



BRIGADOON
VILLAGE

2025

DONOR IMPACT

CELEBRATING
YOUR GENEROSITY



THANKS TO YOU!

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"Camp means acceptance, happiness, inclusiveness. It's like my second home. I love the humble and honest way we can all just be ourselves."

~ Jordan, Brigadoon Camper

**GIVING
EXTRAORDINARY
KIDS A CHANCE
TO BE ORDINARY**

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE

HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK ONE

Camp Silly-Yak
Celiac Disease

WEEK TWO

Arthritis Society Canada's Camp JoinTogether
Juvenile Arthritis

WEEK THREE

Camp Brainiac
Neurosurgery Conditions
Camp Braveheart
Heart Conditions
Camp Clots-of-Fun
Bleeding Disorders
Camp Scoliosis
Scoliosis

WEEK FOUR

Camp BELIEVE
Parental Mental Illness
Camp Solace
Family Bereavement

WEEK FIVE

Canadian Cancer Society's Camp Goodtimes
Living with or Beyond Cancer

WEEK SIX

Camp Carpe Diem
Epilepsy
Camp See-Ya
Blind or Visually Impaired
Camp Treasure Chest
Asthma, Anaphylaxis,
Lung Conditions

WEEK SEVEN

Camp Lots-a-Wata
Kidney Disease
Camp Trailblazers
Craniofacial Differences
Camp Whatcha Say
Deaf or Hard of Hearing

WEEK EIGHT

Camp Guts & Glory
IBD, Ostomy, Cecostomy
Camp for Kids
with Liver Conditions
Camp Treasure Chest
Asthma, Anaphylaxis,
Lung Conditions

20 FORMER CAMPERS ON STAFF

GIANT SWINGS
2471

41 GRADUATING CAMPER QUILTS

4132 PHOTOS TAKEN

203 NEW CAMPERS

771 CAMPERS 8 WEEKS

4818 BRILLIANCE BEADS GIVEN

207 MAGIC MOMENTS SHARED

54 CAMPERS IN MULTIPLE SESSIONS

56 CAMPERS IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

294 CAMPFIRE SONGS

176 TALENT SHOW PERFORMANCES

947 PAPER PLATE AWARDS

481 POLAR BEAR DIPS

824 SIGNED SHIRTS

483 CANNON BALL JUMPS

82 BRIGA-BATTLE COMPETITIONS

312 WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE SPINS

171 CABIN EVE ACTIVITIES

72 KINDNESS MISSIONS

342 FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS MADE

 "You really don't feel alone because you're surrounded with people who know what its like to live with your condition." ~ Aaliyah Camper

MAGIC MOMENTS

Time and again, we see and hear how transformational the Brigadoon experience is for kids:

A Running Start to Camp Goodtimes

At Brigadoon, campers often form deep bonds with their counsellors after summers of laughter, support, and growth. But this moment stopped everyone in their tracks.

On arrival day at Camp Goodtimes, returning camper Leo spotted his former counsellor Samuel, an international staff member. Without hesitation, he sprinted across the dining hall and leapt into Samuel's arms.

The room fell silent, then burst into laughter. It was pure joy: the kind that comes from being seen, remembered, and reunited with someone who made you feel safe. For Leo, Samuel was more than a counsellor, he was a touchstone.

The Magic of Learning You're Not Alone

Fiona knew what it felt like to be the "new girl". Years ago, she'd arrived at Camp Braveheart with her own heart condition, unsure of what to expect. The weight of being a teenager who feels different, especially when you're just trying to fit in, was something she remembered well.

Now back as a counsellor, she saw that same look on Emma's face: quiet, nervous, clutching her water bottle like a shield. It was her first year, and she needed camp more than she knew.

The first days were tough. The other girls had already formed friend groups. Emma was kind, but on the edges.

Then came night three. Lights low, the cabin finally still. Fiona asked softly, "What's something wish others understood about living with your heart condition?"

Silence. Then one girl spoke, then another: missing school trips, fear in hospitals, trying to explain it all to friends. Finally, Emma shared too: the loneliness, the constant awareness of her body, the fear.

No one spoke right away. Then a hand reached across a bunk, "Me too."

The walls came down.

From that night on, Emma wasn't on the edges anymore. She laughed at breakfast, sang loudly at campfire, jumped into photos like she'd been there forever.

Fiona watched with quiet pride, knowing the magic of camp isn't always loud: it's in the quiet moments when someone feels seen, when shared experience becomes connection, and one night changes everything.

The Power of Connection

Dr. Jeana Macleod is a member of Brigadoon's medical team during Camp Solace, the bereavement camp for kids who've lost a family member. This summer, she shared a story that captured one of those quiet, magical moments Brigadoon is known for.

While passing out nighttime medications, she recognized a camper from two years earlier: someone who had been deeply quiet, withdrawn, hesitant to speak in grief group, and often overwhelmed by emotion. Dr. Jeana paused outside the cabin.

Henry and the Beads Before Bedtime

It was one of those classic Brigadoon cabins — loud, high-energy, and buzzing from sunrise to lights out. These boys were full of energy: racing to activities, cracking jokes at meals, always ready for their next game or silly mission.

But every night, something shifted. As the lights dimmed, the energy softened. Noise gave way to quiet laughter and a ritual that became tradition: bead-giving.

One camper, Henry, who lived with celiac disease (he called himself "Silly Yak," with classic 10-year-old pride), said it best: "It's kind of heartwarming, isn't it?"

And it was. These boys, loud and larger-than-life by day, became gentle with one another

That same camper was now comforting a first-time camper, gently handing her a green "bravery" bead. "I wanted to give you this," she said. "You were really brave in group today. My first year, I was too scared to talk. You're braver than I was."

Later, when a grief counsellor said her group wasn't opening up, Dr. Jeana shared what she'd seen. That small exchange proved how healing takes time, sometimes multiple seasons, and how Brigadoon's community creates space for growth, year after year.

It was a quiet moment, and a powerful reminder of why they keep coming back.



at night, sitting in a circle, beads in hand, offering the kindest, most genuine words.

Things like:

"You helped me today when I was feeling nervous before swimming."

"You made me laugh so hard at lunch I forgot I was homesick."

"You didn't even know I was having a rough day, but you still included me."

It was in these moments that the magic of camp truly revealed itself — not just in the activities or the adventures, but in the small, quiet acts of connection and care.

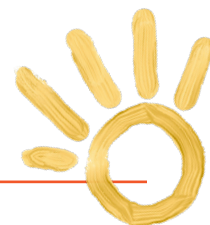
In that cabin, a group of rowdy boys became something more: a little community built on understanding, shared experience, and respect.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

A big Briga-Thanks to our 2025 Summer Camp Sponsors for giving extraordinary kids a chance to be ordinary, creating magic moments that last a lifetime, and showing that it truly takes a village. On behalf of our campers, families, staff, and the entire Briga-Team: thank you for making magic moments possible.

PLATINUM



SILVER



BRONZE



Hydrostone



Community Connections 100 Men Who Care + KW Commercial Advisors:

Last March, Brigadoon participated in the Peter Christie 100 Men Who Care – Bedford gathering where we made a presentation on Brigadoon Village and its impact on hundreds of kids living with chronic illnesses and other life challenges. We were very fortunate to be chosen as their quarterly grant beneficiary and received \$7600 from members to help bring kids to camp. While at the event, one of their members, Paul Pettipas, invited us to come speak to their colleagues at KW Commercial Advisors who were looking to support an organization that aligned with their values. Following our presentation, KW Commercial advisors came on board as a Silver Sponsor for Camp Clots-of-Fun, a camp for children/youth with bleeding disorders. We are so grateful for these types of connections throughout our communities. It really does take a village to make camp happen. Thank you for being part of ours!

*"My daughter has new pep to her step,
new friends and for the first time in a long
time looking forward to life again."*

*~ Joan
Camper Mom*

CAMPER @ SPOTLIGHT

For so many kids like Jenella, living with chronic health conditions and life challenges can be isolating. Having attended Camp Treasure Chest and Camp BELIEVE for four summers, Jenella recalls that her very first week at Brigadoon Village was the first time in her life that she felt surrounded by people who understood what her life was like. "I didn't have to explain myself or feel different for once in my life, it was like everyone just got it. There was a connection and level of comfort and safety I have never experienced anywhere else," she remembers.

As a child with life-threatening allergies and anxiety, Jenella approached many things with hesitation. But that nervousness was quickly replaced by confidence, joy, and belonging.

"By the end of the first week of camp, I honestly felt like a whole new person. **It was like something inside of me was ignited and blossomed.** I found a part of myself I didn't even know was there."

Thinking back on her time at Camp BELIEVE (a week for kids who have a parent or guardian with a mental health condition) and Camp Treasure Chest (Brigadoon's camp for kids living with asthma, anaphylaxis, and lung conditions), Jenella has trouble coming up with her favourite aspects of camp: "To be honest, I love it all. Every single activity and tradition at Brigadoon holds a special place in my heart. I love the mix of being on the go, trying new pursuits, being active, and discovering new things while having moments to relax and just breathe when I need it."

At Brigadoon, we often talk about the life-changing aspects of camp and the important life skills campers develop during their time with us.

For Jenella, one of the greatest tools she built at camp was resilience.

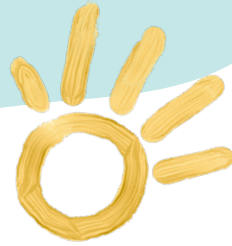
"Before camp, I didn't know what resilience meant. Brigadoon taught me that real resilience isn't always about being strong on the outside. It's about showing up, even when everything in you wants to give up. It's about falling and choosing to get back up again and again. I didn't know that I had that kind of strength in me until Brigadoon helped me find it within myself."

We hear from campers and families again and again how truly transformational their time at Brigadoon is to their lives. For more than 85% of campers, donor support provides the financial assistance needed to provide them with this life-changing experience.

"Brigadoon changed my life for the better. I can now advocate for myself and be more independent. I am more confident. It also gave me even more than lasting friendships. It has given me a family, a community, a home away from home."



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Bird Stairs: Rock The Park

Bird Stairs is committed to strengthening communities where they live and work and selected Brigadoon Village as their charity of choice, committing to match all community donations they

raised up to \$10,000. Through various community fundraisers, including the *Rock The Park* event at Parkside Pub, their efforts raised \$22,708 for us.

"*Rock The Park* was an opportunity for Bird Stairs to come together with our community for a night of music, fun, and giving back. Supporting Brigadoon through this event felt like a natural fit, helping kids experience camp and create lasting memories is something we're proud to stand behind. The success of *Rock The Park* showed us the power of community spirit, and we're grateful that our efforts can help open the door to camp for even more children."



Halifax Lebanese Festival

As the Halifax Lebanese Festival's charity partner, Brigadoon benefited from funds raised during the weekend celebrations of community, culture, food, and music.

Proceeds from festival shirt sales supported Brigadoon's camp programs for children living with health conditions and life challenges. At camp, each child receives a shirt, a symbol of courage, friendship, and belonging. Thanks to this partnership, more campers will get to wear theirs and create life-changing memories.



Halifax Youth Foundation

The Halifax Youth Foundation and Brigadoon Village share a commitment to supporting youth. Brigadoon believes that children and youth with health conditions and other life challenges should have the opportunity to experience the magic of camp and thanks to the support of the Halifax Youth Foundation, we are able to offer our Junior Counsellor Program to more campers than ever before.

The Halifax Youth Foundation has been supporting Brigadoon since our very early days. Thank you for continuing to be such an important part of our village!



CommonWealth Partners

Many thanks to our new friends from CommonWealth Partners for joining us at the Village and supporting campers and their families. Tara-Lynn Byron and Pat Flemming have also encouraged other businesses to get on board to help ensure that no camper is turned away because of financial reasons.

"As a Team, we decided that we wanted to support a charity that really made an impact in our community. When we learned more about Brigadoon, they became our top choice. We have seen the camp in action, and learned first-hand from the campers about the huge impact Brigadoon has played in their lives. We challenge anyone to take a walk through the camp and not come away moved to tears and deeply touched."



Paint The Hydrostone

Cheryl Bell, and her art gallery, 14 Bells, have been cherished friends and supporters of Brigadoon Village for many years.

This September, 37 talented artists brought the Hydrostone neighbourhood to life through plein air painting. Visitors had the unique opportunity to watch these works unfold in real time, creating an atmosphere filled with colour, creativity, and community spirit. Proceeds from the artists' work helped send children to camp.

Thank you to Cheryl, the artists, and the community for your participation and generous support.

IWK Auxiliary

For close to 80 years, the IWK Auxiliary has been a pillar of generosity in our community, dedicated to supporting the health and well-being of children and families. Brigadoon Village is deeply honoured to have been part of their incredible legacy.

Shortly after Brigadoon opened its doors, the Auxiliary made its very first gift to an organization outside of the IWK Health Centre. An extraordinary and historic donation of \$100,000 helped bring the dream of Brigadoon to life, and since then, their steadfast commitment has grown to nearly \$200,000 in total giving.

As the Auxiliary closes this remarkable chapter, we pause with immense gratitude. Their vision and



generosity have left a mark on Brigadoon and the thousands of children living with chronic illness who have been able to experience the magic of camp. We thank the IWK Auxiliary for believing in Brigadoon from the very beginning and for walking alongside us in our journey. Their impact will continue to ripple through every laugh, friendship, and moment of joy at camp for years to come.



THANK you!



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