

Ha-Wong

OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
CAMP CIRCLE STAR

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Greetings!

Welcome to the first newsletter from Camp Circle Star (CCS)! On January 1, 2018, we changed our name from The Erin Eickmeier Foundation to Camp Circle Star. We felt "Camp Circle Star" better represented who we are and what we do. After all, we are a camp, not a true foundation. If only the 2003 Joe and Renee could have seen what would become of the little non-profit organization they started, they may have opted for a different name back then.

Joe and I frequently look at each other and say, "this thing has really taken on a life of it's own", and it has in a good way! Our camps have grown with the demand, and we've modified our programming to meet the needs of our campers and their families. We're thrilled we've been able to keep up with this snowball rolling down the hill, but it's not always easy. We are grateful for our Board of Directors, very small staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters for helping us along the way. We could not do it without your help.

We feel that we've taken Camp Circle Star to a new level already this

year, with our name change, increased social media presence, and improved connection with our donors and supporters. We held our first Board of Directors' Retreat at the Circle Star Ranch in January and introduced several new board members to CCS. For those who hadn't visited the Ranch before, the pervasive impression was, "people need to see this place to believe it!".

With our camp season starting soon, we invite everyone to come down and visit us any time, for an hour or the whole day, to experience Camp Circle Star and meet our amazing campers. You're welcome to just hang out and observe, or volunteer your time to interact with our campers or help us with needed tasks (trust me, I can always find something for you to do!). We promise you a memorable visit that will leave you with a smile and a warm heart. See you at Camp!

-Renee

P.S. If this is your first newsletter, "Ha-Wong" is Erin's word for "Hello"

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The mission of Camp Circle Star is to enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities with recreational and residential opportunities which respect and embrace their individual preferences and needs.

Camp Circle Star

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First Annual Camp Supply Drive

At CCS, we go through a lot of stuff! Everything from snack items, to paper goods, to art supplies. Several camp families and friends of CCS have donated items in the past and it's been immensely helpful. Last year, we had an Eagle Scout organize a supply drive at his church, and we were amazed at how much he collected. Because we are a small camp, everything is helpful and makes an impact. To kick off camp this year, we are holding our first ever Supply Drive beginning Monday, May 14th, and culminating at our Open House Event on June 9th.

Organizing a Supply Drive is super easy. We have pre-made collection boxes that we will deliver and pick up. A supply drive is a great service project for families, office groups, religious classes, sports teams, Scout troops, Girls Night Out Groups, etc. It's a great way to not only collect needed items for CCS, but to also spread the word about CCS, our mission, and who we serve.

We also have Wish Lists with Amazon and Target if you prefer to shop online.

Let us know if you'd like a collection box or help getting started. If you don't need a collection box, donations can be dropped off any time at **Klemm & Associates, at 14792 Clayton Rd, 63011**. Our supply list is below. All donations are tax-deductible. We appreciate your help more than you know!



Camper Kate's family dropped off some camp supplies early this spring.



Eagle Scout, Max Kennington organized a supply drive with his Boy Scout Troop

On The Cover

We love getting our campers down to CCS as much as possible during our "off season" for Fun Days. Recruiting volunteers for these single camp days is time consuming, and therefore limits the number of Fun Days we can offer. We were thrilled when we were approached by SLU's Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) to organize volunteers for a bonus Fun Day in April. Here, volunteer Jane Conroy gets belly laughs from our new camper, Peyton. Both loved spending the beautiful day down at CCS.

Camp Circle Star Wish List

Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
Large Black Trash Bags
Dishwasher Detergent
Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Tissues
Baby Wipes
Non Latex Gloves
Zip Loc Bags-All Sizes
Plastic Wrap
Aluminum Foil
Scotch Tape
Duct Tape
Masking Tape
Liquid Hand Soap
Liquid Starch
Gallon Jugs of Glue

Shaving Cream
Sidewalk Chalk
Dry Erase Markers
Washable Tempra Paint
8 1/2 x 11 Printer Paper
Instant Fill Water Balloons
SPF 50 Spray Sunscreen
Milk Chocolate Chips
Plain Lays Chips
Food Coloring
Gluten Free Snacks
Rice Chex Cereal
Rice Crispy Cereal
Goldfish Crackers
Graham Crackers
Animal Crackers
Cheese Balls
Fruit Snacks

New Little Prizes, like Mc's Toys
Individual Chip Bags
Raisins
Marshmallows
M & M's
Bottled Water
Pretzels
Corn Starch
Baking Soda
Hair Gel
Pool Salt
Gas Gift Cards
Amazon Gift Cards
Target Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards
Napkins
Liquid Dish Soap
Hand Sanitizer



2018 CCS Mouse Race Event A Huge Success!

A fun and exciting night was had by all 320+ guests who attended the 15th Annual CCS Mouse Race Event on Saturday, April 14th. The event was held in the amazing Red Bird Club at Busch Stadium. Our VIP Experience was not dampened by the rain. Instead of pitching in the Bullpen, our guests went to bat in the Cardinals' Batting Cages. Definitely a thrilling and unique experience for our guests!



We were fortunate to have 5 On Your Side's Rene Knott and Allie Corey from "Today In St. Louis" join us to be our guest auctioneers. This duo energized the crowd and propelled the Fund-A-Need portion of the event to new heights. We are grateful for their support of our mission.

The mice and men of Triple Crown Fundraising were back with some great racing and roulette. "Erskine", trained by Donna Pfeiffer, was the big winner of the evening.



Our guests enjoyed the silent auction and went home with some great items and experiences. We thank all who donated to the event and participated in the tenacious bidding. We are also grateful to Lohr Distributing for donating the cold, frosty Budweiser products, Rob Burnet & Glazer Distributors for donating the wine, Sarah's Cake Shop for donating the delicious desserts, and lastly The St. Louis Cardinals and Delaware North Company, who are always so good to Camp Circle Star.

We are happy to report that through your generosity, this event raised over \$49,000.00 for Camp Circle Star! "Thank you" is simply not enough, but will have to do. Over 200 children will directly benefit from the proceeds of this event. Because we are small, your impact is huge! Thank you for participating in this event!



CCS TV, Movies & Rock 'n Roll Trivia Event

Saturday, September 29th 6pm

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Family Life Center
South Outer 40 Drive

Save the date! Don't miss it!

Form your team now!





Volunteer Spotlight: Haylee Brooks!

Camp Circle Star has been very fortunate to have Haylee volunteering with us the past 3 years. She is patient and kind with all our campers, AND she knows how to have a lot of fun, too! Haylee has an older brother with Down Syndrome, so she is uniquely qualified to volunteer with us. We value her perspective and experience.

1. *How did you first hear about volunteering at CCS?* **One of the Special Ed teachers at the middle school I went to told me about it my freshman year in high school.**
2. *What are some of the things you like about volunteering at Camp Circle Star?* **All of the activities that are available for the campers, and all of the new campers and volunteers I get to meet every year.**
3. *What keeps you coming back year after year?* **The Campers!**
4. *Do you have any suggestions or words of wisdom for potential new volunteers?* **Always keep an open mind and have fun!**
5. *Do you have a favorite memory or experience from CCS?* **I have so many, but my favorite would have to be during my very first week. My buddy's name was Ian, and he welcomed me by sitting in the sandbox by the pool and playing with shaving cream. I had a blast, and it will forever be one of my favorite memories.**

Thanks for hanging with us, Haylee! See you at camp this summer!

Donate Now

Camp Circle Star is a 501c3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

___\$30 ___\$60 ___\$100 ___OTHER

___ I HAVE A ITEM TO DONATE FOR YOUR AUCTION

Please detach and return to :

Camp Circle Star
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Ballwin, MO 63011

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CAMP CIRCLE STAR
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Trivia Event 9/29/18!