2015 Year in Review

YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES
I could bring my voyageur paddle to the event." Mary Lou said to me quietly as we brainstormed possible decorations for an upcoming alumni event. Knowing that Mary Lou’s voyageur counselor paddle would trump any centerpiece I could conceive of, I nodded my head enthusiastically. “That would be amazing!” I responded. After some conversation, Mary Lou promised to send me the quote that was etched onto the paddle alongside her route and the names of her voyageur campers. As promised, an email arrived in my inbox within a week with the following words:

“It’s times like these that you come to know...How much a part of everything you are...How much all things are a part of you...”

While I didn’t travel with Mary Lou and her campers down Savant Lake in 1966, I could imagine the power of these words for Mary Lou and her campers. Whether you are a new pathfinder or a seasoned voyageur or mountaineer, these words perfectly describe the overwhelming feeling of being both intensely connected to those in your group and to the expansive wilderness you are lucky enough to travel through. Students who spend time at Widji in the fall, winter and spring months similarly describe the feeling more connected than ever before to the natural world and to their classmates.

Of course, for most of us in the Widji community, the time we’ve spent in the woods is dwarfed by time in the “front country”—building careers, homes, families, and new adventures. Yet, in my role as current chair of the Widji board, the quote feels more relevant now than ever before.

It’s times like these that you come to know...

On the evening Mary Lou told me about her paddle, we were two of eight volunteers gathered around a table at Café Latte in St. Paul. We were meeting as part of the Alumni and Community Relations Committee, a group spanning multiple generations comprised of board members, former board members, and current Widji staff. The very next morning I joined another group of volunteers who met before the sun rose to share coffee and conversation about plans for the new Widji Ampitheater. Just tonight I was included on an email thread for the Widji History Task Force, a small but mighty group of Widji alumni, board members, and camper parents committed to capturing and preserving Widji’s history and stories.

This is only one week of events formally connected to the Widji board. I know that there are countless other meet-ups, reunion trips, coffee dates, and family traditions that are buoyed by connections and commitment forged in Ely’s forest, on northern lakes and streams, or mountain passes.
From the Director

BY LIZ FLINN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In December, Camp Widjiwagan was pleased to hire Amy Hadow who joined the administration team as the Summer Program Director. We were excited to welcome Amy for many reasons, but her hiring marked a milestone in Widji’s history. For the first time Widji’s leadership team and board chair were all female...

Erin Walsh – Board Chair, Liz Flinn – Executive Director, Karen Pick – Outdoor Learning Program Director, Kathleen Floberg – Wilderness Program Director, and Amy Hadow – Summer Program Director (Widji’s not forgetting the contributions of Joe Smith—we couldn’t operate without him!)

And all have also been both campers and staff. (I’m afraid I can’t claim to be quite as accomplished as the other four since I am the only one who has not led a voyageur trip).

The other wonderful thing about this group of leaders is that they all have a depth of experience leading trips and working with teens outside of Widjiwagan. They are also highly educated, each one possessing a master’s degree. So not only do they understand The Widji Way, they are quite capable of bringing a fresh perspective that continues to help camp grow.

What is important for Widjiwagan now and in the future is a team of leaders that understands that challenges and the benefits of wilderness travel with teens. The world of wilderness travel is changing. There are advancements in gear, including use of satellite phones and bear barrels for food storage. There are ever-changing permit requirements for backpacking and canoeing areas. There are new trainings, including Swift Water Rescue for advanced canoe leaders and trainings that focus on the emotional health of teens, that are required for summer staff. There are also threats to the environment; the possibility of mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area is of great concern.

So while a team of women leading Camp Widjiwagan is significant, even more important is that these women are incredibly qualified and experienced. Widji is in good hands.

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

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Amy Hadow
GOLD Trip changes lives of campers and counselors alike

BY CLAIRE BURGESON, SUMMER TRAIL STAFF

Last summer, I had the incredible opportunity to lead a relatively new trip for Widji, the GOLD trip. And that is exactly what it was: GOLD, in every sense of the word.

While it’s actually an acronym for Girls Outdoor Leadership Program, the trip really stood out to me on another level, like gold does amongst stones. Five amazing young women came up to camp, most of them with no camping experience, and changed the way I see the outdoors, leadership and my job.

The GOLD program is unique in its setup. Generally about half of the kids pay full camp tuition, and some pay half or nothing but the registration fee. This mixes up the socio-economic backgrounds of the kids in the group, and brings something very different to the table. When you are in the on-trail, it does not matter how much money you have; it is about the people you are travelling with.

The girls were surprised about a lot of things, like how tippy and heavy the canoes were, but they quickly surprised me by their positive attitudes and maturity. My co-lead and I taught them how to make cinnamon rolls, and they taught us how to dance.

It is often that counselors learn more than campers do, because although we can teach skills, our campers can teach us more: the importance of achievement. It comes in all forms, from finishing a hard portage to giggling together during a flash rainstorm. I’ve been hard-pressed to find anything more rewarding.

The end of the trip brought tears from those five young women, even though they had been at camp for less than a week. It was amazing to watch them mixed in with the other campers, like little pieces of gold with new outlooks and skills to pass on. I thank my lucky stars for getting to meet those girls, and can’t wait to see the program continue. ▼
Widji received this thank you letter after spending the morning at the Ely School doing a variety of teambuilding activities with Ely’s sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The faculty and administration at the school had contacted us a month earlier to ask if we could help them try to improve the spirit of community among their students. They felt that the students didn’t work particularly well together and weren’t supportive of each other. Together, we brainstormed a plan to do a morning a of teambuilding activities with the students on one of the first days of school. Each Widji instructor was assigned a group of students to work with. Initially, the students were skeptical and not too sure what to make of us. However, as we began leading icebreakers, playing games and doing a variety of activities, they became more comfortable and started joining in the fun. By the end of the morning, students who were hesitant to talk to each other at first, were laughing, joking and more willing to work together in a positive and supportive way. It was a great start to the Ely School year and a fun way to kick off Widji’s fall season.

Dear Karen and the Widji staff,
The Ely Middle School faculty wanted to thank you for working with us to make this day happen. What an AWESOME day!!! We have received nothing but positive feedback from the students. I can tell that together we have made a wonderful impact in the growth of our middle school students. You all deserve to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. Thanks again. We are excited to build upon the good energy you have helped us create.

GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN WIDJI’S OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM-2015

Blake School
BOLD GOLD Program
Brightwater Montessori
By the Light of the Moon Knitting
Carondelet Catholic School
Ely Brownie Troop
Ely Girl Scouts
Ely Memorial Middle & High School
Expo Elementary
Fall Women’s Weekend
Friends & Family of Anne Murphy
Great River School
Groveland Park Elementary
Jefferson Community School
King of Kings
Lake Country Montessori
Life House
Marshall School
Montessori School of Duluth
Northrop Urban Environmental School
Northwest Passage High School
Oak Hill Montessori
Olson Middle School
Seward Montessori
Shakopee Area Catholic School
South High School
Southern Adventist University
St. Paul Academy
St. Therese of Deephaven
University of Minnesota-Institute of Child Development
Valley View Middle School
Widji Leaders
Washington Elementary
Widjiwagon Board
Wilder Foundation Youth Leadership Initiative
Winter Women’s Weekend
Yinghua Academy
Youth MEA Retreat
The New TB Circle

BY KATHLEEN FLOBERG,
WILDERNESS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

If you returned to the TB Circle today after many years away, you would see both familiar and new sights. The same picnic table where groups plan their meals still sits in the center, the old basketball hoop is still standing, and the rack of dozens of wooden paddles awaits campers to adopt them for their paddling adventures.

However, you’d also notice that the Tripping center is a new color, there is a brand new canoe shop, and the Trail Building is now devoid of gear and food. But don’t worry, those things aren’t gone, we have just moved them to the Tripping Center. The renovation of the Tripping center and the relocation of all the trail food and gear may have changed where “pack-outs” and “pack-ins” take place, but the essence of the experience remains intact. Campers and their counselors still walk through their personal and group goals with the ever-excited TB staff, hundreds of pounds of powdered and dry food items get put into bags for trail, and groups organize all their packs into portable homes for the days to come.

The new Tripping Center allows programming to run much more smoothly. All our gear is in one open, organized, and visible space which allows staff to inventory and assess gear without crawling into deep, dark cabinets. The new gear repair area provides enough room and light to sew tents, fix pack straps, sort warranty items and houses multiple sewing machines. There is also a new Locker Building where groups store their personal belongings that aren’t going on trail with them. All of this allows more time for the TB staff to interface with groups, demo new recipes, and explain the difference between all the white powders that look exactly the same.

The new gear storage area in the Tripping Center houses:
- 80 blue tarps
- 9 different types of tents
- 64 Whisperlight stoves
- 75 whitewater helmets
- 177 fuel bottles
- 40 fire grates
- 215 Duluth packs

The new food room packed out:
- 7 types of powdered sauces
- 4 types of potatoes
- 5 types of pudding

Another part of the experience that has remained intact is the ethic of respect all our campers and staff show the gear that helps them have a wonderful trail experience. The Widji community takes such great care of their gear, themselves, each other, and the environment. After all, that is “The Widji Way.”

2015 Voyageur & Mountaineer Leaders:

VOYAGEURS
- Nick Herringer—Coppermine River
- Andrew Johnson—Hanbury-Thelon Rivers
- Kate Hale—Thelon River
- Amy Hadow—Elk-Thelon Rivers
- Sarah Alexander—Hanbury-Thelon Rivers

MOUNTAINEERS
- Joey Griffith—ANWR
- Charlotte Muzzi—ANWR
- Katie Pierce—ANWR
THANK YOU HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Elizabeth L. Flinn
James Dorsey Flinsch Sr
Frederick and Dorothy Forro
James and Joan Gardner
Jamie and Cindy Gardner
Edward and Dana Garvey
Judith Gavin
Jean Geist
Laura J. Giaquinto
Jean K. Godfrey
William Gray
Sue and Bob Greenberg
Ann I. Guzman
Linda Gustafson and Roxy Port
Rose M. Gustafson
Tom Hiendmayer and Jan Ormaza
Geoffrey and Linda Hirt
Christine and Douglas Hlavacek
Lucy Hollinshead
Mary Horak Binger
Ruth and John Huss
John and Polly Jackson
Nathanial Jacobson
David and Judy Jerde
Charlotte and Ward Johnson
Frank and Meredith Johnson
Arthur and Martha Kaemmer
John and Sally Katter
Cheryl and Daniel Kelley
Esther and Martin Kellogg
Dessie P. Koch
Tom and Cheryl Kranz
Mary Lou Lamain
Mary Levins
Judith Frost Lewis and Stephen Lewis
Georgia R. Lindeke
Darwyn and Marie Linder
Armin and Virginia Luehrs
Kay Lyford
Kent and Barbara Lyford
Katherine Mackenzie
Kristine Maritz
Gayle Rose Martinez
David and Sherla Mayer
Paul T. McArthur
Elspeth and F. William McClelland
Lynne Meyer and Mary Walser
Ranlet and Beth Miner
Jonathan and Martha Morgan
Anne and David Murphy
Janet Nast
Uri Neren
Robert and Sarah Newman
Nedra Nichols
Richard and Nancy Nicholson
Joan Oestergren & James Alexander
Doug and Phyl Oestergen
Joanne Oyen
Thomas Paper and Eleanor Bigelow
John Patterson and Julie Sonier
Thomas and Sally Patterson
Steve Patzman
Nancy G. Priestman
Mary Jo Quehl
Thomas M. Racciatti
Linda and Dominic Ramaciel
Margaret A. Rarig
Katie Reed
Gary and Gale Rick
Tom and Donna Riley
Gwenneth Rochlin
Winthrop and Barbara Rockwell
Virginia Ruddy
Donna Runyon
Alan and Sally Ruvelson
Connie and Kenneth Sansome
John Saxhaug and Lynn Rabinovitch
John Shepard and Suzanne Brust
Lee and Peg Skold
Michael Smuk
Connie and Byron Starns
Mary and Mark Stoick
Ned and Jean Therrien
Rolf Thompson and CJ Jacobson
Kathryn Tiede
James and Marianne Ude
Jane E. Verby
Jennette Wasmund
Jim and Ann Wheeler
David and Suzanne White
John and Janice Wilke
Robert R. Wilke
Daniel and Ruth Willis
Emily W. Wilmer

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUSTAIN WIDJIWAGAN

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan endowment funds provide essential support for camperships, programs, operations and more. Your donations will help.

▼ Gifts to the YMCA Camp Widjiwagan General Endowment Fund provide support to Widjiwagan where needed most.

▼ Tribute gifts to any fund may be made in honor, memory or appreciation of friends or loved ones.

▼ Include Camp Widjiwagan in your will or estate plan and be recognized as a Heritage Club member.

▼ For information on establishing a named fund, please contact Linda Ramacier or Liz Flinn at 651.645.6605 or linda.ramacier@ymcatwincities.org or liz.flinn@ymcatwincities.org

▼ Send donations to “YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Endowment” and write the name of the fund you are contributing to in the memo line.

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan 532 County Road F, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

YEAR IN REVIEW 2015 | 7

LUCY SODERSTROM DISTINGUISHED YOUTH LEADER

Lucy was very involved with the Widji Leader’s Program. She was a very enthusiastic participant and leader. At weekly events, Lucy always had a big smile on her face, a positive attitude, and was willing to share about aspects of leadership above and beyond the Leaders program. Volunteer events that she was a part of have included holiday caroling, Widji/du Nord garage sale, City of Lakes Loppett, and Y-Run. The staff coordinators of the Leaders have been continually impressed with her maturity, leadership ability and enthusiasm throughout the year. Lucy is pictured above at a YMCA event where she was honored for her outstanding volunteer work.

Lucy is completing her senior year at Orono Senior High School. She will participate on a voyageur trip this summer.

Glen Gunderson, Lucy, and Todd Tibbits
I thought it would be useful to report a summary of construction and maintenance projects completed at Widjiwagan over the last ten years (when Liz started) rather than try to create an interesting story of what has been done in the last year (we moved lots of rocks and worked on some buildings). I think it is important to see the forest through the trees at times. I’ll take you from one end of Widji to the other, ending at the sauna—a good place to finish trips.

**Canoe Shelter** – It used to be that the first stall was the canoe shop in the front half and gear drying lines in the back. During the last several decades the function of this stall evolved into life jacket storage (PFDs) and map storage in the front half and multiple storage lockers in the back. The whole area has now become PFD storage with a new slab floor and partition wall. The footings for the entire building were stabilized and a drainage system installed to prevent further frost heaves. A metal roof was installed. While doing this some structural decay was discovered and repaired.

What still remains to be done – new wiring and light fixtures and additional racks for four more canoes in the second stall. I believe a lynx may have been using the loft over the old shop area before the renovation. I found a half-eaten snowshoe hare and an obvious toilet area during demolition.

A shed roof was built for the **North Canoe** in front of the TB. We were fortunate to have the project labor donated by Pinckney Construction. Further on down the path at the lake, new stringers and decking were added to shore up the TB Dock.

**Trail Building** – It was originally designed to serve two functions: 1- trail food and gear storage and distribution; 2 – a trip planning resource area and history display in the front “Voyageur Room.” Widji still serves these needs but the number of staff and campers is now beyond what the Trail Building was designed for. The solution was to change the function of the Tripping Center, built in the 90s as a canoe shop and locker building, to be the location that stores the gear and food for wilderness trips. The whole Trail Building is now dedicated to serving the function of the original “Voyageur Room” with the additional capabilities of being used year round. Also there is a new porch on the lake side. Construction details included the addition of insulation in the ceiling and installation of a metal roof. We ground the old varnish off the interior logs (while grinding, you could tell by aroma where the different trail foods had been stored). A treatment was applied to the bare logs to deter beetles from eating them, then new stain and varnish was applied. Lastly, new doors and windows were installed. Because of structural demise, a new floor system, joists on up to a tile covering with in-floor heat, was installed. A more complete drainage and vent system were added to protect the floor. (The decision was made for new floor joists after I fell through the old floor twice during demolition).

**Canoe Program Building** – This was built because care of our canoes while on trail has always been a pillar of “The Widji Way.” We now have the ability to continue the lesson with a Canoe Program Building where campers and staff are able to care for, repair, and build canoes. Joe Seliga, the master canoe builder who lived in Ely, chose Widji as the place to have leave his canoe form for building wood canvas canoes after he died. The combination of legacy and knowledge that we have to offer is unique.

**Tripping Center** – As noted before, this is now the place where trail gear is stored and repaired, where trail groups go to pack out food and equipment. Some building upgrades had to happen including a metal roof along with new windows in the clerestory. For the porches, posts were added to support the roof and a railing added to the back porch. New paneling and siding were added for appearance and to deter creatures. All food handling areas were brought up to code with stainless steel counters and plastic bins and a sink was added. The gear area (the previous Canoe Shop) received lots of steel wire shelving, a new double door and a new flooring. Footings were added to stabilize the building. I shoveled the old shingles off in the winter because snow won’t leak and cause water damage.

**Sigurd Olson Center** – Our Trail Food is delivered here in bulk quantities. In the basement we have a “food room” for storage and packaging into trail group size units. Improvements were made to the food room including sealing the floor with an epoxy finish and covering the ceiling with tile.

**Locker Building** – This was built to provide a place for campers to store personal stuff while on trail. It replaces some locker space lost in the Tripping Center renovation and the tearing down of the old “Block House.” The scheduled logistics required that the slab was poured in the winter. We had one day to go from an undisturbed site to a poured slab inside a plastic tent with heat. We started with some minor vegetation removal—there was an opening with no large pines that was a good spot for the new building. The snow was scooped away with a Bobcat. Then a large excavator started scooping the frozen dirt into the Widji dump truck. We soon discovered why there were no large pines in that area, it was the site of the old Widji dump, (we found lots of Motts apple juice cans). Unfortunately, we didn’t have time for true archaeology dig (although I did save an old boot and a coffee can).

**Director’s Cabin** – The bathroom floor was rebuilt since the sub-floor had become mushy. The large front picture window was replaced, as were all of the windows on the “original” side of the cabin. **Moose Cabin** – interior varnish ground off, logs treated to prevent beetles. **Loon Cabin** – metal roof, new door, and foundation repaired. **Beaver Cabin** – metal roof, new door, foundation and siding repaired. **Otter Cabin** – interior varnish...
ground off, logs treated to prevent beetles. Deer Cabin – metal roof, new door, some structure and siding repaired. Lynx Cabin – hand scribed log siding added to a small exterior area around a heater vent to blend with the rest of the cabin. Bear Den – converted from a summer-only building to a year-round cabin. The cabin was lifted on a trailer and moved toward the lake. A heated slab was poured on the original site, the trailer pulled back and the cabin put in place. This involved tearing down a chimney and removing the wood floor. There are new windows and door, wiring and lights. The lifting of the building was done with a bunch of hydraulic jacks and wood blocks. moving the cabin was handled by Jim Richards on one side with an excavator, and me on the other side with the skidder. we communicated by shaking the building a certain number of times.

Hillside and Hilltop Staff Cabins – porches were improved structurally, and new carpeting added to Hillside.

Kirby Dining Hall – new light fixtures in the Entry Hall and Annex. We are preparing for a new metal roof to go on this spring.

CABINS CONTINUED...

Osprey – this was the Camp Office for many years, then the Staff Lounge, then overflow summer staff housing. It was located next to Kirby Dining Hall. It is a beautifully built log structure (one of seven log structures at Widji built by Robert Zimmerman, from Grand Portage). It is now a year round camper cabin. It was disassembled and moved to the old tennis court site between Fox and Wolf Cabins. The disassembly happened at the end of summer when trail staff could be used for their contribution of mind, spirit, and body (in varying proportions).

Paths – with Osprey in a new location we were able to build a new path from the east side of Widji to the front of Kirby. Something that would be comparable to the experience of walking Cabin Row. To add to the landscaping, new “Thought For The Day” steps and path steps to Kirby and Fox Cabin were built. The steps were done with a tremendous effort from volunteers over one weekend in the fall of 2015. The path required a large retaining wall, 100 feet long, with two rows of rock. Some of the rocks could only be moved by positioning the rock between the bucket and track of the excavator. Then the excavator would be tipped so the track against the rock was in the air. That track would be put into reverse pushing the rock onto the bucket. The rest of the rock I found all over the camp and brought with the skidder. To complete the landscaping this summer, we will create a campfire area, aka “amphitheater” and grade the A-field for better drainage and a safer playing surface. Lights have already been added for winter night time games.

MORE CABINS...

Wolf Cabin – there were some real problems solved by removing a dysfunctional chimney, adding a metal roof, tearing out what was left of the fiberglass insulation under the floor and replacing with spray-foam insulation, pouring new footings under the floor, and replacing the doors and windows. I had quite an adventure while crawling under the floor. At one point I placed my hand on something which did not feel like dirt, and it turned out to be mummified house cat.

Nye Cabin – a new metal roof, siding repair, refinished floor, a new ceiling (no more trap door for the “ghost”), and two new doors.

Caribou Cabin – there were some design flaws in the original structure, most important being the ridge pole ran entirely through the chimney leading to inevitable rot. The chimney was also used as the main support for the roof system which did not work in a log building as the walls settle, but the chimney does not. The remedy was to remove the chimney and splice the rotten roof members and support them on a new wall (the logs walls having settled completely by now). New windows and doors were added along with a metal roof. A favorite memory of mine during this time was that trail staff Scott Sugden rode a bicycle all the way from the Twin Cities to spend half a day operating a jack hammer on the chimney before spending the evening playing flute with me on the fiddle at a wedding dance.

Sauna – A new stove, new roof were added and a new chimney was constructed. New spray foam insulation was also added in the ceiling. A beautiful new wood shed (thanks volunteers) was constructed just outside the Sauna. While removing the old fiberglass insulation I discovered more snake skins than I could count.

A few more noteworthy projects – A fire suppression system for forest fire protection was added for the whole camp. Every biffy has now been replaced with ones that meet code and standards. More cabins than not now have new exterior stain.

All in all camp looks great and I am proud of the work completed by staff, volunteers and our committed group of contractors. The Buildings & Property Committee of the Widji Board is working on a plan for the next ten years, which I’m sure will keep me busy too.
In Memoriam

PETER BISHOFF

Peter Bishoff passed away December 4, 2015, at the age of 45. He was a camper in the 1980s, a work camper and active participant in the Widji Leaders program. One of his greatest loves was sharing the outdoors with others.

Peter was beloved by many for his gentle, compassionate, loving spirit, his sense of adventure and humor, story-telling and his love for music and cooking. Active in the photography community, Peter had a remarkable talent for capturing a unique perspective in the beauty of a moment or the essence of a person. Freely sharing his infectious smile with all in his path, he will be greatly missed by his wide circle of friends.

He is survived by mother Kay Andrews, brothers Joseph (Tammy), Andy (Brittany) and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

On behalf of all Peter’s Widji friends, a big thank you for your contributions to the “GoFundMe” program in support of Peter and his family.

DONALD HENNING EYINCK

Donald Henning Eyinck died peacefully on May 7, 2015. He is survived by his sister Lois Eyinck (the first Widji female Voyageur Leader), niece Diana Turner and her three children. Also, Richard and Liz Charbonneau Family.

Don was a Widji and St. Croix camper in the 1940s and a Widji trail guide, under the leadership of Camp Director Ted Gray. He served in the Air Corps during World War II, graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks as a Civil Engineer and served as city engineer and manager for the city of Fairbanks. In 1963, he returned to the family business that his grandparents owned, Strauss Skate and Bicycle in Maplewood. The family was renowned as Saint Paul Skate makers and Don thoroughly enjoyed serving customers’ needs until he retired in 2011. He was so proud to carry on the business that he grandparents opened in 1887 and continues to thrive today.

A memorial fund will keep Don’s legacy alive at Camps Widiwjagan, St. Croix, and Menogyn for generations to come, allowing many campers to benefit from his generosity.

MALCOLM E. CAMMACK

Malcolm E. Cammack passed away at the Cammack Family Farm on Thursday, September 24, 2015—just six days shy of his 91st birthday. Never one to want a fuss made over him, it was his wish that his obituary read: “He died and a service was held yesterday.”

He is survived by his bride of 66 years, Elizabeth “Betty” Bancroft Cammack, his children and their spouses: Huck & Chrissie Cammack, Richie & Ann Cammack, Elizabeth “Binkie” & Greg Closmore, Debbie & Rob Muller, Sally & Jack Miesen and Julie & Brigg Backer, his 17 grandchildren, and his four great grandchildren.

Malcomb served on the Widiwjagan Board in the ’50s and early ’60s and annually supported the camp for over seven decades. Many of his children and grandchildren have been Widji campers. Through Malcomb and Betty’s annual giving, many campers who could not afford the Widji experience have benefitted.

CHRISTINA “TINA” (NELSON) GRAY

Christina “Tina” (Nelson) Gray, passed away on December 18, 2015 at the age of 102. Tina was born December 6, 1913 to Frank and Laura Nelson in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated with a Social degree from the University of Minnesota. Tina then worked for the St. Paul YWCA until her marriage to Edward “Ted” Gray on April 11, 1939. Ted became the Camp Director of Camp Widiwjagan from 1940–1945. Tina had fond memories of Widji and living in Nye Cabin for all those summers.

Tina was an active member of the Y’s Mennetts Service Club and a former member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She was an avid card player and loved Minnesota sports. Tina also loved spending summers at the cabin that she and Ted built near Orr, Minnesota on Kjostad Lake.

Tina is survived by her son Bill, daughter Barbara Wenschlag, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

To perpetuate Tina’s legacy, memorials were directed to the Frank and Laura Nelson Memorial Fund. This was the first endowment fund established in 1962, benefitting Camps Widiwjagan and St. Croix with an investment of a little over $20,000 and the distribution has amounted to nearly $300,000. The proceeds have provided campership for thousands of youth and teens, and serves as a living memorial for many of the Nelson Family and extended family members over four generations.
IN MEMORIAM

PETER HOWELL

Peter Howell, 86, passed peacefully on August 19, 2015 with his family at his side. Survived by wife, Gladys, daughters Mary (Steve) Langlie, Charlotte Howell, son Thomas Howell, four grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Peter will be remembered as a dedicated YMCA camp volunteer for most of his adult life. The Howells were annual supporters of Camps Widjiwagan, St. Croix and du Nord for many, many decades. At Widji, Peter was a camper and then a staff parent in the ‘80s. He served on the Camp St. Croix Board, 1972 through the ‘90s, was a volunteer campaigner for the annual campaign in the ‘70s through the 2000s, and he contributed to many work projects. The Howells were also very active at Camp du Nord as campers, volunteers for the annual campaign, work weekends and rarely did they miss an opportunity to work at the garage sales, benefiting both du Nord and Widji. The camps were so important to Peter and Gladys that they became Heritage Club members, perpetuating their legacy and ensuring the future of the camps for generations to come.

HERADIO LOPEZ

Heradio Lopez, a Widji camper and staff parent, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family and other loved ones on September 28, 2015, at the age of 61.

He is survived by wife Elizabeth, sons Heradio “Tre” and Alejandro, daughters Cassandra and Sophia, and mother Maria.

Known to all as “H,” and “The world’s Greatest Puerto Rican,” Heradio was a loving husband, devoted father, and dedicated coach. A great spirit and friend to all, Heradio will be greatly missed.

In Heradio’s memory, a memorial gift was given to Widji’s General Endowment Fund, also honoring his daughter Sophia for her work as a Widji trail counselor.

WILLIAM “BILL” MACKENZIE

William “Bill” Mackenzie and his wife Kay, fell in love with Widji while attending their grandchildren’s Bryan, Shannon, Abby and Will’s camper banquets in the 2000s. Bill and Kay were very impressed with the program and the impact that Widji made on their family. They decided to support Widji’s annual campaign, two capital projects, established a named endowment fund in honor of their grandchildren and became Heritage Club Members. Bill passed away unexpectedly on March 24, 2015.

Bill graduated from high school in Mankato. After high school he joined the Navy V12 Program and attended Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated in 1948 with a degree in chemical engineering. He worked his entire career for the 3M Company, starting in the lab, then becoming a plant manager in Schenectady, NY and in Camarillo, CA. He spent the last 24 years of his career in St. Paul, retiring as Staff Vice President of Quality and Manufacturing.

Bill married Katherine Kannenberg in 1949 and they were happily married for 65 years. He loved to travel, play golf, bridge, read, hunt and camp. Most of all he loved his family. He is survived by his wife, Kay; sister, Nancy (Gordy) Justus; children, Karen Mackenzie (Brooks Donald), and Thomas (Judith) Mackenzie; 4 grandchildren, Bryan (Katie) Donald, Shannon (Nathan) Appy, Abigail (Tony) Basile, Will Mackenzie; 4 great-grandchildren, Charles and Atticus Donald, Maelyn Appy and John Basile.

To honor Bill, memorials were directed to the Bill and Kay Mackenzie Endowment Fund in honor of their grandchildren.
In Memoriam

BERYL DEVINE PONTHAN

Beryl Devine Ponthan died peacefully on September 10, 2015. Beryl is survived her sons Dave and Rick Ponthan and their families including six grandchildren and seven great granddaughters.

Born on March 13th, 1915 in Panama, she graduated from Central High School in St. Paul and Macalester College in 1936 with a degree in music. She was an active member in many college organizations including SAI.

Beryl met Harold in the canoe country, then married at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN on October 2, 1942. They enjoyed 62 years together. After Harold’s military service at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri was completed, they moved back to St. Paul and started their family. In 1960, they moved to New Mexico as part of Harold’s career with American Linen Supply Company. They returned to Shoreview, Minnesota in 1963.

Beryl and Hal lost their son Steve in 1974, in a Navy flight accident. After 13 years of retirement in Minnesota, Beryl and Hal moved to Rio Rancho, New Mexico in 1995. They enjoyed the beautiful scenery, weather and their log cabin in the Pecos Wilderness where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family.

Beryl was an accomplished pianist and organist, who enjoyed playing at social events, church services, for Widjiwagan friends, and at family gatherings. Most of all, she enjoyed accompanying Hal as he sang with and for various groups.

After Hal’s passing in 2005, Beryl continued to live independently at home in New Mexico. She enjoyed attending First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque every Sunday, PEO meetings, visits from friends and family and her trips to visit family in Minnesota on most holidays through the Christmas and New Year. In 2014, Beryl moved to St Louis Park, MN and eventually into Parkwood Shores to be close to family. She celebrated her 100th birthday in March.

To honor Beryl’s memory, memorials were directed to the Hal Ponthan Endowment Fund, benefitting many Widji Campers who could not otherwise afford the experience.

JANETH “JANNY” WALKER

Janeth “Janny” Walker, who passed away January 13, 2015, served on the Widjiwagan Board in the late 1960s early 1970s. She will be remembered as a dedicated community volunteer who got things done for many non-profit organizations. Janny would say “You never lose when you work for the common good.”

Her professional career included sports wear buyer for Cook’s and Young Quinlin’s, and Residential Director for United Way of Saint Paul where she developed one of the first United Way planned giving and endowment program in the country.

Janny was born February 14, 1922. She married Platt Walker in 1947 and they had 58 years together. Janny is survived by her children Platt (Barbara), James, Janny (Paul), Thomas, William, two grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

Janny and Platt and family spent their summers at Pine Beach Peninsula on Gull Lake. She was active in sports including skating, skiing, tennis, fishing with her father, and sailing with Platt. Janny graduated from St. Paul Central High School in 1940, attended night school at University of Minnesota three years and throughout her life attended lectures at UM and St. Thomas. She loved the symphony and theatre, family, bridge, travel, and parties. She loved life.

Janny knew the impact that Widjiwagan had on her children and so the family established “The Platt Walker Family” Endowment Fund. Janny and Platt’s legacy lives on through this fund, insuring that campers for generations to come will have the same experience that their children experienced.

BESSIONE WASENDA

Bessie Wasenda passed away February 15, 2015 after a purpose-filled life that began May 19, 1917, at the age of 97. She was preceded in death by husband John, son Dr. Gregory (Shannon) Wasenda and is survived by daughter Tanya Bergman (Alan Haak), granddaughters Rebecca (Chris) Maher, Molly (Eric) Risberg, and 7 great grandchildren who deeply loved their Granny.

Bessie found enjoyment in her employment at J.C. Penney, playing sports like racquetball and snowshoeing, exercising at the YMCA and traveling the world. Those who knew her well remember her smile, ”the look”, and her sly subtle humor which complemented John’s craziness. She has left a legacy to all who benefited from her commitment to feed the world. Starting out as a child working in her mother’s Greek diner, through decades of volunteer efforts with Meals on Wheels, Food for Friends, Loaves and Fishes, or just sharing a pot of homemade soup with any acquaintance in need, she showed her love through food.

Bessie and her husband John were dedicated annual campaign supporters for many decades to Widjiwagan and the South Family Branch YMCA. They were generous in welcoming and hosting out-of-state Widji campers in the 1960s, when they had campers. John is remembered as Mr. YMCA Man, for being a dedicated volunteer at the Y and Bessie was always there in his support.
Lou Elle and Richard (Dick) Wood

Lou Elle and Richard (Dick) Wood, together in life and forever in eternity. Lou passed away on December 31, 2014 and Dick on March 14, 2015. Dick and Lou’s lives were built on their shared faith, love and generosity of spirit. Dick often said the secret to their happy marriage was never going to bed angry at one another.

The Woods loved to travel and their interests were varied. They both loved hockey. Michigan Tech was their favorite team and they traveled there for every home game that they could. They even entertained the team at their St. Paul home whenever the team came through the cities. The players became extended family to them and they proudly followed their lives after college. Of course they also followed the Vikings, the Twins, the Saints and professional golf.

Lou Elle was the Assistant Head Bookkeeper for Burlington Northern Railroad. She was responsible for all of the entertainment, travel and housing expenses for the executives. At the age of 75, Lou took up painting and she excelled at her natural talent, much to her own amazement.

Dick was an accountant and retired from Federal-Hoffman Engineering in 1988. He also worked at the ammunition plant in Arden Hills, where he held the position of Payroll and Accounting Director. Dick was so proud of the fact that he memorized over 300 of the Union workers names and badge numbers, never having to look up a number making it more personal when handing out each person’s check.

Dick, Lou and their daughter Mary Lou rarely missed a Widji reunion, a spring banquet, garage sale or Heritage Club dinner. Lou served on the Widjiwagan Board in the late ‘50s early ‘60s.

Heritage Highlight: Remembering Robin Ahrens

October 5, 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the death of Robin Ahrens, former Widji camper and, at age 33, the first female FBI agent killed in the line of duty. Her short time at the bureau capped a life full of tackling difficult tasks head on.

The official FBI report on the shooting, states “The actions of special agent Robin L. Ahrens during the night of 10-4-85 appear to be logical, justified and predictable. It is not known why the agents shot at special agent Ahrens.” The report concludes that the agents who shot her “were near panic and exhibited faulty and atrocious judgment when they fatally shot Ahrens.”

“She was involved in the investigation of a fugitive, Kenneth Don Barrett. During the course of effecting an arrest, agent Ahrens was fatally shot by other agents. Basically she was out on surveillance, and special agent Ahrens was mistaken for an armed associate of the fugitive,” said Farinacci. Ahrens, who was wearing body armor at the time of the incident, was shot three times and died from a head wound the next morning.

The chance for women to serve as agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation did not come until 1972. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the agency’s only director for 48 years, refused to allow women to even apply; claiming they couldn’t handle the physical rigors of the job. When Hoover died, the rules quickly changed.

Robin was involved with Widjiwagan, for many years, as a camper from 1965 to 1970, and as a counselor from 1971 to 1975. She was in the International Exchange Program in 1969, a Voyager in 1970 and a Voyager leader in 1975.

At age 23, as Widjiwagan counselor, she led five young women on a 34-day, 420-mile canoe trip through the wilds of northern Manitoba, Canada. In 1975, they navigated dozens of rapids, and encountered six polar bears. Canadian authorities had warned the group against the challenging journey; possibly because it was dangerous; possibly because there was no male calling the shots. But bears, rapids and the daunting responsibility for the lives of five 18-year-olds never made Ahrens flinch.

Ahrens’ 1975 Voyager campers included Julie Gustafson, Nina Koch, Ruth Robertson, Kristen Tinglum and Genie Zarling. They travelled from Raindeer Lake and the Cochrane River to the Seal River and Hudson Bay. “I remember her as an incredibly strong lady, physically and emotionally. Anything that came up, she was calm. She just had it together,” said Nina Koch.

Ahrens water-skied, snow-skied, camped and canoed. With her formidable athletic skills and thirst for adventures, it was no surprise that after graduating from Utah State University and teaching school for a few years, Ahrens pursued another challenge, also a bold choice for a woman: becoming an FBI agent.

Her entry to the FBI was serendipitous. While teaching high school in Virginia, she took some Reserve Officers’ Training Corps students to the bureau’s facility in Quantico for a chance to check out the physical training course, which she completed as well. An FBI instructor noted her athletic ability and immediately encouraged her to apply to be an agent.

Christy Buetow was Ahrens’ Voyager counselor in 1970 when Ahrens, then 18, was one of five young women who completed another epic canoe journey, this one a 22-day, 300-mile trip on the Berens River to Winnipeg. Follow campers included Lucy Hollinshead, Ruean Mores Taylor, Penny Sugden and Janny Walker.

Buetow and the other four women on that trip all attended Ahrens’ funeral. She said they reminisced about hefting and hauling their canoes, and singing as they paddled. “Robin really was open and engaging. We’ll keep her in our hearts the rest of our lives,” said Buetow. “Anybody who knew Robin knew she didn’t shrink back from things. Whatever job you asked her to do, she would be putting her all into it.”

When Robin lost her life in 1985, the Ahrens’ Family directed memorials to Widjiwagan. With the memorials, an endowment fund was established in her name called “The Robin Ahrens Memorial Fund.” Memorial gifts totaled $4,627, distribution thus far is $10,427 and the market value is $8,559. The initial memorial gift keeps on giving, changing lives by making the Widji Way possible for new generation, while keeping Robin’s legacy alive.

—This story is adapted from Women’s eNews, October 2015; Marsha Walton author. Used by permission.
Mary and George loved the outdoors and camping. In the 1960s and ’70s they sent their three children to Widjiwagan. George became a Widji Board member in the 1970s and contributed his engineering skills preserving cabins and shoreline for years to come. With Mary and George’s love of the North Woods and Burntside Lake, they purchased Ring Rock Island for their family. The island is .49 acres, near Crab Lake portage. George built an A-frame on the property and they enjoyed camping on their island for many decades.

Mary and George’s children, Bill, Katherine and Bob, decided that it was fitting to donate Ring Rock Island to Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord to honor their parents and perpetuate their lives. The camps most graciously accepted this generous contribution. The island was dedicated on Labor Day weekend 2015. A plaque is erected on the island keeping Mary and George’s memory alive.

Widji and du Nord campers appreciated Ring Rock Island throughout 2015 and will continue for years and generations to come thanks to the children of Mary and George Levin.
2015 Endowment Gifts

James Adams Memorial Endowment Fund
in memory of James P. Adams
Julia and James Adams
The Bakker-Arkena Family
Elizabeth H. Cobb
John and Anne Dowdle
Jana Ernakovich
James Garvie
Joy Gray-Donald
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormsa
James and Kathy Lisson
Igors and Donna Svishtunenko
in honor of Kelly and Clay Pear’s marriage
in memory of James P. Adams
Kelly and Clay Pear

Dr. Bob Bjorndahl Endowment Fund
in memory of Bob Bjorndahl
Betty Felix

Gordon Brown, Jr. Endowment
Linda B. Harris

Warner S. Brown Memorial Fund
Anonymous

Kevin Burke Memorial Endowment Fund
Anonymous

Bussey Family Endowment Fund
which benefits YMCA Camps du Nord, St. Croix, and Widjiwagan
in memory of Mary Bussey
Michael and Marcia Bussey

Charles & Michael Cheney Memorial Endowment Fund
in memory of Charles Cheney
Arta Cheney

Cornwell Family Endowment Fund
Sally and John Katter

Chandler & Carol Davis Memorial Fund
in memory of Lillian Devries
Thomas and Sally Patterson
Alan and Sally Ruvelson

Kelly Davis Advanced Trip Endowment Fund
in honor of Tom and Sally Patterson
Jane Davis Bennett

David Warner Doerr & Charles Adams Doerr Memorial Endowment
Mairi C. Doerr

Ericsson/Lundahl Family Endowment Fund
Ann and Dwight Ericsson

Gardner Family Endowment Fund
James and Joan Gardner

AESL Garvey Endowment Fund
Edward and Dana Garvey

Otis Godfrey Endowment Fund
in memory of Otis Godfrey
Jean K. Godfrey

Greenberg Family Endowment Fund
Sue and Bob Greenberg
in honor of Sue Greenberg
Wendy Dowling

Ju-Ka-Lin Gustafson Endowment Fund
Linda Gustafson and Roxy Port

The Hirt Family Endowment Fund for Advanced Trips
Geoffrey and Linda Hirt

David E. and Judy Jerde Endowment Fund
Mark and Sarah Jerde

Herbert O. Johnson Memorial Fund
in honor of Kirsten Johnson
in honor of Alissa Johnson
Judith Miller

Bruce Koci Memorial Wood Canvas Canoe Fund
Robert and Ruth Baker

Armin & Virginia Luehrs Campership Endowment
in honor of Whitney and Ginny
Gary and Jane Clements
Whitney and Ginny Luehrs

Rodger and Katherine Lundberg Endowment Fund which benefits YMCA Camps du Nord and Widjiwagan
Susan and Michael Johnson

Ostergren Family Endowment Fund
Joan Ostergren and James Alexander

William & Katherine Mackenzie Grandchildren Endowment Fund
in memory of William Mackenzie
Stanley and Georgia Bachman
Hope Ann Barker
Dale M. Borgeson
Patricia and Richard Clemmer
Norman and Jerri Densmore
Katherine M. Devine
Charlton Dietz
Mary Jane and Thomas Donald
Gordon and Nancy Elley
Elizabeth L. Flynn
Tom Hiendlmayr and Jan Ormsa
Jennifer and Keith Johnson
Rick and Jill Johnson
Louise and Richard Jones
Nancy and Gordon Justus
Jewel and Albert Lalim
Jane S. Lick
Kenneth and Jean Unwick
Robert Lord
Katherine Mackenzie
John and Mary Lou Marschall
William and Mary Petersen
Mary and Robert Shurson
Pearl E. Stack
Mary Lou and Joseph Stark
Barbara and Gary Strandemo
Glenn and Carol Wallace
Jean W. Wohlraabe
Richard A. Young
Harold and Ruth Ziemann

Frank and Laura Nelson Memorial Fund
which benefits YMCA Camps St. Croix and Widjiwagan
in honor of Merle and Sandra Mattson
Steven Mattson
in memory of Christina “Tina” Gray
Neala and Donald Gyling
Linda and Dominic Ramacier
Mavis N. Zachary

Harry & Shirley Nye Endowment Fund
Penny Maines and Knute Johnson

Robert Olander Ecology Fund
in memory of Bob Olander
Stewart Brown
Jeff and Roxanne Rick
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, matching gift for Jeff and Roxanne Rick

Winthrop and Barbara Rockwell Endowment Fund
Barbara and Win Rockwell

Rob Runyon Endowment Fund
in memory of Rob Runyon
Donald and Sharon Fleming
Donna Runyon
Lois Runyon Kadlec

Nora & Joe Seliga Wood Canoe Endowment Fund
in memory of Nora and Joe Seliga
Alter Metal Recycling in honor of the
Bell Bern Family
Gary and Jane Clements

Platt Walker Memorial Fund
in memory of Janet Walker
Matt Boisen
Andrea Brainard
Calabash Properties of St. Paul LLC
Susan Cammack
Monica Joyce-Walker and Robert Walker
Elizabeth M. Kiernat
Wes and Deirdre Kramer
Thomas and Beda Ann Lewis
Pine Beach Peninsula Association
James and Joy Wheeler

Willis Estate Endowment Fund
Daniel and Ruth Willis

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Fall/Winter/Spring Environmental Education Fund
Anonymous Gifts

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Advanced Trip Fund
in memory of Bob and Sue Hengelfelt
in memory of Jack and Sue Cornwell
in memory of Betty Kilpatrick
The Profit Club
2015 Endowment, continued

YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord
Garage Sale Endowment Fund
2015 Sales

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan General Endowment Fund
Anonymous
Mark Bixby and Keelin Kane
Mike Blandford
Paul H. Boening
David Booth and Ann Tobin
Jeremy C. Burns
Mark and Mary Cahill
Chuck Handlon and Nancy Wheeler Handlon
Jeri Glick-Anderson and Charles Anderson
John Ipsen & Kristan Wegerson
Sara Mairs and Daniel Steinhacker
Kris Maritz
Lyne Meyer and Mary Walser
Rand and Beth Miner
Ned Patterson and Susan Schloff
Melissa Raphan and Thomas Rock
Sandra and James Rutzick
The Gordon and Jeanne Shepard Family Fund
of the Saint Paul Foundation, directed by
John Shepard and Suzanne Brust
Judith Swanson
Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
in memory of Bryce Kilby
Nancy and Tim Gavin
in memory of Herdio Lopez
in honor of Sophia Lopez
Lillian Eckstein and Family

in memory of Evelyn Nordman
GI Nordman
John Vanderhoof
in honor of
David & Sara Wellington’s Wedding
Anne Nelson Kelsey
in memory of Lou Ella and Dick Wood
Armand and Beverly Ball
Gary and Jane Clements
Joan and Lancelot Diggs
Elizabeth L. Finn
Tom Hiedimdorfer and Jan Ornasa
Patricia Hurd
Jan Johnson
Lyne Meyer and Mary Walser
Margaret Muscattell
Peter and Patricia Nash
Paul Pagel and Marjorie Holsten
John Saxhaug and Lynn Rabinovitch
Ilene Yost

Annual Campaign
in memory of David Lilly
Knox Foundation
in honor of Liz Flinn
Judith Frost Lewis and Stephen Lewis
in memory of H.B. Thomas
Steven M. Thomas
in honor of Anna D. Pick
Barbara P. Young

2015 REVENUE
Camper fees = 76%
Contributions = 14%
Endowment earnings = 9%
Sales and Misc. = 1%

THE DEFINITION OF WIDJIWAGAN:
EXPLORING CAMP’S FINANCIAL PICTURE

By Jacqui Holmes, Anne Hoyt Taff and David Lauth – Members of the Widji Financial Development Committee

There is one word that best defines YMCA Camp Widjiwagan. Your first thoughts might jump to words like “canoe” or “GORP” or “backpack” or “biffies.” On a larger scale, maybe “BWCA” or “Arctic” or “smiles” or “memories” comes to mind. We believe the word that best defines Widjiwagan is actually much bigger than any of these suggestions. That word is:

You.

You—as alumni, donors, camper parents, teachers, students, campers, ambassadors, volunteers.

We want to share a snapshot of Widjiwagan’s 2015 financial picture with you, because you are the most important part of what keeps Widji’s financial picture strong year after year.

Widji is a unique organization in many ways, and it has a unique financial picture as well—as an organization within an organization, the Y of the Greater Twin Cities. To a trained eye, our finances will look different than those of other nonprofits, as we are in a financial relationship with the greater association and do not cover the general costs of overhead (payroll, marketing, communication, etc.) As we dig into the numbers, we thought deeply about how best to show and share camp’s 2015 financial picture, and decided to focus on a snapshot of Widji’s revenues and expenses. The results are clear:

You made our work easy. The charts show that our Widjiwagan community drives the highest percentage of camp’s annual revenue: Your contributions comprise a total of 23% of 2015 revenues—14% in annual contributions and 9% in endowment earnings. Widjiwagan has the highest number of individual donors to our annual fund and one of the largest endowment funds of any Y branch in our association! These donations boost revenue from camper fees, expanding the Widji experience through scholarships to families with financial need. Camper fees continue to provide a strong base of financial support that keeps camp running—another reflection of the YOU in Widji. In 2015, a record number of campers came to camp—thanks to you, out there championing Widji and encouraging kids in your lives to explore the camp experience.

Widjiwagan’s continued financial health and importance in the lives of campers lies in the strength of our Widji community. In you. Thank you for making Widji an important part of your charitable giving, estate planning and conversations with friends and family. Your good work shows. In the numbers. And on the faces of kids running across the A-field, trekking up Sky Trail or learning to paddle at the TB Dock.

You are the reason that the camp experience continues. Thank you!

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You are the reason that the camp experience continues. Thank you!
2015 Capital & Endowment Donors

Anonymous
1970 Boy Norwesters
2012 Summer Campers
Diana & Mark Abbott
Julia & James Adams
Sarah Alexander
Deborah Allan & Lawrence Wackett
Andrews Allen III
Alter Metal Recycling
Amer Foundation Matching Gifts
& Staff Volunteer Program
David & Martha Andersen
David & Virginia Anderson
Edward & Ann Anderson
Michael Anderson & Jane Delehanty
Winnie Anderson
Roger & Alicia Andre
Richard & Pamela Andrews
Blake Androff
Matt & Heather Anfang
Cathy Anson & Peter Vaughan
Thomas Arneson
Richard & Paula Arnold
Joel Aslian
Margaret Backstrom
Richard & Pamela Backstrom
Doug & Kate Bailey
Eric Bailey & Laurie Zettler Bailey
Matthew Bailey & Kris Gendron
Warren & Virginia Bailey
Robert & Ruth Baker
Armbr & Beverly Ball
Ann Bancroft
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
John & Rebecca Bartlett

Elizabeth & Mark Barton
Gretchen Bell & William Hannaford
The Bell Bern Family
Eric Bendickson & Teresa Mastrangelo
Karen & Brett Benson
Wendy & David Berg
Kendal Bergman
Bryce & Pamela Beverlin
Kevin Bevis & Arlene West
Chris Bewell
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Joseph & Carrie Bird
Mark Bixby & Keelin Kane
Tim Bixby & Heather Myers
Kurt & Susan Bjorklund
David Blair
Mia & Neal Blanchett
Mike Blandford
Jane Blockhus & Henry Emmons
Amy Blumenshine & Michael Troutman
Nathan Blumenshine
Marjorie A. Boening
Paul H. Boening
Lee & Barbara Boerbon
Paul & Sheryl Bolstad
David Booth & Ann Tobin
Justin Boren
Susan Boren
Gretchen & Brian Boyer
Laurel Bradley
David & Wendy Brandt
Kathleen Brandt
Gerald & Karen Bren
Clifton Brittain & Margaret Ladner
Nancy Brittain
Curt & Adele Brown
James & Susan Brown
Sandra & Richard Brown
William Brown
Steve Bruner & Leah Schmalzbaumer
Eric Buettow & Katie Madden
John Burke & Kathleen Joyce
Molly Burke
Adam Mans & Elizabeth Burnett
Polly M. Burnham
Jeremy Burns
Vicki Burns
Benjamin Bursell
Barbara Keenan Bussen & Patrick Bussen
John Bussey
Matthew & Dawn Bussey
Michael & Marcia Bussey
Patrick & Patricia Butler
Peter Butler
Mark & Mary Cabill
Alex & Suzanne Calinaert
Howard & Christine Cammack
Malcolm & Betty Cammack
Richard & Ann Cammack
Heather Capuano
Gary Carlson & Jane Howard
Judd & Leslie Carpenter
Shelley & Kyle Carpenter
Phil & Christy Caspers
Bruce Casettson & Linda Wainio
Arta Cheney
Chevron Humankind Program
Mary & Bill Christman
Ann Cleaveland
Gary & Jane Clements
Clametworaks Foundation
Geoffrey & Joy Cline
Doglas & Kathleen Clock
Jeanne Cochran & Andrew Wallace
Pete & Tina Comfort
Andrew Commers
Jonathan & Beth Commers
Steve & Angela Commers
Philip Connor & Mary Jo Erickson-Connor
Conoco Phillips Company
Anders Conway
Maxine Corder
Anne Cowie
Elizabet Cowie
John & Page Cowles
Jennifer Cox Johnson & William Johnson
Paul Craighead
Brenda Cramer
The Crown Construction Company Inc.
Susan Cross
Karen & Alan Crossley

Samuel Crossley
Mary & William Cunningham
Jean & Thomas Currie
Peter & Leigh Currie
Grace & John Curry
Richard & Nancy Dana
Wendy & Jeffrey Dankey
Jane Davis Bennett
Blake & Sandra Davis
Culver Davis Jr.
James Davis
Polly Dawkins & Nico Brooks
Vanessa & David Dayton
Jay & Rebecca Debertin
Titus & Sarah Decker
William Dickey & Karen Steiner
Steven A. Diede
Judy Diedrichs & Patrick Van Nice
Vincent & Kathleen DiGiorno
William & Mary DiSomma
Julie Brown Dobler & Daniel Dobler
Henry Doer
Kathie Doerr
Mairi C. Doerr
W. Brooks Donald & Karen Mackenzie
Maura Donovan & David Whitman
Maude & Ken Dornfeld
Driscoll Foundation
Cynthia & Charles Driscoll
Margie Duckstad
John & Jodie Dunley
Karen & Stephen Durfee
David & Elizabeth Rice Dutcher
Dylan E. Eberle
Arthur & Katie Eddington
Ruth Hillgren Ehlen
Thomas & Barbara Elliott
Douglas & Sue Elsasser
Barb & David Etton
Nancy & Rolf Engh
Lisa & David Erickson
Ann & Dwight Ericsson
Pam & Steve Erler
Steve Euler & Nancy Roehr
Sarah Evert & Gary Bader
Elizabeth Fabel & Patrick Campion
Mark & Sara Fabel
Joanne & Phil Fabel
Virginia & Jim Fah
Marjorie Fedyszyn & John Rock
Betty Felix
David Feroe & Linda Svitat
Nancy Fesler
Bruce Fink
Thomas Finkel & Mary Ann Cunningham
Jane Finn

Allan & Trine Flinn
Charles Flinn & Elizabeth Hayden
Charles & Jennifer Flinn
Elizabeth L. Flinn
James Dorsey Flinsch Sr
Kathryn Flory & James Gorney
Follett Company
Jeanne & Phillip Foussard
Roger & Marianne Foussard
Barbara Francis
Louise Francis & Dennis Cusack
Marilyn & Gregory Fransen
Paul & Sue Frederickson
Derek Fried & Elizabeth Currie
Kirsten Friedman
Richard Galloway
Michael & Frances Galvin
David & Leslie Gardner
James & Joan Gardner
Jamie & Cindy Gardner
Kandise Garrison & Paul Fish
Edward & Dana Garvey
Hilary Gebauer
Harley Gee & Karen Hudson
Bob & Sue Gehrz
Thomas & Judith Gehrz
The Geisler Family
Jean Gendron
Jeanette Mielke Gerritz
R. James Gesell
Greg & Tammy Gilbert
Barbara Gipple
Rachel & Arnold Glick
Jeri Glick-Anderson & Charles Anderson
Jean K. Godfrey
Ann & Tracy Godfrey
Paul & Mary Sue Godfrey
David Goldes & Sheryl Mousley
Katherine G. Goodrich
Google Matching Gift Program
Michael Grace
William Gray
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• Attend the Spring Banquet in April
• Like WIDJI on Facebook
• Volunteer at the Spring or Fall Garage Sale
• Share your WIDJI Story on our website
• Volunteer as a greeter at the WIDJI bus this summer
• Send us your current email to receive our newsletter
• Visit thewidjiway.com to add your Voyageur or Mountaineer route to the interactive archive
• Attend the Prairie Burn Music Festival this fall
• Give a summer brochure to a neighbor or relative
• Make a donation to help send a kid to camp this summer
• Attend the WIDJI Winter Warm Up speaker series next winter
• Volunteer for the Annual Campaign to help raise scholarship funds

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The 2015 Annual campaign raised a total of $216,250 in donations. Camp Widjiwagan is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who donate time every year to contact our alumni, campers, staff, family members and friends to raise money for this important campaign. The funds raised support camperships, which helped 82 summer campers fund their 2015 summer trip. In addition, 413 participants received assistance through the Outdoor Learning program during the fall, winter or spring. This annual campaign also supports staff training and development, repairs and replaces trail equipment, wood canoe maintenance and funds to purchase safety equipment.

The campaign to raise funds for 2015 took place in the fall of 2014 and was chaired by Mary Stoick and Ned Patterson. Many thanks to Mary and Ned, and the following chairs and all of our other volunteers:

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TEAM:***

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- Jenny Hagberg

**GENERAL CALLING:**

- David Kilpatrick and Mary Stoick

**BOARD DIVISION:**

- David Lauth

**MAJOR GIFTS:**

- Matt Bailey and Sandra Samuelson

**TEAM LEADERS:**

- Matt Bailey, Tom Hiedlmayr, David Lauth, Ned Patterson, Sandra Samuelson, Court Storey and Amy White

A special thanks to the 75 general call night volunteers and to the 41 major gift campaigners who dedicated time and energy to support experiences for youth at Widji.
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Annual Giving
Brown Family Foundation - Annual Giving
Mans Burnett Family Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable - Annual Giving
Sarah R. Caruso Foundation of the UBS Foundation
Annual Giving
Cowie Family Fund of the T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving - Annual Giving
Lisa and David Erickson Fund at Schwab Charitable
Steve Euler & Nancy Roehl Family Charitable Fund of Vanguard - Annual Giving
John and Gena Hawkins Fund of Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation - Annual Giving
John and Ruth Huss Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Joyful Women Fund - Annual Giving
Knox Foundation - Annual Giving
Lehmann Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Eric and Laurel Lein Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable
R. C. Lilly Foundation - Annual Giving
MacDonald Family Conscience Fund - Annual Giving
William and Katherine Mackenzie Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Endowment
McKleven Jones Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable - Capital
Meredith Fund of the Women's Foundation - Endowment
Philip and Katherine Nason Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Nicholson Family Foundation - Richard and Nancy Nicholson Fund - Annual Giving
Robert Olander Ecology Fund of the Orange County Community Foundation - Endowment
Douglas and Phyllis Ostergren Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving
Racciatti Family Fund of the Vanguard Charitable Gift Fund - Annual Giving
Endowment
John and Arlis Riedel Fund of National Philanthropic Trust - Annual Giving
Scott Charitable Gift Fund at Schwab Charitable - Annual Giving
Gordon and Jeanne Shepard Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation - Capital and Endowment
Terhuly Foundation - Annual Giving
United Way of the Greater Twin Cities Designated Gifts - Annual Giving and Capital
Walser Family Foundation of The Saint Paul Foundation - Annual Giving and Endowment
William and Barbara Welke Charitable Fund at Vanguard Charitable - Annual Giving
Rick Weyerhaeuser and Annie Brewster Fund of the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund - Annual Giving

2015 MATCHING GIFTS

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Google Matching Gifts Program
Hewlett Packard Matching Gift Programs
Medtronic Foundation Matching Gift Program
Merjent, Inc.
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Monsanto Fund
Pitney Bowes
Thrivent Financial for Luthersans matching gifts
Travelers Foundation - Employee Giving
United Technologies