



# A Summer of Fun, Tools for Life

NOVEMBER 2022

## President's letter

Dear Friends,

Thanks to our many friends and supporters, 203 girls joined us this summer for our second year at our new site in Readfield, Maine! With health protocols in place, we returned to our traditional pre-COVID schedule of four 10-day sessions and one 13-day Hiking and Canoeing session. Off-site visits, tours and activities for campers returned as well. I am happy to report that The Summer Camp remained COVID-free the entire season!

Returning campers quickly noticed the upgrades at our Readfield site. These included a new sleeping bunk, a screened-in porch and second bathroom in the health center, a lean-to behind the arts and crafts cabin to house the pottery kiln and a beautiful hard court near the land sports field. Campers raved about the additions, especially the new cabin and hard court.

As we continue to navigate the return to pre-pandemic camp life, the effects of the health crisis remain prominent. In the past, we have worked with nearly 100 social service agencies and school counselors for camper referrals. In 2021, only 47 percent of these partnerships were active due to staffing turnover and in many cases, agency closures. We are currently seeking new agency and school partners.

On behalf of the entire TSC Board of Directors, I thank you for your unwavering support, particularly over the past two years. Our campers face uncertainty daily and your generosity ensures that the summer home they rely on and look forward to remains available to them year after year.

Larissa, a camper since age five, (and now a counselor!) shared what camp means to her:

*"The Summer Camp is my home. When I was little, I loved camp because I knew I would be with friends. I wouldn't have to worry about food or anything else. I know I could make more money working somewhere else, but camp is my home and where I feel at peace. That, for me right now, is what I need."*

Thank you for providing a safe space for girls like Larissa to recharge summer after summer. Your support means the world to hundreds of girls each year.

Warmly,

Liz Gruber  
President

*"Thank you so much! Ingrid  
cherishes her time at camp and  
all the friendships she makes."  
~2022 Camper Parent*



## From Tracy's Desk

Greetings Friends,

Summer 2022 was fantastic! It was our second summer at the Readfield, Maine site and again, the site facilities and the natural gifts it offered had campers and staff raving! When asked which site the girls prefer, returning campers say they miss the Washington site for nostalgic reasons but love that the Readfield site is more private and "campy," which they like better. Our new, heavily wooded area provides ample protection from the hot summer sun we were fortunate to have all season. The sandy waterfront was a favorite, often covered by a sea of happy girls learning how to swim, testing their balance on paddle boards, or perfecting their paddling skills in kayaks and canoes.

This summer, our camp library was the place to be! On free sign-up days, campers flocked to the library! Lief, a second-year counselor and camper alumna, was the head of the library. A first-year college student with a passion and excitement for learning, Lief created a library atmosphere where all campers wanted to be. Many of our campers read below grade level and have minimal access to academic support outside of the classroom. Lief's activities inspired girls to explore books, even during their free periods!

Our older campers were eager to incorporate our day trips back into our activities. They visited Maine colleges throughout the summer, learning about financial aid, degree programs and the abundance of opportunities available to them. I recently spoke with a TSC Junior Counselor who excitedly shared that as a result of her tour with camp, she applied to and was accepted at one of those colleges!!

I am already looking forward to summer 2023! Staff hiring and activity additions are underway, while site enhancements are complete to welcome the return of pottery. As the camp director, I witness first-hand the impact of The Summer Camp program on the girls it serves and the staff who join us throughout the summer. It is an environment created by hundreds of supporters, donors and volunteers that encourages individuality, acceptance, understanding and a sense of belonging. I extend my sincerest gratitude to you for creating a magical space for girls. Thank you!

Warmly,

*Tracy*

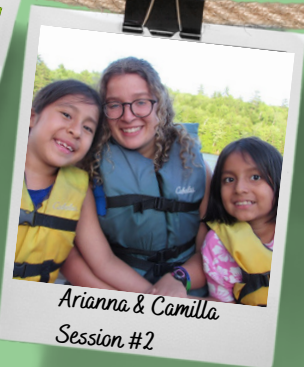
Tracy St. Onge-May  
Executive Director







Maddy & Gabby  
Session #1



Arianna & Camilla  
Session #2



Nyla & Amyah  
Session #3



Andre & Shay  
Session #4



Alicia & Aubrianna  
Session #5

## 2022 Joey Award Winners

What is the "Joey Award"? The Joey Award, created in 2010, is an award presented to two campers each session who exemplify the true meaning of friendship. This award was established by supporter and friend, Donna Himelfarb, as a tribute to her childhood friend "Joey". Donna and Joey met as children at summer camp and remained best friends for life. Like most camp friendships, their relationship expanded beyond camp, writing letters to each other, counting down the days until they reunited at their happiest place on Earth...summer camp.

Friendships are hard to navigate, especially during times of stress and uncertainty. Summer Camp provides a safe and consistent place to meet others facing similar challenges, with the personal support of caring adults available to help guide and encourage positive healthy communication and interactions. At camp, girls are able to be authentic without the social structures they often navigate at school and home. The Joey Award inspires and celebrates the importance of camp friendships!



TSC Adventures







*Photo Credit: TSC Photography program, summer 2001*

### Katie Award: Tribute to a Beautiful Soul, an Achievement Campers Cherish

Katie, circled in blue in the picture above, was a caring and compassionate TSC camp counselor who passed away from a congenital heart defect in the fall of 2001. Katie's positive attitude, illuminating smile, patience, and understanding brought ease and comfort to those around her. The Katie Memorial Award was created and first presented in 2002. At the end of each session, it is presented to one general camper and one leadership camper who share these qualities we treasure about Katie. Campers are nominated by their counselors for this highly sought-after award. When camper alumni share their favorite camp memories, they often mention winning the Katie Award.

"I was a camper when Katie Arsenault was a counselor. She was quiet, kind and had a huge smile. I remember her being very soft-spoken and gentle. She was one of my counselors the last year I was a "regular camper." After she passed, it was the following year I received the Katie Award. At that time, it was a paper certificate and a medal. I still have both in a memory box! It was one of my childhood's fondest memories and most significant achievements. It meant a great deal to me." ~ Ayla, Camper alumna and TSC Nurse



"I won the Katie Award...I was so shocked about that. That's still my favorite award I've EVER won to this day, and of course I still have it! I look at it often and just remember all the amazing things that The Summer Camp has taught me." ~ Jasmine B. TSC Camper from 2009-2012

## TSC Offers College Scholarships?

In 2015, in honor of Tracy's 20th anniversary as the TSC camp director, The Summer Camp created the Tracy St. Onge-May Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a staff member who, throughout the summer, remained reliable, hardworking, flexible, and a positive role model for our campers.

*Right: Liefe, camper alumna and counselor, reads to the campers. Liefe was awarded the TSOM scholarship in 2022! Liefe is in her second year at Middlebury College in Vermont.*



The Amanda Wogaman-Hunt College Scholarship was established in 2022 in memory of our TSC friend, mentor and confidante Amanda, who passed away unexpectedly in September 2021. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a camper attending post-secondary education in the fall. Nominees share the qualities that Amanda possessed and fostered in others. These include being kind to all living things, being an environmental steward and dedicated to personal improvement while helping those around them.

*Above: Jenifher C. from New York was the recipient of the 2022 Amanda Wogaman-Hunt College Scholarship. Jenifher has been a TSC camper for 11 years and is a first year student at the University of San Francisco.*



## TSC Supporters are the BEST!

On November 9th, the Town and Country Federal Credit Union presented The Summer Camp with a \$2,000 grant! Thank you, friends and supporters, who faithfully visited the TCFCU website throughout the month of October to vote for The Summer Camp in the Better Neighbor Fund competition. The tremendous dedication and perseverance of our loyal friends secured this grant to help fund our 2023 camperships.



*Larissa (above right), TSC Camper Alumna and Counselor, joins Jessy, TSC Development and Outreach Coordinator to accept the TCFCU grant.*

## Looking Forward to 2023

Summer will be here before we know it! Collaborations with referral agencies and new partners have already begun, and camper registration will begin in just a few short months. We will serve 300 girls from financially challenged and foster homes throughout urban and rural areas of New York and New England.

Your generosity makes camp possible for girls who'd otherwise not be afforded the experience. Please consider supporting our 2023 programs or camperships. Your contribution is life-changing!

There are many ways to support The Summer Camp program. Scan the QR code on the right or contact Jessy Stacy, Development and Outreach Coordinator at [info@thesummercamp.org](mailto:info@thesummercamp.org) or (207) 647-5278 to learn more!



*"Sage had such a great time!!! Thank you for getting her to step outside of her comfort zone and try something new!!" - Jamie, 2022 Camper Parent*



the summer camp

**Winter Address:**

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(207) 647-5278  
(800) 979-9896  
info@thesummercamp.org

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Readfield, ME 04355  
(207) 685-4407

**Visit us on the web:**

[www.thesummercamp.org](http://www.thesummercamp.org)

**Follow us on social media**😊



The Summer Camp for Girls



thesummercampforgirls



@thesummercamp



The Summer Camp

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Executive Director

Jessy Stacy  
Development &  
Outreach Coordinator

## Our Mission

The Summer Camp is a nonprofit, residential summer camp for inner city and rural girls, ages 7-18, from low-income and foster homes. We provide an inclusive, supportive and safe environment in which campers explore fun, challenging and educational experiences, learn from positive role models, and have the opportunity to build skills for life year after year. We stand against discrimination and celebrate the diversity of our campers and staff. Donor support provides full camperships for each girl every summer.



Exploring...



Nature

at...

