

# News From Echo Hill Campership Fund

FALL / WINTER 2014

**VOLUME XXVI** 

#### LETTER FROM THE BOARD ....

Welcome to the latest edition of the Echo Hill Campership Fund Newsletter! As Thanksgiving approaches, we at EHCF have many things to be thankful for: another banner year for fundraising, a generous matching grant from a benevolent anonymous source, kind-hearted contributors who opened their homes for us to show our appreciation to local EHCF donors, and a new addition to our board (welcome Sam Cogen!). Of course, the most gratifying news is that we were again able to send so many deserving children to Echo Hill this year, thanks to your generous donations.

Our Matching Fund Campaign was a HUGE success! We started with a grant of \$20,000 from an anonymous donor to whom we will be forever grateful. The response was fantastic! As the end of October neared, anxious donors scrambled to get their contributions in before the cut-off date. Enthusiasm was SO great, in fact, that we ended up having to solicit other sources for more matching funds. In the end, including the matching funds, we reveived more than \$84,000! This will allow us to extend more of our returning campers from 2-week to 4-week sessions, and to offer camperships to new applicants longing to experience summer camp. We can also now move a small portion to a reserve fund should we have a fundraising year that is less successful. As with all responsibly managed non-profits, we must plan for the inevitable "rainy day," where our commitment to the population we serve is greater than our cash on hand - although we hope to never encounter such an issue! Since sending our kids back every year is central to our mission, we want to ensure the kids who went to camp this summer can return, regardless of whatever hiccups our fundraising efforts may encounter.

There were several Echo Hill alumni events this year which also happily compelled guests to open their hearts and wallets for EHCF. Our annual crab feast, hosted by former Board Member Mike Grossman and his wife Liliya, was a huge success, with perfect weather, fabulous food and a moon bounce (see pictures on the cover)! Our friends and donors in the New York area were hosted at the home of Jamie Garfield Drew, with the help of Dara Sicherman, for an awesome afternoon in Brooklyn. If you have not yet attended one of these alumni events or if continued on page 4

#### ECHO HILL 100 YEARS OLD!

Did you know Echo Hill was 100 years old? We didn't. But you must have wondered where the hill that echoed was, right? Well, we did. It's certainly not in flat Kent County, Maryland! So, in honor of this momentous occasion we decided to do a little investigative digging, and with the help of several camp historians (including our own beloved Dolly Harris) this is what we found:

Echo Hill Camp was part of one of the first Montessori schools in America!

According to the American Montessori Society web site, "Montessori education debuted in 1907 with Maria Montessori's first school, the Casa dei Bambini, an urban renewal project in a lowincome district of Rome. The school's success resounded throughout Italy, and then around the world in 1909, when Dr. Montessori published The Montessori Method, her landmark book. Teachers everywhere flocked to Dr. Montessori in Rome, eager to learn her miracle method. Within a few years there were Montessori schools on 5 continents. In the United States, the first Montessori school opened in 1911 Scarborough, New York, with others following in rapid succession. Prominent figures, including Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, lent their support, so that by 1916 more than 100 Montessori schools were operating in 22 states." [http://amshq.org]

One pioneering American educator taught by Maria Montessori was a woman named Anna continued on page 3

continued from page 1 ...

### **CAMPERSHIP UPDATE ...**

The Echo Hill Campership Fund had another great summer - 20 kids for 50 weeks of camp, 15 returning and five new. And because of your generous support, the five returning campers who asked for 4-weeks got their wish! Six were CA's, all but one completing their fifth or sixth year. EHCF has always believed that providing a consistent, positive influence on children summer-after-summer has a much greater impact than sending them for just one year. And our CA's were certainly an integral part of camp, with meaningful friendships we are certain they will keep far beyond their final summer at Echo Hill Camp.

Penny Weintraub reported that all the Campership Fund kids were great additions, and we look forward to sending the others back again next summer. But with six kids aging-out, we need new applicants in 2015 to fill their 20 weeks. So, if you have any recommendations of terrific, deserving kids, please let us know at info@ehcf.org.

# MISS HONEY'S KITCHEN

We just had to know! How does Miss Honey make her fried chicken? You know, everybody's favorite, go back for seconds meal? And she actually told us her secret recipe... after a little prodding and some great camp stories!

L: So, what's your favorite thing to cook?

H: Oh, I like making French toast. You know, when I first started working here and they had French toast on the menu, I said "Woah! I gotta make it for all those kids?" And Bob Creamer, he always help me in the kitchen. And he said "Aw, just get the pancake mix out." He would make his out of pancake mix! And I got so upset seein him make that French toast outta pancake mix. It would taste like a pancake, not like no French toast! But I didn't say nothin. So I used my head and when we had it again I come in extra early and I beat my eggs, like I do at home for my kids, I beat my eggs, put a little vanilla in it and I put cinnamon in it and a little sugar and milk and beat my French toast up like that. It's really good. That's how we got that homemade French toast.

L: And then what? You lay the pieces of bread out on a pan and pour it over them?

H: No, I take a piece at a time.

L: You're kidding me!

H: I take each piece and dip it and lay it on the platter. I work very hard. I have a big bowl, you've seen 'em. Sometimes Pete would come in and help. You dip it in and put it on the grill. Put it on a tray then put it on the grill.

L: You mean like those silver sheet cake trays?

H: A little smaller, put batter on it and lay it on the tray, take the tray over to the grill and grease my grill and then put 'em on.

L: Oh, so it's not baked French toast.

H: I don't like it dried out.

*L*: *Do you do it on the grill, with butter?* 

H: No, with vegetable oil. Butter burns the grill. I never liked cooking with butter on

the grill. ... I like making French toast but I could never keep up with the children. After we cook it, we'd put it on a tray and sprinkle a little powdered sugar on it. But you gotta have that cinnamon and vanilla in it. I made my husband some yesterday morning. It's easy at home. If you have some left you can keep it. You can put it in the refrigerator and use it some other time. I like French toast, not pancakes so much. I never liked stayin on that grill cookin pancakes.

L: But pancakes are easier!

H: Maybe cause I like French toast!

L: But what about your fried chichen?

H: I always say I don't want to do it but I do love doin fried chicken for the kids cause they enjoy it. You remember me telling you I use pancake mix and mix it up together, cause it makes it golden brown? Pancake mix must have things in it, like a little sugar. The texture is real good. And salt and pepper, to me, just wasn't enough flavor, and my mama always used to mix a little pancake mix with the flour. But if you put too much it'll burn so you have to be careful about the proportions. Just put a little bit, mostly flour. In cups, 2 to 1, or maybe one and a half. And I don't use salt and pepper any more. I use that Season All.

L: And when you make fried chicken do you always make mashed potatoes?

H: Yes, made mashed potatoes.

L. Do you do anything special for the mashed potatoes? What's your mashed potato secret?

H: Right now we put butter in it and milk and sour cream. And the kids like lumps. I don't like doin it that way but they like lumps. And the best milk is whole milk. If you put skim milk it's watery.

L: So what else do you serve when you serve the fried chicken?

H: It's always peas. If we don't have peas we'll serve something else ... and gravy.

D: What's your recipe for the gravy?

H: Well I use the essence from the fried chicken. I always fry some on top.

L: Fry some on top?

H: I deep fry the chicken. You know when the chicken brown it leaves a little brown essence in the bottom of the pan with grease. Well, you drain that grease off, you don't use the grease. And that essence you put in a pot.

L: So from ... You have a big fryer and you fry all your chicken and drain the oil off?

H: No, that's the little bit I do in the frying pan.

L: That's what I thought. You fry a bit in the frying pan.

H: Just to get a taste for the gravy. I put it in water. Put water in the pan with the essence and let it boil, then season with salt and pepper. And I got a little thing called chicken base, I might add a little bit of that in too. It's in a little container. It's not powder. It looks just like chicken gravy. It's not boullion cubes.

L: You call it chicken base? Do you use flour too?

H: I mix the flour with water in a bowl and I let the essence with water boil and then I stir it in. Not much. I don't like real thick gravy. And to make it pretty a put a little parsley flakes in it.

D: So I want to know how you make that white sheet cake for birthdays...

But for that recipe and others, you'll have to wait until next time!



Paist, who upon her return from Rome established The First Montessori Boarding and Day School of Philadelphia. From the outset, Mrs. Paist received numerous requests from parents about a summer program, so many in fact that in 1914, just before the outbreak of World War I, she opened a camp in Wycombe, PA, "The Children's Montessori Village." At first, she only had three campers, but by 1920 enrollment swelled to sixty children, along with the size of the campus. In 1917, when the United States entered the war, she purchased an adjacent piece of property known as "Echo Hill," along with a 100 acre farm that included a registered dairy herd. This way, both school and camp were self-sufficient in milk, fresh vegetables and poultry. Eventually, the camp even had its own U.S. Post Office and an operating train station! The combined school and camp operation became known as "Montessori Children's Village."

So what did the first camp look like? An old "Aeroplane Photograph" shows tennis courts, a volleyball court, ponies, basketball courts and a cement swimming area fed by a creek, along with six separate living areas for boys and girls according to age. One of them, with large platform tents, is labeled "Echo Hill Camp for senior boys, 10 to 13 years."

Fast forward through another World War to 1945, when Dolly Harris (still single) arrived on the scene as a counselor. The camp was thriving. Dolly has fond memories of Mrs. Paist, by then quite elderly, and her two sons. She worked five summers there, until the dashing Walter Harris swept her away in marriage on New Years Eve, 1950. Mrs. Paist drove all the way down to Kent County in her Packard for the wedding!

In 1949, Mrs. Paist transferred the camp to Margaret Waser and Helen Calhoun. Since the name "Echo Hill" had long been associated with the camp, Mrs. Waser chose to reorganize the business as "Echo Hill Camp." They operated successfully on the Wycombe campus until 1952. But sometime in 1951-1952, Walter and Dolly Harris (now happily married) placed an ad in the American Camping Association's newsletter that beautiful "Bloomingneck Farm" on the Chesapeake Bay, once the home of Boy Scouts and the Army during the war, was currently available. Entirely by chance, the Wassers and the Calhouns answered the ad, were convinced by Walter's persuasiveness, and moved Echo Hill Camp, now "on the Chesapeake," to its new home.

Fast forward again, this time to 1966, when the Peter Rice Family from Washington D.C. became the new owners. Peter Sr. had run Sidwell Friends Day Camp for many years and wanted to try residential camping. Pete and Pauline, with the help of their sons, Peter Jr. and Terry, ran the camp for several years until Peter Jr. became director. Currently, Peter, Katie, Julie, Peter III, Penny and Annelieke run a vibrant and successful Echo Hill Camp.

And so we arrive at the summer of 2014, when this wonderful ... continued on page 4

IT'S REUNION TIME!!

SAVE THE DATE

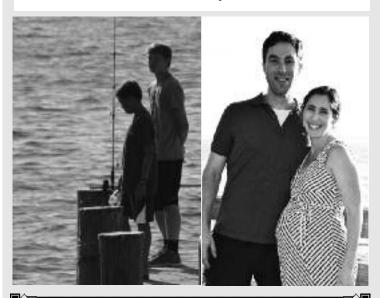
OCTOBER 10-11, 2015

### **CAMPERSHIP PROFILE**

Every season we receive heart wrenching applications from deserving children living unfortunate lives. This year we would like to highlight an eleven year-old sixth grader from downtown Baltimore City. One of three daughters, her mother makes less than \$15,000 a year as a part-time parking garage attendant.

She was described as truly amazing - excelling at school with a positive outlook, while living in the kind of extreme poverty, violence and crime that most of us would find impossible to comprehend. Her father, an innocent bystander, was shot during a violent dispute. He survived, but the experience impacted the entire family. She is regularly exposed to drugs and crime and recently witnessed her neighbor beating his girlfriend and her daughter. These are things that no child should be forced to endure.

Despite these challenges she earned a full scholarship to a local Catholic School and consistently earns all A's in a rigorous curriculum. She also attends after-school programs to learn ballet, jazz and modern dance. She was described by her My Sister's Circle mentor as a terrific, focused, intelligent student, respectful and kind to everyone, who manages to avoid all the middle-school drama. Everyone likes and respects this girl and she was elected to the student council. Now this deserving child attends Echo Hill Camp and has something to look forward to for the next four summers, thanks to you!



#### JOIN THE BOARD?

# Hear ye, hear ye!

Our board is looking for a few good people to volunteer their time, good heart and experience toward our goal of increasing our campership numbers. We are especially interested in volunteers who can help us improve our website and/or create a blog! Please contact Amy Mehlman at <a href="mailto:amy@mehlmaninc.com">amy@mehlmaninc.com</a> if interested.

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD ... continued from page 1

you would like to host your own, please send us a note via our Facebook site (<u>www.facebook.com/echo.fund</u>) or email us at <u>info@ehcf.org</u>. It's a great way to reaquaint with old friends and help new ones!

Again, we want to heartily thank everyone who contributed to EHCF since our last newsletter. Your donations make the dream of summer camp a reality for some very deserving kids. Our Board continues to be 100% volunteer directed and administered. Virtually every dollar you donate is used to send a child to camp. There are very few non-profits that can say this, and we strive to keep it that way. So, if you haven't yet donated this year or if you would like to make an additional donation, please take a moment to visit https://npo.justgive.org/EHCF, our Facebook site or our website at www.ehcf.org.

With great appreciation, The EHCF Board

centennial history gave camp good reason to celebrate. And in true Echo Hill fashion, they held a day long birthday extravaganza on August 7, 2014. It started before anyone got out of bed, with a coveted late wake-up. Joy was definitely in the air as an impromptu dance broke out on the basketball courts – before flag raising. Then they all "circled up" and sang the ever-famous "God has created a new day, silver and green and gold..." with added gusto. Everyone was presented with a purple head band printed with Echo Hill Camp 100 Years, which so intensified the glee that another round of dancing broke out in the Whip before breakfast. A morning of special birthday activities was followed by an outdoor pig roast, live reggae music, Frisbee, Slip N' Slide, a huge, delicious birthday cake with ice cream and a sparkling cider birthday toast, balloons and some fun skits and songs, in particular a group rendition of "I go to Echo Hill so pity me...!" But wait ... there's more ...! Afterwards they had a carnival, complete with a Moon Bounce, counselor Dunk Tank, cotton candy, music and many fun games. Wow! Echo Hill sure knows how to throw a party!

What a fitting celebration for a camp that has given so much to so many – FOR 100 YEARS! If you would like to learn more, look up *Montessori Children's Village of Bucks County Pennsylvania* on Facebook.

Echo Hill in New York City!



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# HAVE YOU HEARD ...?

Weddings & Engagements

Jordan Chasnoff married Megan Lewis at Jimmy & Tracy Stone's Inn at Mitchell house on May 31, 2014. The double-EHC couple's ceremony was officiated by Peter Boyd and included a reading by Katie Rice Moulsdale. Mike Grossman, Michael Boyd, and Noah Chasnoff served as groomsmen.

**Morgan Creamer** & Mike Farah married on September 13, 2014, in a lovely Chestertown ceremony, before jetting off on an exotic honeymoon and moving to Chicago!

**Heather Wagner** married Jeff Torbeck on August 1, 2014.

Caroline Dickson married John Roberts on August 30, 2014. Iliza Bershad married Alan Weitzer on September 6, 2014.

John Andrew McCown peopled the question to Sarah

Ratajczack on July 31, 2014 and she said yes!

Stephanie Protopappas and Anthony Tatum made a big commitment this year... they bought a boat! And, the day after their 1976 Cheoy Lee Luders Ketch arrived, Anthony proposed. Best wishes to the new family!

**New Additions & Expecting** 

Devon Austin Boyd joined **Peter Boyd** & Christine Bohle in San Francisco on February 26.

**Natika (Dannenfelser)** & Patrick Stewart welcomed a new member of their clan this past April—daughter June Evelyn! Big brothers/superheroes Henry and Greer introduced her to fellow next-generation campers this fall at the EHCF crab feast.

After moving to Boston, **Campbell &** Sarah **McLean** also welcomed a third kiddo to their family, son Watts Thayer, born on September 11. Watts joins big sisters Amelia and Molly.

**Jolly Stamat** & Terry Rossio's twin boys made a unique entrance this year— Julian & Paul arrived on separate days, in separate months! Julian was born at 11:59pm April 30, and 3 minutes later Paul was born on May 1 at 12:02am.

Everett Daniel Hart was born on July 20, 2014, clocking in at 7lbs. 8 oz. and 20 inches to proud parents **Christine** and **Preston**.

September was a big month for the **Creamer** family! **Tyler** & Georgie Creamer welcomed son Henry Jones on September 25, 2014. Congrats to first-time grandparents **Bob** & **Suzi Creamer**!

**Cary Robertson** & Brian Burch were joined at 1:26am on April 24 by Charlotte Marie Burch, weighing in at 7.3 pounds.

Sallie (Garfield) & Nathaniel Parks welcomed their first baby, Celia, who was born on March 8, 2014.

Owen Raverby Muller made his grand appearance on September 11, 2014, to happy parents **Hannah Raverby** & Dan Muller.

**Maris (Morelli)** & Chris Leo welcomed their second baby, son Harper, on July 2, 2014, who weighing 9lbs and measuring 21.25" long.

**Belle (Keller)** & Breton Hornblower welcomed baby girl Isla in January

Kiva (Feldman) and Dan Zytnick are excited for Baby Zytnick, who is scheduled to make her appearance in December!

Newlyweds Megan (Lewis) & Jordan Chasnoff have had a

Newlyweds **Megan (Lewis)** & **Jordan Chasnoff** have had a busy year! They moved into a new home in DC, where they will welcome a baby girl in 2015.

### Extra Fun

Welcome home to **Jak Lowenstein**, who returns from his one year deployment with the United States Coast Guard in Bahrain. Meaghan McLaine Vergow recently celebrated her fifth wedding anniversary with husband Josh, who is in the Navy. They

spent a few years in Bahrain with daughters Iris and Louisa and returned last summer to Washington DC. They are happy to be back in the USA! Also on the water, in a different capacity, was **Eddie Lucas**, who served as Bosun aboard *Ohana*, a 153' mega-yacht, while starring in season two of Bravo's reality show Below Deck.

**Bob Gibb** donated a new tractor to camp!

Speaking of new, check out EHC's newly revamped website, www.echohillcamp.com. Also coming soon is a new camp video by EHC alum **Brendon Merrill!** 

**Rob Bralow** is the proud owner of Blue Streak Wines & Spirits in Long Island City, Queens, and he and partners are opening a wine bar in the neighborhood soon. In the best nepotism possible, he is employing fellow EHC-alumni **Maddy Beitz!** Meanwhile, little bro **Mike Bralow** is heading up the office of Fund for the Public Interest in New Brunswick, NJ, where canvasses and fundraises for environmental causes.

**Nikola (Nikki) Jackova**, from the Czech Republic, is now in college but wishes she were still at camp.

Finally, drumroll please... this summer at Echo Hill there were a record 85 campers/staff related to EHC alumni!!

New to camp this past summer:

AJ & Emma Sweeney (kids of Fran (Spino) Sweeney);

Cate Schultz (daughter of Christy Concannon, niece of Matt Concannon);

Hannah Cogen (daughter of Rachel (Skolnik) & Sam Cogen); Rachel Orden (daughter of Michael Orden);

Clover Stamat (daughter of John Stamat, niece of Jolly Stamat); Hope Lauber (niece of Megan Heffernan);

Elle & Kat Reichel Cook (daughters of Stephanie Reichel-Cook);

Molly Honeycutt (daughter of Alison Daigh Honeycutt);

Drew Demshak-Geddes (son of Ann Geddes);

Arla & Rosa Graham (daughters of Dara Sicherman & Philip Graham);

Nella & Emily Bupp (daughters of Sarah (Tomlin) & Derek Bupp);

Sam Schreiber (son of Nancy Kauder Schreiber);

Brian Siegel (son of Carkey (Markim) Siegel);

Teddy Kabler Sarn (son of Lauren Kabler);

Ben Gradus (son of Oren Gradus);

Jenny Flavin (granddaughter of Mary & Bruce Porter);

Annie Jones (niece of Holly Arbuckle Jones);

Ty Wilson (stepson of Sheldon Murray);

Sydney Henry (granddaughter of Kyle Jossi);

Katie Estep (daughter of Liz Humes);

Andrew Basden (nephew of Annelieke (Noordhoek) Walbert).

#### Campers coming back for more this summer:

Dylan Henry (son of Kiersten (Jossi) Henry);

Ellery & Coco Crandall (daughters of Marisa LaDuca Crandall);

Katrina Sporn (daughter of Paul Sporn);

Jake, Mike & Julia Mehlman (kids of Amy Mehlman);

Mariah Fullerton (niece of Penny Weintraub);

Ava Fishman (daughter of Amy Fishman);

Bailey Pike (niece of Chelsea Roukes);

Mia & Meredith Weichert (daughters of Kim Kushel);

Suzie & Patrick Dennin (kids of Nancy Beneman Dennin);

Franny & Emmy Demshak-Geddes (daughters of Ann Geddes);

Camilla Schreiber (daughter of Nancy Kauder Schreiber); Josh & Nick Siegel (sons of Carkey (Markim) Siegel);

Ben Skolnik (son of Adam Skolnik);

# EHCF DONOR LIST

November 2013 - October 2014

#### DONATIONS (\$20,000 and over) Anonymous

#### **DONATIONS (\$10,000 – \$19,999)**

Robert N. Alfandre Foundation

#### DONATIONS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Marcia Reilly

# HAVE YOU HEARD?!...

... from page 5

Austin Cathers (stepson of Jason Payne, nephew of Eric Payne); Peter Ewart (son of Tela Gallagher Mathias);

Liam Kirsch (son of Nick Kirsch);

Camille & Lily Kirsch (daughters of Keats Kirsch);

Grant & Beck Stallworth (kids of Betsy (Uhl) Stallworth);

Bella Fuerst (niece of Dan Fuerst);

Nashelle Murray (granddaughter of Miss Honey);

Julia Lingelbach (daughter of Chrissy (Funderburk)

Lingelbach);

Tori Knight (great-granddaughter of Barbara Schauber);

Claudia Halbreiner (daughter of Nicole (Alfandre) Halbreiner);

Michael and Will Gorman (sons of Patrick Gorman);

Sami and Alex Kramer (niece and nephew of Eric Kramer);

Josh Strauss (son of Ann (Freeman) & Kevin Strauss);

Grace Holmes (daughter of Dawn (Oliver) Holmes);

Mackenzie Clark (niece of Annelieke (Noordhoek) Walbert);

Emma Mae and Erin Regan (nieces of Tracy Regan).

#### And running the show:

Katie, Julie & Petey (kids of Peter & Libby Rice); Warren Chew (son of Vicki Hurdle Chew);

Dane Campbell (son of Jody (Frank) Evans);

Zach Cruz (son of Lisa (Betz) Cruz);

Julia Feldman (sister of Kiva (Feldman) Zytnick & Jared Feldman):

Carl Halbreiner (son of Nicole (Alfandre) Halbreiner);

Joelle Hankin (daughter of John Stamat, niece of Jolly Stamat);

Nick Kirsch, Jr. (son of Nick Kirsch, Sr.);

Oscar Klausner (nephew of Jordan Chasnoff);

Carter MacLeod (daughter of Alan MacLeod):

Jason Noble (son of David Noble);

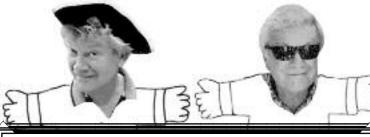
Maddie, Max & Carly O'Beirne (kids of Eileen (Gardner)

O'Beirne):

Parker McCown (son of Andrew and Betsy McCown);

Victoria Higgins (daughter of Tracy Regan);

Sarah Basden (niece of Annelieke (Noordhoek) Walbert). Whew!



## FLAT PETE!

Flat Pete went on some amazing trips, only barely making it back in time for camp. And now he's off again! Follow his adventures on www.facebook.com/echo.fund





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, you can donate securely online at npo.justgive.org/EHCF.		
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Can you help?

Can you find a friend or three to pitch in? How about your family members? 25 bucks? Sure, we'll take it! How about donating the equivalent of a night on the town? Do you own a company? Hit us with your pretax dollars. Maybe the company you work for matches your donations. Join our Facebook page, post your support and ask your friends to do the same. Tweet your support to the world. Donate to EHCF in lieu of a gift. Any way you can help will be returned in karmic currency, which you can't spend, but feels oh-so-good. **Thank you.** 

ECHO HILL CAMPERSHIP FUND PO Box 5923

BETHESDA, MD 20824-5923

Do we have your email address?

Keep in touch with the Echo Hill Community! Email info@ehcf.org!

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