



COASTAL CONNECTIONS

AN UPDATE FROM CAMP ARANZAZU

APRIL 2021



CAMP ON!

Greetings from Camp Aranzazu! We have much news to share with you in this edition of Coastal Connections.

First and foremost, we are excited to be able to hold in-person camping again after a year-long hiatus due to the pandemic. As Amelia Smith, camp director, explains on the next page, we have put extensive protocols in place to protect the health of our campers and staff members. Amelia also details several exciting new non-traditional programs that we are introducing.

Second, the board is launching a campaign to create a \$10 million permanent endowment, the *Camp Aranzazu Resiliency Fund*. The Resiliency Fund will help us weather future hurricanes, unplanned major maintenance, and other unanticipated events. President Virginia Ballard's letter on this page describes the campaign more fully.

Finally, Virginia has asked to transition out of her role as president in order to focus full-time on the *Resiliency Fund*, and the board has accepted her request. The board is launching a nationwide search for a new president, a position we hope to fill within several months.

On behalf of the board and staff, thank you for your support during the past year when we were unable to provide in-person camping. We look forward to getting back to our core mission this year and to growing our campership steadily through the coming years.

Sincerely,

Keith Little, Board Chair



Dear  FRIENDS,

It is an understatement to say that we are looking forward to providing a safe, fun, life-enriching experience to children and young adults with special needs and chronic illnesses this year. While “normal” may still be slightly out of reach, we recently hosted our first group of campers in over a year. The staff was relieved, ecstatic, and emotional to once again serve the children and adults who need and benefit from the unique services we provide.

Even prior to the pandemic, however, safety was Camp Aranzazu's highest priority. Shortly after opening our doors in 2006, we met the American Camp Association (ACA)'s rigorous standards for accreditation and have continued to do so ever since. I am grateful that the ACA now has provided Camp Aranzazu and thousands of other camps with detailed guidelines and comprehensive educational resources regarding how to operate safely in the current environment. We have used these guidelines to develop protocols and procedures specific to Camp Aranzazu and are excited that so many of our partners have signed up to return.

While we have had numerous challenges over the years, this latest one made me realize just how uniquely vulnerable Camp Aranzazu is. There are the people we serve—almost all of whom have serious, life-threatening, chronic illnesses and conditions. Then there is our coastal location, which makes us vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. Our commitment to underwriting much of the cost of Camp also makes us vulnerable, as we are dependent on the communities we serve to help us raise approximately \$1.2 million each year so that as many children and adults as possible can benefit from our unique form of therapy. And, lastly, there is

the way in which we deliver our services. While it never would have been considered a vulnerability before last year, being in close proximity has always been part of the magic of Camp—spending days together, sharing meals, laughs, sleeping quarters, sports equipment, everything.

All that said—I also know that Camp Aranzazu is as resilient as it is vulnerable. Maybe it has something to do with our mission and the people we serve. The board and staff know how to practice what we preach. We bounce back. We see the challenges, agree on a path forward, and start moving in that direction.

So in that light, Camp Aranzazu's Board of Directors recently agreed to launch the *Camp Aranzazu Resiliency Fund Campaign*. The Resiliency Fund is a permanent endowment that will provide a stable, predictable source of revenue to support both the maintenance of the Camp's facilities and the underwriting of camper fees. A very generous donor has pledged \$1 million outright and has offered to match all gifts made to the Resiliency Fund by December 2022, up to \$2.5 million. Our goal is to raise a total of \$10 million by December 2024.

While our goal is ambitious, reaching it will be transformational for the Camp. It will ensure that we always will be able to address the unmet social, emotional, and physical needs of children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses, regardless of whatever new and unique challenges arise.

If ever there were a time to ponder what matters most and to think about the legacy we each will leave behind, it is now. I look forward to working with you—our loyal and generous friends—to help make this big dream come true.

With gratitude,

Virginia C. Ballard, President



“We are very much looking forward to hosting campers this year!” says Amelia Smith, camp director. “Their health and safety has always been our highest priority. We have developed detailed health and safety protocols that are based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the American Camp Association, and our partners’ feedback.” Full details can be found at <https://camparanzazu.org/come-to-camp>.



In addition to our traditional camping sessions, Camp Aranzazu now offers a variety of other programs for children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses.

Aranzazu-to-You is an exciting new program that allows children and young adults with special needs and chronic illnesses to experience the joys of Camp from a clinic, school, or other site. Our highly-trained staff will travel to organizations, schools, and other groups and lead activities that enable those who need our services to learn new skills, enjoy some of their favorite camp activities, and have fun. We are especially grateful to the H-E-B Tournament of Champions for their

generous gift to underwrite the launch of this program!

Camp Aranzazu’s Family Camps offer an opportunity for families with a child with a special need or a chronic illness to enjoy a weekend getaway in an accessible, inclusive environment. The entire family can enjoy a long weekend of socially-distanced activities on the Texas Gulf Coast. We are offering family camps November 12-14, 2021, and March 18-20, 2022.

Expanding our adaptive sailing program beyond summer has been a dream since we launched the program during the summer of 2018. With a full time sailing instructor on

staff, we are now able to offer an inclusive sailing experience year-round. We are grateful to The Moody Endowment for generously funding this program expansion.

We will continue to offer our online camping sessions in 2021. Available on-demand, these videos feature some of our campers’ favorite activities, as well as encourage physical activity, provide opportunities for social connection, and teach new skills.

For more information or to book a camp session, please contact Amelia Smith, camp director, at ahaslam@camparanzazu.org.

“Camp Aranzazu lets all people, no matter their ability, know what joy is.” – LUKE, a pediatric cancer patient from Driscoll Children’s Hospital.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3dnwslj> to hear what he and others missed most when they could not attend Camp last year.



WELCOME MANDY AND TED!

Thanks to a generous grant from **The Moody Endowment, Camp Aranzazu recently welcomed two new staff members.**



Mandy Hood

Mandy Hood joined Camp Aranzazu last fall as facilities director. She is responsible for managing the camp’s 104 acres and more than 30 buildings, cabins, and other structures. Prior to joining our team, Mandy managed a private ranch estate along the Wyoming/Idaho border and a private oceanfront estate in Hawaii. Mandy grew up in Nebraska enjoying the great outdoors and looks forward to sharing that passion with our campers.



Ted Birmingham

Ted Birmingham is our new full-time, year-round sailing instructor. Though the position is new to Camp, Ted helped us to launch our summer sailing program in June 2018. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Forestry. He is an accomplished sailboat racer with a lifelong passion for sailing. Ted looks forward to expanding our sailing program so that more children and adults with special needs and chronic illness can enjoy time on Copano Bay.

SAVE THE DATE!

SAN ANTONIO HOLIDAY BELLS & SHELLS

November 17, 2021 | The Argyle

November 18, 2021 | San Antonio Gun Club

Chaired by: Sarah & Marks Moore and Katherine & John Smelko



HOUSTON HOLIDAY BELLS & SHELLS

December 7, 2021 | Greater Houston Sports Club

Chaired by: Susan & John Ferrari



BATTER UP! AN EVENING WITH CARLOS CORREA

January 27, 2022 | Houston, Texas

13TH ANNUAL ZAZU BBQ, MUSIC & MORE

May 7, 2022

Camp Aranzazu | Rockport, Texas

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Bobby Hatcher has served on Camp Aranzazu's board since 2003. He co-chaired the *Unlimited Horizons Capital Campaign* from 2014-2016, co-chaired our first *Holiday Bells & Shells* shooting event, and served as Board Chairman from 2017 – 2019. Currently, he is leading the fundraising campaign for the *Camp Aranzazu Resiliency Fund*, a permanent endowment established to provide a stable source of income for facility maintenance and camper fee underwriting.

Bobby has more than 35 years of investment and deal structuring experience and currently serves as executive chairman of Avalon Advisors. Prior to assuming this role, Bobby served as president of Cockrell Interests for 18 years.

When asked why he enjoys volunteering for the Camp, he says, "Camp Aranzazu is a special place. We provide a space for kids and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses to be recognized – not for their challenges, but for their abilities and their potential."

Bobby's commitment to our campers inspires our staff to take on new challenges and constantly find new ways to achieve our mission. "Bobby's impact on Camp Aranzazu over nearly twenty years has helped us to grow strategically and sustainably to become the mature and respected organization we are today," says Keith Little, Camp Aranzazu's current board chairman.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CAMPERS SO WELL, BOBBY!

OTHER WAYS to SUPPORT CAMP ARANZAZU

We always need and appreciate your gifts of cash; however, there also are other ways to help us offer joy-filled, one-of-a-kind camp experiences for children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses. Some of these include:

- Donating airline miles for event auctions
- Creating a Facebook Fundraiser, which gives friends and family an easy and meaningful way to recognize a birthday or anniversary
- Including Camp Aranzazu in your estate plans
- Donating appreciated stock and securities (which also can be a tax-wise way to give)
- Naming the Camp as your AmazonSmile charity of choice



For questions about any of these creative gifts, please contact Kate at katep@camparanzazu.org.



"As a parent of a young adult with intellectual disabilities, I feel so reassured knowing that [Camp Aranzazu's] staff members genuinely love our kids. The two times I've dropped Andrea off at Camp, I left knowing she was going to have the best time – and she did! Camp Aranzazu provides such a wonderful opportunity for Andrea and others like her in the Corpus Christi community."

- RUTH, mother of a 23-year-old who attended camp with a group of students from Corpus Christi ISD's Special Education Department



"Parents of children with special needs work day-in and day-out [to support our kids]. Last year, when my daughter Reagan could not attend Camp, I missed that week of having a break, just for myself."

- BRANDI, mother of a camper who attended Camp with the Muscular Dystrophy Association

"[By attending Camp,] our kids get to experience things in their lives that they never would have before. They get to experience a 'normal' life like a 'normal' child would. We hear stories for months on end!"

- ANA, children's program director at Mission Road Ministries

THANK YOU for ANSWERING *the* CALL!

Last year, you and other friends kept both our finances and our spirits afloat. Your contributions aren't just money; they are regular and continuous reminders of your belief in our mission and your desire to see us meet the needs of some of Texas' most vulnerable—and isolated—citizens, in spite of the difficulty of doing so in the midst of pandemic. **THANK YOU!**



2020 CAPITAL *and* OPERATING DONORS

\$75,000+

The Guill Family Foundation
The Hamill Foundation
The Moody Endowment

\$30,000 - \$74,999

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
Forney Construction/
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Forney
John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation
Ed Rachal Foundation

\$15,000 - \$29,999

The Barrow Foundation
Baxter Trust
BLS/Mr. and Mrs. William Key
The Castaways Thrift Shop, Inc.
Wayne Duddleston Foundation
The William Stamps Farish Fund
Mr. Allen Gilmer and Ms. Riki Rushing
Gordy & Sons Outfitters
HEB Tournament of Champions
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
The Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation
Petty Hefte Family Foundation
The Prichard Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Watson

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Mrs. James A. Elkins III
George and Mary Josephine Hamman
Foundation
The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Lonestar Legacy
Mays Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Patchell
Provost Umphrey Law Firm LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rothbauer
Shield-Ayres Foundation
Marguerite Sours Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Fields Alexander
Avalon Advisors
Mr. and Mrs. David Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Brown
Capri Oil Services
Mr. John Ferrari
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Floyd
Frost Bank
The Green Tree Fund
Gunn Automotive
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Hatcher
Hess Corporation
IBC Bank
Mr. Duane King
KOS Employee Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Little
McCombs Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. C. Terrell Palmer
The Paulea Family Foundation

Scott Petty Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Phillips
Mr. Thomas Roupe
Silver Eagle Beverages
Mrs. Linda Strickland
T.E. Reilly, Inc.
The Tapeats Fund
Ms. Molly Woodchick
Mr. Andrew Woodchick
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yager III

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Mr. Matt Airhart
Ben E Keith Foundation
BGE, Inc.
Ms. Elizabeth Boazman
Mr. and Mrs. John Bonner
Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Boswell
Mr. Jeff Cannon
Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Chao
Ms. Leslie L. Clement
DELL YourCause, LLC/Patti Parnell
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Donnell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Earle
Erwin Construction LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fish
Ms. Kathleen Forney
HEB Gulf Coast Region
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Jenkins III
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Kilgore
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kocurek
Mr. and Mrs. Clark R. Mandigo III
Blanche Davis Moore Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Moriniere
Navy Army Community Credit Union
The Nordan Trust
Dr. and Mrs. Brian Parsley
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Robbins
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Spears
Mr. and Mrs. Culver Stedman
Strake Foundation
Ms. Patia Strickland
Mr. and Mrs. Winston Talbert
Mr. Terrell O. Taylor
Mr. Glenn D. Wilson

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Mr. and Mrs. Steven D. Alvis
Mr. Heath A. Barber
Mr. Stanley Beard, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Bedell
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Berridge
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bracher
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Bunk
CAPTRUST Community Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Ronald R. Cathey
Mr. Martin W. Clement II
Mr. J. H. Clement, Jr.
Mr. Gregory Cokinos
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Crumrine
Mr. and Mrs. Casey T. Cullen
Ms. Katherine Dain

James R. Dougherty, Jr. Foundation Inc.
Ms. Deborah Eckel
Mr. Philip Edmundson
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Elkin
Mr. Richard Emde
Dr. Melissa A. Kainer Erwin
ExxonMobil Foundation
Fidelity National Title Agency Inc.
Mr. James French and Mr. Denis French
Mrs. Ethel Gardener Withers
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hazen
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Heidt
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Herschbach
Mr. Bruce Conrad Herzog
Mrs. Ed Hicks
Mrs. Carrie M. Horne
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Houser
Ms. Amanda Kellar
Kelly Painting & Drywall LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Lewis IV
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marek
Mr. Bill Mather
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maxwell
The Larry and Pat McNeil Foundation
Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
Mrs. Memory Ellington and Mr. Josh McRay
Mr. and Mrs. Austin W. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mounts
Mr. Murray Neal
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nini
Mr. Ryan Nunn
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Oster
Mr. Clay Page
Piper Sandler & Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Denis Praet
Repccon, Inc.
Ms. Shaunna Rios
Rockport Area Association of Realtors
Strike, LLC
Mrs. Kathryn Symank
Mrs. Joanne Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tellepsen, Jr.
Thornton Trust
Mr. David Underwood
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Vanneste
Victoria Rotary Club
Mr. John Vogel
Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Weathers, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Webb
Mr. and Mrs. David Wise
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yager, Jr.
Ms. Morgan Zator

\$500 - \$999

Mr. Todd Aiken
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Aimone
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Blackshear
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Branum
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brundrett
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Burke
Mr. Byron Burris
Mr. and Mrs. John Byrd

Mr. William T. Calton Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cochran
Mr. Jay W. Collier
Mrs. Patricia Coym
Ms. Elizabeth M. Dreiskopf
Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeCou
Mr. and Mrs. Early Denison
Mr. Dwight Eisenhower
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Engleman
Ensign Natural Resources
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ferguson
Mr. Patrick Flanigan
Mrs. L. Bruce Forney
Mr. and Mrs. Larry R. Forney
Mr. Stephen Goldfarb
Mr. and Mrs. Chase W. Gorman
Mr. James Gregory
GSM Insurors
Mr. and Mrs. Lucien M. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. A. Bruce Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hattman
Ms. Laura L. Hebert CHRIS, SGS
Ms. Henrietta P. C. Hildebrand
Ms. Sally Hilliard
AB Heights LP
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Horton
Mr. Anthony Jung
Kinley-Horn Foundation
Mr. Bert Langdon
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Liang
Mr. and Mrs. David Light
Mr. and Mrs. Dayne Luce
Ms. Megan Maanao
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Magoon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Marinis, Jr.
Mr. Brian Melass
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Michna
Mr. and Mrs. Lew Moorman
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mulcahy
Ms. Wendy Nave
Mr. Jeff Partin
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Pinkerton
Mr. Bruce Ranck
Rockport Veterinary Clinic
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ruddy
Mr. and Mrs. John Rynd
Ms. Stefany Schade
Mrs. Tammie Shelton
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Smith
Mr. and Mrs. George Stark
Mr. and Mrs. Tim M. Stephens
Sterling Nonprofits
Mr. Arthur Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wade
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Watson
Ms. Casey Whatley
Mr. and Mrs. Craig White
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Williams
Mr. Scott C. Wise
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolter
Mr. Dave Woodard

Thank you!