

# Reflections

A magazine for family, friends, and supporters of The Camphill School

SPRING + SUMMER 2019



**The  
Camphill  
School**

# Reflections

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“ Blessings on the blossom  
Blessings on the fruit  
Blessings on the leaf and stem  
Blessings on the root



This blessing, sang together before so many lunches here at The Camphill School, is a favorite of mine. It is especially fitting at this time of year as the buds of springtime are bursting forth. At Camphill, we are truly blessed by nature, from the blossom all the way down to the root.

I have said this many times before, dear readers, so forgive my repeating myself: I am so fortunate to work at The Camphill School. Not only do I get to enjoy lunch with our students in Longhouse and Whitestone, I also have lunch with the Meadowsweet kindergarteners. I count my blessings that I can share a midday meal with many of the students I cherish knowing. I am fortunate that Meadowsweet kindergarten is also where my youngest son, Flynn, spends his days. The fact that I can share lunch with him and his friends is incredibly special.

His deep love, admiration, and reverence of nature is beyond compare. He is interested in every living thing—trees, flowers, birds, bees, and most importantly his fellow humans. This comes from his own internal impulse, but also because his experiences at Meadowsweet have deepened the fascination.

Each child here is rooted in nature and explores it daily, either in or out of the classroom. Nature nourishes us in so many ways. At The Camphill School our Earth and all her creatures are cherished and cared for as deeply and wholly as our students. This is why we share a blessing on nature and all her influences so often.

Courtney Coffman  
Editor



# Bill Daggett: A Necessary Responsibility

By Maggie Hegney, Development Officer

01 / Bill Daggett at our schoolhouse



One of the things you first notice about Bill Daggett is his dedication to his work. Bill has been with Kistler Tiffany Benefits, an employee benefits firm, for his entire working career. In Bill's words, he has "carried a Kistler card all my life."

Bill likes deals, enjoys working with people, and loves seeing how non-profits meet the challenges

of our world. "I've always thought it was important to give back, and I'm ecstatic that I'm able to support causes that I care about. It's exciting to see people's ideas for making the world better be put into action." This impulse to give back took on a new form thirty years ago when Bill and four of his colleagues attended a speech on charitable giving. The group was so inspired by what they heard that they decided to take

immediate action and formed the Kistler Tiffany Foundation. Today, the foundation provides various levels of support to different non-profit organizations throughout the region.

Six years ago, Bill was introduced to The Camphill School through Brent Franklin, one of our board members and a fellow member of Philadelphia's Business Clubs America. He recalls his first time on The Camphill School campus: "Guy [Alma] and I spent an hour walking around, and I remember seeing a young woman playing an adaptive violin on her lap. I was struck by how resolutely she was working on it, and she was so good."

Bill and Kistler Tiffany Benefits have been a supporter of the school since that first visit in 2013. He generously contributes to our annual fund each year and says that he loves introducing people to the school. Bill believes it is a necessary responsibility of a business owner to give back to the community, and he takes pride in supporting The Camphill School and the many other charitable organizations he champions. For Bill, it seems, dedication comes easily. This is his fifty-fourth year at Kistler Tiffany Benefits, and he tells us that his three sons all work for the company and he still goes into the office on weekends. We are grateful that this steadfastness extends to his support of The Camphill School too!

01

# Gardening at The Camphill School: A Beautiful Contribution

By Courtney Coffman

01 / Seventh grader Simon heads off to deliver an arrangement he and his classmates created

It is February. I struggle to get to the Garden Shed, tucked behind Trillium and Garden House. There is a thick layer of ice-covered snow on the ground. It is a bit treacherous. It didn't help that I am in the wrong shoes for this kind of traversing. I have actually never ventured to the Garden Shed in my nearly fourteen years at Camphill. I wasn't sure what to expect.

As I open the door to the modest brown structure, I am welcomed by warmth, light, and comfort. It is surprising, and I am taken aback to the stark contrast of where I just came from. Plus, this is the Garden "Shed" – yet it is the furthest thing from a shed. It smells of dried herbs and flowers. I immediately forget the winter outside.

Lisa Schmitz greets me, and we sit down to chat. Lisa has been at The Camphill School since 2000. She has a true gardener's spirit and wanted to lead the Garden Crew at the school for a long time. She finally got her wish and is revamping what they do. After taking classes in herbalism, she has developed a passion for creating remedies and is sharing that with the students.

The focus used to be growing food. Now, Lisa and the students are growing healing herbs and flowers that they make into herb salts, teas, salves, and tinctures.

Last year, the crew also started supplying the classrooms with floral arrangements. Each week, students walk the campus looking for seasonal blooms (yes, blooms even in winter!) to incorporate in the vases. They then arrange what they have gathered and deliver them to each class.

I watch the seventh graders put some of the arrangements together. Each sprig and stem placed in its vase just so; each one carried down the hill proudly and placed prominently in classrooms of friends. What a beautiful contribution to the school!

"We are outside in nature, not just going for a walk, but looking for certain things. Our eyes are open and we learn to identify new plants. We discover what blooms in the winter. We learn to do things for others," Lisa shares. The next venture for the garden crew is to forage wild food and learn what can be consumed or used in their creations. Lisa also would like each class to have their own patch in the garden to grow whatever they wish. Much like Mary in *The Secret Garden*, Lisa knows that healing, hope, and love grow from well-loved and well-tended bits of earth.



01



# Giving to Camphill: The PA EITC Program Is a Game Changer



## It's not just for business anymore!

Turn your PA tax dollars into tuition assistance for our students!

### Why is this opportunity through the PA EITC program so significant?

Essentially, it enables you to *redirect* your Pennsylvania tax dollars – almost dollar for dollar – to The Camphill School for tuition assistance for our students from Pennsylvania and other qualifying purposes. This is “tax-efficient giving” at its very best. To qualify for the program, individuals should pay \$7,000 or more in PA taxes annually. In the case of a typical charitable, tax-deductible donation, the amount of the donation may be deducted from one's income, reducing the taxable income amount and therefore one's tax bill. However, there is still a significant net cost to the donor, depending on the donor's tax bracket and various

other factors. Perhaps two-thirds or three-quarters of the donation amount is still out of pocket to the donor. However, in the case of the EITC program and individual tax credits, the donor's net cost of the donation can be as little as 6–7 cents on the dollar.

**Effectively, you can make a donation to The Camphill School instead of paying taxes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

Interested individuals can call the Development Office at 610.469.9236 to learn more about the specific mechanism for participating in this program.

### If your business pays PA taxes, you may be able to give AND receive.

The EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Program enables Pennsylvania businesses to invest directly in the education of our children through financial aid. 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
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax (excluding surplus lines, unauthorized, domestic/foreign marine)
- Mutual Thrift Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Retaliatory Fees under section 212 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921

### HOW DOES EITC BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?

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

01 / Coworker Julia at the Valentine's Dance with eleventh grader Zara

02 / Nina in the pottery studio at Beaver Farm with staff member Sam

### HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL?

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

### HOW DOES A BUSINESS 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 (<http://newpa.org/>) to complete an online application.

### IMPORTANT DATES

MAY  
15

Business applicants that have fulfilled their two-year commitment and wish to reapply to renew their two-year commitment

MAY  
15

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

JULY  
1

All other businesses



## THANK YOU!

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

**Craig & April Adams**

**BB&T**

**CARNEVALE USTIS**  
ARCHITECTS, INC.

**Customers Bank**

**DNB FIRST**  
BANKING  
SINCE 1860



First Priority Bank

**PHILADELPHIA**  
INSURANCE COMPANIES

**SKF**

**Mark Solomon**

**UHS**

**UNIVEST**  
BANKING - INSURANCE - INVESTMENTS

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

Contact Maggie at 610.469.9236 x119 or [mhegney@camphillschool.org](mailto:mhegney@camphillschool.org).



# The Three Essentials: Our Work Takes Root

By Libby Sanders, Coworker

In 1965, Karl Koenig wrote an essay known as “The Three Essentials” of Camphill. Koenig’s “three essentials” were his attempt to articulate that special “something” that made Camphill different from other schools and boarding homes for children with special needs.

The “three essentials” are things we can readily acknowledge and easily understand:

1. Everyone must be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Teachers must cultivate their own inner creativity as a path of self-education in order to help their students grow and flourish.
3. The community in which our work takes place must be cared for and nurtured.

While these three may seem, on their face, to be rather straightforward, how do these essentials show up in the daily life of a community like The Camphill School at Beaver Run and Beaver Farm?

Another way of asking this question is, Just what do we mean when we say that something is “essential”? There are two ways of understanding this substantial word, both of which we need to understand in getting closer to what the “three essentials” might offer for us today. In the first way, we think

of “essentials” as necessary ingredients or components, with the implication that other components are, well, non-essential. The flower, even the thorn, is “essential” to the rose. The color? Not so much. This understanding of “essential” is reductive. Reducing a thing to its “essentials” is like whittling away at something – a plant, a school, a person – to the point where we can say, “Ignore the rest, this one little bit, this is the bit that really matters!” A reductive approach can help us see what is (or what should be) the same across the board. It can help us define a thing, describe what makes a rose a rose and not a daisy, or, as Koenig did, distinguish between Camphill and other schools. You can have all sorts of variations, but roses have that distinctive rose flower – whether it’s

pink or yellow, in the bud or in full bloom, in a garden or in a vase – and that’s the bit that really matters! “A rose by any other name . . .”

In our daily life the “essential” takes on another meaning altogether. Rather than moving from a place of diversity and difference to the essential, we have to move from the essential towards a place of diversity and difference! This is an expansive approach to the essentials. The essential isn’t where we end up, it’s where we begin. In this instance, what is “essential” about a rose is not the shape of its flower, but rather the fact that you gave this rose, this particular rose, to me! The rose carries with it a whole story, much bigger and more detailed than the fact of its spiraling petals. A rose by any other name



01

01 / Meadowsweet student Flynn headed to walk in the woods

02 / Paraprofessional Megan with first grader Emerzon



02

might smell as sweet, but no other rose can carry the sweetness of this rose.

As with roses, so too with human beings. While it might be a bit more difficult to imagine, this expansive “essential” is the one we actually live out every day. Take something as seemingly universal as the first essential. It’s one thing to acknowledge the fact that we are all complete, whole, and fundamentally equal human beings. It’s another thing altogether to witness that fact to one another. How we recognize and treat one another with dignity and respect becomes a deeply interpersonal social art, and cannot

be reduced to an easy-to-follow set of rules. Treating everyone as complete, whole, equal human beings means, in practice, that I actually need to act quite differently depending on who I am with. This is an important lesson that all of us learn at The Camphill School: There is no single way to be with others, and, furthermore, there might not even be a single way to be with this particular person. In truth, there is only my way of being with you, and that is different from how you may need to be with another. The timeless, universal fact of our common humanity, this essential of Camphill, is necessarily lived out in ever-changing, ever-growing,

always different, and particular ways.

As Koenig said in his essay, these essentials are ideals insofar as they describe us but also guide us, and thus they might never be fully realized. The three essentials can be understood as characteristics of our school community, as ideals to strive towards, and as the soil in which we grow and in which our work takes root. In this sense, they are realized differently, essentially, every day. It’s no wonder that this little, provisional essay continues to bear so much fruit.



# Places We Did Not Know: Max's Journey to Beaver Run

By Amy Gleicher

01/Amy, Max, and Warren Gleicher when Max was 8

## Each family has its own trajectory to BR. Here is ours:

At 17 months, Max was diagnosed with Fragile X. This diagnosis answered a lot of questions for me, such as why Max didn't walk or talk. I was frightened, yet relieved to know why he had missed every milestone. We immediately began every therapy and education program possible, even home schooling. These interventions were very helpful. Still, Max's behavior was challenging beyond imagination. We struggled.

## We tried to give him everything but could not.

What we could not give Max was extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins) or friends. Max's world was comprised of his therapists, his father, brothers, and me. All others turned away from us. Mothers of other children did not want their children around Max. Even our own families were uncomfortable, staying away from us.

## We plugged along.

Then when he was 5, I suddenly became ill and landed in the hospital for three months. Hired caregivers moved into the house to care for Max. Once I was back on my feet and in full control I "saw" – in stark black and white – *that without me at the helm*, Max had no life. None.

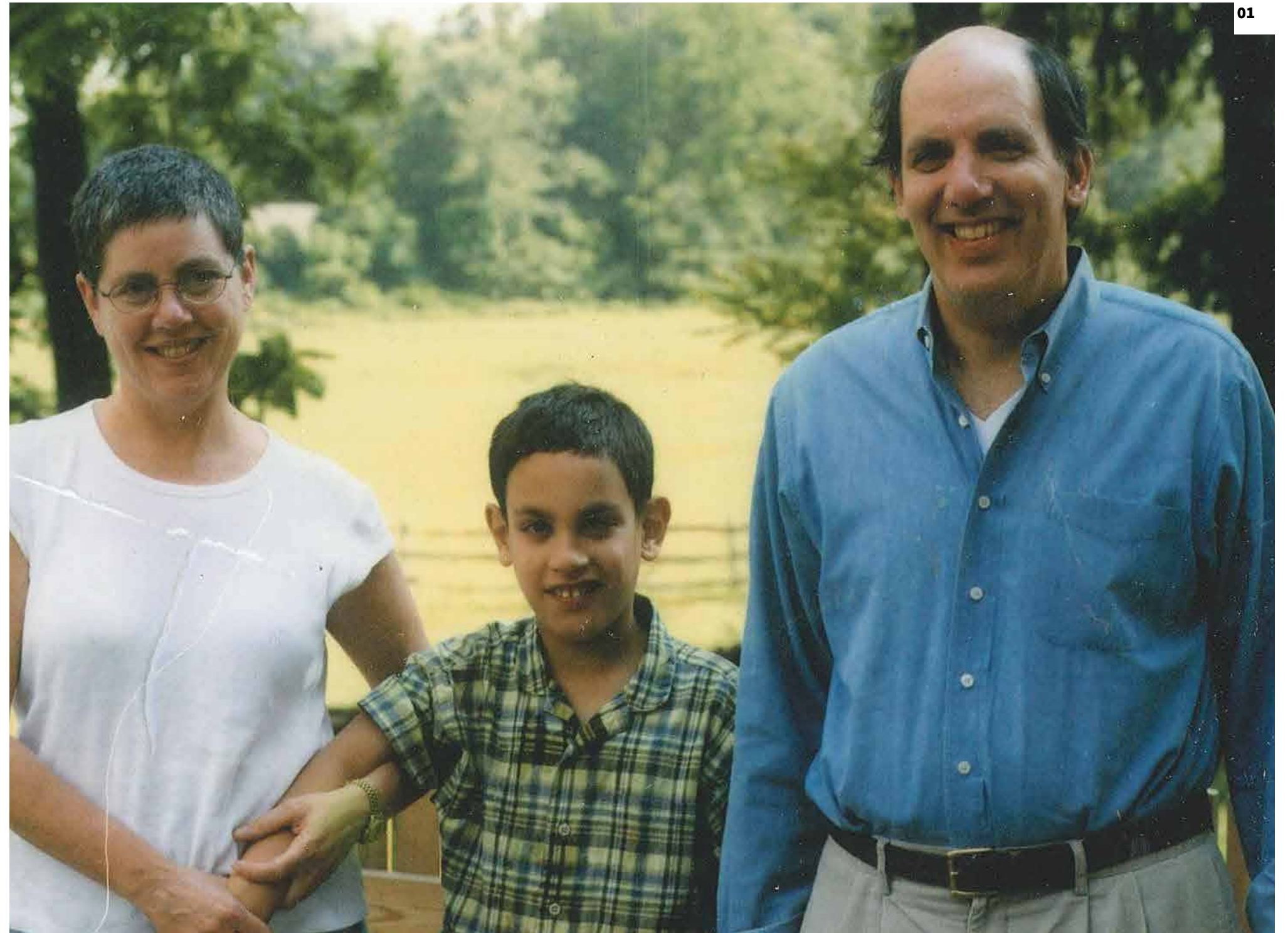
I was shocked and horrified to realize this.

So, we sought to find Max a life and, with extraordinary luck, discovered Beaver Run. There Max found friends, companionship, love, and support – *a full life*. He moved there at age 6 and graduated at age 19. Beaver Run raised him. They prepared him for adulthood.

Here we are, twenty years later. Max is 26 and has a wonderful life, one that Beaver Run made possible: He lives on a farm in New England and has everything we wanted for him – close friends, a wide social network, satisfying work, and the support that he needs – exactly what all parents want for their children.

Beaver Run made possible Max's opportunities for the marvelous life he enjoys now. Beaver Run respected Max and educated, loved, and supported him. Their faith in Max sustained all of us. We are so fortunate.

Max took us to "places" we did not know existed and his needs stretched us further than we could have imagined. I may have given him life, but Beaver Run gave Max a life. They gave the world to Max.



01



# Fund in Focus: Accelerated Assets Fund

*The Camphill School strives to inform our supporters of not only where their generous contributions are being used, but also to allow them to choose where they can direct their investment in our students' education and growth. Our twice-annual newsletters will feature the funds that are available for donors to give.*

Thanks to the generosity of our community of donors, The Camphill School is consistently able to meet our fundraising goals. Our donors enable the school to continuously improve and expand our educational, therapeutic, and residential programming and assist students in need of financial support. These contributions from students' family members and friends, alumni families, individuals, corporations, and foundations, along with solid enrollment and thoughtful, conservative budgeting, allow us to fulfill our mission.

We celebrate our strengths and are committed to growth. As The Camphill School has evolved and expanded over the years, so have the needs of the community and the students. Our school continues to make improvements to the aging infrastructure and grow our campuses to lay the foundation for another 55 years of serving students with special needs.

We have invested in new facilities and properties for program development. Each of these investments allows for the addition or expansion of programs that will better or more fully serve our students. Accelerated retirement of these mortgages will make available capital to meet the future needs of the school. As our capacity expands and the needs of current and future students change, the school wishes to repay loans aggressively to secure our long-term fiscal robustness. The school's Accelerated Assets Fund accepts contributions from donors who



wish to help the school reduce our liability holdings so additional resources can be used to improve existing buildings and support the vital programs needed to ensure the future of our children.

If you are interested in supporting this fund, please contact **Maggie Hegney** at [mhegney@camphillschool.org](mailto:mhegney@camphillschool.org) or **610.469.9236 x119**.

# Spark Creativity

*At The Camphill School, we are taught with creativity and, in turn, we learn to be creative.*

It has to be this way. What works for one of us who is on the autism spectrum may not work for another of us with Down syndrome. Our teachers, house parents, and helpers have to find the key to unlock the potential in each of us. This takes many different forms.

At The Camphill School, the arts give voice to the true spirit of the human being, regardless of the abilities of the artist.

The Camphill School's Extended School Year (ESY) is a program that gives us another four weeks of educational curriculum after the regular school year ends. We love getting the extra time here at Camphill! We do so many fun things, all while continuing to reach toward academic and interpersonal growth.

For this year's ESY, The Camphill School will have visiting artists-in-residence—all the way from Ireland! We will get to work with these incredible artists named Tom Meskeel and Carmel Balfe. Tom worked with some of our friends last year at the International Whitsun Festival to create beautiful illuminated sculptures. We are so excited that we will get to learn from them!

They are going to help us make puppets and sculptures, teach us how to design and build sets, and work with all of us so that at the end of ESY we can put on a magical pageant performance for all our friends, families, and the public.

Will you make a donation to help us bring these wonderful artists to our school this summer? We hope you can come see our performance, but if not we promise to show you lots of pictures!

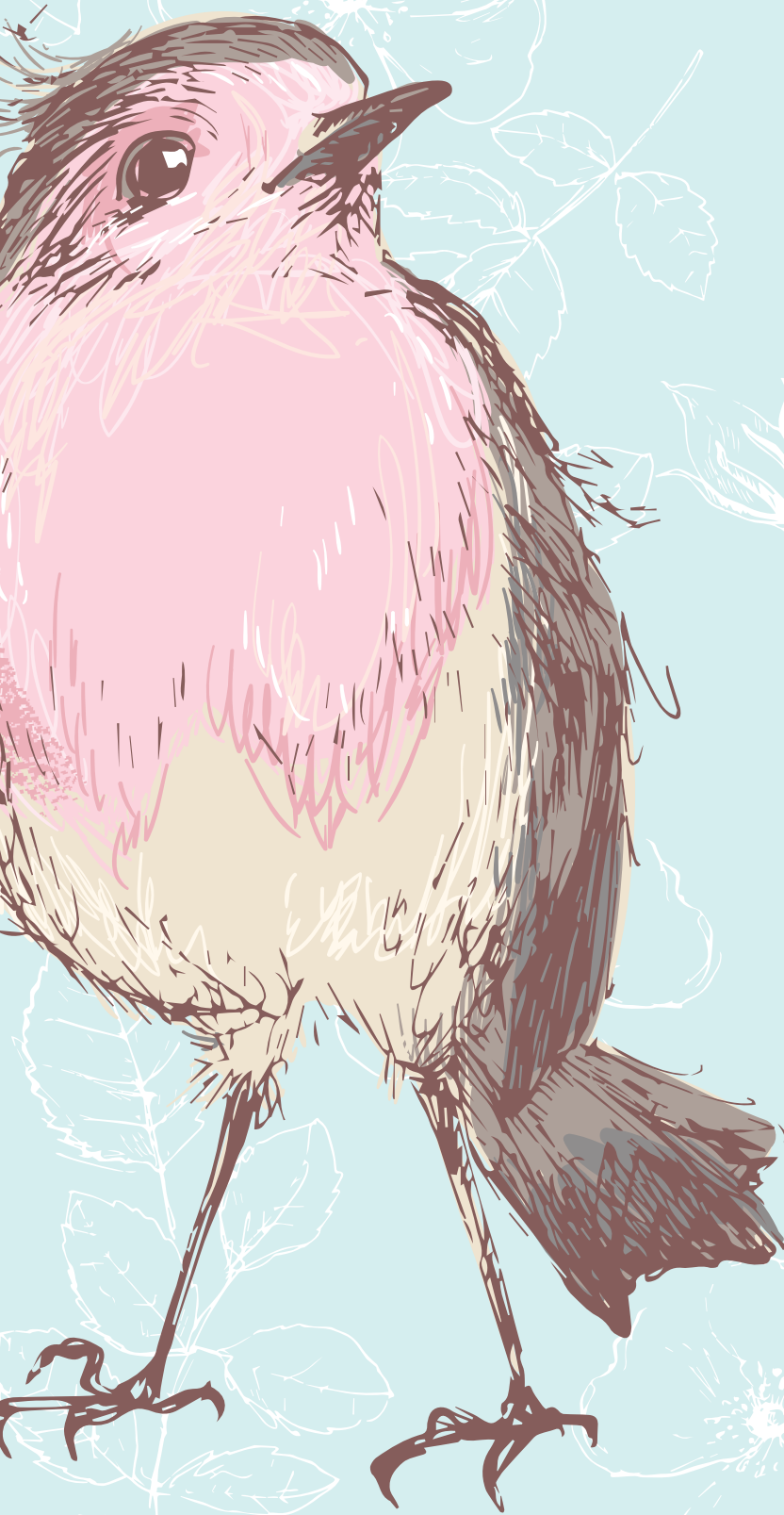
Most sincerely,

*The Students at The Camphill School*

**P.S. Thinking of the learning we will get to do this summer thanks to your donation makes the winter go faster. We really appreciate you helping us bring more creativity into our Extended School Year as we strive to raise \$15,000 to make this possible!**





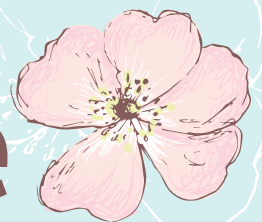


“

*If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.*

— From *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Join us for  
**The Secret Garden**



**Friday, May 31, 2019**  
6 o'clock  
Phoenixville Foundry  
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

You will be treated to an unforgettable evening of celebrating and supporting the students of The Camphill School.

Visit [camphillschool.org](http://camphillschool.org) or [bidpal.net/camphill2019](http://bidpal.net/camphill2019) for information, to pre-view and bid on silent auction items, buy raffle tickets, purchase much-needed items for our students, get your tickets, or sponsor the event.

**Questions?** Contact Courtney at [ccoffman@camphillschool.org](mailto:ccoffman@camphillschool.org) or 610.469.9236 x 132.

The 2019 Camphill Gala wants to send you to . . .

# CANCUN

**Find the Ultimate All-Inclusive Indulgence in Cancun, Mexico, for Five Days & Four Nights at the Hyatt Zilara Cancun in a Junior Suite with Economy Class Air for Two!**

Delight in the unexpected at Hyatt Zilara™, and escape to a luxurious all-inclusive oasis of sophistication, casual elegance, and comfort. Carry nothing but a beach towel because your meals, drinks, and unforgettable memories are all included. This is your haven in the heart of Cancun's Zona Hotelera to enjoy an adults-only experience at a beachfront property featuring plush accommodations, impressive amenities, and world-class service, where you can experience traditional Mexican warmth with intimate casual elegance.

Set on the Yucatan Peninsula in the state of Quintana Roo, Hyatt Zilara Cancun features a dramatic beachfront, one of the widest beaches in all of Cancun, and an unlimited array of recreational activities, world-class wellness and fitness services, and entertainment options. Warm white powdery sand beaches and turquoise crystal clear

waters combined with Mexico's famous hospitality make this a place unlike any other! Exercise in a state-of-the-art fitness center or pamper yourself in Cancun's only ocean-view spa with eco-holistic, Mayan-inspired treatments, including a traditional Temazcal steam hut, sauna, and cold plunge pool. Or make the most of the tropical sunshine with outdoor sports, including complimentary access to bicycle rentals, a lighted rooftop tennis court, two refreshing swimming pools, and boogie board, beach volleyball, and water basketball equipment rentals. Sophisticated culinary options in six gourmet restaurants, wine and spirits tastings, beach butler service, and unlimited alcoholic beverages add to the indulgence of this all-inclusive resort. And once the sun sets, you can unwind with top-notch entertainment featuring live music and performances.

Your spacious junior suite provides the epitome of comfort and a relaxing ambiance. The junior suite features a sitting area and furnished terrace.

**Your trip for two includes:**

- Round-trip Economy Class air
- 5 days/4 nights accommodations at the Hyatt Zilara Cancun in a Junior Suite
- All meals and gourmet dining, anytime snacks, unlimited drinks, and 24-hour food service
- Sensational entertainment: daily and nightly activities, including theme parties, contests, singers, and live performances
- Wireless Internet
- Gratuities and hotel taxes
- Free concierge reservation service

**ESTIMATED VALUE: \$7,400**



**Raffle Tickets are \$50 Each or Three for \$100!**

**Need not be present to win. Winning ticket will be drawn at the Gala on May 31, 2019.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Travel package is non-refundable and subject to availability. Certificates/gift cards cannot be replaced. Passport required for travel outside the U.S. Airport taxes and carrier-imposed fees are the responsibility of the passenger. Flights may not be upgraded with miles. Blackout dates: Feb 14-18, Apr 18-27, Dec 21-31. A minimum 30-day advance reservation is required. Package originates from the Contiguous U.S. Travel is valid for 12 months from date of issue. This property is an adults-only, all-inclusive resort for guests age 18 and above. The Camphill School employees, coworkers, and anyone living in their households are not eligible to win. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation prior to arrival may be subject to forfeiture of reservations and funds.

Name  Phone  Email

Address  City, State, Zip

☐ One (1) Ticket (\$50) ☐ Three (3) Tickets (\$100) ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets

☐ I have enclosed a check made payable to The Camphill School in the amount of \$

Please charge \$  to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card No.  Exp. Date

**Mail:** The Camphill School, 1784 Fairview Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343  
**Phone:** 610.469.9236x132 **Online:** [bidpal.net/camphill2019](http://bidpal.net/camphill2019)

**Thank You for Your Support!**





FSC LOGO HERE

## PLEASE JOIN US

April 30	CAMPUS TOUR	9 a.m.
May 7	CAMPUS TOUR	9 a.m.
May 31	GALA (see pages 14–15)	6 p.m.

VISIT [CAMPHILLSCHOOL.ORG](http://CAMPHILLSCHOOL.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL EVENTS.

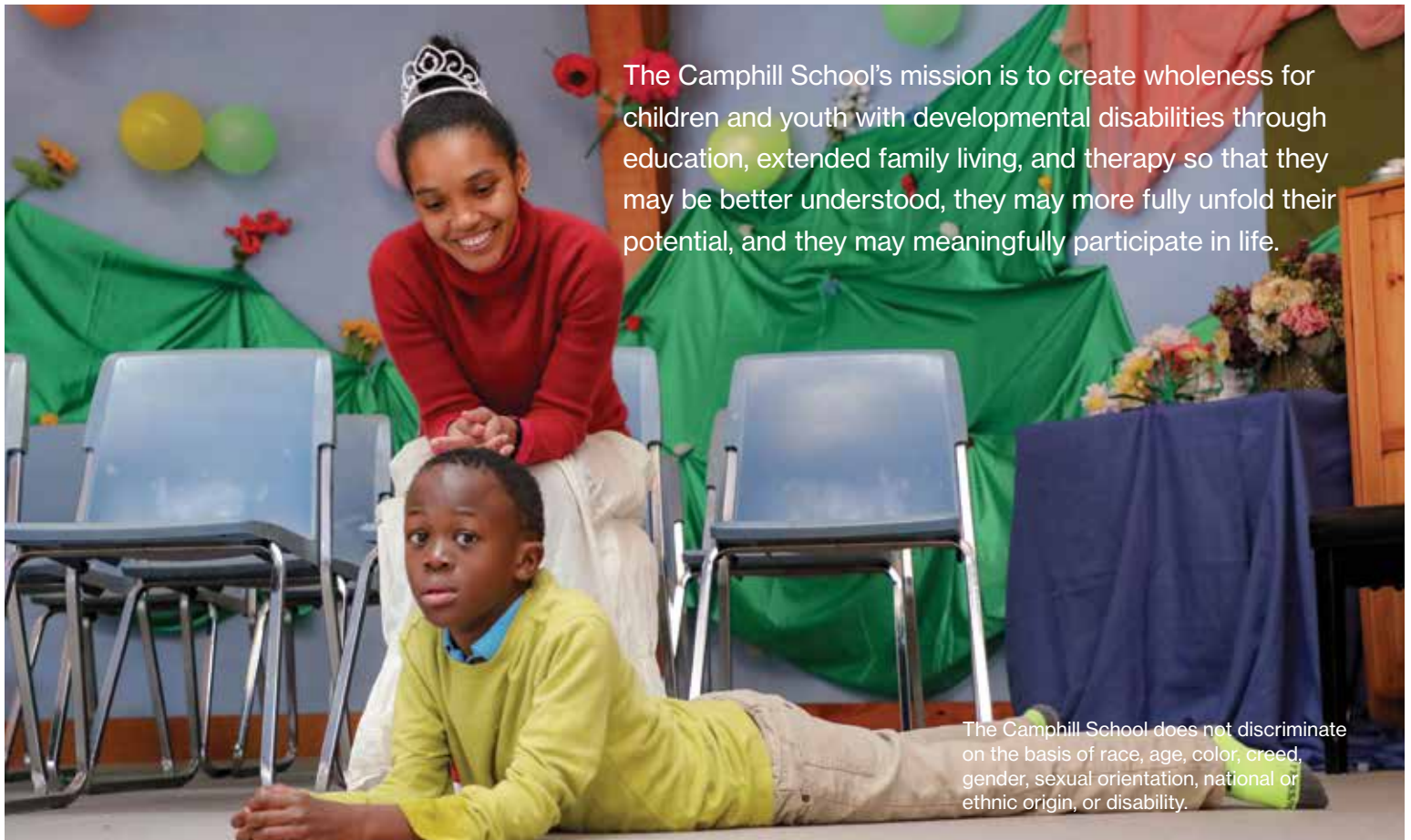
Waldorf® is a registered service mark of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and used by agreement of membership in AWSNA.



## HELP CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL CONSERVE RESOURCES.

Choose to receive future issues of *Reflections* via email. Send your digital subscription request to [reflections@camphillschool.org](mailto:reflections@camphillschool.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.



The Camphill 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.

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