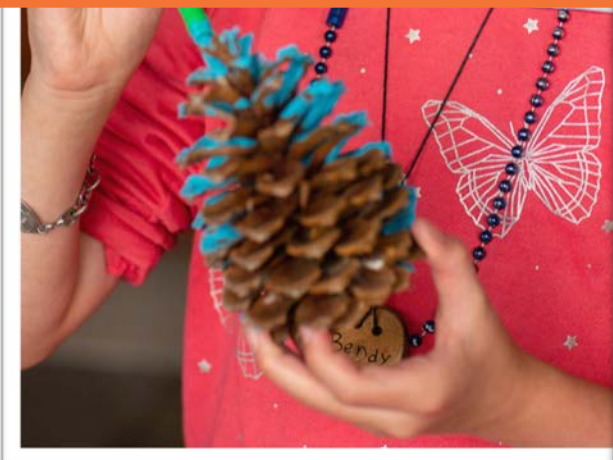


Merry Heart Children's Camp Annual Report | 2019



MERRY HEART CHILDREN'S CAMP  
<https://merryheartchildrenscamp.org>



## Message from the Past-President

The most important part of the annual report is to say a heartfelt thank you for supporting us. We would not be able to have a successful camp without you and all our supporters.

Our camp helps youth with heart conditions overcome issues surrounding their heart conditions and become healthier, more active and productive adults. Our counselor in training (CIT) program and future teen camp helps transition teens into adult life and teaches them leadership skills.

Since the beginning, we have been an all-volunteer organization but in order to accomplish our goals and secure the future of our camp, we have determined that we need to hire a development director to coordinate and expand fundraising, community awareness and communications.

We had a strategic planning meeting in February 2018 to develop a plan to implement these goals and after several consultations with business leaders and directors of other camps over the last 1½ years, we are now ready to hire a development director. We would like to hire this person in early 2020.

Thanks for your continue support,



Mary Rice, MD  
Past - President of the Board

## Mission Statement

The mission of Merry Heart Children's Camp is to provide a safe, nurturing and fun outdoor experience for youth with heart conditions where they can meet new friends and develop courage and independence without fear of being judged by others.

## Benefits

Our camp helps these young people by providing opportunities to:

- Interact with their peers.
- Be educated about their heart conditions.
- Explore issues surrounding their heart conditions.
- Learn new skills.



Mary Rice, MD – Past-President



Head Counselor in Training Ben, one of young adults with a heart conditions, teaching one of our campers' archery.

## Camper Experience

Just going to a regular summer camp can be difficult for normal kids, but for kids with a heart condition, parents are afraid for their youth and worry about who will take care of them if something does go wrong. There are many kids with heart conditions who do not even spend an overnight with their grandparents let alone a 5-day/4-night summer camp. Jamicka was one of these parents. Check out how Jamicka and Alijah described their experience at Merry Heart Children's Camp, <https://vimeo.com/360378843>.



Alijah and his Mom, Jamicka

## Heart Education



At this year's heart discussions the campers described and talked to each other about their heart conditions, had a round robin of activities (examined normal pig hearts, explored 3D models of congenital heart defects, observed a live prenatal echocardiogram and learned about electrical problems with the heart) and talk/discussion with two adults with congenital heart defects, one a Ninja Warrior.

But do not take our words, here is a quote from one of our first-time campers, Uki. *"Each night, we had heart talks to learn more about the heart and to practice talking about our own conditions. This was a really important part for me because it made me feel more comfortable with my unique heart. I wish I had gone to heart camp earlier in my life because it really helped me feel more confident. I was really nervous to go at first, but I am so glad that I went. I can't wait to go back next summer!"*

## Volunteers

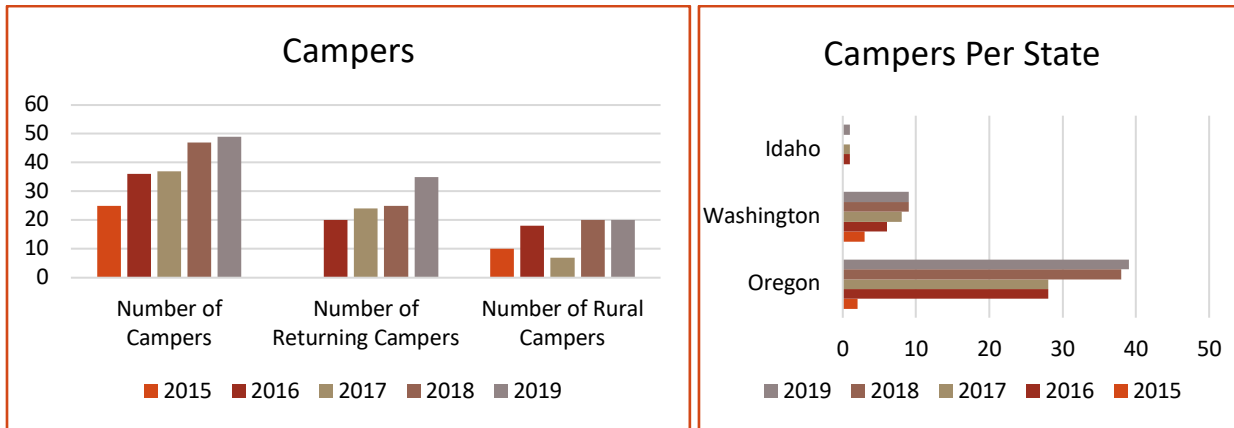
We would not be able to have a summer camp for youth with heart conditions without our volunteers. They volunteer for free using their own vacation time and resources to give our kids an experience they deserve.

Our volunteers consist of college students, registered nurses, child life, licensed clinical social worker, adults with congenital heart defects, pediatric cardiology fellows and pediatric cardiologists and the many other adults who join us to make this a successful camp.



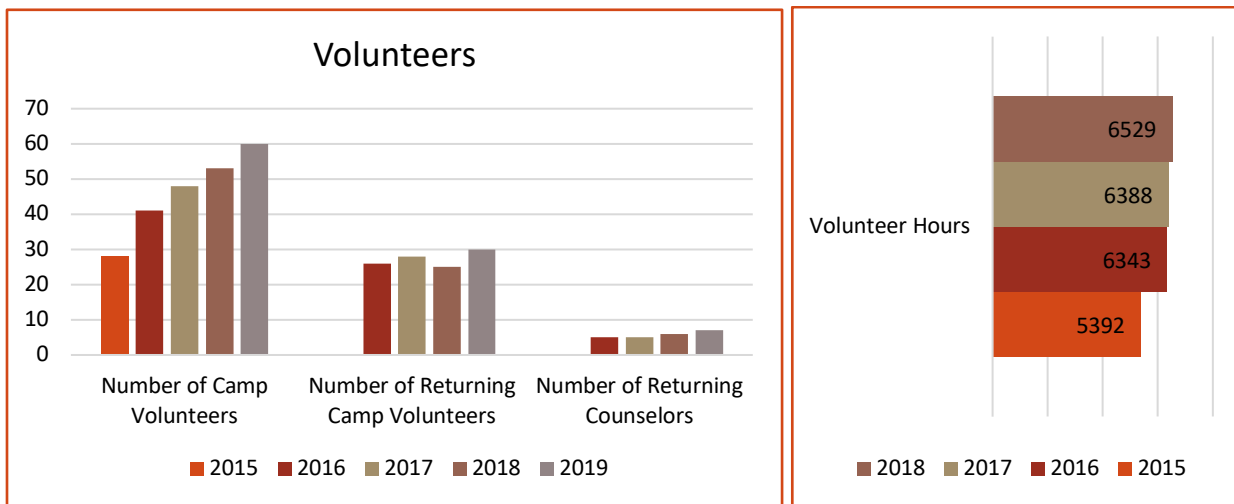
### Program Impact

We had our 5<sup>th</sup> successful camp August 18-22, 2019. We reached our goal of 48 kids this year (actually we had 49), 28 girls and 21 boys. We started our CIT program three years ago and had seven teens attend this year. Our CIT program continues to be successful with 8 campers becoming CITs and this year 2 CITs becoming counselors. Seventy-one percent of our campers are returners which was a significant increase over the following year. This means that our kids like the program and they continue to come back. About 40% of our campers come from rural areas like Bonanza, Dallas, St. Helens. Majority of the urban kids are from the Portland/Vancouver areas.



### Volunteer Impact

It says a lot about an all-volunteer organization, where the number of volunteers and returning volunteers continue to grow each year and the number of volunteer hours raise of volunteer hours. Majority of our volunteers are from the professional field, e.g. registered nurses, physicians, and social workers who volunteer their time to help our youth with heart conditions attend a camp dedicated to them.



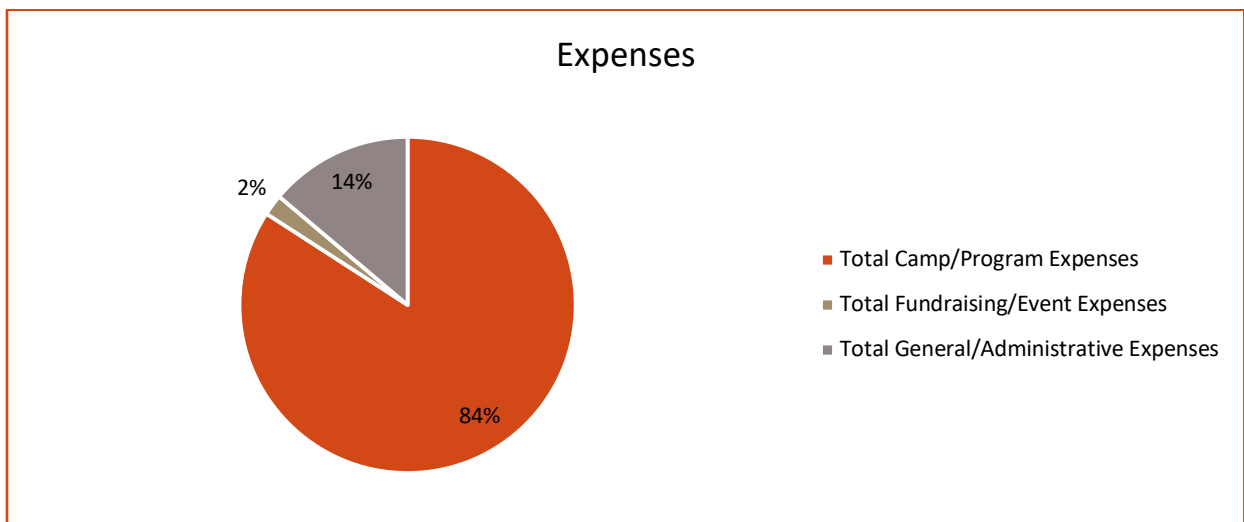
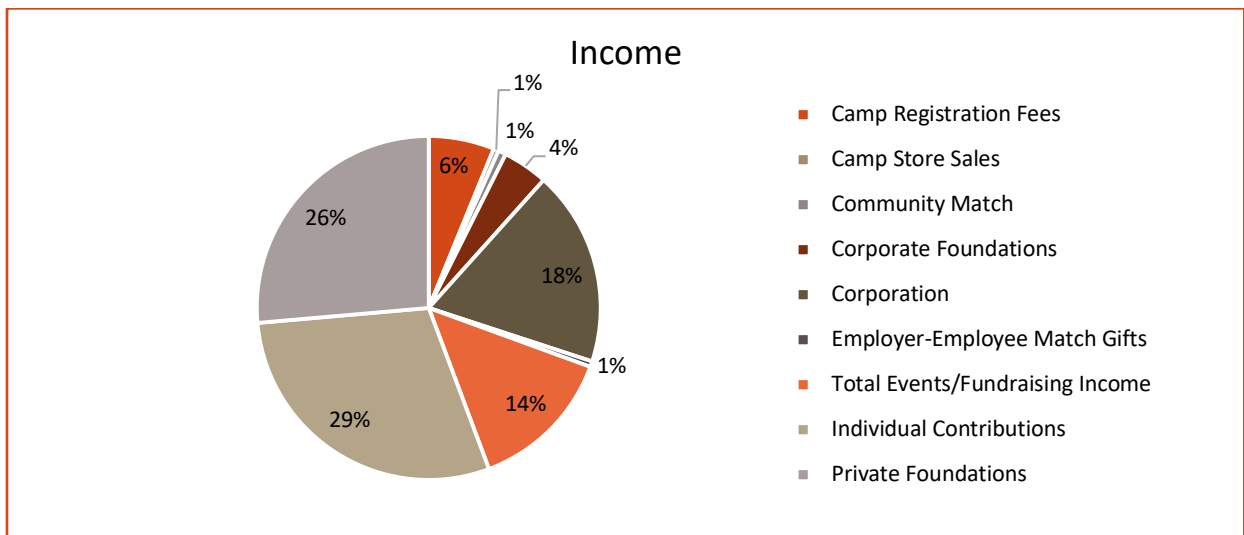


## Resources and Financial Management

The board of directors have decided to make a few changes regarding our budget and grant reporting process. Since our “Camp Year” runs from the end of camp to the beginning of camp, the board felt that our budget process should reflex that.

Balance Sheet Summary	2018	2019
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$111,079.23	\$123,403.92
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	\$111,079.23	\$123,403.92
<b>Variance</b>		\$12,324.69

We will be running our budget year from October to the end of September. This will help us with fundraising and budget appropriately. Our 2020 operating budget is \$69,799.00 and our camp/program budget is \$31,777.00. This increase will be related to hiring a part-time development director for the camp. We continue to only require families to pay a \$55.00 nonrefundable registration fee.



## Sustainability

Sustainability is a crucial aspect of any nonprofit organization. To continue to sustain our camp and organization into the future, we are investing future dollars into an investment fund to help us expand our program to teen and family camps and provide dedicated leadership for the future.

## Looking Forward

We are working hard to continue to provide a heart camp for our kids with heart conditions. Here is a quick summary in each area:

**Finance:** In hiring a development, we expect to increase funding by 5% through online donations, increase our donor base, start an annual event and grants.

**Programs:** We've received our goal of 48 kids coming to camp and our plan is continue awareness of the camp. We also want to increase of volunteer staff especially in the area of our nursing staff and physician support.

**Notable Upcoming Events:** We are planning to have our first annual social event with a goal of raising \$20,000.00. Other plans are to have smaller events and work toward have more community support the camp.

**Sustainability:** We continue to develop relationship with all our donors, corporations, private and public foundations.



## A Special Thanks

Merry Heart Children's Camp is honored to collaborate with individuals, private foundations, corporations and corporate foundation sponsors who help create a camp dedicated to youth with heart conditions. We would not be able to have this camp without you. THANK YOU!

### Heart Hero (\$4,000 - \$5,000)

Autzen Foundation  
Concerts for Causes  
Juan Young Trust  
Pediatric Cardiology Center  
of Oregon

### Heart Star (\$2,500 - \$3,999)

Medtronic  
The Nancy and Richard  
Silverman Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.

### Heart Breaker (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Biotronik  
Pacific Power Foundation  
Mary Rice and Robert  
McDonald

### Heat Throb (\$500 - \$999)

David Adams  
Robert and Michele Arluna  
MB Ebert  
Pat Engle  
Carrie Flesichman  
Tama Forth  
Mark Francis  
Reina Garcia  
SaVJI Gv  
Mike Knutkowski

Michael and Susan Covey  
Bret and Brooke Fleager  
Michelle McDowell  
Victor Menashe

### Heart Helper (\$100 - \$499)

Rhonda Brogdon  
Nathan Camit  
Brigid Culey  
John Farafontoff  
Brenda Friesen  
Steve Gotsch  
Lisa Heberlein  
Carolyne Heberlein  
Shannon Howard  
Pierce Kenny and Jennifer  
McGee  
Kristin and Hany Kamel  
Kerri Kanegae  
Jenna Kindle  
Kars4Kids  
Maurita Klement  
Karen Kustritz  
DeFu Lau  
Carrie Maxwell  
Steve and Su McDonald  
Andy Safholm  
Robin Shaugnessy  
Karina Stricker  
Shawn Stricker  
Sharon Stricker

John LaBarge, Jr  
Vicki Ly  
Joan Macari  
Robert McCrone  
Finnigan Mooney  
Sharon Moore  
Ashok Muralidaran  
Eileen Nemec  
Patricia Price  
Joseph Schreier  
Martin Sopher  
The Wright Family  
Foundation  
Kelsey Thomas  
Vijayshree Yadav  
Brenda and Phil Zook Friesen

### Sweetheart (<\$100)

Wendy Asa  
Troy Bonar  
Jennifer Bost  
Collen Cailes  
Denise Dammann  
Bob and Sonja Throndsen

### In-Kind Sponsors

Christopher Bridge  
Enerspect Medical Solutions  
Piccolo Mondo Toys  
Project Linus  
Smart Game

Merry Heart Children's Camp

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