

DIRECTOR'S TRAIL

Judy Tegtmeyer, Chief Executive Officer judy.tegtmeyer@manito-wish.org

I am writing this after having completed my first year as CEO at Camp Manito-wish YMCA. I continue to be humbled and inspired by the commitment and passion of our staff, campers, and alumni. I really enjoyed my visits, meeting and reconnecting with alumni and hearing their camp stories. The more things change, the more they stay the same. The transformative life changes occurring at camp are timeless experiences that benefit all of us. We develop confident and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they

Snow eventually returned to the Northwoods this past winter, providing a shortened yet wonderful opportunity for outdoor enjoyment. Our property team provided fantastic groomed crosscountry ski trails around camp that were enjoyed by many folks. Boulder Lake is still frozen with significant ice depth, yet experiencing some days of warmer weather signifies that spring is just around the corner.

We have assembled an excellent operations team who are preparing for the summer, hiring seasonal staff, performing property maintenance, reviewing equipment needs, staff training, programming, food service, and recruiting campers. This team brings years of experience and great energy to guide our seasonal staff in delivering our excellent programming to our campers. We look forward to the staff and campers arriving, contributing their own energy and making Camp come alive.

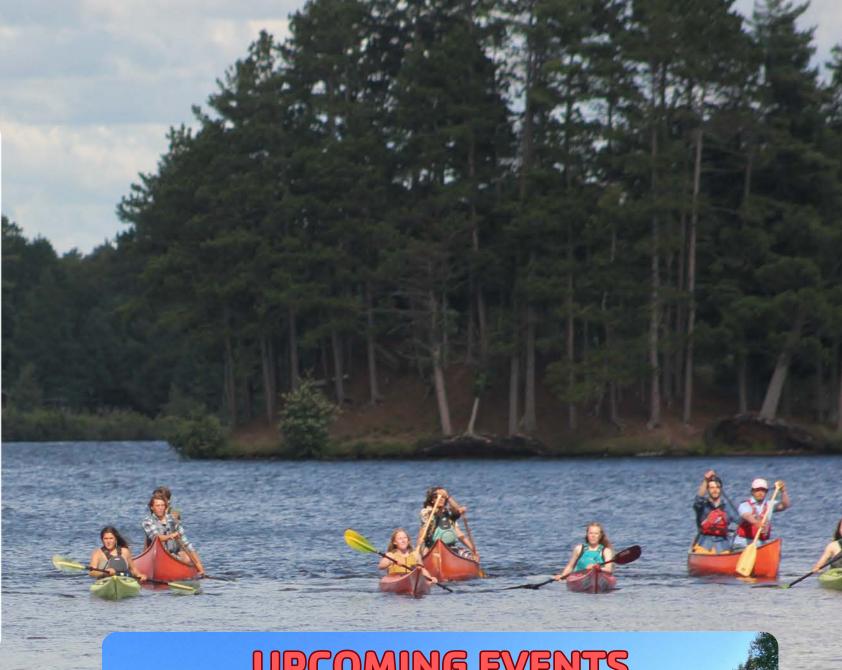
I marvel at the amazing level of support we receive from our alumni and volunteer community in support of our work to deliver a Manito-wish experience to those who wish to participate. Thank you to all who give their energy, time, and resources to help provide an important life-changing camping experience.

Please stop by if you find yourself in the area. It's a pleasure to welcome alums back to camp or to greet prospective campers and show them our spectacular campus.

Peace on the Waterways,







UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 11	MADISON ALUMNI EVENT OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS 5-8pm	JULY 10	CAMPER FAMILY MEET UP LIONS PAVILION @ BJ COMMNUITY CENTER 3-5PM	JULY 31	CLOSING DAY OUTPOST
APRIL 12	MADISON CAMP INFO CLIMBING EVENT BOULDERS EAST 12-2PM	JULY 11	CLOSING DAY BOYS CAMP/ELE/OUTPOST	AUGUST 9	CAMPER FAMILY MEET UP LIONS PAVILION @ BJ COMMNUITY CENTER 3-5PM
MAY 23-26	MEMORIAL DAY WORK WEEKEND	JULY 14-19	FAMILY CAMP 6 DAY	AUGUST 10	CLOSING DAY GIRLS CAMP/ELE/OUTPOST
JUNE 21	OPENING DAY OUTPOST/BOYS CAMP	JULY 21	OPENING DAY GIRLS CAMP/OUTPOST	AUGUST 13-16	FAMILY CAMP 4 DAY
JUNE 28	OPENING DAY BOYS ELE/OUTPOST	JULY 28	OPENING DAY GIRLS ELE	AUGUST 15	CLOSING DAY BOYS & GIRLS EXPO

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW



Karen Christopherson Director of Operations karen.christopherson@ manito-wish.org



Sean Diamond Camp Director sean.diamond@manito-wish.org

As I sat on the shores of Boulder Lake this fall, memories of 1993 flooded back to me, when I was a camper in Norway cabin. Having just completed 5th grade, I was finally able to join Manito-wish after years of watching campers return from their trips, faces alight with joy and accomplishment. It was my turn at last!

Fast forward 33 years, and I am back at the shores of Boulder Lake as the Director of Operations, leading the team to make this the best summer ever! It is truly an honor to return in this capacity, and here's what we've been up to:

Operations

Our focus over the fall and winter has been hiring and onboarding our new Operations Team members and getting camp ready for the programming season this spring, summer, and fall.

- Sean Diamond, Camp Director, joined us in December and has hit the ground running with staff recruitment, hiring, and connecting with our summer campers. He comes to Manito-wish with over eight years of professional camping experience, both with the Y and other youth-serving programs. He is joined by his wife, Courtney, and his 4-year-old daughter, Norah.
- Bailey Brandner, Marketing and Recruitment Director, joined us in January and has already hit the road recruiting campers and staff. She has a love for the Northwoods and a creative eye for design, which I am sure you have noticed on our social media pages and communication pieces. Bailey is looking forward to experiencing a Manito-wish Spring, Summer, and Fall season!
- Luke Wade, Wilderness Risk Director, begins onsite in March; however, in the meantime, he has been engaging with our Outpost leaders and joins virtually for our planning meetings as he also finishes up his role as the Assistant Director of Outdoor Education at Saint John's University in Minnesota. While leading canoe trips in the Boundary Waters, Luke discovered the true impact that a wilderness trip can have on our campers.

I am honored to lead this team along with Tim and his property team as we prepare for a summer of transformative experiences, smooth operations, and lots of fun!

Summer Camp

Summer will be here before we know it and another life-changing season at Manito-wish is just around the corner! While winter at camp is stunning, I think it is safe to say that we are equally excited for the warmer weather and for staff and campers to join us in making this a summer we will not soon forget.

We have been busy these past few months with recruiting and program development. The team has been working hard to ensure we are fully staffed and ready for all of you! Staff training begins in May and while that seems so far away, it will also be here in just the blink of an eye!

Sean has been diligent in learning all about Manito-wish, taking phone calls with staff, and speaking with campers. All of these moments have lent themselves to great conversations and Sean is thrilled to see the great adventures that await all of us!

We are eager to welcome a new Summer Program Director, Kevin Gibbens. You may recognize Kevin from his many roles during the last 11 summers. He has been a huge asset to our team for the last decade and we are thrilled for him to take on this new role. We have every confidence in his abilities to steer us into one of our best summers yet!



WILDERNESS RISK DIRECTOR

luke.wade amanito-wish.org



Delanie Norman **PROGRAM** DIRECTOR



Kevin Gibbens. **SUMMER PROGRAM** DIRECTOR

amanito-wish.org

Outpost:

This summer, we are set to head out across North America! We will be sending out ten Intermediate trips that will be out on trail for 14 days. They will be canoeing in the Boundary Waters and Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada, backpacking on Isle Royale on Lake Superior, and kayaking on Lake Nipigon in Ontario, Canada.

Our Advanced Trips will have six different groups this summer, each traveling between 23 and 30 days on trail. The canoers will participate in our historic Canuck, traveling along lakes and rivers in northern Saskatchewan. Our backpackers will explore Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming and the Beartooth Mountains in Montana. The kayakers will paddle along the northern shores and in between the islands on Lake Superior.

Finally, we are sending out two Women's Expeditionary level trips, both 45 days of trail life. The canoers on the Expo Canuck plan to travel on the Kazan River to Baker Lake. The backpackers on the Expo Alaskan will fly into Alaska and traverse the beautiful terrain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Outdoor Leadership School:

To get all our in-camp counselors, co-leaders, and Outpost leaders certified in the needed trainings to lead youth on trail, we offer the Outdoor Leadership School (OLS). OLS is open to Manito-wishers and other camping/ wilderness professionals. We partner with Wilderness Medical Associates and Wilderness Water Safety to ensure our staff are equipped. Our Outpost staff hold a current Wilderness First Responder certification, and our incamp staff hold a current Wilderness First Aid certification. Both Outpost and in-camp staff hold a Wilderness Water Safety course. Each of these courses helps staff to gain knowledge, practice skills, and engage in life-like scenarios with extensive feedback and debriefing to ensure they are prepared.

Leadership

We welcome Delanie Norman as our Seasonal Leadership Program Director for our 2025 programming season. Delanie joins us having served as a High Ropes Director and Assistant Summer Camp Director within the Y Camping over the last few years. She is well equipped to lead the Manito-wish Collaborative Leadership programming with our many Leadership program partners.

The Leadership staff team is preparing to serve eight groups this spring, seven throughout the summer, and a whopping twelve in the fall. They are beginning with our Challenge Course training and certifying partner Experiential Systems Inc. (ESI). The staff will gain onsite certification to run the many elements of the Lang Challenge Course for most of our groups. Additionally, they are getting trained in teambuilding sequencing and the Manito-wish Collaborative Leadership model.

Our Leadership Program will begin at the end of May and conclude in October. We are excited to have both long-time Leadership groups as well as some new ones this year!

MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT

Bailey Brandner, Marketing & Recruitment Director bailey.brandner@manito-wish.org

I am about three months into my time at Camp Manito-wish YMCA and I continue to learn more and more each day! I welcome new challenges and opportunities to grow and get to know camp better. Every day that passes is one closer to the start of our 2025 season, and I cannot wait to see Camp come to life with many excited young individuals ready for the challenges and fun ahead this summer! I have a few updates to share.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are excited to introduce a new approach to recruiting staff for our summer programs: tabling at universities! It has been a pleasure to engage with students and learn about their interest in outdoor activities and the opportunities they can have by working at camp. Megan and I had the chance to reconnect with both past and current staff at Lawrence University and the University of Minnesota, which is a fantastic aspect of our college outreach! We are currently 80% staffed.

CAMPER RECRUITMENT

Our camper recruitment events have been an excellent opportunity to meet prospective camper families and connect with those currently involved. Our alumni have played a significant role in selecting locations and spreading the word about our programs! We are always open to exploring new areas to recruit potential Manito-wishers. If you would like us to visit your area, please let me know, and we can collaborate on planning an event together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have been busy planning and traveling to camper and staff recruitment events in the Midwest! Below are our upcoming events for the spring. If you can attend one in your area, please remember to RSVP on the <u>Upcoming Events</u> page of our website!



Girls Camper Families

If you plan to pick up your camper, keep in mind that Boulder Junction's Musky Jamboree is the weekend of the closing of girls' camp. Book your hotel rooms early. Also, note that Hwy M in downtown Boulder Junction will be closed on pickup day. Travel down Highway H to Camp's main entrance to avoid the closure.



VALUE OF MANITO-WISH EXPERIENCE

Throughout my childhood, Manito-wish existed as a sort of mythic place that my mom loved and that I knew I would someday experience. She even used to say that we wouldn't exist if not for Camp, because through some Manito-wish connection's connection she had met my dad. When I arrived at Camp at eleven years old, I was so shy that my counselor thought I was afraid of her even by the end of the session. But even then, when I carried the brick in Wells Fargo or sterned the whole way home the last morning of Trail I felt limitless. I loved my cabinmates, I loved the peace of the Northwoods, and I loved what it was that made Manito-wish feel magical.

During my six years as a participant, I viewed Manito-wish as a sort of anchor to get me through the long days of homework and sports practices of the school year. Summer would come around again, we would drive Up North, and I would return to Camp. I will always be grateful for those summers, for they instilled within me awareness of my own capabilities, appreciation for the natural world, and a sort of resilience that is useful in any facet of life. My experience as a participant culminated in my Montana Western in 2019. I wrote my college essay about how, clinging to the side of a steep snow field during a lightning storm, I learned what fear was, and how to overcome it. Trail teaches us that all challenges can be overcome, they just require a bit of resilience. Over that month, growing to know a place that felt like real wilderness was integral to my understanding of how we can belong to and respect nature. I constantly thought about how I hadn't been inside a room with four walls in weeks; how vast and uncontainable the world became without that barrier. Experiences like that teach you what truly matters in life.

This experience continued into my time on staff. One thing that surprised me most was that working at Camp didn't take away any of the magic; in fact, it instilled it with a different kind of magic. I've met some of the most wonderful people through working at Camp and grown skills that will serve me in many elements of my life. Originally, I didn't even apply to be program staff because I was intimidated by having to do skits at breakfast. After working as program staff for three summers, I can tell you that skits are just a silly part of the job and nothing to stress about. If I told the eleven year old girl who first arrived at Camp that one day she'd be Barn Director, she would never have believed me. I'm very grateful for Manito-wish for giving me the tools to make that childhood version of me proud.

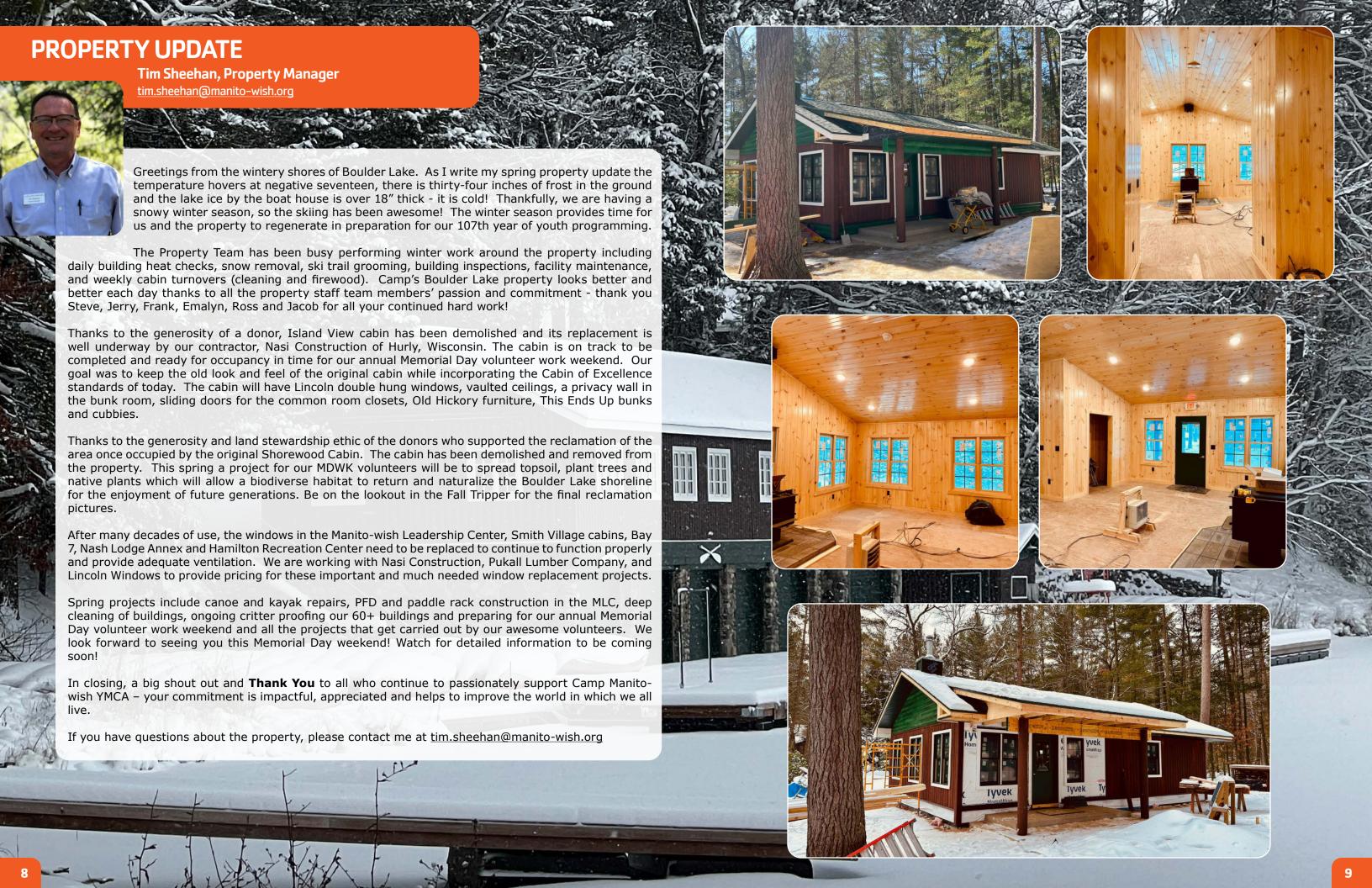
Emily Younkin

Camper 2014-2016 Outpost 2017-2019 Staff 2022-2024









DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Jeff Pereles, Development Director jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org



Megan Holmes,
Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement
megan.holmes@manito-wish.org

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The needs in front of Manito-wish are to ensure our financial foundation, embrace every young person who wants to be a Manito-wish participant, and deliver programs and facilities of excellence. Here is an update to the course we have set to address these needs.

Alumni Outreach

There is nothing more enjoyable than connecting with Manito-wish alumni and friends. Camp friends are the best friends! This fall, winter and spring, Jeff and/or Judy visited alumni in Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, and Arizona. "Virtual Tripper Nights" were held in February and March. Board President Sarah Kendrick, Judy, Jeff, Tim, Karen, Sean, Bailey, and Megan ZOOMed with alumni to discuss the state of Camp, our Programs, Vision, and listened to alumni sharing favorite memories. Camp also held alumni, staff & camper recruitment events in Boulder, Denver, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Madison, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Wausau, Neenah, Green Bay, Cedarburg, Brookfield, Arlington Heights and Glendale Heights, IL as well as Oakbrook and Northbrook. Make sure to check out the upcoming events page of the website for events in your neighborhood and at camp from now through August.

Development Gift Initiatives to Grow Our Endowment

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA Endowment Fund is a fund that was established with the help of generous individual gifts from long-term friends of Camp. Those who have made a planned gift to Camp Manito-wish YMCA, listed it as a primary beneficiary in their estate plans, or made an outright gift of \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund are part of the Fires of Friendship Circle. The Circle is comprised of more than 450 people who share the same sense of connection that comes from knowing their influence and values will last beyond their lifetimes. The funds in the endowment fund are invested in perpetuity, with a board-approved percentage of the average value used annually for purposes designated by the donor.

The Board of Directors is responsible for managing these funds, including preservation, growth, and use, and they delegate the responsibility for investment of these gifts to the Finance Committee. Donors who give a gift of \$10,000 or more to the Manito-wish Endowment Fund qualify for a named gift. This gift provides a lasting and fitting recognition for the donor or someone special to them. These funds will help ensure that Camp Manito-wish can continue to provide impactful experiences for generations to come. We have a five-year goal (Fiscal Years 2022-2027) to raise the following funds:

Endowment Categories	5- Year Target Goal	Raised to Date 02/28/2025
Campership & Maintenance Endowment Funds	\$250,000	\$285,140
General, Program, & Other Staff Endowment Funds	750,000	209,540
Staff Incentive Endowment Funds	1,250,000	700,669
Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,195,348

Increasing the Staff Incentive Endowment Funds

These funds are critical for Manito-wish to remain competitive, allow us to attract, develop, and retain the highest-quality staff and ensure consistency every year. In fiscal 2024 we completed the doubling on average the weekly pay of our seasonal staff.

For the fiscal year ending October 31, 2024, financial report, please see the <u>Annual Report 2024</u> on Camp's website.

Capital Campaign

At Camp Manito-wish, we understand the importance of providing a comfortable and safe environment for our campers. That is why our cabins play a crucial role in our mission to provide a home away from home for our campers. Since 1919, we have been committed to maintaining the highest standards for our cabins and facilities. We call this philosophy "Cabins of Excellence," and it is an ongoing mission to ensure that every cabin and our facilities meets our standards and program needs.

As Tim mentioned in the property section, thanks to generous donor families, Island View will be rebuilt, Old Shorewood will be demolished, and the land will be remedied this fall. Look for the final pictures and acknowledgments in the Fall Tripper and on social media.

JOIN THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY!

This annual event raises funds to allow for the expansion and enrichment of current programs, staff training, underwrite equipment, and provides for Camp's greatest budgetary needs, which includes Camperships, our financial assistance program. We rely on your support to reach our goal of \$575,000 to meet the greatest needs of Manito-wish. Through February 28th, Camp has raised 89% of our Goal!

Your support will:

- Remove any financial barrier to attendance!
- Provide high quality programming and staff!
- · Care for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities.
- Maintain financial stability during economic fluxes.
- Provides Camp with the flexibility to best put your gift to work.

Last year Camp provided over \$600,000 of financial assistance to Summer, Outpost, Family, and Leadership programs! Your support will positively affect over 3,000 participants in 2025 in a lasting way.

Our campers are signing up, our staff are applying to return, and we are preparing the orange canoes! All that is left is to have the continued support of our caring Manito-wish community. Will you join us with a gift for the annual campaign?

Please join us by making your gift online at https://camp-manito-wish-ymca-inc.networkforgood.com/ projects/10931-annual-campaign or by sending a gift to Camp Manito-wish YMCA, PO Box 246, Boulder Junction, WI, 54512-0246.

Thank you for your consideration!

If you would like to find out more information on Manito-wish's alumni and development activities please email Judy Tegtmeyer (judy.tegtmeyer@manito-wish.org), Jeff Pereles (jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org), or Megan Holmes (megan.holmes@manito-wish.org) or call us at 715-385-2312.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAF)

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a giving program that allows you to support your favorite charities easily. You may also be eligible for certain tax benefits. An increasingly popular charitable vehicle, DAFs are an excellent way to both simplify your charitable giving and facilitate your strategic philanthropic goals. If your donor-advised fund is with Fidelity, Schwab, or BNY Mellon, you may recommend a gift to Camp via DAFDirect using the form on Camp's website. https://manito-wish.org/donate/ways-to-give/



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BOB TELLEEN

Kenneth Robert "Bob" Telleen, age 85, died December 24, 2024 in Phoenix, Arizona surrounded by his family. Bob was born on September 15, 1939, and grew up in the small western Illinois community of Cambridge.

Bob was a cherished member of the Manito-wish community for decades, and his impact on Camp will last well into the future. Throughout his involvement, he played a vital role in the growth and success of Camp through various positions. Starting as a camper in the 1950s, then he became a seasonal staff member culminating as the Camp Director for seventeen years. As Camp Director, he helped create a vibrant and self-sustaining camp community.

- 1951 1953 Summer Camper
- 1958 1964 Seasonal Staff Member
- 1973 1989 Camp Director (Now CEO position)
- Frequent Anniversary Celebration participant

During his years as the Camp Director, he became a key volunteer for the American Camp Association, especially in the field of risk management and loss control, and he was a founding volunteer board member of the YMCA Mutual Insurance Company, Ltd.

We felt the best way to honor Bob in the Tripper was in his own words. Bob was in the middle of putting together stories of Manito-wish from his years of service. He called it "Musings of the Oldest Camp Manito-wish Director". He was kind enough to share his first few stories with Judy and Jeff before his passing. Here is an excerpt.

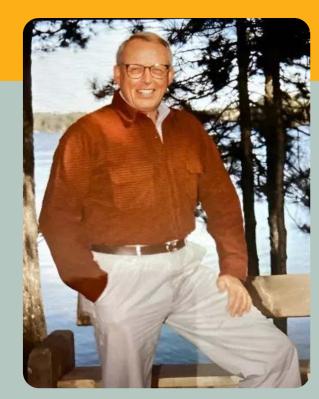
"Three weeks at Camp for my second year, and I was a changed boy. I was accepted and valued by a new group ... I had a sound philosophy for life – a practice to apply wherever life took me and to stand up and say, "I'll bake the cake."

No question, we learn most from our mistakes, and if they happen to occur within the embracing arms of a Camp Manitowish YMCA summer session, or a leadership group, we are pushed to get up and try again, no derision allowed. What a lifetime mantra.

With great respect for the work all Manito-wish leaders do year after year ..."

With great respect back to you Bob. You will be missed, and we thank Char, Fred, and Sara for sharing him with the Manito-wish community for all those years.

Happy Trails, Bob!











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Erica & Adam Long welcomed their daughter, Madelyn Rose **Long** on August 20, 2024. The family currently resides in Villa Park, IL.



Chris Basting & Maria Finsness, welcomed, their daughter, Isla Finsness Basting, on November 19, 2024. Many proud alumni family members include Great-Grandparents Tom Basting Sr. and Sally Basting and Grandparents Tom Basting Jr. and Rebecca Arons.



Frederieke "Frida" (Heine) Goetz & Daniel Goetz welcomed their daughter, Tilda Goetz on February 9, 2025. The family currently resides in Springe, Germany.



Hannah Malison and Michael Johnson were 27, 2025. Alumni Mass, Ellie Rietveld, and Caroline Hess currently resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

married on September friends and family Lily celebrated with Hannah and Michael. The couple

Get your announcement listed in the Tripper! Email megan.holmes@manito-wish.org to submit your update.



Laura Henneghan and Peyton Bell were married on August 31, 2024 Alumni friends in attendance were Lesley Allison, Jake Behrens, Brooke Barry, Lexi Brumder, Johnny Checton, Pat Henneghan, Catherine Jensen, Matt Liston, Sarah Merkt, Maddy Stein, and Ali Warner. The couple currently resides in Seattle, WA.

IN MEMORY OF

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA community joins in prayerful remembrance of friends and alumni who have passed away.

Ann (Burridge) Alderks, Camper 1944-1947, Staff 1950-1952

Bruce Bell, Camper 1953 & 1954

William "Bill" Blodgett, Camper 1942 & 1943

Susan T. Brown, Camp Supporter

Jennifer (Keran) Buttacavoli, Camper 1981 & 1982

Stewart Dyke, Camper 1950

John Ganschow, Pioneer 1985

Carmen Marie Haberman, Camp Supporter

David Michael Henneghan, Family Camp 1998-2002, Staff 2003-2008

Carole A. Hosking, Camper 1981-1983

James P. Keating, Board Member 1985-1987

Angela Kutzbach, Staff 1992

Charles M. Miller, Camper 1948-1952

John R. Mohr, Staff 1964-1971, Board & Emeritus Member

*Michael G. Price, Camp Supporter

Walter S. Ruglans, Camper 1951 & 1952, Canuck 1953, Staff 1956 & 1957

Dorothy" Gigi" (Mestier) Short, Camper 1974-1977, Canuck 1978

John E. Swenson, Camper 1981& 1982, Pioneer 1983, Western 1984, International Youth 1985

Robert Stringer, Camper 1955

*Kenneth Robert "Bob" Telleen, Camper 1951-1953, Staff 1958-1964 & 1974-1989

Carla J. Thomas, Camper 1976 & 1977



Camp Manito-wish YMCA P.O. Box 246

Boulder Junction, WI 54512-2312 (715) 385-2312

manito-wish.org manito-wish.org/donate









