MANITOBA CAMPING ASSOCIATION | SUNSHINE FUND

THE HAPPY CAMPER

WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER



The Sunshine Effect

YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

THROUGH GENEROUS MATCHING DONATIONS

We are excited to partner with Concord Projects Foundation and Bob Williams, who have committed to match every donation, dollar for dollar, up to a remarkable total of $25,000. This means your contribution will make **twice the difference**, empowering even more children to experience the transformative joy of summer camp. Together, we aim to raise $60,000 by the end of the year, and with your support, we can make this vision a reality.

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to experience the joy and growth that comes from attending camp. Your generous gift will be instrumental in ensuring that all children in Manitoba have access to this transformative experience. Every penny raised here goes directly towards sending Manitoba children to summer camp, making memories that will shine for a lifetime.

OUR YEAR-END PARTNERS

Concord Projects Foundation | BOB WILLIAMS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The Good We Grow

We were on a camp re-accreditation visit in mid-August, and part of our day included watching activities at the high ropes course. There were different elements stretching WAAAAAY up high, and as I watched, I noticed a young boy, about 12 years old, climbing up to take on one of them. He was about 15 feet off the ground, secured in a harness, wearing a helmet, and attached to a safety rope. He was completely safe, but I could see that, for him, it didn't feel that way.

I noticed him because he had stopped moving. He was holding on tightly, pausing to breathe and taking a moment to gather himself before trying again. I could see the fear on his face and in the way he moved. He was scared. Really scared. And yet, he kept trying.

What struck me just as much as the boy's courage was the patience of the staff member belaying him. It was palpable. There was no rushing, no pressure, no "Come on, you can do it!" and no expectation that he had to move faster or go farther than he was ready to go. Instead, the staff member simply waited. He allowed the camper to take his time, to breathe, and to decide when he was ready to take the next step. He supported him without pushing him beyond what he could handle.

Eventually, the camper made it to the top of the element, but then came the next challenge. He had to make his way across a section with several obstacles before reaching the next element. He started, but before he reached the end, he stopped.

"I'm scared. I'm done." And that was enough.

The staff member didn't try to convince him otherwise or make him feel like he had failed. He simply helped him safely back down and congratulated him for what he had accomplished. As I watched, I realized that this boy had accomplished something much bigger than simply making it through part of a ropes course. He had tried something new, faced something that scared him, and found the courage to stop, catch his breath, and try again. He had demonstrated patience and perseverance, and perhaps most importantly, he had recognized his own limit. He knew when he had done enough, and he had the courage to say so. He did as much as he was able to do, and that was enough.

I had tears in my eyes as I watched. It was one of those moments that catches you completely off guard. I knew I was witnessing something special, something much bigger than the activity happening in front of me.

Afterward, I had the opportunity to speak with both the staff member and the camper. The camper told me that he has Tourette syndrome and that what he had just done was hard for him. He told me he was scared. And then he smiled because he had done it. Even though he was scared, he tried anyway and was so proud of himself. That moment has stayed with me ever since.

Sometimes courage doesn't look like conquering the whole mountain. Sometimes courage looks like taking one more step while your hands are shaking, stopping to catch your breath, and knowing when you've reached your limit. Sometimes, the greatest gift we can give someone is simply the space and patience to discover what they are capable of, without ever making them feel like they have to prove it. That boy also reminded me that success isn't always about finishing. Sometimes, success is simply having the courage to begin.

Camp is more than cabins and canoes. It's confidence, connection, kindness, and the bravery to try difficult things like the high ropes course. For so many campers and staff, it's a rare space where they feel safe to be themselves and dream big.

Thank you to the camps that provide these spaces. We're so grateful to be walking this path alongside you.

Thanks for changing lives with your sunshine.



Kim Scherger
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BECAUSE OF YOU

Sunshine Fund Recap



Dana Moroz
SUNSHINE FUND MANAGER

As our summer has now come to an end, we have this opportunity to reflect on our amazing year and thank you, our donors, for your support. I am happy to share that this year, thanks to your loyal partnership and generosity, we provided $371,700 in Sunshine Fund summer camp registration subsidies, helping 709 Manitoba kids. The number of children we helped in 2026 is a direct reflection of our donors' generosity. Our Sunshine Fund campers have their hearts set on attending summer camp each year, and each year our donors pull through and positively impact campers, their families and beyond.

As we look ahead to 2027, it will be an exciting year for the Manitoba Camping Association & Sunshine Fund. Our charity will be celebrating our 90th year! The Manitoba Camping Association was established in 1937 and has been a longstanding Manitoba charity. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with our donors and Sunshine Fund families. Thank you once again for your positive impact on the children in our communities.

Your gifts help children attend summer camp and benefit entire families and communities. Gifts to the Sunshine Fund reach further than we will ever know.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

Every donation helps send more Manitoba children to camp and creates opportunities for unforgettable summer experiences.



Online Donation
W | MANITOBACAMPING.CA

e-Transfer Donation
E | DONATE@MANITOBACAMPING.CA

Donation by Phone, or Mail

SHOP SUNSHINE

Email **communications@manitobacamping.ca** or visit, manitobacamping.ca to buy a bag of coffee or a coffee mug.

Orders placed by December 5 will be available for pickup at our Henderson office before Christmas. Orders placed after that date will be available in the new year.



$22.00/BAG

$20.00/SET

MANITOBA CAMPING ASSOCIATION | SUNSHINE FUND

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