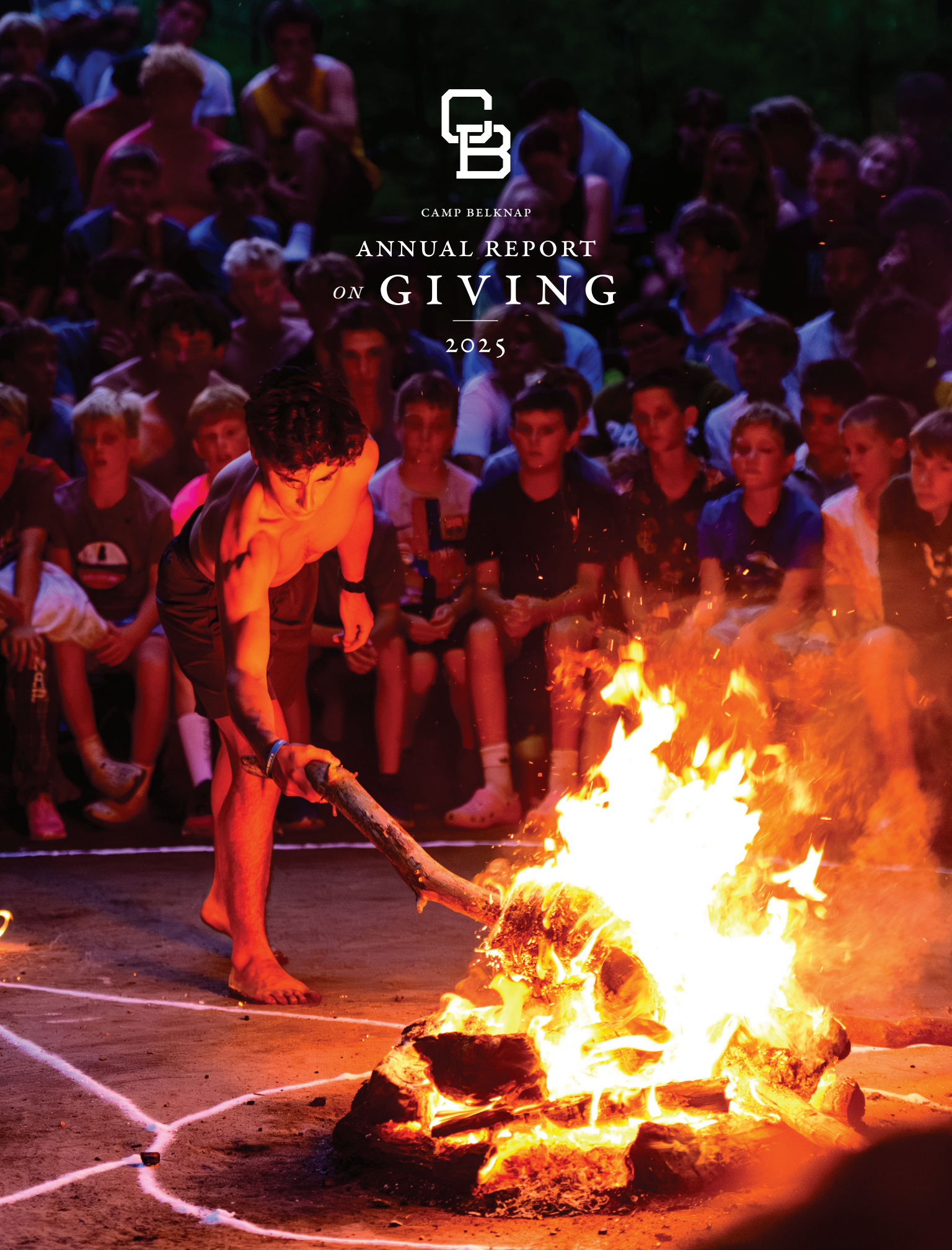




CAMP BELKNAP

ANNUAL REPORT
ON GIVING
2025



CAMP BELKNAP INSPIRES BOYS
to LEAD BY EXAMPLE,
CONSIDER OTHERS,
BUILD STRONG CHARACTER,
VALUE NATURE,
and SEEK THE JOY *of* BEING ALIVE.



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FROM *the* DIRECTOR

ON THE LAST THURSDAY NIGHT of each session, the senior campers gather around their firepit up on the hilltop for their ceremony. The senior ceremony is the culminating event of their experience. This experience differentiates itself from the other divisional experiences by asking our senior campers to stretch in different ways. We provide space and time for reflection, journaling, and providing each other feedback. We ask them to lead with intention as they are assigned a cadet camper as their “little bro” to mentor. And we challenge them to elevate each other, to find those moments of connection, to support each other, encourage each other and lead based off the Belknap values. Thursday night is really their time to share and reflect on the session and the summers they have had together. For most sitting around the circle, it’s the last time they will get time as a group of 15- and 16-year-olds together.

I have the great honor to kick off the evening and share a few words and show the boys the Belknap pennant they will receive that evening. A pennant you can only get by being a senior camper. There are two thoughts I always share:

First, I remind them of the Winnie the Pooh quote, when it is time for Christopher Robin to leave the 100 Acre Wood—“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” Every boy who gets to spend time under the pines is so fortunate to have this experience, an experience that feels even rarer in today’s world.

And second, I remind them no matter where life takes you—you are part of an incredible Belknap family. I encourage them to take the pennant wherever they live, as a reminder that there is always somebody that will want to hear from them. Not just a friend who snaps with you or likes your Instagram photo. There is a Belknapper

that when you call, they will answer and want to hear about your best and worst moments. A Belknapper who wants to listen and be supportive. A friend who values community like each of us does.

It’s a bittersweet moment for me to look at our senior campers as I remember them being homesick in their first year as Cadets, or smile as I remember a triumph they may have had in an Adams Cup game. But it’s mostly bittersweet, because I know how few people get to have the experience a Belknap senior camper does. Belknap is a special place; I can’t think of many places that are so focused on supporting the development of boys with such care and intention. Our leadership is incredible, every single person working at Belknap cares and digs in. And for that reason alone, nearly 200 senior campers “graduate” Belknap every summer valuing the importance of community. They are ready to launch to other communities, to lead and bring people together and to connect.

Thank you all for your support in 2025. Your gifts, time and commitment to Belknap, allow us to continue to support the development of boys that cherish community, that want authentic connection and want to bring others along with them. I know we are making a difference, one boy/young man at a time and your support allows us to keep our mission alive and strong.

Thank you. Timi-Hi &
Seek The Joy of Being Alive,

Seth M. Kassels

Seth Kassels

Executive Director, Camp Belknap





2025 BOARD of TRUSTEES

Abigail Albee
Paul Bird
David Blackburn
David Bloch
Nathan Chesley
Jack Colligan
John DeLong
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Kartik Sakthivel
Mark Scott
Anne Spry
Kara Sweeney

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AT PANCE CREATIVE INC.

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FROM *the* BOARD CHAIR

DEAR BELKNAP COMMUNITY, thank you. Your generosity has sustained and strengthened Belknap throughout 2025. Because of you, the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee echoed with the sounds of friendship and growth this past year.

As this is my first note in the Annual Report on Giving as the board chair, I am deeply grateful for Dave Humphrey's leadership and the remarkable foundation laid by the board chairs who served before him.

More than 1,100 generous individuals, families, and organizations chose to support the Belknap 2025 Annual Fund, the highest number in history. Boomalacka! Together we raised over \$810,000. Your support ensures that Belknap's core endures while new opportunities take root. From program enhancements to expanded access for families through financial assistance, support for our summer leadership, and so many other needed items, your philanthropy directly shapes the daily lives of our campers and staff. It fuels the spirit that makes Belknap such an enduring and transformative place—one built on character, community, and joy.

The "Belknap spirit" is not confined to the weeks of the summer. It lives year-round in the strength of our community, the dedication of our entire staff, the trust of our families, and the generosity of our donors. Your continued commitment affirms that what happens at Belknap matters.

As we look ahead to 2026, in the 123RD year of Belknap, I invite you to continue this momentum. Equally, our excitement is building for Camp Belknap's 125TH anniversary in 2028. This will be a remarkable milestone that few institutions reach and even fewer sustain with such continuity of spirit.

This year, consider renewing your support, increasing your gift, or making a first-time contribution to ensure that future generations can experience the same sense of belonging and growth that defines Belknap. Together, we can preserve our impact and carry the Belknap spirit forward for years to come. With sincere appreciation, I thank you again on behalf of the Board of Trustees.



Timi-Hi,
John DeLong
Chair, Board of Trustees





SUMMARY *of* FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WITH A FULL CAMP, continued endowment growth, a robust Annual Fund, and a committed community to ensure Belknap thrives for generations to come, Belknap's financial stability continues to strengthen. The majority of fundraising support continues to go towards supporting camper scholarships and investing in the maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure. Our philosophy has also been to invest in people so that we have a strong team that can manage the operations with clear intention and an eye to efficiency and safety. In 2025, we were able to provide over \$725,000 in the form of tuition support!

Annual operating revenues increased in 2025 by ~6% due to a modest increase in tuition, increased shoulder season programming, and the growth of our endowment. Belknap's expenses, excluding depreciation, only increased by 2% this year, allowing us to keep our annual tuition increases low. Our annual increase for the last ten years for our base tuition has only increased on average 3.5% per year, continuing to price Belknap favorably compared to peer camps. Finally, as certain costs like insurance continue to be challenging to manage due to circumstances out of Belknap's control, donor support and operational expense management have been key to keeping tuition affordable and its growth modest.

Belknap's annual giving continues to be a key economic driver for the operations of Belknap. We hit a historic mark in 2025, with a total of 1,149 annual donors, reaching over \$810,000! Annual

giving has grown nearly 10X over the last decade—thank you for the Belknap community's commitment to our mission of providing a place for boys to grow and thrive!

Gifts from capital fundraising initiatives continue to support our ongoing master plan upgrades and support our debt service. Camp completed two new scolleges in the Cadet and Besserer divisions. Rebuilding the two scolleges, underlying infrastructure and bringing all cabins and lodges up to current day electrical code is a combined investment of \$1 million dollars.

In addition, Belknap was approached by the Rollins family to purchase 3 Rollins Way. This is the second home that Belknap has entered into a long-term purchase agreement with members of the Rollins family (there are a total of 3 homes). The purchase of 3 Rollins is managed through a combination of donations from our community, seller financing, and rent back by the Rollins family.

Belknap currently has ~\$5 million of debt, ~50% is structured as a tax-exempt bond at an interest rate of 3.2% over a ten-year period. A key focus for the camp is to retire debt through a combination of operating surpluses and fundraising. This work is already underway as \$820,000 of principal was retired in early 2026.

Belknap's endowment continues to grow through both investment returns, and significant gifts made to the fund. The long-term financial stability of Belknap will rely on the endowment. We appreciate the focus on endowment support through both continued giving and long-term bequests through our White Pines Society.

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL POSITION

*The Statement of Financial Position provides an overview of Camp Belknap's total liabilities & assets.
Figures below are based on audited financials.*

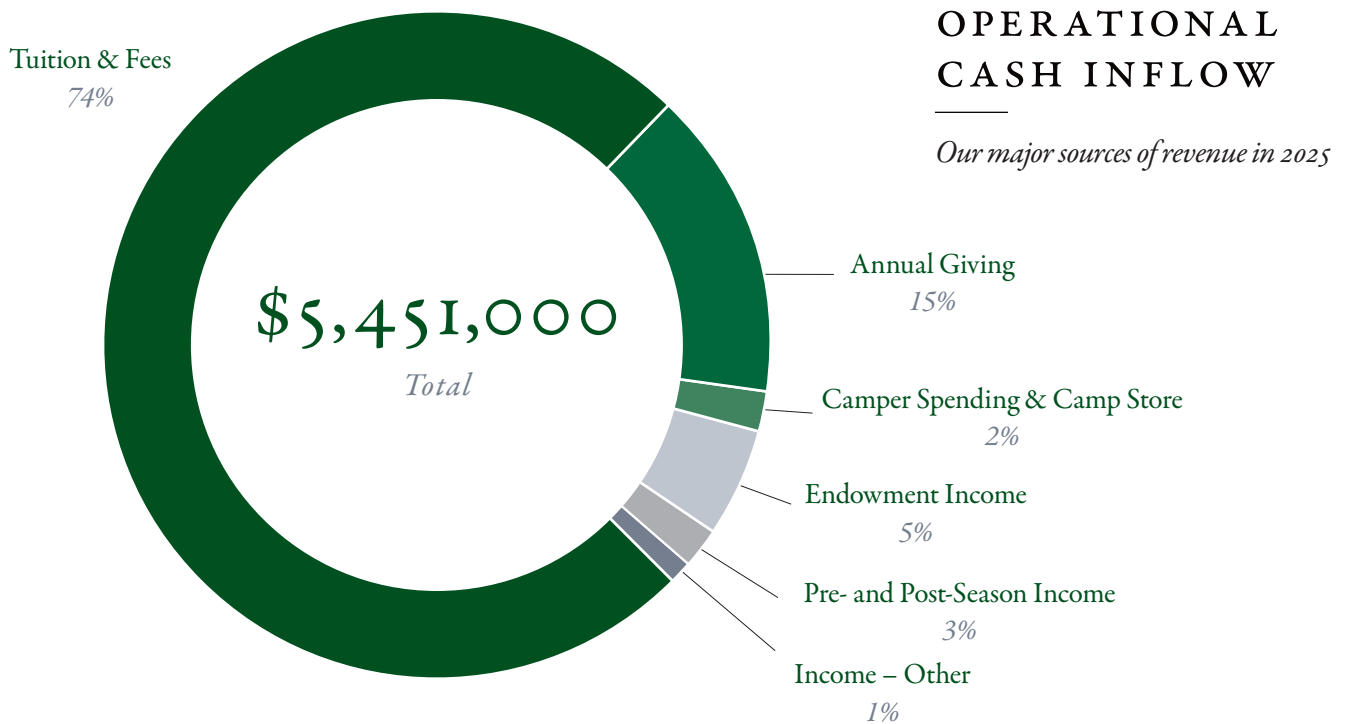
	2025 ¹	2024	2023	2022
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$ 3,555,659	\$1,561,024	\$4,124,465	\$3,497,438
Contributions Receivable	\$ 234,290	\$245,964	\$338,900	\$686,134
ERC Receivable	\$ -	\$71,871	\$36,394	\$36,394
Inventory	\$ 27,247	\$33,395	\$40,972	\$20,517
Prepaid Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,585
Investments, at fair value	\$7,513,100	\$6,713,894	\$5,830,590	\$4,819,564
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT				
Land & Improvements	\$ 7,119,390	\$5,257,390	\$3,471,650	\$3,477,895
Building, Improvements & CIP	\$ 17,990,026	\$17,497,394	\$12,547,567	\$10,116,048
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 1,177,820	\$1,177,820	\$1,122,182	\$1,096,152
Transportation Equipment	\$ 96,406	\$108,906	\$90,906	\$37,399
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (3,391,111)	\$ (2,792,907)	\$ (2,303,987)	\$ (2,217,092)
Other Assets	\$ 428,134	\$194,660	\$152,854	\$04,238
Total Assets	\$ 34,774,657	\$30,060,828	\$25,421,165	\$22,077,272
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,136,193	\$1,125,996	\$847,684	\$628,155
Long Term Debt (less current portion, above)²	\$ 5,079,606	\$4,733,458	\$2,969,731	\$1,151,436
Net Assets				
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 20,410,676	\$17,080,791	\$15,268,153	\$14,360,942
Board Designated	\$ 2,677,350	\$2,425,241	\$2,159,148	\$1,783,782
With Donor Restrictions ³	\$ 5,451,662	\$4,683,799	\$4,148,981	\$4,103,019
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 34,774,657	\$30,060,828	\$25,421,165	\$22,077,272

1. Figures are based on audited financials.

2. Long Term Debt was used for the construction of the new dining hall and purchase of 1 & 3 Rollins Way.

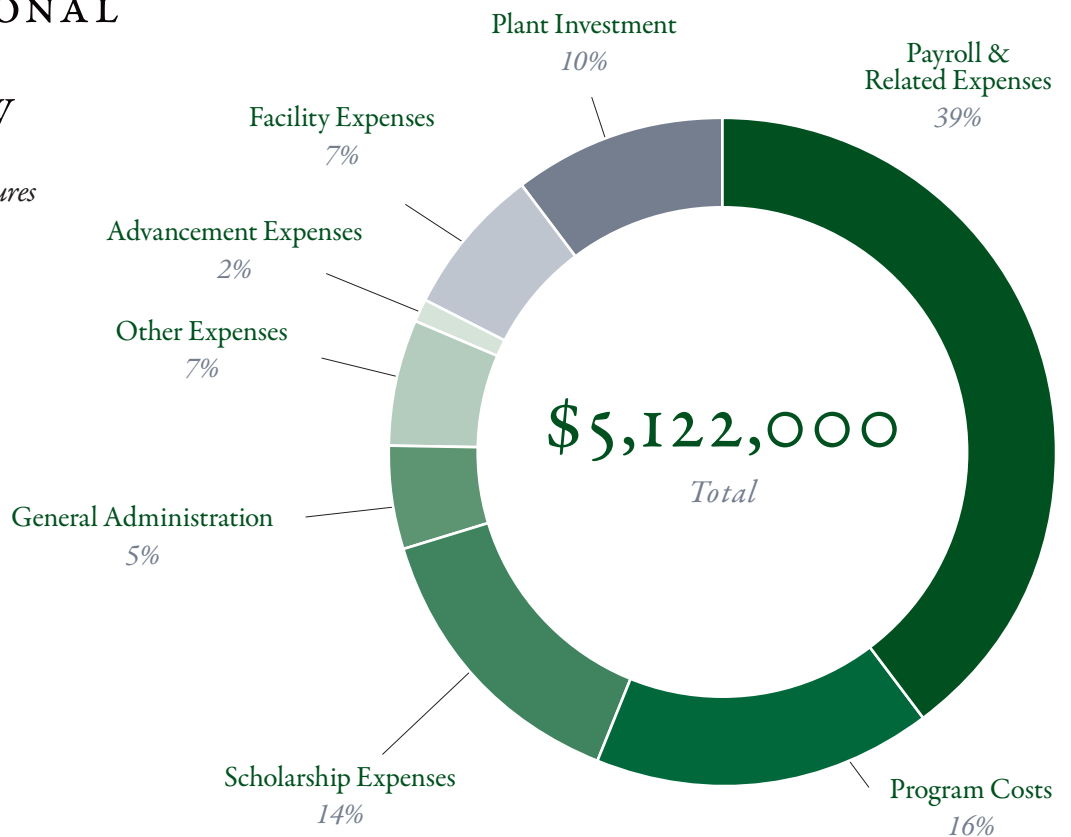
3. Assets with Donor Restrictions provide income that is used for camper scholarships and certain aspects of camp operations. In addition, a portion of these assets are designated for capital projects.

STATEMENT of OPERATIONS



OPERATIONAL CASH OUTFLOW

Our major expenditures in 2025







REVENUES	2025 ¹	2024	2023	2022
Board, Tuition and Registration Fee ^{2,3}	\$ 4,059,548	\$ 3,898,529	\$ 3,450,808	\$ 3,102,084
Scholarship Support (Full & Partial) ⁴	\$ (734,025)	\$ (731,173)	\$ (548,618)	\$ (455,702)
Pre- and Post-Season Income	\$ 135,048	\$ 116,740	\$ -	\$ 42,503
Endowment Income per Spending Policy ⁵	\$ 294,200	\$ 207,000	\$ 193,200	\$ 117,300
Camper Spending & Camp Store	\$ 89,049	\$ 90,912	\$ 73,063	\$ 71,806
Income – Other	\$ 51,832	\$ 79,288	\$ 44,071	\$ 139,029
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 3,895,652	\$ 3,661,296	\$ 3,212,524	\$ 3,017,019

EXPENSES				
Payroll and Related expenses	\$ 1,995,831	\$ 1,823,525	\$ 1,666,565	\$ 1,443,204
Facility Expenses	\$ 372,736	\$ 391,346	\$ 385,768	\$ 373,968
Commissary Expenses	\$ 342,426	\$ 339,991	\$ 284,682	\$ 302,749
Camper Expenses	\$ 231,019	\$ 237,434	\$ 212,090	\$ 198,857
Office Expenses	\$ 195,781	\$ 201,317	\$ 166,831	\$ 185,305
Insurance	\$ 195,384	\$ 177,412	\$ 127,414	\$ 127,209
Other Expenses ⁶	\$ 329,494	\$ 406,711	\$ 552,189	\$ 826,166
Depreciation	\$ 610,704	\$ 488,920	\$ 375,480	\$ 326,181
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,273,374	\$ 4,066,657	\$ 3,771,020	\$ 3,783,638
OPERATING SURPLUS (Deficiency)	\$ (377,722)	\$ (405,361)	(\$558,496)	(\$766,619)

FUNDRAISING				
Annual Fund & Camper Scholarship Fund	\$774,917	\$ 875,726	\$ 690,649	\$ 496,848
Grants & Designated Gift Funds	\$46,352	\$ 111,127	\$ 45,656	\$ 274,749
Campaign Gifts ⁷	\$3,296,595	\$ 1,203,249	\$ 1,278,140	\$ 1,849,259
Campaign Expenses	\$ (12,161)	\$ (1,395)	\$ (7,430)	\$ (62,109)
TOTAL FUNDRAISING:	\$ 4,105,703	\$ 2,188,708	\$ 2,007,015	\$ 2,558,748
Transfer for Endowment/Plant Investment	\$ (2,784,434)	\$ (701,855)	(1,270,710)	(1,787,150)
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR DEBT SERVICE & PLANT INVESTMENT:	\$ 955,708	\$ 1,082,887	\$ 185,239	\$ 67,087

CAPITAL FLOWS				
Plant Investment ⁸	\$ 512,161	\$ 577,405	\$ 200,920	\$ 1,213,626
Depreciation Expense Add Back	\$ 610,704	\$ 488,920	\$ 375,480	\$ 326,181
NET CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE⁹	\$ 1,054,251	\$ 994,402	\$ 359,799	\$(820,358)

1. Numbers are based upon audited financials.

2. Board, Tuition & Registration Fee: increases are due to the increase in number of campers, raises in tuition, and improved waitlist management.

3. Tuition increases have averaged ~4% annual increases for the prior 5 years.

4. Scholarships include both full and partial scholarships, including discounts for electing Tier 2 tuition.

5. Endowment Income: The camp appropriates for distribution each year 4% of its endowment fund's average Fair Value of the prior 36 months.

6. Other Expenses include Local Outreach, IT, and Staff Training.

7. Totals are for cash only, not pledges.

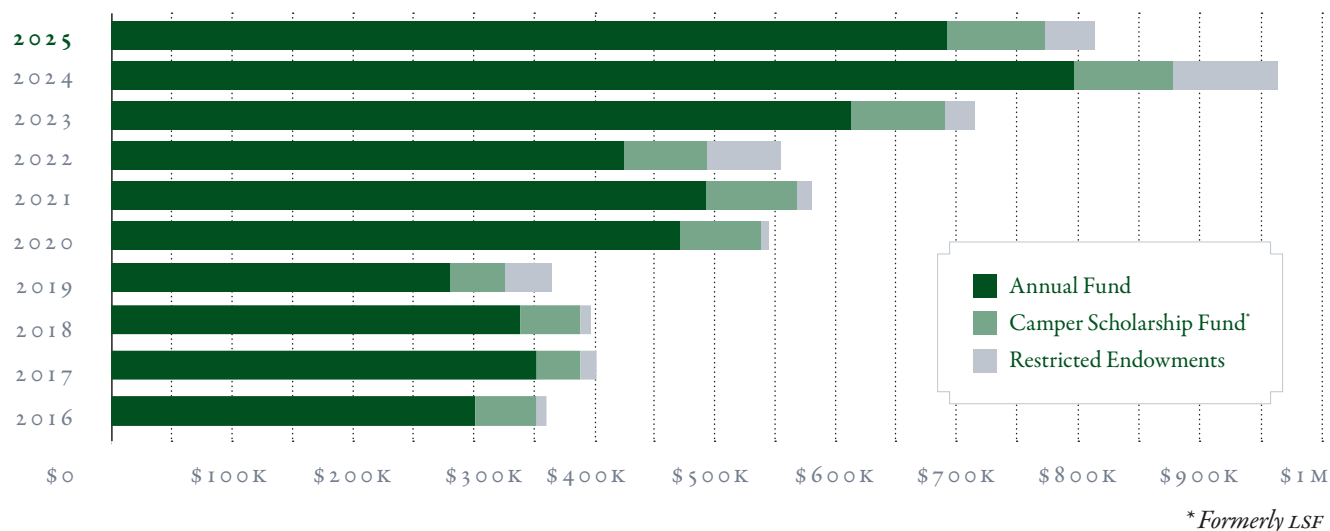
8. Plant Investment in 2024 & 2025 were primarily contributed to the construction of the Cadet and Besserer colleges.

9. Net Change in Cash Balance fluctuates depending on the capital project requirements of Belknap's physical plant.

SUMMARY of ANNUAL GIVING & PARTICIPATION

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING by YEAR

Total funds raised in our annual giving campaign. Does not include capital funds, bequests, grants, or COVID refund tuition donations.



TOTAL DONORS by YEAR

Donors are defined as an individual or household that makes at least one gift to the funds that comprise our Annual Giving campaign.

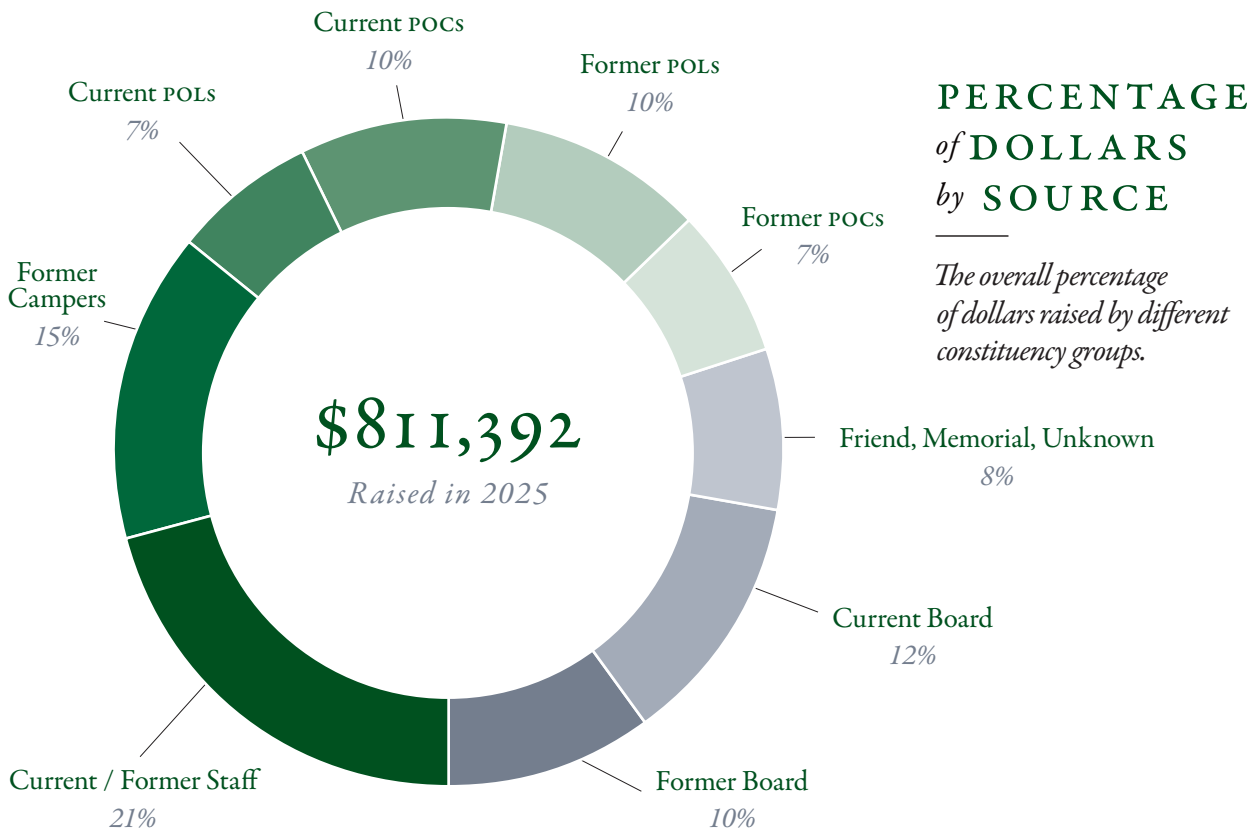
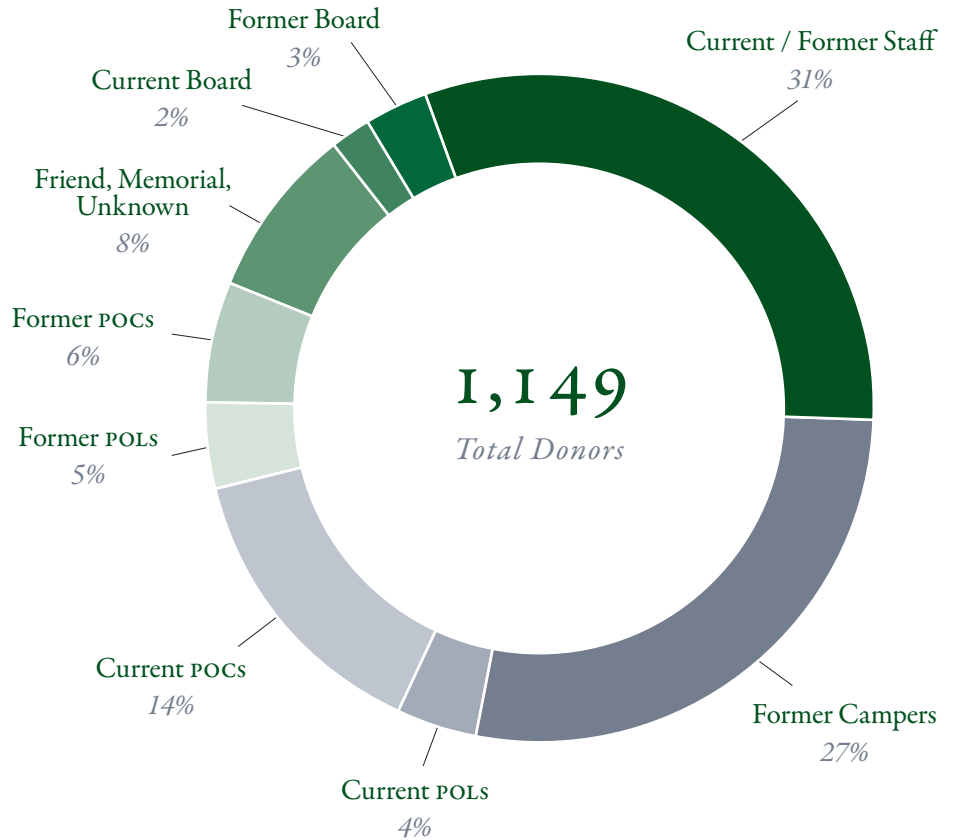
The number of donors that feel inspired to support the mission of Camp Belknap continues to grow each year. Every additional donor helps us to support camper scholarships, program opportunities, and upgrades to our facilities. Together we are ensuring that Belknap will continue to thrive for future generations of Belknappers.



GIFTS by SOURCE

The percentage of constituency groups that comprise our total number of donors.

POL = Parent of Leader
POC = Parent of Camper



GENERATIONS *of* GRATITUDE

AS CAMP BELKNAP CLOSED OUT its 122nd summer on the shores of Winnepesaukee, we were reminded that our strength rests firmly on the shoulders of our community. This past year, 1,149 individuals and families—the largest number in our history—chose to support the Annual Fund. This record-breaking participation is a powerful signal that now, more than ever, Belknappers believe in the importance of Camp, and they want to ensure that Belknapp remains strong for future generations of boys. This connection to Belknapp directly supports the camper experience and guarantees that boys will continue to have the opportunity to learn to lead by example, consider others, build strong character, value nature and seek the joy of being alive. We are profoundly grateful to the many families that

support camp each year—and who believe that strong communities can be an important force in our world.

Tom and Sally Daigneault are longtime supporters of Belknapp, through their participation in the Belknapp community, as well as the Annual Fund. Both Daigneault boys (Matt and Aaron) attended Camp Belknapp, while their sister Sam headed off to Camp Huckins each summer. The Daigneault family's connection to Belknapp runs deep and continues today with a new generation of grandchildren traveling under the pines each summer. We were able to catch up with the Daigneault family this winter, and they were kind enough to share some of their thoughts, as well as those of their family members, as to why Camp Belknapp has been an important place for building connection and community.

HOW ONE FAMILY STAYS CONNECTED *to* CAMP BELKNAP

FOR THE DAIGNEAULT FAMILY, the value of a summer at Camp Belknapp and Camp Huckins is measured by the “two perfect weeks” that have shaped three generations. The camp experience has grown into a family legacy of growth, independence, and communal support.

In a world often crowded by the busyness of school schedules, competitive sports, and home life, Sally and Tom Daigneault found that the Belknapp and Huckins communities provided something rare: a space for children to simply be kids. Under the guidance of camp, their children and grandchildren stepped out from behind the watchful eyes of parents to embrace the outdoors. They discovered a unique rhythm of life—one where they went to bed exhausted from adventure and woke up ready for the challenges and opportunities that each new day offered. The Daigneaults witnessed the personal growth each summer that came as a result of this balance of freedom and structure; and they saw the lasting impressions these experiences carved into the character of their family.

Liam and Declan (Daigneault grandchildren) reflected on things they



The Daigneault Family—Aaron, Sally, Tom, Sam and Matt; Facing page, clockwise from top: Liam in Gene Clark III's office pointing to his Uncle Matt's note to Gene when Matt was in Marine Corps; Daigneault Grandchildren at Family Camp

learned while at Belknapp, including how to embrace the smell of pine and campfires, to be inclusive, how to lead and how to seek the joy of being alive—and to never waiver in that search.

This deep-rooted connection is why the Daigneault family is committed to supporting the Camp Belknapp experience. “These memories are why we will always contribute to Belknapp. We are so grateful



for what it continues to do for all future generations of campers.” By giving back, the Daigneaults ensure that the “pillars of leadership, freedom, and brotherhood” remain standing for the next child ready to “Seek the Joy.” Their contribution is a thank-you to the community that has supported their family and a commitment to ensuring that same experience remains accessible for future Belknappers.

Matt Daigneault

I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN COMMUNITY. Community is built on people who appreciate one another, look out for each other, and care for the physical spaces they share. The habits and traditions at Belknep, grounded in the four Woodcraft Lamps, have shaped the foundation of community for me and have served as guide poles throughout my life. Guide poles sound big and important but are simple acts or moments that bind a community together. Places like Huckins and Belknep show young people what community can be, how it forms, and just how deeply it can shape you when you commit to it.

Belknep was, and still is, a special place for me. It offered a setting where boys could witness other boys and young men - without judgment but with guidance - interact, learn, and try new activities. It still is an environment where boys can simply be boys—not in a toxic sense, but

in a healthy, supported, grounded way.

I also believe in leading by example. I cannot call Belknep an important place in my life without showing it. Though time and life responsibilities prevent me from doing more than financial support, donating is the least I can do in return for what Belknep gave to me and my sons. I am who I am, in part, because of Belknep and Belknappers like Gene Clark, Tom Giggi, Hank Depew, Chevy, Jason Segales, Chris Thurber, Kent Cruger, Colby Falconer, and so many more. And my sons are who they are thanks to leaders like Framp, Dacha Thurber, and Alex from Barcelona.

I have countless Belknep memories woven into my DNA—from my years as

a camper, leader, and parent, listening to my boys retell their own stories. There are too many to choose a favorite. Instead, I let them replay in a loop every summer, and each time I drive by en route to Wolfeboro.

Sam Daigneault

HUCKINS AND BELKNAP HAVE played a powerful role in shaping both me and my four kids. For our family, camp has always been more than just a place to spend two weeks each summer—it has been a place of belonging. What stands out most is the joy of the community. At camp, we learned how to live alongside others, support one another, and feel



genuinely known. Friendships formed around campfires and cabin bunks showed us that connection doesn't have to be complicated—it simply has to be genuine.

Camp also nurtured our love of the outdoors. Time spent hiking, swimming, and sitting beneath open skies reminded us that nature is both a teacher and a source of comfort. It slowed us down, challenged us, and helped us appreciate simple gifts: fresh air, muddy shoes, and sunsets after long days of play.

Camp created a unique space where freedom and structure existed side by side. There was room to explore, be silly, and try new things—while still knowing where we belonged and what was expected of us. That balance made camp feel safe yet adventurous, a place where personal growth could unfold naturally.

For me, and for my children, summer camp was far more than a seasonal experience—it helped shape who we are: people who value community, find peace

in the outdoors, and are never afraid to sing out loud!

Aaron Daigneault

THERE ARE INNER AND OUTER rings to any strong community, and Camp Belknap has a unique way of strengthening both at once. For me, the moments that stay with me are the ones where I've witnessed Belknap's influence quietly steward connection—moments where you can feel the community doing its work.

At times, when our family gathers, and the phones disappear and the noise of the outside world fades, something simple happens: a Belknap game finds its way into the fold with ease, encouraging engagement, sparking laughter, and reminding everyone how natural it is to connect when we're fully present. I genuinely believe I can see the shift that happens because of it—on a hike, on a boat ride, on a sports field, or at the beach. In places where phones are less

present—there is a grounding and a sense of being with one another that Belknap cultivates so naturally.

In the wider world, this translates to what I think of as “clean living”—stepping out of the matrix of daily pressures and returning our attention to the moment right in front of us. It's a way of living that reflects Belknap's motto, “seek the joy,” and I've met people skiing and hiking who, upon discovering we share Camp Belknap roots, instantly understand that way of life.

Young boys and men have unique challenges today and are tied to the pitfalls and expectations of today's society. Camp Belknap offers a two-week refuge—a place where boys can have fun and not be loaded up with expectations. A place where they can explore things they enjoy without being railed into the next commitment.

As for my favorite Belknap memory, it's a simple one—Papa waiting in line early so we could be the first to check-in. **B**

ANNUAL GIVING FUNDS

What Giving does at Camp Belknap

ANNUAL FUND

Our main operating fund which supports camp staffing & maintenance.

CAMPER SCHOLARSHIP FUND *(formerly Leaders Scholarship Fund)*

This fund supports camper scholarships for the following year.

LEADERS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund supports our Leaders' education so that they can come back to Camp during the summer instead of taking a higher paying summer job.

RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We thank all donors who gave to an endowment fund in 2025. Please see page 18 for additional information on these funds.

BELKNAP *by the* NUMBERS



132

Mature trees removed and reclaimed



11

Cords of wood cut, split, and stacked in preparation for summer 2026



500

Trees and saplings re-planted to take their place through active forest management



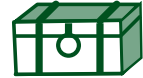
60

Gallons of sunscreen used by campers & leaders



150

Medical kits prepared by the Health Center for camper trips & overnights



52

Trunks borrowed for scholarship campers



346

campers from New Hampshire



35

States represented by summer 2025 campers



10

Countries represented by summer 2025 campers



144

Cyanobacteria inspections conducted on the Belknap shoreline summer 2025



1,160

Fall 2025 program participants



16,000

35mm slides digitized from the Belknap archives (1976-2004)

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Each year, Camp Belknap participates in Giving Tuesday, on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This day of giving was founded in 2012 and uses the collective power of non-profits to raise billions of dollars globally in one day. In 2023, a group of LC classes challenged each other to participate with joy and generosity and the effort was such a huge success that the challenge has continued to grow. In 2025, 267 individuals (63%) from the LC classes of 2010-2025, made a donation to Belknap. For the second year in a row, the LC class of 2022 achieved the distinction of 100% participation, through many phone calls, texts, and snapchats. Boomalacka to all!

FROM THE 2022 CLASS: We were able to pull through and deliver big for the 2025 Belknap Giving Tuesday Campaign. Many members of our LC class have transitioned to different chapters of their lives beyond Belknap, but we can all agree on the importance of giving back to a community that has given so much to us. Our connections with each other run deep. FaceTimes and phone calls were made to ensure the class of 2022 could deliver another year of 100% participation. Belknap is a special place, and it wouldn't be the same without the love and support from alumni and our community. Timi-Hi,

—Jake Haley & Gavin Bombara, LCs 2022





BELKNAP'S ENDOWMENT *and* PLANNED GIVING

A MESSAGE FROM

Dave White

FORMER CAMPER
& LEADER

BELKNAP HAS HAD A profound impact on my life. I have been really fortunate, in many ways lucky in life, but it wasn't always easy. One key moment that I have reflected upon often was when my parents were getting divorced, and we had literally no money. In turn, my family could not afford to send me back to Belknap.

I remember my mom picking up the phone to call Gene and let him know. I was so scared, thinking about the happiest, safest place I had as a child, being taken away from me. I remember it like it was yesterday. The phone call was brief—without hesitation Gene Clark III responded saying, “don't worry about it, just show up.” My mom was in shock when she told me his response. I'll never forget that moment which has stayed vivid for about 30 years now, that single act of kindness—an act of unbargaining service that showed me there might actually be light at the end of the tunnel, when I needed it the most.

I love Belknap for so many reasons, but in large part because I genuinely believe it has a positive impact on all of the people that are lucky enough to be part of it, and I see this time and time again when I visit during the summers. To have a culture whereby at its core it teaches kids to be good people, hold a moral compass even in times of stress, and stay true to who they are, especially in today's world, proves every day to be more and more special.

I am not blind to the fact that it costs a lot of money for such an amazing place to exist both today and in the future. As a result, I support Belknap because I don't ever want a kid to miss out on an opportunity, for any reason, to be part of such a special place. I give so that every Director of Belknap, for all of time, will be in a position to respond the same way that Gene did to my mom. I have a fundamental belief that at its core the organization has a truly positive impact on society, and I am proud to support Camp. The leadership training that Belknap gave me has helped me focus on how I give today. Charitable giving with purpose and understanding, not just writing a check to feel good about writing a check, is what truly models a good example. Belknap for me is an easy one in that respect.

The decision to join the White Pines Society was not a hard one. I value all that Belknap did for me—in critical points in my life, and also over the long term. I don't think a day goes by where life isn't better because of what Belknap gave me—how I stop and cherish moments with my family and find ways to be present despite the pressures of life and work, how I manage stress, how I approach challenges personally and professionally and how I treat all of the amazing people I'm lucky to have in my life—family, friends, colleagues, etc. I wish to help strengthen Belknap's legacy for the next century.



*Dave White – 1997
Besserer Mail Boy*

THE BASICS

What is Belknap's endowment?

Belknap's endowment is a permanent pool of financial assets designated to support current and future generations of Belknappers. The endowment consists of gifts from Belknap's generous donors, as well as the retained investment gains on those funds. Each year, with the approval of the Board of Trustees according to our spending policy, a portion of the endowment is distributed to support Belknap's operating budget. The endowment is managed with a prudent, long-term investment strategy that aims to generate long-term performance that exceeds inflation and the spending rate. Investment results, future donor support, and intentional stewardship of the endowment are essential to Belknap's mission and long-term financial stability. The endowment's value as of December 31, 2025, was ~\$7.5 million.

Endowment Funds support:

CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

*Bloch Scholarship Fund
Christopher van Tongeren Fund
Clark North Country Scholarship Fund
The Colantropo Scholarship Fund
General Scholarship Fund
Hurricane Leaders Camper Scholarship Fund
The Marston Heard Family Scholarship Fund
The Papas Family Scholarship Fund
Peter Marshall French Scholarship Fund
Ryan McCormack Memorial Scholarship Fund
Sean McManamy Scholarship Fund*

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & SALARIES

*Colin Brown Leadership Fund
Gary Morse Family Kitchen Division Fund
Hank Adams Environmental Fund
Nutter Junior Division Leadership Fund*

GENERAL ENDOWMENT

*Arthur T. Hibbard Fund
Dr. Horace S. Blood Leadership Fund
The McMartin Fund*



Why is Belknap's endowment important?

Spending from Belknap's endowment provides critical support for camper scholarships, leadership training, leader salaries, and other operating expenses. Belknap's spending policy is designed to distribute approximately 4% of the endowment's trailing three-year average value each year. Gifts into the endowment are both unrestricted (where the use of funds is available to support any aspect of Belknap's mission) or restricted to the use directed by the donor. In fiscal 2025, \$290,000 was distributed from the endowment as a key source of revenue in Belknap's annual operating budget. The majority of the endowment spending goes towards supporting the roughly \$700K of camper scholarships, consistent with Belknap's strategic goal to ensure that all boys, regardless of financial situation, have the opportunity to attend and feel a sense of belonging at Belknap.

How can you support Belknap's endowment?

Each year a portion of Belknap's Annual Giving goes to support and grow the endowment. Making a gift to the endowment is a unique opportunity for donors to help secure a strong financial foothold, ensuring that Belknap remains vibrant for generations to come. Donations can be made through several avenues including cash gifts, appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds or real estate, bequests or by naming Belknap as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account. For more information on any of these options, reach out to Geoff Masland, Advancement Director, to discuss the best scenario for your family.

A CONVERSATION WITH

John Colligan

THE FATHER OF THREE
BELKNAP CAMPERS

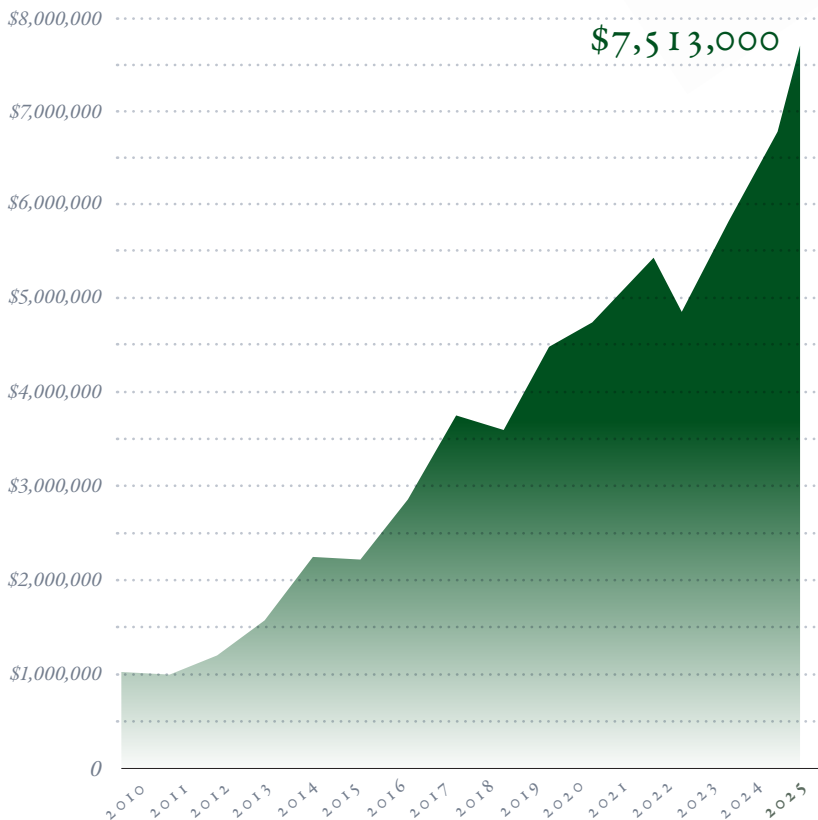
Q. What is your family's connection to Camp Belknap?

A. Camp Belknap has been an important part of the Colligan family for six decades. My brothers Paul and Patrick were campers in the 1970s. In the 1980s and 90s, seven nephews attended Belknap. In the 2000s, our sons Jack, George and Will were campers, and Lacey and I cherish the memories of Camp Belknap pick-ups and drop-offs with our beloved daughter, Austin. Now, in 2026, our family is delighted as the third generation of Colligans are learning how to "seek the joy!"

Q. What impact has the Belknap experience had on your family?

A. What Camp Belknap gave our boys is hard to replicate anywhere else. In a world of constant screens and instant connections with technology, Belknap is one of the few places where a boy can truly unplug and be present. They can be open to the Belknap motto, "God first, the other fellow second, and myself last." As our sons grew up, their Belknap experiences and friendships helped to shape them. The character formation and leadership skills that our sons learned

ENDOWMENT GROWTH 2010-2025





at camp continue to help each of them in their own way in their personal lives and in their professional careers. The friendships that began as campers continue to thrive long after their summers at Belknap ended. We have enjoyed watching these campers grow into fine young men and we also enjoy the friendships we have made with other Belknap parents.

Q. Why do you continue to prioritize Camp Belknap in your charitable giving, including your decision to join the White Pines Society?

A. Our support for Camp Belknap stems from gratitude and our commitment to aligning charitable gifting with our core values. We have seen what Belknap has meant in our sons' lives, and we have appreciated this more as time passes. The White Pines Society is a natural extension of our lifelong commitment to thanking Camp Belknap and supporting its mission for future generations.

Q. What is your wish for Camp Belknap in the future?

A. Our hope is that Camp Belknap continues to deliver faithfully building character, leadership, self-esteem, and community responsibility with the Belknap mission of "inspiring boys to lead by example, consider others, build strong character, value nature and seek the joy of being alive." **B**





OF NOTE

Filling the Pantry of those In Need

As the fall programming wrapped up, Belknappers found a way to support their local community and reduce waste. The camp freezer and refrigerator were emptied, and all remaining food was donated to the Bridge House in Plymouth and Isaiah 61 in Laconia. These organizations provide food, clothing, transitional living support, emergency housing, and aftercare to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.



Belknap staff filling the truck to head to the food pantry.

CAMP as THERAPY

For the past several years, Belknappers Zach Trotzky, Ryan Trotzky, Joe LaLiberte, and Chris Thurber have been collaborating on a research project, investigating the mental health effects of attending overnight summer camp. In October 2025, their research titled “Treating Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents: The Therapeutic Potential of Overnight Summer Camp” was published in Child & Youth Care Forum, a peer-reviewed journal which publishes empirical studies and reviews that have implications for child and adolescent mental health and psychosocial development. In their article, the Belknap research team presents two studies, one of which includes data collected at Belknap during the summer of 2021. These studies suggest that overnight summer camps may have benefits in anxiety levels, positive mood, and self-confidence and offer a promising alternative to outpatient mental health care. Boomalacka for this team of Belknappers, helping to identify and disseminate information on the benefits of summer camp! [Learn more at: campbelknap.org/archives](https://campbelknap.org/archives)

CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

My name is Cameron Mikulis. I am 14 years old and have spent six summers at Camp Belknap. Belknap is a place where I can have fun, spend time with friends, live in the moment, and try new things. I give to the annual fund because I feel so lucky to have this experience and want others to be able to have that same experience and find the joy that I have been able to find.



Cam Mik

to the Belknap kitchen division yesterday I got home from session two and immediately thought about the food at belknap. the chicken patties, smears, eggs, and legendary whoopie pies. all the work that you guys put in daily often goes unrecognized. every camper's meal made, dish washed, and jag trays cleaned is a HUGE job, and you guys nail it every day. I'm actually surprised how you can make food for 300 hungry teenage boys and sometimes I can't feed 1. every thing you ~~make~~ made I thoroughly enjoyed, and I would to thank you a million times for being absolutely awesome.

- Kai, Middle, 3rd yr



chicken pattie!



BELKNAP GIVES BACK

STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST Cadet campers, Belknappers learn early that caring for others is a core responsibility of being a member of the camp community. Whether they are sweeping Conlon Lodge, preparing their cabin for inspection, raking Cadet beach, or stocking up on ice for the Health Center, campers learn how individual acts of service contribute to the collective well-being of camp. With this in mind, it is no wonder that so many Belknappers naturally carry this spirit of unbargaining service into their own communities as they enter adulthood. We had the opportunity to catch up with three Belknappers, who are living the Lamp of Love, serving and elevating youth in their own communities.

Nick Danyo

CAMPER, LEADER, DH
1998–2014

I volunteer with an amazing non-profit organization called the MeWater Foundation, which uses the ocean and nature to educate, inspire, and empower historically marginalized youth across the San Francisco Bay Area. Many of the youth come from backgrounds of poverty and

violence. The program began with surfing but has expanded to many different outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and river rafting. I love surfing and working with youth, so this was the perfect opportunity to combine the two.

Volunteering for MeWater has given me a deep sense of gratitude to realize how fortunate I am both physically and financially to have surfing in my life. Many

of the participants live just a few miles from the beach but have never even seen the ocean, let alone tried surfing. I don't pretend to understand what these kids are going through, but instead I just try to be present and seek the joy of being alive. If they want to learn how to surf, I will teach them, but there is no pressure. My goal is to make sure they are having fun and building confidence. From my time at Belknap, I understand how important it is to have mentors outside of your immediate circle because it expands your perspective and introduces you to new opportunities in life.

There have been a lot of great days and experiences throughout my time with MeWater, but one that stands out in particular is the day that I brought a crab trap to one of the volunteer surf days at Muir Beach. A leader from the youth group asked to join, so together we paddled out



Above: Nick Dayno (back right) coaching the archery team; at right: volunteering his time at MeWater to help empower Bay Area Youth through the power of nature and the ocean. Previous page, campers raking Cadet Beach.



past the break to drop the trap. After about 30 minutes, we pulled the trap back up to find a huge Dungeness Crab. We brought it back to the beach, where they had a fire going. Eddie, who started MeWater, said we should try cooking it up, so we threw it right on the grill. Many of the kids had never tried Dungeness Crab, let alone fresh caught and grilled one right in front of their eyes. Some of the kids were apprehensive at

first but then tried and loved it! The leader of the youth group said that it was one of the coolest things he had ever done. All MeWater surf days are special, but this day definitely stands out.

Belknap taught me to do one act of unbargaining service each day whether it's as simple as picking up a piece of trash, or volunteering with an organization like MeWater. When it comes to encouraging

community and connection, being joyful and seeking the joy of being alive has the most positive impact. With all of the negative news we're exposed to these days, it can feel overwhelming and hard to know where to even start or how to help. Find something, no matter how small or infrequent, and just do it. Better yet, take an activity you already love, whether that be surfing, hiking, or something else, and volunteer with or donate to a local organization incorporating that activity.

Brigham Burlingame

CAMPER, LEADER, DH, PROGRAM & TRIPS DIRECTOR 2003 – 2017, YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM DIRECTOR – CURRENT

For the past two years, I have coached the U8 alpine team with the Abenaki Outing Club in Wolfeboro, NH. Serving over 200 youth each season, Abenaki is a local non-profit with the mission to provide safe and affordable skiing to youth, while fostering lifelong skills and passion in young skiers. The U8 program is focused on teaching fundamental skiing skills, having a lot of fun, and learning the joy of being out on the mountain for a day (seek the joy of being alive)! There are several local high school ski racers that help out coaching, some of whom also grew up in the program; together we support 26 kids in the U8 program this year. We train up to three days a week, and



Henry Hudson (26 LC), Kiernan Kolodner (26 LIT) & Brigham Burlingame coaching at Abenaki Ski Hill



Above left, Brigham and Peter Burlingame with leaders Tim Goessling and Will McDonough circa 2003; Above right, one of Brigham's early days on skis.

the kids compete in several “fun races” at different ski areas throughout the season. My goal is to instill a sense of self-confidence into the kids that I work with. You have to be confident in yourself to ski well, and confidence on the mountain translates to all other parts of life.

Growing up, I learned to ski at a young age and early on I understood the power of a day out on the mountain with family and friends, working hard and challenging myself while seeking the joy of being alive. I have always enjoyed sharing my love for the sport with other people. Coaching at Abenaki has been the perfect opportunity to be on snow regularly, learn more about ski racing, and to work with kids in an environment different from my other experiences. In 2024, I moved to Tuftonboro year-round, and this has been a great chance to connect with people in my new community. Oh—I also really love to ride the rope tow under the lights!

Coaching at Abenaki has truly changed my life. It has reinforced my love of working with kids, which in turn gives me a ton of energy. I have connected with people of all ages in my new community which makes me feel like I belong. Frequently I feel like a kid again when I ski at Abenaki; the feeling of being together with everyone on the hill is

so joyful and unlike any other ski experience that I have had in my life. So many of my favorite moments are the small ones—helping a kid feel confident to ride the rope tow by themselves, supporting a skier to use poles for the first time and seeing how to they learn maneuver the rope tow with them, and

watching as the skiers realize just how far they have come when they start turning their “wedges” into “hockey stops.” I also love connecting with my skiers from last season, watching their skills improve, and knowing that I helped them get there—it’s an amazing feeling.

Belknap has been a driving force to teach me the importance of supporting and connecting with my community—being helpful, kind and seeking the joy of being alive. This has been reinforced by my work at Abenaki. Everyone involved with the Outing Club—kids and parents, coaches, ski patrol, and everyone else who works at the hill grooming, running the lodge and the rope tow—together they are the definition of helpfulness. That’s what makes the community so strong—everyone doing their share of the work. Abenaki wouldn’t be the same without each of these people working together.

I always stress to my U8 skiers how awesome it is to just be outside skiing together. I get really excited about it. I mean, how cool is it that we get to go skiing under the lights after school and work? It is cold in NH at night, and skiing is a difficult sport, so you really do need to seek the joy out there. When I hear kids express a love for skiing, while having fun being on the hill together, that’s how I know I’ve set a good example.





Previous page, Brad Goldsberry (right) with Mack Ramsden in 2004; Above, Brad as a local youth soccer coach for his Colorado community's 8–10 year olds.

Brad Goldsberry

CAMPER, LEADER, DH

2002 – 2016

Belknap taught me a lot about being a leader in your community—the importance of being a positive role model and bringing joy to others. I have been grateful to have the opportunity to share this positive energy with my community in Colorado, working as a local youth soccer coach for approximately 45 boys, ages 8–10 years old. In addition to the youth teams, I am also an assistant coach at the local high school where a lot of our kids from the club teams go to school. It's a full circle experience coaching the kids in both their first and final year of organized soccer—much like being a Cadet Leader at Belknap and seeing campers arrive for their first summer and then progress through each division.

Working with kids is easily one of the coolest jobs out there. I love helping the boys develop the kind of life skills that will stick with them forever—the “soft skills” like communication, teamwork and problem-solving. Because they look up to their coaches, being a positive role model is

key to helping them succeed everywhere—from the classroom to the soccer field and at home. We focus heavily on leadership, often using stars like Lamine Yamal and Vinícius Júnior to get them excited about the process. Whether it's learning to collaborate as a team or set specific goals to level up their game, they are constantly growing. In addition, we conduct player evals where they learn to handle constructive feedback—a skill any Belknapper will tell you is the key to great leadership. Seeing them talk to coaches about how their day was at school, how they navigate relationships on their team or with classmates, and achieving their long-term development goals is exceptional practice for their future. As a coach, I can give them unbiased feedback which can be a lot easier to hear from me than from their parents. Coaching and playing on a team are stressful and showing kids a different way to manage difficult situations or conflict in competition is important.

One of the most rewarding parts of coaching is to see players start putting into action some of the skills we are teaching—whether they are the skills on the field or the “soft skills.” Recently, I had to meet with

a player on one of my younger teams that is struggling in school socially. We spent time talking about what was going on and I did my best to encourage him. After we talked, I asked one of the older players if he could make sure to connect with the younger player because he was feeling down about things going on at school. The older player could have made this a quick interaction, but instead he chose to grab some other players and make a meaningful connection with the boy by sitting down and really talking and listening to him. This was a technique I used at Belknap all the time in the Cadet Division with younger and older kids, trying to help them find their spot in their community.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned as a Belknapper was to seek the joy of being alive. Carrying that forward and being joyful for my players is the most important thing I can do as a youth coach. Kids gravitate towards that type of energy because it is fun. When you can weave that joyfulness with good technical training, the boys naturally want to come to practice every day to have fun and get better. And then—everyone wins! **B**



VESPERS



WE CAN BE A HOME *for* OTHERS

By Josefina Sandoval — Women's Wellness Camp

WHEN I WAS IN FIRST GRADE, I was just learning how to speak English. One day, my teacher asked us to draw the difference between a *house* and a *home.* I remember staring at my paper, completely confused. I didn't understand what she meant. For me at that time, they were the same thing. So I drew the exact same picture twice—a little square with windows, a door, a roof, and a garden. That was it. A house and a home looked identical.

As I grew older, I began to realize they were not the same. A house is a structure. A home is a feeling. A house is where you live. But a home is where you belong. That truth became even clearer when I began moving—when I left behind the familiar.

I grew up in the south of Chile, in a small city surrounded by volcanoes, forests, lakes, and the ocean nearby. That place was my house, but it was also my home because of my people, my traditions,

and the little details that filled my days. I remember the smell of fresh bread baking on a wood stove in the morning and the sound of my mom laughing as we cooked together. I cherished the comfort of sitting at a table with my loud and chatty family, receiving early morning calls from friends reminding me that we would go dancing that night, and having my teammates remind me about a long run the next day. Those details weren't just "nice things"—they were the essence of home.

And then, when I moved away, suddenly those things weren't around me anymore. I learned that migration is not just about distance. Migration means learning to re-create home in new ways, without forgetting where you came from. It means carrying the smells, the sounds, the memories, and finding ways to let them bloom again in new soil. I started noticing that home could be found in unexpected places. It could be in the smell of trees after the rain, reminding me of the forests back in Chile. It could happen

through a gesture like someone inviting me on a hike with backcountry skis on a particularly icy day at Mount Washington, where we shared an amazing conversation and breathtaking views. It might also occur during a conversation—a few minutes of chit-chat at lunch or a quick five-minute chat on a chairlift, leading to a lovely dinner and ending in a beautiful friendship.

It could be as simple as a smile, offered at just the right moment, or a pleasant camp out, where I initially doubted stepping out of my comfort zone but ultimately enjoyed delicious s'mores and shared amazing stories. It could even be the kindness of someone remembering my name.

And the most beautiful discovery? That home can live inside people. In the laughter of friends. In the trust that grows when you share experiences together. In the courage to be vulnerable with someone, and to feel them hold that trust gently. These are the things that turn a space into a home. Not the walls. Not the roof. Not the address. But the way people make you feel when you are with them.

One of the strongest ways I build home is through fun—something I enjoy most. It might sound simple. But for me, fun is sacred. Fun is not “just” play. It is the way we connect, the way we let our guard down, the way we belong.

Think about it—when you laugh so hard that your stomach hurts, when you're running across a field with friends, when you're swimming in the lake or playing a silly game, something deeper is happening. You're not just passing time. You're building trust. You're saying: I feel safe with you. I can be myself with you. That's powerful. Because that's how friendships are born. That's how strangers become family. That's how camp becomes a home. Real fun leads to real connection. Fun keeps our inner child alive.

Being at Belknap has taught me more than I could have ever imagined. It has helped me grow, face challenges, and become a better version of myself. Most importantly, I feel incredibly grateful for the people here and for being a part of this community. As I think about moving to another place, I realize how much I relate to Belknap's values.

Fortitude: It takes courage to start fresh, to let yourself be vulnerable and open to new people. I felt that courage tested every



time I introduced myself, every time I joined a new group, every time I tried something unfamiliar.

Truth: It takes honesty to say who you are, to share your story, and to listen deeply to the stories of others. When I spoke my truth about missing Chile, about feeling different, I found that people leaned in—not away. Truth invites connection.

Beauty: We find home in beauty. The beauty of the lake at sunset. The songs at Chapel. The tall pines that stand like guardians over us. Beauty has a way of grounding us—it whispers: You are safe; you belong here.

Love: At the heart of home is love. Love is what makes a new place familiar. Love is what allows us to belong, no matter where we are. Without love, a house is just walls. With love, any place can become home.

So now, I want to ask you: What makes *home* for you? Is it a smell? Like the fresh cut grass, or the lake water drying on your skin after a swim? Is it an action? Like being invited by your favorite neighbor to go for a walk with her dog, or having someone

save you a seat at the table? Is it a person? A friend who makes you laugh until you can't breathe, or someone who listens and makes you feel seen and heard?

And maybe the most important question: How can **you** be that sense of home for someone else? Home is not just what we receive. Home is what we create—for each other—through fun, through friendship, through real connection, through love.

Let me go back to the picture I drew in first grade: just a square with windows, a roof, and a garden. That was my idea of home back then. Now, I understand more. When we leave here—when we return to our houses, our different cities, and our different countries—we don't have to leave this sense of home behind. We can carry it with us. We can be home for others, no matter where we go.

And the most beautiful truth? You don't have to wait for someone else to create a home for you. You can build it. You can embody it. You can create that sense of belonging for someone else. That is how Belknap becomes not just a camp, but a true home. **B**



ENHANCED EXPERIENCES and EXPANDING ENROLLMENT

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SUMMER CAMP requires a collaborative approach that helps to identify boys who may not otherwise be aware of the opportunity to attend summer camp, as well as establishing consistent funding to support the boys. By partnering with local organizations, schools and other youth-focused non-profits, we are better able to reach boys from diverse backgrounds who would most benefit from the Belknap experience. This organizational outreach, along with generous contributions from our annual donors, allows Belknap to offer an increasing number of scholarships each year. The enrollment partnerships create a sustainable system of support to ensure that a family's financial constraints never stand in the way of a child having access to the camp experience, as well as ensuring that boys will have a supportive and successful experience while at camp. Below we highlight three organizations and schools, that Belknap partners with to ensure that boys have the opportunity to attend summer camp, regardless of their financial or personal circumstances.

SON OF A SAINT

New Orleans, LA

IN 2019, CAMP BELKNAP WELCOMED the first three campers from the Son of a Saint (SOAS) organization in New Orleans. Belknap's first connection to SOAS was through Belknap Trustee, David Bloch, who learned about the organization from a friend who was serving on their Board. She shared her excitement about the organization and explained their philosophy - when you provide structure, consistent positive guidance and a true sense of belonging, great outcomes naturally follow. The Belknap team agreed that SOAS had potential as a strong enrollment partner—both organizations focus on strong communication, high expectations, and a strong support system for boys and families—a winning combination. Fast forward to summer 2026, seven boys will travel with a SOAS mentor from New Orleans, to attend Belknap in July.

The Son of a Saint organization was founded in 2011 with the mission to “transform the lives of fatherless boys through consistent mentorship, holistic care, and a community that believes in their potential.” SOAS has grown considerably over the past 15 years, and Belknap is proud to be able to partner with this organization to support boys who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend summer camp. The enrollment team works with the Program Director at SOAS to identify boys who will be able to be successful in the camp experience; criteria include emotional readiness, leadership potential, and the ability to be independent. With

these criteria in mind, the program team at SOAS presents the Belknap experience to families, and then they go through a selection process to determine enrollment. Belknap and SOAS work together to ensure success for the boys—this means phone conversations with families to review details of the Belknap experience, and in all cases, Belknap provides a trunk, bedding and clothing for campers so they can quickly assimilate to the camp experience.

WE RECENTLY CAUGHT UP WITH JADA IRVING, A MOM WITH TWO BOYS, JAYCE AND DYLAN, ATTENDING BELKNAP THROUGH SON OF A SAINT.

Q. What has the opportunity to send both of your boys to camp meant for your family?

A. Sending both of my boys to camp has meant so much to me. It has given them the chance to grow independently, build confidence, and form friendships outside of their usual environment. As a single mom, it's reassuring to know they're in a place that supports not only fun and adventure, but also character development. I enjoy seeing them grow and flourish each summer.

Q. Have you seen any specific changes in your boys when they return home from camp each summer, and do you notice any Belknap practices being used at home?

A. Yes! Each summer they come home a little more mature and self-sufficient. They're more confident in handling responsibilities on their own, whether that's keeping their space organized, being more active, or managing their time better. I also notice they seem more resilient and willing to try new things after spending time at camp, and electronics are an afterthought for a little while, which is a plus! They take more initiative at home, whether that's helping set the table, pitching in with chores, or being more mindful of how their actions affect the family. They understand the value of teamwork and contributing to a community. It's encouraging to see those habits carry over beyond camp.

I am grateful for the positive impact camp has had on my boys. The balance of structure, independence, and community has helped shape them in meaningful ways. It's clear that the lessons they learn at camp extend far beyond the summer.

KINDCOOP

Kids In Need Cooperative, Wolfeboro, NH

CAMP BELKNAP HAS COLLABORATED with the KIND Cooperative over the past decade to identify and support local students, who wish to attend summer camp but lack the financial resources to make this happen. To date, KIND has helped local children attend eight different sleepover camps in the area, including Camp Belknap.

KIND Cooperative is a grassroots, volunteer-led initiative dedicated to supporting students and families across the Governor Wentworth Regional School District, as well as schools in Wakefield, Middleton, Alton, and Barnstead. Managed by a committee of community members and school representatives and operating as an outreach of the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wolfeboro, KIND connects people who wish to help financially with those who need it the most.

The effort began in 2015, when a group of local residents learned about the serious, unmet needs of children and youth in the area. While schools and service organizations work tirelessly to support families, many needs fall outside the scope of traditional funding—including the cost of a summer camp experience. In response, a volunteer cooperative was formed, and a network of individuals was developed, who are willing to respond when needs arise. The organization works closely with school social workers or counselors to discreetly address urgent student



KIND Coop provides supplies campers need including trunks, sleeping bags, bathing suits and rain coats.

needs—everything from shoes, winter clothing, backpacks, rental assistance, bedding, college deposits, nutritional support, camp scholarships and more. Every donation goes directly to help a child or family, and each act of giving strengthens the community. The goal of the organization is not only to meet material needs, but also to build a culture of connection, kindness, and responsive care.

In addition to funding tuition and/or registration fees for summer campers, KIND works closely with families to provide the items they need for a successful camp experience. Many of the campers need essential items ranging from bathing suits, raincoats, sneakers, and trunks to sleeping bags and everything in between. Counselors work with each camper or family to identify what they need and then give them the opportunity to choose the items themselves. Allowing campers to

select what they will wear, or use, helps campers feel confident to fully join the camp community. Often, donors are individuals who have been deeply impacted by their own summer camp experience, and they feel drawn to support a local student to ensure they also have the opportunity to enjoy a similar experience. Through Belknap's strong collaboration with KIND, potential campers are more easily identified and supported throughout the entire process. *Information provided by Krista Marschner, Administrative Director for KIND Cooperative*



Ninth graders from the Fenn School go for a ride on the NYMCAH

FENN SCHOOL

Concord, Massachusetts

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN Fenn and Camp Belknap began eight years ago, when Dave Irwin (former Belknap Assistant Director) organized an overnight school trip for the Fenn School 9th graders as they returned to school in September. The two institutions share many common values, so it seemed to be a perfect fit for a team building trip to start the school year. The autonomy of the Belknap camper experience—choosing activity periods, making transitions independently, general swim, etc.—is mirrored by the motto at Fenn, *Sua Sponte*, which roughly translates to “on one’s own responsibility.” Boys at Fenn are similarly expected to be trusted throughout the day, taking ownership of themselves and their community and taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them. Fenn, like Belknap, also places an emphasis on leadership development. More recently, after this initial introduction to Belknap, the admissions and financial aid teams at Fenn decided to expand this partnership to include sending scholarship campers from Fenn to Camp Belknap each summer.

Fenn students are nominated by a committee of faculty and staff members, who know them very well. The criteria include character and citizenship, care for others and community spirit, alignment

with Fenn’s core values (honesty, respect, empathy, courage), leadership potential, and potential impact of the scholarship opportunity, among a few others. The identification of potential campers is an important piece of the success of this partnership. Fenn faculty help to identify boys, who can be successful in the camp environment, which involves the ability to be independent, handle transitions, and to work well within a community.

Once a family is offered a scholarship, Andy Rentschler (also a former Belknapper!) meets with the boys and their families to share more about the Belknap program, its history, other camp highlights, and to review the details of the scholarship. Often, Andy is able to connect new campers with a current Fenn scholarship camper and their family to hear about their experience and to answer any questions or concerns they may have. Fenn does offer to provide gear to scholarship families if needed, and trunks can be borrowed through Camp Belknap.

At each stage of the process, both Fenn and Belknap work collaboratively to support the campers. Fenn closes the loop each season by meeting with boys to learn more about their experiences, and to understand how they can be better supported. These touchpoints are important to fully understand and ensure that campers have a meaningful and fun experience!

*Information provided by
Andy Rentschler, Acting Director of
Admission & Financial Aid* **B**







GIVING *to* CAMP BELKNAP

BELKNAP IS A PLACE where campers acquire for life the skill of leadership & the value of stewardship. As a non-profit camp, Belknap relies on alumni, parents, leaders, friends & neighbors for support. Tuition covers 90% of the cost of providing a Belknap boy's summer under the pines, & as such, charitable contributions are essential to preserving the longevity of the Belknap experience.

[†] Timi-Hi 5-Year Donor

[‡] Timi-Hi 10-Year Donor