been reduced. A lot of our regular donors seem to have taken the year off, or worse. Corporate donations are seemingly non-existent. (All together, in C minor: U-G-L-Y, no need to provide an alibi, it's ugly, yeaahh, it's ugly.)

And it's completely understandable. Non-profits, across the board, have suffered. And, because we strive to be a permanent organization, EHCF must be able to withstand storms.

Economic vicissitudes happen. (How's that for a bumper-sticker?)

And withstand the storms, we have. Your past generosity allowed us to set some money aside in a rainy day fund <InsertYourOwnLordHasItBeenRainingJokeHere>. The current status of our coffers will require us to dip into that fund in order to keep our commitment to the campers we currently sponsor. The commitment being: If an applicant is selected to attend EHC, EHCF will do everything in its power to continue the sponsorship of that child throughout her/his camp-attending years.

Pretty cool. And not that easy.

You'll read in this newsletter the number of children you sponsored this year, along with the total number of weeks sponsored. You'll

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## MISS HONEY RETIRING?

One of the remarkable things about Echo Hill is its traditions and how little things seem to change. Campers in the 1970s sat in the Lodge during thunderstorms just like this year's campers. A homesick camper today is likely to be consoled by Pete and Penny in much the same way as decades ago. Counselors still socialize in the counselor shack between activities. Echo Ring, Christmas, the Fourth of July, the Dell, and the awards campfires remain important parts of the experience for campers then and now. Generations change, campers become parents, their kids become campers, and so it goes. One of most important constants for almost forty years now is the presence of **Catherine "Honey" Murray** in the dining hall. Honey came to Echo Hill in 1972 and never left. Her three children, **Cheryl, Sheldon and Terrence** were all campers along with most of her grandchildren. In a 1988 yearbook dedication to her, Pete wrote "Honey has become an institution at Echo Hill and few of us can imagine camp without her... The laughter emanating from the kitchen, the scream when she encounters a snake, the Maryland fried chicken, the "biddies come get your food"... she's a character that we all identify with Echo Hill." He added at the time that he hoped their partnership would last another 16 years! They surpassed that mark in 2004 and Honey is now nearing her 40th year at Echo Hill. She recently announced that she will be entering semi-retirement and working only part-time. We caught up with her recently to check in on this Echo Hill icon.

*How often will you be in the kitchen from now on?*

"I just have four meals a week - two lunches and two dinners and I don't work on Fridays. But breakfast is hard because I'm taking care of my husband Jonas. He has had back problems and other illnesses so I try to be home in the mornings for him."

*Speaking of your family, where are your children?*

"Terrence and his wife live only a couple of miles away. Their daughter,  
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Nashel, is eleven. She went to camp all summer and loved it! She is a true camp person. I am a great grandmother now also! She is the light of my life, a beautiful little girl and hopefully she'll go to camp too. Sheldon also lives in the area. Cheryl lives in a nice home down the road from camp in Coleman. She moved back from Gaithersburg to be closer to family. She works at Echo Hill full time now.

*Has the adjustment to part-time been difficult for you?*

"It worries me. I miss it. I miss Peter and I used to cry in the summer when I wasn't there every day. I'm very close to Peter and Penny and a lot of other people there even though I'm not there every day. I had major surgery at Christiana hospital in Delaware in late April and had to stay there for three and a half weeks. Penny was there every night. She was like a big sister and I can't thank her enough."

*Has Peter changed much?*

"No, other than getting a little older. Aren't we all? He's still the loving Peter. He tries to help them all. He loves them all."

*What are your favorite meals to make?*

"It's always hot sitting there by the deep fryers, especially in the middle of the summer, but the children love my fried chicken and I love making it for them. That and the lasagna were always my favorite meals! Probably because they're the children's favorites."

*What do you remember about your first day working at Echo Hill?*

"I didn't know where I was. I was supposed to work in the dining

hall and Peter put me in the kitchen. I didn't know how to cook for so many people, but I learned fast. I liked being near the outdoors and I liked being around young people. Peter told me the kids could go to camp so it seemed like a good fit."

*How did you deal with all the crazy things that take place during a typical Echo Hill summer?*

"I was prepared for all the craziness because I was young when I started. As the years progressed, I got used to it. I loved it. One thing that really stands out is the time TW and his kids put that car in the middle of the dining hall. When we walked in to make breakfast that morning, the car was right in the middle of the dining room. He took the screens out and somehow got the car over the walls to get it in. He thought I was going to be mad, but I loved it. There were a lot of funny raids that went on over the years. I remember the girls put the boys' beds in the rafters in the dining room. George Dorsey was supposed to be working in the kitchen. We thought he was late until we found him up in the rafters asleep in one of the beds! Boob was the funniest- he was the coolest man on camp. I will never forget when Boob and I got to fighting in front of the food bar- I had to throw him up against the kitchen door, water and parsley and everything else was flying everywhere and the children thought it was the funniest thing they had ever seen! Boob even made me go out on a boat with him! I got tired of him bugging me so I finally went!"

*How did you know the Echo Hill gossip before anyone else?*

"The counselors came to me, sometimes with their coffee in the morning. I never had to ask. I guess maybe because I was older and people wanted to talk. Maybe they figured I could put in a good word - a lot of times I would help get people together and I loved it! Mostly I would just say, 'oh well,' and have a good laugh."

*What are your plans for next summer?*

"We haven't talked about next summer yet, but I'm thinking about it. As long as I'm healthy enough, I'm sure I'll be there for some meals...like my fried chicken and lasagna...the children's favorites!"

*Will it be hard to leave Echo Hill if you ever totally retire?*

"Oh yes, it would be difficult. I would just miss Echo Hill and all the people. Period. I'll visit often as long as Peter and Penny are there. Echo Hill is very important to me, my children and grandchildren. I keep in touch with lots of former campers and counselors and have very fond memories of all of them. I loved Mr. and Mrs. Rice and Mr. and Mrs. Harris. Monkee and I were very close- he was my brother and I still miss him."

*Any other closing thoughts?*

"I'm just so happy that Peter is going to be a father-in-law. Katie is my goddaughter and her name is Katherine, too. I know he is so excited for Katie and Julie's weddings. It reminds me of a long time ago. I'm now 67 but I don't feel 67 and I don't think like a 67 year old. But I don't let age bother me. I just live one day a time."



**Catherine "Honey" Murray**

*continued from page 1 ...*

also find a chart of our results over the past decade. Please take a good look at that chart: Growth sustained, year after year. It's a beautiful chart. Better said: The chart reveals a beautiful truth -- your generous support has had a huge impact. Thank you.

So, at the end of this column, we do the only thing we can. We make the ask.

Please pull out your checkbook or go to our website ([www.EHCF.org](http://www.EHCF.org)) now, while you are reading this, and fill out a donation to EHCF. Think hard about the impact of EHC on your childhood. Think about the even greater need that the poor are facing in this economic turmoil. Be as generous as you can.

None of us take any payment or salary from EHCF. Almost every penny you send goes straight to our mission. We've been around a long time and have been solid stewards of your donations. Please consider adding a zero to your donation this year.

EHCF. Now, more than ever!

The dramatic spike in applications is a good thing and a byproduct of our own success. As the Campership Fund grows more and more former campers and counselors recommend qualified applicants. We are also getting more applications from kids who hear how great Echo Hill is from their friends who are supported by the Campership Fund. Finally, we have increased our formal referral network.

Some of you might know that the Campership Fund has worked with a referral organization called My Sister's Circle ([www.mysisterscircle.org](http://www.mysisterscircle.org)) for a number of years. My Sister's Circle (MSS) works with high potential at risk girls in the Baltimore area. They team the children up with mentors and introduce the girls to opportunities they would never find on their own. Over the years EHCF has successfully sponsored numerous MSS girls. Because MSS works with these girls all year long they can identify and recommend kids that are more likely to make the transition from the inner-city to the Eastern Shore successfully. This year we identified two new referral organizations. A new group called Baltimore Boys Opportunity and Resource Network ([www.baltimoreborn.org](http://www.baltimoreborn.org)) which is similar to MSS but focuses on high potential at risk boys and the SEED School ([www.seedschooldc.org](http://www.seedschooldc.org)) in Washington, DC which is a successful charter school.

While all of these new applications mean more work for the Selection Committee, they also result in more success for the Campership Fund. A former camper or counselor from Echo Hill knows what type of personality is likely to succeed in the rustic camp environment. The applications are also much more detailed than before with most applicants submitting at least one recommendation and some going on for pages. Therefore, the Selection Committee has more information to work with and that has resulted in Camperships for kids who are more likely to excel.

## 2010 CAMBERSHIP UPDATE

### A Year the Selection Committee Will Never Forget

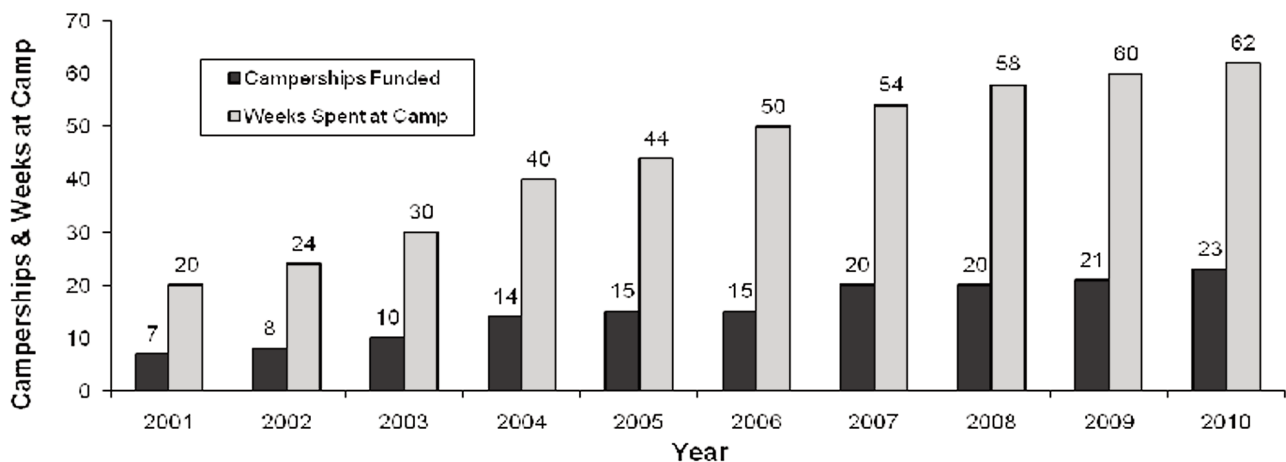
The Campership Fund has steadily increased the number of kids we sponsor and the total number of weeks at camp for a decade - and this year was no different. The number of Campership kids went from 21 to 23 and their weeks at camp increased from 60 to 62. The difference this year was that the Selection Committee had a lot more work.

Over the last few years EHCF has averaged somewhere between five and ten applications for two to five new spots. It's never easy deciding between the incredibly deserving applicants but 2010 took the challenge to a whole new level. This year the Campership Fund received twenty one applications for five new spaces and many of our eighteen returning campers wanted to increase their stay from two weeks to four.

### A Decade of Success

The "aughts" were a transformational decade for the Echo Hill Campership Fund. The organization has more than tripled its impact as measured by the number of kids supported (7 to 23) and the total number of weeks spent at camp (20 to 62). Thank you again for your support. Without you none of this would be possible.

## Echo Hill Campership Fund Activity



## Summer Fun and Legacy Kids - Keeping it in the Family

If you stay connected with Echo Hill long enough, you start to see some familiar names. This is in part because kids of former campers are now old enough to attend Echo Hill. It is also because of the many marriages between former EH campers.

Songs about summer love are immensely popular with song writers and singers – *Summer Love* (Justin Timberlake), *Summer of Love* (B52s), *Summer Nights* (Olivia Newton John). Or how about *Summer Kisses, Winter Tears* (Elvis Presley) or *Farewell My Summer Love* (Michael Jackson). How many of us had our first serious romance at summer camp? For most, these summer relationships resulted in tragically broken hearts or gradually fading memories. For some lucky few, love prevailed and those summer flings led to I DOs and the next generation of campers. Echo Hill weddings are notorious for being grand reunions.

Some of us got to experience Echo Hill with a family member; a sibling, a cousin or if you were a Rice, Porter, or Jossi, a parent. Evening activities often featured sibling/family teams, sometimes working together and sometimes competing against one another. It was always special to share the “magic” of Echo Hill with someone you saw for the rest of the year.

This past summer, when Kyle was camp nurse, two campers at her table had a parent who attended Echo Hill. All of the Campership Fund board members with kids and grandkids old enough to be campers sent their kids to Echo Hill. When parents who long ago attended Echo Hill drop their kids off at camp, you can often see a wistful longing in their eyes. They are probably wondering if their children will have the wonderful experiences they remember. (Our advice – if you want to come back as an adult – go to nursing school.)

It speaks highly of the Echo Hill camp experience that so many former campers want their children to share their experiences. Some things have changed over the years at Echo Hill - the addition of a hot tub and flat screen TV in the nurse's office, steak and lobster night in the dining hall, Peter Rice (the elder) calling activities, dell being moved. But for the most part, our kids, and probably grandkids, will find things about the same.

A recent Facebook thread was the inspiration for

## The Kids...

Last year we debuted a new column, “The Kids,” to give you a more personal understanding of who your donations support. The segment received such positive feedback that we decided to turn it into an annual feature.

This year’s subject is one of our many compelling new applicants. This ten year old boy has been through more in the last few years than many of us will endure in a lifetime. Home schooled from his DC apartment, he lived a relatively normal life until three years ago when his brother was born prematurely. Afterwards his mom, who was his teacher and best friend, spent weeks in the NICU.

In January of 2008, his father suffered a massive brain hemorrhage, leaving him hospitalized for seven months. Thankfully, he survived, but it left him disabled and in a wheelchair. This devastated the family’s financial situation. Since his mother homeschools the children, the family survives on disability payments. Yet the financial impact pales in comparison to watching his father’s struggle.

Eight months later, our camper was in a serious car accident. His femur was broken in three places and he, too, endured a wheelchair, plus a leg brace and months of physical therapy. But now, he is better. He is back to playing basketball and soccer and was selected for a two week Campership this summer.

Not surprisingly, he excelled at Echo Hill. Annalieke and Penny said he fit in perfectly. When we contacted his mother about this article she told us he repeatedly says Echo Hill is “the best camp ever” and that he’s asking if “he can stay for a month next summer.”

With your help, we’ll try to let him do just that.

this article. **Dara Sicherman** (wife of **Philip Graham**, mother to Arla and Rosa) posted the Echo Hill couples she knew who had children together. Just from her immediate circle of friends she came up with 19 kids. These include **Lauren** and **Brad Sinrod**, **Lucy Fox** and **Jay Sinrod**, **Mary (Helms)** and **Ben Noble**, **TW Dutton** and **Irit Altman**, **Liam Gilbert** and **Celeste Gould**, **Sarah (Tomlin)** and **Derek Bupp**, **Sam** and **Rachel (Skolnic) Cogen**, and **Emily (Ignat)** and **Marc Porter**. **Pete** and **Libby** met at Echo Hill, so there are three more! Not to mention the other “generations” of campers (**Bob** and **Suzi Creamer**...).

As you drive into Echo Hill, the familiar sign ends with “Echo Hill - A Summer Place.” Perhaps it should say “Echo Hill - A Family Place.”

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# HAVE YOU HEARD ...?

## HAVE YOU HEARD!?

Another year in the books for the Campership Fund, and what a year it has been! 2010 may well have set records in 2nd and 3rd generation campers, future campers born, weddings, engagements, and of course EHC alumni hook ups in the usual spots (Betterton, Brooklyn, Friendship Heights...)

### Sad

Before we get to all the good news and juicy gossip, the Campership Fund feels obligated to inform you, our loyal alumni, of some very sad news – a true loss to the Echo Hill Community. The Still Pond Store is no longer with us. The news is sad but true. In early fall the Still Pond Store met its fiery demise. Please join all former counselors in mourning as we ponder where to purchase soft drinks to make it through the long hot Eastern Shore summers. When reached for comment, Belle (Keller) Hornblower said "...but most of all, I am going to really miss the pickled pigs feet."

### Announcements

On a much happier note, both, yes BOTH, **Katie** and **Julie Rice** are planning their weddings for 2011! Katie is looking forward to a winter wedding to Capt. Nick Mouldsdale and Julie is looking forward to a fall wedding to Mr. Brent Blyman. Family and friends are looking forward to a lot of traditions and tears, respectively.

More on the "They're getting married?? How old am I?" trend; **Eliza Derek** was recently engaged to **Adam Robinson**. The happy couple recently christened a new house in Washington DC. Also of the famed CA Summer of 1998; **Dr. Harris Finesod** recently proposed to **Emily Licht** of Philadelphia – she said yes. Harris and Emily are living in San Francisco where Harris is finishing a PhD in literature at Stanford and Emily is working as an architect. No word whether the couple has future plans to erect the "Still Pond Library" in the space once occupied by the Still Pond Store.

The Campership Fund's own **Peter Boyd** announced his engagement to his sweetheart Christine Bohle this summer on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay. There was not a dry eye on the beach when Peter, a man who loves public speaking, made the announcement. There to witness the big event were **Marc, Emily (Ignat), Nora,** and Vivian Porter (all the way from Burma!); **Hazen, Stacy,** Quinn and Wyatt Arnold; **Mike,** Liliya and Nicholas **Grossman;** **Matt Concannon,** and **Jordan Chasnoff**. Peter proposed to Christine during a sunset sail on the bay the previous Thursday and then, the vigilant planner that he is, asked Christine if she'd keep the ring in her pocket until the big announcement over the weekend. Way to go Peter!

**Kim Klein Weichert** was recently engaged to Scott Kushel and will be walking down the aisle about the time this Newsletter goes to print.

### Weddings

2010 also saw its fair share of wedding bells for EHCers. **Svenny (Steven) Green** was married in Long Island on September 5 to Marissa Matrone (Law & Order, ER, Will & Grace, Maid in Manhattan, The Sopranos...) The beautiful beach wedding was well represented by Echo Hill; **David Greene, Eric Greene, Mike Poulshock, Sallie (Garfield) Parks,** and **Maris (Morelli) Leo** were all in attendance.

The **Garfields** had some celebrating of their own earlier in the year when **Sallie** married Nathaniel Parks in Philadelphia. **Jamie Garfield** was Sallie's Maid of Honor and fellow CA 'Divas' of 1998 **Maris (Morelli) Leo, Eliza Derek,** and **Nika Williams** helped Sallie walk down the aisle.

**Bo Boozer** recently married the lovely Elizabeth Reese in Baltimore. We don't yet know which of the two Baltimore attorneys wears the pants in the family – but we do know the pants are the same color.

### Babies

Peter Rice's business seems to be in good shape for the next 16 years as we can add "making babies" to the long list of skills that run in common among Echo Hill Counselors.

- **Greg and Michelle Porter** welcomed their son, Colin Leung Porter on October 14th. He weighed 6 lbs 13 oz and was 20 inches.

- **Jacqueline (Viess) Sornstein** and husband Fred welcomed daughter Sarah who joins big sister Hannah, age three.

- **Jen (Stephenson) Mathews** and husband Jeff welcomed twin girls Mollie and Jillian. They have a big brother Spencer age two.

- **Rob and Rosie Rosenberg** had a baby girl Gabriella and they have a son Roman.

- **Matt Lowy** and his wife welcomed Siena Blon Dudik-Lowy to the EHC family on October 12. Their son Xavier is two.

- **Dara Sicherman** and **Philip Graham** are expecting a baby boy this year. They have 2 girls Arla and Rosa.

- **Christine (Lusk) Jones** and David had a daughter Fiona, and are now overseas for the State Department.

- **Katharine Hope** and husband Sebastian Gordon are expecting their first baby in early 2011.

- Finally, EHC's own **Mike** and Liliya **Grossman** are expecting their second baby to join big brother Nicholas.

### News and Notes

**Eliot Ballard** scuba dives all day in St. Croix. **Jared Feldman** and **Dan Fuerst** started a gang known as "The Plaid is Back Mafia" that runs Williamsburg Brooklyn. **Kate Steele, Chucky Robertson** and **Bo Jangles** recently relocated to Arlington VA and are living the "Golden Year." Also in Washington DC is **Julia King** who is teaching for DCPS after receiving the very prestigious Teach for America, Sue Lehmann Excellence in Teaching Award. **Noah Chasnoff** recently moved to Baltimore after completing his degree in Advanced Woods Hikes at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Noah is living with **Ryan Flannigan** in the Charm City.

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# HAVE YOU HEARD?!...

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Not everyone is migrating east. **Cissy Fenwick** is in Los Angelis where she is acting and is on-again / off-again with **Alex Ovechkin**. **Chris Atkinson** lives in New Orleans where he claims to be an underwater archeologist, but let's be honest... **Eli Schewel** has left the East Coast for the "Big House." Not that Big House... Eli is pursuing a graduate degree in public policy at the University of Michigan. Like Eli, **Michael Boyd** is continuing his education at American University where he is in his second year of Architecture School. **Suzanne Bunness** has bucked the continuing education trend and has become one of Scotland's hottest young entrepreneurs. While her new venture is off to a great start, Fire Cloud was neglected a bit this summer as Suzanne hosted **Jordan Chasnoff** in Scotland then made a trip to the Eastern Shore to relive old times with pals **Ronna Gradus**, **Cary Robertson**, **Glenna MacGregor**, and **Katherine Hope** (trouble).

Last, but certainly not least, the EHCF would like to extend a big salute to **Alex Sayada** who finished boot camp this summer. After graduating from American University he plans to go to Officer Training School with the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fi, Alex!

## THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS STORY

... And one we hope to repeat! This is the first time EHCF has had more than one Campership Fund recipient asked to be a counselor in a single year. In the beginning we only sent a few kids every year, so the likelihood one of our CAs would be selected was slim. But with your help, our increased number of kids means there is almost always one or two CA's eligible to become counselors. And now our strong referral network and screening organizations help the Selection Committee identify the ones likely to excel in the Echo Hill environment. The Board hopes that as we grow and improve our processes, more of our recipients will go on to become counselors.

## FACEBOOK ROCKS!

As you know, EHCF is building a rainy day fund to provide stability to the organization as well as vision on our future. To keep that fund growing we need to raise the money necessary to send our current crop of campers back, the following year, without touching our rainy day fund. Because this was a down year, donation-wise, we spent the month of October working hard to fund next year's campers.

That's where Facebook came in. EHCF shared our situation with our Facebook community, and you responded, big time. 60 people donated Online over 20 days, raising \$6,300.00! It was our first FB effort and we were overjoyed with the support provided. Coupled with our offline efforts, our Facebook friends finished the job, ensuring the return of all of our campers without tapping into the rainy day fund. EHCF's FB community rocks! Thanks!

## PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: EHCF

And return it with this coupon to:

EHCF  
 PO Box 5923  
 Bethesda, Maryland 20824 - 5923

## GIVE ON-LINE!

For your convenience there is a secure donation page on the website.

I / We have enclosed a donation of  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory / Honor of (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



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**ECHO HILL CAMPSHIP FUND**  
 PO Box 5923  
 BETHESDA, MD 20824-5923

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**Do we have your current email address?**  
 Keep in touch with the Echo Hill  
 Community through EHCF!

Overheard from a donor ...  
*“EHCF is my favorite charity. My deep personal connection with the administrators, the other members, and especially to the joyful life experience that the kids will have at Echo Hill makes contributing immensely gratifying. After I send the check, I breath a little easier and my heart feels a little softer; its good.”*