

FAREWELL DEAR FRIEND SKIP WILKE

The Camp du Nord community bid farewell to a wise and humble friend with the passing of Robert "Skip" Wilke on New Year's Eve 2017. Skip was a familiar sight around camp – a versatile volunteer in all seasons - for decades.

As board member emeriti for Camp du Nord for more than 26 years, he provided clear-eyed visionary counsel to leadership. His passion for data earned him the role of investigator and analyst on many projects. Skip was well known for uttering two words when anyone asked for help: "No problem."

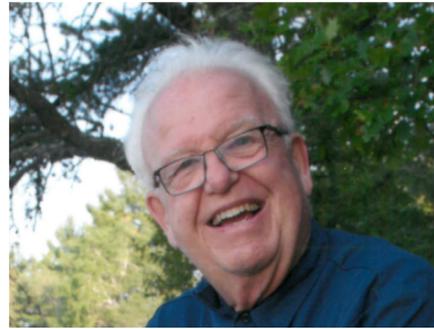
His love for the outdoors was sparked early attending camps St. Croix and Widjiwagan in the 1950s as a child, and later deepened when he worked as a

trail guide and then director for Camp Menogyn. Educated at the University of Minnesota as an engineer, Skip was offered the camp director job at Menogyn after working at 3M for a few years. And he says he never looked back.

His life-long career with the YMCA included service in New York City, where he directed the YMCA's international camp counselor program, recruiting young people from around the world to work at camps in the United States.

"He was inspired by the mission of the Y. He made us better," said Niki Geisler, "And his impact will be felt for generations to come."

Skip continued his active service as a YMCA volunteer and board member for



Camp du Nord throughout his treatment for pancreatic cancer. He contributed \$1 million to the du Nord capital campaign, and, left one fourth of his estate to Camp du Nord upon his death. His legacy of servant leadership and philanthropy will be remembered and felt at du Nord for generations to come.



2018
IN REVIEW

CAMP DU NORD

STAFF NEWS

Becca Fink joined du Nord as executive director in fall 2018 following Niki Geisler's promotion to district executive for family camping and executive director for the new YMCA Camp Northern Lights.

A camper at heart, Becca's appreciation for the outdoors was sparked as a child going on BWCA trips with her family. The majority of her professional career to date has been with the YMCA, most recently as program executive for Teen Thrive and Career Pathways, which are programs to help young people reach their full potential in education and life. She also served as director of YMCA Day Camp Christmas Tree for six years. Prior to coming to the YMCA, she worked as a wilderness trip leader at Wilderness Inquiry, Wilderness Adventure in Virginia, and Camp Woodson in North Carolina.

Becca and her family (Zach, Jasper and Ruby) joined the du Nord community in 2017 as summer campers. "I fell in love with the place and the people, and I look forward to learning from this passionate community. It's an honor to be your executive director."



Nick Weber joined du Nord as program director in the fall of 2018. He has worked for the Y for more than 13 years including seasons at Camp St. Croix, Widjiwagan, Day Camp Guy Robinson, Camp Ihduhapi and two summers at Camp du Nord (where he was fondly known by his nickname, Baxter!) Most recently, Nick had been serving in a camping administrative role with Y of the Greater Twin Cities.



Nick loves du Nord in all seasons and is looking forward to spending summers at camp, building and leading a skilled, friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff team. He and his wife, Jana, were married at du Nord in January 2019. When not at du Nord, Nick and Jana live in St. Paul with their two dogs, Tucker and Mai.

"Du Nord is a magical place, and I cannot wait to make summer 2019 the best summer yet for families," he said.

OUTREACH AND INCLUSION

By Sam DiVita, Outreach & Inclusion Chair

Fostering a welcoming and authentically inclusive community at camp is a priority for Camp du Nord's leadership, staff and community advisory board.

Each summer, approximately 20 percent of camper families are new to Camp du Nord. The du Nord Outreach and Inclusion Committee continues to facilitate new opportunities for families from groups underrepresented at camp. Our community has been impacted positively by the following developments in 2018:

- Implemented a new family mentorship initiative that pairs experienced camper families with new families
- Six new families attended a week of summer camp through the Outreach Initiative, several returning after a successful fall programming weekend
- Two new families participated in fall, winter, spring family camp programming through the Outreach Initiative
- More than \$180,000 in scholarships were awarded to families who needed financial support to experience Camp du Nord
- Targeted outreach through Y branches and the Camp du Nord Leaders Club has helped to diversify participants in du Nord's Leadership Development Program

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
YMCA
TWIN CITIES, MN

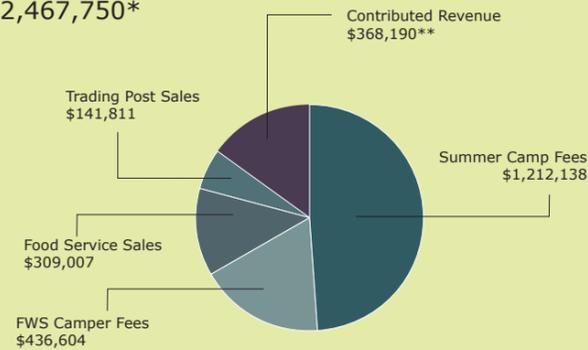


YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities
651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

YMCA Camp du Nord

2018 FINANCIALS

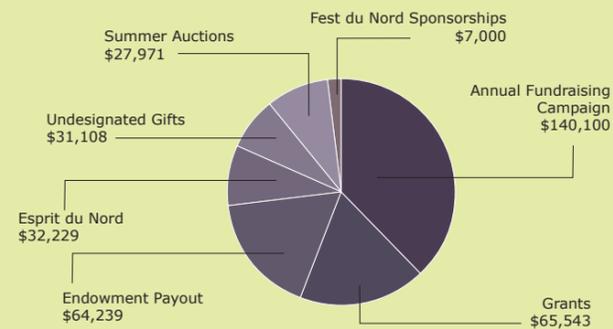
Revenue: \$2,467,750*



*Not included: The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities funded repairs and equipment valued at \$78,000 in 2018.

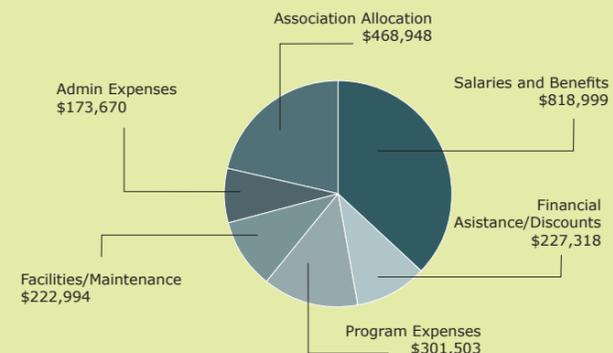
**Includes endowment payout of \$64,239

2018 Contributed Operating Revenue: \$368,190*



*Capital campaign funds excluded
Note: Additionally \$14,000 in net proceeds from the du Nord-Widji garage sale were contributed to the YMCA Camp du Nord General Endowment Fund in 2018.

Expenses: \$2,213,432*



*Excluded: Depreciation of \$348,003

THANK YOU FOR REVITALIZING AND RENEWING DU NORD!

You did it! In 2016, we set an ambitious goal to raise \$4.25 million to renew and secure du Nord's future on the shores of Burntside Lake. And in true du Nord fashion, the community exceeded all expectations with \$6.9 million raised!

Together, we identified the need to improve housing for our beloved staff, enhance program areas, maintain and upgrade some cabins, purchase 80 acres across the lake and build du Nord's endowment fund to provide a steady and predictable discretionary income to support the mission, in perpetuity. We set out to steward existing facilities and responsibly create new spaces with respect for the natural environment.

Meeting with du Nord families over the last two years - learning about your transformational experiences at camp and hearing your hopes for du Nord's future - was truly the highlight of my nearly ten years as du Nord's executive director. You have taught me more than you know and your love for this place and community are why du Nord continues to be a bright spot in all our lives.



Niki Roussopoulos Geisler
District Executive for Family Camping, YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

\$6.9 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED

Staff housing, playscape, sauna, cabin improvements, dining hall \$3,013,745

Endowment \$2,364,052

80 acre purchase (\$505,444 from du Nord donors & \$1,070,000 from the Minnesota Land Trust for conservation easement) \$1,575,444

2018 A DU NORD YEAR TO REMEMBER

The du Nord mission was realized in wonderful ways in 2018! The culture of service we all know resulted in a record 14,481 volunteer hours logged by 593 community members during the year.

Eighty pristine acres across the lake from Pine Pointe were purchased in 2018, thanks to generous donors to du Nord's capital campaign and the Deppe family, which was committed to protecting the North Arm from extensive development. The Y purchased the property in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust, entering a legal agreement to permanently limit the uses of the land. This approach served to bring the property purchase within financial reach while protecting the land from development. Named Echo Ridge, the property will provide opportunities for day and overnight outings for campers.

Persistent high demand for family camping in recent years prompted du Nord's leadership to again offer family camp sessions at Gunflint Lodge in

summer 2018. The four summer weeks at Gunflint filled on lottery day.

The Y's desire to consistently serve more families with family camping led its visionary leaders to purchase two adjacent resorts on Bear Island Lake south of Ely where it is launching a new family camp! YMCA Camp Northern Lights will open for its first summer in 2019 with outstanding and familiar staff, morning age groups, polar bear, hiking trails, water activities, great fishing, family arts and a range of accommodations from campsites to full-facility cabins. The summer is filling up fast, but there are still sites and cabins available at Northern Lights!

Niki Geisler will be there too! Camp du Nord's executive director for the last nearly 10 years was promoted to a newly created role within the Y, overseeing both family camps and serving as executive director for Northern Lights. Niki is credited with enhancing the family camp experience over the years, quadrupling fall/winter/spring

revenue, building a fabulous staff team, leading and completing an ambitious capital campaign while preserving all the magic of du Nord.

Camp du Nord's board and Strategic Planning Committee are hard at work gathering input for the next five-year plan that will guide du Nord into the future. Watch for an email survey and other opportunities to provide your perspectives on future opportunities and priorities for this special place and community.

Barb Schlaefer
YMCA Camp du Nord Board Chair

