

Sharing our Strength



*The Camp Kerry Society is a non-profit organization
providing retreats, support groups, counselling and education
for families coping with grief and loss*



WELCOME...

... to all of you that make up the ever-growing circle of the Camp Kerry Society: our supporters, donors, volunteers, staff and participants - all of you who, in different ways, give your time, your energy, your commitment, your donations, your ideas, your knowledge, your experience, your skills, your passion and your hearts in service to this vibrant and dynamic community. I would also like to extend greetings to those of you who are just hearing about our organization for the first time.

It is hard for me to believe that another year is coming to a close for the Camp Kerry Society. Families reached by our services this past year came from over 20 different urban, rural and remote communities across BC and beyond. We launched two exciting new programs including a Camp Kerry Youth Retreat funded by a grant from the Order of St. John's and a Camp Kerry Family Retreat in Ontario made possible by an enthusiastic group of volunteers and donors from the Peterborough region. We also added some new fundraising initiatives—including our first Charity Golf Tournament and the opening of our own high-end charity thrift store which we have proudly named Kerry's Boutique.

Time certainly flies when life gets busy, and yet, for those of us who have experienced the loss of a loved one, time can also, paradoxically, stand still. It has been five years since that sunny spring day in March when my husband Bas died. In that moment, I thought the earth might actually stop spinning because I could not imagine a world without him in it. I have now learned to be in the world again without Bas, and he travels with me each and every day, in all that I do, always in my heart. On March 24th each year I stop and take the day to remember his life, and the legacy of love he blessed

me with. This remembering is usually quiet and simple and often something I do on my own. This year I will continue with my own personal celebration but I will also be choosing to honour "Bas' Day" more publicly by supporting Camp Kerry's new One Day to Remember initiative.



Working in the field of hospice/palliative/bereavement care for more than 20 years and going through my own significant loss has certainly taught me to appreciate the preciousness of each day. I have been fortunate to meet many inspiring people who have faced their illnesses with courage and

their final goodbyes with grace and selfless concern for those they are leaving behind. People who face death so often just want to know that their loved ones will be okay and that someone will be there to support them. When my husband's radiation oncologist told him that his treatments were finally at an end, he turned to her and asked if she would please call me once in a while after he had died to make sure that I was okay.

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I ask that you consider joining me and others in helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$250,000 so that we can continue to bring the healing magic of Camp Kerry into the hearts of deserving children, youth and families who have been impacted by the loss of a loved one. Let's share our strength!

DR. HEATHER MOHAN
Founder/Executive Director

OUR YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Program Highlights from 2014

JANUARY

- » Office Coordinator, Leah Hamer, joins the team ... how did we manage without her?
- » First Official Peer Mentor Family support meeting; families from Ladner, West Vancouver and Kamloops come together to reflect on their leadership role as peer mentors for new Camp Kerry families
- » Camp Kerry Youth Group gathers for pizza dinner and good times at Famoso on Commercial Drive in East Vancouver. Thanks to Manager Rob and his staff for being totally awesome and generous hosts

FEBRUARY

- » Volunteer Appreciation Party—good food, great people and an inspiring look back at seven years of Camp Kerry video images
- » Our very first Camp Kerry Youth Retreat held at Tod Mountain Ranch near Kamloops—unforgettable

MARCH

- » Famous Newfoundland author, Donna Morrissey, holds a writing workshop and a reading to raise funds for Camp Kerry Ontario

APRIL-MAY

- » Dr. Heather Mohan presents 20 years of research and clinical experience in Ontario at the "Windows to the Heart" community event
- » Dr. Mohan along with Shelley Hermer and Joshua Dahling share the Camp Kerry model with an international audience in Toronto at the Hospice Ontario Palliative Care Conference
- » Renovations begin at Kerry's Boutique

JUNE

- » Youth Group gathers for campfire and beach BBQ in Tsawwassen
- » Annual General Meeting: Kerry Glade Kirstiuk Legacy Fund Announced
- » Great turnout for Annual Family Picnic in North Burnaby

JULY

- » Grand Opening of Kerry's Boutique: Member of Parliament, Fin Donnelly, cuts the ribbon and Warren Nipp performs live!

AUGUST

- » Kerry's Boutique Store Coordinator, Jenny Leung, joins the team—simply the best

SEPTEMBER

- » Camp Kerry BC brings 33 families and 43 volunteers together for a restorative and inspiring four-day journey
- » Youth Recording Project with Damn Fools at Nimbus Recording Studio
- » Circles of Strength Online Network now has over 100 members; connecting Camp Kerry alumni, participants and volunteers all across the country. A new addition to the network this fall is our weekly giveaways of Vancouver-based sports, arts and culture event tickets—providing even more ways for Camp Kerry families to reconnect, socialize and enjoy recreational outings throughout the year

OCTOBER

- » The first Camp Kerry Ontario is a resounding success

NOVEMBER

- » Strategic Planning session with staff, board members and invited guests who met to dream, plan and create a vision for the future. Everyone agreed that one of Camp Kerry's greatest strengths is PASSION

DECEMBER

- » Teldon's dream team of designers devote their skills, talent and love to our annual newsletter. Thank you!

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

- » Newfoundland kitchen party Camp Kerry fundraiser has supporters of all ages singing, dancing and "screaming in"!

JUNE

- » Team Camp Kerry BC raises nearly \$70,000 in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge
- » Long-time Camp Kerry supporters Barbara and Julian Kirstiuk announce that they will be matching all donations made to the Camp Kerry Society up to \$250,000 until December 31, 2014. Their matching donations are used to create an endowment fund called the Kerry Glade Kirstiuk Legacy Fund

SEPTEMBER

- » Inaugural Camp Kerry Golf Tournament is held at the Beach Grove Golf Club in Tsawwassen and raises over \$150,000

OCTOBER

- » KPMG shows their support with a clothing drive for Kerry's Boutique
- » Damn Fools Fundraiser at the Sin Bin Grill captivates audiences and raises over \$12,000
- » Team Camp Kerry Ontario raises nearly \$10,000 in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge in Toronto

DID YOU KNOW...

In 2014, CAMP KERRY helped families from over 20 different urban, rural and remote communities across Canada.



WHAT'S NEW AT CAMP KERRY?

KERRY'S BOUTIQUE:

A New Social Enterprise for the Camp Kerry Society



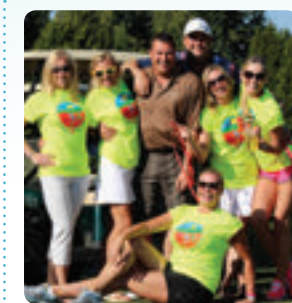
CAMP KERRY ONTARIO:

Bringing Hope East

Through innovative collaborations with the Kinark Outdoor Centre, Hospice Peterborough and the Peterborough Regional Health Centre's Palliative Care Program, the Camp Kerry Society was able to offer its very first Camp Kerry Ontario retreat in October. Over the course of the four-day gathering, families participated in drama, mask making, hiking, talking circles, music, fishing, gold panning, boat rides and much, much more. One highlight of the retreat was a special surprise visit from the Royal Canadian Air Force in a Griffon helicopter. This visit was due to the coordination of many individuals including Captain Blair Barthel, Special Event Plans, 1 Canadian Air Division; Captain Laura Locklin; Major Lyle Holbrook; Warrant Officer Jim Somerville; Captain William Fielding (400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron) and his crew from CFB Borden. Without the hundreds of volunteer hours put in by our dedicated Ontario Program Coordinator Shelley Hermer along with the outpouring of financial support from the community of Peterborough this retreat would not have been possible. Our thanks also go out to the awesome Camp Kerry Ontario volunteer team and to the highly skilled staff at the Kinark Outdoor Centre for being such incredible hosts.

INAUGURAL CAMP KERRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

On September 15th, nearly 100 golfers came out to the picturesque Beach Grove Golf Club in Tsawwassen, BC, to support our organization at the Inaugural Camp Kerry Golf Tournament. Incredibly, over \$150,000 dollars was raised! We want to thank all those who participated as well as all the businesses who generously contributed to this event. "It was by far the best charity golf tournament I've ever participated in, and I've been to a lot over the years," said one of the enthusiastic golfers. Also, a big thanks to Camp Kerry Golf Tournament/Fundraising coordinators, Nickole Kirstiuk and Nicole Clough, along with the exceptional team of volunteers they recruited for creating such a magnificent event!



THE DAMN FOOLS

Music Experience

Camp Kerry music therapist, Amy Brown, connected PEAK Performance finalists, Damn Fools, with our organization in early September. Three weeks later the rock band organized a day of music, recording and fun for our youth group. The band partnered with the legendary Garth Richardson and Mike Schroeder (CEO) of Nimbus School of Recording Arts in Vancouver to offer this one-of-a-kind experience. Nearly 20 youth were involved who enjoyed everything from a tour of the recording studios, a jam session with Damn Fools, a pizza lunch and the experience of recording their very own song with the coaching and assistance of Camp Kerry music therapy intern, Aspen Switzer, and of course, all the members of Damn Fools. "Having the opportunity to give back to the community and be so instrumental in facilitating the creative expression of the children of Camp Kerry was very overwhelming", said band member Alex Gordon-Firing. "You just feel like giving more ... It was by far one of the most touching experiences I've ever had."



With the approval and support of Camp Kerry's Board of Directors, Joshua Dahling, along with Michael and Melissa Lapczynski, volunteered to bring the vision of a boutique-style high-end thrift store to fruition. Kerry's Boutique was launched on July 6th with a fabulous grand opening event including live music, prize draws and a BBQ.

The boutique features quality new/used clothing, jewellery, artisan gifts and more. Profits go directly to benefit Camp Kerry programs and services. We are so proud to have one of our very own alumni, Jenny Leung, now working with us as our store coordinator.

CAMP KERRY BC

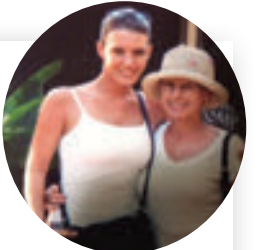
Youth Retreat

A very successful addition this year to our Youth Program was our first Camp Kerry youth retreat. Five volunteers and 10 bereaved youth between the ages of 13 and 20, embarked on an adventurous road trip to the beautiful Tod Mountain Ranch near Kamloops. Our group bonded through great food, sharing circles, music therapy, art therapy, equine therapy, a bonfire complete with snow candles in sub-zero temperatures, snowshoe golf at Sun Peaks, a complete lack of sleep and lots of laughter. We are grateful to our host Tracey O'Connell and the Camp Kerry volunteer team for all their hard work in creating such a special event for this group of deserving teens.



A MESSAGE FROM KERRY'S MOTHER

Barbara Glade



On December 9th it will have been 8 years since we lost our daughter Kerry to colon cancer. She was a light in our lives for 34 years—and we are thankful to have enjoyed her special spirit for the time we did.

When I see the amazing Camp Kerry and the comfort and joy it brings families like ours that have lost a loved family member, I'm brought to tears, realizing it all began in honour of Kerry!

Camp Kerry has grown quickly and impressively—organized and run by staff and volunteers who give of their time, talents, education and most of all, loving hearts, nurturing families through a very difficult time in their lives.

I remember well the peaceful spirit Dr. Heather Mohan brought to all of us with her music and soft-spoken, kind demeanour when Kerry was sick. After the first Camp Kerry retreat program got started, I could see how helpful it was for Avery and Hudson to realize that other children shared their sorrow with the loss of a mommy or daddy. Dr. Mohan continues to share her music and calming presence with Camp Kerry.

Kerry would be deeply touched by the families that have been helped by this wonderful camp. As for me, it gives me great pleasure to know that the special light that Kerry brought to us is shining for the world through Camp Kerry. What an amazing legacy!

GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

BECOME A MEMBER

For as little as \$20 a year, you, your family or your company can become a member of the Camp Kerry Society. As a member you'll be able to participate in the direction of our organization by having the right to vote at our Annual General Meetings, access to the latest news and developments and promotion for your company.

SCOTIABANK CHARITY CHALLENGE

For the past several years, we have had a devoted team of volunteers, runners and walkers participate in the Scotiabank Half Marathon/5km Walk/Run event in Vancouver. This has been one of our largest fundraising events each year, and it has allowed us to operate our programs at no cost to families. In 2014 our small team came in 2nd place out of 80 registered charities in the fundraising charity challenge! This past October we also had an incredible team sign up to represent us in Toronto and they rocked it!

This is a great event for all ages, so whether you wish to walk, run, cheer on our team or fundraise, we'd love to hear from more of you. Book your calendars and contact us to let us know you want to be involved.

VANCOUVER – Sunday, June 28, 2015
TORONTO – Sunday, October 18, 2015

VOLUNTEER AT CAMP or at our YEAR-ROUND CIRCLES OF STRENGTH GROUP

Camp Kerry is a place to relax in the beauty of nature and an opportunity to meet new friends while creating positive family memories. Qualified counsellors and specially trained volunteers provide a variety of therapeutic recreational programming including: Music and Art Therapy, Nature Hikes, Adventure Challenges, Swimming, Sports and Games, Yoga and Relaxation Massage, Sharing Circles, Campfires, Drum Circles and a Candlelight Memory Service.

The year-round community-based Circles of Strength groups provide regular opportunities for bereaved families to connect, to share their experiences in a supportive environment and to gain skills that can assist in coping with grief. Children have a chance to use art therapy modalities (music, art, drama and play therapy) to express their grief. Parents/guardians are provided space to talk about their own grief as well as the challenges of raising children who are also in their own processes of grieving.

We'd love to hear from you. Learn how you can get involved in volunteering.

"Camp Kerry has connected us in a way that should have happened a long time ago. The opportunity that you gave us to share and grieve as a group of families who have experienced similar loss was long overdue and I am thankful that you made it happen."

-Camp Kerry Ontario Participant

ONE DAY TO REMEMBER

For many of us, we have days each year that we hold in our hearts as days of remembrance. We invite you to join us in our **One Day to Remember** initiative by making a pledge for your special day to commemorate a loved one.

The memory of your loved one will be shared through us each year and also on a special page on our website. Your contributions will enable us to ensure that families now and in the future will be able to benefit from the programs and services that we provide.

Businesses are also invited to join this campaign. For your contribution, we'll spread the word that your company supports families through us. Contact us for details at info@campkerry.org.

KERRY'S BOUTIQUE

We are looking for people interested in volunteering at the Boutique. Please contact Jenny at jenny@campkerry.org if you have even just a few hours a month to give to this great cause.

FUNDRAISING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Your family and friends can get involved with fundraising events including bottle drives, garage sales, selling buttons, third-party events and so much more. If you're looking for ideas or simply want to support the Camp Kerry Society in raising funds or awareness, please contact us at info@campkerry.org. We'd love to hear from you!

GIVING BACK

One of Life's Greatest Joys

By Naadia, Ali and Josh Clayton (Peer Mentors)

My children and I have been coming to Camp Kerry since 2008 after, unfortunately, experiencing multiple losses in our family. Our experience every year is different, but the one common thing that happens is that we have a truly wonderful time and we also get connected again as a family. The Camp Kerry Peer Mentor program was formalized in 2013 and when Heather invited interested Camp Kerry Alumni to apply, we felt that we were ready to begin to give back and help other families going through similar experiences as we had gone through.

So, what do Peer Mentor Families actually do? One of our tasks is to call the new families a few weeks before Camp begins and see what questions or concerns they might have. Sometimes all they need is to talk to someone who has been to camp to help them understand

what a positive experience Camp Kerry can be for their family. At camp, we also do practical things like greeting people when they arrive, helping to show new families around the site and explaining to them what to expect from some aspects of the program that can be emotionally challenging such as the Memory Service. My daughter Ali, who is now 17 years, old says, "The volunteers at Camp Kerry are like my family." My 12-year-old son Josh says that Camp Kerry is his "home away from home". All of us love the volunteers and the people who run Camp Kerry. Being able to give back to Camp Kerry in a peer mentor role allows my kids to see that they can now be there to provide support and friendship to other kids that have lost a loved one. And isn't that one of life's greatest joys? Being able to give back.



♥ YES, I WANT TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CAMP KERRY SOCIETY
and help more families get access to the amazing programs provided by Camp Kerry

NAME: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ PROVINCE: _____
POSTAL CODE: _____ EMAIL: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

Please check all that apply

ONE DAY TO REMEMBER

I am making this donation in memory of my

(relationship i.e. mother) _____
(name of loved one) _____

I would like my donation to be publicly acknowledged
on campkerry.org YES NO

I wish to pledge monthly payments at \$20/month for...

1 YEAR 2 YEARS __ YEARS

I wish to pledge annual payments at \$240/year for...

1 YEAR 2 YEARS __ YEARS

I would like to make a donation of \$1,000 to support a bereaved family to attend Camp Kerry programs for one year

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____

PAYMENT

Please select your method of payment. Cheques can be made out to Camp Kerry Society and mailed to 145 East Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC, V3L 3W2. If you are paying by card, please print clearly below. We also accept payments online through our website. Tax receipts for donations will be mailed to you in the near future.

ONLINE

Donate online at
<http://campkerry.org/donate/>
through our secure online
donation portal

MASTERCARD

Name on Card: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

VISA

CHEQUE

Signature: _____

And last—but certainly not least,

THANK YOU TO THE ANGELS AMONG US

- » **Our team of 85+ awesome volunteers who contributed nearly 16,000 hours of service to our programs and events. You are truly the heart and soul of our organization!**
- » **All those individuals who have generously provided financial support, allowing families to receive grief counselling services, retreats and group support at no cost**
- » **The following businesses, foundations and service clubs who provided us with donations, gifts-in-kind and invaluable support:**

A special **THANK YOU** to our
year-round sponsor **JOEY RESTAURANTS**.
We are grateful for your continued support. ❤️



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The Camp Kerry Society is a registered charity and can issue tax receipts for your donations.
Charitable#: [84876 4684 RR0001](https://www.campkerry.org)

We welcome your inquiries about our programs and services and are looking forward hearing from you

(604) 553-4663
<http://campkerry.org>

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Email: jenny@campkerry.org (Store Coordinator)