Dear COCA-I Family-

In light of the important discussions happening around the world, we want to assure each of you that we stand with the millions hurting and grieving, especially those who have lost their lives to violence. COCA-I recognizes that at different points in history, the camping industry has furthered racist policies, whether overtly or through complacency. Today, we are committed to making sure camp is for everyone. Our organization is dedicated to being a welcoming place, and to encourage our network of Member Camps, to be such as well - where kids and staff can be themselves, and each individual's personal identity is embraced.

To that end, COCA-I is renewing our commitment to strengthening the international community of camps for children with cancer and their families through networking, advocacy, and education. COCA-I has recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce which will work to ensure our processes are accessible and equitable for all. We are working to:

- provide discussion opportunities, training materials and resources to help camp staff better understand and be able to talk about race, equity, and inclusion
- make our Board and the voting processes more accessible to all
- update our strategic plan to explicitly include diversity, equity, and inclusion action items
- review accreditation and awards' criteria
- ensure all communication initiatives explicitly and implicitly reflect our values, mission, vision, and strategic plan.

We strongly affirm our commitment to helping our Member Camps create communities for children and families affected by cancer that are built upon love, acceptance, support, celebration of diversity, and friendship. In order to continue this important work, we need your help. Together, we are better and can mesh, share, and learn from each other's perspectives as we evolve. We stand as an ally eager to listen, learn and remain teachable; committed to do better for our Members. If you have other suggestions for next steps, please contact President Matthew Ruttler, DEI Task Force Chair at mruttler@coca.org.

In Solidarity,

Matthew Ruttler
COCA-I President