



THE LOON CRIER

CONGRATULATIONS! "WE DID IT AGAIN!": GEORGE PACHECO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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This past year's Reach Out Campaign was a huge success. Thank you to all of our Camping Family for your continued support in providing the gift of Camp to so many of our children and families- your level of generosity and commitment is heart warming. This year we exceeded our \$115,000 goal by \$16,000. Keep in mind these are actual monies raised and received; **Outstanding Work!!! Thank You!!!**

In addition to the \$131,000 raised, we were able to secure another \$13,000 of the \$50,000 matching challenge set forth by the general board of our YMCA. Because of our efforts 163 of our children and 15 families enjoyed the gift of Camp that otherwise could not attend. Likewise, all of our resident and day campers benefited through many enhanced program offerings.

Once again, our camping family leads the way in helping to fulfill the mission of our YMCA.

As we prepare for our 2008 Reach Out Campaign, I ask that you once again join together with the camping staff and board of managers in a long tradition of commitment and dedication to ensuring that each and every child and family have the opportunity to enjoy the quality Camp experience we have to offer regardless of their ability to pay.

For more information on making a Reach Out Pledge, becoming a volunteer, or our matching gift program, please contact our camping office at 603.569.2725 or contact Executive Director George Pacheco at gpacheco@ymcaboston.org.

NEWS FROM THE TODARO LEADERSHIP CENTER (TLC):

In November of 2006 the goal of completing the Todaro Leadership Center was finally realized. The building was built in honor of Nathan Todaro, a long time director of both North Woods and Sandy Island Camps.

Since the TLC opened the Camp has been able to serve the local community, our Camping community, and will eventually serve our Boston community year round in a variety of ways. Everyone that utilizes the new facility continually expresses how comfortable and beautiful the space is.

The Todaro Leadership Center played an integral role this past summer in providing a great atmosphere for our Executive Council (EC) and General Staff Training weeks. The Great Room easily accommodated the whole group and provided a comfortable quiet setting for leadership education.

The Todaro Leadership Center is a beautiful, new venue option for a wedding, corporate or special event. The large room, complete with stone fireplace, has a light, airy and almost refreshing feeling to it from the moment you

walk through the door. Perhaps it is because of the coloring in the light blue walls or better yet, because of the large number of windows that surround the room leading out onto a wrap-around deck that make the room so appealing. I find the property and its staff to be warm and welcoming and definitely one that I can feel confident about recommending to my clients.

Amy Piper – Signature Events, Wolfeboro

The TLC has been utilized for annual dinners for many local groups, baby showers, pot luck suppers, meetings, birthday parties, visual art classes, breakfast groups, and local Chamber of Commerce events. The Center has also served as the meeting place for a local table tennis group as well as the site of the Camp's Breast Cancer Survivor "Pink" Program.

The Pink program was wonderful and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The facility was well suited to the program and offers the communities of Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro a much needed venue for social gatherings. Having no expectations of what the pro-

gram presented, I think everyone was pleasantly surprised how well it ran and what good friendships were formed. Guess that's the true spirit of "camp"! Many, many thanks!!

Pink Program Participant, Tuftonboro

North Woods and Pleasant Valley Summer Camps also benefited from the new building this summer. The Great Room was utilized for check-in, helping to eliminate long lines and congestion in lower Camp. It was also used for the LGT (Lifeguard Training Program), our large screen and LCD projector created a comfortable space for the lifeguard trainees.

We look forward to continuing to serve our communities in a variety of ways thanks to this beautiful new building!





MAKING MEMORIES AT SANDY ISLAND CAMP: LINDA PACHECO

The opportunity to spend quality time at Sandy Island Camp is a gift that is opened and enjoyed each Labor Day Weekend by four deserving families from the Boston-based Julie's Family Learning Program (JFLP), an agency which helps single parents and their children to overcome societal challenges and build strong family bonds. These four families would not be able to experience Sandy were it not for the financial assistance provided through the YMCA of Greater Boston's Reach Out Campaign.

The Molinas of South Boston are one such family that spent Labor Day Weekend 2007 on Sandy Island and were so grateful that they wrote Executive Director of Camping Services George Pacheco a letter expressing their appreciation and describing "one of the most beautiful places we have ever had the chance to enjoy". Mom Mindy, grandmother Julie, Gage (8 yrs.), Jaylene (5 yrs.) and Ella (2 yrs.) all took away different memories. Gage loved playing Capture the Flag, going to the camp store by himself, and participating in the water carnival. Jaylene remembered feeding the ducks, playing on the tire swing and catching her first fish. For little Ella the canoes and paddleboats were the attraction and her most frequently used word during the weekend was "water". Grandmother Julie, who is fearful of deep water, paddled a kayak for the first time. According to Mindy, "the look of pride on her face is a memory that will be with us for the rest of our lives". And finally the experience for all was summed up by Mindy who wrote, "This weekend really provided us with a bond that will never be forgotten."

From the Molinas, the Bains, the Pains and the Riveras and all the JFLP families from summers past and summers future, thank you to the caring folks who contribute each year to the YMCA's Reach Out Campaign. Camp makes memories that would not be possible without your support.

ALUMNI
go to
bostonycamps.org
and sign up for
Camp News!



LAUGHING LOON DAY CAMP: MEG WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

The Laughing Loon Day Camp is the youngest program that the YMCA's Camping Services branch has to offer. It started out by integrating day campers and overnight campers into the same activities. The second summer the numbers grew so that we were big enough to form our own daily activities. This summer was our third and our numbers have continued to grow. Because of generous donations we are now able to offer swimming lessons, boating, archery, low ropes elements, arts and crafts, tennis, hot lunch and more.

The reason we are able to grow so much each year is due in part to the amount of financial support we can provide for campers. Selected families, local and visiting, are utilizing Camperships to get a generous 50% discount off of the regular weekly price. This means that children who might be sitting in front of the T.V. playing video games all summer are given the chance to get out there and enjoy fresh air and exercise. This means campers are making friends and sharpening skills that they may not have known existed. This also means parents can go to work knowing that their most precious possessions are having safe memorable experiences at camp each day.

"My main concern when looking for a day camp was 'would my son enjoy coming here all summer long'. Well that was quickly answered with a yes. I never encountered him saying that he did not want to go to camp...I enjoyed picking him up at the end of the day and seeing him involved in playing around with the other kids and the counselors. When asked how his day was he always answered with enthusiasm and positive feedback. The counselors were very friendly and helpful with any concerns I had. I feel very comfortable in saying that I would recommend Laughing Loon Day Camp. It was a great experience for us!"

-Margaret Enos, Parent.

"The camp counselors were the greatest and we had a lot of fun! The water trampoline, peanut butter pit and S'mores on Fridays were my favorite activities. Thanks for a great summer filled with loads of fun with friends! See you next Summer."

-Your friend Masie Ross, Parent

"Laughing Loon is one of the BEST camps I've been to and I can't wait to go back next year. They taught me to work out my differences. I really liked the ropes course and boating on the lake."

-Robbie Enos, Camper.



PLEASANT VALLEY YMCA CAMP: LIZ YOUNG, DIRECTOR

Camp begins and ends in similar ways, "I miss home! I miss my mom, dad, and have been crying for two days!" Jennifer, Junior Camper. Two weeks later walking away from the final campfire she was crying again. This time because she had to leave Camp, and was counting the days until she could be back at PVC with her friends and her new "second family".

"It's too cold! There are fish and bugs and plants and it's gross! I am not getting in that lake." Nicole, Middler Camper. Nicole was absolutely terrified of the lake, her fear was truly paralyzing. With the hard work of the waterfront staff and some one on one time with our swim instructors Nicole not only overcame her fear, but would jump right in and do a perfect front crawl!

Megan, a Senior Camper, told us that because of her Camp experience she was certain she would be more successful making friends at school, something she said she couldn't do prior to coming to PVC.

The summer of 2007 at Pleasant Valley Camp was a fun filled growth experience for about 500 girls. Every camper would tell you about the incredible successes that she experienced, some of these successes are small steps, some are big steps, and others are like leaping a tall

building in a single bound! But all successes large and small are very important to the growth and maturity of every girl who attends Pleasant Valley Camp.

What are some of the successes of the summer of 2007? For many girls living in a group setting away from home is their greatest success. They overcame fears and anxieties they may have had and learned independence, responsibility, and how to be an important member of a team. For 20 Seniors it was receiving their American Red Cross Lifeguard Training certification. They began their four week program full of self doubt and ended it being confident Lifeguards ready to apply their new leadership skills in many settings. For three cabins each session it was receiving their village's highest cumulative score in cabin clean-up. They worked as a group toward a common goal and had great success. For many girls it was activity related: passing into a higher swim level, getting up on water-skis for the first time, getting a bull's-eye in riflery or archery, riding a horse for the first time, hitting a home run, or doing the zip line on the ropes course. Each put their efforts into developing or improving a skill and experienced success in activities of their

choosing.

Watching campers make new friends and memories that will last a lifetime is far and away the greatest success we experience at PVC. It is particularly rewarding to see campers from a variety of backgrounds come together and build a safe, comfortable, and supportive community.



advice from his new friends on how to best make his bunk and keep his trunk neat for cabin cleanliness inspections. The building of real self confidence - from actual trial, error and eventual achievement - also takes place at Camp.

Tommy had never shot a .22 rifle before. He found a natural proclivity at the range and was soon known as one of the best shots in the Trail Section. He passed his Pro-Marksman and Marksman qualifications in just two weeks!! He put this new found confidence to work at the waterfront, where he wasn't so comfortable, but still managed to improve his swimming level from Minnow to Fish.

NORTH WOODS CAMP: JON HAYCOCK, DIRECTOR

"Gotta finish IM'ing so I can get back to my Play Station. No I don't want any dinner, maybe I'll get some pizza later. Am I spending the weekend with Dad or am I going later in the month? What do you mean we don't have any money for Nintendo Wii?"

Tommy, a sixth grader from a divorced, lower income family was struggling both socially and academically. He was having trouble relating to the world around him, but that was about to change. A successful two-week scholarship to North Woods YMCA Camp has inspired a new outlook on his life.

It can be easy to get into a rut-playing too many video games, eating junk food, avoiding homework, and struggling socially. Tommy was living up to other people's negative expectations, and after awhile it becomes difficult to change when no one believes in you and you do the same thing over and over in the same place. However given the right opportunity in the right place a lot of good can happen.



A fresh start at North Woods YMCA provides the perfect spot for this opportunity. Living with seven other boys teaches you quickly that how you treat others is going to affect how they treat you. Tommy's defense mechanism was exhibited through sarcasm, but this was soon muted as he got sarcasm back. Campers learn how to find their way in a group - sometimes leading and other times following. Tommy convinced his cabin mates to go along with his search plan during a counselor hunt but accepted

Living close to nature, receiving guidance from great counselors, developing deep friendships, and opening up to the possibility of finding your true self are a reality at North Woods YMCA Camp. Camp helped Tommy take his first few steps in growing from a strong young boy to a proud young man and we look forward to his return next summer. Without having had the opportunity to go to Camp there are thousands of men across the country who would not be the successful people they are today, and for this we thank all of our donors.

Camping Services Branch

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Contact Info

As the air gets crisp and cool and the leaves explode into technicolor purples, oranges, and yellows we begin putting all of our Camps to bed and start planning for next summer. The biggest "new venture" for North Woods and Pleasant Valley is the building of better Counselor in Training and Lifeguard Training programs. In September we put together a planning committee composed of a handful of 2007 Counselor in Training and Lifeguard Trainees. We met at Camp, utilizing the Todaro Leadership Center for a weekend of fun, work, and planning. We started off focused on what is currently working and what skills our future leaders feel they most need to learn. As things stand right now they see great value in becoming lifeguards and certified in first aid and CPR. They see a need to grow as role models, learn how to interact with camper parents, and how to best help impact campers in a positive manner. We've realized to have the greatest chance of success the program needs to be multi-year and meet at various times year round to focus on learning new skills and strengthening Camp bonds. We are planning on meeting again as a committee in early winter to look at the next steps to building a successful program. I have been incredibly impressed with the openness and willingness of these dedicated teenagers to contribute something to the generations to come. I look forward too growing with this program and helping build strong leaders with bright futures for Camp and life!



ENROLLMENT UPDATE
FROM
AMY GOODMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER

Winter will soon have us in its grip, but that will not "white out" our memories of a great 2007 Camp season, or deter us from planning and preparing for another awesome summer in 2008. Be sure to get your application cards in at your earliest convenience in order to reserve the dates that best suit your camper and family. We do not want anyone to be left out in the cold.

Registration has been open since October 1, 2007 and is ongoing. We are thrilled to see so many of you registering early. Lifeguard training sessions are filling up fast along with our regular sessions. We wish we had room for every child that registered but unfortunately we have only so many beds. Last year we were unable to accommodate many campers because we were at capacity. Please do not let that happen to you.

You will notice that we have made some changes to the confirmation paperwork. We apologize in advance for the amount of paperwork required, but it is for the well being of your children while meeting state and ACA regulations. We have prefaced the paperwork with a checklist that we hope will make things easier for you with the process. The more complete your paperwork can be the more familiar the staff will be with your camper to assist them with their transition to camp life, and another bonus is your check- in process will be a positive experience...no waiting in line!

We look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing all of you next summer for another great season. Please contact us anytime with questions, suggestions or concerns at 603-569-2725 x222.

Best wishes to all of our campers for a fun and successful school year!

PS If the winter months get dreary and you start to get blue, cuddle up with your 2008 calendar and remember the new friends you made and the good times you had!

www.bostonycamps.org





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Camping Services Branch



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SAVE THE DATES

- Jan. 25-27** **Winter Women's Weekend Retreat– New Year, New You @ TLC** Try out our new winterized overnight accommodations. Enjoy workshops on movement, intentions, and stress relief. Great way to get outdoors and play!
- Jan. 30** **Reach Out Call Night Kick-Off!** Help Camp provide a program that every family can attend regardless of income? We will meet at Caldwell Banker in Wellesley MA at 6-9pm. Please Call Artie Lang at ext 224 for details.
- Feb. 3** **Super Bowl Reach Out Party** Watch the Super Bowl at the Todaro Leadership Center, enjoy traditional munchies, great friends and the chance to watch the game on a HUGE screen!
- May 3** **Camp Open House** 1-4 pm, Tour North Woods, Pleasant Valley or Laughing Loon Day Camp. See the sights, meet the staff, show off your Camp to your friends!
- May 23-25** **Memorial Day Work Weekend** at NW & PVC. We provide meals and lodging, you provide sweat equity...great FREE FAMILY FUN!
- May 31-June 1** **Arts Weekend** Profound opportunity for those people interested in the visual ARTS! Workshops lead by professional artists and craftsmen, Group Rates available!
- Aug. 17-23** **NEW Coed Camp!** This week long program is be very similar to our regular summer camp program, call for details!
- Aug. 17-23** **Family Camp** at NW & PVC Here is your chance to spend a week at Camp w/ the WHOLE family!
- Aug. 29-31** **NW 80th & PVC 40th Anniversary Reunion Weekend** Connect with all your old friends, share what you love with your family, commit your time and energy top this weekend...it will pay great dividends!
- Sept. 19-20** **NEW Family Fitness Retreat** Enjoy camp during the BEAUTIFUL Fall foliage season, enjoy healthy meals and tons of AWESOME activities!

Register ON-LINE for Camp
today...sessions are filling quickly!

Additional information and
REGISTRATION forms can be
found ONLINE at:

Host your next Birthday at
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Packages Available!

www.bostonycamps.org