



# COASTAL CONNECTIONS

AN UPDATE FROM CAMP ARANZAZU

SEPTEMBER 2020

## OVERDUE for some FUN?

SIGN UP TODAY!

Register now at [www.camparanzazu.org/events](http://www.camparanzazu.org/events) to attend one or more of the following events. Whether online or in person, you can have fun, social distance, and **support children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses** all at the same time. We are committed to protecting your health and safety and will take every precaution in order to do so.

# ZAZU

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**BBQ, MUSIC & MORE**



*Texas' First Couple of Country is back!*

**BRUCE ROBISON & KELLY WILLIS**

**SIT BACK, RELAX & ENJOY THE SHOW!**

**ON-SITE OR AT HOME**

**Saturday**  
**September 26, 2020**  
**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

*In Rockport or on Your Sofa!*

**SAN ANTONIO**





**THIRD ANNUAL CAMP ARANZAZU CLAYS CLASSIC**

**HOLIDAY BELLS & SHELLS**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020**


**SAN ANTONIO GUN CLUB**

HOSTED BY OUR SAN ANTONIO BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Blake Finger | Shannon Gunn | Hunter Hawkins  
Rob McClane | Shannon Turner | Katherine Smelko

11 AM - 5:30 PM | CLAY SHOOT, BBQ, BEVERAGES AND MUSIC  
5:30 - 6:30 PM | FACEBOOK LIVE - PROGRAM, AWARDS, RAFFLE WINNERS AND MORE!

**HOUSTON**



FOURTH ANNUAL CAMP ARANZAZU CLAYS CLASSIC

**HOLIDAY BELLS & SHELLS**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020**  
GREATER HOUSTON SPORTS CLUB

CHAired BY MEMBERS OF THE HIGH BRASS SOCIAL CLUB\*

**HOST COMMITTEE**

Jennifer & Fields Alexander	Scott Neal*
Kyndel Bennett*	Christian O'Neil*
Kim & John Bonner	Tracie & Terrell Palmer*
Chris Church*	Andy Priest
John Ferrari*	Dee Dee & Steve Robinson
Shari & Tom Fish	Ward Sheffield
Robin & Jeff Floyd	Culver Stedman
Susan & Kurt Hanson	Ben Veazey*
Katherine & Bobby Hatcher	Beth & Jim Watt
John Manning*	Prissy & John Watson
Melanie & Mace Meeks	Noel & Scott Wise
Jennifer & Sam Yager	

**NOON | REGISTRATION & LUNCHEON**  
**1:30 PM | CLAY SHOOT**  
**3:30 PM | LIVE MUSIC, AUCTION, RECEPTION & AWARDS**



## BATTER UP!

AN EVENING WITH **CARLOS CORREA**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021**  
THE HOUSTONIAN HOTEL, HOUSTON, TX

Visit [www.camparanzazu.org/events](http://www.camparanzazu.org/events) for more details and to sign up! Questions? Email Kate at [katep@camparanzazu.org](mailto:katep@camparanzazu.org).



## Dear FRIENDS,

The end of summer is when the staff and I usually are looking back and feeling a sense of pride in what transpired over the summer, a sense of relief over the things that *didn't* happen, and, in the case of our Programming Team, deliriously exhausted. It is a good kind of tired, though.

Instead, the end of summer 2020 was anti-climactic, to say the least. Amelia Haslam, our camp director, describes it well in an email that she recently sent to the rest of the staff:

**“This would have been our last day of summer with campers. We would be sweaty, exhausted and proud, and preparing for our closing banquet. Without hosting campers this summer, however, it feels like a part of what makes us tick is missing. It was hard to not do the work we love in the way we know how to do it. It was hard to not see those sweet faces day in and day out. And it is hard moving into the fall with as little understanding of what’s to come as we’ve felt for the last five months.”**

She adds, **“Even our name’s meaning has difficulty in it. It is woven into our camp, just like it is woven into humanity, and out of these difficulties can come some truly incredible things.”** So true. I would add that these difficulties also can bring about some very positive changes and opportunities that might not have occurred or arisen otherwise.

## Aranzazu: A spiritual place requiring a difficult path to reach.



When we cancelled our summer session to protect the health of those whom we serve, we knew that they were still going to want and need to connect with others, to learn new skills, and to stay physically active – probably more than ever. So we dove into online programming, barely knowing where to start. **With the help of several board members, former camp counselors, Driscoll Children’s Hospital physicians, and other friends, we created and distributed more than 130 free, online activities and videos by summer’s end.**



Equally as exciting was the fact that this endeavor clearly fulfilled a need. We had 3,549 views on our YouTube channel and a 70% increase in subscribers. An average of 400 people watched each of our Facebook videos. We had a 13% increase in the number of Instagram followers as well. It was a true team effort that probably would never have come about, and certainly not so quickly or collaboratively, if we had not urgently needed to pull a rabbit out of a hat.

As a result of another “difficult path” we were forced to take three years ago – rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey – we now are celebrating the completion of the construction of Shady Bay, our new cabin that was designed specifically for families that include a child or young adult with special needs or a chronic illness. These families often have a hard time finding a place that is fun and safe for everyone. At Camp Aranzazu, however, they now can enjoy all the traditional camping activities, and wake up every morning to a beautiful view of Copano Bay.

Not being able to fulfill our mission as we have done in the past also forced us to fast-track several other ideas that had been percolating on the back burner. **We are expanding our adaptive sailing program, and, when conditions permit, hitting the road and bringing “Camp-to-Go” to old and new friends alike.**



Like everyone, we miss the comforts, flexibility and familiarity of pre-pandemic life. However, we are seeking and seizing the possibilities that have arisen as a result of the virus and its effect on our operations. We are buoyed by your continued support and interest in our mission, and hope you will participate in one or more of our upcoming events – in person or online!

**I wish you and your family good health and much peace, as we all continue along this unusual and challenging journey.**

Virginia Ballard  
President







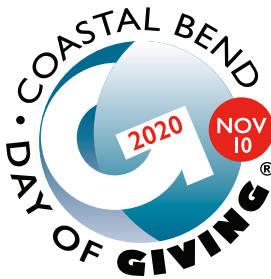
## WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

# Thinking about TOMORROW... TODAY

It is hard *not* to be reflective during turbulent times. There are many questions for which there are no sure answers. There also are a lot of questions that only we can answer, such as, "What can I do to make the world a better place? How can I show gratitude for what I have been given? Are there others besides my family on whom I would like to have a positive impact?"

As you think about your legacy, please consider the special populations whom we serve. You can have a lasting impact by making a bequest, donating appreciated securities, giving from your donor-advised fund, or making the Camp the beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy you no longer need.

Reach out to a trusted financial or legal advisor to assist you. You also can visit [www.camparanzazu.org/support-us](http://www.camparanzazu.org/support-us) or email Kate at [katep@camparanzazu.org](mailto:katep@camparanzazu.org) for information. Those who include the camp in their will or estate plans automatically become members of our legacy society. If you have already included Camp Aranzazu in your legacy planning, please let us know so we can express our heartfelt gratitude, as well as include you in all legacy society communications and recognition.



## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT ON NOVEMBER 10TH

Make a gift to Camp Aranzazu on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, as part of the Coastal Bend Day of Giving, and your contribution will be matched up to \$22,000! In order for us to receive the match, please go to the Coastal Bend Community Foundation website ([www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org](http://www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org)), click on the "Nonprofits" tab, search for Camp Aranzazu, and click "Donate Now." You can even create a campaign to encourage your social media network to give! You also can give early by donating November 1-9, 2020!



## NEW CABIN is IDEAL for FAMILY CAMPS

We recently completed the construction of Shady Bay, which replaces the two smaller cabins destroyed by Hurricane Harvey three years ago. The building's 10 rooms face Copano Bay, giving guests a beautiful view of the water and wetlands. Shady Bay's smaller rooms sleep four people each and are perfect for family camps, leadership groups, and church retreats.

Thank you to the following generous friends and organizations for their financial support!

- THE HAMILL FOUNDATION
- THE ED RACHAL FOUNDATION
- THE FONDREN FOUNDATION
- M.G. AND LILLIE A. JOHNSON FOUNDATION
- THE CULLEN FOUNDATION
- MOODY FOUNDATION
- HUGH AND ANNE DOBSON /  
PUENTE DE MARAVILLAS FOUNDATION
- MARGARET SUE RUST FOUNDATION



**"At Camp Aranzazu, we don't get picked on or bullied because of our disabilities. We just see our abilities and see how fun everyone can be."** – OLIVIA FROM ASPIRE



## CAMP ARANZAZU

5420 Loop 1781  
Rockport, Texas 78382

**“The online activities provided Luke with the ‘new’ in our summer that we missed because of the pandemic — new friends, new places, new songs. They gave him so much to look forward to when he gets to go to camp next year!”**

– JANET, MOTHER OF A CAMPER FROM THE TUTTLE SCHOOL AT BRIARWOOD

## Rylee doesn't MISS A BEAT



Rylee, a camper from Driscoll Children's Hospital's cardiology department, has been coming to camp for over three years. Says Rylee, “I feel like I'm the only person I know with a heart condition, but at camp there are other people like me. I like knowing I'm not the only one.”

With the arrival of the novel coronavirus, Rylee's life has changed. She says, “I'm stuck inside a lot. I can't see my friends as much, and I'm not going to school right now.” Her mom explains that Rylee is scheduled for heart surgery in a few months, so the family must be cautious to ensure she stays healthy: “We've kept her brothers home [from school] as well to minimize the risk of her getting sick. It's really important she have this surgery.”

Rylee says she missed attending camp this summer because she has a lot of long-distance friends she can only see at Camp Aranzazu. Her mom says,

**“We're very grateful that Rylee can attend a week at camp that is specifically for kids with heart conditions.”**

We can't wait for the time we get to see Rylee and all of our other campers swinging from the Screamer rope swing, sailing on Copano Bay, and sitting around an evening campfire. However, until we can gather safely, we are focused on creatively offering a sense of community to our campers – wherever they may be.

## Volunteer Spotlight



**“Camp Aranzazu would not be the success it is today without Joanne's personal impact...”**

– TOM FORNEY,  
Camp Aranzazu Founder

Joanne Taylor has served on Camp Aranzazu's board since 2003. She was instrumental in helping oversee the construction associated with the *Unlimited Horizons Capital Campaign* in 2016 and 2017, and the rebuilding and repairs required after Hurricane Harvey. Says Camp Aranzazu's founder, Tom Forney, “Camp Aranzazu would not be the success it is today without Joanne's personal impact. Her fingerprints are on every building, program, and person.”

Joanne worked at PDR, a design, architecture and consulting firm in Houston, for 35 years, the last 20 of which she led the company as president. She retired in 2013 and relocated to Rockport in 2015. Keith Little, chairman of the Camp's Board of Directors, says, “The camp has undertaken close to \$13 million in construction projects over the last several years. Joanne's presence in Rockport and her experience managing people and projects has been invaluable in making sure that these projects were completed efficiently and correctly.”

Joanne also served on the camp's Personnel Committee for three years, providing thoughtful guidance and support. In addition to volunteering her time at Camp Aranzazu, Joanne also supports several other Rockport-area organizations, serving as president of the The Maritime Museum's Board of Trustees since 2018. Thank you Joanne!