



CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

reflections

A PUBLICATION FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS

Community Spotlight

Celine, a junior in Camphill Special School's high school program, is described as a "role model for other students" by her teacher. She also is an active member of the Student Council.

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Sharing Life and Learning capital campaign a huge success!

see Page 2 >

TOGETHER, WE DID IT!

By
Guy
Alma

OUR ENTIRE CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY is grateful and proud to announce that hundreds of friends have helped us not only to meet our \$3 million Sharing Life and Learning capital campaign goal, but to exceed it. Gifts received and pledges total nearly \$3.1 million!

Our greatest challenge now is...how can we thank you? We can only

thank you by always deserving the confidence you have placed in us, stewarding your gifts wisely, and continuing to offer opportunities for joyful learning and meaningful lives to children who need us.

Construction of our new student residence and the new Sarah Jane Herman Education and Resource Center is proceeding at a rapid pace

at Beaver Farm, and the buildings will be ready for occupancy later this spring. I look forward to welcoming you to Beaver Farm on June 3 for our Camphill RED BARN BALL (see next page). Mark your calendars now for our official celebration and ribbon cutting on Saturday, September 24, 2011.



The vaulted ceiling in the great room of the residence.



The exterior of the new student residence.



One of several sun-drenched and spacious workshop spaces in The Sarah Jane Herman Education and Resource Center.



The mechanical room in the residence, where equipment for the geothermal heating and cooling system, water filtration, sprinklers, and hot water production resides.



The farm animals simply ignore the constant activity around them.

IS THAT A PIG IN MY MAILBOX?

THAT PIGGY ON OUR SAVE THE DATE CARD forecasts a great celebration...the RED BARN BALL and ProAm Tennis Tournament are around the corner!

Please join us at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 3, at Beaver Farm (hence the piggy!) for the RED BARN BALL. Tour the new Sarah Jane Herman Education and Resource Center and our new student residence and enjoy everything you have come to expect from the Camphill ProAm Ball:

- our effervescent emcee, NPR's Robin Young
- fabulous live and silent auctions
- a delectable grazing menu from Sage Catering
- dancing to the cool tunes of Skin Tight
- a student performance

The RED BARN BALL will feature craft beers from Sly Fox Brewery and Rolling Barrel Events will provide premium wines from Chadds Ford Winery.

How can YOU count yourself among the lucky people who attend this awesome social event? Become a sponsor or buy a ticket, of course! This is Camphill Special School's biggest fundraising event of the year, and we need you to make it successful.

Can't make it? We're sorry. You still can show your support, however, by becoming a sponsor, purchasing a program ad, contributing an auction item, buying a raffle ticket, or making a donation. Visit camphill-specialschool.org and do it all (just about) online!

Want more excitement? Come to our ProAm Tennis Tournament in a NEW format! Join us Saturday, June 4, at White Manor Country Club in Malvern for:

- a tennis clinic for kids of all ages —including kids with special needs—from 12 to 1:00 p.m.
- an exhibition match featuring ProAm founder ANTHONY DECECCO versus Camphill's own tennis star ANDREAS SCHUSCHKE at 1:00 p.m.
- our ProAm Tennis Tournament from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

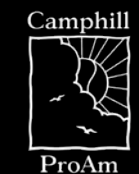


Last year's gala event attracted over 300 friends of Camphill and raised over \$150,000 for the school...help us set a new record this year!



This year's ProAm Tennis Tournament will feature a terrific line-up of local pros and ams!

For more information or for answers to your questions, contact Courtney at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.



Oink, oink! See you at the RED BARN BALL!

To see more photos of the buildings you made possible, visit our website at camphillspecialschool.org.

HEART, HEAD, & HANDS:

WOODWORKING IN OUR
WALDORF CURRICULUM

Haley and Ben attach a
wall frame to the floor.

ASIDE FROM MAKING SAWDUST, we do many things in woodworking at Camphill Special School. Our woodworking curriculum begins in the third grade when the children are ready developmentally to begin...by making a house! The process of creating a dwelling place ostensibly results in a safe and nurturing space in which to play, work, and live. But even more, engaging in a house-building project fosters a sense of belonging.

By working cooperatively with others, a child gains a sense of belonging to a community; by building a “play house” she creates a place she can call her own, a place where she feels she belongs. By working outdoors in nature a child becomes more “rooted” in the natural environment, leading to a feeling of belonging here on earth. Working together with others, becoming rooted in the natural environment, creating her own space that she can return to and use for years to come—all of this helps to strengthen a feeling of “I have a place here, I belong.”

Movement with purpose and meaning, along with the physical exertion involved in a focused activity like building a house, leads to a more integrated and “grounded” state. Through activities in the project a child begins to experience herself (and others) differently. Movement, balance, constructive use of hands, arms, and legs, and involvement of the whole body helps to develop “muscle memory.”

For example, as we progress in the work on our house the children naturally become more able to accurately and effectively wield a hammer. Movement integrates with sensory experiences such as hearing, listening to directions, conceptualizing, seeing, and

By Carlton Noll

developing hand-eye coordination. Thus, a child better understands how to work more effectively with her own body.

Physical activity improves capacities; it is invigorating and breathing deepens and becomes more rhythmic. The pulse quickens as the heart is engaged, and not just from physical exertion, for the heart also is engaged by working together with others in a spirit of cooperation toward a common goal. Every student connects with classmates through a positive, productive group experience.

For some of our students, third grade house building may be their first experience of focused physical work. Working with peers makes the work seem more familiar and it seems easier when we work together and our students learn about the importance and fun of cooperative engagement.

The finished house is a place to interact with friends, to exercise imaginations in creative play, and to continue developing social skills. Throughout the building process, and especially when the house is completed, students acquire a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. This newfound confidence is another step on the journey toward independence. It leads to self-motivated learning and a greater sense of well-being.

A child learns that as part of a team she can accomplish something which cannot be done alone. When the house is completed it represents something real, and the child literally has had a hand in making something tangible that before only was imagined.



Jill helps Marcus to get into the swing of using a hammer.



Nora pounds in a few nails.



Alex and Ben take a break.

Watch for future articles about the importance of woodworking and other handwork in our curriculum.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2011

Another school year is passing quickly and commencement day for the Class of 2011 is around the corner: June 24, 2011. Thank you to twelfth grade teacher Sally MacDonald for sharing her insights about her nine seniors and Robin Kaip, house father in Rowan House, for his photographs of the graduates. Good luck and much love to **Andy, Max, Ariel, Willie, Spenser, Charlotte, Nina, Rouven,** and **William** as they spread their wings and fly off to new adventures.



ANDY has a deep devotion to family and friends. He loves to laugh and make others laugh. His sense of humor, genuine love of people, and positive nature have earned him many friends.



MAX has been a student at Camphill since kindergarten. He loves music and singing; one of his favorite instruments to listen to is the guitar. Max's real passion is being outdoors and working on the land followed by a hearty lunch.



ARIEL is a well-liked, social young lady, who loves nothing more than to share and converse with others. She is caring and always is delighted to make a new friend. Since coming to Camphill Special School she has learned to play the piano and has become quite a singer.



WILLIE is an exceptionally bright young man with a wealth of knowledge. You always can count on Willie to share interesting information or a quick fact about his favorite subject, the animal kingdom. Willie also loves music and has learned to play the recorder and piano since coming to Camphill.



SPENSER is an incredibly hard worker who has made a real difference on the landscape around Camphill Special School. He likes being outside in nature and enjoys working with his hands. But don't let his strength and size fool you; he is a gentle, sweet soul who also enjoys the arts.



CHARLOTTE is new to Camphill Special School this year, but she seemed to fit right in from her first day. With a twinkle in her eye and her sweet smile, she brings a special friendly spirit to our classroom. Charlotte really has enjoyed the Community Service we have been involved in throughout the year.



NINA possesses a true love for acting and singing. In our senior play, *Damn Yankees*, she gave a fantastic, powerful performance and demonstrated her many talents. Nina feels passionately about helping those in need and bringing awareness to others for a greener, earth-conscious environment.



ROUVEN enjoys his weekly piano and recorder lessons with Elsbeth Sunstein. He has a bona fide talent for performing and seems born for the stage. Rouven gave an amazing performance in our recent play and loves playing the recorder and piano in our Thursday concerts. He often will share his musical talent with us during class time.



WILLIAM is a gentleman who strives to help others. He always is willing to take on any task asked of him and will work diligently and proudly until it is completed. He has created many beautiful woodwork and handwork projects—William is a true artist.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

(continued from Front Cover)



Celine had a role in the recently presented senior class play.

Andreas Schuschke, eleventh grade teacher at Camphill Special School, writes "What would we do without Celine in our class?"

"Ever since she joined the new ninth grade with its first-time teacher she has been something like our own news channel! She helps us to remember whose birthdays are coming up, when our next field trip is scheduled, and how long it is until we go on vacation. Furthermore, Celine always is informed about the latest news from around campus, whether it is a special event that happened over the weekend or to tell us that the Student Council is doing a fundraiser dance for the high school.

"Along with these remarkable qualities Celine also is an enthusiastic and hard-working learner in class and takes pride in her individual achievements. She is concerned for the well-being of all the students in her class and always wants to help out wherever she can. In her short time at Camphill Special School Celine has become an outgoing and social person, as well as a role model for all our students."



The Blue Room was SRO on the evening of Dr. Gottlieb's visit.

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR TEACHERS

By John Gallagher, *Camphill Special School parent*
 Photography by Joe del Tufo

I HAD THE PLEASURE of spending an evening with Dr. Dan Gottlieb and about 150 other people at Camphill Special School on March 2. Speaking about *The Challenges Special Needs Families Face*, Dr. Gottlieb addressed a wide range of topics, from what defines us and our children, the physical and emotional pain some people experience from feeling alone or alienated, and our need to tell our stories and listen to others' stories.

As I listened, I experienced an array of emotions and questions: guilt about my daughter Emily's life and the things she never will experience, the emptiness I feel when my family is apart, and relief and contentment as I looked around the room and saw others who share my experience and understand the daily emotional struggles we undergo.

Dr. Gottlieb went on to speak about sharing our stories and the healing that can occur through sharing. He is right. Telling my story led me to recognize many things about my life that I suppressed. I recently had an opportunity to tell my story at my company's annual United Way Campaign. I told it eleven times, and every time I spoke about Emily or my family and the help she



Many visitors took the opportunity to purchase one of Dr. Gottlieb's books and ask him to sign it.

has received, I discovered that to speak openly and honestly about things I had never shared before was one of the most emotionally exhausting and equally rewarding experiences I've ever had. We have to share our joy and our pain and nurture the relationships around us as we continually define and re-define ourselves through this journey. Dr. Gottlieb emphasized that we are not alone, that we are surrounded by love and love nurtures healing.

Dr. Gottlieb referred to our children as teachers. My daughter Emily truly has been my teacher for the past fourteen years and I the student. She teaches me compassion, unconditional love, and an appreciation for all our little moments together that may otherwise have gone unnoticed. I believe we all are students of our children if we pay attention, and, yes, they do define us and our lives in many ways as a parent, husband, grandparent, sibling, or individual. Yes, I am a different person, a better person, and never alone.



Dr. Gottlieb's presentation was filled with love and humor.

Suppose Dr. Gottlieb asked me, "Who are you?" I could only respond that my story is being written still and it's a great read.

Editor's note: To learn more about Dr. Dan Gottlieb visit his website at drdangottlieb.com.

MARGARET CARMAN: EFFICIENT AND PROFICIENT VOLUNTEER

By Courtney Coffman

MARGARET CARMAN was employed in the corporate world over the years, but no workplace ever made her feel as good as Camphill Special School does! After she retired, Margaret wanted to contribute somewhere in a meaningful way by volunteering at something she believes in.

Originally from Roanoke, Virginia, Margaret began volunteering at Camphill Special School after becoming involved with the Phoenixville Area Time Bank and

its coordinator, Margo Ketchum. Margo also works in Camphill's Program and Admissions office. Now the efficient and proficient Margaret assists Margo and her colleague, Sandy Williams, so that they can perform their duties more effectively.

"Volunteering here is so rewarding," Margaret shares. "It makes you feel like you are working for a cause greater than yourself." She loves interacting with our office staff and often joins the crew for lunch. Margaret also enjoys seeing our students and has attended a school assembly.

A young member of Margaret's family is on the autism spectrum so she knows about the love and patience required from those who share their lives with children with special needs. "I really admire the people who work with the students," she says.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Courtney Coffman at **610.469.9236** x132 or **ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org**.



(L to R) Margo Ketchum, volunteer extraordinaire Margaret Carman, and Sandy Williams all keep the Program and Admissions department humming.



Jennifer Nilsen is the newest member of Camphill Special School's Board of Directors.

JENNIFER NILSEN ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Photograph by Weaver Lilley

WARREN R. GLEICHER, ESQ., president of Camphill Special School's Board of Directors, is proud to announce the election of Ms. Jennifer Nilsen to the Board.

Jennifer is a principal of IEI Group in Philadelphia with over thirty years of experience in corporate, educational, health care, and residential interior design. She has owned and managed her own design company since 1995. An award-winning

designer, Jennifer has designed and managed a number of interior projects for many of our region's industrial leaders, including several Fortune 100 companies.

Closer to home, Jennifer has been a huge help in planning the color palette of the new student residence and education and resource center at Beaver Farm. Director of Development Guy Alma says, "Jennifer is much more than a friend. She is a consummate professional who is surrounding our lives with color!"

Jennifer is married with two children and four grandchildren. She and her husband Arthur live on a small farm in Chester County with donkeys, horses, chickens, three cats, and a peacock.

When asked why she chose to serve on Camphill Special School's Board, Jennifer said, "I am here at Camphill because this is not a campus, but a way of life for children who are special and are with people who really care."

Welcome to Camphill Special School, Jennifer.



CAMPBILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

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JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.

Camphill Special School consists of *The Children's Village and School at Beaver Run, The Transition Program at Beaver Hill and Beaver Farm, and The Camphill School of Curative Education and Social Therapy.*

Our mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living. The Camphill School of Curative Education and Social Therapy offers a four-year professional course of studies in anthroposophical curative education, youth guidance, and social therapy in a practice-integrated environment. Camphill Special School does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

PLEASE JOIN US 2011

- May 14** **Admissions Open House**, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Beaver Run Campus
- June 3** **The Camphill RED BARN BALL**, 6 p.m.
Beaver Farm
- June 4** **Camphill ProAm Tennis Tournament**
Noon to 4 p.m.
White Manor Country Club

Visit camphillspecialschool.org for more details about all events.

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