



# THE AMICI SPARK

"SPARK A CHANGE. SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP"

[www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

AUTUMN 2008



## WELCOME TO THE SPARK

*"It only takes a spark to get a fire going; and soon all those around can warm up to it's glowing..."*

As someone who understands the impact of summer camp, you likely appreciate the message, even if this campfire song is not part of your own camp memories: Summer camp can spark a powerful change in a child's life.

At camp, kids learn to identify and nurture their own personal spark – talents, skills and abilities that make each of us unique. Through positive role models – camp directors and staff – campers learn the power of sharing their spark with others: to light a path when the way ahead is unclear; to provide a glimmer of encouragement to a friend in dark times.

Like you, we strongly believe that nurturing a community of all these "sparks" will result in a brighter future for all of

us. This is why we are committed to ensuring that as many children as possible have access to summer camp, regardless of financial barriers.

Thanks to you, in 2008 more children than ever before experienced the inspirational spark of summer camp through Amici. With your help, in 2009 we will grow this number even more.

Our success in achieving this mission depends on you. In these challenging times when need is even more acute, every contribution makes a difference.

We hope you will enjoy this first edition of "The Spark" and that you will share your comments and suggestions for future issues with us.



Thank you for sharing the gift of summer camp!

**Kate Horton**  
Executive Director  
[kate@amicicharity.org](mailto:kate@amicicharity.org)

## 2008 CAMPERSHIP WRAP-UP

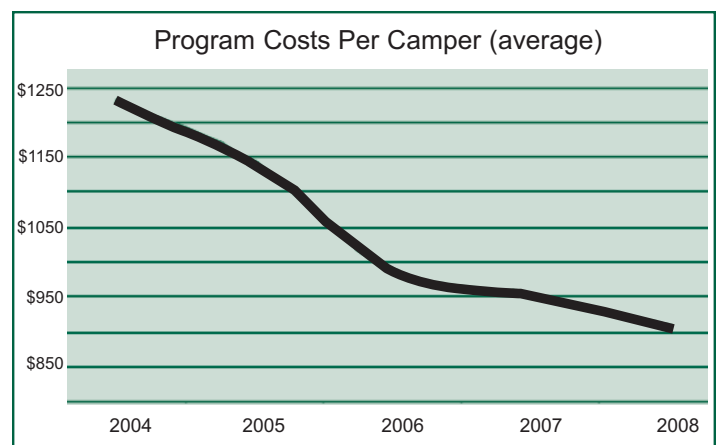
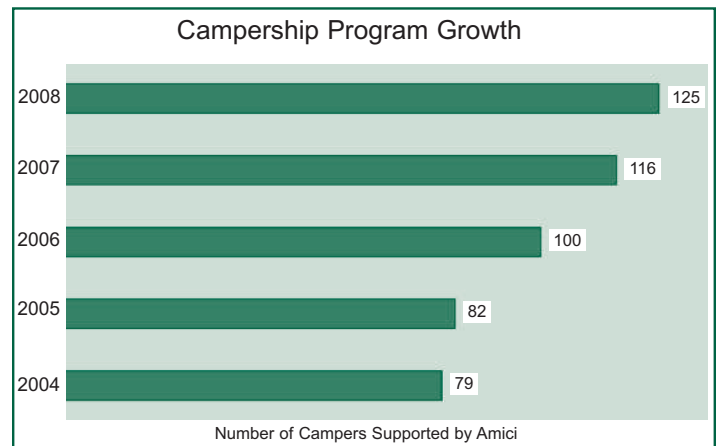
Thank you for your commitment and support. With your help, 2008 was Amici's most successful summer yet!

You helped 125 children from low-income families experience the magic of summer camp.

And that's not all:

- ♦ Camp makes a lasting difference in kids' lives: 85% of Amici campers chose to return to camp for another summer in 2008.
- ♦ 9 Amici campers participated in leadership training programs at partner camps – an all-time high for our program!
- ♦ Volunteer-led fundraisers and special events raised over \$50,000! These funds will support campership and the administration required to make this program possible.
- ♦ Thanks to the generous support of our partner camps, program costs decreased by almost 5%. This meant Amici could sponsor more campers in leadership programs and extended out-trips.
- ♦ In 2009, with your help, we will reach even more children than ever before.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.



# FRIENDS OF AMICI - SHARING THE SPARK

Carolyn Langill

A few years ago, Carolyn Langill organized two annual "Have a Heart" fundraiser galas to benefit Amici. Since then, Carolyn has been a significant, long-time supporter of Amici. Thank you Carolyn for sharing your perspective on Amici and the importance of summer camp:

## What interests you most about Amici?

I like the fact that most of the money raised by Amici goes directly towards sending children to camp. I like the fact that although Amici is a relatively small organization, it has a huge impact on the lives of the children. I particularly like the fact that kids who are sponsored by Amici are

sponsored until they no longer attend camp, unless their family financial situation changes for the better.

## How has camp affected your life?

The major way that camp has affected my life is through my children's attendance at camp. As a parent, there is no greater satisfaction than seeing your kids arrive home at the end of a camp session, happy, having made new friends and yearning to go back again the next summer. I realized many years ago that if I could help another parent experience this satisfaction, then I wanted to help as many children as I could to attend summer camp.

## Why send kids to camp?

Camp is a great equalizer, eliminating a lot of barriers that exist in city life for kids from different backgrounds to develop friendships. I also believe that camp is a great enhancer of self esteem and has the potential to improve self confidence in many skills that would never be attempted at home.



## YOU CAN SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP ALL YEAR LONG

Amici supporters share the gift of summer camp by giving new opportunities and unforgettable fun to children from low income families. Now, by pledging a small monthly credit card contribution, you can give an extra boost to Amici's campership program. By joining you'll:

- ♦ See your gifts add up quickly.
- ♦ Reduce our administrative costs.
- ♦ Make your contribution effortlessly.
- ♦ Help to secure our future in uncertain times.

Whatever amount you choose will be deducted from your credit card each month automatically. Thanks to the secure servers at our online donation partner, CanadaHelps.org, your transaction is safe and convenient -- and you can easily withdraw from the donation program anytime you wish.

CanadaHelps.org will allow you to place your tax-deductible monthly contribution online by billing the credit card of your choice.

To join our monthly giving program, simply visit the "How you can Help" section of our website: [www.amicharity.org](http://www.amicharity.org) and follow the "Donate Now" link to CanadaHelps.org. On the Canada Helps donation page, select "Repeating Donation" when you enter the details of your gift.

## LETTER FROM AN AMICI PARENT

*Our family is happy to have this opportunity to thank the Amici Organization and its supporters.*

*Five years ago, we suffered the tragic loss of Clive, a much loved father and husband. He left four boys who were 14, 12, 10, and 8 at that time. Without your financial support, they would not have been able to enjoy camp life and the great outdoor experience under the great leadership and guidance of Jay and Vikki Haddad at Camp Bellaleo.*

*Thanks to your generosity, all four boys made great friends and great memories. They have some wonderful happy and fun times to replace or soften some very tragic ones. All year they look forward to another great camp experience the countdown starts from when they get home.*

*Alex, the oldest, became a camper the summer after losing his dad. He enjoyed every aspect of camp life but especially the leadership and team building skills he learnt. He became a CIT and then a councilor. Today he attends Laurier university studying Leadership and Administration.*

*Nicholas, now in grade 12 and preparing for university next year, loved seeing all his camp friends every summer. He also became a CIT and canoeing was his favourite activity.*

*Robin, now 15 and in grade 10, has a great time with his friends at camp and loves kayaking. He loves the opportunity of leading and taking charge - a real change from being son number 3.*

*Rhys, the youngest, hopes every year to return to camp and to be the Bellaleo Ping Pong Champion. He can't wait to see all his old friends and to make new ones. He loves spending time with Vikki and Jay.*

*Lastly, I would like to thank you for giving me the only break I (mum Marie) get in the year. Without your help and support, I would never have been able to send the boys off each summer. With no close family in Canada they would have never had some time away from me, a valuable refresher for the family dynamics!!*

*Signed, Marie (an Amici Mom)*



*Rhys (far right) with his cabin group*



*Robin (far right) with friends at Bellaleo's July closing banquet*

## RESEARCH CORNER

As many former campers know, the benefits of the camping experience on young lives is immeasurable. Unfortunately, for those that haven't had the benefit of the experience, the impact is a little more difficult to wrap your head around. Thankfully associations like the ACA (American Camp Association) and OCA (Ontario Camp Association) continue to conduct research to help qualify and quantify the many benefits.

In each issue moving forward, we'll look to bring some of those findings to life in this new section – Research Corner.

Below is our first installment, a reprint of an article written by the ACA in 2005.

### Inside Camp: What Research Tells Us about the Lives of Children

How can parents count the ways children grow and flourish at camp? Friends? New skills? Displays of self-confidence? Steps toward independence and thoughtfulness?

Philliber Research Associates teaming with the American Camp Association has just released the results of a landmark study that demonstrate the gains are remarkable—over 5,000 parents, children, and camp staff are readjusting their measuring sticks—growth in positive identity,

social skills, physical and thinking skills, as well as the important areas of positive values and spirituality go hand-in-hand with the camp experience.

According to Peg Smith, chief executive officer of the American Camp Association, outcomes are all about research and responsibility. "These concepts of independence and discovery come into play every day as we look at ways to enhance the growth and discovery process in youth. Our research demonstrates unequivocally that with the idea behind camp and the thousands of individuals who support children in these experiences, we are unmistakably on the right track. One of the truly exciting aspects of this research is these measurable gains continue after camp ends, and the researchers confirm that length of camp session isn't a determining factor—it's camp itself," says Smith.

Leadership, adventure, making friends, confidence—all after spending time at camp.

**“Self-esteem does not come from empty praise, but from feeling competent; from having successful experiences; from making genuine contributions.”**

*Christopher Thurber, Ph.D., Child Psychologist and Author*

#### Campers Say

- Camp helped me make new friends. (96%)
- Camp helped me to get to know kids who are different from me. (93%)
- The people at camp helped me feel good about myself. (92%)
- At camp, I did things I was afraid to do at first. (74%)

#### Parents Say

- My child gained self-confidence at camp. (70%)
- My child continues to participate in some of the new activities he or she learned at camp. (63%)
- My child remains in contact with friends made at camp. (69%)

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## 2008 AMICI EVENTS



*The 38th Annual Highland Yard. Thanks to Race Directors Rob Love & Liam Brown and to Peter Oyler & Heather Navis for their support.*



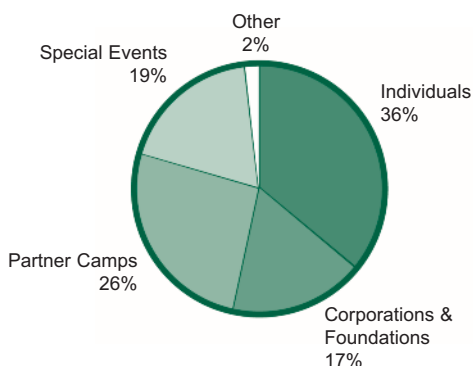
*Amici Mile at Woodbine Racetrack. Organizing committee John Medland, Katie Roland and Scott Glover*



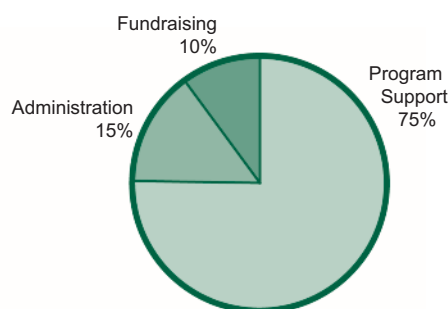
*2008 Ball Hockey Tournament raised over \$2500. Thanks to event coordinator George Wright*

## 2008 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2008 Revenues by Source (unaudited)



2008 Expenses Based on Revenue (unaudited)



If you would like to request a copy of Amici's most recent audited financial statements, please contact: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) or call 416-588-8026.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2008 AMICI RAFFLE!

**GRAND PRIZE:** Taboo Resort: 2 night stay (value \$3000, Taboo Resort, Golf & Spa) – **James Delamere**

\$500 Expedia.ca Gift Certificate (Expedia.ca) – **Nigel Smith**

Original painting by artist Peter Taylor (value \$500, Peter Taylor) – **Amaris Siegel**

Wilson Sports Package (value \$500, Wilson Sports Equipment Canada) – **Frank Mamelli**

Hamilton Beach Proctor Silex Kitchen Set (value \$500, Hamilton Beach Brands Canada Inc.) – **Mark Steinman**

Pair of Maple Leafs Seats, Red Section (value \$300, Latimer family) – **Matt Fong**

\$100 Sporting Life Gift Card (Sporting Life) – **Mike Usher Jones**

This year's raffle raised over \$9,000! Thank you to everyone who, by supporting the 2008 AMICI Raffle, helped share the gift of summer camp.