



May 2021

## Camp Knutson Volunteers Spring Newsletter

### Greetings from the President

Spring is especially welcome this year! After a winter of planning, I am so encouraged by the commitment and energy devoted to bringing the Camp Knutson experience to our amazing campers this year. The communication between Camp K staff and Camp Knutson volunteers has been frequent and enthusiastic. Every time your CKV Board or fundraising chairs gather via Zoom, the creativity and excitement just sparkles!

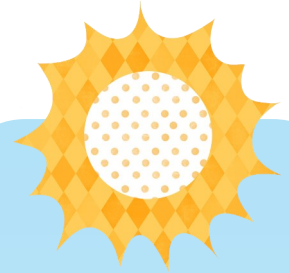
One example of this creativity is a unique idea that Caitlin Malin is working on to promote Camp K and our fundraisers. Imagine boating past camp on Trout Lake on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and there is a floating dock anchored offshore with music and staff entertainment. How fun would that be? More information to come...

I hope you are all planning to attend the **June 3<sup>rd</sup> All Volunteer Meeting** from 10:00 AM to noon at Camp Knutson. Camp Director Jared Griffin and your CKV Officers are looking forward to greeting you and sharing information about summer plans. Bring your masks, updated membership forms (<https://www.campkfriends.com/forms>) and your calendars. We may not have opportunities to work directly with campers this year, but there are so many needs that we CAN fill. When you arrive that day, remember to check in at Pauly's Place (the building with the beautiful statue in front) to have your temperature taken, answer the Covid survey questions and sign in. From there you will be directed to our meeting place.

We are so excited about our two big fundraisers this year, the **18<sup>th</sup> Night Under the Stars (NUTS) on July 17<sup>th</sup>** and the **35<sup>th</sup> Quilt Auction on August 14<sup>th</sup>**. Both will be Virtual Events again this year, but there are many "hands on" ways to get involved in these fundraisers, either by joining in the preparations or encouraging friends to participate with you online.

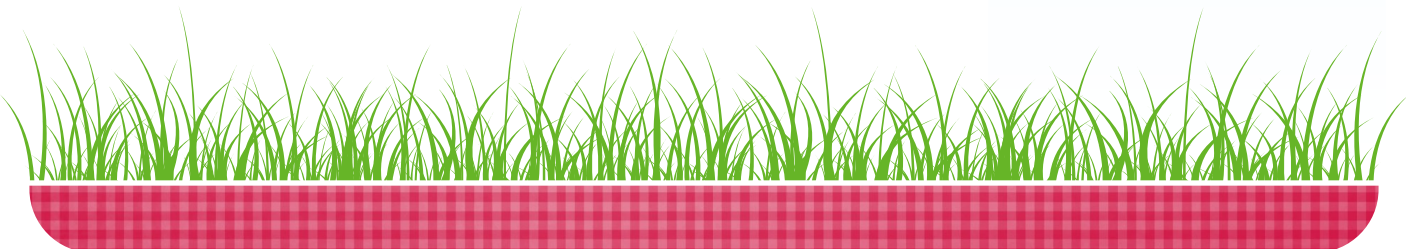
The theme of **NUTS 2021** is **"That's Amore!"** with all the lovely images of food, friends and family that evokes. You cannot gather at camp that night, but why not invite your closest friends or family to gather at your home for a "watch party?" Serve a meal, watch the livestream event at 6:45 that night, and bid on the online auction packages. We've put together a **limited edition "That's Amore! Party Box"** to help set a festive, Italian-themed table for eight that night. You may pre-purchase your box when you register online for the event. (It can either be picked up in Crosslake or shipped direct to your home.) The online auction opens Wednesday, July 14 at noon and closes on Sunday, July 18 at 1:00 pm.

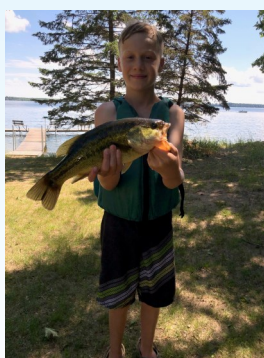
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## Greetings from the President (continued)

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction will once again offer a chance to view the quilts before the event. The SILENT AUCTION opens online August 11 and closes on August 14 at 11:30 am. The LIVE AUCTION begins livestreaming at noon on August 14 and closes later that day when the last quilt is sold. The Auction Tri-Chairs have designed a "signature tote bag" for sale at the event. Volunteers will be needed to help organize quilts as they begin arriving in May, sew tote bags May 19, auction set-up, previewing days, as well as many tasks on the day of the event.

If you're looking for other kinds of volunteer opportunities at camp, read Volunteer Coordinator Ginny Hersey's article and check our website [www.campkfriends.com](http://www.campkfriends.com). We're always looking for those interested in leadership positions. Please contact me or Vice President Kristie Roedl if you're interested in serving. Come join us for the fun this summer!

Mary Nielsen, President

[marynielsen88@gmail.com](mailto:marynielsen88@gmail.com)

859-816-3163

## Volunteer Opportunities

Greetings CKV! It is with a smile and warm feeling that I write this, knowing that in a few weeks we will be able to gather in person again after more than 1 ½ years under the threat of Covid! June 3<sup>rd</sup> seems just around the corner now. I can't wait!

At our All Volunteer meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, live and in person, you will be able to designate your interest in many of the familiar volunteer slots. Yes, several will be missing, or they will take on a new twist. BUT....our passion for the camp and our desire for fellowship with other CKVunteers will most certainly continue.

Please consider that there will be:

- Post Card writing to campers throughout the summer who are unable to attend camp.
- Cleaning following the weeks of on-campus kids in some buildings.
- Gardening on Wednesdays as before Covid (see article). Contact Linda Gates.
- Maintenance as needed (contact Dennie Fry at Camp K at 218-543-4232)
- Fundraisers:
  1. Night Under the Stars on July 17<sup>th</sup>, contact Mary Nielsen to direct you to committee leaders. Many areas to help even before the Spring meeting. There are teams for Silent Auction, That's Amore Party Box, and more!
  2. Quilt Auction on August 14<sup>th</sup>, contact Cindy Melsby, Beth McConville or Penny Bryce (see article) to help with the August virtual event. It is not too early to get involved!

Although most volunteer efforts will not involve direct contact with campers this summer, ALL CKV will be asked to UPDATE ALL ANNUAL FORMS (Background Check & Voluntary Disclosure forms, Time and Talent for 2021, and current changes in the membership form such as phone and address.) These are available for download on our website or at the All Volunteer Meeting. New volunteers will be hearing from Membership Chair Linda Thurk for opportunities to get acquainted and tour the camp grounds. It is easy to pay your dues (of \$10) online at the CKV website. If you are not comfortable doing that, you can mail your dues to Mardy Brodil, 35518 West Shore Drive, Crosslake, MN 56442. Remember the dues pay for mailings, and for the Fairy Fund at the Camp Store for those campers who need a little extra.

I'll be looking for you at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> All Volunteer Meeting, and as we volunteer throughout the summer season. Thank you in advance for taking your time this summer to make the season special for our kids! Please take good care of yourselves and be safe. I'll be looking for you soon.

Contact Ginny Hersey (218) 821-7801



## Gardening at Camp Knutson

Please come join us for some fun gardening time! We meet once a week from June - August at 8:30 AM on Wednesdays. We gather in the parking lot and work through the campus. Our tasks are weeding, deadheading and watering. Our work time is about one hour (depending on how many people we have gather that morning). When our work is done we take time to share ideas and enjoy some coffee. We are flexible so come when you can and leave as you need to. We invite you to make some new friends or catch up with the friends we have made in the past and enjoy the beautiful mornings at the camp!

We will begin gardening on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30, meeting in the parking lot as we enter the camp on the right. Please bring your gloves, buckets for your tools (clippers, small hand shovels, diggers or whatever is your favorite). Any Questions please give Sharon or Linda a call.

Gardening Co-Chairs

Sharon Elmquist 507-380-3326

Linda Gates 507-202-9374



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## Quilt Auction Update

Spring is here and we're excited to get to work on the 35th Annual Quilt Auction! We plan to have a "hybrid" event again this year, with both "live" and "online" elements. The "QAC Squad" needs your help! We will have our first informational meeting on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Camp. Please, if you are interested in joining our fun team of volunteers, mark your calendars! We will provide an overview of the activities leading up to auction day and provide details about each volunteer role. Again, no quilting experience needed for most of these opportunities.

New this year! We will be offering signature tote bags for sale the day of the Auction. These bags are 17"x20", lined, with a sturdy strap, \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Consider buying one for yourself and a friend!

Again, this year we are asking for donations of "Fat Quarters", (size is 18"x22"). We plan to bundle and sell them the day of the auction. Ask your friends who quilt if they might consider donating.

We are currently looking for co-leads for the following committees: **Live Auction**, **Silent Auction**, and **Tote Bags/Fat Quarters**. We also need a **photographer** as well as volunteers to help with the **Quilt Previews** (August 11-13) leading up to auction day, and on the day of the August 14 Auction.

If you or anyone you know is planning to donate an item for the Quilt Auction, we will be accepting donations from May 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 10<sup>th</sup>. Mail or drop your donations at the Crosslake Log Church or contact one of us.

Please reach out to one of us if you have questions, suggestions or if you would like to discuss opportunities. We all thank you for your support!

2021 Quilt Auction Chairs:

Penny Bryce 952-201-6307 penny.orp6@gmail.com

Beth McConville 563-271-6459 emcconville67@gmail.com

Cindy Melsby 612-723-0342 melsby2000@outlook.com





CAMP KNUTSON VOLUNTEERS PRESENT

NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

# That's Amore!

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

A virtual gathering and online auction to support campers with identified needs.

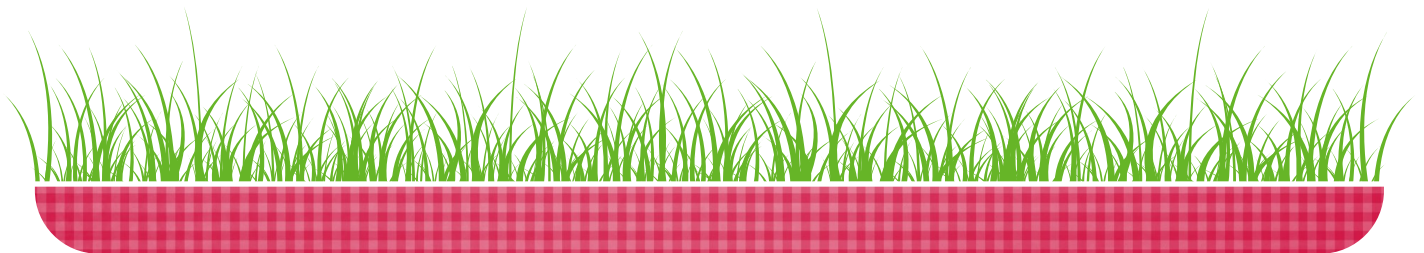
## That's Amore Party Box

So have you heard of the new *That's Amore Party Box* connected with the Italian themed Night Under the Stars event on July 17<sup>th</sup>? As this is a virtual event again this season, the CKV is offering a fun box of goodies to support private viewing parties during the event that are hosted in their own homes with six or eight comfortably invited guests.

The box is still in planning stages, but to date includes a lovely wooden cheese/bread board with the CK logo, a set of eight wine charms beaded by CKV, special treats, an embossed wooden fob for your wine bottle, Italian recipes to enhance the theme, an Italian Trivia game to delight the guests, and even table decorations and suggestions for the gathering! The limited edition box will be available to purchase online during registration for \$40. (They may be picked up in Crosslake or shipped direct to your home with an additional shipping charge.)



Consider joining in the planning and creating of this fun project. This is another chance to help the kids at camp directly. Profits from the boxes will go to support the horse back riding program at Camp K. We'll be looking for you at our next meeting! Contact Ginny Hersey for more information at (218) 821-7801 or [herseyonfox@emily.net](mailto:herseyonfox@emily.net).



## Night Under The Stars Viewing Party

Have you missed socializing with your friends during this Covid year? Why not invite a few friends to your home for a viewing party on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>? For more information and party hosting ideas, contact Gail Kane at (952) 457-1471 or [gailjkane@outlook.com](mailto:gailjkane@outlook.com).

## Join The NUTS Auction Team

The 2021 NUTS Auction team is mobilized and moving. We are having a lot of fun working via Zoom from all over the United States and can't wait till we are together and bouncing new ideas off of each other in person. Volunteering for Camp Knutson has allowed me to develop some great friendships.

The emails to the volunteers who are business solicitors for donations to Camp Knutson have been sent. The majority of business solicitors are comfortable reaching out to businesses and friends to support Camp Knutson. We are all still very aware of the Covid business climate that exists. Many volunteers are purchasing gift certificates from local businesses as a way to support the community that has supported Camp Knutson. In 2020 we were able to incorporate many of the gift certificates into the auction baskets.

The site to drop off donations has been secured and a number of baskets are being produced to be on display at the All Volunteer meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for people to purchase as their donation to Camp. Our goal is to try and help people with their donation to Camp Knutson, as we know everyone is very busy this time of year at the lake.

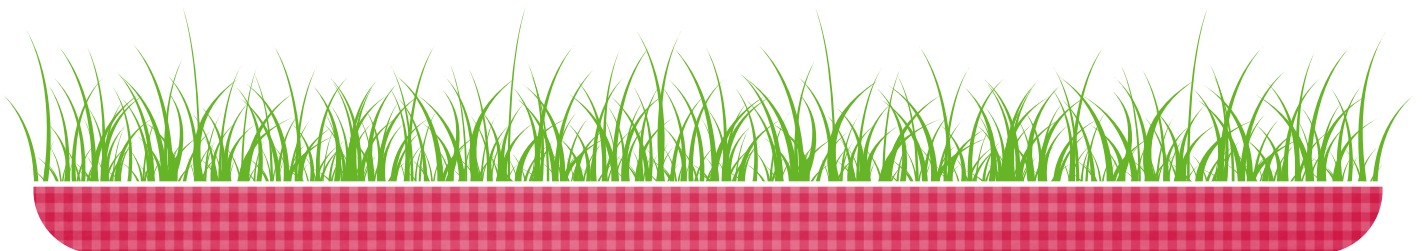
An email to all volunteers with details of the auction and Night Under the Stars should be in your inbox.

A number of volunteers have signed up to help during "drop off" of donations and "pick up" by the winners. We still need volunteers to help us and welcome you with open arms!

We are offering a new mentoring program to help new volunteers feel welcome. I personally would love to have a person or persons work with me this spring and summer. I would like to work with them to help them feel confident in being part of the 2022 NUTS Auction team. It is not one person - it is a team. I will still support them in 2022.

I have been retired now for 4 years and I did not realize how rewarding volunteering for a place like Camp Knutson could be for a retired preschool director. I was worried that after I retired, my brain cells and computer skills would perish. Volunteering has allowed me to practice my skills and make new friends. I welcome you to join us in our Auction journey. Volunteers are supported by the Camp Knutson staff and new ideas are cultivated and embraced. Come join us!

Kristie Roedl (612) 384-0881 [kristieplummerroedl@gmail.com](mailto:kristieplummerroedl@gmail.com)



## Camp Knutson Staff Update

We hope that this finds you and your family doing well. We appreciate all your patience and understanding as we have navigated this time together. It has been a challenge unlike anything we've seen before in camp's almost 70 year history. I am so proud of our whole Camp K community and everything we've done to keep our mission alive and make the time that we have count! **Thank you for making Camp K possible!**

We are very excited to announce that we can have campers join us again this summer. We are going to do our best to meet each camper where they are and provide a fitting camp experience. This summer we will offer a combination of in-person and virtual camps; take a look at the schedule provided. We've kept the health and well-being of our campers, staff and volunteers at the forefront of the decisions made about how we welcome campers back this summer.

Without our typical full schedule of in-person camps this summer, we're excited to introduce a new camp model: **Family Camp!** This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for current campers to share firsthand the experience of Camp K with their own families. Each participating family will receive an all-inclusive experience that will create unforgettable moments to cherish forever.

We have hired fourteen incredible program staff who are all ready to make an impact all of our campers we are serving this summer. Six of them are returning staff and we welcome eight brand new ones to our community. We are looking forward to working alongside each of them and cherishing their skills they are bringing to us!

Please know that your support is more important than ever as we bring campers back while still working through continued challenges associated with the pandemic. We are a ways off from getting back to the way things were before COVID 19. This summer there will still be changes and adjustments that will need to be made, but I'm confident our volunteers and staff will rise to the occasion and remain resilient just like our campers. There are so many ways that you can make a difference and we hope that you will discover meaningful opportunities to support our campers and breathe life into our mission. We are grateful for your commitment to Camp K. The tide is starting to turn and brighter days are ahead of us!

Please know we are here for you and thank you for being here for us,

Thanks, Jared and Caitlin



## Camp Knutson's New Accessible Nature Trail

All campers, regardless of mobility challenges, will now have the opportunity to experience the surrounding woods on our brand-new nature trail. Constructed in the woods near the nature center, our fully-accessible trail elevates campers from the surrounding terrain so they may view their surroundings from a new perspective. Upon its completion, the trail will be outfitted with an outdoor classroom, multiple educational stations, and several points to simply sit beneath the trees. We hope that by providing our campers with an immersive educational experience, they will leave our grounds with a newfound appreciation for the world around them. Last summer, we completed construction on 650 of the 800 total feet of trail thanks to help from the many volunteers who spent time constructing trail sections, building the railings, and installing decking. We hope to complete the final 150 feet of this project this season. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents for this project, please contact Dennie Fry at (218) 820-8956.



## Camp Knutson Volunteers' Summer Events

May 19 – CKV Board Meeting – 10:00 am at Camp  
May 24 – NUTS Steering Committee Meeting – 2:00 pm at Camp  
June 3 – All Volunteer Meeting at Camp 10:00–noon  
June 9 – Quilt Auction Committee Meeting at Camp– 10:00 am  
June 14, 15, 21, 22 – Auction Item Drop-off at Town Square 4:00-7:00 pm  
July 9 – Floating Concert offshore from Camp K - TBD  
July 14 - NUTS online Auction opens – 12:00 pm  
July 17 – Night Under The Stars – 6:45 pm Reception – 7:00 pm Livestream  
July 18 – NUTS online Auction closes – 1:00 pm  
July 19, 20, 21 – Auction package Pick-up at Town Square – 3:00-6:00 pm  
8/11 – Quilt Silent Auction opens online  
8/11-13 – Quilt Auction Previewing time TBD  
8/14 – Quilt Auction – Livestream 12:00 pm until?



## Camp Knutson Summer Schedule

May 26 – June 12 Staff Training  
June 13 – 16 Family Camp  
June 18 – 20 Ampersand Families (Adoption)  
June 21 – 24 *Virtual* Camp Discovery I (Skin Conditions)  
June 27 – July 2 Camp Hand in Hand I (Autism)  
July 5 – 8 Family Camp  
July 10 – 15 Camp Hand in Hand II (Autism)  
July 17 Night Under the Stars  
July 19 – 22 *Virtual* Camp Discovery II (Skin Conditions)  
July 25 – 30 Camp Hand in Hand III (Autism)  
August 4 - 7 Camp Norden (Kids Touched by Cancer)  
August 8 – 10 Camp Odayin Graduates (Heart Disease)  
August 14 Quilt Auction

This schedule is still a work in progress as we determine details for events later in the summer. Please check [campknutson.org](http://campknutson.org) for updates.

