

Reflections

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

SPRING + SUMMER 2020



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THE WORLD



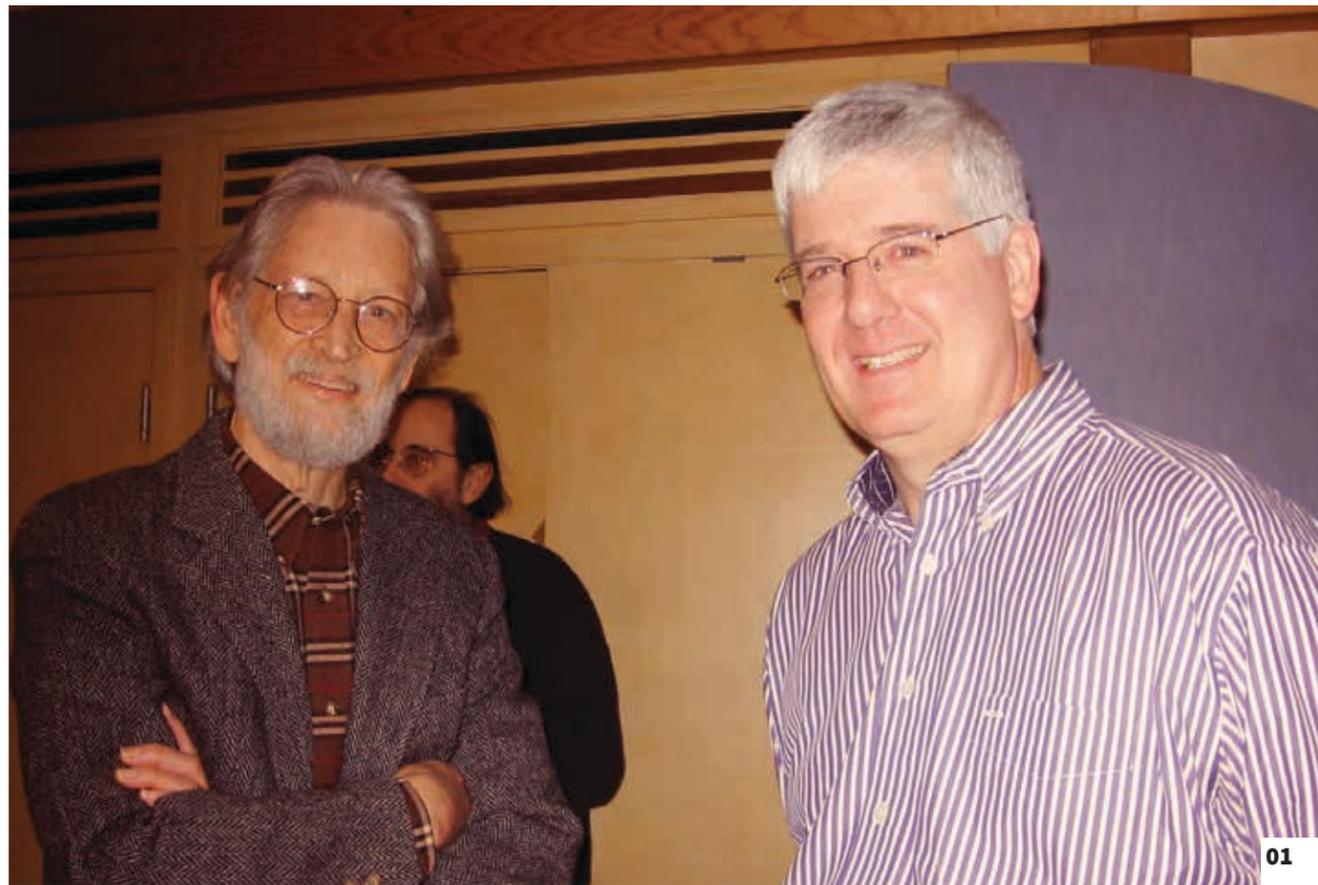
**The
Camphill
School**

Reflections

On the cover
10th grader Brian

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Photography Michael Oliveira

Remembering Ray Ripper



01 / Ray Ripper and his nephew, Tom Rosendale who serves on our Board of Directors

02 / Ray receiving a token of gratitude as he retired from voting Board member of the Board to an Emeritus member

Each year, our publications have a theme. This year's is all for one, one for all.

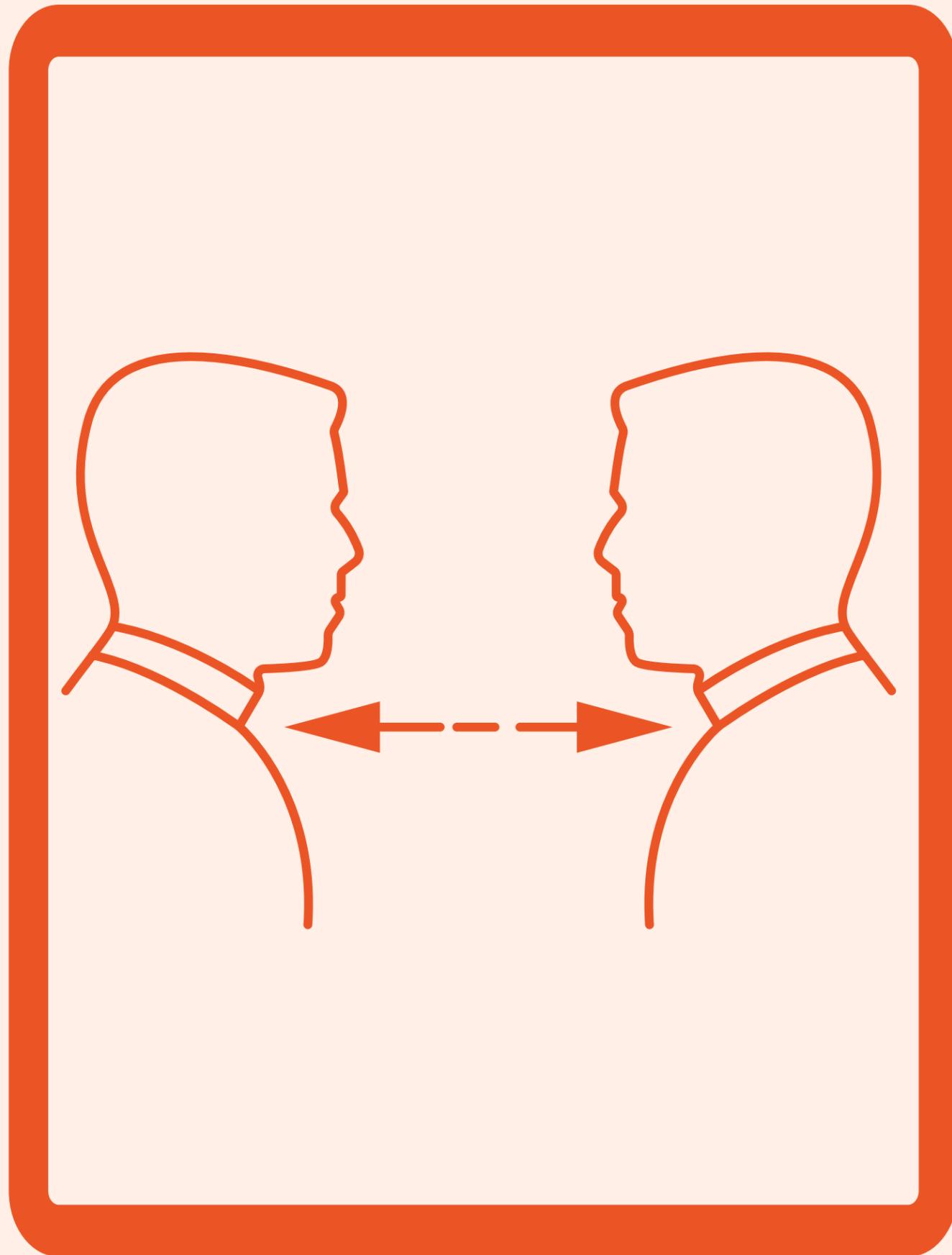
The school community recently lost someone who was a leading example of that mentality. Ray Ripper - emeritus board member, avid volunteer, alumni parent, and staunch supporter of The Camphill School - crossed the threshold on January 21, 2020.

His son Noah attended the school from 1988 to 2003. During that time, Ray served not only as a Board Member for several terms, but also as Board President. Thanks to him, the school's dream of having a therapeutic horseback riding program came to fruition. He led the charge and fundraising efforts - the school's first official campaign - for the barn, aptly named Noah's Ark. Ray encouraged family and friends to become involved with the school through contributions and volunteering. His nephew, Tom Rosendale, serves as Treasurer of our Board.

Bernie Wolf shares: *I personally have known the family since the time of Noah's admission in 1988 and throughout Noah's 15-year enrollment and beyond! In recent years, Ray and his family were regular visitors to our Christmas Café and other events. My daughter Brenda launched her art career by doing a high school apprenticeship at Time-Life under Ray's supervision in the early 1990's. We will miss Ray, his quiet yet strong demeanor, his generosity and kindness.*

We proudly dedicate this issue of Reflections in Ray's memory. We offer our love and sympathy to his wife, Barbara Fleming and their sons Noah and Tim as well as Ray's daughter Nina and son Michael and his two grandchildren. The school community will always remember Ray. He leaves an indelible mark on the school and we are grateful for his enduring service and commitment.

Courtney Coffman
Editor



When All This is Over

By Courtney Coffman, Editor

“

We are all in this together. We will all get through this together. When we do, let's be together and remember what it was like when we weren't.

I am sitting at my kitchen table. Birds flit back and forth from the feeders, my boys are quietly playing in the playroom. It feels very odd.

Why?

It is a Tuesday afternoon. St. Patrick's Day. Not usually a "home day" for us. Harris should be at school. Flynn should be at Meadowsweet. I should be in the office having a Development staff meeting with my colleagues. We should be discussing the Gala and the need to send out invitations in two weeks. Instead, we text one another back and forth. We prepare emails making announcements that events are moved, that students are home for spring break weeks early. We are practicing the newest best practice – "social distancing."

We, in Pennsylvania, and by the time you are reading this probably wherever you are as well, have been ordered to stay home. Schools and non-essential businesses are closed. Restaurants are restricted to take-out only.

This is strange. This is not how things should be. Is this going to be the new normal? While we are only two days in, we have weeks to go. While technology can help, we all need human contact. How do we cope – together yet separate? We are all struggling to come to terms with what is happening and how to heed the guidance of government

officials and health agencies. How do we remain steadfast for ourselves, our children, our neighbors, our communities as we try to make sense of the world right now? Few of us have seen anything like this.

When this is all over, when things return to normal, will they really be normal? Can it be normal again? When this is all over, will we realize how badly we need each other? How badly having actual human contact is needed for our mental health? Will this be what makes us all realize there is more to life than our technology? Will not being allowed to be together makes us want it even more? Will this crisis make us realize the importance of visiting with one another face to face? Will this be the catalyst to social change? Literal social change. The kind that makes us get out from behind screens and our virtual lives and has us finally setting up that dinner with long-lost friends or making a better effort to visit relatives we push off for another day.

We are all in this together. We will all get through this together. When we do, let's be together and remember what it was like when we weren't.

Beautiful Camphill

By Janah Borlado, Alumni Coworker



01

I still remember the first day my husband Raffy and I arrived at Beaver Farm in the summer of 2014 from a Camphill community in London. I knew this was going to be a good start to our journey here in America.

We came as student volunteers with little experience and were nervous about what to expect. We did not realize then the impact this community would have on us. Living and working in the Transition Program with a strong support

system from our fellow coworkers made us who we are today. We are now strong, motivated individuals, raising our small family, with the values and compassion instilled in us while working at The Camphill School. We learned so much!

Every student we worked alongside, whether in the garden, classroom, working on pottery, at the farm or in the kitchen, reminded us that we all deserve a place to call a second home. The Camphill School offers a place for students to grow

and make connections, a place to feel safe and comfortable, a place to reach their full potential, guided with love and acceptance.

Though we have moved to the small town of Nutley in New Jersey, The Camphill School will remain a huge part of our lives and heart. Living outside a Camphill community can be challenging and at times a bit overwhelming, but we are able to persevere thanks to every person at The Camphill School who believed in our capabilities. Raffy made it

01 / The Borlado Family.

02 / Raffy, Janah, and Raffaele with their Stone House family.

03 / A favorite memory – pumpkin picking

through his state board exam and now is a Registered Nurse, working full time in a care home facility in Upper Manhattan, New York. I am a full-time mom to our four and half year old son Raffaele and continue to study in hopes to pursue my nursing career in the near future.

Thank you to our former coworkers who became our closest friends, to the staff, mentors, parents, and most importantly to our students who taught us so very much. You became our family away from home and our biggest support system. This community shaped us into the best version of ourselves and we are forever grateful. We wish you all the best and look forward to visiting The Camphill School in the future.



02



03

Exciting Expansions

01 / A view of Foxfield house across the property's pond



The staff at The Camphill School dreamed for years about starting a program that would allow our twelfth grade students from Beaver Run to transition successfully into adult life. We began with seven students in 2002, living in a beautiful old house leased to us by parents of a student. Our programs were either back at Beaver Run or in the local community, and we knew we needed a location that would be a central hub as our enrollment expanded.

Beaver Farm became that hub with a one-year lease in 2005. That became a purchase in 2006. The Chester County Economic Development Council helped us finance the sale with a tax-exempt bond and Customers Bank took

the bond and provided long term financing for the project. The successful Sharing Life and Learning Capital Campaign allowed us to add the Sarah Jane Herman Education Center and Silver Maple House along with parking, roads, and lighting to the property, creating additional capacity for our increasing student community.

By 2011, our students were running a 56-acre livestock farm, a two-acre garden with a production greenhouse, a pottery and fiber workshop, and a woodshop. In our commercial kitchen, we created fantastic organic meals with our students that fed us all five days a week. Outreach into the community diminished for a year or two while we settled into our new buildings

and gardens, but that changed by 2015 with increasingly frequent trips into local shops, businesses and non-profit programs for educational, vocational, social, and life skills development.

In 2017, we grew again, adding Lucas House as our fourth student residence. Lucas House, a five minute walk across our neighbor's field from the main farm, provided an experience of living outside the 'skin' of a campus. Our students loved it and it prepared them for their life to come in the world of group homes.

2019 brought more exciting expansions to our door. We acquired the fourteen-acre field that separated Lucas House from Beaver Farm,

02 / Issie paints the rehabbed chicken coop

03 / Seedlings make their home in one of two greenhouses

and purchased a new 56-acre farm with a house, pool, barn, and plenty of farmland. Our farm is now 130 acres in size!

'Foxfield', the new farm, provided us with a fifth (and we hope final!) student residence named Foxfield House and will be the home of our first truly commercial venture: Foxfield Flowers. Foxfield Flowers will be a business that produces,

04 / Alex adds rich compost to the bulb beds

05 / Bulbs waiting to be planted.

processes, distributes, and sells high quality organically grown flowers to farmer's markets, retail stores, restaurants, community supported agriculture (CSA) farms, and weddings. We will be able to host flower arranging workshops, DIY wedding florists, and other events on site. Best yet, our students will be a part of every stage of the process, introducing them to commercial horticulture and retailing and

engaging with the public in a variety of on-site and off-farm settings.

Our new adventure at Foxfield has already begun, and our first bouquets will be available this spring. Drop by and visit us, or come and volunteer to help us as we get things rolling!



Foxfield is blooming!

By Jen Althouse, Volunteer and Mom of 9th grader Alex

01 / Our greenhouses: Kathleen's Garden and Ellie's Greenhouse

The farm is really taking shape!

Foxfield Flowers is located on Foxfield Farm, a contiguous 56 acres to Beaver Farm, owned by The Camphill School in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Our mission is provide beautiful, organic, locally grown flowers and floral arrangements to the community while providing social and job training opportunities to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The students develop valuable life skills by being involved with the planting and care of the flowers. They also interact in a deeper way with the community through our sales venues. This type of prevocational training is designed to help the students gain practical experience for the future. Even more importantly, though, it will to teach them about their own self-worth and help them gain confidence in their abilities.

Since this was a new endeavor for The Camphill School, there was a lot to do in making it a reality. Thankfully, we have you, our amazing donors! At last year's Gala, attendees donated over \$97,000 to get the flower business the equipment, infrastructure, and supplies it needed to take root. (These donations also helped with electrical upgrades at the property.)

First, was the building and equipping of two greenhouses. One can be heated and is home to our seedlings that need to get started

before the outside temperatures can support them. The second one isn't heated, but it is useful for extending our growing season by allowing us to plant into the ground before the risk of frost and snow has past, and again into the cooler fall months. In addition to our greenhouses, we have been modifying the barn to support the processing and storage of the flowers we grow. The barn gives us room for our arranging space, which we also intend to use in hosting flower-arranging workshops.

There are acres of outdoor beds as well. They have already been planted with some perennials, like daffodils and peonies. The large outdoor beds will be bursting with summer blooms that you will be

able to buy and pick yourself with u-pick. We cannot wait to have you come out and enjoy the farm with us this summer!

To stay up to date with what is happening at Foxfield, please visit our website, foxfieldflowers.com. There, you can see pictures of the farm and our student growers. You can also sign up for our newsletter through the Contact Us link. The newsletter will tell you about our progress at the farm, what days and times the farm is open for u-pick or arranged bouquet purchases, when workshops are being held, and other locations in the community our flowers are being sold. We want you, our friends and family, to go on this journey with us, so, please keep in touch!



01

Local Business Owners Donate Time and Talent to Foxfield Flowers

01 / Sturdy tables built by talented volunteers

02 / Many thanks to employees and their families from C. Raymond Davis & Sons

Employees of **C. Raymond Davis & Sons, Inc.**, a family owned and operated General Contractor and Construction Management Firm headquartered in Kimberton, and their family members volunteered at Foxfield Farm on Saturday, October 26, 2019. The group removed horse stalls, shoveled dirt, and hauled gravel from the barn to prep for concrete floors. Carpenters built five sturdy workbenches for

processing cut flowers and to make bouquets. They also repaired a stone-faced fish pond on the property. In November the concrete for the new floors was poured with the help of **Patterson Masonry** and **Dryburgh Hardscapes**. This team effort included wives, husbands and children. The Camphill School and Foxfield Flowers are truly grateful for all their hard work. We're on our way to a blooming business!



01



02



01

Emily Kinniry

01 / Emily, an employee in Meadowsweet

02 / Martha, Emily, Rosa, Julian, Cristina and Rosaline

03 / Emily and the children enjoying a story time in the woods

Editor's Note: *Emily recently graduated from Owen J. Roberts' Community Connections Program. In that program, she interned at several childcare centers and found her passion! Emily joined our Meadowsweet Early Learning Center staff in September as a part time classroom aide.*

Why did you decide to work at Camphill?

I started in September. I feel like it is such a special place. I have had many jobs but since I was a teenager, I always wanted to work with kids. Ms. Valerie, Ms. Christina, and Ms. Iris have been so great to me, and this has been my best job ever.

What is your favorite part about working at Meadowsweet?

I really enjoy working and helping the kids. The kids and I have become good friends and I really like to work with them. I have had many jobs, but I have always wanted to work with and help kids. Camphill gave me this chance and I feel so lucky!

What do you think the students have learned from you?

I think the kids learned from me that I care a lot about them, that I am always there to help them, and I am a good friend to them. I try to teach them that we are all on the same team, we all get along, and we are here to help each other. When anything upsetting happens, I always say to them "no worries", everything will be OK. The kids, I think like that I am there to make them feel better when they are sad or upset.



02



03

Turn Your Pennsylvania Personal or Business Tax Dollars into Tuition Assistance!



01

The Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program enables you to redirect your Pennsylvania tax dollars – almost dollar for dollar – to The Camphill School, for tuition assistance for our students from Pennsylvania.

To qualify for the program businesses must pay one of the below listed taxes. Individuals qualify if their Pennsylvania state taxes exceed \$3,500 annually. Effectively, you or your business can donate to The Camphill School instead of paying taxes to the Commonwealth of PA. Eligible businesses and individuals can receive a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution to The Camphill School. This credit increases to 90% if you or your business commits to give the same

- amount for two consecutive years. Any business authorized to do business in Pennsylvania subject to one or more of the following taxes may be eligible:
- 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

For businesses, application deadlines apply.

If you want to support the school and make a gift directly to the school, you will get a tax deduction, yes, but the majority of that donation is still a cost to you. If you make a gift to the school through this EITC program, it can offset almost your entire PA tax bill – in other words, the donation comes at almost no additional cost to you. You are basically redirecting who gets the money when you pay your state tax bill, which you have to pay anyway.

To learn more contact **Courtney Coffman** **610.469.9236 x132** or **ccoffman@camphillschool.org** or visit **camphillschool.org/giving/eitc**.

Fund in Focus: Growth and Learning Fund

01 / Caption Goes Here

The Camphill School strives to inform our supporters of not only how their generous contributions are used, but to allow them to choose where they can direct their investment in our students' education and growth.

Educating students with various physical, emotional, and educational needs requires specialized and individualized educational models. Our growth and learning fund allows us to provide a wide range of educational programming to maximize every child's potential.

Our donors help make off-campus experiences, field trips, and outings possible and we are incredibly grateful! Here are a few ways about your support opens the world to our students.



Field trips are a wonderful way to teach the second graders about rules to follow in public places, the importance of sticking together, how to follow directions, and most importantly the adventure of discovering something new. Last year, the students had the pleasure of visiting Beaver Farm twice. This fall, the class went on a field trip to the magical Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, Pennsylvania. The students enjoyed the experience of gratitude and wonder of Mother Nature's beauty of early autumn days, strolling through the garden.
–Renata, Second Grade Teacher

In December, the eleventh grade went on a field trip to Washington D.C. Beforehand, we learned about the U.S. government, the history of how today's system came about, what representative democracy is, and checks and balances. We toured the Capitol Building and saw the former chambers of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Supreme Court before they moved. Standing in the rotunda was a remarkable experience — the ceiling depicting George Washington ascending to the heavens. There were many impressive portraits of significant events in the country's history and many statues of prominent figures in U.S. history. However, it was much more than just that. For the students, it made the content come alive. Some of them had never before crossed Pennsylvania state border! Students had a true recognition of the importance of that building and a sense of reverence came over many of the students. Most remarkable was the students' connection to one another as they navigated the large city. It was a real bonding experience and a great adventure for everyone on this meaningful and exciting trip.
–Stephan, Eleventh Grade Teacher



Fund in Focus: Growth and Learning Fund (Continued from page 15)



The Outreach Program at the Transition Program at Beaver Farm is designed to help students on their path to adulthood by engaging in real-life experiences in the greater community. Students participate in a variety of hands-on learning opportunities to develop vital work and life skills. Community-based instruction provides age-appropriate opportunities for students that also address their individual needs. A small group of students venture into the community every morning and afternoon to participate in a wide range of activities including shopping, running errands, picking up and delivering bulk orders; and volunteering at French Creek State Park, a bookstore in Kimberton, and an organic garden/farm in Morgantown. Recreational outings, like swimming, bowling, and going to the trampoline park allow students to pursue interests and hobbies while simultaneously developing social skills. *—Christopher, Outreach Coordinator*

The ninth grade went to the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. We had a presentation on how the soldiers, North and South, survived in the field. We toured the museum and saw many artifacts and stories of the war. We ate lunch there and headed back to Beaver Run. We had a wonderful time on our first official trip together! *—Sally, Ninth Grade Teacher*



Rowan House's Extended School Year group went on a dolphin watch in Lewes, Delaware. They enjoyed the boat ride and we saw a lot of dolphins *—Tunde, House Parent*



“Usually by Thursday evening some of my students are asking, “what are we doing on the weekend? Can we go for a hike in Valley Forge? Can we go bowling or swimming at the Y? What’s playing at the Media Theatre? And the most important question...did you book the bus? On the weekend, our students are eager to participate in events in the local community, enjoying the many parks and hiking trails in our area, going to the Y or celebrating someone’s birthday by going out for a meal or to a show at the theatre. These outings enable students to connect to others, improve and enhance their social skills with each other and interacting with people from our wider community. Our students learn that they are a part of the world and are able to connect their learning and experiences from here at the school to the wider circle. During those trips, either on the weekends, after school or during our ESY where we went to the Catskills, the students are engaging, helping and looking out for one another. Often, I have been lucky enough to have observed them helping one another buckle up, carrying a bag pack out of the bus, and making sure everyone waits until we are all gathered before starting to exploring.” *—Sarah, House Parent*

“It was my first year at The Camphill School, my houseparent told me we were going to spend a week in the Poconos Mountains, I was very skeptical. How was that going to work? How are we going to get there? Are the students going to be okay? In the end, that trip ended up being one of my and the students’ favorite memories of that year. The ride there was awesome, we were singing and telling stories, and while there we did so many things! We had a different adventure everyday while there and got to experience the world outside of Camphill.” *—Michael, House Parent*



Bernie Wolf

01 / Bernie and Dylan at a celebration

02 / Bernie and Else's wedding



Bernie Wolf is a fixture at The Camphill School. His jolly personality and kind spirit is well known throughout the community. Bernie has lived and worked at the school for over fifty years and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1981.

Over the past two years, Bernie has begun to step back from much of his responsibilities as Admissions Director and, in turn, so his eventual retirement can be fully actualized, Bernie has also transitioned to an

emeritus member of the Board of Directors. While he still will attend meetings and provide expertise, history, and valuable insight, Bernie will be relieved of some of the heavier responsibilities that Board membership entails.

The entire school community thanks you for your service on the Board, Bernie!

01

02



Brighter Days

It is with an abundance of caution and thoughts of brighter days ahead that we make a special announcement. After thoughtful discussion and careful consideration, the Gala Committee has made the decision to postpone the Feast at Foxfield Gala until Friday, September 25.

We are grateful to you for your understanding and for your support as we navigate the recent crises in our country and throughout the world. We will remain steadfast in our service to our students, their families, and our supporters.

We look forward to welcoming you to Foxfield Farm and its gardens as we celebrate our students, our school, and all of you who make so much possible.

If you have questions or are interested in supporting the event, please contact **Courtney Coffman** at ccoffman@camphillschool.org or **Sarah Downs** at sdowns@camphillschool.org.

Feast at Foxfield



FSC LOGO HERE

PLEASE JOIN US

September 25

The Camphill Gala (see page 19)

6-10 p.m.

2020



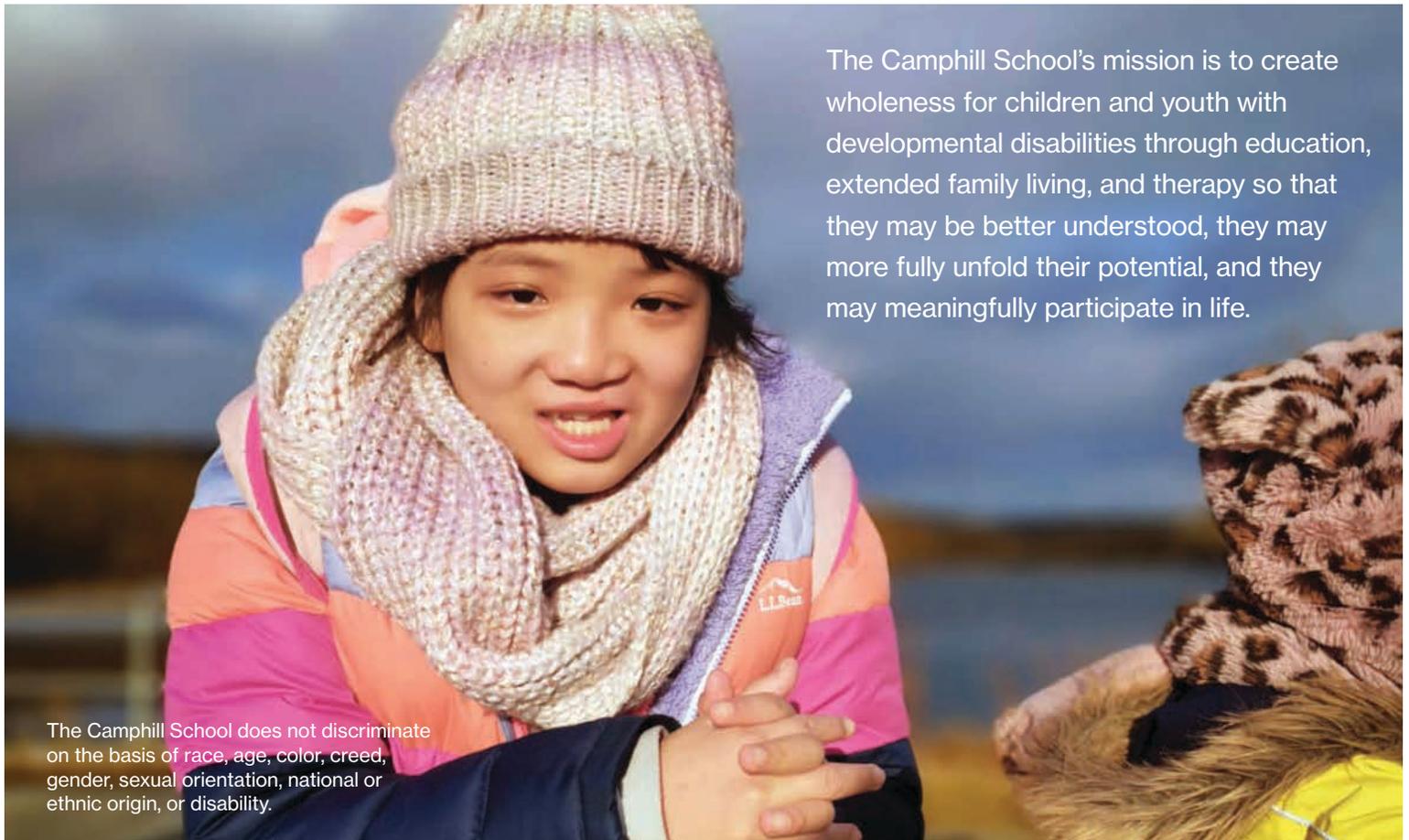
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Join the growing ranks of the Pietzner Legacy Society by naming our supporting foundation, Beaver Run Foundation, in your will or other estate plans. Call Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 for more information.



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.