



October-November 2020

The Board of Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing wants to drop you a line to say Hello!, and share with you what Aspen Camp has done this past year.

In 1968, Aspen Camp was founded in Snowmass, Colorado by the father of Ricky Harris who wanted to create outdoor educational opportunities for his deaf son. That led the ambition to establish a 17-acre riparian environment for participants who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Since then, Aspen Camp has served more than 1,500 participants across the US.

Traditionally, Aspen Camp hosts the programs during the summer and winter, but due to Covid-19, in the best interest of participants' health, programs had to be suspended. This downtime has given us a window of opportunity to examine facilities, and re-configure programs. In 2020, we have volunteers who have donated their time, talents, and materials in modernizing the facilities, ensuring wildfire mitigation, and rebuilding partnerships with the local community.

In addition, Aspen Camp participated in the Thursday Night Concert Series annually, a weekly event with the town. This summer the concerts were also suspended. With the suspension of the summer programs, and no fundraising via the concerts, Aspen Camp is at a huge loss in terms of revenue.

With a new vision and detailed strategic plan in place, we are confident we will springboard Aspen Camp into a nationally recognized educational program for participants who are deaf and hard of hearing. Planning for 2021 is work in process. We invite you to learn about our new vision and roadmap here at the Aspen Camp website, www.aspencamp.org.

Given the Camp's annual average operating cost of \$100,000; no currently paid-staff members; insurance renewal due; needs to establish operational funds for 2021 and financial assistance for participants; and upgrades to the facilities, your support will help materialize the vision. See our Wishlist for specific funding needs and amounts we hope to raise.

It will be an honor to receive your donation to springboard the new vision. Donations can be mailed payable to Aspen Camp at 4862 Snowmass Creek Road, Snowmass, Colorado 81654 or online by clicking on the Donate button on the top right corner of the homepage.

On the behalf of the Board, we thank you for your supportive financial contribution to these efforts to re-vitalize the Aspen Camp.

Eric Kaika
Karen Immerso
Zephaniah Williams
Michael Wynne
Rae Henson

Aspen Camp is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and licensed by the State of Colorado as a child care center and residential camp. We use Deaf* to recognize the beauty and heart of our community and to include all that may identify as Deaf, Deaf-Blind, hard of hearing, late deafened, and more. And we use Deaf community* to include all who are Deaf*, their relatives and friends, and allies like interpreters and advocates.