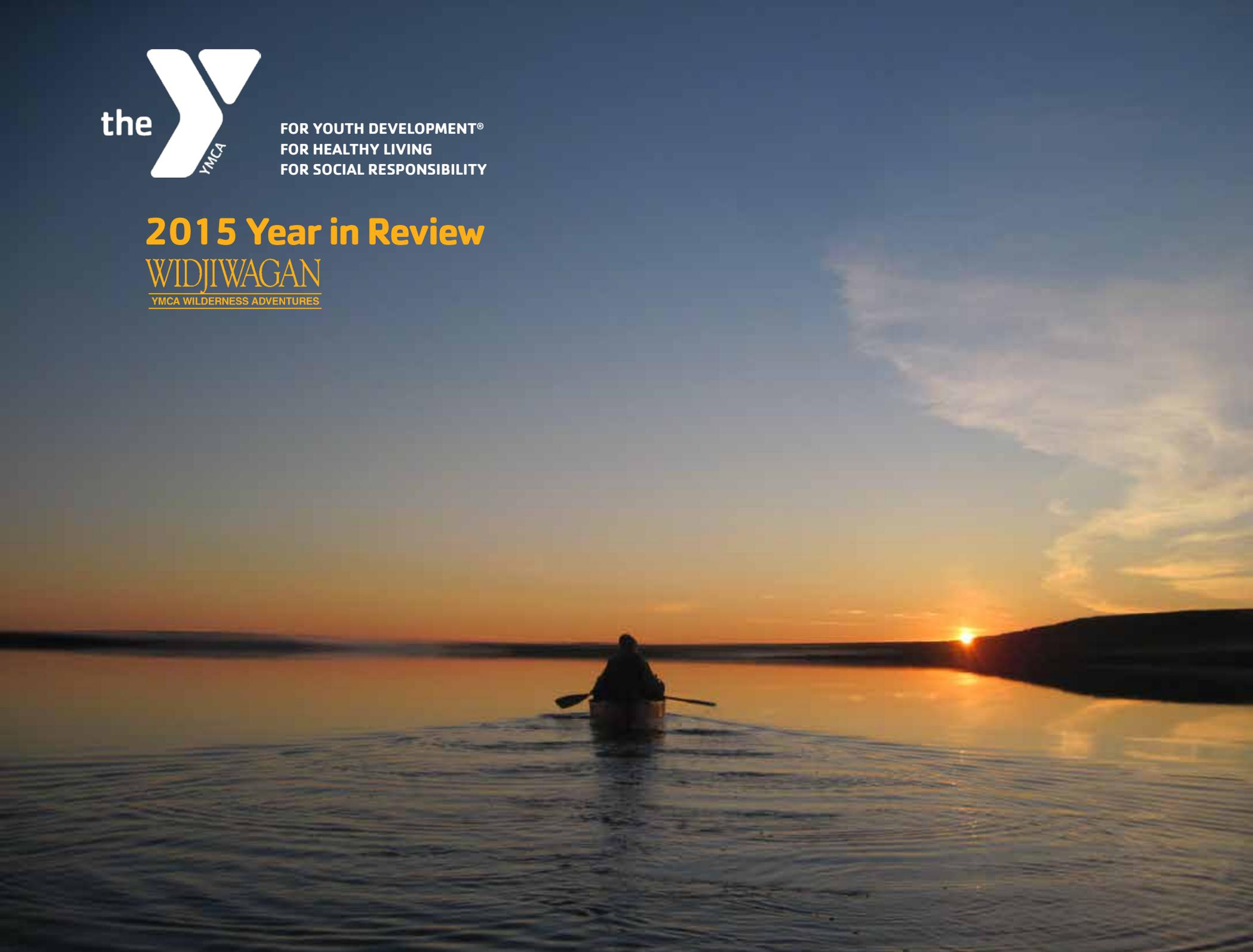




FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2015 Year in Review

WIDJIWAGAN
YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES



2015 Widji Board Members

Matt Anfang
Matt Bailey
Will Brunnuell
Shelley Carpenter
Lucy Cosgrove
Maude Dornfeld
Marjorie Fedyszyn
Cindy Gardner
Mark Garrison
Edward Garvey
Jeri Glick-Anderson
Jenny Hagberg
Anne Hartnett
Meike Hengelfelt
Tom Hiendlmayr
Megan Holleran
Mark Holloway
Jacqui Holmes
Anne Hoyt Taff
Chris Johnson
David Kilpatrick
Mary Lou Wood Lamain
Kevin Lagos
David Lauth
Anne Lindquist
Peter Loewenson
Bonnie Lohman
Bruce Maher
Lynne Meyer
Dave Mink
Ned Patterson
Jeff Rick
Sandra Samuelson
Lee Schafer
Mary Stoick
Paul Sugden
Erin Walsh

Letter from the Board Chair

BY ERIN WALSH, BOARD CHAIR

“I could bring my voyageur paddle to the event.” Mary Lou said to me quietly as we brainstormed possible decorations for an upcoming alumni event. Knowing that Mary Lou’s voyageur counselor paddle would trump any centerpiece I could conceive of, I nodded my head enthusiastically.

“That would be amazing!” I responded. After some conversation, Mary Lou promised to send me the quote that was etched onto the paddle alongside her route and the names of her voyageur campers. As promised, an email arrived in my inbox within a week with the following words:

“It’s times like these that you come to know...How much a part of everything you are...How much all things are a part of you...”

YEAR-ROUND STAFF 2015

PROGRAM STAFF

Liz Flinn – Executive Director
Kathleen Floberg – Wilderness Program Director
Brian Geisler – Summer Program Director
Erik Johnson – Kitchen Manager
Lauren Ott – Marketing Coordinator
Karen Pick – Outdoor Learning Program Director
Linda Ramacier – Financial Development Director
Jim Schwartz – Canoe Master
Joe Smith – Property Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jen Fogel – Administrative Coordinator
Tracey Ryman – Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Weinzirl – Administrative Coordinator



Erin Walsh

While I didn’t travel with Mary Lou and her campers down Savant Lake in 1966, I could imagine the power of these words for Mary Lou and her campers. Whether you are a new pathfinder or a seasoned voyageur or mountaineer, these words perfectly describe the overwhelming feeling of being both intensely connected to those in your group and to the expansive wilderness you are lucky enough to travel through. Students who spend time at Widji in the fall, winter and spring months similarly describe the feeling more connected than ever before to the natural world and to their classmates.

Of course, for most of us in the Widji community, the time we’ve spent in the woods is dwarfed by time in the “front country”—building careers, homes, families, and new adventures. Yet, in my role as current chair of the Widji board, the quote feels more relevant now than ever before.

It’s times like these that you come to know...

On the evening Mary Lou told me about her paddle, we were two of eight volunteers gathered around a table at Café Latte in St. Paul. We were meeting as part of the Alumni and Community

Relations Committee, a group spanning multiple generations comprised of board members, former board members, and current Widji staff. The very next morning I joined another group of volunteers who met before the sun rose to share coffee and conversation about plans for the new Widji Ampitheater. Just tonight I was included on an email thread for the Widji History Task Force, a small but mighty group of Widji alumni, board members, and camper parents committed to capturing and preserving Widji’s history and stories.

This is only one week of events formally connected to the Widji board. I know that there are countless other meet-ups, reunion trips, coffee dates, and family traditions that are buoyed by connections and commitment forged in Ely’s forest, on northern lakes and streams, or mountain passes. ▼



From the Director

BY LIZ FLINN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In December, Camp Widjiwagan was pleased to hire Amy Hadow who joined the administration team as the Summer Program Director. We were excited to welcome Amy for many reasons, but her hiring marked a milestone in Widji's history. For the first time Widji's leadership team and board chair were all female...

Erin Walsh – Board Chair, Liz Flinn – Executive Director, Karen Pick – Outdoor Learning Program Director, Kathleen Floberg – Wilderness Program Director, and Amy Hadow – Summer Program Director (Widji's not forgetting the contributions of Joe Smith —we couldn't operate without him!)

And all have also been both campers and staff. (I'm afraid I can't claim to be quite as accomplished as the other four since I am the only one who has not led a voyageur trip). The other wonderful thing about this group of leaders is that they all have a depth of experience leading trips and working with teens outside of Widjiwagan. They are also highly educated, each one possessing a master's degree. So not only do they understand The Widji Way, they are quite capable of bringing a fresh perspective that continues to help camp grow.

What is important for Widjiwagan now and in the future is a team of leaders that understands that challenges and the benefits of wilderness travel with teens. The world of wilderness travel is changing. There

are advancements in gear, including use of satellite phones and bear barrels for food storage.

There are ever-changing permit requirements for backpacking and canoeing areas. There are new trainings, including Swift Water Rescue for advanced canoe leaders and trainings that focus on the emotional health of teens, that are required for summer staff. There are also threats to the environment; the possibility of mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area is of great concern.

So while a team of women leading Camp Widjiwagan is significant, even more important is that these women are incredibly qualified and experienced. Widji is in good hands. ▼



Liz Flinn



Amy Hadow

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

CAMPERS	2015	2014	2013	2012
Summer Session Campers	697	706	603	652
Organizational Group Campers	50	41	51	38
Fall/Winter/Spring Campers	1564	1617	1553	1535
Year Round Total	2311	2364	2207	2225

CAMPER DAYS	2015	2014	2013	2012
Summer Session Campers	12,097	12,452	12,186	13,421
Organizational Group Campers	438	341	355	291
Fall/Winter/Spring Campers	6,026	6,114	6,178	5,346
Year Round Total	18,561	18,907	18,719	19,058





GOLD Trip changes lives of campers and counselors alike

BY CLAIRE BURGESSON, SUMMER TRAIL STAFF

Last summer, I had the incredible opportunity to lead a relatively new trip for Widji, the GOLD trip. And that is exactly what it was: GOLD, in every sense of the word.

While it's actually an acronym for Girls Outdoor Leadership Program, the trip really stood out to me on another level, like gold does amongst stones. Five amazing young women came up to camp, most of them with no camping experience, and changed the way I see the outdoors, leadership and my job.

The GOLD program is unique in its setup. Generally about half of the kids pay full camp tuition, and some pay half or nothing but the registration fee. This mixes up the socio-economic backgrounds of the kids in the group, and brings something very different to the table. When you are in the on-trail, it does not matter how much money you have; it is about the people you are travelling with.

The girls were surprised about a lot of things, like how tippy and heavy the canoes were, but they quickly surprised

me by their positive attitudes and maturity. My co-lead and I taught them how to make cinnamon rolls, and they taught us how to dance.

It is often that counselors learn more than campers do, because although we can teach skills, our campers can teach us more: the importance of achievement. It comes in all forms, from finishing a hard portage to giggling together during a flash rainstorm. I've been hard-pressed to find anything more rewarding.

The end of the trip brought tears from those five young women, even though they had been at camp for less than a week. It was amazing to watch them mixed in with the other campers, like little pieces of gold with new outlooks and skills to pass on. I thank my lucky stars for getting to meet those girls, and can't wait to see the program continue. ▼



Widji staff brings a jumpstart to Ely Middle School

BY KAREN PICK, OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

“Dear Karen and the Widji staff, The Ely Middle School faculty wanted to thank you for working with us to make this day happen. What an AWESOME day!!! We have received nothing but positive feedback from the students. I can tell that together we have made a wonderful impact in the growth of our middle school students. You all deserve to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. Thanks again. We are excited to build upon the good energy you have helped us create.”

Widji received this thank you letter after spending the morning at the Ely School doing a variety of teambuilding activities with Ely’s sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The faculty and administration at the school had contacted us a month earlier to ask if we could help them try to improve the spirit of community among their students. They felt that the students didn’t work particularly well together and weren’t supportive of each other. Together, we brainstormed a plan to do a morning of teambuilding activities with the students on one of the first days of school. Each Widji instructor was assigned a group of students to work with. Initially, the students were skeptical and not too sure what to make of us. However, as we began leading icebreakers, playing games and doing a variety of activities, they became more comfortable and started joining in the fun. By the end of the morning, students who were hesitant to talk to each other at first, were laughing, joking and more willing to work together in a positive and supportive way. It was a great start to the Ely School year and a fun way to kick off Widji’s fall season. ▼



GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN WIDJI'S OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM-2015

Blake School	Northwest Passage High School
BOLD GOLD Program	Oak Hill Montessori
Brightwater Montessori	Olson Middle School
By the Light of the Moon Knitting	Seward Montessori
Carondelet Catholic School	Shakopee Area Catholic School
Ely Brownie Troop	South High School
Ely Girl Scouts	Southern Adventist University
Ely Memorial Middle & High School	St. Paul Academy
Expo Elementary	St. Therese of Deephaven
Fall Women's Weekend	University of Minnesota-
Friends & Family of Anne Murphy	Institute of Child Development
Great River School	Valley View Middle School
Groveland Park Elementary	Widji Leaders
Jefferson Community School	Washington Elementary
King of Kings	Widjiwagan Board
Lake Country Montessori	Wilder Foundation Youth Leadership Initiative
Life House	Winter Women's Weekend
Marshall School	Yinghua Academy
Montessori School of Duluth	Youth MEA Retreat
Northrop Urban Environmental School	

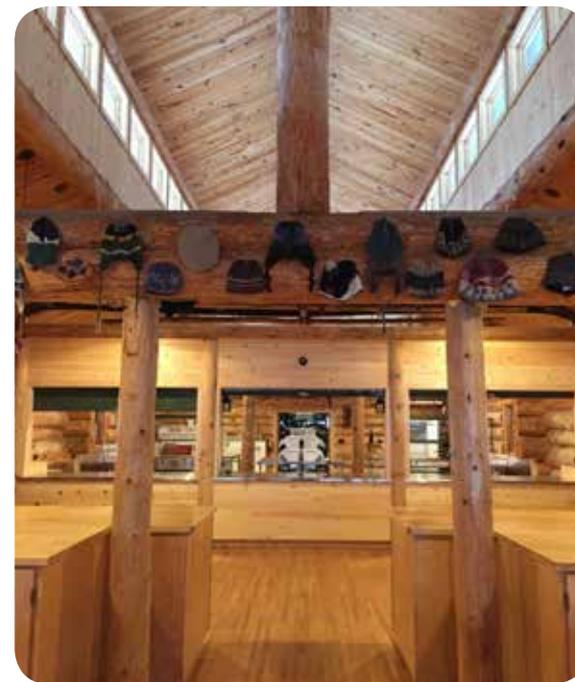
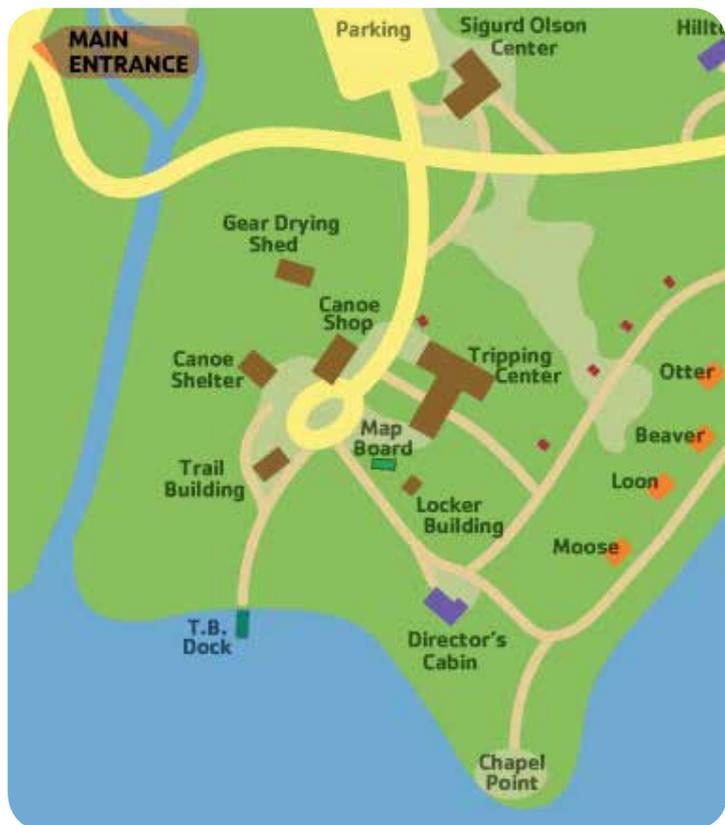
The New TB Circle

BY KATHLEEN FLOBERG,
WILDERNESS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

If you returned to the TB Circle today after many years away, you would see both familiar and new sights. The same picnic table where groups plan their meals still sits in the center, the old basketball hoop is still standing, and the rack of dozens of wooden paddles awaits campers to adopt them for their paddling adventures.

However, you'd also notice that the Tripping Center is a new color, there is a brand new canoe shop, and the Trail Building is now devoid of gear and food. But don't worry, those things aren't gone, we have just moved them to the Tripping Center. The renovation of the Tripping Center and the relocation of all the trail food and gear may have changed where "pack-outs" and "pack-ins" take place, but the essence of the experience remains intact. Campers and their counselors still walk through their personal and group goals with the ever-excited TB staff, hundreds of pounds of powdered and dry food items get put into bags for trail, and groups organize all their packs into portable homes for the days to come.

The new Tripping Center allows programming to run much more smoothly. All our gear is in one open, organized, and visible space which allows staff to inventory and assess gear without crawling into deep, dark cabinets. The new gear repair area provides enough room and light to sew tents, fix pack straps, sort warranty items and houses multiple sewing machines. There is also a new Locker Building where groups store their personal belongings that aren't going on trail with them. All of this allows more time for the TB staff to interface with groups, demo new recipes, and explain the difference between all the white powders that look exactly the same.



Another part of the experience that has remained intact is the ethic of respect all our campers and staff show the gear that helps them have a wonderful trail experience. The Widji community takes such great care of their gear, themselves, each other, and the environment. After all, that is "The Widji Way." ▼

THIS HAPPENED IN THE TB CIRCLE IN 2015

750 campers departed for their trips!

The new gear storage area in the Tripping Center houses:

- 80 blue tarps
- 9 different types of tents
- 64 Whisperlight stoves
- 75 whitewater helmets
- 177 fuel bottles
- 40 fire grates
- 215 Duluth packs

The new food room packed out:

- 7 types of powdered sauces
- 4 types of potatoes
- 5 types of pudding

2015 Voyager & Mountaineer Leaders:

VOYAGEURS

- Nick Herringer—Coppermine River
- Andrew Johnson—Hanbury-Thelon Rivers
- Kate Hale—Thelon River
- Amy Hadow—Elk-Thelon Rivers
- Sarah Alexander—Hanbury-Thelon Rivers

MOUNTAINEERS

- Joey Griffith—ANWR
- Charlotte Muzzi—ANWR
- Katie Pierce—ANWR

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Heritage Club 2016

THANK YOU HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Julia and James Adams
James C. Andre
Walter and Virginia Bailey
Armand and Beverly Ball
Sandra M. Bjorndahl
Gretchen and Brian Boyer
Greg E. Bradbury
John and Jill Bradford
Geoffrey Brewster
Mary Broeker
Philip and Ellen Bruner
Carmen A. Brunner
Evelyn G. Buetow
John Burke and Kathleen Joyce
Polly M. Burnham
Michael and Marcia Bussey
Peter Butler
Arta Cheney
Gary and Jane Clements
Douglas and Kathleen Clock
Paul and Rachel Craighead
Karen and Alan Crossley
Blake and Sandra Davis
Kelly R. Davis
Steven Diede
Mairi C. Doerr
Charles Driscoll
Sharon K. Erickson
Ann and Dwight Ericsson
Betty Felix
Elizabeth P. Fesler
Nancy Fesler

Elizabeth L. Flinn
James Dorsey Flinsch Sr
Frederick and Dorothy Forro
James and Joan Gardner
Jamie and Cindy Gardner
Edward and Dana Garvey
Judith Gavin
Jean Geist
Laura J. Giaquinto
Jean K. Godfrey
William Gray
Sue and Bob Greenberg
Ann I. Guhman
Linda Gustafson and Roxy Port
Rose M. Gustafson
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa
Geoffrey and Linda Hirt
Christine and Douglas Hlavacek
Lucy Hollinshead
Mary Horak Binger
Ruth and John Huss
John and Polly Jackson
Nathaniel Jacobson
David and Judy Jerde
Charlotte and Ward Johnson
Frank and Meredith Johnson
Arthur and Martha Kaemmer
John and Sally Katter
Cheryl and Daniel Kelley
Esther and Martin Kellogg
Dessie P. Koch
Tom and Cheryl Kranz

Mary Lou Lamain
Mary Levins
Judith Frost Lewis and Stephen Lewis
Georgia R. Lindeke
Darwyn and Marie Linder
Armin and Virginia Luehrs
Kay Lyford
Kent and Barbara Lyford
Katherine Mackenzie
Kristine Maritz
Gayle Rose Martinez
David and Sherla Mayer
Paul T. McArthur
Elspeth and F. William McClelland
Lynne Meyer and Mary Walser
Ranlet and Beth Miner
Jonathan and Martha Morgan
Anne and David Murphy
Janet Nast
Uri Neren
Robert and Sarah Newman
Nedra Nicholls
Richard and Nancy Nicholson
Joan Ostergren & James Alexander
Doug and Phyl Ostergren
Joanne Oyen
Thomas Paper and Eleanor Bigelow
John Patterson and Julie Sonier
Thomas and Sally Patterson
Steve Patzman
Nancy G. Priedeman

Mary Jo Quehl
Thomas M. Racciatti
Linda and Dominic Ramacier
Margaret A. Rarig
Katie Reed
Gary and Gale Rick
Tom and Donna Riley
Gwyneth Rochlin
Winthrop and Barbara Rockwell
Virginia Ruddy
Donna Runyon
Alan and Sally Ruvelson
Connie and Kenneth Sansome
John Saxhaug and Lynn Rabinovitch
John Shepard and Suzanne Brust
Lee and Peg Skold
Michael Smuk
Connie and Byron Starns
Mary and Mark Stoick
Ned and Jean Therrien
Rolf Thompson and CJ Jacobson
Kathryn Tiede
James and Marianne Ude
Jane E. Verby
Jennette Wasmund
Jim and Ann Wheeler
David and Suzanne White
John and Janice Wilke
Robert R. Wilke
Daniel and Ruth Willius
Emily W. Wilmer



Glen Gunderson, Lucy, and Todd Tibbits

LUCY SODERSTROM DISTINGUISHED YOUTH LEADER

Lucy was very involved with the Widji Leader's Program. She was a very enthusiastic participant and leader. At weekly events, Lucy always had a big smile on her face, a positive attitude, and was willing to share about aspects of leadership above and beyond the Leaders program. Volunteer events that she was a part of have included holiday caroling, Widji/du Nord garage sale, City of Lakes Loppett, and Y-Run. The staff coordinators of the Leaders have been continually impressed with her maturity, leadership ability and enthusiasm throughout the year. Lucy is pictured above at a YMCA event where she was honored for her outstanding volunteer work.

Lucy is completing her senior year at Orono Senior High School. She will participate on a Voyageur trip this summer. ▼

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUSTAIN WIDJIWAGAN

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan endowment funds provide essential support for camperships, programs, operations and more. Your donations will help.

- ▼ Gifts to the YMCA Camp Widjiwagan General Endowment Fund provide support to Widjiwagan where needed most.
- ▼ Tribute gifts to any fund may be made in honor, memory or appreciation of friends or loved ones.
- ▼ Include Camp Widjiwagan in your will or estate plan and be recognized as a Heritage Club member.
- ▼ For information on establishing a named fund, please contact Linda Ramacier or Liz Flinn at 651.645.6605 or linda.ramacier@ymcatwincities.org or liz.flinn@ymcatwincities.org
- ▼ Send donations to "YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Endowment" and write the name of the fund you are contributing to in the memo line.

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan 532 County Road F, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

10-Year Tour of Camp

BY JOE SMITH, PROPERTY MANAGER

I thought it would be useful to report a summary of construction and maintenance projects completed at Widjiwagan over the last ten years (when Liz started) rather than try to create an interesting story of what has been done in the last year (we moved lots of rocks and worked on some buildings). I think it is important to see the forest through the trees at times. I'll take you from one end of Widji to the other, ending at the sauna—a good place to finish trips.

Canoe Shelter – It used to be that the first stall was the canoe shop in the front half and gear drying lines in the back. During the last several decades the function of this stall evolved into life jacket storage (PFDs) and map storage in the front half and multiple storage lockers in the back. The whole area has now become PFD storage with a new slab floor and partition wall. The footings for the entire building were stabilized and a drainage system installed to prevent further frost heaves. A metal roof was installed. While doing this some structural decay was discovered and repaired.

What still remains to be done – new wiring and light fixtures and additional racks for four more canoes in the second stall. I believe a lynx may have been using the loft over the old shop area before the renovation. I found a half-eaten snowshoe hare and an obvious toilet area during demolition.

A shed roof was built for the **North Canoe** in front of the TB.



We were fortunate to have the project labor donated by Pinckney Construction. Further on down the path at the lake, new stringers and decking were added to shore up the **TB Dock**.

Trail Building – It was originally designed to serve two functions: 1– trail food and gear storage and distribution; 2 – a trip planning resource area and history display in the front “Voyageur Room.” Widji still serves these needs

but the number of staff and campers is now beyond what the Trail Building was designed for. The solution was to change the function of the Tripping Center, built in the 90s as a canoe shop and locker building, to be the location that stores the gear and food for wilderness trips. The whole Trail Building is now dedicated to serving the function of the original “Voyageur Room” with the additional capabilities of being used year round. Also there is a new porch on the lake side. Construction details included the addition of insulation in the ceiling and installation of a metal roof. We ground the old varnish off the interior logs (while grinding, you could tell by aroma where the different trail foods had been stored). A treatment was applied to the bare logs to deter beetles from eating them, then new stain and varnish was applied. Lastly, new doors and windows were installed. Because of structural demise, a new floor system, joists on up to a tile covering with in-floor heat, was installed. A more complete drainage and vent system were added to protect the floor. (The decision was made for new floor joists after I fell through the old floor twice during demolition).

Canoe Program Building – This was built because care of our canoes while on trail has always been a pillar of “The Widji Way.” We now have the ability to continue the lesson with a Canoe Program Building where campers and staff are able to care for, repair, and build canoes. Joe Seliga, the master canoe builder who lived in Ely, chose Widji as the place to have to leave his canoe form for building wood canvas canoes after he died. The combination of legacy and knowledge that we have to offer is unique.

Tripping Center – As noted before, this is now the place where trail gear is stored and repaired, where trail groups go to pack out food and equipment. Some building upgrades had to happen including a metal roof along with new windows in the clerestory. For the porches, posts were added to support the roof and a railing added to the back porch. New paneling and siding were added for appearance and to deter creatures. All food handling areas were brought up to code with stainless steel counters and plastic bins and a sink was added. The gear area (the previous Canoe Shop) received lots of steel wire shelving, a new double door and a new flooring. Footings were added to stabilize the building. I shoveled the old shingles off in the winter because snow won't leak and cause water damage.



Sigurd Olson Center – Our Trail Food is delivered here in bulk quantities. In the basement we have a “food room” for storage and packaging into trail group size units. Improvements were made to the food room including sealing the floor with an epoxy finish and covering the ceiling with tile.

Locker Building – This was built to provide a place for campers to store personal stuff while

on trail. It replaces some locker space lost in the Tripping Center renovation and the tearing down of the old “Block House.” The scheduled logistics required that the slab was poured in the winter. We had one day to go from an undisturbed site to a poured slab inside a plastic tent with heat. We started with some minor vegetation removal—there was an opening with no large pines that was a good spot for the new building. The snow was scooped away with a Bobcat. Then a large excavator started scooping the frozen dirt into the Widji dump truck. We soon discovered why there were no large pines in that area, it was the site of the old Widji dump, (we found lots of Motts apple juice cans). Unfortunately, we didn't have time for true archaeology dig (although I did save an old boot and a coffee can).

CABINS...

Director's Cabin – The bathroom floor was rebuilt since the sub-floor had become mushy. The large front picture window was replaced, as were all of the windows on the “original” side of the cabin. **Moose Cabin** – interior varnish ground off, logs treated to prevent beetles. **Loon Cabin** – metal roof, new door, and foundation repaired. **Beaver Cabin** – metal roof, new door, foundation and siding repaired. **Otter Cabin** – interior varnish



CABINS CONTINUED...

Osprey – this was the Camp Office for many years, then the Staff Lounge, then overflow summer staff housing. It was located next to Kirby Dining Hall. It is a beautifully built log structure (one of seven log structures at Widji built by Robert Zimmerman, from Grand Portage). It is now a year round camper cabin. It was disassembled and moved to the old tennis court site between Fox and Wolf Cabins. The disassembly happened at the end of summer when trail staff could be used for their contribution of mind, spirit, and body (in varying proportions).

Paths – with Osprey in a new location we were able to build a new path from the east side of Widji to the front of Kirby. Something that would be comparable to the experience of walking Cabin Row. To add to the landscaping, new “Thought For The Day” steps and path steps to Kirby and Fox Cabin were built. The steps were done with a tremendous effort from volunteers over one weekend in the fall of 2015. The path required a large retaining wall, 100 feet long, with two rows of rock. Some of the rocks could only be moved by positioning the rock between the bucket and track of the excavator. Then the excavator would be tipped so the track against the rock was in the air. That track would be put into reverse pushing the rock onto the bucket. The rest of the rock I found all over the camp and brought with the skidder. To complete the landscaping this summer, we will create a campfire area, aka “amphitheater” and grade the A-field for better drainage and a safer playing surface. Lights have already been added for winter night time games.

MORE CABINS...

Wolf Cabin – there were some real problems solved by removing a dysfunctional chimney, adding a metal roof, tearing out what was left of the fiberglass insulation under the floor and replacing with spray-foam insulation, pouring new footings under the floor, and replacing the doors and windows. I had quite an adventure while crawling under the floor. At one point I placed my hand on something which did not feel like dirt, and it turned out to be mummified house cat.

Nye Cabin – a new metal roof, siding repair, refinished floor, a new ceiling (no more trap door for the “ghost”), and two new doors.

Caribou Cabin – there were some design flaws in the original structure, most important being the ridge pole ran entirely



through the chimney leading to inevitable rot. The chimney was also used as the main support for the roof system which did not work in a log building as the walls settle, but the chimney does not. The remedy was to remove the chimney and splice the rotten roof members and support them on a new wall (the logs walls having settled completely by now). New windows and doors were added along with a metal roof. A favorite memory of mine during this time was that trail staff Scott Sugden rode a bicycle all the way from the Twin Cities to spend half a day operating a jack hammer on the chimney before spending the evening playing flute with me on the fiddle at a wedding dance.

Sauna – A new stove, new roof were added and a new chimney was constructed. New spray foam insulation was also added in the ceiling. A beautiful new wood shed (thanks volunteers) was constructed just outside the Sauna. While removing the old fiberglass insulation I discovered more snake skins than I could count.

A few more noteworthy projects – A fire suppression system for forest fire protection was added for the whole camp. Every biffy has now been replaced with ones that meet code and standards. More cabins than not now have new exterior stain.

All in all camp looks great and I am proud of the work completed by staff, volunteers and our committed group of contractors. The Buildings & Property Committee of the Widji Board is working on a plan for the next ten years, which I’m sure will keep me busy too. ▼

ground off, logs treated to prevent beetles. **Deer Cabin** – metal roof, new door, some structure and siding repaired. **Lynx Cabin** – hand scribed log siding added to a small exterior area around a heater vent to blend with the rest of the cabin. **Bear Den** – converted from a summer-only building to a year-round cabin. The cabin was lifted on a trailer and moved toward the lake. A heated slab was poured on the original site, the trailer pulled back and the cabin put in place. This involved tearing down a chimney and removing the wood floor. There are new windows and door, wiring and lights. The lifting of the building was done with a bunch of hydraulic jacks and wood blocks. Moving the cabin was handled by Jim Richards on one side with an excavator, and me on the other side with the skidder. We communicated by shaking the building a certain number of times. **Hillside and Hilltop Staff Cabins** – porches were improved structurally, and new carpeting added to Hillside.

Kirby Dining Hall – new light fixtures in the Entry Hall and Annex. We are preparing for a new metal roof to go on this spring.

In Memoriam

PETER BISHOFF

Peter Bishoff passed away December 4, 2015, at the age of 45. He was a camper in the 1980s, a work camper and active participant in the Widji Leaders program. One of his greatest loves was sharing the outdoors with others.

Peter was beloved by many for his gentle, compassionate, loving spirit, his sense of adventure and humor, story-telling and his love for music and cooking. Active in the photography community, Peter had a remarkable talent for capturing a unique perspective in the beauty of a moment or the essence of a person. Freely sharing his infectious smile with all in his path, he will be greatly missed by his wide circle of friends.

He is survived by mother Kay Andrews, brothers Joseph (Tammy), Andy (Brittany) and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

On behalf of all Peter's Widji friends, a big thank you for your contributions to the "GoFundMe" program in support of Peter and his family.



MALCOLM E. CAMMACK

Malcolm E. Cammack passed away at the Cammack Family Farm on Thursday, September 24, 2015—just six days shy of his 91st birthday. Never one to want a fuss made over him, it was his wish that his obituary read: "He died and a service was held yesterday."

He is survived by his bride of 66 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Bancroft Cammack, his children and their spouses: Huck & Chrissie Cammack, Richie & Ann Cammack, Elizabeth "Binkie" & Greg Closmore, Debbie & Rob Muller, Sally & Jack Miesen and Julie & Brigg Backer, his 17 grandchildren, and his four great grandchildren.

Malcomb served on the Widjiwagan Board in the '50s and early '60s and annually supported the camp for over seven decades. Many of his children and grandchildren have been Widji campers. Through Malcomb and Betty's annual giving, many campers who could not afford the Widji experience have benefitted.

DONALD HENNING EYINCK

Donald Henning Eyinck died peacefully on May 7, 2015. He is survived by his sister Lois Eyinck (the first Widji female Voyageur Leader), niece Diana Turner and her three children. Also, Richard and Liz Charbonneau Family.

Don was a Widji and St. Croix camper in the 1940s and a Widji trail guide, under the leadership of Camp Director Ted Gray. He served in the Air Corps during World War II, graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks as a Civil Engineer and served as city engineer and manager for the city of Fairbanks. In 1963, he returned to the family business that his grandparents owned, Strauss Skate and Bicycle in Maplewood. The family was renowned as Saint Paul Skate makers and Don thoroughly enjoyed serving customers' needs until he retired in 2011. He was so proud to carry on the business that he grandparents opened in 1887 and continues to thrive today.

A memorial fund will keep Don's legacy alive at Camps Widjiwagan, St. Croix, and Menogyn for generations to come, allowing many campers to benefit from his generosity.

CHRISTINA "TINA" (NELSON) GRAY

Christina "Tina" (Nelson) Gray, passed away on December 18, 2015 at the age of 102. Tina was born December 6, 1913 to Frank and Laura Nelson in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated with a Social Degree from the University of Minnesota. Tina then worked for the St. Paul YWCA until her marriage to Edward "Ted" Gray on April 11, 1939. Ted became the Camp Director of Camp Widjiwagan from 1940-1945. Tina had fond memories of Widji and living in Nye Cabin for all those summers.

Tina was an active member of the Y's Mennetts Service Club and a former member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She was an avid card player and loved Minnesota sports. Tina also loved spending summers at the cabin that she and Ted built near Orr, Minnesota on Kjostad Lake.

Tina is survived by her son Bill, daughter Barbara Wenschlag, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

To perpetuate Tina's legacy, memorials were directed to the Frank and Laura Nelson Memorial Fund. This was the first endowment fund established in 1962, benefitting Camps Widjiwagan and St. Croix with an investment of a little over \$20,000 and the distribution has amounted to nearly \$300,000. The proceeds have provided campership for thousands of youth and teens, and serves as a living memorial for many of the Nelson Family and extended family members over four generations.

In Memoriam

PETER HOWELL

Peter Howell, 86, passed peacefully on August 19, 2015 with his family at his side. Survived by wife, Gladys, daughters Mary (Steve) Langlie, Charlotte Howell, son Thomas Howell, four grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Peter will be remembered as a dedicated YMCA camp volunteer for most of his adult life. The Howells were annual supporters of Camps Widjiwagan, St. Croix and du Nord for many, many decades. At Widji, Peter was a camper and then a staff parent in the '80s. He served on the Camp St. Croix Board, 1972 through the '90s, was a volunteer campaigner for the annual campaign in the '70s through the 2000s, and he contributed to many work projects. The Howells were also very active at Camp du Nord as campers, volunteers for the annual campaign, work weekends and rarely did they miss an opportunity to work at the garage sales, benefitting both du Nord and Widji. The camps were so important to Peter and Gladys that they became Heritage Club members, perpetuating their legacy and ensuring the future of the camps for generations to come.

HERADIO LOPEZ

Heradio Lopez, a Widji camper and staff parent, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family and other loved ones on September 28, 2015, at the age of 61.

He is survived by wife Elizabeth, sons Heradio "Tre" and Alejandro, daughters Cassandra and Sophia, and mother Maria.

Known to all as "H," and "The World's Greatest Puerto Rican," Heradio was a loving husband, devoted father, and dedicated coach. A great spirit and friend to all, Heradio will be greatly missed.

In Heradio's memory, a memorial gift was given to Widji's General Endowment Fund, also honoring his daughter Sophia for her work as a Widji trail counselor.

WILLIAM "BILL" MACKENZIE

William "Bill" Mackenzie and his wife Kay, fell in love with Widji while attending their grandchildren's Bryan, Shannon, Abby and Will's camper banquets in the 2000s. Bill and Kay were very impressed with the program and the impact that Widji made on their family. They decided to support Widji's annual campaign, two capital projects, established a named endowment fund in honor of their grandchildren and became Heritage Club Members. Bill passed away unexpectedly on March 24, 2015.

Bill graduated from high school in Mankato. After high school he joined the Navy V12 Program and attended Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated in 1948 with a degree in chemical engineering. He worked his entire career for the 3M Company, starting in the lab, then becoming a plant manager in Schenectady, NY and in Camarillo, CA. He spent the last 24 years of his career in St. Paul, retiring as Staff Vice President of Quality and Manufacturing.

Bill married Katherine Kannenberg in 1949 and they were happily married for 65 years. He loved to travel, play golf, bridge, read, hunt and camp. Most of all he loved his family. He is survived by his wife, Kay; sister, Nancy (Gordy) Justus; children, Karen Mackenzie (Brooks Donald), and Thomas (Judith) Mackenzie; 4 grandchildren, Bryan (Katie) Donald, Shannon (Nathan) Appy, Abigail (Tony) Basile, Will Mackenzie; 4 great-grandchildren, Charles and Atticus Donald, Maelyn Appy and John Basile.

To honor Bill, memorials were directed to the Bill and Kay Mackenzie Endowment Fund in honor of their grandchildren.



In Memoriam

BERYL DEVINE PONTAN

Beryl Devine Pontan died peacefully on September 10, 2015. Beryl is survived her sons Dave and Rick Pontan and their families including six grandchildren and seven great granddaughters.

Born on March 13th, 1915 in Panama, she graduated from Central High School in St. Paul and Macalester College in 1936 with a degree in music. She was an active member in many college organizations including SAI.

Beryl met Harold in the canoe country, then married at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN on October 2, 1942. They enjoyed 62 years together. After Harold's military service at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri was completed, they moved back to St. Paul and started their family. In 1960, they moved to New Mexico as part of Harold's career with American Linen Supply Company. They returned to Shoreview, Minnesota in 1963. Beryl and Hal lost their son Steve in 1974, in a Navy flight accident. After 13 years of retirement in Minnesota, Beryl and Hal moved to Rio Rancho, New Mexico in 1995. They enjoyed the beautiful scenery, weather and their log cabin in the Pecos Wilderness where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family.

Beryl was an accomplished pianist and organist, who enjoyed playing at social events, church services, for Widjiwagan friends, and at family gatherings. Most of all, she enjoyed accompanying Hal as he sang with and for various groups.

After Hal's passing in 2005, Beryl continued to live independently at home in New Mexico. She enjoyed attending First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque every Sunday, PEO meetings, visits from friends and family and her trips to visit family in Minnesota on most holidays through the Christmas and New Year. In 2014, Beryl moved to St Louis Park, MN and eventually into Parkwood Shores to be close to family. She celebrated her 100th birthday in March.

To honor Beryl's memory, memorials were directed to the Hal Pontan Endowment Fund, benefitting many Widji Campers who could not otherwise afford the experience.

JANETH "JANNY" WALKER

Janeth "Janny" Walker, who passed away January 13, 2015, served on the Widjiwagan Board in the late 1960s early 1970s. She will be remembered as a dedicated community volunteer who got things done for many non-profit organizations. Janny would say "You never lose when you work for the common good." Her professional career included sportswear buyer for Cook's and Young Quinlin's, and Residential Director for United Way of Saint Paul where she developed one of the first United Way planned giving and endowment program in the country.

Janny was born February 14, 1922. She married Platt Walker in 1947 and they had 58 years together. Janny is survived by her children Platt (Barbara), James, Janny (Paul), Thomas, William, two grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

Janny and Platt and family spent their summers at Pine Beach Peninsula on Gull Lake. She was active in sports including skating, skiing, tennis, fishing with her father, and sailing with Platt. Janny graduated from St. Paul Central High School in 1940, attended night school at University of Minnesota three years and throughout her life attended lectures at UM and St. Thomas. She loved the symphony and theatre, family, bridge, travel, and parties. She loved life.

Janny knew the impact that Widjiwagan had on her children and so the family established "The Platt Walker Family" Endowment Fund. Janny and Platt's legacy lives on through this fund, insuring that campers for generations to come will have the same experience that their children experienced.

BESSIE WASENDA

Bessie Wasenda passed away February 15, 2015 after a purpose-filled life that began May 19, 1917, at the age of 97.

She was preceded in death by husband John, son Dr. Gregory (Shannon) Wasenda and is survived by daughter Tanya Bergman (Alan Haak), granddaughters Rebecca (Chris) Maher, Molly (Eric) Risberg, and 7 great grandchildren who deeply loved their Granny.

Bessie found enjoyment in her employment at J.C. Penney, playing sports like racquetball and snowshoeing, exercising at the YMCA and traveling the world. Those who knew her well remember her smile, "the look", and her sly subtle humor which complemented John's craziness. She has left a legacy to all who benefited from her commitment to feed the world. Starting out as a child working in her mother's Greek diner, through decades of volunteer efforts with Meals on Wheels, Food for Friends, Loaves and Fishes, or just sharing a pot of homemade soup with any acquaintance in need, she showed her love through food.

Bessie and her husband John were dedicated annual campaign supporters for many decades to Widjiwagan and the South Family Branch YMCA. They were generous in welcoming and hosting out-of-state Widji campers in the 1960s, when they had campers. John is remembered as Mr. YMCA Man, for being a dedicated volunteer at the Y and Bessie was always there in his support.



Heritage Highlight: Remembering Robin Ahrens

LOU ELLE AND RICHARD (DICK) WOOD

Lou Elle and Richard (Dick) Wood, together in life and forever in eternity. Lou passed away on December 31, 2014 and Dick on March 14, 2015. Dick and Lou's lives were built on their shared faith, love and generosity of spirit. Dick often said the secret to their happy marriage was never going to bed angry at one another.

The Woods loved to travel and their interests were varied. They both loved hockey. Michigan Tech was their favorite team and they traveled there for every home game that they could. They even entertained the team at their St. Paul home whenever the team came through the cities. The players became extended family to them and they proudly followed their lives after college. Of course they also followed the Vikings, the Twins, the Saints and professional golf.

Lou Elle was the Assistant Head Bookkeeper for Burlington Northern Railroad. She was responsible for all of the entertainment, travel and housing expenses for the executives. At the age of 75, Lou took up painting and she excelled at her natural talent, much to her own amazement.

Dick was an accountant and retired from Federal-Hoffman Engineering in 1988. He also worked at the ammunition plant in Arden Hills, where he held the position of Payroll and Accounting Director. Dick was so proud of the fact that he memorized over 300 of the Union workers names and badge numbers, never having to look up a number making it more personal when handing out each person's check.

Dick, Lou and their daughter Mary Lou rarely missed a Widji reunion, a spring banquet, garage sale or Heritage Club dinner. Lou served on the Widjiwagan Board in the late '50s early '60s. They supported camp in all aspects, so it is fitting that memorial wer directed to Widjiwagan's General Endowment Fund, perpetuating Dick and Lou's legacy, enabling campers to have a life lasting experience.

October 5, 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the death of Robin Ahrens, former Widji camper and, at age 33, the first female FBI agent killed in the line of duty. Her short time at the bureau capped a life full of tackling difficult tasks head on.



The official FBI report on the shooting, states "The actions of special agent Robin L. Ahrens during the night of 10-4-85 appear to be logical, justified and predictable. It is not known why the agents shot at special agent Ahrens." The report concludes that the agents who shot her "were near panic and exhibited faulty and atrocious judgment when they fatally shot Ahrens."

"She was involved in the investigation of a fugitive, Kenneth Don Barrett. During the course of effecting an arrest, agent Ahrens was fatally shot by other agents. Basically she was out on surveillance, and special agent Ahrens was mistaken for an armed associate of the fugitive," said Farinacci. Ahrens, who was wearing body armor at the time of the incident, was shot three times and died from a head wound the next morning.

The chance for women to serve as agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation did not come until 1972. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the agency's only director for 48 years, refused to allow women to even apply; claiming they couldn't handle the physical rigors of the job. When Hoover died, the rules quickly changed.

Robin was involved with Widjiwagan, for many years, as a camper from 1965 to 1970, and as a counselor from 1971 to 1975. She was in the International Exchange Program in 1969, a Voyageur in 1970 and a Voyageur leader in 1975.

At age 23, as Widjiwagan counselor, she led five young women on a 34- day, 420-mile canoe trip through the wilds of northern Manitoba, Canada. In 1975, they navigated dozens of rapids, and encountered six polar bears. Canadian authorities had warned the group against the challenging journey; possibly because it was dangerous; possibly because there was no male calling the shots. But bears, rapids and the daunting responsibility for the lives of five 18-year-olds never made Ahrens flinch.

Ahrens' 1975 Voyageur campers included Julie Gustafson, Nina Koch, Ruth Robertson, Kristen Tinglum and Genie Zarling. They

travelled from Raindeer Lake and the Cochrane River to the Seal River and Hudson Bay. "I remember her as an incredibly strong lady, physically and emotionally. Anything that came up, she was calm. She just had it together," said Nina Koch.

Ahrens water-skied, snow-skied, camped and canoed. With her formidable athletic skills and thirst for adventures, it was no surprise that after graduating from Utah State University and teaching school for a few years, Ahrens pursued

another challenge, also a bold choice for a woman: becoming an FBI agent.

Her entry to the FBI was serendipitous. While teaching high school in Virginia, she took some Reserve Officers' Training Corps students to the bureau's facility in Quantico for a chance to check out the physical training course, which she completed as well. An FBI instructor noted her athletic ability and immediately encouraged her to apply to be an agent.

Christy Buetow was Ahrens' Voyageur counselor in 1970 when Ahrens, then 18, was one of five young women who completed another epic canoe journey, this one a 22-day, 300-mile trip on the Berens River to Winnipeg. Follow campers included Lucy Hollinshead, Ruean Mores Taylor, Penny Sugden and Janny Walker.

Buetow and the other four women on that trip all attended Ahrens' funeral. She said they reminisced about hefting and hauling their canoes, and singing as they paddled. "Robin really was open and engaging. We'll keep her in our hearts the rest of our lives," said Buetow. "Anybody who knew Robin knew she didn't shrink back from things. Whatever job you asked her to do, she would be putting her all into it."

When Robin lost her life in 1985, the Ahrens' Family directed memorials to Widjiwagan. With the memorials, an endowment fund was established in her name called "The Robin Ahrens Memorial Fund." Memorial gifts totaled \$4,627, distribution thus far is \$10,427 and the market value is \$8,559. The initial memorial gift keeps on giving, changing lives by making the Widji Way possible for new generation, while keeping Robin's legacy alive.

—This story is adapted from Women's eNews, October 2015; Marsha Walton author. Used by permission.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORY OF MARY AND GEORGE LEVIN



Mary and George loved the outdoors and camping. In the 1960s and '70s they sent their three children to Widjiwagan. George became a Widji Board member in the 1970s and contributed his engineering skills preserving cabins and shoreline for years to come. With Mary and George's love of the North Woods and Burntside Lake, they purchased Ring Rock Island for their family. The island is .49 acres, near Crab Lake portage. George built an A-frame on the property and they enjoyed camping on their island for many decades.

Mary and George's children, Bill, Katherine and Bob, decided that it was fitting to donate Ring Rock Island to Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord to honor their parents and perpetuate their lives. The camps most graciously accepted this generous contribution. The island was dedicated on Labor Day weekend 2015. A plaque is erected on the island keeping Mary and George's memory alive.

Widji and du Nord campers appreciated Ring Rock Island throughout 2015 and will continue for years and generations to come thanks to the children of Mary and George Levin. ▼



The plaque on the Island reads:

Ring Rock Island
Mary and George Levin
Mary and George Levin loved the outdoors,
camping, Burntside Lake and the North Woods.
Ring Rock Island was a place that they
could enjoy these together with their family.
George Levin was a member of
Camp Widjiwagan's Board,
and the contributions of his
engineering expertise helped to preserve
Widjiwagan's cabins and shoreline for
generations to come.
May their memory be a blessing.
Donated by their children, November, 2014

2015 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

	SUMMER CAMPERS	ORGANIZATIONAL	SCHOOL-YEAR	TOTAL
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	68	14	413	495
DOLLAR AMOUNTS	\$90,764	\$16,800	\$36,124	\$143,688
TOTAL CAMPERS	697	50	1,564	2,311

GIFTS IN KIND:

Matt Anfang-Board/Staff Ice Cream Social
 Apres Party and Tent Rental - Items for Garage Sale
 Donna Biedron-Freeze dried food, tools, sawhorses and tarps
 Judith Gavin-Seliga canoe, books
 Geoff Hirt-Backpacking equipment
 Ned and Jean Therrien - Seliga canoe
 Frogg Toggs - Rain jackets and pants
 Wellington Management-Storage space

GARAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS:

Numerous and dedicated volunteers drove the garage sale to success once again last year. Sale proceeds benefit Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord Garage Sale Endowment Fund to support scholarships.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

Jean Bentley
 Pat Eid
 Mary Herr
 Kevin Lagos
 Karen Lowenson
 Christen Miller
 Erin Omann
 Deborah Ralston
 Amery Robinson
 Julie Schultz
 Sharon Sivertsen-Modrijan
 Sarah Steele

NON-BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Christy Buetow
 Mark Bixby
 Bruce Cassleton
 Peter Currie
 Dwight Ericsson
 Kate Hale
 Tom Hiendlmayr
 Dave Jerde
 Eric Johnson
 Stacey Mackay
 Dave Mayer
 Lynne Meyer
 Elizabeth Miller
 Leigh Onnka
 John Patterson
 Rebecca Salter
 Kate Starns
 Laura Wellington

2015 Endowment Gifts

James Adams Memorial Endowment Fund

in memory of James P. Adams
Julia and James Adams
The Bakker-Arkema Family
Elizabeth H. Cobb
John and Anne Dowdle
Jana Ernakovich
James Garvie
Joy Gray-Donald
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa
James and Kathy Lisson
Igor and Donna Svistunenko
in honor of Kelly and Clay Pear's marriage
in memory of James P. Adams
Kelly and Clay Pear

Dr. Bob Bjorndahl Endowment Fund

in memory of Bob Bjorndahl
Betty Felix

Gordon Brown, Jr. Endowment

Linda B. Harris

Warner S. Brown Memorial Fund

Anonymous

Kevin Burke Memorial Endowment Fund

Anonymous

Bussey Family Endowment Fund which benefits YMCA Camps du Nord, St. Croix, and Widjiwagan

in memory of Mary Bussey
Michael and Marcia Bussey

Charles & Michael Cheney Memorial Endowment Fund

in memory of Charles Cheney
Arta Cheney

Cornwell Family Endowment Fund

Sally and John Katter

Chandler & Carol Davis Memorial Fund

in memory of Lillian Devries
Thomas and Sally Patterson
Alan and Sally Ruvelson

Kelly Davis Advanced Trip Endowment Fund

in honor of Tom and Sally Patterson
Jane Davis Bennett

David Warner Doerr & Charles Adams Doerr Memorial Endowment

Mairi C. Doerr

Ericsson/Lundahl Family Endowment Fund

Ann and Dwight Ericsson

Gardner Family Endowment Fund

James and Joan Gardner

AESL Garvey Endowment Fund

Edward and Dana Garvey

Otis Godfrey Endowment Fund

in memory of Otis Godfrey
Jean K. Godfrey

Greenberg Family Endowment Fund

Sue and Bob Greenberg
in honor of Sue Greenberg
Wendy Dowling

Ju-Ka-Lin Gustafson Endowment Fund

Linda Gustafson and Roxy Port

The Hirt Family Endowment Fund for Advanced Trips

Geoffrey and Linda Hirt

David E. and Judy Jerde Endowment Fund

Mark and Sarah Jerde

Herbert O. Johnson Memorial Fund

in honor of Kirsten Johnson
in honor of Alissa Johnson
Judith Miller

Bruce Koci Memorial Wood Canvas Canoe Fund

Robert and Ruth Baker

Armin & Virginia Luehrs Campership Endowment

in honor of Whitey and Ginny
Gary and Jane Clements
Whitey and Ginny Luehrs

Rodger and Katherine Lundberg Endowment Fund which benefits YMCA Camps du Nord and Widjiwagan

Susan and Michael Johnson

Christopher T. Lyford Memorial Endowment Fund

Kay Lyford

William & Katherine Mackenzie Grandchildren Endowment Fund

in memory of William Mackenzie
Stanley and Georgia Bachman
Hope Ann Barker
Dale M. Borgeson
Patricia and Richard Clemmer
Norman and Jerri Densmore
Katherine M. Devine
Charlton Dietz
Mary Jane and Thomas Donald
Gordon and Nancy Elleby
Elizabeth L. Flinn
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa
Jennifer and Keith Johnson
Rick and Jill Johnson
Louise and Richard Jones
Nancy and Gordon Justus
Jewel and Albert Lalim
Jane S. Lick
Kenneth and Jean Linwick
Robert Lord
Katherine Mackenzie
John and Mary Lou Marschall
William and Mary Petersen
Mary and Robert Shurson
Pearl E. Stack
Mary Lou and Joseph Stark
Barbara and Gary Strandemo
Glenn and Carol Wallace
Jean W. Wohlrabe
Richard A. Young
Harold and Ruth Ziemann

Frank and Laura Nelson Memorial Fund which benefits YMCA Camps St. Croix and Widjiwagan

in honor of Merle and Sandra Mattson
Steven Mattson
in memory of Christina "Tina" Gray
Nealna and Donald Gylling
Linda and Dominic Ramacier
Mavis N. Zachary

Harry & Shirley Nye Endowment Fund

Penny Maines and Knute Johnson

Robert Olander Ecology Fund

Olander Family Fund of Orange County
Community Foundation

Ormasa-Hiendlmayr Fund for Advanced Trips

Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa



Ostergren Family Endowment Fund

Joan Ostergren and James Alexander

Hal Ponthan Memorial Fund

in memory of Beryl Ponthan
T.A. and M.A. Beaumont
Christine G. Buetow
Judith and James Decker
Whitey and Ginny Luehrs
Diane L. Nelson
Carol Pickett
Linda and Dominic Ramacier

Racciatti Family Endowment Fund

Thomas M. Racciatti
Sara and Kris Johnson
Bank of America Charitable Foundation,
matching gift for Mark and Alecia Stenseth
in honor of Thomas Racciatti
Mark and Alecia Stenseth

Linda and Dominic Ramacier Endowment Fund

in memory of Patrick Ramacier
in memory of Gina Ramacier
Lynne Meyer and Mary Walsler
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa
in memory of Lou Ella and Dick Wood
Linda and Dominic Ramacier

Rick Family Endowment Fund

in memory of Bob Rick
Stewart Brown
Jeff and Roxanne Rick
Bank of America Charitable Foundation,
matching gift for Jeff and Roxanne Rick

Winthrop and Barbara Rockwell Endowment Fund

Barbara and Win Rockwell

Rob Runyon Endowment Fund

in memory of Rob Runyon
Donald and Sharon Fleming
Donna Runyon
Lois Runyon Kadlec

Nora & Joe Seliga Wood Canoe Endowment Fund in memory of Nora and Joe Seliga

Alter Metal Recycling in honor of the
Bell Bern Family
Gary and Jane Clements

Platt Walker Memorial Fund

in memory of Janeth Walker
Matt Boisen
Andrea Brainard
Calabash Properties of St. Paul LLC
Susan Cammack
Monica Joyce-Walker and Robert Walker
Elizabeth M. Kiernat
Wes and Deirdre Kramer
Thomas and Beda Ann Lewis
Pine Beach Peninsula Association
James and Joy Wheeler

Willis Estate Endowment Fund

Daniel and Ruth Willius

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Fall/Winter/Spring Environmental Education Fund

Anonymous Gifts

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Advanced Trip Fund

in memory of Bob and Sue Hengelfelt
in memory of Jack and Sue Cornwell
in memory of Betty Kilpatrick
The Profit Club

2015 Endowment, continued

YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord
Garage Sale Endowment Fund
2015 Sales

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan General Endowment Fund

Anonymous
Mark Bixby and Keelin Kane
Mike Blandford
Paul H. Boening
David Booth and Ann Tobin
Clifton Brittain and Peggy Ladner
Jeremy C. Burns
Mark and Mary Cahill
Chuck Handlon and Nancy Wheeler Handlon
Jeri Glick-Anderson and Charles Anderson
John Ipsen & Kristan Wegerson
Sara Mairs and Daniel Steinhacker
Kris Maritz
Lynne Meyer and Mary Walser
Ran and Beth Miner
Ned Patterson and Susan Schloff
Melissa Raphan and Thomas Rock
Sandra and James Rutzick
The Gordon and Jeanne Shepard Family Fund
of the Saint Paul Foundation, directed by
John Shepard and Suzanne Brust
Judith Swanson
Women's Foundation of Minnesota
in memory of Bryce Kilby
Nancy and Tim Gavin
in memory of Herdio Lopez
in honor of Sophia Lopez
Lillian Eckstein and Family

in memory of Evelyn Nordman
GJ Nordman
John Vanderhoof

in honor of
David & Sara Wellington's Wedding
Anne Nelson Kersey

in memory of Lou Ella and Dick Wood
Armand and Beverly Ball
Gary and Jane Clements
Joan and Lancelot Diggs
Elizabeth L. Flinn
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormasa
Patricia Hurd
Jan Johnson
Lynne Meyer and Mary Walser
Margaret Muscatell
Peter and Patricia Nash
Paul Pagel and Marjorie Holsten
John Saxhaug and Lynn Rabinovitch
Ilene Yost

Annual Campaign

in memory of David Lilly
Knox Foundation
in honor of Liz Flinn
Judith Frost Lewis and Stephen Lewis
in memory of H.B. Thomas
Steven M. Thomas
in honor of Anne D. Pick
Barbara P. Young

THE DEFINITION OF WIDJIWAGAN: EXPLORING CAMP'S FINANCIAL PICTURE

By Jacqui Holmes, Anne Hoyt Taff and David Lauth – Members of the Widji Financial Development Committee

There is one word that best defines YMCA Camp Widjiwagan. Your first thoughts might jump to words like "canoe" or "GORP" or "backpack" or "biffies." On a larger scale, maybe "BWCA" or "Arctic" or "smiles" or "memories" comes to mind. We believe the word that best defines Widjiwagan is actually much bigger than any of these suggestions. That word is:

You.

YOU.

You—as alumni, donors, camper parents, teachers, students, campers, ambassadors, volunteers.

We want to share a snapshot of Widjiwagan's 2015 financial picture with you, because you are the most important part of what keeps Widji's financial picture strong year after year.

Widji is a unique organization in many ways, and it has a unique financial picture as well—as an organization within an organization, the Y of the Greater Twin Cities. To a trained eye, our finances will look different than those of other nonprofits, as we are in a financial relationship with the greater association and do not cover the general costs of overhead (payroll, marketing, communication, etc.) As we dug into the numbers, we thought deeply about how best to show and share camp's 2015 financial picture, and decided to focus on a snapshot of Widji's revenues and expenses. The results are clear:

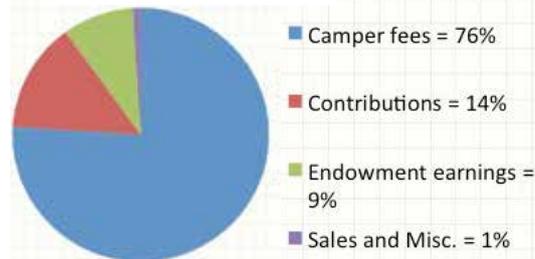
You made our work easy. The charts show that our Widjiwagan community drives the highest percentage of camp's annual revenue: Your contributions comprise a total of 23% of 2015 revenues—14% in annual contributions and 9% in endowment earnings. Widjiwagan has the highest number of individual donors to our annual fund and one of the largest endowment funds of any Y branch in our association! These donations boost revenue from camper fees, expanding the Widji experience through scholarships to families with financial need. Camper fees continue to provide a strong base of financial support that keeps camp running—another reflection of the YOU in Widji. In 2015, a record number of campers came to camp—thanks to you, out there championing Widji and encouraging kids in your lives to explore the camp experience.

Widjiwagan's continued financial health and importance in the lives of campers lies in the strength of our Widji community. In you. Thank you for making Widji an important part of your charitable giving, estate planning and conversations with friends and family. Your good work shows. In the numbers. And on the faces of kids running across the A-field, trekking up Sky Trail or learning to paddle at the TB Dock.

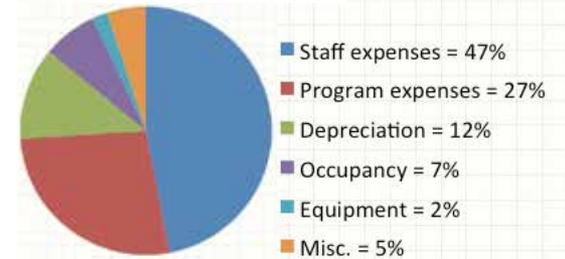
You are the reason that the camp experience continues. Thank you! ▼



2015 REVENUE



2015 EXPENSES



2015 Capital & Endowment Donors

Anonymous
 1970 Boy Norwesters
 2012 Summer Campers
 Diana & Mark Abbott
 Julia & James Adams
 Sarah Alexander
 Deborah Allan & Lawrence Wackett
 Andrews Allen III
 Alter Metal Recycling
 Amgen Foundation Matching Gifts
 & Staff Volunteer Program
 David & Martha Anderson
 David & Virginia Anderson
 Edward & Ann Anderson
 Michael Anderson & Jane Delehanty
 Winnie Anderson
 Roger & Alicia Andre
 Richard & Pamela Andrews
 Blake Androff
 Matt & Heather Anfang
 Cathy Anson & Peter Vaughan
 Thomas Arneson
 Richard & Paula Arnold
 Joel Aslanian
 Margaret Backstrom
 Richard & Pamela Backstrom
 Doug & Kate Bailey
 Eric Bailey & Laurie Zettler Bailey
 Matthew Bailey & Kris Gendron
 Walter & Virginia Bailey
 Robert & Ruth Baker
 Armand & Beverly Ball
 Ann Bancroft
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 John & Rebecca Bartlett

Elizabeth & Mark Barton
 Gretchen Bell & William Hannaford
 The Bell Bern Family
 Eric Bendickson & Teresa Mastrangelo
 Karen & Brett Benson
 Wendy & David Berg
 Kendal Bergman
 Bryce & Pamela Beverlin
 Kevin Bevis & Arlene West
 Chris Bewell
 F.R. Bigelow Foundation
 Joseph & Carrie Bird
 Mark Bixby & Keelin Kane
 Tim Bixby & Heather Myers
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- Attend the Spring Banquet in April
- Like Widji on Facebook
- Volunteer at the Spring or Fall Garage Sale
- Share your Widji Story on our website
- Volunteer as a greeter at the Widji bus this summer
- Send us your current email to receive our newsletter
- Visit thewidjiway.com to add your Voyageur or Mountaineer route to the interactive archive
- Attend the Prairie Burn Music Festival this fall
- Give a summer brochure to a neighbor or relative
- Make a donation to help send a kid to camp this summer
- Attend the Widji Winter Warm Up speaker series next winter
- Volunteer for the Annual Campaign to help raise scholarship funds

For more information :

Visit: widji.org • Email: info@widji.org • Call: 651-645-6605

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2015 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The 2015 Annual campaign raised a total of \$216,250 in donations. Camp Widjiwagan is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who donate time every year to contact our alumni, campers, staff, family members and friends to raise money for this important campaign. The funds raised support camperships, which helped 82 summer campers fund their 2015 summer trip. In addition, 413 participants received assistance through the Outdoor Learning program during the fall, winter or spring. This annual campaign also supports staff training and development, repairs and replaces trail equipment, wood canoe maintenance and funds to purchase safety equipment.

The campaign to raise funds for 2015 took place in the fall of 2014 and was chaired by **Mary Stoick and Ned Patterson. Many thanks to Mary and Ned, and the following chairs and all of our other volunteers:**

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TEAM:

Admin. Volunteers:	Jenny Hagberg
General Calling:	David Kilpatrick and Mary Stoick
Board Division:	David Lauth
Major Gifts:	Matt Bailey and Sandra Samuelson
Team Leaders:	Matt Bailey, Tom Hiendlmayr, David Lauth, Ned Patterson, Sandra Samuelson, Court Storey and Amy White

A special thanks to the 75 general call night volunteers and to the 41 major gift campaigners who dedicated time and energy to support experiences for youth at Widji.

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Jeffrey Schmidt
Kathleen & Fritz Schwarz
Kurt Schwarz
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Lansing Shepard
Stanley & Lucy Shepard
Kurt & Fay Simer
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Helene Smith
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Amy & Alexander Squitieri
Alex Starns
Edward Starns
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Reuben F. Henriques
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Linda Honebrink
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Catherine O'Dell

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JamieLyn & John Reinschmidt
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Lily Rogers-Grant
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Paul Rusterholz & Barbara
Lomas Rusterholz
Leroy & Helen Sahlin

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Dawn Schroeder
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Nancy & David Wagner
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Sarah & John Carl Williams
Geoffrey L. Wingham
Andrea & Heath Winters
Jeanne & Gregory Wright
Annie & Steven Yetter & Family
Keely Young-Dixon



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Hugh J. Andersen Foundation -
Wilderness Outreach and Environmental Education
Andersen Corporate Foundation -
Wilderness Outreach and Environmental Education
Anonymous - Capital and Endowment
Anonymous, via Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund -
Annual Giving and Capital
Sally A. Anson Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation -
Annual Giving
Bren Family Fund of the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund -
Annual Giving
Brown Family Foundation - Annual Giving
Mans Burnett Family Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable
- Annual Giving
Sarah R. Caruso Foundation of the UBS Foundation -
Annual Giving
Cowie Family Fund of the T.Rowe Price Program for
Charitable Giving - Annual Giving
Lisa and David Erickson Fund at Schwab Charitable
Steve Euller and Nancy Roehr Family Charitable Fund of
Vanguard - Annual Giving

John and Gina Hawkinson Advised Fund of Grand Rapids
Area Community Foundation - Annual Giving
John and Ruth Huss Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
- Annual Giving
Joyful Women Fund - Annual Giving
Knox Foundation - Annual Giving
Lehmann Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation -
Annual Giving
Eric and Laurel Lein Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable
R. C. Lilly Foundation - Annual Giving
MacDonald Family Conscience Fund - Annual Giving
William and Katherine Mackenzie Family Fund of
The Saint Paul Foundation - Endowment
McKlveen Jones Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable -
Capital
Meredith Fund of the Women's Foundation - Endowment
Philip and Katherine Nason Fund of
The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Nicholson Family Foundation -
Richard and Nancy Nicholson Fund - Annual Giving

Robert Olander Ecology Fund of the Orange County
Community Foundation - Endowment
Douglas and Phyllis Ostergren Family Fund of
The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Racciatti Family Fund of the Vanguard Charitable Gift Fund
- Annual Giving Endowment
John and Arlis Riedel Fund of National Philanthropic Trust -
Annual Giving
Scott Charitable Gift Fund at Schwab Charitable -
Annual Giving
Gordon and Jeanne Shepard Family Fund of the
Saint Paul Foundation - Capital and Endowment
Terhuly Foundation - Annual Giving
United Way of the Greater Twin Cities Designated Gifts -
Annual Giving and Capital
Walser Family Foundation of The Saint Paul Foundation -
Annual Giving and Endowment
William and Barbara Welke Charitable Fund at Vanguard
Charitable - Annual Giving
Rick Weyerhaeuser and Annie Brewster Fund of the Fidelity
Charitable Gift Fund - Annual Giving

2015 MATCHING GIFTS

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Google Matching Gifts Program
Hewlett Packard Matching Gift Programs
Medtronic Foundation Matching Gift Program
Merjent, Inc.
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Monsanto Fund
Pitney Bowes
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matching gifts
Travelers Foundation - Employee Giving
United Technologies



YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Administrative Office ▼ 532 County Road F ▼ Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

Camp Address ▼ 3788 North Arm Road ▼ Ely, Minnesota 55731

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