



CAMP AWAKENING

THE PORTRAGER

news to carry with you

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2020 LOOKED A LITTLE DIFFERENT

While the summer of 2020 was not what we had planned or hoped for, we are proud of our campers, volunteers and staff for embracing the alternative Camp Awakening @ Home program.

Together, through a combination of 'camp-in-a-box' care packages and virtual cabin group and all-camp gatherings, we created opportunities for kids, teens and young adults with physical disabilities to get outside, get active, get creative, try something new, and build connection & community.



“Although it doesn’t replace the in-person experience, it was so great that we still had this on-line camp this year. In my community, all day and overnight camps were cancelled, so this was one of the only organized activities we got to do. We really appreciate this being organized and it was nice to spend time with old camp friends, meet new kids, and see our counsellors and staff from past years.”

A CAMP @ HOME CAMPER



CAMP AWAKENING CREATES FUN, SAFE, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE YOUTH WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES CAN INCREASE INDEPENDENCE, LEARN NEW SKILLS, DEVELOP CONFIDENCE, AND MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS.

CAMP AWAKENING @ HOME

JULY 6 - AUGUST 14, 2020



Over the course of 6 weeks we mailed 3 care packages to the 25 participating campers. Campers ranged in age from 8 to 26 years and were assigned to cabins by age and gender, just like at camp.

Each box contained two weeks' worth of independent activities such as nature scavenger hunts; arts & crafts kits; recipes; and Camp Awakening gear. We engaged a team of 14 volunteers – including several Paralympians! - to lead cabin group get-togethers; film fitness and parasport training videos; and host online gatherings ranging from learning to crochet to transitioning to post-secondary education to bring your pet to Zoom day!

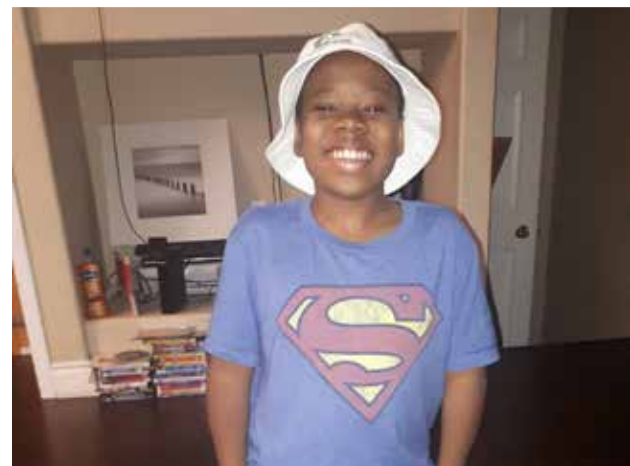
A typical summer at camp is about unplugging from technology to connect with nature and real people. Our biggest challenge in designing the alternative Camp Awakening @ Home program was to strike a balance between screen-time vs “green-time”. Yet, as you know, kids of all ages and abilities need connection and community now, more than ever.

Beginning in Week 2 we added more virtual events to the calendar in response to our campers' desire to see their camp friends, old & new, and to ease feelings of loneliness and social isolation. With online learning over for the school year those summer days seemed extra-long!

We ran our Youth Leadership Development (YLD) Retreat for young adults under the umbrella of Camp Awakening @ Home too. The participants spent their six weeks engaged in a group marketing project. They prepared materials encouraging teen campers to attend the YLD Retreat once they graduate from summer camp. What an amazing initiative!

While it could never replace the magic of being together in person, at camp, we are pleased the Camp Awakening @ Home program allowed us to successfully fulfill our mission in a new & different way.

But... we can't wait to get back to the shores of Gull, Eagle and Wannamaker lakes!



CAMP @ HOME @ A GLANCE

- \$0 Cost to camper families
- 6 weeks of camp-style programming
- 118 'Camp-in-a-box' packages mailed
- 25 campers / leadership participants
- 14 Volunteers
- 8-26 years - age range of participants
- 1160 metres of yarn delivered
- 4 cats, 8 dogs, 3 teddy bears, 1 guinea pig and 1 new camp mascot (Tripper the Bear) at Bring Your Pet to Zoom Day!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2021

Jamie Macintosh, *Chair & Acting Treasurer*

Susie Lindsay, *Vice-Chair*

Linda Rhijnsburger, *Secretary*

Adam Chamberlain, *Past Chair*

Erin Brandon

Bruce Logan

Dolly Menna-Dack

Dana Nielsen

Meghan Payne

David Latimer (*ex-officio*)

Lisa Wilson (*ex-officio*)



GIVING TUESDAY HELP SEND KIDS TO CAMP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday, a global movement to encourage everyone to give and volunteer for their favourite charities.

Camp Awakening does not receive any government funding and we rely on the generosity of individuals, organizations, and community groups - people like YOU - to make camp happen. We sincerely hope that you will choose to support Camp Awakening and our campers with physical disabilities on this "opening day of the giving season."



**INTRODUCING CAMP AWAKENING'S
NEW MASCOT...TRIPPER!**

S'MORE NEWS...



Thank you **Endeavour Volunteer Consultants for Non-Profits!** We completed a 6-month engagement with an amazing team of volunteers back in the spring. After surveying our community, they provided some great ideas and recommendations for Camp Awakening's future. The Board of Directors is in the midst of formal strategic planning and looking forward to sharing more information with you in 2021.



Congratulations Team MacAttack and individual winner Ghoulia! You bewitched us with your useless knowledge at the 2nd annual **Trick or Trivia** event. Our first virtual fundraiser was a huge success raising more than \$2,200 to send kids to camp.



Virtual Winter Reunion on Saturday, December 12th at 2:00pm. Come decorate cookies with us and hang out with your camp friends!

FOLLOW US!!! We share camp news, invites to virtual events, and so many photos.



/campawakeningcanada



campawakening



@campawakening

DONATION CARD | SECURE ON-LINE DONATION AT CAMPAWAKENING.COM

YES, I want to encourage a child with a physical disability to discover the wonders of nature, make new friends and try something new at Camp Awakening next summer.

Enclosed, please find my cheque (payable to Camp Awakening) in the amount of

\$500 \$200 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____



We'd like to keep in touch with you to share camp news and other ways to support Camp Awakening. You may opt out at any time by calling the camp office.

Charitable Registration BN 11882 6577 RR0001. Official income tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more.
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