

2022 Wampler Foundation Annual Report

Year end Summary and Report -- The Wampler Foundation mission is to “provide life changing outdoor educational experiences to physically disabled children”. These wilderness education programs teach physically challenged children self-confidence and motivation leading to increased optimism for education and overcoming physical challenges they inevitably face in life.

Who We Serve -- The addressable population of physically challenged or disabled children is quite large and enrichment services and opportunities for them are quite limited. We serve children with a wide range of physical disabilities including cerebral palsy, quadriplegia, paralysis, spina bifida, limb loss and more. These children often come from foster care and or low-income households and have had limited exposure to the outdoors or to personally challenging environments away from their daily caregivers.

Operations and Finances -- Because all the children have a physical disability, each child is assigned a personal counselor. Staff and counselors have been provided by a partner organization and most of the counselors are nursing and or recreation therapy students seeking the hands-on experience.

The funding avenues that helped the foundation achieve our goals in 2022 for the foundation. We partnered with the ESET Corporation in 2009 and the corporation donates on average \$50,000 per year. The following foundations, corporations or individuals who have funded our programs on a ongoing bases are as follows: Moccasin Lake Foundation (25,000) Safeway Corporation (\$30,000), The Anderson Family Foundation (\$10,000) The Westphal Family Foundation (\$5,000), The Lipp Family Foundation (\$5,000), San Diego Boy’s and Girl’s Foundation (\$2,500), Vanguard Charitable Foundation (\$1,000) and The Boyd Family Foundation (\$2,500). We were the recipients of a \$2,500 donation from the San Diego Century Club, which sponsors the PGA Farmers Insurance Open. Additionally, we had several hundred individuals who contributed between \$25,000 and \$100 each. The Jasper Family Trust and the Whitbeck Family Trust have been our biggest individual donors over the years.

A majority of our capital comes from corporate and private foundation grants. Also the foundation has two fundraising events a year. This year we are attempting to raise over one million dollars in addition to the very generous donation of the property from an anonymous donor. (In the past several years the foundation has raised between \$700k and 850k. So far to date we have raised \$300,000 toward the project with commitments from two smaller foundations.

The focus of the foundation is to provide full or partial tuition for children to attend camping program after all the facilities are built next year. The programs that need additional funding cost the foundation on average \$350k per year to operate starting in 2022.

The monetary support this past year helped us along with many other foundations, corporation and private donors, sponsor 33 physically disabled children and continue the much needed renovations of our new property at Deer Lake in the high Sierra's of Northern California. After a two year shut down because of the pandemic we started over with recruiting staff and children. The on going pandemic still limited our enrollment in 22 because of legal issues with vaccinations and country regulations around the Covid19 protocols. The foundation raised a little over \$818,000 from the public, other foundation and corporations. Expenses were \$660,526.00, which consisted of programing, property improvements and administration costs. The administration costs were just under 8% of our overall budget and our program expenses were 57% with the remaining 35% invested into property upgrades and maintenance.

The foundation is excited to announce that we moved all of it's activities and programs to the new location in the High Sierra's during the summer of 2017. Deer Lake was a girl scout camp for 67 years and was only used 6 weeks a year. The 129 acre property was purchased by an anonymous donor of the foundation and was leased back to the foundation for one dollar a year. In early 2022 the property was gifted to the Wampler Foundation and will be the permninate home for our programs. In addition to the property, the property donor also donated to the foundation's endowment to start it off with \$2 million.

The Foundation History, Board and 2023 Budget-- The Foundation incorporated in October 2001, becoming a fully recognized tax-exempt non-profit 501(c) 3 organization in March of 2003 under the name of Camp Wamp. The non-profit did go through a name change to the Stephen J. Wampler Foundation and had to resubmit for tax-exemption status in 2009, which was approved 6 weeks later by the IRS with a new EIN number.

The Board of Directors consists of 5 members with a unique skill set to assure the success of the operating model and manage the organization and the structure. Board Committees include Finance, Program, Fund-raising and Executive with no less than two members on each committee. The annual budget of the Foundation for 2023 is \$1 million with operating expenses of just over \$750,000 for our yearly program and for new facility projects.

The Foundation and its programs are now going to focus on our new facility in the Sierra's near Lake Tahoe that will still focus on outdoor education and helping the kids with physical disabilities feel comfortable in a wilderness setting. This new facility will allow the foundation to serve more than 325 children for 5 months out of the year. Our new facility is going to replace the five other programs we sponsored in the past and will enable the foundation to focus on 12 weeks of programs without moving locations and will enable us to focus on 12 weeks of programs.

During the 6 night, 7-day long programs the kids learn to fish, build shelters, identify flora and fauna, sleep under the stars and learn survival skills. Each day there is a set curriculum offering a variety of different activities are offered throughout the day. At the end of each day the child is presented with a challenge of some sort where the child has to apply what they learned either that day or the day before to be exempt from kitchen duty after dinner. At the conclusion of the week long program, the kids come away with increased self-confidence, new skills, a love of the outdoors, and a set of positive memories and experiences that help propel them to greater engagement and purpose in their lives.

Our outdoor programs started in August of 2004, welcoming 24 campers. The organization has grown over the past 20 years and sponsored 1,650 children. We are overjoyed with the success of our programs and can't believe our good fortune over the last two decades and the profound life-changing impact that they have on the disabled children and young adults who are able to participate. Through these programs, most of our campers experience their first residential overnight away from their family and caregivers. Being away from family, many children challenge themselves to accomplish daily living activities that their families or caregivers usually provide for them.

The foundation partners with a number of Universities, state colleges and park departments throughout the state to provide the staff. Most of the counselors are nursing, recreation therapy or just college students that are seeking the hands on experience and wanting a career in the field. The staff is select and trained by our program and camp director.

The experiences that our camper's have are transformative changes in their skills, capabilities, and attitudes. As one camper stated, "I now realize that I'm NOT just disabled, I've got so many things to do and accomplish!"

The objectives and outcomes of the programs, for each child, include:

- Open the world of environmental awareness and appreciation of the natural surroundings
- Encourage higher education
- Increase overall physical, leisure, and social capabilities
- Develop physical competencies
- Develop compensating skills and confidence
- Develop outdoor experiences and skills
- Foster emotional, social, and physical independence
- Develop a sense of personal worth and self-acceptance
- Realize that there are clear opportunities for a normal life

The degrees of personal development are measured by witnessing the children throughout the week and especially on the last day when the children leave. The hope and confidence realized is truly amazing. There is no other wilderness experience to match the value of such an achievement and transformational experience.

The children are changed forever after their experiences and adventures. While they make friends that they keep in touch with throughout the year, year after year, and while they call themselves, "Wampers", and have created their own calendar year that goes from the first day of camp one year to their first year of camp the next, there are also many measurable accomplishments these children attain as they grow into early adulthood.

A large majority of our children go on to graduate from college, get jobs and rent and buy houses. Additionally, one of our first camper from a few years back, went on to finish college, become a computer engineer, and she, Laura Smith, recently got married.

Without exception during the week the kids find themselves around the campfire asking Steve about life and how he navigated his way through college, found his first job and how he met his wife.

There is something about the camp experience and the great outdoors for these kids that sets them on a path that we are certain wasn't often part of their plan before they experienced the triumphs and important milestones that camp provided them. These kids enjoy a new courage, morale and a self-reliance that comes from friends who they commiserate with and who understand them. These kids also have the sense of accomplishment from having pushed themselves at camp in a way that they never had

before. The kids seem to enjoy a new kind of certainty and self-reliance, almost across the board.

At the conclusion of each program, the participant child is given a questionnaire and asked to describe their experience and how it improved and / or changed their life. The feed back from both the camper and parents are both compiled by both the program director and Steve. The two directors for the Board of directors then formulate a report to present to the board so the board can assure the goals and objectives of the organization are being fulfilled. This report is then condensed down to a two page annual report for our donors.

Future Plans and Goals--The foundation has already begun working on the next phase of our environmental education plans from its original programs started at Hawley Lake in 2004 and other programs throughout the western US. We have begun working on the upgrades and much needed improvements over the last couple of years on our new and unique wilderness facility and experiences to this special population of children this coming summer and continue our project over the next couple of decades. We know it will excite and inspire the kids to learn more about themselves in the great outdoors when the facility upgrades are completed in October of 2025.

Conclusion-- The Wampler Foundation is committed to building and strengthening the offering of its unique environmental educational programs targeted to kids and young adults with physical disabilities. The Foundation seeks to increase the number of children the organization serves in the coming years, continue to enhance its programs, and further build a stable funding base.