

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As always, there has been much happening around Children's Beach House. Our recent volunteer appreciation night was great fun with lot of laughs – and we were so happy to have the opportunity to honor all our volunteers. Linda DiLouie was named 2023 Volunteer of the Year for her long-term commitment and amazing range of skills, while Brian Mengel was recognized for his weekly hard work to keep our building safe and in good condition. Their exemplary service provides a window into the larger world of work done by volunteers here at CBH. Dozens of volunteers share a range of diverse skills – but they all have two things in common: Their energy and generosity form the collective heart of CBH – and we couldn't do what we do without them.

The last weekend camp for graduating seniors perhaps provided some of the most salient moments that demonstrate the work done at CBH. The long-term relationships these fine young people have developed with each other – and with staff, their families, and their communities, have created opportunities for self-reflection, skills development, emotional support, and shared experiences – all of which have been transformative!

We're very excited about the construction of a new outdoor classroom in the Margaret H. Rollins Child Development Center. That new space and the various activities it will support will enrich our preschoolers' educational experience and will strengthen their connection to the natural environment.

It's hard to believe but, as this newsletter arrives in your mailboxes, we will already be halfway through our summer camp season. As you can imagine, during camp season, the CBH building is a hive of activity that delivers one amazing moment after another. Every day I am privileged to

continued on page 2

Celebrating Twenty Years of Leadership

An important aspect of what we do at the Children's Beach House (CBH) is our focus on engaging with children and their families over a long period of time to best enable their success in many ways. The relationships that we develop enable children to gain stability and security to learn new things, test new skills, and explore new possibilities that may otherwise not have been possible. One of the key factors to our success, over the last 20 years has been our Executive Director, Richard Garrett.



Twenty years is a remarkable tenure for the leader of any organization; It is especially rare among nonprofit organizations, so we are deeply grateful for Rich's long-term dedication. It isn't just the duration of Rich's leadership that makes it so remarkable, though; It is the positive impact he has had on our kids, their families and recruiting an incredible staff for CBH over his 20-year tenure. These accomplishments include but are not limited to:

- ✓ **The adoption of Positive Youth Development Theory** as the therapeutic foundation upon which CBH bases its programs. Positive Youth Development Theory focuses on creating resource-rich environments, supportive relationships, and a network of services, which meet a child's complete developmental needs.
- ✓ **The expansion of the Youth Development Program** to include case management and weekend enrichment programs during the school year.
- ✓ The development and implementation of a **rigorous and ongoing evaluation program** to monitor our programs' quality and the progress of the children we serve.
- ✓ The establishment of an **endowment fund for capital projects**.
- ✓ The creation of **The Margaret H. Rollins Child Development Center**.
- ✓ Planning and funding **major capital improvements** to make our building more safe, efficient, and sustainable with a new roof, windows, HVAC, and lighting.
- ✓ The establishment of the **Ma-Ran Endowment** to support the work of the Margaret H. Rollins Child Development Center.

continued on page 2

CBH Mission Statement

The mission of Children's Beach House is to improve the lives of children, youth, families and communities by helping them to identify, understand and utilize their own strengths, talents and resources.

A New Outdoor Classroom is on its Way to the Margaret H. Rollins Child Development Center!

And you can help supply it!

Thanks to a Let's Go Outside Outdoor classroom grant from the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC), the children attending the Margaret H. Rollins Child Development Center will soon be playing and learning in a new outdoor classroom. The Rollins Center's head teacher, Kenna Chanoux, secured the grant after participating in a months-long Let's Go Outside training institute that taught participating early childhood professionals a host of techniques they can use in outdoor



classroom environments. With that information, Kenna designed an outdoor classroom in collaboration with national-recognized author and outdoor play space designer, Rusty Keeler, and then submitted her plan to DIEEC for consideration for funding.

And they loved it!

Soon, a wonderful new space will be capturing kids' imaginations, engaging their minds, and helping them get dirty. The outdoor classroom will be located in an enclosed area directly adjacent to the CDC's Linda Berdine Foundation playground and will include a mud/sand kitchen, a digging area, a garden planted in a rowboat, a music area (with drums, tambourines, and percussion instruments), a worktable, outdoor easels, and outdoor blocks.

The classroom will be set up at a community installation day – for which we'll be looking for volunteers. Keep an eye on your mailbox for details.

If you'd like to help furnish the outdoor classroom with supplies and materials, please check out our Amazon wish list.



Celebrating Twenty Years of Leadership, continued from page 1

- ✓ The founding of **Greater Good Events**, a social enterprise that supports CBH's programs serving children, youth, and families.
- ✓ The creation of the **Beacon Society**, a community of sustaining donors who provide ongoing support to help us meet our children's most pressing needs.
- ✓ Successfully navigating the organization through the **Covid pandemic**.
- ✓ Overseeing the development and implementation of a new five-year **Strategic Plan** to meet emerging and ongoing community needs.

- ✓ Expanding the Youth Development Program to **meet the needs of children in nearby Milton**.
- We are fortunate to have a very engaged board of trustees with several new members to support these efforts. Rich has gifted the Beach House children, families, staff, board, volunteers, and supporters with untold numbers of acts of kindness, bursts of insight, moments of laughter, gestures of consolation, afterhours meetings, and plain old fashioned hard work. We are so grateful for his leadership and so happy to be celebrating this milestone with him.

On behalf of the Children's Beach House Board of Trustees, the families, and children we serve, and everyone affiliated with CBH, thank you, Rich!

Alexandra Ergon
President, CBH Board of Trustees

Executive Director Message, continued from page 1

witness or hear about profound moments when a connection, a discovery, or an understanding fires up and excites another young mind.

None of what happens here at CBH could occur without the support of our incredible volunteers and donors. Thank you so much for all you have done to support our work!

With deep gratitude,

Rich Garrett, Executive Director

Youth Development Program

It's hard to put into words just what last the last weekend camp of the 2022-2023 season meant to us all. A complete successful season since the COVID shutdown. And the final camp for six of our graduating seniors.

I could tell you about the fun and games we had that weekend, but I doubt those are the things our kids will remember. Instead, they'll remember the hours they spent writing down just how much they mean to one another in their affirmation journals. They'll remember reliving the memories from their earliest camp days with our graduation video. They'll remember their last campfire and dance party on the back porch. And I bet they'll remember the friends they cherished and the counselors who guided them along the way.

We look forward to welcoming our returning Captains (the terms we use for high school-age campers) for summer camp. Until then, fair winds and calm seas.

Jonathan Freeman-Coppadge is CBH's Camp Coordinator. He may be reached at jfc@cbhinc.org



2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event

Our volunteers are the absolute best! And we told them just how much we need and appreciate them on Thursday, April 27 when we gathered for our 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event. Together we enjoyed a springtime cookout prepared by Chef Paula Baker while we acknowledged the efforts of each volunteer and highlighted the work of two special people.

Congratulations to Linda DiLouie, 2023 Volunteer of the Year!

Linda is like the ace up our sleeve, and she is a genius in the field of organization (and we all need someone like that in our lives). Linda greets our

kids, families, and guests with a smile on the afternoons that she's in the front office, and she helps with everything from mailings, preparing materials for meetings and special events. Linda organized in chronological order 75 years of CBH photographs that had sat in boxes since the middle of the last century, and she has been essential to the creation of so many of the crazy decorations that we have made for our fundraisers. Linda undoubtedly holds the record for folding the most brochures here at CBH. Linda has truly become a part of our CBH family, and really, we just don't know what we'd do without her.

Our Facilities Manager, Eric Krause, presented another special award to Brian Mengel for his tireless work on our building. Brian knows every inch of CBH's 25,000 square foot building... because he has literally fixed everything in, on, and outside it. He

has replaced shower heads in the dormitories, repaired our outdoor ropes course, painted several rooms, helped rebuild our walkway to the beach, torn out drywall after we discovered water damage, hung holiday decorations, helped convert the old bathhouse into much needed storage space, renovated our second floor resource room, and so many other projects that keep the building safe, comfortable, and beautiful for our kids. Brian, you're a rock star!

Volunteers are the backbone of CBH, and we couldn't do what we do without them. It was great to be able to take a moment to show our appreciation for all their hard work and dedication. Thank you again to all our wonderful volunteers! You are truly the best!

Justin Nixon is CBH's Marketing Manager. He may be reached at jnixon@cbhinc.org





Children · Families · Communities

1800 Bay Avenue | Lewes, DE. 19958

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
NEWARK DE
PERMIT # 109

Saturday, August 26, 2023 // 6:30pm – 9:30pm // 1800 Bay Avenue, Lewes, DE

The Beach BBQ, also known as “the feel-good party of the summer” is going back to the awesome 80’s this year! Grab your leg warmers, neon headbands and boomboxes, and let’s take it back to the era of big hair and even bigger hits. Don’t be a square (no offense, Rubik’s Cube), join us for a gnarly night of totally tubular fun to benefit the programs and services that Children’s Beach House provides to children and families throughout our communities.

Founders’ Circle

Mike and Sherry Hogan
Chad and Elyse Moore
Michael Paese and
Blake Kimbrough
Thomas Sheridan and
Vincent Walsh
Trudie Thompson and the Mildred
and Ray Thompson Fund

Beacon Society

Tjark and Ann Bateman
Scott Bradley
Daniel Bucci
Samuel and Mariah Calagione
Ellison Carey
Richard and Lynne Carpenter
Martin and Eileen Clark
Jim and Mary Culley
Michael and Susan Damiano
Alexandra Ergon
Channing Daniel and Bill Gluth
Anonymous
Timothy Dillingham and
Donald Corin
Clifford Diver and Kathryn Byrne
Jonathan and Nancy Ellsworth
Steven Elmendorf
Jim and Karen Falk
Joseph Filipek and
Larry Richardson

Robert and Linda Fischer
William Flanagan
Richard Garrett and
Miguel Deleon
Henry and Susan Gomez
Barry Goodinson
James Harden and
Richard Gottwald
Rex and Haley Holstein
Lucinda Issele
Thomas Jamison and
Don Wainwright
Sallie Jones
Ken and Debbie Karpinski
Roger Kramer
Robert Land
Ann Lingo
John and Carol Lingo
William and Janice Lingo
Gail McDermott
Joseph and Carol McGrath
Susan Moore McJunkin
Brian and Kathi Mengel
Robert and Beverley Myers
Brenda Mitchell
Anthony Orman
Jay Raksin
Barry Redmond and
Janet Reeves
John and Michele Schultz
Shae Searl

Joseph and Judy Setting
Rodney Sharp and Lynn Herrick
Daniel Smith and Lorraine Voles
Peter and Kathy Stoehr
Dave and Becca Svec
Virginia Terzano
John Thurman and
Joseph Wendolowski

John and Patrice Tosi
George and Alina Tudor –
Rehoboth Massage
& Alignment
Shaun and Erica Tull
Thomas Vaccaro and
Nicholas Cavnar

Children’s Beach House honors the memories of the following people whose families and friends made gifts to support our work in their names:

Martha E. Garrett
Sibyl Raksin Gordon
Dr. Gregory M. Green

Mary Helms
Howard Henn
T. Rowland Marshall

Children’s Beach House gratefully acknowledges gifts to support our work made in honor of:

Dr. John A Boscia
Rosemary Contini
The marriage of Lauren Cooksey and Matthew Meyer
Lauren Cooksey’s welcome to Judaism
The marriage of Mary and Bill Farrelly
The marriage of Patty Garrity and Jamie Lewis
John and Michele Schultz
Evan Thomas Zinsi

Visit us on
our website:



Visit us on
Facebook:

