



CAMP KNUTSON VOLUNTEERS

— F A L L N E W S L E T T E R —

Greetings from the President

Greetings from the President and wishing you all a happy fall! I am very excited and nervous to be the Camp Knutson Volunteer President. Jeannine Acker is the VP, and I am so grateful for her to be by my side. The CK board also includes Mardy Brodil treasurer, Linda Gates secretary, Lori Lee Volunteer Membership, Laurie Noll Volunteer Coordinator, Ronda Morin Publicity, and Jean Jones Webmaster. Thank you all for taking on these positions!

A little bit about myself: My husband Lee retired in 2011 and I retired in 2014 and we moved here in 2015 from Inver Grove Heights. Lee and I both worked for West Publishing turned Thomson Reuters for 37 years. I have two daughters from my first marriage. Alicia lives in Woodbury and Alana lives in Cottage Grove. I had a son in between my girls. Aaron was born with Hypoplastic left heart syndrome (basically the left side of his heart did not develop), and he lived for 8 days. I believe everything I went through during that difficult time prepared me to be at Camp K.

Lee loves fishing and hunting and I love sewing, crafting, traveling and of course Camp Knutson. I have worked on all three fundraisers and did card making with the heart kids. Much to my surprise, that ended up being very hard for me and decided that I am much better at being behind the action.

I am by nature a very organized and detail-oriented person who loves to plan parties. My friends at work called me “Julie McCoy” the Cruise Director because I was always planning and organizing our gatherings. Holidays at my house ranged from 5 people to 30 people. I loved planning and cooking the meals!

I encourage all of you to spread the word about the great mission Camp K provides to kids and families. I look forward to meeting new people and continue to create great friendships!

Cindy Melsby



Camp Knutson

• • • www.campknutson.com • • •

WHAT'S INCLUDED



- Page 1** - Greetings from the President
- Page 2** - What's Included & Notable Dates
- Page 3** - Volunteer Coordinator Message
- Page 4** - Happy Camper Market & NUTS
- Page 5** - Quilt Auction
- Page 6** - Sundae Funday and Gardening
- Page 7** - Meet the Board Members & Thank You



NOTABLE DATES

Happy Camper Market - October 15-19

Sundae Funday - May 28, 2023

Night Under the Stars - July 15, 2023

Quilt Auction - August 12, 2023



Camp Knutson

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR MESSAGE

What a Wonderful year this has been for Camp Knutson and our Camp Knutson Volunteers. Coming out of two difficult Covid years took hard work by many talented and dedicated individuals. It took cooperation and community working together, and faith that we could make this year happen!! And happen it did!!

As Coordinator of Volunteers for Camp K, I want to acknowledge and thank every volunteer for the generous show of time and support given to the camp staff, to the campers, and to each other to accomplish such stunning combined service to Camp Knutson.

Beginning with the Fundraisers even before the official start of the season so many of you gave hundreds of hours and continuing through the busy summer resulting in magnificent successes as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. With the Funday Sundae event, Night Under the Stars, and the Quilt Auction these huge events were the windows for the outside community to learn about Camp K, and contribute in so many ways. But it was each of YOU who were the “Boots on the Ground”, without which these fundraisers could not have even begun.

For all the CKV who dedicated over 630 hours on campus to serve food to campers indoors and out, guide and help campers, and support the camp staff, a sincere thank you for being the camper’s window to the outside community who came to help and show that they care about this camp. A special thank you to the quiet gardeners who spent 252 hours over 14 weeks making the camp a lovely comforting place to be. And to the dedicated cleaners who came for spring cleaning, showed up every week to lessen the load of staff, and again at the close of the season when most others were gone, a special wave of gratitude. To ALL of the yard and maintenance help for the entire summer who are often not seen...THANK YOU.

And finally, to the CKV Board who helps guide this ship of volunteers with leadership in new ideas, finance, records and rosters, newsletters and communicating by website and email, schedules and reminders, publicity and welcoming new members.

So, as I have said since I began to serve Camp Knutson as the Volunteer Coordinator in 2017, “Thank you for making a difference at camp”.....you really do!

Now for 2022-2023 we have a fabulous new Volunteer Coordinator already in action. Laurie Noll joined us in 2021 and has been involved in many volunteer opportunities. She has a great background and a drive for excellence. We know that 2023 will be a great year when we all come back for the Spring Meeting to begin again. Thank you for your support.

Ginny





2022 Happy Camper Gift Market

Online Auction
October 15th to 19th, 2022



The 3rd Annual "Happy Camper Gift Market" is an online auction of over 120 skillfully handmade items, such as table runners, pillows, greeting cards, quilts, placemats, and so much more. Great gift ideas for the holidays or birthdays. Many seasonal items as well. Auction opens at noon on October 15th and closes at noon on October 19th. Register online! You will receive a phone call after the auction closes on the 19th with instructions for pick up at the Log Church in Crosslake or we can ship it to you.

Bid Big and Bid Often, it's for the KIDS!!

Organized by:

Penny Bryce, Jan Larson, Wendy Bares, Cindy Melsby

Questions: Please call Cindy at 612.723.0342



Night Under the Stars

July 16, 2022

This year's Night Under the Stars (Join Us for S'More Fun!) was a wonderful opportunity to finally celebrate in person for the first time since 2019! Attendees embraced the Camping themed event with enthusiasm! Although our two virtual Night Under the Stars during Covid were very successful – there was so much excitement being back in person!

In addition to the Silent Auction in the Dining Hall, there were games scattered throughout the grounds. Camp Knutson kitchen staff prepared delicious appetizers which were passed out by counselors, and 3 Cheers Hospitality catered a lovely sit-down dinner. A live auction, emceed by auctioneer Kelly Conger followed dinner.

Guest speakers included Pat Thueson, President, Lutheran Social Service of MN; Kathryn Tiede, Assoc. VP Philanthropy, Lutheran Social Service of MN; and Camp Hand in Hand camper Cole and his dad Pat .

Camp Knutson hosted 243 guests that evening. These guests, combined with Camp Knutson staff and volunteers saw over 300 people on campus!

Not only was the evening a lot of fun; but the volunteers and guests raised an astounding \$398,000! This money has been earmarked for a new cabin which will be accessible to even more campers with identified needs. Ground has already been broken and the new cabin will be ready for campers next summer!

On behalf of the volunteers and Camp K staff, we are most grateful to all who participated, donated and supported Camp Knutson's Night Under the Stars!

SAVE THE DATE! Next year's Night Under the Stars is scheduled for July 15, 2023!





Quilt Auction 2022



We had another great quilt auction this year. We had over 200 donated items, 100 in the live auction, and over 120 in the silent auction, which were sold on line. This combination of live and virtual bidding, created during the pandemic, seems to have evolved into something that works well for us. The amazing quality and workmanship of the quilts helped us raise over \$108,000 for Camp Knutson. Many thanks to all of the donors and volunteers that made the auction a success!

For 2023, Penny Bryce is stepping down as co-chair, but Wendy Bares and Jan Larson will continue on, with a lot of help from Penny and Cindy Melsby. We look forward to another fun year! If you'd like to join the team, call or email Jan at (507)276-9063 or jlars612@gmail.com



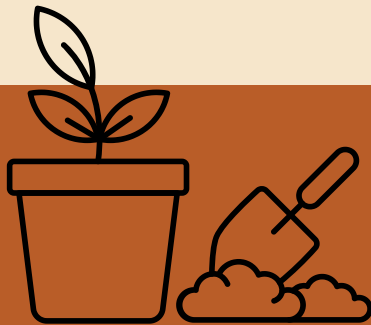
Camp Knutson

Sundae Funday 2022



Sundae Funday was a great day! We counted 391 guests attended. Several of the guest had not been to the camp and were very curious about who the camp served and what happened during the weeks of camp. We signed up new volunteers and educated many local guests about Camp Knutson. We Thank all of the 40 volunteers who worked so hard to make the day a special event from the food preparation ladies and the servers, the parking staff, the camp tour guides, the ice cream servers and ALL of the counselors who worked so hard to get the campus ready for the day. We felt that publicity and signage was instrumental for the increased number of guests. Please consider helping with Sundae Funday in 2023 to start the opening of the camp season. We are looking for a Co-Chair person for 2023, so if you're interested, please let us know. It is a "Funday"!

Any Questions contact Linda Gates
Co-Chairs – Lori Nelson and Linda Gates



Gardening in 2022



The gardeners worked hard this summer keeping the weeds under control in the gardens and potted plants looked great! Hopefully we helped keep the camp looking fresh and colorful for the visitors and staff to enjoy. We will be putting the gardens to sleep until Spring in 2023. This group of ladies are great and we Thank each of you who were able to help! The gardens looked beautiful until recently when the deer decided to have lunch!. Keep in mind if you are interested in joining us, please add it to your time and talent sheets in the spring.

Chair Person / Linda Gates



Camp Knutson

THE 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



President - Cindy Melsby
Vice President - Jeannine Acker
Treasurer - Mardy Brodil
Secretary - Linda Gates
Marketing - Ronda Morin
Membership - Lori Lee
Volunteer Coordinator - Laurie Noll
Website/Communications - Jean Jones
Past President - Kristie Roedl



To read their personal bios, visit: campkfriends.com



THANK YOU!



Camp K Friends and Volunteers,
We want to sincerely thank you for all of your time, effort, and support this camp season! It is because of people like you that camp can run so smoothly and effectively. It was also great to have you by our sides this year as we navigated a full summer back with all our partner groups! You are an amazing part of what we do!

-Camp Knutson Staff



Camp Knutson

www.campkfriends.com