

In Memory of Bill "Willy" Cabeen



Bill "Willy" Cabeen was part of Camp del Corazon from the very beginning.

Bill was never one to stand at the front of the camp and steal the limelight – yet somehow, we were always aware of his presence and importance to camp. True to his nature, he would, without exception, have our backs. As a 17 year board member, his voice was always one that spoke about the difference camp made on the lives of children with heart disease. There had to be a very big reason for Bill not to be a camp. We would joke that each year that he, the crazy salty dog that he was, would arrive into Howland's Landing after a six hour channel crossing and four things had to be ready for him. A simple request really- a hot shower, his "Willy" name tag and latest camp shirt, and the master medical list. Once he had all four, he would take a seat on the front porch of the Whitehouse and we all knew that camp was in session – officially!



Because he was the backup doctor on site, he would read the list of camper medical information like it was a bible and came to know each camper from year to year. I honestly think that he could give you each camper's diagnosis and their medication list off the top of his head. Having Bill at camp always gave me peace of mind.

Often at night, when the rest of camp was asleep, I would look out over the beautiful cove and the many large yachts, and there would be Bill's eloquent classic wooden boat. I could always pick it out because there was always a single lantern that would be hung from the mast. It would sway with the motion of the waves. It was Bill's style. Bill introduced the campers to the night sky. He would set up telescopes and adjust them to view planets, stars, and constellations. For many of the campers, it was their first exposure to the magical world beyond the clouds.



Bill loved the camp and the camp loved Bill. We will keep your memory alive at camp. We will light a lantern for you on the Whitehouse porch. O Captain! My Captain! - We just know you'll be with us at camp, sailing around Heaven with a boat full of campers – still guiding us – and we'll take heart. -Lisa Knight

Winter edition!



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A LETTER from the HEART

Camp del Corazon's quarterly newsletter for campers, parents and friends

Winter 2011



From Penny Lane...

"We've got spirit! Yes we do. We've got spirit. How about you?" The dining hall on Howland's Landing rings out with chanting, laughter and the familiar rhythms of campers teaching and learning the "cup game." Campers and staff alike have been waiting all year for the chance to shed their worries and their table manners for five unforgettable days on Catalina Island. Summer 2011 marked the seventeenth season of Camp del Corazon, and with over 300 children making the journey across the channel, it was our largest camp season to date. My mother founded Camp del Corazon in 1995 with 49 campers, a bullhorn, and a vision. Today, as program director, I address our camp family with a different bullhorn but the same vision. It is truly an honor to share in the collective aim of this camp to build an experience based on respect, exploration, and fun!

In making the transition from rascal-camper to camp-leader, I have come to appreciate the many people who work so hard and to come together to make camp possible. Here in the office, we are filled with excitement and gratitude as our family is becoming stronger and more active between camp sessions. This year has marked a lot of growth for camp literally - four camp families welcomed newborn future counselors into their lives - and we celebrated the marriage of two of our leadership staff! We are also growing in the community sense as we expand the scope of our outreach through fundraisers and events. New events this year include: "I Heart Wine" - a wine tasting in El Segundo on December 2nd, a comedy night at the Laugh Factory in January, and a charity mountain bike race in February. Each of these events provides an opportunity for all friends of camp to get together and enrich one another's lives. It has been a joy wearing a new hat around our campfire this year. I invite you all to come out, get together, and share the camp love!

Camp Love,
Penny Lane



**GALA
del
SOL**



The fun has begun for next year's Gala del Sol.

The event will be held at Universal Studios, Globe Theater on Saturday, April 21, 2012 and we are thrilled that our honoree is Carl Schuster, CEO and President of Wolfgang Puck Catering.

Carl has over 20 years' experience in the hospitality industry, and today oversees one of the nation's leading catering companies. We are pleased to be honoring Mr. Schuster for his ongoing philanthropy to our organization as well as his connection to the world of childhood heart disease.

We have already secured sponsors including Colby Red Wines and Glace Ice. Mark your calendars and keep checking our website for further updates.

If you are interested in participating, or becoming a sponsor, please contact our office.

3rd Annual Family Festival and Reunion sk

This year's 3rd Annual Family Festival and Reunion was a huge success!

Thank you to all of you who attended, volunteered and donated. Special thanks to the North Hollywood Fire Department who gave rides around the block in their trucks, Y Water who provided drinks for the kids and Newbury Park Bicycle Shop for donating a top of the line mountain bike for our top fundraiser!

Once again, our friends stepped up to raise thousands of dollars to help send more deserving children to camp next summer. Thank you to our top fundraisers: Maysie Hoy, Mason McElroy, Ryan Thurston, Sherry Frith and Deborah Delosso.

We really view this event as not only a fundraiser but also as a great opportunity to come and see friends from camp, and to have families meet and network.

Let's make next year's event even better!



Part of the Magic

Melanie Mamakos here... The first voice you hear on the phone if you call the Camp office on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday... I can hardly believe that three years have passed since I first started working at Camp del Corazon. In that time, I have watched Camp grow in leaps and bounds. I used to spend my days immersed in mountains of paperwork – a veritable frenzy of getting camper and staff applications in order and ready for the upcoming camp season. I would field calls from harried parents anxious to know what to pack or where the drop off location was.

In 2010, Camp went "green" with the application process being done mostly online and I have watched the stacks of paperwork dwindle down. Now instead of inquiries from parents, I am treated to answering calls from computer savvy little camper voices. Many who- to the relief of their not-so- technically talented parents - have mastered the online application process themselves. My calls are now a combination of parent inquiries with just as many questions from campers checking as to any updates on free choice activities or any news on a camp theme. I love the interaction with the children – it puts a new perspective on the meaning of camp for me. Returning campers delight in sharing their prior adventures – while the first time campers are curious about the activities but hesitantly ask "will there really be other kids like me at camp?" When I reply "yes" – the relief and happiness conveyed in their voice is certainly a lullaby to my spirit – and a reminder of just how important Camp del Corazon is to these special kids. It's a privilege to be part of the magic!

Tom Arnold Issues a Challenge - and we meet it!



One of Camp del Corazon's biggest champions, Tom Arnold, issued a big challenge to us in August. He would match every dollar that we raised through October 22nd up to \$5,000.

With that simple challenge, many of our friends were off! Colby Red Wine stepped forward to increase the match another \$5,000 AND they donated \$5,000 to boot. Then, the Ariana Fund increased the match another \$5,000. Within one week the challenge had grown to \$15,000!

On October 22nd, as we closed out the challenge at the Family Festival - Tom's simple challenge had raised more than \$34,000 for Camp del Corazon!

Thank you Tom, Colby Red Wine and the Ariana Fund!

Welcome Kristina

It is with great pleasure that I announce our new staff member, Kristina Wallace, as a member of our fundraising team. Kristina has many years of previous fundraising experience at both national and grassroots non-profits, as well as other camps. She provides our office with new skill sets and a positive energy that is infectious. Welcome!

Ronya Waters
Sr. Director of Development

Holiday Gifts for Camp

The Holidays are fast-approaching!

Please consider remembering Camp del Corazon for your Holiday gift giving... all donations are tax-deductible, and you are truly giving the gift of a lifetime to very special campers. Donations are easy online at campdelcorazon.org.

2012 CALENDAR

- Dec. 2**
I Heart Wine - A Charity Wine Tasting Event
- Jan. 1**
Campers and Volunteers can start filling out application forms online
- April 21**
Gala del Sol Black Tie Event
Universal City, CA
- April 27**
Davi Golf Classic
Temecula, CA
- Aug. 23-27**
Catalina Camp Session 1
- Aug. 27-31**
Catalina Camp Session 2
- Aug. 31-Sept. 4**
Catalina Camp Session 3

Please be aware that this calendar is tentative. Check our website for any updated dates and information. www.campdelcorazon.org