

## Fall 2008



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### Just Girls

The Summer Camp, established in 1986, provides girls from urban and rural communities, living in low-income families and foster homes, with an enriching summer experience. Our campers are encouraged to explore new and challenging activities, allowing them to develop a strong sense of self and trust for others. During the past 23 years, over 5,800 girls have come to The Summer Camp from New York City, Hartford, Boston, Worcester, Providence, Portland, Lewiston and small towns throughout the Northeast including New York and New Jersey. In 2008, we worked with 71 social service agencies and school counselors to recruit 340 Summer Campers.

The Summer Camp receives funding from individuals, foundations and corporations and is proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association.



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*Executive Director*



*Providing Low-Income And Foster Girls With An Enriching Summer Experience*

### Greetings From Tracy's Desk:

Fall 2008

From my view of autumn in New England, memories of the not-so-distant summer months come back to me with heartwarming ease. This summer we allied with 71 social service agencies through out Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island, to nourish the spirits of 340 girls of limited opportunity. At our rural site in Washington, Maine, the girls were able to interact and play as children while experiencing the social and emotional benefits of residential summer camp.

As a result of an unusually wet summer, activities like dance and drama became fast favorites. When the weather permitted, the girls and staff were eager to enjoy the sun while kayaking, canoeing and swimming. Luckily, the sun broke through for our traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout and day of carnival games put on by the Leadership girls. Another beautiful Maine day brought us the annual Strawberry Festival, where our girls joined the residents of Washington, Maine to sample all things strawberry.

*Continued on page 2*

### Peggy's Message:

This past summer a record breaking 340 campers attended The Summer Camp. We were able to accommodate the additional girls thanks to the generosity of our donors and their willingness to provide financial support in excess of 10% over the annual dollars we raised in 2007. At The Summer Camp, every dollar raised is significant. Every dollar spent is carefully considered. In summer 2008, thanks to an effective operating model, we saw no significant increases to our expenses. This is especially impressive when you consider the high costs of gasoline and certain food products. On behalf of the Board, we thank Tracy for her diligence and extraordinary leadership and we thank our wonderful donors for their tremendous financial support and continued commitment to The Summer Camp and its mission.

*Continued on page 2*



### What's Inside...

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Wish List</i>              | 3 |
| <i>Alumnae Updates</i>        | 3 |
| <i>Project Back to School</i> | 3 |
| <i>Board of Directors</i>     | 4 |
| <i>Mission Statement</i>      | 4 |

**Tracy's Desk continued...**

The soggy weather continued into our Hiking and Canoeing session, and extreme flooding demanded changes to our travel itinerary. Instead of the traditional three-day canoe trip down the Saco River, our campers ventured north to Lily Bay State Park in Greenville, Maine. The girls enjoyed the change of scenery, not to mention the sunny breaks in the clouds.

The young women on our staff were caring and competent; five of whom were former TSC campers. They in particular brought an enthusiasm and love of camp that amplified a unique, touching insight into the lives and minds of our girls. This summer we saw diversity on all levels. Our staff and campers thrived in this community of differences and it was more rewarding than ever to see the smiles and laughter as lifelong friendships formed.

The Summer Camp is able to continue its mission of providing a safe and nurturing environment for girls less fortunate thanks to your continued support. As a direct result of your contribution, hundreds of girls each summer are given the opportunity to expand their personal boundaries while spending time in a safe environment surrounded by inspiring role models. Thank you so much for your support!

Warmly,

*Tracy*

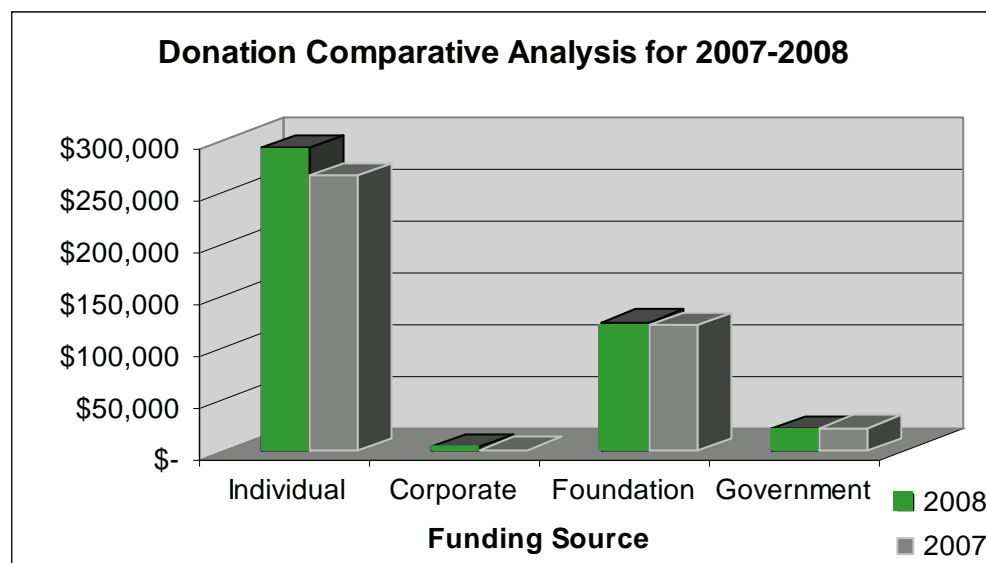
**Peggy's Message continued...**

This past year we saw a noticeable increase in the number of referring agencies and camper requests. The number of agencies we worked with jumped from 62 to 71 and the number of campers who attended one of our five sessions rose by 5%. We were fortunate that we could say "yes" and enable these additional girls an opportunity to attend camp and a reprieve from the stresses and routine of their daily lives. But what lies ahead?

As economic uncertainty dominates our national headlines, we anticipate that requests for camperships will grow exponentially. More than ever The Summer Camp needs to be positioned so that we can say "yes" with confidence and continue meeting our growing demands. We understand that you, our donors, are also affected and may feel squeezed by the current economic conditions. We hope that despite difficult times, you will keep The Summer Camp among your charitable choices and support us as best that you can. **Our campers rely on you and we thank you in advance for your continued generous donations.**

Warmly,

*Peggy*



**Alumnae Updates...**

*"My granddaughter Becky still talks glowingly about you & The Summer Camp. It's my pleasure to help, even a little bit.  
Regards, Ruth*

*P.S. Becky is graduating from law school in May-to do child advocacy work not corporate law. I'm so proud"*

*"Thank you for your card and graduation congratulations-I appreciate it. It's nice to hear from you. I just heard from Jennifer, my fellow camp bunkmate (She is also graduating from college. She goes to school in NY). Take care and good luck with The Summer Camp.  
Cheers, Jean"*

*"Every summer comes up and I have to stop what I'm doing and think about the wonderful times I had with the girls at camp. I am currently working in Non Profit Management in Louisiana and have the flexibility to do things with my summers. I would love to work with the Summer Camp in some capacity next summer. I just wanted to say hello and let you know what a huge impact camp had on my life." ~ Kori*



**2009 Wish List**

- CURRENT DIGITAL CAMERAS
- (5) 4 PERSON TENTS
- 20 QUART STANDING MIXER
- \$.42 STAMPS
- \$.27 STAMPS
- WHITE 8 1/2 X11 COPY PAPER
- ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BOARD GAMES
- FABRIC/SEWING SUPPLIES
- KNITTING SUPPLIES
- TOILETRIES
- HAND SANITIZER GEL
- FIRST AID SUPPLIES
- PAPER GOODS
- BATTERIES
- FLASHLIGHTS
- TOWELS
- SWEATSHIRTS
- NEW BACKPACKS
- PENCILS
- PENS
- RULERS
- ERASERS
- CRAYONS
- COLORED PENCILS
- WASHABLE MARKERS
- GLUE STICKS
- LEARNING ACTIVITY BOOKS
- \*We are always in need of new bathing suits, stuffed animals, etc. for our Belle Bucks Boutique\***

**PROJECT BACK TO SCHOOL...A SUCCESS!!**

Last fall, we asked for your help collecting school supplies to be distributed to each of our campers. Through the outpouring of support, we provided each of our 340 Summer Campers with a new backpack overflowing with goodies! After ten days at camp, each girl went home with:

- A new backpack
- A quilt (A gift from Project Linus)
- A book (A gift from The Patrina Foundation)
- An array of items from TSC Boutique

Thank you so much for your hard work in collecting these items. The girls LOVED their surprises and will truly benefit from them in their homes and schools. **THANK YOU!!**

Please help us provide school supplies to girls in-need again in 2009. Through out the year we will be collecting backpacks and school supplies to distribute to our more than 330 campers. Thank you in advance for your donation of a new or slightly used backpack and unopened school supplies.

*"Thank you for my blanket. I sleep with it every night." Cailey,*