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COMPETENCE

CONTRIBUTION

Providing New Opportunities for New Hampshire Girls for Over 26 Years



The change that started in 2019, on both an organizational and individual level, continues into 2020 as **Circle Program** said goodbye to long-time Executive Director Kathy Kearns, who retired after serving Circle for 11 years.

# Letter from THE PRESIDENT

s I reflect on the past year for Circle Program, I think about an additional "C", Change, that was a major theme of 2019. Circle welcomed Jamie Capaul, a longtime Circle advocate, as the new Program Manager shortly before the 2019 camp session started. Jamie, along with Camp Manager Lindsey Collins (also a Circle champion who recently joined the program full-time), jumped right into making memorable and life enhancing activities for the girls to experience during camp. They took advantage of more space for teaching at the new waterfront area to bolster the water skills curriculum for the girls and to provide opportunities for LITs (Leaders-In-Training) to earn their lifeguard certification. Away from the water, the principles of Leave No Trace were introduced, building girls' personal responsibility for leaving nature the way they found it during their outdoor adventures.

This confidence and caring, honed during the summer activities, was seen in action firsthand as the Circle girls gave back during the Fall fundraiser Talent Show at the Flying Monkey, confidently selling raffle tickets, helping thank Sponsors, and performing an act in the show that was choreographed by one of their own. Anyone in the audience that night could feel the pride the girls felt for the program and their contribution towards making the event a success.

The change that started in 2019, on both an organizational and individual level, continues into 2020 as Circle Program said goodbye to long-time Executive Director Kathy Kearns, who retired after serving Circle for 11 years. It has been a privilege to work with Kathy during my board tenure and directly experience her commitment to Circle. I have seen her hard work on behalf of our organization, her dedication to Circle's mission and her willingness to take on any task, no matter what it was, to serve the organization. While change can be a challenge, there is also the opportunity to reflect and to grow. We wish Kathy the best in her retirement and are looking forward to continuing Circle's work empowering girls with our talented and dedicated staff team whose passion and commitment to the girls is truly inspiring.

I am deeply grateful to be a part of an organization working to help girls realize their full potential, and I am excited to be a part of what 2020, and beyond, holds for Circle Program!

Sara Crane

President

# THANK YOU for your support!

### We appreciate the generosity of allof our supporters including those who wish to remain anonymous

We have endeavored to present accurate information and to list all gifts. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.

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## A Note of Gratitude from Kathy Kearns – Retiring Executive Director

# As I retire from Circle Program, I return to the mantra that has always been an integral part of Circle's core values and culture: "Gratitude is the Attitude!"

I am so grateful for:

- The Mentors who have unselfishly given of their time and talents to become a caring, consistent presence in the life of their Circle girls;
- The Donors who understand the need for supporting this organization for both the short- and long-term;
- The Board members who have offered me their sound advice, constant support during challenging times, and mindful oversight of the mission;
- The Staff members who have made the Circle Program more than just a job, or an opportunity for self-aggrandizement, but rather a dedicated focus of their lives;
- The Girls and Teens of Circle Program who are a testimonial to this organization. I have been grateful for the opportunity to watch them grow, mature and become young women who are assets to their families and communities and testaments to the value of Circle Program.

I am grateful for the past eleven years of my affiliation with Circle Program and look forward to watching you take our work to the next level and higher heights of success! My best wishes for the years ahead.

Sincerely,

athleen M. Kean

Kathy Kearns

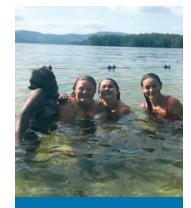
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Thank you for making it possible to hang out with my friends for a few weeks over the summer."

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Thank you so much for making it possible for me to make such amazing friends and making me feel like I finally fit in somewhere."

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Thank you for helping to make Circle Camp possible. Without you camp wouldn't be what it is and we wouldn't have made all these lifelong friends..."

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We are grateful for our amazing camp that you have made possible for us and more importantly, for our special memories."



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Thank you for making it possible to have the most fun summers. I've made so many memories with my friends and counselors."

## **Through a Mentor's Eyes**

By Jane Weber



Jane and Rachel

On January 26th, Rachel and I attended the musical Annie at PSU. It was exciting because we both knew people in the cast and we got to see them shine on stage. Also, during intermission Rachel saw Lindsey (from Circle, who was there with her son), and Fox (from Circle), and "Chief," who was her favorite counselor from camp last year. She was so delighted to see Chief that she cried! She also remarked that Lindsey "is like a second mom." In fact, when I was interviewing her about this article, she pronounced that being part of Circle program was like having a second family.

I became part of Rachel's Circle family because adolescents have always been part of my adult life, first as a teacher and then as a parent. I knew I'd miss all that teen energy once my own teens left home. Luckily, I'd always had my eye on Circle Program for the summer camp piece that made it different from other mentoring programs, so I became a mentor.

Rachel was a friendly, energetic sixth grader when we became Circle friends, and she's now a friendly, energetic 16-year-old in her sophomore year of high school. She remains clear as ever on her opinions, and she has no tolerance for bullying or dishonesty. In our years together we've shared many activities, such as hiking, snowshoeing, bird-banding, visiting museums and art galleries, traveling by train through scenic Vermont, horseback riding, skiing, swimming, longboarding (Rachel flies!), ice-skating, photography, mini-golfing, live theater, and restaurant dining. Some outings were bigger hits than others, but Rachel has always been willing to try new things.

Because of Rachel, I now know someone

Miles Traveled by Mentors

who takes MORE cat photos than I do myself. Also, through Rachel's guidance, I've cultivated an appreciation for allthings-peppermint and all-things-potato. Best of all, I've seen a very resilient young person navigate, with grace, all the challenges of this world—evolving friendships, breakups, stressful family events, and disappointment when she doesn't reach a goal she set for herself. Rachel has unusual wisdom and she's true to herself every day. I remind her of this often!

I asked Rachel for a roundup of what she likes about Circle and she started by talking about camp, how she's met so many girls that she might not know otherwise, and what a blast it is every year. I asked her about the mentoring piece and she said she values having someone she can talk with easily. (I agree that we talk easily, and we discuss ALL things.) As for changes I've seen in Rachel, I've seen her confidence grow due to working her first job: Dunkin Donuts, full-time summer of 2019 and part-time during this school year. She's starting to form ideas for what comes after high school, whereas a few years ago the future was a big blank. Rachel would like to attend college! To that end, this week she plans to open her very first bank account.

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Thank you for making camp possible for girls like us. We appreciate your kind and generous hearts. Especially for girls in low income households. You make our dream summers come true."

# 2019 by the Numbers



Since we began...

**83** Girls lives have been impacted by Circle Programs Summer Camp and school year programs.



36,85

**435** Volunteer Mentors have given the incredible generous gift of themselves to these girls.

# **Thank you Circle Mentors!**

What an incredible generous gift these 81 women gave throughout 2019 to the girls and teens they volunteer to mentor! Circle Program Mentors are a key element toward accomplishing our mission.

Hannah Ackerman Samantha Ahern Lucynda Anderson Hillary Ayers Tiffany Baert Debbie Bolduc Lori Borrin Rachel Brandli Sheryl Brochu Carol Cannon Jamie Capaul Loraine Cathy Christy Cegelski Katie Chamberlain Jean Clarke Martha Cloutier Lindsey Collins

Elizabeth Corell Sarah Daley Tracy Dassatti Patricia Dietz Nancy DiPietro Alicia Doucet Kristie Ennis Julie Flynn Jeannie Forrester Brenda Fusco Frances Gonsalves Rebekah Gonzalez Katie Gray Amy Greene Alyssa Greenler Christina Gribben

This year, our Mentors spent 3,655 hours with their partner mentees, drove 36,859 miles fulfilling their volunteer commitment, and contributed a total of \$10,880 of in-kind donations.

> Mary Hall Karen Hanks Donna Harris Ashlev Hovt Polly Ingraham Diana Johnson Jamie King Lieza LaFontaine Linda LaPrad Tammy Levesque Rebekah Lewis Susan Lynch Ann Mari Lyons Suzy Martin Kathy Anne Mathis Christine Matzke

Oprah Winfrey said, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." A most heartfelt thank you to each of you remarkable women!

Charlene McCarron Jennifer McMahon Lisa Mowery Susan Murphy Beth Musto Jeanne O'Callaghan Linda Olmsted Patty O'Neill Deandra Perruccio Leigh Ann Reynolds Norma Ross Lizabeth Rossner Sarah Sleeper Deborah Schachter Barbara Sewall Sally Sheffield

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# Citizen Scientist Project: Tick Collection and BeBop Labs

By: Lindsey Collins



During our 2019 summer camp season, Dr. Kaitlyn Morse, founder and driving force behind BeBop Labs in Ashland, NH, educated our girls camp participants and the staff about the various types of ticks found in this region. BeBop Labs is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is: To create and foster a scientifically-minded community that actively works together to tackle issues affecting human health and our environment. BeBop Labs is presently working on 3 projects: 1) Developing solutions to protect our moose from ticks, 2) Making a handheld device to provide onsite instantaneous disease information, and 3) Mapping risk of getting bitten by infected ticks. Our girls and staff served as Citizen Scientists, collecting ticks and data, and sending our samples and information to the lab to become part of these research efforts.

Circle Camp joined 15 other New Hampshire camps, like Camp Hawkeye in Moultonborough, in this data collection endeavor, gathering a grand total of 1,073 ticks, 80% of which were crawling when found. Our Circle Program girls and staff collected a total of 48 ticks during the summer camp season; 46 were harmless dog ticks and 2 were black legged ticks. Each tick we found was safely stored in a tiny, plastic specimen bag for submission to BeBop Labs. The data sheet for each specimen included the date it was found, GPS coordinates for the location where it was discovered, the age of the individual who found the tick, and details about whether the tick was discovered crawling on an individual, biting/attached, or found elsewhere.

Dr. Morse is such a positive role model for our girls and this was a valuable, real-life STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activity. She tells us that visiting all the camps was "... very rewarding, especially Circle Camp, where surprisingly the influence I had was that the girls take charge of their own health and bodies. I loved that!" Circle Program is proud to be an active part of the Citizen Scientist project she initiated, and to be helping with this important work. We are so pleased Dr. Morse will return to Circle Camp in 2020 to continue this program!

# **Gifts Made in Honor and Memory of**

Circle Program welcomes and appreciates gifts made in honor of loved ones and to commemorate special occasions.

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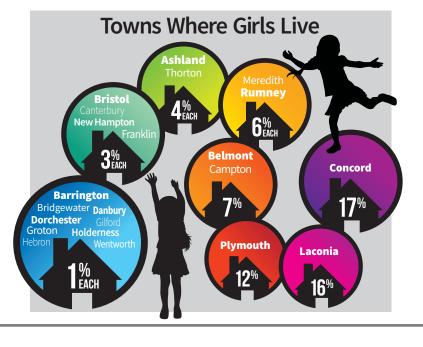
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### Circle Program is grateful for all our special event business sponsors and their on-going support of our girls.

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# 2019 In-Kind Thank You's

We rely on the generosity and kindness of the community to support our organization, our girls and our program. That kindness takes many forms and we are grateful to the following people for lending a hand, donating items and being friends of the Program.

#### Lucille Cook

Sewing supplies, sewing machines, clothing Barabara Blanco & Linda Matte Clothing WS Badger Co. Sunscreen **Cady Staff** Lunch and Learn Jim Nute & Peter K Lunch and Learn Mary Hall Greeting cards **Phyllis Rockwell & Mitch Marseau** Journals, backpack, craft supplies **Catherine Parker** Prom dresses **Casey Frost** Clothing for shopping night **Maggie Mumford** Clothes for shopping night

**Plymouth Rotary Club** Volunteer hours to clean-up camp **Leslie Bryant** Volunteer to put docks in Kathy & Mike Wilson 7 new rugs **Danielle Paquette** Head checks for Teen camp **North Country Quilters** 18 new quilts **Cindy Pierce** Sexual education class **Michelle from Speare Hospital** Goodie bags Abenaki Presentation **RLH Studio** Hair cuts Valerie Newton Dance presentation

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## **Circle Program Welcomes** New Staff and Board

At the November 18, 2019 Board meeting, we saluted three Board members who were concluding their service on the Board of Directors. President Sarah Crane, on behalf of the entire Board, expressed our deep gratitude to Jessica Geiben Lynn, Mary Kimmel, and Barb Laverack for their service.

At the end of this year, we welcomed two new Board members, Dawn Beers and Ryan McFarland.

## **Ryan McFarland**



Ryan has been an attorney for 15 years. He works for the NH Department of Safety Bureau of Hearings, presiding over Administrative Hearings. Ryan finds our mission compelling, because he is "...the proud father of three girls and want(s) to ensure that every girl in the community is given every opportunity to thrive in the future and reach their goals." Ryan has a BS in Economics from Villanova University, and a JD from the University of Main School of Law. When he is not busy parenting or volunteering with Circle Program, Ryan volunteers as a soccer and basketball coach at Tapply-Thompson Community Center in Bristol, as well as with the Knights of Columbus #7073 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Bristol.

### **Dawn Beers**



Dawn works for Franklin Saving Bank as VP for Marketing. She has previously held marketing and other roles with the NH Bankers Association, Centrix Bank, and several other NH companies. Dawn has a BS

from Southern NH University, and is a graduate of Northern N.E. School of Banking. She has served on event planning committees for various nonprofit organizations including the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and Manchester Historic Association, and has volunteered for New Horizons Soup Kitchen and Families in Transition. Dawn lives in Boscawen.

# **Circle Program Legacy Circle**

Circle Program

has a Legacy Circle in place

and we have

a growing

number of donors who

have joined by

making a gift

### **Priscilla Gemmill**



through their estate planning. Priscilla Gemmill, is one of our founding Legacy Circle members and here is her story:

"My legacy gift to Circle Program is a gift from the heart. As a long-time Board member, ambassador, and volunteer, I have seen first-hand the difference that Circle makes in the lives of economically disadvantaged girls as they strive to become their best selves in the midst of complex challenges. Circle's unique combination of yearround mentoring by dedicated adult women volunteers and the added experience of summer residential camp helps girls blossom into confident young women.

Legacy members share the common bond of philanthropy and vision. I am pleased and proud to support this meaningful work. Becoming a Legacy Society member gave me the satisfaction of making a gift that will help ensure that the important work of Circle Program continues for many years to come."

### 2019 Legacy Group Donors

George and Nancy Bolln, Jr. George A. Carr Irene Cucina Priscilla Gemmill Robert and Sylvia Larsen Mary Ann and John McRae Peter and Alida Millham Robert and Binney Wells

# **Summer Camp Aquatics Corner**

Last summer we had our first ever Leader-in-Training (LIT) and Teen Adventure Program (TAP) participant complete the American Red Cross Lifeguard training program. Teigan the first girl ever to have achieved this milestone, with staff prior to camp. Teigan worked as a lifeguard during morning and evening swims throughout the 2019 Circle Camp summer season. Teigan recently told us this about her experience, "Lifeguarding was stressful at some times but overall the experience



Circle Girl Alex

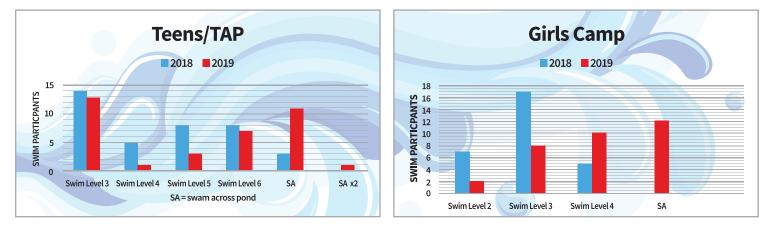
was amazing, and I gained so many qualities from it. I would never go back and change becoming a lifeguard. Even though Circle Program paid for my lifeguarding course, which I am so grateful for, I would never go anywhere else to guard, mostly because it is giving back to the Circle Girls." We congratulate Teigan for this significant achievement!

Teigan was responsible for ensuring camper safety, monitoring the buddy system, recognizing and preventing incidents, and enforcing the rules of the new perched beach waterfront. Being an American Red Cross lifeguard is something to be proud of at any age, but given the fact that Teigan is 16 years old, this is an even greater accomplishment! In the future, we hope to provide the opportunity for more Circle participants to obtain either their American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification or their Wilderness First Aid training, depending on their interest. In addition to this achievement, we also want to recognize Circle Program Teen Mackenzie, who was the first



Circle Teen Mackenzie

ever Circle Program participant to swim twice, across the pond and back without stopping; a distance equaling approximately 500 yards. She attained the title of "Dolphin" for completion of this remarkable milestone! Mackenzie continued building on her swimming skills and has learned some beginner lifeguard skills as well. She will be a candidate for the opportunity to obtain her American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification as soon as she is eligible for the 2020 LIT and TAP program!



## **Volunteer Extraordinaire John McRae**



For over 20 years, Volunteer Extraordinaire John McRae has been an integral part of Circle Camp. He was there in

the very beginning when we built the Camp and has been actively engaged

with us ever since. We affectionately refer to John as the "Clerk of the Works" as he has coordinated all the projects that enabled us to have this wonderful Camp for the girls and teens who enjoy it each summer. Once the construction of the Camp was completed, John easily slid into the role of overseeing the maintenance of the facilities, including opening and closing Camp each season. He has ensured our Camp facilities remain in safe, excellent condition for the duration.

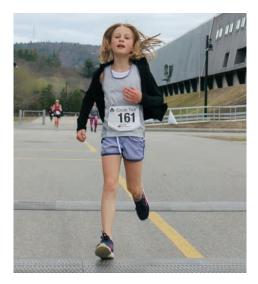
2019 was John's last year in this role; he has retired. We are so grateful for his expertise, endless energy, willingness to devote so much time to this labor of love, and for his commitment to Circle Program. Thank you, John!

## **New Hampshire Marathon Plans for its 28th Annual Race** Save the Date!

Saturday, October 3rd marks the date for the 28th Annual New Hampshire Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K Road Race and Kids Marathon on Newfound Lake. The New Hampshire Marathon has been raising money to support the Circle Program since the race's inception in 2002. Last year, the New Hampshire Marathon donated \$7,750 to the Circle Program, another \$7,750 to our brothers at the Mayhew Program, and another \$7,750 to the Tapply-Thompson Community Center. We are grateful for the NH Marathon committee and their long-term dedicated efforts to support youth programs int he Newfound Lake Region.







To register or for more information, please visit: www.nhmarathon.com

# Thank you to all our 2019 Trot Volunteers!

Sarah Daley Shelby Barden Kyla Barnett Abbie Brooks Amanda Broughton Peter Capone Madison Carter Brooke Cavanaugh Jean Clarke Lindsey Collins Baylee Crawford Gianna Cusano Nick Cusano Evan Dolecki Alisa Eaton Isabelle Elsasser Angel Escalante Emily French Christopher Froignoca

Binita Gajmer Ander Gonzalez Addison Granger Emily Guay Brianna Hada Emily Hill Stephen Hill Colin Hines Kavla Holleran Casey Howe Sean Kenney Raianna Krahnm-Burke Bronagh La Grassa John Lalli Malaysia Langa Griffin Lappin Sam Lee Kaila Martin

Kennedy Mathis Iames Mauro Barbara McCahan Iames McGhee Julie Miller Beth Musto Rachel Muzio Bao Nguyen Cameron Nielsen Brandt O'Hara Jonathan O'Hare Mike Osgood Isabella Pectol CJ Perrin Hayley Quirk Alex Raifsnider Barb Rawlsky-Willet Ally Reardon

Julia Rivera Autumn Ross Maddie Rowe Pevton Sarmir Marialena Shaw Jared Sicard Alexys Smith Eric Smith Kristina Stevens Jenna Sundquist Ashlyn Szabo Rebecca Tocci Kerstin Venincasa Karen Werner Jake Wheeler Caitlynn Wilkins Sage Winter Gary Zirpolo

# **2019 Treasurer's Report**

It was another successful year for Circle Program thanks in part to the generosity and continued support from our donors, grant funders, and fundraising efforts. In addition to the Circle Trot and Wellness Retreat, Circle Program held its second annual event for its "One Girl One Day!" initiative, celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child, at the Flying Monkey in Plymouth. This event, a talent show called "One Talent, One Night", featured a variety of community-based talent acts and performances by Circle Program girls and teens. This wonderful event raised over \$25,000.

The performance of our investments, managed by DL Carlson Investment Group, Inc. in collaboration with our Investment Committee, has helped raise the total endowment over the million dollar mark. This allows us to draw over \$38K in investment income to help fund our charitable work.

We are also grateful for the support provided by our volunteer mentors throughout the year who make our services possible. In 2019, our 81 mentors traveled a total of 35,822 miles, spent 3,530 hours with the girls and teens, and donated \$10,168 in in-kind contributions.

We look forward to your continued support in 2020. Please consider Circle Program once again in your charitable giving. named endowment funds in support of annual tuition to

**Tuition Endowments** 

cover the cost for girls to attend Circle Program. Girls and teens enrolled in Circle Program receive full subsidies for the expense of their participation. It costs approximately \$7,900 to support a girl engaged in Circle Program for a full year - for her time at camp, all of the organized group activities throughout the school year, and mentoring programs. This figure includes activity fees, camp supplies, food, travel, staffing, insurance, mentor training and reimbursements, professional development for our staff, and more. We are grateful to those who generously contributed to these funds in 2019. The June 30th values for these endowment funds are listed below; year end figures will be available once Mason+Rich complete the 2019 financial review.

Over the years, individuals and family members have created

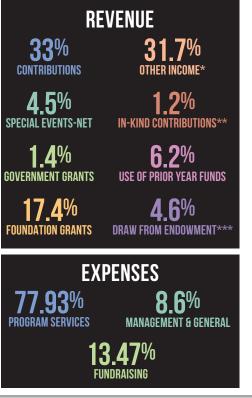
Firetower Children's Fund Tuition Endowment	\$ 176,374
Hagerman-Sander Memorial Tuition Fund	\$ 89,843
The George W. Hagerman Tuition Fund	\$ 241,902
Nancy Lindsay Memorial Fund	\$ 177,338
Davies Opportunity Fund	\$ 107,502
Cole Property Endowment Fund	\$ 4,658
General Endowment Permanently Restricted	\$ 112,627
General Endowment Unrestricted	\$ 120,233

**Total Combined Balance** 

\$1,030,477

Sincerely, James Mitkonis, Circle Program Treasurer

Please note these are preliminary figures. Circle Program new auditing firm, Mason + Rich, is in the process of conducting a formal financial review. Once this annual review concludes, a copy of their report may be obtained by calling our office at 603.536.4244.



Total Expense	\$654,414	100%
Fundraising	\$ 88,150	13.47%
Management & General	\$ 56,279	8.6%
Expense Program Services	\$ 509,985	77.93%
Total Revenue	\$848,172	100%
Draw from Endowment***	\$ 39,500	4.6%
Use of Prior Year Funds	\$ 53,500	6.2%
In-Kind Contributions**	\$ 10,498	1.2%
Other Income*	\$ 268,933	31.79
Foundation Grants	\$ 149,829	17.4%
Government Grants	\$ 11,735	1.4%
Special Events - Net	\$ 37,894	4.5%
Contributions	\$ 276,283	33.0%
Revenue		

Voor End Operating Income

\*\* In-kind includes pro bono professional fees & donated materials, but not the hours donated by our mentors.

\*\*\* Board approved draw of endowment interest income and dividends.



PO Box 815 85 Main Street Plymouth, NH 03264

603-536-4244 www.circleprogram.org

## **Board of Directors 2020**

Sarah Crane, President Deborah Schachter, Vice President James Mitkonis, Treasurer Mary Ann McRae, Secretary Dawn Beers Jennifer Crane Barbara McCahan Ryan McFarland Patricia O'Neill Talesha Saint-Marc Mark Seymour Karen Werner Cindy Williams

### **Trustees Emeriti**

Vincent Broderick Priscilla W. Gemmill Martha Macomber Seton Lindsay O'Reilly Carol Morgan Southall

### Staff

Teri Bordenave — Interim Executive Lindsey Collins — Camp Manager Jamie Capaul — Program Manager Sheryl Brochu — Mentor Coordinator Fox Smith — Program Support Liz Grace — Office Manager



All for one. Go Blue!



Circle Camp Main lodge



Circle teens gather late in the day on the dock in anticipation of a beautiful sunset.

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