Weekenders Program a Huge Success!

Why should the success of camp end in August? Our Weekenders program, designed to be “weekend camp for kids, respite time for caregivers,” offers children a Friday to Sunday camp experience supervised by our incredible summer counselors and administrators. The first Weekends were held this fall. Twenty campers and more than twenty staff participated during the September and October Weekends.

In September, activities included swimming, Make Your Own Pizza night and mini golf. In October, we enjoyed outdoor games and an “it’s not too cold yet” canoe excursion (for the brave). The major highlight of the Weekend was the field trip to Marshall Farms, where a petting zoo, corn maze, apple picking, hayride and more made for a fun afternoon out followed by an extra-long rest hour back at camp!

The weekends are fun, and also they are distinctly Starfish. We work on coping skills and social skills just like at summer camp. Homework time is built into the schedule, with campers receiving one-to-one support and even tutoring. Sending campers home ready for school the next day allows campers and their parents to reconnect Sunday evening, rather than argue about schoolwork. More Weekends are already scheduled for the Spring and Fall of 2010.

Learn more about the importance of providing our campers’ caregivers with respite time, and see pictures at: www.campstarfish.org/weekenders.html.

10th Anniversary Draws Crowds
friends new and old celebrate with the kids in Rindge

What better way to kick off our year of 10th Anniversary celebrations than by spending time together at camp? On July 24th, over 100 people gathered in Rindge to enjoy a special outdoor luncheon as well as to participate in a sing-a-long with campers and a rededication ceremony honoring the acquisition of our permanent home. Guests included friends and neighbors from the Lake Monomonac area, Camp Starfish and Camp Mononomac alumni, Board members, and friends of the camp. Ten-year camper Jackson spoke movingly about his experiences at the camp over the past decade. His mom Donna followed, with an emotional speech expressing how integral Starfish has been in their lives.
For the first time in 2009, Starfish welcomed day-only campers! Starfish Day Camp, with a 1:2 staff-to-camper ratio and its own corner of the facility, was created to help meet the need of local families with younger children who have similar diagnoses to our overnighters. Day camp, which is staffed by counselors who live on-site and work with residential campers in the evenings, can accommodate up to 16 campers in each 5-day session.

Like many of our overnight campers, their younger counterparts in the day program had already experienced failures at other day camps prior to enrolling at Starfish. Many caregivers drove long distances from home—up to an hour each way—so their child could attend Starfish Day Camp. “There is just no other day camp like this for my child” was something we heard repeatedly as new campers registered throughout the summer. As with our residential program, Starfish’s highly structured day, predictable expectations, and well-trained staff ensure success at Day Camp.

Second only to Wednesday “theme days” (like Pirate Day and Superhero Day), the most popular day camp activity this summer was one which combined the campers from both Starfish programs. Each afternoon during rest hour, our 14-16 year-old overnight camp l.e.a.d.e.r.s walked to the Day Camp Grove to read and play games with the younger campers. This became so mutually enjoyable that additional time together was often chosen by both teens and day campers as a reward for positive behavior!

Read more online at: www.campstarfish.org/daycamp.html

“Sarah explained her new skills of teaching the younger kids how to handle disappointment by praise and encouragement.”
-Jack, dad of teen l.e.a.d.e.r Sarah

Camp Starfish asked campers, “How do you know you made at least one new friend at camp this summer?” And they said:

Elest: because we hung out together in activities.
Robyn: because she was always there for me.
Ian: because they were nice to me.
Sean: because we have so much in common.
Mitch: because I listened.
Jeremiah: because I was outgoing.
Savanna: because we talked to each other.
Nick: because [on the last day of camp] they said “see ya, friend!”
Chris: because I look forward to seeing them next year.
Thank You to our Shining Stars!

Camp Starfish is tremendously grateful to our many friends for their generous sponsorship. Our valued supporters between Oct. 31, 2008 and 2009 include:

- Helen Adrienne
- Anonymous (5)
- Charles & Gwen Aquadro
- Rachid & Alison Alouai
- Paul & Nancy Amato
- Joe & Marcon Armstrong
- John & Anne Beardsley
- Jeff & Laura Beckman-Devik
- Grace Bell
- Joshua Berlin
- Deb Berman
- Richard & Amy Blake
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blucke
- Tara Bouley
- Janet & Reid Boswell
- Gary & Sheri Brock
- Brian & Deborah Brown
- Dr. Candida Brush
- Andrew Budson & Amy Nyl
- G.O. & Linda Burdick
- Hillary Burnett
- Susan Okie Bush
- Sean & Courtney Callahan
- Stephen & Jocelyne Caplow
- Brian & Kathryn Carr
- Jim Carpenter & Kara Lindner
- Lynne Castronuovo
- Michael & Mindy Celona
- Mary Chatfield
- Bob & Cynthia Childs
- Mark & Deb Christopher
- Eleanor Coale
- Glenn & Kim Cohn
- Joshua & Jill Connell
- Sally Cook
- Max Crosby
- Luc Cousineau
- Paul & Maureen Cummings
- Isabel Cushing
- Lynda Cutrill
- Michelle Cyr
- Kenneth Danil
- Peter & Kathryn Deane
- Beth DeGen
- Rob & Dubs Dickey
- Tara Diamond
- Robin Dwyer & Marjorie Dill
- Marna Dollinger
- Kimberly Driscoll
- Carrie Endries
- Nathaniel & Mary Finsness
- Kelly Fitchner
- Michelle Fitzgerald
- Curt & Annette Florcak
- Jay Gardner
- Laurence & Yurika Geffin
- Rebecca German
- Jamie Gentry
- Suzanne Gerety
- Paul & Marilyn Gigliotti
- Herbert & Doris Golinsky
- Emily Golinsky
- David Goodtree & Leslie Gordon
- Todd & Laura Goodwin
- Michael & Barbara Gordon
- Jay Gordon
- Jennifer Gorman
- John & Maria Gray
- Paul & Evelyn Graham
- Dr. & Mrs. James Greenberg
- Peter & Janice Greenberg
- Mary Guerriero
- Grant Haggerty
- Melissa Hartman
- Peter Hess & Debra Kenyon
- Paula Hallaman
- Rebekah Harmon
- Michael & Lisa Heyson
- Andrea Higgins
- Mitchell & Janice Hobish
- Rick Hobish & Flo Weiner
- Toby Hobish
- John Hogan
- Reed & Carolyn Holden
- John Huertas & Ana Arroyo-Montano
- Richard Hughes
- Ann Marie Irwin
- Jim & Kathy John
- Richard & Paula Johnson
- Leslie Kagan
- David Kanner
- Deborah Kanner
- Julianne Kanner
- Natalie Kanner
- Ronald & Barbara Kaplan
- David Kaufman
- Claire & Clarence Kay
- Julie Kelley
- Susanna Kemp
- Angela Knox
- Larry & Ruth Kolbe
- Mike Kunin
- Jason & Heather Lawson
- Louis & Geraldine LeBlanc
- Yvette LeBlanc
- Bob & Kate Kane Leach
- David & Stacy Lender
- Roberta Levy
- Rhonda Levine
- Connie Logan
- David Mahnken
- Chris Mawhinney
- Karen Mariscal
- Tom & Polly Martinson
- Dr. Nicole Matthews
- David & Jackie Mayall
- John McCarthy & Andrea Brox
- Mary Ellen McCarthy
- Brian McDonnell & Julianna Connolly
- Gerard & Sheila McEnery
- Patrick & Julie McVeigh
- Carl & Dorothy Mellin
- Amanda Melpolder
- John & Katherine Metzger
- Kevork & Tery Nahabedian
- Marie Nazzaro
- Richard & Jeff Nazzaro
- Richard & Phyllis Nazzaro
- Jim & Ginny Neumann
- Brian & Maureen Oates
- Mark Olarol
- Eugene & Barbara Otting
- Jonathan & Laura Gassner Otting
- Benjamin Otting
- Steve & Laura Ousley
- John Padula & Donna Coccia
- Matthew Pakos
- Lindsay Parker
- Marni Pedorella
- Eric Pearlman
- Stephen Perkins & Phyllis Groskin
- Linda Petersen
- Lee & Tayrn Pinstein
- Lucynn Principe
- Daniel & Christine Quinn
- Amelie Ratliff
- Brian Reich & Dina Peralta-Reich
- Alisha Pollastri
- Thomas Reed
- Margueritte Ricciardone
- Beverly Rimer
- Ned & Katie Rimer
- Jeffrey Roberts
- Carly Robichaud & Elsie Kagan
- Laura Robinson
- Alan & Elisabeth Rocklin
- Steve & Betsy Rosen
- Matt Rudnick
- Paul Rummel & Rosanna Garcia
- Marilyn SantClemente
- Anthony & Vera Sarantakis
- Anne Savas
- Steve & Robin Scari
- Jeanne Schmidt
- Charles Scribner
- William & Cindy Singer
- Nicole Spasiano
- Carol Specker
- Dudley & Carol-Ann Speros
- Eric & Iris Spungin
- Cathy Stahl
- Bill & Janice Stanford
- Bob & Kate Kane Leach
- Harold & Shellie Walter
- Leonard & Estella Walter
- Jeffrey Vanderveen & Jamie Teague
- Jessica Warren
- Steven & Patricia Warren
- Jackie & Alan Weinstein
- Richard Weissbourd & Avery Rimer
- F.J. Weyherauer & Annie Brewer
- Mark White
- Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Whelstett
- Bob Wilson
- Sally Winter
- Hal & Meredith Wortzel
- Rachel Wyon
- Monico & Maribel Yadao
- The Yama family
- Joe & Colleen Zale
- Todd & Kerry Zeff
- Edward Zuker

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We sincerely apologize for any error or omission.
Dear Friend,

All of us know a child—maybe our own, maybe a neighbor's son, maybe a girl in your daughter's class—who doesn't quite fit in. It's the little things you notice: he doesn't make eye contact when you say hello, and she doesn't seem to know how to make a friend. You hear stories conveying just how difficult he is to parent, teach or care for.

Camp Starfish was created ten years ago to address the lack of programs available for these children and their caregivers. For the children to whom no other program will open its doors, Starfish says, “Welcome!” We reassure them: “You’re going to do just fine here.” We say, “You’re a great kid.” And at the end of camp, they say: “You know what? I’m a great kid. And I did just fine here.”

When you contribute to Camp Starfish by referring a camper, encouraging a young adult to apply for a staff position, volunteering your time, attending a special event, or investing financially, you are giving children with emotional, social, behavioral, and learning problems hope for their future...you are telling kids: “I believe in your ability to succeed.”

In short, you are making it possible for Camp Starfish to change lives. We look forward to partnering with you on this incredible journey.

Ned Rimer
President, Board of Directors

Emily Golinsky
Executive Director

Jillian, 8
DeShawn, 7
Angel, 9
Anika, 12
Jmitch, 8

I can't begin to express the respite you gave me. For the first time in 6 years, I could breathe with no fear or anxiety. At Starfish, Luz felt safe and accepted. I wish I knew about Starfish sooner! It saved us. Without you, Luz would have ended up hospitalized, or worse, in juvenile detention.

- Laurie, mom of first-year camper Luz

Ian's 11 days at Starfish was the first time in a while where Ian did not need to be physically restrained for aggressive behavior. Ian was glowing with happiness and self-esteem! Starfish is truly a very special place and an essential piece of my son's life now.

- Cara, mom of first-year camper Ian

Max is far more confident in his own abilities than before camp. He believes he is capable of learning and is more willing to try to achieve goals.

- Samantha & David, parents of first-year camper Max

www.youtube.com/user/CampStarfish
we want to be your friend!
www.facebook.com/campstarfish

follow us! let's tweet.
www.twitter.com/campstarfish

a video is worth a thousand words.
www.youtube.com/user/CampStarfish

let's network.
www.linkedin.com/companies/camp-starfish

get our monthly e-update in your inbox.
www.campstarfish.org/subscribe.html

once you visit, you won't want to leave.
www.campstarfish.org