



**Camperships
For
Nebagamon**

Making Camps A Place of Welcome For All

The Newsletter of Camperships for Nebagamon • Winter 2016

NebagaNotes

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

By John Sawyer

One of the most gratifying parts of serving on the CFN board is to exchange ideas — not only amongst the board members, but with camp staff and other alumni – about how to strengthen camp and the organizations like CFN which help support its mission. Sitting in the white chairs in the shadow of the Big House this summer, board members heard from Camp Director Adam Kaplan about the key elements of success in making the camp experience a valuable one for kids who we help support. While so many elements go into that success, one stood out as the foundation: partnership.

In particular, Adam spoke of the importance of partnerships with leaders in communities who can help identify kids likely to benefit from the camp experience. He highlighted one such partnership — with Zbynek Gold, principal of Bedford Hills elementary in New York. Over the last number of years, more than twenty Bedford Hills students have come through camp's gates, and the experience has not only benefitted them, but also the school itself.

I got in touch with Principal Gold to hear more. The partnership began — as so many Nebagamon stories do — with a personal connection: Nebagamon alum Ken Mack was a parent at the school, and mentioned the possibility of partnership:

“To be honest, if I didn't have such a strong respect for Ken as a parent and person, I would probably not believed it. The first year I was very skeptical about what the catch to the offer was,” Gold says. But the proof was in the pudding. “The students all come home raving about their experience at camp. They come back more confident and they are very engaged in the school. They are eager to go back the next summer — ‘I cannot wait to go back to camp’ is something we hear almost daily from them.”

Kaplan spoke to us of Gold's ability to zero in on the kids he knows will succeed at camp and benefit from the experience. Gold says “When selecting students from our school to attend, I sit with the fourth grade teachers and look for boys who would likely not get a summer camp experience on their

own. We look for students who are well behaved in school and work hard. They are not always great students but they have to give 110% toward their work. I also look for students who are outgoing and get along well with their peers. I want them to be able to make friends and interact with the other campers.”

Partnerships like the one with Principal Gold and Bedford Hills elementary are critical to making CFN work. As a board, we'd like to help facilitate new connections like this one — and to do it the Nebagamon way: by word of mouth, based on the strength of our own friendships, and with the success of both the kids we support and camp itself as the goal.



Zbynek Gold, Principal of Bedford Hills Elementary, Bedford Hills, NY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Adam Braude

During my tenure as Nebagamon's Associate Director, one summer a visitor walked into the office on a late July afternoon. He was an older man, and although he didn't appear to be the least bit threatening, he did seem a bit out of place. Neither Roger nor Judy was around, so I introduced myself and welcomed him to camp.

It turned out he was a former staff member who was on a cross-country driving trip with his wife. Evidently, when he realized they were relatively close to Lake Nebagamon, he impulsively decided to take a 2 ½ hour detour to visit CN. What his wife thought of this decision I can't tell you, as she never left the car, but from the moment he walked past the statue of Paul Bunyan he was obviously on cloud nine.

I can't for the life of me remember this gentleman's name, nor can I pinpoint when he worked at Nebagamon (I seem to think it was for a couple of summers in the late 50's / early 60's), but for the purposes of this story those details don't really matter. As we walked around camp, every new location — the Rec Hall, the Waterfront, the Lower Diamond — sparked a new story, and I was struck that despite the passage of time (at that point, forty-plus years), Camp Nebagamon still held an important place in his heart.



Whatever the decade, every camper has always learned his tripper knots before going out on trail.

The real kicker came as we concluded our tour, and walked through the Big House door. The man stopped, turned to his left, and said "some of the best conversations of my life took place in that room."

The statement floored me. I was certainly self-aware enough to appreciate the importance Nebagamon had played in my own formative experience, but to hear someone who had lived outside the camp loop for many decades express such a sentiment made a special impression. I believed then, and I continue to believe today, Camp Nebagamon is a remarkable institution and those of us in the camp family are truly fortunate to belong to this community.

While I certainly can't promise the same outcome for every campership recipient, at least to me the story above reveals the promise of CFN: because of your kindness and generosity, this organization offers children who would otherwise never have such an opportunity the magic of a camping experience. For one child that might mean hearing the call of a loon in the Boundary Waters for the first time; for another flying across the lake as a sail catches wind; and yes, for someone else, engaging in the conversation of a lifetime on the floor of the Big House living room.

For over twenty years, Camperships for Nebagamon has worked to enable these life-changing moments.

On behalf of the CFN Board, in this season of giving I invite you to share in your good fortune and to make an investment that our campership recipients will remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you for your consideration, and Happy Holidays.

KTFB,
Adam

PARTNERSHIP

(Continued from cover)

Principal Gold is on board to help. He told me “I would be happy to speak ‘Principal to principal’ to other schools to share about the success of the students at Camp Nebagamom and reassure them that this ‘too good to be true’ opportunity is really true.”

He also asked me to convey his gratitude to all of you — those who support CFN through your contributions. “On behalf of our students and parents, thank you for your generosity and commitment to offering these opportunities. I can see that the Camp Nebagamom experience will be a lifelong memory for the children and open their eyes to a world they would otherwise never have had the opportunity to experience.”

Have an idea for a good partner for Camp and CFN? Email us at CFNinfo@cncharities.org.



From “Peace Canoe Tug of War” to the success of CFN, the camp spirit depends on partnerships for success.

GIFTS OF STOCK, RETIREMENT ASSETS, AND DEFERRED GIFTS

Camperships for Nebagamom is a charitable institution qualified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Under current tax law a donor of appreciated investment property (such as stock) held long-term receives a charitable contribution deduction from federal taxable income for the full value of the property and does not pay capital gain tax.

Under current tax law, individuals who are at least 70 ½ years old may give qualified charitable deductions of up to \$100,000 annually from their retirement accounts (IRAs and 401ks) without incurring federal income tax liability.

CFN encourages you to consider naming CFN as a beneficiary in your will. If you have already done this or plan to do so in the future, please consider advising CFN of your intended bequest.

Gifts of whole life insurance policies represent a good way to contribute to CFN at low current cost!

CFN can help you arrange these types of gifts. For more information, please contact CFNdonations@cncharities.org

Important Note: This is a summary of what we believe to the current tax law, which is subject to change and interpretation by the taxing authorities as well as limitations which may apply in an individual donor’s circumstances. It therefore may not be complete or apply to every individual situation. Donors should obtain the advice of their own professional advisers.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



INSIDE...

The Power of
Partnership.

From the
President's Desk.

"This Shall Be a Place of Welcome for All."