

DONOR IMPACT

2024

 BRIGADOON
VILLAGE





*"Camp is a place I go to get away from my troubles and have a little break from the world, I also get to feel like a normal kid a bit more."
~ 2024 Brigadoon Camper*

THANKS TO YOU!

- YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE 04
- HIGHLIGHTS 05
- TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS 06
- THANK YOU 08
- MAGIC MAKERS 09
- IT TAKES A VILLAGE 10



GIVING EXTRAORDINARY KIDS A CHANCE TO BE ORDINARY

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

HIGHLIGHTS

Week One

Camp Silly-Yak

Celiac Disease

Summer Leadership Camp

Mixed Conditions

Week Two

Camp Braveheart

Heart Conditions

Camp Lots-a-Wata

Kidney Disease

Camp Trailblazers

Craniofacial Differences

Camp Whatcha Say

Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Week Three

Arthritis Society Canada's Camp Join Together

Juvenile Arthritis

Week Four

Camp Solace

Family Bereavement

Camp BELIEVE

Parental Mental Illness

Week Five

Camp Treasure Chest

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Lung Conditions

Camp Clots-of-Fun

Bleeding Disorders

Week Six

Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtimes

Living with or Beyond Cancer

Week Seven

Camp Guts & Glory

IBD and Ostomies

Week Eight

Camp Brainiac

Neurosurgery Conditions

Camp Carpe Diem

Epilepsy

Camp See-Ya

Blind or Visually Impaired

76
BRIGA-BATTLE
COMPETITIONS

194
DIFFERENT
DIAGNOSES
SUPPORTED

208
WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE
SPINS

224
GIANT
SWINGS

4250
BRILLIANCE
BEADS
GIVEN

805
PAPER PLATE
AWARDS

320
TWUNCH
TWIN LUNCH
OUTFITS

1040
WORMS
N' DIRT
SERVINGS

288
CAMP
FIRE
SONGS

22
FORMER CAMPERS
ON STAFF

68
CAMPERS IN
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

182
NEW CAMPERS

102
CAMPERS IN
MULTIPLE SESSIONS

46
GRADUATING
CAMPER QUILTS

84
CAMP
FIRE
GATHERINGS

200
GOLDEN
TICKET
HUNTS

152
CABIN
EVE
ACTIVITIES

423
POLAR
BEAR DIPS

163
TALENT
SHOW
PERFORMANCES

72
SUNSETS

TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS

1. We host

an evening talent show on the last full day of each camp. Campers get to showcase what is particularly special about them. During the final act of one week, a graduating camper played guitar and sang a song with his counsellor. Just as they started performing their song, it started to rain quite heavily, making it hard to hear them. Folks in the audience were getting wet, and some had left to get rain jackets.

The rain eventually subsided, and we were able to get back outside for the closing campfire. We started the campfire off with another chance for this camper to perform, making sure that everyone had a chance to hear it and share in the moment. He sang and played a wonderful heartfelt song, which was an incredibly touching way to celebrate his years at camp on his last night as a camper.

2. Thank you Manfred Gangl and Alison DeLory

for supporting our revamped overnight site. This campsite in the woods is where older campers get to spend an evening around the campfire, doing fun activities and sleeping-out in tents. Thanks to these improvements, we can now accommodate larger groups so that even more campers can experience this awesome part of camp.

Now, campers have additional space where they feel more comfortable in their sleeping arrangements, making the overnight experience more accessible. This new space provides the opportunity to connect, make great memories and enjoy delicious s'mores!

3. During the first week of summer camp, we hosted our largest camp program yet

with 120 children and youth in the Silly Yak (celiac disease) and Leadership Programs. Having this many campers at camp was truly incredible and made things like mealtimes and gathering for campfires feel really special. All spaces were filled to the brim with campers experiencing the magic of camp.

4. We pride ourselves

on finding ways to adapt programs to allow campers to be successful, have fun, and get the most from the program no matter their needs.

We adapted the music programming for those who are deaf and hard of hearing, offering an inclusive program focusing on the vibrations of music, feeling the baseline in songs, and creating body percussion routines. We also found new and inclusive ways to help campers experiment with musical instruments.

By incorporating the use of supplies that explored and emphasized different textures, we adapted the visual arts program for those who are blind and visually impaired. We also focused on activities like pottery, where campers could shape and feel the impact they were having on the clay.

5. Children and youth living with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's disease, colitis, and similar conditions) have the opportunity to attend Camp Guts & Glory.

Some campers come with ostomies, an artificial opening of their bowel connected to a bag on the outside of their body. This can be quite a challenging experience for a young person, bringing with it feelings of embarrassment and alienation.

This summer, we had a first-time camper living with an ostomy, who had never met someone her own age with one. She was really looking forward to meeting other girls with ostomies and connecting with them. Unfortunately, there were no other female campers in her group who had ostomies.

Luckily, we were able to arrange an opportunity for her to meet another female camper and talk one-on-one about their experiences with ostomies. It was a great moment of connection and was exactly what this camper needed - to ask questions, share her feelings with someone who understood them, and know she isn't alone in her journey.



THANK YOU

TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS



Hydrostone



MAGIC MAKERS

Linden Hardie
GRIEF GROUP COORDINATOR

Before joining Brigadoon Village as Camp Solace's Grief Group Coordinator, I worked as a social worker with Hospice Halifax. While much of my work dealt with supporting adults and their families, I found working with children especially rewarding so was excited when I was presented with the opportunity to help support kids at Brigadoon.

Camp Solace is a week-long camp for kids from eight through 17 who have experienced the loss of someone in their immediate family. In addition to Brigadoon's usual fun and games, campers gather for an hour four times during their week. Here, kids of similar ages gather to work through their grief through special programming. By participating in theme-based activities, art, and movement, campers learn how to name the feelings they're experiencing, how to adapt to their life changes, and how to move forward while honouring their loved ones.

Children and youth who attend Camp Solace find tremendous connection with their peers. Mid-week, the campers come together for the Cairn Ceremony, an open forum where campers come together to memorialize their loved ones. For some, this can mean standing up and sharing a reflection with the group and for others, laying a stone in memory of their family member is how they more quietly take part in the ceremony.

It is such a privilege to witness the evolution of a camper's grief through this week of camp, and over the years that they come to Brigadoon. Our aim is to provide campers with skills and tools that will help them throughout the year. However, we know that grieving is complex, and campers may need ongoing support. Recognizing this, our Grief team is working on ways to make resources available for campers and caregivers after they leave Camp Solace.



MAGIC MAKERS

Sarah Bradbury
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

From the moment I first arrived at Brigadoon Village as a camper nine years ago, my life was changed.

At Brigadoon, I found a place where I felt safe and comfortable, and where my confidence could grow. I spent five summers at Camp Treasure Chest. When my time came to graduate from camp, I was thrilled to have opportunities to continue to experience and make magic here.

After completing our Junior Counsellor program, I spent two summers as a Counsellor and Program Staff before becoming a Program Coordinator (PC). PCs oversee the development and implementation of programs and resources, and support other staff. I'm currently Program Coordinator for Music and Drama.

Growing up, music was a huge part of my life. Over the years I have played piano, flute, bassoon, and ukulele. With the busyness of university studies and life, it had been a while since I had picked up an instrument. My role has allowed me to fall back in love with music, and to share this love with campers. For me, music has brought me community and helped show me who I am. In that way, it's given me a lot of the same gifts that Brigadoon helps kids develop.

Music is the mirror I look into and see myself reflected back, and I'm always happy with what I see on the other side. This is what I hope campers take away from our programming. I hope that through teamwork, greater independence, and learning to embrace their uniqueness they will have their mirror moments and be proud of who they are.

PAPER PLATE AWARDS

Celebrating what makes a camper special

Paper Plate Awards have been around since the beginning of Brigadoon!

At the end of each week, campers receive a paper plate which has been specially decorated. Each of them is tailored to recognize what is fantastic about this particular camper, or highlights something they've accomplished during their time at Brigadoon. On the front, the catchy (often rhyming, alliterative, or silly) title summarizes what staff want to celebrate about this camper. On the back, a longer message tells the camper what we want them to remember about themselves and their time at camp.

These treasured awards go home with our campers as a keepsake.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Ocean Contractors Ltd. Platinum Sponsor, Camp Guts & Glory

We are so grateful that Ocean has been a longtime supporter of Brigadoon. Thanks for being a platinum sponsor of Camp Guts & Glory this year, and for making dreams come true!

*"Everyone should get to experience the world as it is at Brigadoon! It's where **dreams come true** and for a moment everyone is exactly the same, yet uniquely themselves! It's a gift like no other!"*
~Parent of Guts & Glory camper

Roger Sinclair Legacy Donor

When you leave a gift in your will to Brigadoon Village, you leave a legacy that makes a lasting impact on children living with chronic illness, and their families.

Roger's connection to Brigadoon dates back to the early 2000's when he was first introduced to our Founder, Dave McKeage. Roger would soon find out how beneficial a camp experience could be for children living with chronic illness, as his daughter, Abigail was diagnosed at the age of 3 with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Abigail attended Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtime, for children living with and beyond cancer. Roger and his family quickly saw what a positive impact camp was having on Abigail.

Roger has been actively involved with Brigadoon, co-chairing our first capital campaign, sitting on our Board of Directors (a few times!) and most recently, sitting on the Shine On! campaign cabinet to raise funds to expand Brigadoon. Throughout, Roger has been a loyal friend, ambassador, and donor to Brigadoon. Thank you, Roger!



TELUS Friendly Future Foundation Camp Solace

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is committed to ensuring that all youth have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances. Each year, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation provides grants to over 500 charities that offer innovative health and education programs, including Brigadoon and Camp Solace. TELUS Friendly Future Foundation through a grant from the TELUS Atlantic Community Board is a proud supporter of Camp Solace to help provide a one-of-a-kind overnight summer camp experience for grieving children and youth who have lost a family member. Together, we're creating an environment where children and youth no longer feel alone, and a safe space to form friendships with peers facing similar challenges.

Thank you, TELUS, for believing in Brigadoon and helping to bring these campers together to support one another.



Meet Christine Bonnell-Eisnor Camper Mom, Board Member, and proud Monthly Donor.

Christine has many reasons for being drawn to Brigadoon Village.

First and foremost, her son has a congenital heart defect and was encouraged to attend Brigadoon's Camp Braveheart when he was 10. Now 19, Ian loved every minute of his time at camp. Brigadoon has made such a positive difference in his life. He was able to experience camp with those who have heart conditions like him, not to mention others who have different health challenges.

"Without realizing it, Ian learned more about himself and his condition through the relationships with fellow campers. He has such special memories, and we see the positive difference Brigadoon has made in his life through his confidence, empathy, independence, and leadership.

Big thanks to Christine and her family for being a part of our Village!



RBC Capital Markets Charity Day for the Kids

Charity Day for the Kids

On Tuesday, June 25th, RBC Capital Markets celebrated a decade of making a difference with the 10th RBC Charity Day for the Kids. RBC Capital Market employees across the world came together to learn about and support youth charities around the globe and select a worthy organization, through an employee vote, in their area.

Since its inception in 2015, RBC Charity Day for the Kids has invested USD\$30.2 million to 140+ charities to power ideas supporting children and youth around the world.

To say that Brigadoon was chosen as one of the charities being supported was exciting. Yet exciting is an understatement! We were welcomed with open arms at the celebration and could feel the light. A donation of \$50K USD (over \$68K CDN) was presented to us to ensure that even more children would have the opportunity to attend one of our specialized camps this past summer.

Thank you, RBC Capital Markets for being part of our Village!



Les & Fred Falconer

Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign

The Smile Cookie Campaign is an inspiring initiative that brings together the community to make a real difference in the lives of children in need. This year, Tim Horton's locations in the Annapolis Valley from Wolfville to Bridgetown donated 100% of proceeds from the Smile Cookie campaign to Brigadoon Village. This funding directly supported camp programs that provide life-altering experiences for the children we serve. Together, through something as simple as a cookie, we are helping to create brighter futures and unforgettable moments for these children.

Thank you Fred and Les. Every cookie makes a difference!



THANK
you!



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