



# Echo Hill Campership Fund Newsletter 2017

**Letter from the board:**

Happy New Year everyone! In a year that has been full of hurricanes, and wildfires both figuratively within the Washington DC Beltway and literally on the West Coast, the one thing that we can all focus on and take solace in is that beacon on the “Echo” Hill. Thank goodness for such a place that our kids can take part in and forget the outside world for a time, and concentrate on camp songs, how to drop a ski and make forever friends.

We at the Echo Hill Campership Fund are so proud to have sent another great group of kids to camp this year. A whopping 21 kids went for 50 weeks and can’t wait to go back! Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication of our donors and your commitment to others that might not be able to experience the joy of the summers that we once had as a child. There is truly no better feeling and we want to thank all of you for your continued support.

We would also like to take the time here to thank long-time Board Member Donna DeMarco for her tireless efforts throughout the years and her dedication to the Echo Hill Campership Fund. She was not only a great strategic mind for the direction of the Board and the Fund, but she was our creative mind and talent when it came to all of the newsletters and mailings that you have seen over the last decade plus. Her care for the organization and the time she put in showed through everything that she did. She will be sorely missed.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the passing of our dear friend, Catherine “Miss Honey” Murray -- provider of amazing meals, morning, noon and night for campers and counselors alike. She will be forever in the hearts and memories of everyone who was able to be a part of the Echo Hill experience with her over the last 45 years.

As you may know, this newsletter serves as our primary fundraising drive for the year. Please take the time to either go on-line at [www.EHCF.org](http://www.EHCF.org) or send in a contribution. We are reliant on your donations and your efforts to spread the word to family and friends who might be able to support us as well.

So many of us have our own unique Echo Hill experiences, either it’s our own or through the eyes of our children. Let’s make that happen for another group of kids next summer.

We thank you for your support,

The Echo Hill Campership Fund Board

<b>Echo Hill Campership Fund</b> <b>PO Box 5923</b> <b>Bethesda MD 20824-5923</b> <b>Campership@EHCF.org</b> <b>www.EHCF.org</b>	<b>Members of the Board:</b> <b>Peter Boyd</b> <b>Rachel Hertz</b> <b>Kiva Zytnick</b>	<b>Amy Mehlman</b> <b>Emily Porter</b> <b>Et Halstead</b>
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# Camperships of 2017!

The Echo Hill Campership Fund sent 21 kids to camp this summer for a total of 50 weeks, all thanks to YOU, our amazing donors who make this possible years after year! 16 of the campers returned from previous summers and reported having fantastic experiences at Echo Hill; one learned how to waterski and hopes to return for four weeks next year. Our new Campers loved their first experience at Echo Hill with one child writing to tell us what a great time he has and that he hopes to return next years too. We are so happy all our new and returning campers are able to experience joy we all felt every summer at Echo Hill, and we look forward to granting this to other new campers next year.

Please continue to help us by donating, and if you know of any deserving children who would benefit from attending Echo Hill, encourage them to email [camperships@ehcg.org](mailto:camperships@ehcg.org) for next summer's application information.



## JOIN THE BOARD?

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. EHCF is entirely run by volunteers and is always interested in adding those passionate about Echo Hill! Please contact Amy Mehlman at [amy@mehlmaninc.com](mailto:amy@mehlmaninc.com) if interested.

# In other news...



## Taking care of business.

What's a summer without a care package?! Some of our Echo Hill staff and campers gathered to put together individual care packages for each of our Campership Fund kids. These were filled with fun toys, tasty snacks and special items to keep the swamp goat away.

Big thanks go out to Nick Siegel, Mike and Julia Mehlman, and Kate Schultz for stepping up to the plate and providing their time for this special treat.

This is something we'd like to do every year so if you're interested in helping please do get in touch with us through the website at [www.EHCF.org](http://www.EHCF.org)

## New Additions to the EHC Family!

Two of the newest Rice family members enjoyed their first summer at Camp this year-- Sammie and Goose, Katie and Petey's 12-week-old rescue puppies! Thanks to sunshine, fresh Bay air, and snacks from the Dining Hall, these furry siblings have already grown to 50+ pounds. They agree that Echo Hill is the awesomest place they've ever played, and they can't wait to see all of their campers again next summer.



## Keeping in touch!

EHCF is looking to step into the 21st century by updating our systems (we're aware this doesn't sound very EHC like!). We're building out our Alumni database and making it easier for the community to contribute and communicate. We'd be very grateful if you could send your Name, Email Address, home address and phone numbers (should you wish) to [info@ehcf.org](mailto:info@ehcf.org).

# Miss Honey - A Rememberance by Peter Rice.

I met Catherine Murray in 1972 when she came out to Echo Hill to apply for a job as head cook. We were both in our twenties and took an instant liking to each other. Little did I know that we would become best friends and that she would become an integral part of my life, my family and my career.

It took her awhile to determine how to cook for 200 children, but when she figured it out, the meals were unsurpassed. In her life she made enough pans of lasagna to cover two football fields, enough bug juice to fill the Chesapeake Bay and enough spaghetti to reach from here to Los Angeles. The popularity of her delicious meals literally made Echo Hill famous.

Honey became an institution at Echo Hill and her fried chicken and Turkey dinners became legend. Her loyalty to the Camp and the School and her caring for children was obvious to all of us. She knew everything that went on at Echo Hill. Her confidants shared coffee and early morning gossip daily. The laughter emanating from the kitchen, the screams when she encountered a snake or a mouse, her yelling "Biddies come at your food," her belting out gospel songs, her cooking Mikey's crabs, dancing behind the serving bar to reggae music or comforting a homesick child. She was best known, however, for "devilin", carrying on and mischief – she was a character who we will always identify with Echo Hill.

I remember in 1973 when Outdoor School was starting up, there was not much money and the first staff agreed to be paid only \$15 per week. Honey believed in what we did and went right along with it and was paid \$15 for her weeks work. I remember once we ran out of propane in the kitchen and couldn't get any delivered in time to cook lunch. Honey started a fire in the fireplace and cooked pans of lasagna so she could feed 150 children.



I remember how Honey put up with years of outrageous adolescent behavior such as nighttime raids on her kitchen, children chasing her with snakes and one morning when she came in to discover that TW and his campers had parked a car in the middle of her dining hall. I remember Betsy and Andrew "devilin" with her and Andrew teasing her because she ran out of peas. I remember having a special Honey Day when we found she had cooked 1.5 million meals. Everyone wore a t-shirt with her photo on the front. Then she went on to make it 3 million before she retired. I remember hundreds of phone calls. Usually every night. Just to say hello or to ask Libby some health questions. I remember her chasing a camp counselor named Boob for fun through the kitchen and finally catching him and giving him a body slam. I remember her holding each of my children Katie, Julie and Petey when they were babies and she was so proud to be Katie's Godmother.



But my best memories of Honey are simple. I would walk up to the dining hall and hear her laughing and carrying on with Miss Frankie, Miss Margie Stouts and Miss Joyce, hear the flies banging against the screen, smell the food cooking, hear screen doors slamming. Then I'd go in and get a huge hug and sit and talk with her over iced tea. Family was all important to Honey. Jonas, Cheryl, Terrence, Sheldon, her grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Cheryl was Honey's rock and constant companion. Terrence lived at home and helped keep her comfortable. Sheldon was always there to help and he actually last week received a phone call from his aunt Louise telling him to make sure the service was done right.



And of course, Honey's sisters Shirley, Hannah and Vanessa loved her and were always there for her and topped off her support group. Penny from camp might as well have been family. She was Honey's compassionate helper, supporter and close friend.



Dr. Benjamin loved Honey and for years took care of her many health problems. When he retired, Dr. Reetz took over and provided Honey with excellent medical care.

Two former staff members are actually writing a book called "Miss Honey's Cookbook". An Excerpt from their manuscript reads:



**Catherine "Honey" Murray**  
March 8, 1944 - June 18, 2017

After Miss Honey revealed her secret fried chicken recipe, she was in a talkative mood, so we prodded her to tell us more. What about the recipe for you mom's pudding?

"That puddin' was so good! You know we didn't have a lot of money and momma always made apple dumplings or something on Sunday. We would pick apples. She would always make homemade pudding. Just milk, corn starch and egg beat up with a little sugar. And she put in lemon extract. We would only have dessert on Sunday. We would look forward to coming home from church and eating."

During the 40 years that Honey worked at Echo Hill, we received thousands of thank you letters from children and adults. Invariably these letters would mention Miss Honey and her delicious food.

When news of her passing was posted on Facebook, Echo Hill was contacted nearly 1000 times on the internet or by phone or texts by people who had somehow been touched by her

Towards the end of her life, all Honey wanted to do was go Home and be with Jonas and that's what she did and that's where she is. At the end of a particularly good meal at Echo Hill, everyone would let honey know how much they appreciated her by singing to her. So, one last time, everyone from Echo Hill stand up and sing "We Love you Honey."

**We love you Honey and will be true when you're not with us we're blue, oh Honey we love you!**

# 2017 Donations List

## **\$10,000 and above**

Anonymous  
Robert N. Alfandre Foundation

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

The Healy Foundation  
Amy and Bruce Mehlman

## **\$2,000 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
Michael and Liza Boyd  
Nicole Alfandre Halbreiner  
Levin Family Foundation  
Emily and Marc Porter

## **\$1000 - \$1,999**

Peter and Christine Boyd  
Anonymous  
Neil and Lisa Brierly (in memory of Tim Brierly)  
Matthew Heller  
Thomas and Dominique Palmer

## **\$500 - \$999**

Pam and Tom Hamilton (in memory of Timothy Hamilton)  
Michael Hastings-Black  
David (Yoni) Hultkrans  
Nick Kirsch (in memory of Kenny Buten & Monkee)  
Nicholas Kronfeld  
Art and Judy Mehlman  
Lee and Susan Stamford (in memory of Blake Stamford)  
Meaghan Vergow

## **\$250 - \$499**

Anonymous  
Ellen Lichtman (in honor of Penny and in memory of her mom)  
Sara Kiesler  
Priscilla Alfandre  
Julia (Lynton) Boelte  
Michale Bralow  
The Bralow Family  
Annie Gaillard  
Daphne (Smith) Gaudet  
Marti Gilbert  
Robert Gordon and Sharon O'Toole Gordon

## **\$250 - \$499**

Tom Mallan  
Barbara Squires and Mark Sissman (in honor of Emma Sissman)  
Renate Welch (in honor of Jamie Welch)  
Kiva and Dan Zytnick

## **Up to \$249**

Anonymous  
Samuel & Elizabeth Ackerman (in memory of Endicott)  
Samuel & Elizabeth Ackerman (in memory of Diego Underhill)  
David and Nancy Balliet  
Corey Bernstein  
Emily Bone (in memory of Sue Weintraub)  
Ronnie Edelman  
Philip Edelstein  
Eisner/Murphy Family  
Francois Furstenberg  
Joshua Gray  
Gay Green  
Rachel Hertz (in memory of Trash)  
Charles and Jane Hahn  
Nicole Alfandre Halbreiner  
Sidney Heimbach (in memory of Claudia Heimbach's mom)  
Macon Jessop (In Memory of Diego Underhill)  
Shelley Kempner  
Amy Kitzen  
Amanda Ladden-Stirling  
Caitlyn Lapham  
Neil and Kate Levine (in memory of Paul Graboff)  
Judy Lichtman (in memory of Joel Gardner)  
Michael Linde

**If you'd like to join this list next year please do head on over to our website [www.EHCF.org](http://www.EHCF.org) to make a contribution. Every single penny helps the cause!**



## Donations List Cont.

### Up to \$249

Don and Kate Picard

Allison Preiss

Ranchito Paraiso

J. Lincoln and Debra Roth (in memory of Pauline Rice)

Stacey Ryan (in memory of Diego Underhill)

Hillery Snyder

Jacqueline (Viess) Sornstein

Brigitte and Frank Sterrett

Susquehanna International Group, LLP

Wendy Via (in memory of Endicott Ackerman)

Allan and Gloria Viess

Marlin Dominguez Visuetti

Christine Washington and Family (in honor of Shana Washington)

William and Miriam Meyer (in memory of Endicott Ackerman)

Patrick and Vicky Murphy

Mike Orden

Paul and Judy Drake (in memory of Cathy Grossman)

Jamie Drew

Lucas Family

Betsy and Andrew McCown (in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Rice, Sr.)

David & Lore Anne McNicol

Brendan Merrill

Francois Furstenberg

Liam Gilbert

