



# Friends of Camp Ta-Kum-Ta

## 2018 NEWSLETTER



### Thanks to our generous donors, the new pavilion is nearing completion!

Our new pavilion will host the magic of Camp in all types of weather, at any time of the year. The permanent, open-air structure is much more than a building; the space will ensure everyone's safety, host fun memories, and foster life-changing relationships for campers and their friends and families!

#### PAVILION FEATURES

- Retractable sides, providing direct outdoor access and protection from adverse weather.
- Permanent structure, eliminating the need to rent a dining tent every summer.
- Greater capacity, allowing us to enhance and expand programming and events, as well as increase our appeal to external organizations.
- Designed for use during all of our year-round programs.



**"I often say and honestly feel that camp staff are angels here on earth... no amount of words can explain the magic that happens at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta."**

**—Heather, Camper Mom**



# New facilities, new memories, same support and love at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta.

## Thank you!



A new parking lot located just past the pavilion will provide fifty additional parking spaces for guests visiting Camp programs and events.



Our new pool house will be a safe space for campers to get ready for water activities. With plenty of storage space for pool supplies, bathrooms, showers, changing rooms, and a patio, the pool house will improve campers' poolside experience and offer relief from the warm summer sun!



The new equipment shed will be home to the many tools and pieces of equipment used by the Camp facilities team and our dedicated volunteers. It will also provide more storage space for our growing collection of program supplies!



**I'll never forget how the staff made [my son] feel so safe. TKT is a haven to all who come. It's magical!**

—Cookie, Camper Mom



### Community Volunteer Spotlight: **Seventh Generation, Inc.**

At Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, we rely on the support of our community in order to provide children with cancer the best camp experiences they can possibly have. The team at Seventh Generation, Inc. has been volunteering at Camp for approximately nine years.

*"We're proud to be a long-term supporter of Camp Ta-Kum-Ta," stated Chris Lyon, Seventh Generation's Manager of Community Impact. "Camp Ta-Kum-Ta has been a core part of our annual volunteer and outreach design for many years."*

**"As a company that understands how important environmental health is to human health, we couldn't find a greater inspiration to share with our employees."**

Chris tells us that the impact of Camp goes both ways,

*"Camp TKT isn't a collection of buildings for our staff. It is a collection of memories and stories; some happy, some sad, but always inspiring us to remember what hope looks like. To say that Camp TKT is a magical place is an understatement. We find that every year people are asking when they can go back to Camp again to do their small part in supporting all that you do!"*

The Seventh Generation team's generous and unwavering support for Camp Ta-Kum-Ta has been so important to Camp, and we are thrilled to have them return each year!



*The Seventh Generation volunteer team shows their contagious enthusiasm for Camp TKT!*

# TKT Community Impact



Brayden and Delaney dressed up for the camp formal.

## More Than Just a Camp...

### A camper's story of finding a place to belong

When Brayden, 18, was diagnosed with cancer his life was changed forever.

*"I always felt I had to keep everything to myself because I didn't think anyone would understand,"* Brayden reminisced.

Camp TKT gave him a sanctuary where he could be himself and connect with others.

*"[When] I went to camp... my life was changed. I realized that I wasn't alone. I never imagined there would be a place I could go... and feel normal again."*

**"I always used to wonder, why does this have to happen? Why does anyone have to have cancer? And then I realized that without cancer there would be no Camp Ta-Kum-Ta."**

Brayden quickly found that *"Camp is more than just a cool place or a summer camp—it is a family. Camp was the first time I could be myself after my diagnosis. I didn't have to get weird looks all the time or feel judged. I felt like I could be a kid, not just the kid with cancer. I got to meet tons of new people that had been through the same things. In just one week, I made many lifelong friends. I feel that Camp TKT is a huge part of the healing process for me. Going to Camp was the best thing that has happened to me."*

Brayden plans to return as a counselor-in-training to share the magic of Camp with future campers. *"I just can't get enough of it. I want to meet so many more people and make so many more memories!"*



Brayden's sense of humor shines through during Color Games.

## A look back on 2017...

Camp Ta-Kum-Ta stayed true to our mission of providing challenging, extraordinary experiences in a safe and loving environment for children who have or have had cancer, and their families. The magic of Camp Ta-Kum-Ta continues to be the ability to create a place that brings together the most amazing and inspiring individuals in an environment of unmatched inclusiveness and empathy.

**In 33 years, Camp has served over 1,600 kids and families and currently serves 75 families year-round! TKT is the only program of its kind in the region.**

Camp Ta-Kum-Ta continued to grow in 2017. For the first time, we hosted a Dad's Retreat and gave the fathers of our campers a wonderful and healing Camp experience. The enjoyed great food, fun, and company. Our Saturday playgroup program has continued to expand each year as our youngest guests prepare to attend their first overnight camp experience as soon as they are 7 years old.

We are so glad that we have been able to share the experience of Camp Ta-Kum-Ta with new friends and family members of all ages, and we are so excited to see how Camp will shine in 2018 and beyond!



Two dads enjoy a golf clinic during the Dad's Weekend program.



**"I cannot thank you enough for making Camp happen for us year after year. It makes such a difference for all of us to have our own special place."  
—Betty, Current Camper**



**Camp Ta-Kum-Ta**  
**PO Box 459**  
**South Hero, VT**  
**05486**

### **Upcoming events**

*Camp Ta-Kum-Ta's  
Annual Motorcycle Ride*  
July 14, 2018

*Camp Ta-Kum-Ta's  
Annual Lobster Bake*  
August 4, 2018

*Golf Tournaments*  
Multiple Scrambles  
June - October

*RiRa Santa Run*  
December 2, 2018

Find details on all events at  
[www.takumta.org](http://www.takumta.org)

For more information please contact Lindsay Longe, Director of Development,  
at [Lindsay@takumta.org](mailto:Lindsay@takumta.org) or the Camp Office: 802-372-5863

*Mailing services for this newsletter were generously donated by Villanti.*

## **Until there's a cure, there's a camp!**

**"Camp is such a special place, and I love the people so much. They are like my family and there is no place on earth like it."**



**"I like coming to Camp because I love the people and the fun activities we do. People understand what you went through and you don't have to talk about it."**



**"I like coming to Camp to make friends and connecting with people who understand me without explanation. It's my favorite place in the world!"**



**"I love being at Camp so much and I will never forget the time I have had here. It will always be a part of my life."**

