

REFLECTIONS

SPRING + SUMMER 2017



BEAVER FARM
ALL-COMMUNITY
RETREAT **p. 4**

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ANDREAS
LINDENBERG
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EVENTS/
HAPPENINGS:
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A Community of Light

Reflecting on the journey of those
who have supported Camphill
throughout the years.



CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

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REFLECTIONS

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A Special
Memorial
Dedication

We dedicate this issue of *Reflections* to the memory of Stephanie Wolf, daughter of Bernie and Else. Stephanie was born and raised at Beaver Run. She went on to become a dedicated kindergarten teacher in Baltimore. Tragically, Stephanie succumbed to complications from a severe bout of influenza on February 22. She was 37 years old. Else shares, “Stephanie was always straightforward. She had excelled in common sense. She would usually tell you what she thought. But she had a great heart and sense of humor. She was a truly grounded person. So now she has moved on to go on a different journey with her courageous heart and free spirit.”

“

We are a nation of communities . . . a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.

— George H.W. Bush



THE CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS FILLED WITH LIGHT—our students, coworkers, faculty, staff, volunteers, and especially you, our donors. Everyone plays an important role in reflecting their own personal light to provide a bright future for everyone else and themselves. As I think about reflections—a word with many meanings—I feel warmth. I realize that all of the unique minds of the people in my world are offering their reflective light, support, and love to me as I do the same for them in tough times and in good times.

In this issue we reflect on the journeys of people who have been connected to Camphill for years, decades, even half a century. Their paths to find Camphill each are different, but they are the same in their dedication, love, and commitment.

Courtney Coffman, Editor

BEAVER FARM ALL-COMMUNITY RETREAT: EVERYONE'S VOICE WAS HEARD

BY LIBBY SANDERS, BEAVER FARM HOUSE PARENT

THE TRANSITION PROGRAM AT BEAVER FARM held an all-community retreat on November 1 and 2. The festive atmosphere really began the night before, however, with hot dogs around the fire pit and Nick's dramatic rendition of the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. As Nick told us, it happened in a village just like this one, along a creek just like this one. And, sure enough, we had to steel ourselves for the fright-filled walk home through the woods! The next morning, coworkers, students, and employees gathered together for movement, singing, lantern making, and small-group conversations that got right to the heart of what "transition" is all about: How did I get to be where I am now? What would I like to do or experience in the coming year? How do people treat me, and how would I like to be treated? In these activities and conversations, we found ways to ensure that everyone's voice was heard.

We learned a lot about each other, and not all of the conversations were easy: When we discussed how we are treated by others, many of us began to reflect instead on how we perceive and treat other people. Groups realized that we may have a lot more in common than our external labels make it seem: Whatever the label, many of us are between the ages of 18 and 21! Many of us are students, whether that be students in the Transition Program, in the Orientation Year Program, or the Camphill Academy Curative Education Program. And all of us, despite the wisdom that years of experience can offer, are finding ourselves doing things we've never done before and learning as we go—this retreat being an example of that! We also discovered where our shared interests lie: A lot of guys would like to play team sports; others are very excited about going on trips; Ani and Kaitlyn are both very excited about the prospect of raising turkeys (who knew!?).

We also marked the festivals of All Saints' and All Souls' during our retreat, which

put our questions and our journeys through transition into a much larger context. For All Saints' Day, each crew leader told us the legend of the patron saints for their crafts—the patron saints of cooking, cleaning, weaving, pottery, baking, farming, teaching, gardening, and woodworking. Testing our skill, we managed to remember them all! For All Souls', Guy told us our founder Ursel Pietzner's life story, complete with images of the growth of Beaver Run (and the gradual graying of some of our own Beaver Farmers too!). The lanterns we made also served a special purpose, used for the festival of Saint Martin's in mid-November.

Before our final conversation and singing, we went on a quiet walk together around the farm to let the events of the past two days sink in and provide us with the peace to distill what was most important. Our All Saints'-All Souls' retreat ended with a large group sharing of what we had discussed in each of our small groups and what stood out most strongly to us in this retreat. We began

to explore the questions of "Who am I?" and "What are we doing here together now?" Before us lay the question: What sort of place do we want Beaver Farm to be, and what do I need to change in myself to help that happen? We got a hint of that when Anna led us in our final singing of "Belief," a *Beaver Run Songbook* chestnut. In soprano, alto, and bass, we managed to bring about a harmony and depth that we hadn't quite expected we would. As the final chord dissipated, we experienced a rare moment of complete and peaceful silence. From that, and with a hearty "Good afternoon," the striving to develop our individual voices—out of ourselves, through our work, and in our relationships—began to grow. As we look forward to our next retreat for Ash Wednesday and the rest of our festival year, we will begin to push the process to the next step, from knowing who and where we are now to exploring movement, flexibility, and openness to something different and unexpected. 🏹



Jessica, Noah, coworker Luisa, Laura, and Madeleine

THE SPROLL FAMILY: A CAMPHILL JOURNEY



The Sproll's Whitestone family



Nick works at a dairy.

IN 1978, CLAUD AND ANNE MET IN CRESSET HOUSE, a Camphill community in South Africa. Claus came from Germany to take a gap year during his Waldorf teacher training and Anne had come to experience work in a Camphill community after spending six years in two Steiner homes for children with special needs. When they got married, they decided to move to Germany, where they lived for the following four years. Claus worked in publishing and Anne stayed at home taking care of their three children as well as providing after-school care to two others.

Anne and Claus moved to Canada in 1983, where they joined a pioneering initiative in Ontario working with teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Claus attended conferences on special education in the U.S., where he met many people from Camphill communities, particularly connecting with Ingelore and Manfred Maier. This eventually led them to apply to become coworkers at Triform, a pioneering youth guidance Camphill community at the time. During their seven years in Triform, Claus wore many hats—gardener, houseparent of a large and busy household, and worker in administration—particularly the financial department. Anne immediately became immersed in coworker and student admissions in addition to running a large house.

Nicholas Francis Sproll was born in 1992. Blessed with Down syndrome, Nick was

initially very weak and frail, needing a lot of care. When he turned 2, the family decided to move to Camphill Special School. Their oldest son Tim was at university in Canada and the other two children, Marcus and Susanne, were approaching high school. Claus took on the role of high school teacher. After some time it became clear that Claus' expertise in administration and finance were needed, and he began working full time in the office. Anne joined the work in coworker admissions in addition to running a house.

After a year as houseparents in the Chantry, then a children's residence, Anne and Claus moved to Whitestone. Nicholas began to attend the kindergarten in Beaver Run with the children of other families living in the community. When Nick was 4 he attended the Kimberton Waldorf School parent-toddler group, venturing out into the world slowly but surely. The following two years he attended the kindergarten there.

Because Nicholas lived permanently in Beaver Run, Anne and Claus felt it was important for him to have experiences beyond its boundaries, and for four years he attended a public elementary school. Nick benefited academically, learning to read and write, but he became socially quite isolated. This led to the decision to have him attend school in Beaver Run. He joined fully in community life and made good friends. After 12th grade, he moved on to Beaver Farm, learning a great deal about home economics and farm work. He

also participated in job training at Kimberton Whole Foods. Nick now lives in Camphill Triform.

In addition to growing up in community, Nicholas' siblings all spent time working in Beaver Run. After graduating from university in Canada, Tim worked in Beaver Run for six months before embarking on his own life's journey. He now lives in Ontario. Susanne spent a gap year after high school volunteering at a hospice in North Carolina for a few months and then worked in Beaver Run as a classroom assistant in Becky's class. She then went to university in Toronto, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She worked at Devereux, then at a center for people with traumatic brain injury, and finally as a nurse educator in an Ob/Gyn clinic. After seven years she and her daughter Ariella reconnected with Camphill, living in Triform, where she was a house parent and nurse, all while completing training as an Anthroposophical nurse. Marcus also returned to work in Beaver Run once he finished college, performing grounds maintenance before he left to earn his Masters degree in Urban Planning at the University of California in Irvine. He and his wife now live in San Diego. 🏹

AN EXCITING NEW TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS—YOU CAN BENEFIT, AND SO CAN OUR STUDENTS!



Students enjoy a crisp fall day.



A coworker and Julie

The EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Program enables Pennsylvania businesses—and **in some cases individuals**—to directly invest in the education of our children through scholarships. The application process is simple, and the benefits to our students and their families are transformational.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR EITC?

Any business authorized to do business in **Pennsylvania** that is subject to one or more of the following taxes:

- Personal Income Tax of S Corp shareholders or partners in a general or limited partnership
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Title Insurance Company Shares Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax.

Individuals may qualify if they pay at least \$7,000 in PA taxes annually.

HOW DOES EITC BENEFIT ME?

Eligible participants can receive a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution to Camphill Special School. This credit increases to 90% if the participant commits to give the same amount for two consecutive years.

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL?

Funds donated by participants will support our financial aid program for Pennsylvania students who lack government or personal resources.

HOW DOES ONE APPLY?

The process is simple, but **deadlines and timely compliance must be emphasized**. Applications are submitted on July 1 for all first-time business applicants. To participate in the EITC program, visit the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website (newpa.org/) to complete an online application.

Individuals interested in participating can call Cara Schmidt at 610.469.9236 to learn more about the simple individual application process. Information is also available on our website (camphillspecialschool.org/giving/eitc/).

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to the following businesses for contributing to our EITC program:

CustomersBank



eagle eye associates
Ensuring the vision of our community.

GMS Surgent
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS
on behalf of Lauren Adamski

PHILADELPHIA
INSURANCE COMPANIES
A Member of The CNA Group

Michael P.
& RUDY CPA
ASSOCIATES



UNIVEST
BANKING • INVESTMENT • WEALTH SERVICES

Would you like to see your business on this list next year?

Contact Cara Schmidt at 610.469.9236 or cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 15 Business applicants that have fulfilled their two-year commitment and wish to reapply in 2017–2018 to renew their two-year commitment*

MAY 15 Businesses that are in the middle of their two-year commitment

JULY 1 All other businesses
Have your tax credits equal 90% of the contribution up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year with a two-year commitment or 75% of the contribution for a one-year commitment.

Paige plays recorder.



KATHERINE GRACE RUSHING: ONLY LOVE WILL FILL ME

BY SUE RUSHING, KATIE'S MOM

IT IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD THAT KATHERINE GRACE RUSHING (KATIE) CAME INTO OUR LIVES ON FEBRUARY 5, 2007.

It is no coincidence that six years later we found the most appropriate place for Katie to grow and flourish at Camphill Special School. She travels far to/ from school each day, but we breathe easily knowing that once she gets to Glenmoore, Pa., she is in the most perfect setting for her. Katie has only done so well because of the teachers, therapists and staff who nurture her each day she spends in her daily rhythm at Beaver Run. From navigating her communication device and putting on her jacket *on her own* to playing the bells at an assembly and raking on land day (or, let's be honest: riding in the wheelbarrow!), Katie has grown tremendously at Camphill.

Katie is non-verbal. But right before bed she hands me the *Evening Verse* that she has learned at school and I picked up at a parent workshop. As we act it out together, I can't help but feel that she is processing her whole day, and thinking about her active participation at school tomorrow . . .

From my head to my feet,
I am the image of God.
From my heart to my hands
I feel the breath of God.
When I speak with my mouth
I will follow God's will.
When I see and I know God
In my father and mother,
In all loving people,
In animal and in flower,
In tree and in stone
Then no fear shall I feel.
Only love will fill me
For everything around me.

When we speak of God's grace, we mean *all the good gifts we enjoy freely in life*. There are so many, we could spend a lifetime celebrating them: matchy game,

pancakes, parachute monster, music, siblings, whipped cream, *Camphill Special School*.

Thanks to Camphill, we recognize progress in Katie almost daily. *It's not if, but when* she will accomplish everything up to and beyond her potential *by the grace of God*. 🙏



Katie in her classroom

CAROLINE AND JOHN McCARDELL: STILL PART OF WHO WE ARE

CAROLINE AND JOHN McCARDELL'S DAUGHTER, THERESA, ENTERED NICKY SMITH'S FIRST GRADE CLASS IN THE FALL OF

2005. Caroline shares, "Her best last year was here." Sadly, Theresa passed away at the age of 7 in July 2006.

"Eleven years later, Camphill is still part of who we are. I cannot imagine what we lived happening anywhere else. The only constant in our lives at the time was Camphill. I still remember being concerned about Theresa being in school and participating in the community after she was "trached" again, and Bernie saying, 'No matter what, your child is

always a part of Camphill.' The sigh of relief that your child is happy and secure is such a gift a parents gets after being part of Camphill," shares Caroline.

For Caroline and John, part of Theresa's legacy is to have Camphill Special School continue for the other children and families here. That's why they joined the Pietzner Legacy Society by naming the Beaver Run Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills.

When asked what she would say to someone who is on the fence about becoming a member of the Pietzner Legacy Society, Caroline stated, "Come for a tour. The website, newsletters, all the materials are beautiful, but they do not do the school justice. This place, which John refers to as Shangri-La, is the most

phenomenal environment for a child to be in. It's a place where the child is first. The education they receive is presented to them where they are and how they're able to learn. Theresa was non-verbal, but when she came home she would have an air of peacefulness about her. As a parent, that was a gift, because without language we always wondered what her life was like when we weren't there. We made a conscious decision to be part of the plan that sustains the gift of Camphill Special School so that it is available to children and families in the future." 🙏



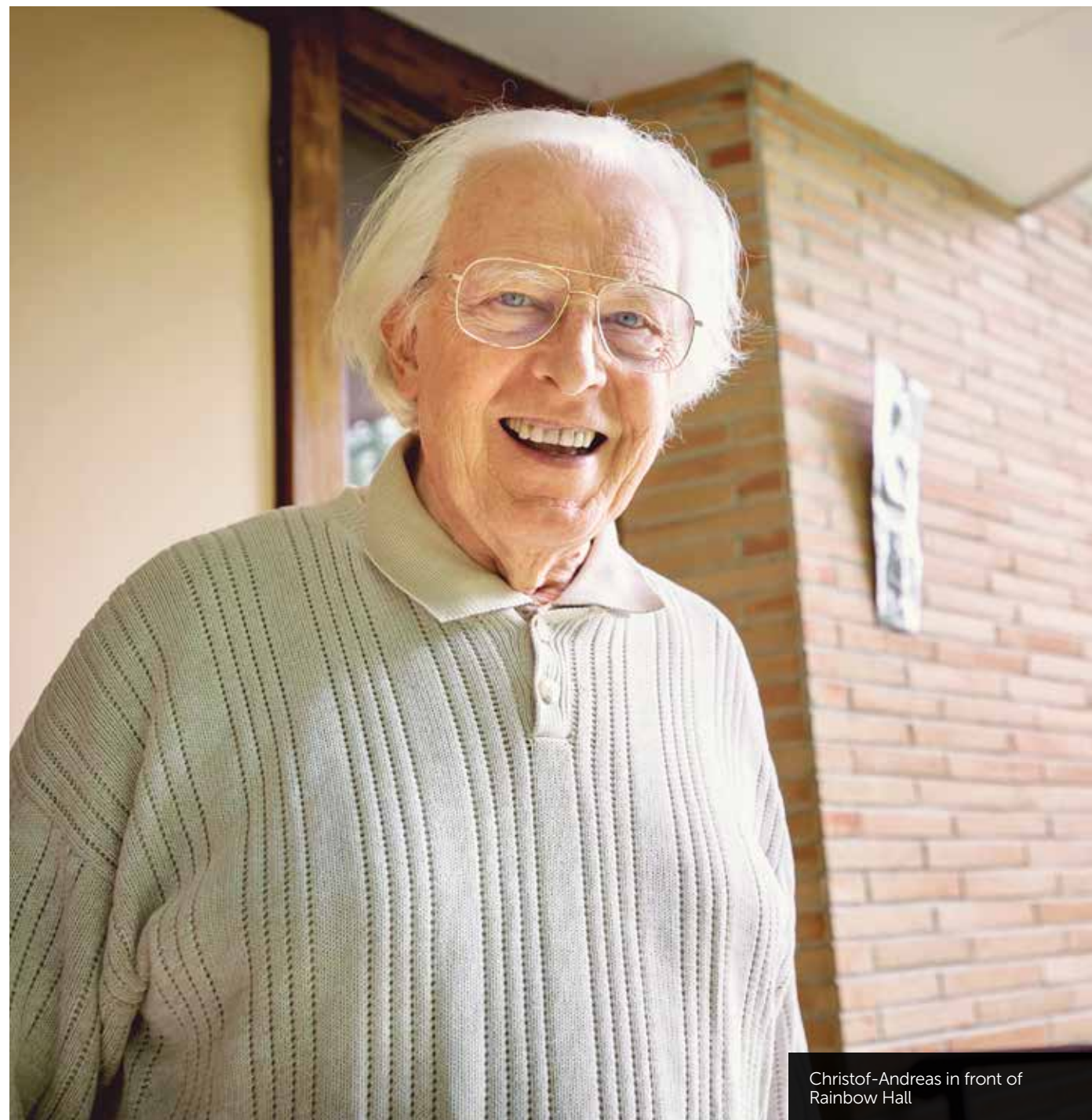
Theresa (in pink) with her class in 2005

WANT TO LEARN HOW YOUR LEGACY CAN HELP CAMPHILL?
Contact Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x 132 for more information.

“

All things shall perish from under the sky.
Music alone shall live, music alone shall live,
music alone shall live, never to die.

— Taken from the *Beaver Run Songbook*, created by C.A.L.



Christof-Andreas in front of
Rainbow Hall

CHRISTOF-ANDREAS LINDENBERG: MUSIC ALONE SHALL LIVE

BY KARUNA KASTURI

THERE IS A TERM WITHIN THE MUSICAL WORLD KNOWN AS “TESSITURA” WHICH TRANSLATES TO “THE MOST COMFORTABLE SING-

ING RANGE OF A SINGER.” The song that we will be listening to will be none other than that of our passionate music man, the creator of our beloved songbooks here at Beaver Run and respected elder in Camphill Communities, Christof-Andreas Lindenberg.

Initially, Christof-Andreas spoke in what I can only imagine to be a *staccato* pace. It was polite, short, and detached—the beginning of finding that *tessitura*, I thought, that serene circle in which to share one’s life stories. It wasn’t until I asked “What brought you to Camphill?” that we slowly settled into that desired range. “My mother,” he answered simply, and it was apparent that a deep reverence and love echoed in his words. It was after World War II and Christof-Andreas’ mother, a trained nurse, was working alongside a very prominent man. It was this very man who made a spectacular prophecy, proclaiming to the then-pregnant mother, “*The one whom you carry under your heart will be my coworker in the future.*” And as fate would have it, years after Christof-Andreas’ birth, his mother suggested he travel to Aberdeen in Scotland’s mystical Highlands to take up the Curative Education courses being offered and to learn alongside the man responsible for conceptualizing and creating the entire Camphill Movement, Dr. Karl König himself. It was easy to see how much of his mother’s healing nature had been instilled in Christof-Andreas and how much Karl König helped intensify that power.

We had now entered the *legato* *expressivo* phase of his life, and soon his voice was transformed into an ebullient and eloquent tone—free flowing and expressive—as he described years of traveling, learning, and meeting people with similar passions. It was the 1950s and his mother hoped that Christof-Andreas would return

home to Germany after completing his courses and assist her in her work; however, after he left Germany to travel to Scotland, his path had begun to take form, and it soon led to chapters filled with adventures in Northern Ireland’s Glenraig, where he continued to follow his own vision of working and building more Camphill Communities. Through the years Christof-Andreas began to grow in both spirit and craft, and along with him in his journey were his mentors, close friends, and the family he had created with his then-wife and six beautiful children. At that time there was another group that was also growing in spirit and craft known as the “Lyre Teachers’ Guild,” and it was within this circle that an entirely new chapter of Christof-Andreas’ life would emerge.

“Music led me to America,” he said. It was the Lyre Teachers’ Guild that created the opportunity to travel to America, but it was his father who, like his mother, inspired in him a devout healing nature, the healing nature of music. Christof-Andreas’ father was a priest who during the war was forced to change his profession to medicine, but throughout his childhood and adult life, his father played a tremendous role in his education and devotion to music. I was surprised to learn that he had been taught various instruments and composition from a very young age. “I tried to be creative, not just learn the ABC’s,” he expressed earnestly. His desire was to develop music therapy and portray the medicinal gift within it, a way to ease the pain in both his students and all his communities he traveled to—and desire that he has fully and undoubtedly accomplished.

Today, Christof-Andreas and his wife Norma continue to find ways to inspire the art of music therapy throughout Camphill. He researches the power of music, and with him on this exploration is Nicole Krutzke, one of Beaver Run’s music therapists and a close friend of Christof-Andreas. “Today I am helping him document his ongoing research. Working with him so closely is both personally and professionally enriching. He

is probably the most inspired and inspiring person I have ever met. Working with him has always been a privilege and a lot of fun. Having been part of his first Music Therapy Training class has been profound. Witnessing his enthusiasm and genius was both inspiring and deeply humbling. I treasure the memory when CAL taught, so inspired and excited to share his new research with us. He would connect all the dots and lay it all out to us . . . the whole room sparkled with excitement, awe, amazement, gratitude, and deep respect for his brilliance and wisdom.”

We had finally reached the *Da capo al fine* stage, which literally means *head to tail*, or in a more literary sense, beginning to end, but I still had one final question to ask. “If there was one thing you wanted people to remember, what would it be?” He again replied simply. “Tone.” By definition and within the musical context, *tone* is defined as a *particular quality, way of sounding . . . expressive of some meaning, feeling, or spirit*. Christof-Andreas explained that at Beaver Run, “We have a color of the day, a mood of the day, scale of the day, which all gives way to a tone of the day.” There is a particular frequency, vibe you can say, that is created through all this, it reaches a soul level, and it is at this level he wishes people to remember. He wishes us to bear in mind that there was a time when the day was started with an impulse, an intention, from deep within us, a beautiful way to start our day. Through this tone he believes one can find peace within them and return that energy back out into our world.

Such an answer made me feel that Christof-Andreas holds within him the very foundation that Camphill was built on. It is quite clear to understand how it was all meant to be for him, a role that Karl König envisioned so beautifully and Christof-Andreas continues to perform so magnificently. *Al fine.*



Craig Adams receives our Corporate Partner award at the 2016 Gala from Bill Herman and Guy Alma.

WITH GRATITUDE TO CRAIG ADAMS

CRAIG ADAMS RECENTLY COMPLETED HIS SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Craig, who is President and CEO of PECO, has served on our Board since 2000 and has helped lead the school through our largest Capital Campaign, tumultuous economic times, and tremendous growth. We express our sincere gratitude to Craig for his service as President and look forward to having him continue as a valued and trusted member of the Board and Camphill Special School community. 🏡



Craig Adams, President and CEO of PECO

JENNIFER NILSEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

JENNIFER NILSEN, WHO RECENTLY BECAME SEMI-RETIRED FROM IEI GROUP, was introduced to Camphill Special School by Craig Adams. It all started with an invitation to tour the school. Jen took our tour and, like so many others who visit, was overwhelmed by the experience. She knew she had to be involved. The Board of Directors was a great fit, and Jen became a member in 2011, but she wanted to do even more. When it came time for the interior design to be decided upon at the new buildings at Beaver Farm, we tapped her expertise for the project and she made perfect

choices for all of the spaces. She did the same at Meadowsweet, including encouraging the use of even more student-made tiles for the bathrooms and kitchen areas. Jennifer was unanimously voted to serve as President for a three-year term. She wants the Board to continue to focus on maintaining the highest level of care, education, commitment, and especially love for our students. Jennifer also is encouraging Board members to become more involved at the school, including having lunch with the children after meetings and volunteering when available. Jennifer enjoys helping with horse-back riding therapy and hopes to do more volunteering in the future.

Jennifer shares, “There’s no place like Camphill. It is a friendly, loving village where children are cared for by people who have a passion for what they are doing. I have never seen any egos at Camphill—everyone works together. It’s as close to utopia as you can get.” Jennifer lives on a gorgeous farm in the rolling hills of East Fallowfield in southern Chester County with her husband of 37 years, Arthur DeLeo. There they enjoy their historic farmhouse, horses, chickens, and peacock. She has two (step) children and four grandchildren. 🏡



Jennifer Nilsen, President of the Board of Directors

Beaver Run Foundation

THE BEAVER RUN FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2006 WITH THREE MAIN PURPOSES:

- 1) to encourage and motivate the making of gifts and donations for the advancement, promotion, and maintenance of Camphill Special School
- 2) to invest the money it raises to establish a fund to benefit the general purposes of Camphill Special School
- 3) to hold title and manage property acquired for the benefit of Camphill Special School

Funds Held by the Beaver Run Foundation

- Staff Children Education Fund
- Sarah Jane Fund
- Curative Education Fund
- Declan Meltzer Scholarship Fund
- The Herman Endowment Fund
- Katherine Grandt Fund
- BRF Reserve Fund
- The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Endowed Scholarship Established for the Support of Camphill Special School's Children in Need—our newest fund established thanks to the Friendly Sons whose President is longtime supporter Joseph P. Heenan



Greg with his wife Annie and daughter Becky

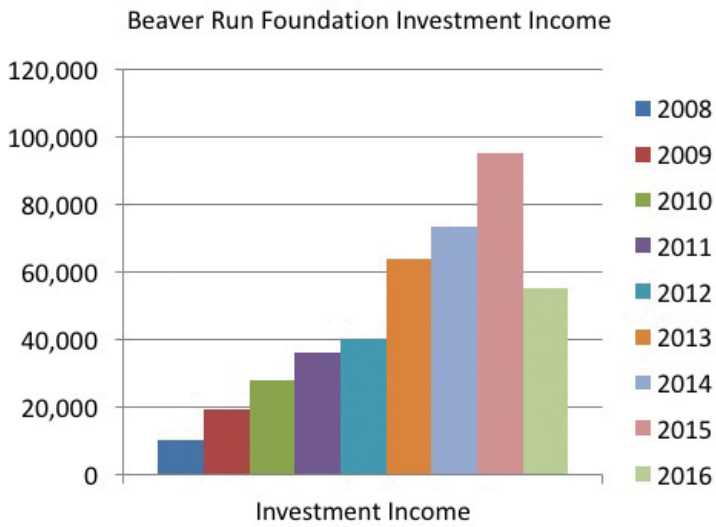
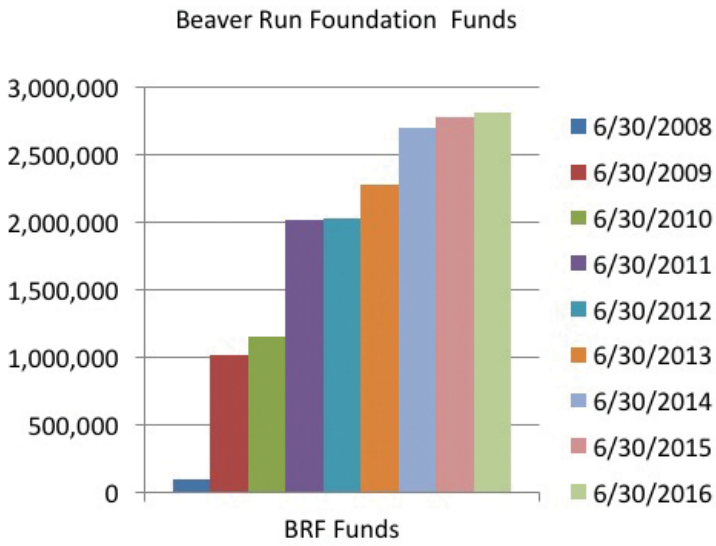
Board of Directors Announcement

The Beaver Run Foundation is excited to welcome Greg Ambrose to the Board of Directors. Greg, an alumni parent, served on the Camphill Special School Board for over six years, including a term as President. He is also a member of the Camphill Soltane Board and President of the Soltane Bridges/Community Life Works Board. He

has worked at the Vanguard Group for over 18 years and is currently an International Marketing Operations Project Manager.

Board of Directors

- Robert Swain, President
- Betsy Herman, Treasurer
- Ute Heuser, Secretary
- Gregory P. Ambrose
- Rüdiger Janisch
- Lydia Schulze



The Pietzner Legacy Society

HERE ARE MANY WAYS TO ESTABLISH A LASTING LEGACY FOR CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL. The most popular is to name the Beaver Run Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan.

The members of our Pietzner Legacy Society listed below have chosen to support the mission of Camphill Special School through a gift in their estate plans. The Beaver Run Foundation invests and manages planned gifts for the long-term benefit of the school.

PIETZNER LEGACY MEMBERS

- Anonymous
- Catherine and William Bucher
- Angie Butler
- David Chester
- Courtney M. Coffman
- Amy and Warren R. Gleicher
- Carol M. Goetz
- Bill and Betsy Herman
- Rosemary and Bob Huether
- Christine Huston
- Joyce and Ronald A. Landon
- John and Caroline McCardell
- Debbie Nickles and Richard Strayer*
- Lucy Reid
- Thomas and Marcy Rosendale
- Lee Smith

*In memoriam

If you have questions about the Beaver Run Foundation or how you can leave a lasting legacy, please contact **Courtney Coffman** at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org



Sixth grader Stephanie

CAMPHILL RACQUET

OUR ENTIRE CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY—including YOU!—is invited to cheer on the kids on Sunday, May 21, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Tennis Addiction's indoor facility, located at 202 Philips Road, Exton, Pa.

A group of our students is having lots of fun at Tennis Addiction on Sunday afternoons learning the game with the club's awesome staff. These lessons will culminate in doubles matches where each student will be paired with one of the club's junior players. Beaver Farm will be offering up lunch, and you will get to preview (and bid on!) Gala auction items while watching the matches and being entertained by a live musician.

For more information contact Courtney Coffman at ccoffman@camphill-specialschool.org or 610.469.9236 x132. We look forward to seeing you there! 🏆



CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL IS GROWING AGAIN!

BY GUY ALMA

HAVE BEEN A HOUSE PARENT AT CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL for twenty-seven years and it has been a privilege to witness so much growth over those years. My wife and I have seen hundreds of students arrive as small children facing enormous developmental challenges and graduate as young adults who have learned to master themselves and engage with the world. Over the years Camphill's program has changed too. The school has expanded, firstly with new educational and therapeutic activities at Beaver Run, and then with the addition of an entirely new Kindergarten Program at Meadowsweet and the highly successful Transition Program for 18- to 21- year-olds at Beaver Farm.

Now, in the summer of 2017, the Transition Program is poised to take another

step with the addition of a new and very special house for our oldest students. On March 8 we purchased a new property at 311 Lucas Road, Phoenixville. The five-acre lot is the site of a beautiful house that has an important characteristic: It is not located on either of our campuses but is a very short walk from Beaver Farm.

The "Lucas House" will allow our students to prepare for their entry into the local community upon graduation. Fully 75% of our graduates move into group homes or "community living arrangements," with the majority receiving Home and Community Based Funds from Medicaid. Those houses, like 311 Lucas Road, are out in the community, surrounded by neighbors and busy roads. Our students, used to being able to borrow milk from the house next door, or ask for help

from supportive staff, will have to learn to safely fend for themselves as they navigate the local community.

The "Lucas House" will be set up like a group home, with four staff members and four students preparing for graduation. Because it is a short trip to Beaver Farm, the students will be able to seamlessly integrate on campus education with more frequent programming in the local community. The new property is a statement of our commitment to prepare our young men and women for adult life.

If you are able to help this project with financial donations or new furniture, please contact the Development Office at **610.469.9236**. 🏠



A view of the new property

A STELLAR EVENING AWAITS YOU

Look up at the night sky . . . see the stars . . . we are all stars and we deserve to sparkle!

By supporting the 2017 Camphill Gala, you are helping our students shine. As always, the Gala will feature fabulous food, drinks, live and silent auction items, a performance by our students, and dancing.

Proceeds from the event will fund our financial aid program, infrastructure improvements including air conditioning in some of our houses, and a new transport van for students. We hope you will be able to attend!

This year, we also will induct our newest Corporate Partner, CSI International. They have provided leadership on our Board and committees, financial support, and volunteer mobilization.

Interested in sponsoring, attending, donating money or an auction item, or purchasing a raffle ticket? Visit bidpal.net/camphill2017 or contact Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.

Don't forget that you can bid from anywhere at any time, even during the auction!

STUDENT COUNCIL: ENHANCING THEIR EXPERIENCES

BY LISA SCHMITZ AND HEATHER WIGLUSZ, STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISORS

IN OCTOBER OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR CAMPHILL SPECIAL

SCHOOL has an election among the high schoolers to elect their next Student Council representatives. The council is made up of eight students,

two from each grade. In the weeks leading up to the election within the classrooms, the students, with the help of their teacher, collect a list of nominees. The nominees then start preparing their speeches for Election Day.

On the big day, the students gather together in the blue room and the nominees all sit facing their supporters. Starting with the senior class nominees, they deliver their speeches. They include what they want to bring to enhance their high school experiences.

Popular topics include dances, bake sales, and helping the community outside of Camphill Special School. Once the speeches are delivered everyone returns to their classrooms to cast their secret ballots. Votes are tallied and the winners are announced.

This year the Student Council members are Gayla, Julie, Frank, Izzy, Gabe, Ben, Asa, and Robert. Council members meet every other week to discuss upcoming events, review past events, and address any concerns facing the high school students. If there is an upcoming event, the responsibilities for the event are divided between the members to ensure it is a success. The appointed secretary, Julie, writes notes from meetings, which are hung on the Student Council board near the main entrance

of the high school so everyone can find out what has been decided.

This year the council members have collaborated to host a pretzel sale and a winter dance. The proceeds of the pretzel sale went to benefit the local Salvation Army. Student Council members strive to include all the high school students in each event or activity. The council is organizing a food drive for a local food pantry and planning the Prom. The council members chose three prom themes, and the high school students voted. The *A Night in Paris* Prom will be on May 19. Check the school's Facebook page in late May for photos! 🍷



Student Council hard at work



CAMPBILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

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610.469.9236
camphillspecialschool.org

 facebook.com/CamphillSpecialSchool

INDICIA



FSC LOGO HERE

PLEASE JOIN US

April 18	CAMPUS TOUR	9 a.m.
April 23	MEADOWSWEET OPEN HOUSE	12 to 2 p.m.
May 10	CAMPUS TOUR	9 a.m.
May 21	CAMPBILL RACQUET at Tennis Addiction Sports Club (see page 16)	
June 2	GALA (see page 18)	

VISIT [CAMPILLSPECIALSCHOOL.ORG](https://camphillspecialschool.org) FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL EVENTS.

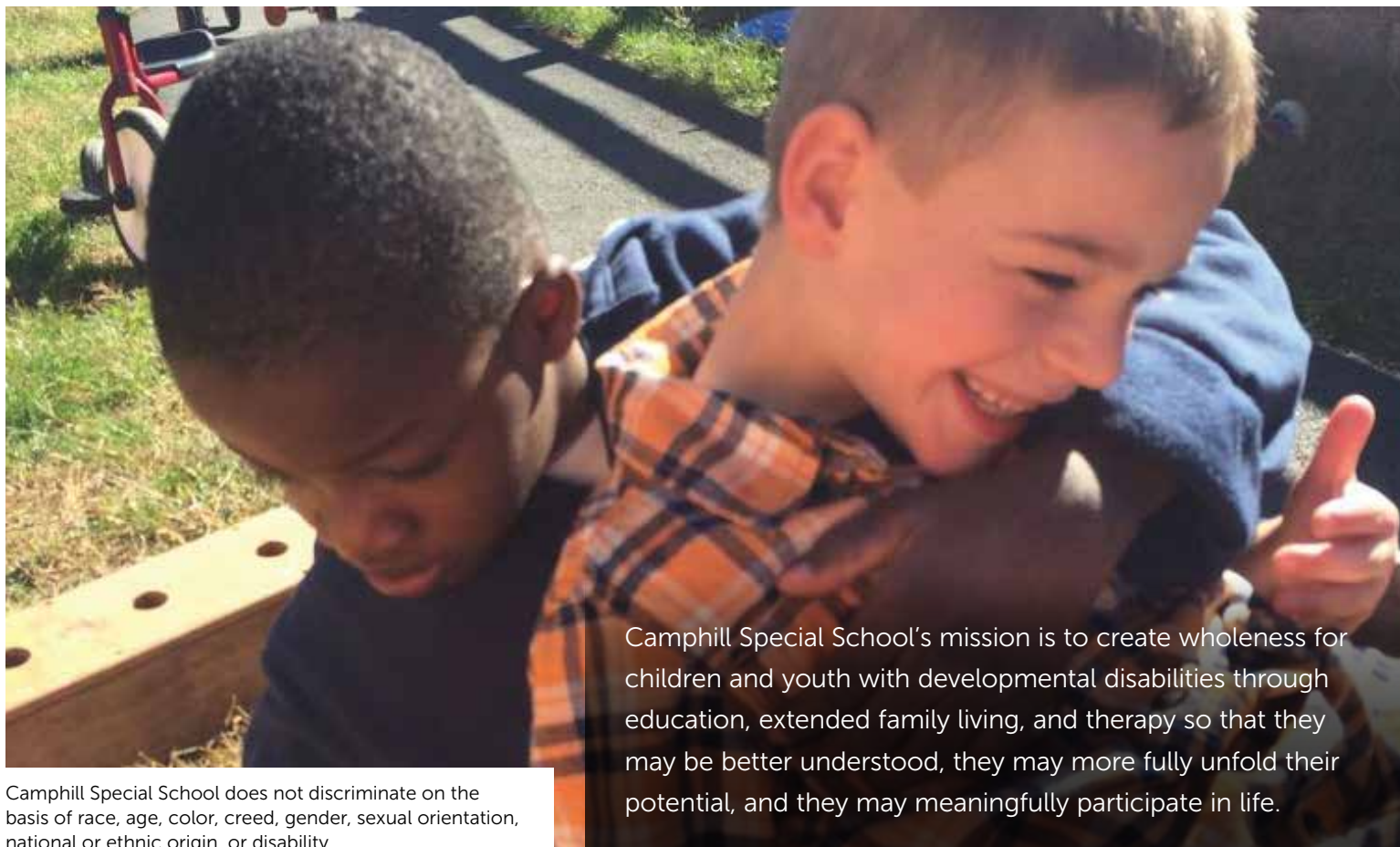
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HELP CAMPBILL SPECIAL SCHOOL CONSERVE RESOURCES.

Choose to receive future issues of *Reflections* via email. Send your digital subscription request to reflections@camphillspecialschool.org.

Join the growing ranks of the Pietzner Legacy Society by naming our supporting foundation, Beaver Run Foundation, in your will or other estate plans. Call Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 for more information.



Camphill Special School's mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with developmental disabilities through education, extended family living, and therapy so that they may be better understood, they may more fully unfold their potential, and they may meaningfully participate in life.

Camphill Special School does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.