YMCA CAMP KITCHIKEWANA

2022

100th Anniversary Endowment Report

Camp Kitchikewana has a strong legacy of receiving charitable support through the generous efforts and gifts of our alumni and supporters. As part of the 100th Celebration, we launched the Camp Kitchikewana 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund to provide permanent, annual funds to support and enhance the camper experience at YMCA Camp Kitchikewana. Interest generated by the fund is disbursed on an annual basis, and will be used to improve and replace program equipment and camp facilities to enhance the camper experience.

Why Is Camp So Important?

CAMPERS SAID

96%
Camp helped me make new friends.

93%
Camp helped me get to know kids who are different from me.

92%
The people at camp helped me feel good about myself.

74%
At camp, I did things I was afraid to do at first.

PARENT COMMENTS

70%
My child gained self-confidence at camp.

69%
My child remains in contact with friends made at camp.

63%
My child continues to participate in some of the new activities he or she learned at camp.

STAFF RESULTS

95%
Being part of a group working toward a common goal had a positive effect on me.

84%
Camp surrounds me with people with high standards.

83%
Being part of a unified camp community changed me personally for the better.

https://www.idtech.com/blog/benefits-of-summer-camp-infographic

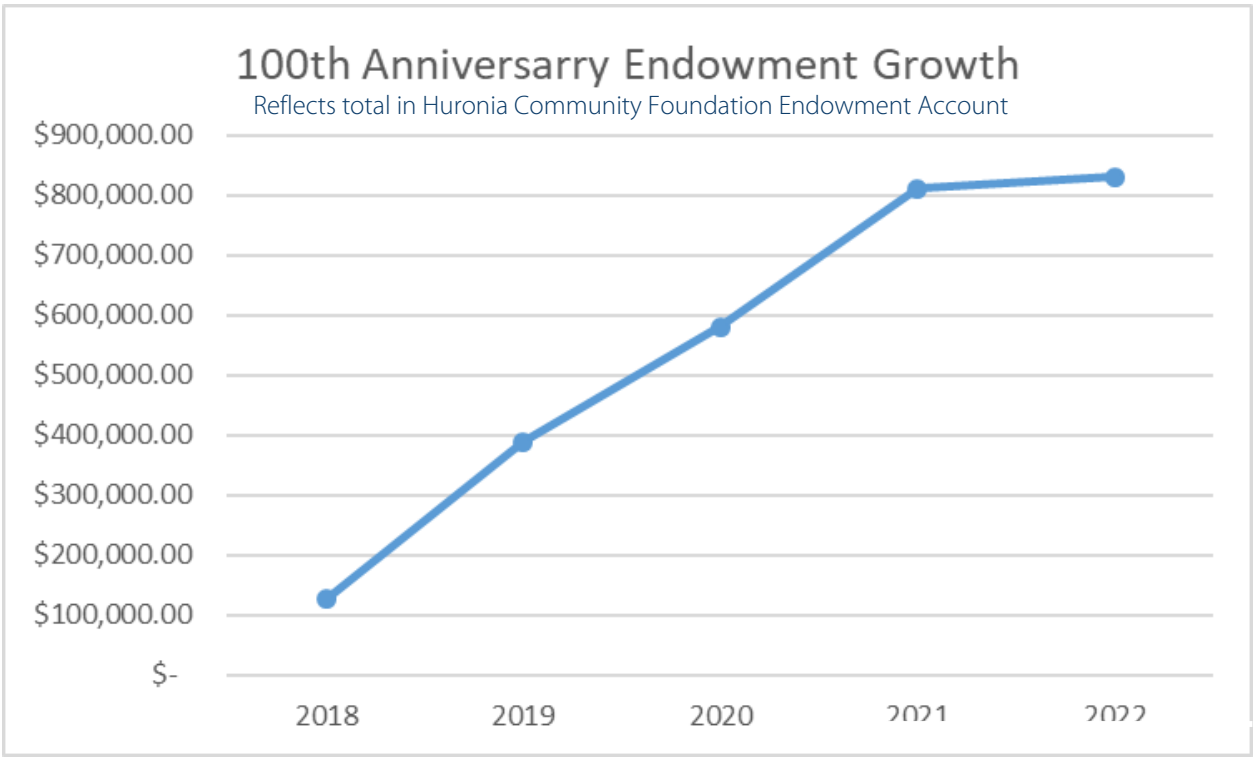
Camp Helps To Develop So Many Skills and Values

LEADERSHIP | BELONGING | KINDNESS | COURAGE | FRIENDSHIP | SHARING | SELF ESTEEM | PHYSICAL LITERACY | COOPERATION | RISK TAKING | SAFETY | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | CRAFTSMANSHIP | HONESTY | LOYALTY | HAPPINESS | COMMUNICATION | INCLUSION | CONFIDENCE | MINDFULLNESS | SELF AWARENESS | ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP | SELF CARE | TEAMWORK | HUMOUR | INDEPENDANCE | CURIOSITY | COMMUNITY | RESILIENCE

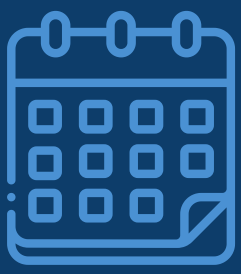
And So Much More

How Your Endowment Gift Works

Donors Gift >>> Matching Gift >>> Safe Investment >>> Interest Earned >>> Camps Future



4 Years



220 Individual Donors

$1,265,981.10 + Funds Raised

Includes pledges and planned gifts to be realised in the future

$84,350 Granted To Improve Camper Experience

Use of Endowment Funds

2019

KITCHIKEWANA IS KNOWN FOR OFFERING AN INCREDIBLE CAMPER EXPERIENCE. ALONG ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE ACTIVE, FUN ADVENTURE THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAMPERS TO FOCUS ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT. THANKS TO THE 2019 ENDOWMENT ALLOWANCE, CAMP KITCHIKEWANA WAS ABLE TO INVEST IN THE GUITAR SKILLS PROGRAM INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF A DOZEN NEW DENVER 3/4 GUITARS AND STORAGE BAGS. THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT CAMPERS AND COUNSELLORS WILL BE STRUMMING AROUND CAMPFIRES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

2020

THIS SUMMER WAS THE FIRST TIME IN 100 YEARS OF OPERATION OUR CAMP WAS UNABLE TO WELCOME CAMPERS IN PERSON, HOWEVER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT, WE WERE ABLE TO REIMAGINE THE CAMP EXPERIENCE THROUGH VIRTUAL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. DESPITE BEING AWAY FROM CAMP, WE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE CAMPERS, OFFER IMPACTFUL PROGRAMMING THROUGH AN ONLINE "CAMP-AT-HOME", KEEP CONNECTED TO YOUTH THROUGH THE ONLINE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEADERSHIP 2020: REIMANGINED AND FOSTER THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES THROUGH VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE EVENTS

2021

IN AS THE CAMP RAN MODIFIED PROGRAMMING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE ENDOWMENT FUND HELPED CAMP STAFF PARTICIPATE IN IN-PERSON TRAINING SESSIONS TO ENSURE CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AT THE CAMP NEXT SUMMER.
THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED 16 AWESOME STAFF MEMBERS. DURING THE SIX-WEEK WORK TERM, THEY FOCUSED ON FIVE KEY PILLARS: SKILL DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, STEWARDSHIP, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND WORK EXPERIENCE. IN TERMS OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, THEY COMPLETED COURSES INCLUDING CANOEING INSTRUCTORS, LIFESAVING INSTRUCTORS, AND WILDERNESS ADVANCED FIRST AID. PARTICIPATION IN THESE COURSES HAS PREPARED THE TEAM TO BE CAPABLE INSTRUCTORS FOR THIS COMING SUMMER. THIS TEAM HAS WRITTEN OUT THANK YOU LETTERS TO OUR DONORS.

2022

THIS SUMMER WELCOMED BACK OVER 650 CAMPERS EXCITED TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND MAKE MEMORIES. HAVING CAMP BACK IN ACTION HELPED IDENTIFY EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO ENHANCE THE CAMPER EXPERIENCE. THIS YEARS ENDOWMENT ALLOWANCE WILL HELP TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND FOSTER A DEEPER CONNECTION TO NATURE AND THE KITCHIKEWANA SPIRIT. PURCHASES INCLUDE NEW MOUNTAIN BIKES, EQUIPMENT LIKE COMPASSES AND GEOCACHING MATERIAL FOR OUTDOOR LIVING SKILLS, ARCHERY STARTER KITS AND ARM GAURDS, LIFEJACKETS AND PFDS, PICNIC TABLES WITH UMBRELLAS AND FURNITURE FOR THE LEADERHSIP CABINS.

Parent Testimonial

The past few years have been so hard on my son. His dad is now completely out of the picture, we had to move mid-pandemic, and making friends at a new school was hard. He was already struggling academically but the move exasperated this so bad. Social Distancing as an only child was lonely and he began showing symptoms of depression. I was able to go to Kitchikewana as a child the summer my parents divorced and it really helped me to build my self-esteem and find joy outside of my family's chaos. It was my hope to send my son for the first time in the summer of 2020, Covid-19 had other plans. As disappointing as it was, it made the summer of 2022 even more special when he finally got to board the bus to head to Camp Kitchikewana.

I was so happy to send him and hoped he would get to experience all of the wonderful memories I have of camp but a little nervous about whether or not the magic I remember would stand the test of time. Kids today, my son especially, seem to be happier with video games than the great outdoors. Even though I received a reassuring letter I worried he might be miserable and would be itching to get home and turn on a screen. This was NOT the case! When he got home he said "I hope this doesn't offend you but I really didn't want to come home. It was awesome, when can I go back?" He raved about the food, his hilarious cabin counselors, and he talked for hours about all of the great adventures before I could finally get him to shower, not once did he ask about his video games. He kept saying how much he couldn't wait to go back.

The benefits of camp have stayed with him, even now that he is back on the mainland. I could see a real difference in his abilities, responsibility, and attitude during our family camping trip. His confidence and maturity have come so far. It is even helping at school. Last year, his writing at school had really regressed. This year, his first assignment back was to talk about his summer and he wrote so much and so well about his time at Kitchi that he got an A, this has really built his confidence and he's like a whole new kid at school, making friends, playing sports and doing really well academically.

I know that the camp I loved as a child would not be here after all these years if it wasn't for the generosity of so many donors and volunteers and the care and dedication of the amazing Y staff. I want to thank you all for preserving this incredible place that means the world to so many kids like my son. As a business owner, I must say, the pandemic really hit our family finances. Without support from the Y I would not have been able to afford this opportunity and my son might still be battling depression and academic challenges even today. Next summer we will be enrolling our son again and making a donation so that other kids like him can have the same opportunities. I can't say enough how grateful I am for YMCA Kitchikewana, may this spirit live on for many years to come. - Lisa

Camper Story

MEET BRAYDEN

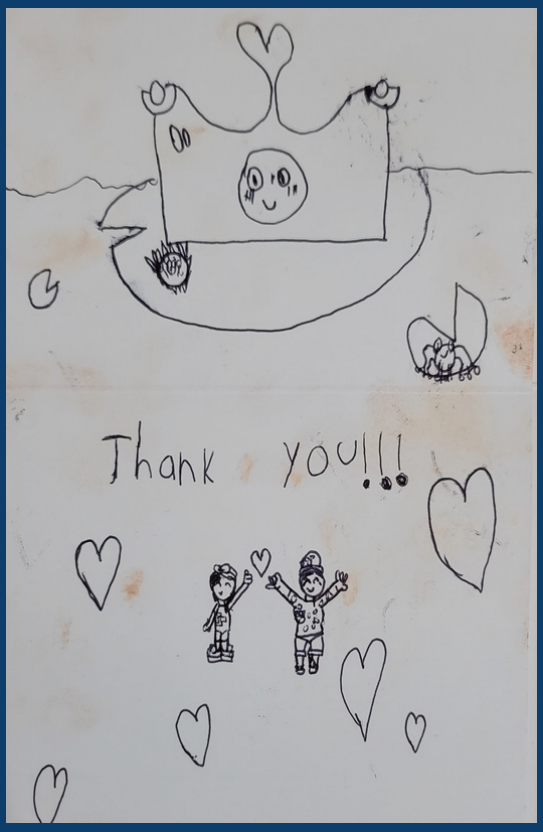
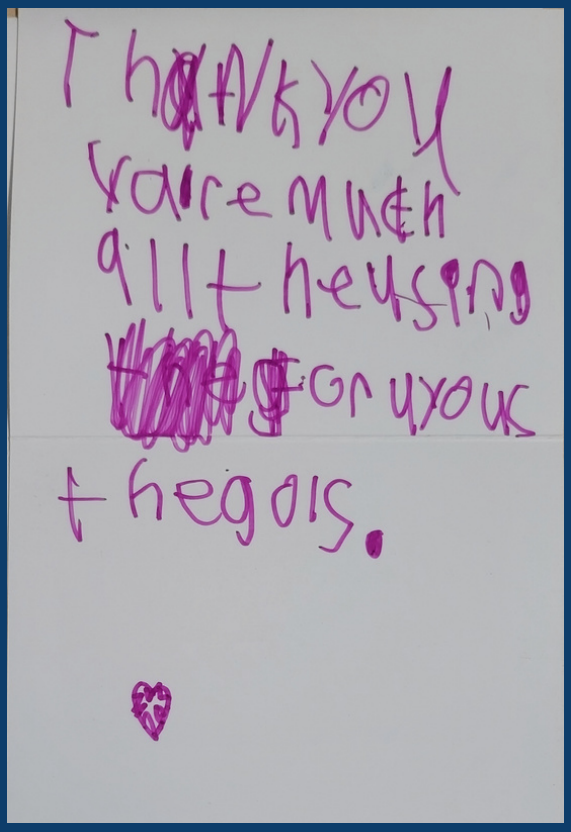
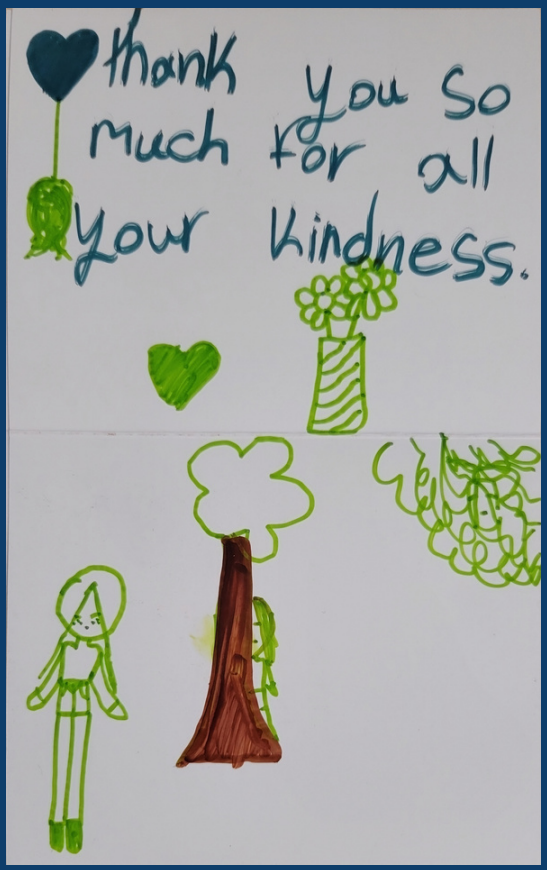
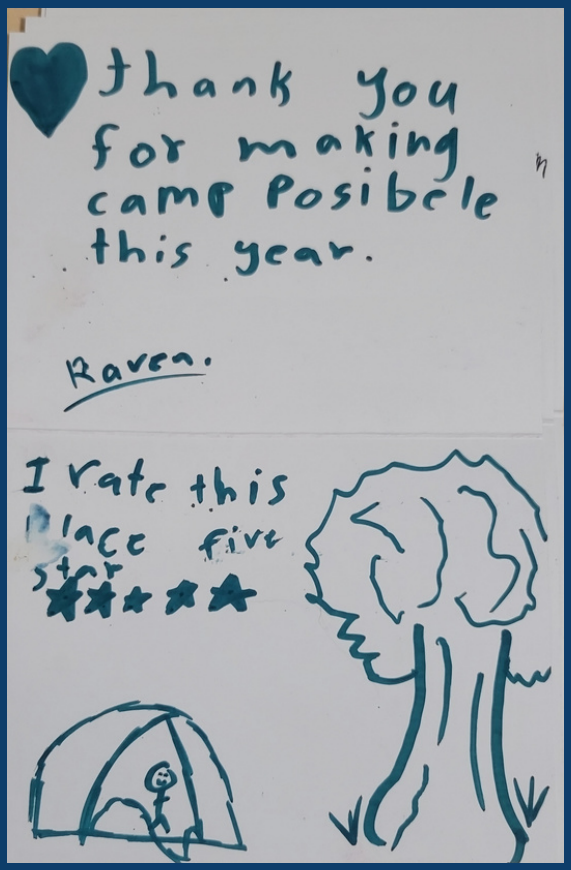
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO CAMP BECAUSE I WAS TOLD BY MY MOM HOW FUN IT WAS. I HAD TO WAIT A LONG TIME BECAUSE OF COVID BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.

MY FAVOURITE COUNSELOR WAS PAUL BECAUSE HE ACTED LIKE A KING AND SHOWED US ALL OUR COMMON INTERESTS. HE WOULD SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS LIKE "THE WORLD IS JUST A 3D MODEL OF SHREK". MY CABIN MATES TALKED A LOT AND SHARED THEIR MAGIC CARDS WITH ME. I REALLY LIKED SEEING BRUCE THE CAMP DOG AND SEEING ALL SNAKES UP CLOSE. MY MOM WOULD BE SO SCARED OF THE SNAKES BUT I THINK THEY ARE REALLY COOL.

MY FAVOURITE PART OF CAMP WAS THE BIG L AND V TOURNAMENT, IT WAS SUCH A BLAST AND I WAS PUMPED TO BE ON THE WINNING TEAM. LUMBERMAN ALL THE WAY!!!

I CHOSE MOUNTAIN BIKING AND KAYAKING FOR MY SKILLS BECAUSE THE BIKING REMINDED ME OF HOME AND KAYAKING WAS SOMETHING I HAD ONLY HAD A CHANCE TO TRY A FEW TIMES IN MY LIFE. MOUNTAIN BIKING WAS REALLY COOL BECAUSE WE GOT TO SEE OTHER PARTS OF THE ISLAND. WE BIKED HARD AND I'VE GOT SOME COOL SCARS TO PROVE IT.

I PROUDLY BROKE A CAMP RECORD FOR THE LONGEST TIME INTERSECTING TOES WITH ANOTHER CAMPER. A LEGACY I AM WILLING TO DEFEND NEXT SUMMER. I REALLY HOPE I GET TO GO BACK TO CAMP AGAIN, IT WAS A GREAT BREAK FROM CHORES AND MY PARENTS AND I WANT TO SEE MY CABIN MATES AGAIN AND SHOW THEM MY OWN MAGIC DECK THAT I BOUGHT WITH MY ALLOWANCE WHEN I GOT HOME.

ALL KIDS SHOULD GET TO TRY CAMP BECAUSE ITS SO FUN AND I'M REALLY GLAD I GOT TO GO. I CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK AND SOMEDAY I MIGHT EVEN GET TO BE A COUNSELOR. THANKS KITCHI!!!

Here Is What Our Youngest Campers Want To Say To You