



in partnership with



A Challenge for our Volunteers...

2015 marks the fifth year of the Center's **"Volunteer Fundraiser"**. We are seeking the support of our dedicated Camp volunteers to embrace this challenge so that we can continue to offer our camp free of charge to the children who need it. Each volunteer will be required to participate in our fundraising efforts by reaching out to friends, family and extended network to raise personal sponsorship support.

The 2014 camp fundraiser was an overwhelming success. Last year, volunteers raised \$37,077 which reflected approximately 72% volunteer participation. This year, we are looking forward to achieving 100% participation. Volunteers are asked to commit to raising \$350 in sponsorships by July 1, 2015. As an extra incentive, volunteers who raise \$1,000 or more will receive a **"Golden Ticket"** to the Annual Benefit. We were extremely proud that ten (12) camp volunteers reached and/or exceeded their 2014 goal and were special guests at the Gala. Thank you in advance for committing to this fundraising effort and we encourage all of our volunteers to do their very best to reach their individual goal.

We will provide you with materials you may need, such as:

- E-newsletter that describes camp, provides testimonials from past volunteers and includes photos of events and participants
- a pledge card you can use to track your sponsors and sponsorship amounts; and
- an e-mail template to send to your family and friends directing them to our Camp webpage where they can donate their sponsorship on-line.

We will e-mail you each time we get a sponsorship in your name so that you can track and thank your supporters. They will also receive a prompt thank you letter from the Wendt Center.

We thank you in advance for participating in our **Camp Volunteer Fundraiser**.

***Remember: Your efforts will help to make a positive difference in our program.**



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CAMP VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Your goal is to do your very best to reach your target. Your efforts will help make a positive difference in our program and this year's camp.

Here are some ideas to get you started on your fundraising campaign:

- An e-mail campaign: Petition everyone you know via e-mail to solicit donations. You can customize our template or be creative with your own version.
- Throw a fundraising party! Always nice to have a reason to celebrate and create awareness for a good cause. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to bring donations- gift cards (Giant/Safeway), cash or check.
- Facebook- Campaign for camp donations via Facebook.
- Have a birthday coming up? Ask your kind and generous family and friends to "send you to camp" in lieu of the usual gifts. As an extra bonus, their donation will be "green"—no excessive packaging, gift wrap or trips to the mall.
- Yard or Craigslist Sale: Is it time to downsize your wardrobe or spring clean your home? Consider selling unwanted items in a yard sale or on Craigslist and donate the proceeds towards your camp sponsorship.

*To assist other volunteers, please share your additional fundraising ideas with us.

Online donations can be made at: www.wendtcenter.org (Click on the *DONATE Today Button in the upper right column*). To ensure you receive credit towards your camp sponsorship, please **inform your sponsors** to enter Camp Sponsorship and *your full name* in the designation block.



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2015 Camp Volunteer Fundraiser Donation Record

Name	Address/e-mail	Amount donated	Payment Method	Signature	Check if Payment rec'd

NAME: _____

TOTAL: _____



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Dear _____,

This summer, I am volunteering to participate at the Wendt Centers grief camp for children and teens, at Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC from June 26 - June 28, 2015. In order to help bring needed support to the Camp, I am participating in its Camp Volunteer Fundraiser and am writing to request your sponsorship for this life changing event.

There are different types of volunteer assignments. I might be a buddy, which means I will be matched one-on-one with a young camper who has lost a loved one. I will work with that camper throughout camp, helping him or her to gain the maximum benefit from all the carefully orchestrated programs and activities. These activities are specially designed to help the children explore and express their grief, perhaps for the very first time. I might also be a group assistant which means I will work with a lot of different kids during grief groups and their activities.

Camp is offered free to participants and volunteers, but the cost of sending a camper to camp is now over \$1,000 per child. The Wendt Center, like so many other organizations, has been significantly impacted by the current economic crisis. Your contribution would greatly assist in offsetting the costs associated with the camp and help make a positive difference in the program.

What is Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC?

Each summer, the Wendt Center offers Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC free of charge to young people, ages 7 to 17 from neighborhoods throughout the Washington, DC area, who have experienced the death of a loved one such as a parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend from homicide, suicide, accident, or illness. The camp provides a safe, supportive and fun environment for children to gently explore their feelings and to understand they are not alone in their grief. Children participate in grief support groups, arts and crafts, music, swimming, games, an initiative and confidence course, a camp carnival, journaling, dramatic performances, canoeing, and other camp activities. At Camp, each child is paired with an adult buddy for the weekend.

Your tax-deductible donation can be made via check or directly online.

Online donations can be made at: www.wendtcenter.org (Click on the *DONATE Today Button* in the upper right column)

To ensure I receive credit towards my effort to raise funds to support camp, ***please enter Camp Sponsorship and my full name in the designation block.***

Thank you for your support!

To help you better tell the story of campers and volunteers at Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC, we have gathered a few mini-profiles of children and buddies who have attended:

"I was matched with eight-year-old *H*, who lost her dad to a brain tumor about 4 years ago. Since the buddy matching process takes into account age, how the buddy and camper lost their loved ones, gender, and other compatibility factors, *H* was matched with a volunteer who had also lost her father to a brain tumor. *H*'s 10-year-old sister also attended Camp. Their mother worried the two girls would want to spend a lot of time together but they actually seemed to enjoy the break from each other. *H* was very quiet and shy about participating in Camp activities at first but she soon warmed up and made friends with the other campers in our group. She enjoyed arts and crafts and liked helping out with the meals."

"I was paired with a very energetic and vibrant 11-year-old girl. Her mom got sick and died when she was very young. Although the little girl was playful and fully embraced all the fun activities at camp, she struggled to deal with the grief she had for her mom. She was also learning how to build a relationship with her new stepmom. I could fully relate to her because I also lost my mom from an illness and had to become acquainted with a new woman in my dad's life."

"My little buddy last summer was a very quiet and private 13-year-old girl mourning the loss of her father, who died suddenly of a heart attack. Her parents got divorced a few years ago, but she still saw him in the afternoons as he cared for her and her siblings when they got home from school. Not only was she adjusting to not having him there every day, but she was also going to be transferring to a more challenging private school in the fall. She was still adjusting to the changes going on all around her when we met."

"*A*" is 7-year-old and lost her father to a homicide last year. She lives with her mother in DC. "*A*" is quiet, smart, and quick to laugh or lend a hand. Her buddy was Dianne who does social work in a hospice for her full time job. This was Dianne's first year at Camp but had done a similar Camp previously. Dianne lost her sister to a car accident when she was 11 and her sister was 10.

"*D*" is 7 years old and his mother died from a asthma attack last year. *D*'s mother was 36 when she passed and Danni lives with her father in DC. "*D*" is sweet and very affectionate. Her buddy was Brenda and this was Brenda's 8th year at Camp, so she was a pro. Brenda lost her father when she was 5 years old.

"Our group's youngest girl was Maggie, who is 6. Maggie's caretaker (her grandmother) died and she now lives with her mother and two siblings (who were also at Camp) in DC. Maggie bonded quickly with her group, both buddies and campers, and took the end of camp the hardest. Maggie's buddy was Marissa. Marissa was the youngest buddy in our group at 25 and this was her first year. Marissa is working towards her MSW so she was well prepared. Marissa lost her best friend in a car accident."

7-year old Kevin misses his older sister who died of cancer. He has also lost a grandmother, a live-in grandfather and an uncle. Kevin is a born comedian and entertained both his fellow campers and buddies with original songs, dancing, and other antics. His buddy was Sean - a first-time buddy at Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC. Sean lost his father to cancer.