Thanks to our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills, campers and staff enjoyed a new outdoor Gathering area at camp this summer. Complete with a stage and campfire ring, the amphitheater was built by sixteen UUSWH youths ages 12-15, alongside adult chaperones, during a week of service at camp in April. On the last day of their visit, another group from the church joined in with the teens to clear camp trails, plant the garden, sweep out cabins, paint, and more. In addition to the bonding the group did, the trip was the beginning of a wonderful and long-term relationship between Starfish and UUSWH, who said of their experience:

“Our work with Camp Starfish is a new, exciting, multi-generational initiative which offers many opportunities for us to make an important difference.”

The outdoor stage and campfire area became an instant favorite for special events like evening marshmallow roasts and the Camper Talent Show, as well as for coming together before each meal to hear announcements, sing, and celebrate camper accomplishments.

UUSWH participants at the April service week were so moved by their experience and by the mission work of Camp Starfish that they went one giant step further and raised the money needed to renovate the Fish Village washhouse, which was badly in need of repair. A few short weeks after their visit to camp, the washhouse was gutted; in its place was a bright, clean space created by Starfish’s talented contractor and friend, Chris Mawhinney. Upon seeing the brand new showers and private changing areas, one returning camper announced, “It’s aaaaaaaaaawwwwsome!” We couldn’t have said it better.

To see the creation of the Gathering area or before & after photos of our new washhouse: www.campstarfish.org/photos.html

Looking for holiday cards? We’ve got great ones designed by Starfish campers (see image above)—only $12 for 10 cards with envelopes! We ship them to you the same day you order them. Cards read “happy holidays...” on the front and “...from our neck of the woods to yours!” on the inside. Perfect for everyone! And, if you’re shopping for presents, how about giving a gift that gives back? Our online camp store has “everything Starfish”...hats, CDs of camp songs, shirts, sweatpants and more! All proceeds from the cards & store go to our Campership fund.

to order, call our office or visit: www.campstarfish.org/store.html

Following the arson fire at camp last year that damaged many of our library books, Starfish is very grateful to the number of individuals who donated books, organized book fairs, and helped us replenish one of our campers’ favorite resources—the camp library. To celebrate the fresh start these thoughtful friends gave our library, we moved the books from our Learning Center and into their own new home: the Book Nook! Located at the center of camp, this area was a big hit for campers during the twice-daily
Year-Round Office Moves to Lancaster, MA

Just before the summer, we moved our year-round office to the “Farmer’s Cottage” on the vibrant Dr. Franklin Perkins School campus in Lancaster, MA. The Perkins is a highly regarded special education school and far-reaching human services agency which serves a population similar to Starfish. While still close to our roots in the Greater Boston area, the new location allows us easier year-round access to our camp facility in Rindge, NH. We’re thankful to our friends at Perkins for bringing us to the area and for making us feel so wholeheartedly welcome on campus.

Fitchburg Youth Enjoy August Camp

For decades before it was sold to us, our beautiful summer camp in Rindge, NH was “Camp Monomonac,” run by Christ Church of Fitchburg, MA. Many of the parishioners grew up at the camp in the 1940s-1970s, worked there as staff, and even met their future spouses there. It was a real honor for Starfish to host the church’s August Youth Group Camp. The experience culminated in a barbeque cookout, outdoor evening service, and talent show for which members of the Christ Church community arrived by the carload! It was a great way for Starfish to welcome back Camp Monomonac alumni and start what we hope will be a new annual tradition.

Kenya the Therapy Dog Joins Starfish Staff

Kenya, a trained therapy dog, was a welcome addition to our camp community this summer. Campers were able to visit with Kenya when they were feeling down, help take care of her, and spend reward time playing catch with her or taking her for a walk. Kenya loved camp, even getting into Spirit Week by wearing matching bandanas with her owner, eight-year camp veteran Katie Bunten-Wren, and other staff on twin day (see picture, above left). We hope Kenya gets to come back for many summers to come, though we hear she is currently enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Katie’s hometown of Eliot, Maine.

Weekenders Program Going Strong

Our year-round respite program, Weekenders, has really taken off! Earlier this fall we went apple and pumpkin picking at Red Apple Farm (where we entertained everyone in line at the Hayride with camp songs). At the second fall weekend, campers got a chance to challenge themselves on a climbing wall. Staff travel from their weekday jobs and classes—as far away as Pennsylvania!—to be with the kids for these mini-camp experiences.

Five Year Employee Milestone Awards

Adam Sparks
During his tenure at camp, Adam has been a cabin counselor, music & drama instructor, Village Administrator, and most recently, Program Director. Also known as the “Abra” half of our Talent Show host duo Abra Kadabra, Adam is equally at home 1-to-1 with kids or leading songs in front of Gathering. He recently graduated from Berea College with a degree in education.

Julie Kraft
Julie began her Starfish summers as an arts-n-crafts instructor and boys’ cabin counselor. As a Fish Village Administrator, Julie is known as a leader who takes on anything that needs to get done and who can make everyone smile! Julie is in grad school in Minnesota, where she is a Behavioral Therapist studying for her Masters in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Michelle Cyr, MSW
Associate Director

Emily Golinsky
Executive Director

free play periods. Campers and staff alike used the cozy space, which is full of bookshelves and bean bag chairs. Many campers took advantage of the option to “check out” books and bring them back to the cabin for reading during rest hour. Our thanks go to the Library Committee at the Lincoln Elementary School in Winchester, MA, Teddy Boswell & family, the Manville School Student Council, campers Robert & Nick Lehner & family, the Greenwald twins’ Bar Mitzvah project, Benj Hatcher & family, Caroline Keene & family, and the many others who contributed books to this wonderful space!
Thank You to our Shining Stars!

Camp Starfish is tremendously grateful to our many friends for their generous sponsorship between Oct. 31, 2009 & 2010.

★ Helen Adrienne  
In Memory of Mr. Johnson

★ Kelly Anderson

★ Marion & Joseph Armstrong

★ Less Arnold

★ Thomas & Barbara Arsenault

★ Andrew & Carol Bell*  
In Honor of Charity Bell

★ Jerry & Patti Bemrich*  
In Honor of Timmy Bemrich

★ Deb Berman

★ David & Samantha Bernstein

★ Marguerite Bemotras

★ Meghan Bortonac

★ Mark Berry

★ Phyllis Brinbaum

★ Richard & Amy Blake

★ Suzanne Blake

★ Mary Blanchard

★ Holly Bloomfield*  
In Honor of Elyse Bloomfield

★ Bob & Lib Blucke

★ James Bogias

★ Murray Bollinger

★ Randi & Sharon Bonica

★ Reid & Janet Boswell

★ Tara Bouley

★ Amy Braddock & Scott Friedman

★ Melissa Brown

★ Katie Bunten-Wren

★ Susan Okie Bush

★ Susan Byrne

★ Florence Campbell

★ Brian & Kathelyn Carr

★ Michael & Mindy Celona

★ Robert & Lynn Marie Chesbrohough

★ Terry Cleary

★ James & Cathleen Clifton

★ Glenn & Kim Cohn  
In Honor of the Teachers, Staff & Bus Drivers of the Mount St. Joseph, NY School District

★ Ira & Linda Cohn

★ Jill & Josh Connell

★ Lawrence Crimmins

★ Thomas & Karen Crisp*  
In Honor of Leo Crisp

★ Nancy Cronan

★ Michelle Cy

★ Darcy & Suzanne Curran

★ Isabel Cushing

★ Kenneth Danfial & Maggie Schmidt

★ James & Kathleen Desdy

★ Peter & Betsy Dempsey

★ David Desimone

★ Marna Dringer

★ Marjorie Dill & Robin Dwyer  
In Honor of Michelle Cy

★ Mary Donaghey

★ Shane Eagan

★ Carrie Endries

★ Bob Falconi

★ Cara Falconi  
In Honor of counselor Emily Anthony

★ Constance Falconi

★ Ashley Falloon

★ James Falloon

★ Katherine Fallon

★ Timothy Fallon

★ Andrew & Audrey Feiner

★ Rick Feldman & Carolyn Mazel*  
In Honor of Anna Feldman

★ Joseph & Linda Francis

★ Barbara Fraser & Rene Montplaisir*  
In Honor of Beth Montplaisir

★ John Gatta

★ Robert & Catherine Gaudes*  
In Honor of Dan Gaudes

★ Laura & Jonathan Gassner Otting

★ Laurence & Yuriko Geffen

★ Richard & Shari Gelber

★ In Honor of Emily Golinsky's dedication to Camp Starfish

★ Rebecca Sue Gelman

★ Jamie Gentry

★ Maureen George

★ Paul & Marilyn Gigliotti

★ Emily Golinsky

★ Robert & Doris Golinsky  
In Honor of Emily Golinsky

★ David Goodtree & Leslie Gordon

★ caret Gordon

★ Peter Hes & Dewby Kenyon

★ Andrea Higgins

★ Paul & Marilyn Hinkson

★ Mitchell & Janice Hobish

★ In Honor of Rick Hobish

★ Rick Hobish & Flo Weiner

★ Toby Hobish

★ Reed & Carolyn Holden

★ Dorothy Holden

★ Mary Jacobson

★ Dick & Paula Johnson

★ Karen from Newton

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★ David & Deborah Kanner*  
In Honor of Julie Kanner

★ Julie Kanner

★ Eleanor Klimt

★ Larry & Ruth Kolbe

★ Keith & Rene Kattenkloster*  
In Honor of Califfin Kattenkloster

★ Paul Labine

★ Susan Labrie

★ Sharon Lemay

★ Rhonda Levine

★ Kersin Lochie

★ Dave Mahnken

★ Mark & Susan Mahnken*  
In Honor of Dave & Kevin Mahnken

★ Lisa & Doug Marquis

★ Tom Martinson

★ Jan Mayall

★ Julie McCarty & Jaiden Bux

★ Mary Ellen McCarthy

★ Aimee McClure  
In Honor of Candra Coy

★ Mary Kate McKee

★ Gerard & Sheila McEnery*  
In Honor of Dan McEnery

★ Julie & Patrick McVeigh

★ Robert Merritt

★ Lewis & Janice Miller

★ Kathleen Mitchell

★ Virgie Moser

★ Roxanne & Scott Monk

★ Stephen & Gillian Montez

★ Paul Murphy

★ Charles Murphy  
In Memory of Kevin Sullivan, Sr.

★ Kevork & Tony Nahabedian

★ Marik Nahabedian  
In Memory of Kevork & Tony

★ Mary Nazzaro

★ Thomas Nee

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In Honor of Eric Olson

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★ Tamara Payton

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★ Marni Pedorella

★ Linda Perry

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★ Kerry Presty

★ Avery Rimer & Richard Weissbourd

★ Beverly Rimer  
In Honor of Ned Rimer

★ Ned & Katie Rimer

★ Catherine Roberts

★ Elisabeth & Alan Rocklin  
In Honor of Robert

★ Carl Robichaud & Elise Kagan

★ Lisa Robinson & Robert Hansel

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★ Karen Scoetz

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In Honor of Emily Golinsky

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In Honor of Michelle Cy

★ Jessica Warren  
In Honor of Jill Connell

★ Steven & Patricia Warren  
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★ P.J. Weyerhaeuser & Anne Breverett

★ Cynthia Wheeler

★ Jeffrey & Dorinda Whissett

★ Mark & Kym Williams

★ Sally Winter

★ Donna Woodley

★ Judy Wurtman  
In Honor of Tall's camp experience

★ Mary Wyne

★ Karen Wyne

★ Claude Yama

★ Elliot & Alison Yama

★ Joe & Colleen Zale

★ Mark Zikowski

★ In Memory of James DiChiaro:

★ Anonymous (2)

★ Annie Day

★ Every Women's Volleyball League

★ Maria Garrass

★ Polly Highland

★ George & Carmella DiChiaro

★ Michelle DiChiaro

★ Phyllis & Thomas Finnewan

★ Christal Kittredge

★ Nancy Rihan

★ Eaton Vance

★ In Honor of Katie Bunten-Wren's Birthday, donated via Facebook:

★ Anonymous (11)

★ Deb Berman

★ Kasie Chaplup

★ Emily Golinsky

★ David Mahnken

★ Kristen Pedersen

★ Sreeja Sasi

★ Wiban Thavipham

★ Christal Kittredge

★ Paul & Vizma Wren

★ Susie Westly Wren

*These donations in honor of summer staff members were generously matched 100% by Mr. Charles Scribner's challenge grant.

Special thanks to the foundations & corporations below for the outstanding support they provide:

★ Anonymous (3)

★ Associated Grantmakers SummerFund

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★ Bailey Foundation


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★ Christensen-Dunn Early Foundations Fund

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★ The Charles Irvin Traval Fund

★ The Evan Henry Foundation for Autism

★ The Manville School

★ The Sterer Trust

★ Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills

★ Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dor LLP

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

Often, people are surprised to find out that Starfish is much more than just a therapeutic summer program. In fact, Camp Starfish is a remarkable and multi-faceted non-profit organization. We are providing a safe place where children who fit in nowhere else can find success and friendship. We are giving families the respite time they so desperately need to be at their best. We are collaborating with agencies across New England to provide services to their most vulnerable clients. And by training and mentoring more than 75 staff members each summer, we are contributing to the essential education of young adults who then go out into the world to become great teachers, empathetic social workers, intentional leaders, and adept parents.

Niki-Lynn spent the summer after her recent college graduation as a first-year counselor on our 2010 staff team. She shared with us in a letter, “I loved working with the kids. It was a truly unique experience that I was lucky to have, especially since I want to work with people and my degree is in Biology! Today I got a job at a group home for girls who just got out of juvenile hall! I know that is thanks to the experience I gained from Starfish. I don’t know what I would be doing now if I had not spent an amazing summer with these great kids.”

The opportunity to be part of an organization that has such crucial impact in so many areas is truly humbling. By being a part of Starfish—by referring a camper or staff member, by providing a campership to a child who otherwise would miss out on camp, by simply telling someone you know about the work we do—you, too, are changing lives. Thank you.

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Has Starfish made a difference in your life or in the life of someone you know? Share your Starfish Story: www.campstarfish.org/stories.html

"This summer, I learned so much about myself and what I want to do with my life.”
-Niki-Lynn

Starfish Stories

"The experience I had this year at Starfish was by far the funnest session I’ve ever had at camp. I felt really homesick the first two days. But also I felt really sad for the beginning of my ride home. I am excited to come back next year!"
-Ben, age 13, Bunk 9

Mom: “Before Starfish, Karyssa would never have moved past her serious separation anxiety to enjoy anything about camp. I am amazed the staff helped her overcome this! At Starfish, she is accepted and encouraged.”
-Karyssa: “The Starfish Tool that I worked hardest on this summer was ‘I use my words to express my needs and feelings.’ Next summer, I want to be in leaders.”
-Karyssa, age 13, Bunk 1, and mom Debra

"At Starfish, Marc feels like the "no-longer-missing" puzzle piece—he fits right in! He speaks often of how proud he is of himself for achievements and progress made at camp and quotes lessons he’s learned from counselors.”
-Lynn, mom of 5th year camper Marc