

THE BIRCHBARK 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A Camp Sloane Newsletter



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

124 Indian Mtn. Road, Lakeville, CT 06039

The Birchbark Newsletter

March 2026

www.campsloane.org



A MESSAGE FROM GINA



Gina Lucas
Interim CEO

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of winter and look forward to summer being only a few months away, I want to take a moment to thank you all for the support that was shown and given in 2025. This year's annual report reflects the generosity and commitment that came from every corner of our community. The Board of Directors, leadership team, staff, parents, alumni, friends, and new donors joined together to help every camper have the best possible experience enjoying all that our camp has to offer. The choice to support Camp Sloane last year created a positive ripple effect that leads to unforgettable memories, lasting friendships, and individual growth that can shape lives for years to come.

Camp Sloane's longstanding foundation built on kindness, character, and others remains strong, and we are grateful for the contributions in 2025 that allowed every camper to attend regardless of their ability to pay. We know that a summer at Camp Sloane can provide children with an unparalleled experience where appreciating the outdoors, living tech-free, and participating in activities naturally generates joy, excitement, and new opportunities to connect with friends old and new. We could not have made last year as successful as it was, or plan for what will be another incredibly strong summer, without each of you.

(con't on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

MAY 1-3

Help us put up all the tents, get the bunks out, clean up program areas, get camp ready for summer! Register [here](#).

OPEN HOUSE

MAY 3 & JUNE 7, 12PM-3PM

Take a tour of camp, meet the staff and try our famous cookies!



SPRING GIVING

Will you help us send more
kids to Camp Sloane?

Our goal this spring is to raise funds for our financial assistance program so that all campers can experience Camp Sloane. Your gift today will provide essential support that will make camp possible for hundreds of families. Thank you!

Donate [here](#)

A MESSAGE FROM GINA... (con't.)

It is not hyperbole to share that our friends and donors through their giving helped each camper learn about community and themselves during their time at camp. I know this is true because as a camper and counselor many years ago, Camp Sloane taught me that caring for others and trusting myself to explore something new are simply a part of the fabric when you step onto camp. I am forever grateful for the encouraging and supportive environment for children that has existed here for 98 years.

Thank you again for being a part of the Camp Sloane family over this last year. We hope you will join us again with your support as we continue to make camp a safe and fun reality for every camper who wants to attend. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to camp and to kick off our best summer yet!

Warmest regards,

Gina Lucas
Interim CEO

A LOOK BACK AT 2025



DONATE
HERE

699 OVERNIGHT CAMPERS
339 DAY CAMPERS

354 TIER 2, 3, & 4
FINANCIAL AID CAMPERS



\$337,055 PROVIDED IN
FINANCIAL AID

\$396,141 **RAISED IN**
2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by how much Camp Sloane has never been a place that stands still. For nearly a century, it has grown, adapted and evolved not by accident, but because of the people who have loved it so much to keep it alive, strong, and magical. This past year was no different and it reminded us again that stewardship is always about honoring and serving both the legacy and promise of camp and how that ultimately impacts every child and staff member who call Camp Sloane home each summer.

We do this work standing on the shoulders of many who came before us. I want to express profound gratitude to the generations of staff, board members, volunteers, and supporters, going all the way back to the beginning, whose dedication built the Camp Sloane we know today. Even if they are no longer directly involved in today's operations, their legacy lives on in our traditions, our values, and in the care we take to make camp an inspiring and transformational experience for children.

As we look forward in 2026, our commitment to highlighting and spreading the magic of this place will continue. It is hard to put into words what that magic truly is. It lives in a deep sense of belonging, dedication, and passion, in the growth and confidence that happen here, but also in something even more human: in home, family, love, happiness, inclusion, acceptance, and the freedom to be imperfect and still be welcomed. It is the feeling so many people describe when they talk about Sloane, and the reason it stays with them long after they leave. The team I have the privilege to work alongside understands this deeply. Above all else, they believe in Sloane: what it has meant, what it means today, and what it can become.

We are constantly learning, studying our past, assessing our present, and planning carefully for our future, always asking how we can be better, while staying true to who we are.

I am deeply grateful for the trust and patience of our community. And I am profoundly honored to serve as Board Chair at this moment in Sloane's history. I believe in this Board. I believe in our staff. I believe in this camp. And I am thankful every day for the opportunity to learn from and work alongside such committed people in service of something so special.



Camp Sloane has endured for nearly 100 years because it matters. And together, we are ensuring that it will continue to matter for generations to come.

With gratitude and excitement in what lies ahead,

Lindsay Birch
Board Chair, Camp Sloane YMCA



ALUMNI PROFILE: JANE GLAVINE

"We all love Sloane, nestled in the Berkshires", a song that brings back my best childhood memories. I came to camp as a Pioneer in the 60s, probably too young for expectations, but oh what fun I had. I returned every year until I completed the CLT training, which marked the end of my camper status. Two years later, I returned as a Student Emp, but since it was time to move on, I remained for only one year. At that time, campers attended camp for the month of July or the month of August. A "ninth week" provided a good introduction. I would have loved to be able to remain for the entire summer to carry over the never-ending July hijinks and just good clean fun into August. I always loved the waterfront and horseback riding, but the regular square dance with Slim Stirling was always a highlight. As an adult, I can appreciate the "tales" the counselor would tell the campers in an effort to keep us close by. For those who attended in the late 60s – mid 70s, be advised that there is no gigantic dam that would surely destroy any canoe if you just happened to have your canoe drift to the end of the lake. The lake just simply ends at the shore. However, the jury is still out on the "Wax Man".

At the time, most campers came from Westchester County, and although it was obvious that my fellow campers came from a variety of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, everyone always treated each other as an equal. Many years later, I began attending Family Camp Weekend, which is held every Labor Day. A variety of activities are offered, and for those former campers who periodically just wanted to "hang out" in the section, you can do that too. The weekend always brings back many good memories, and always provides an opportunity to meet new people, get reacquainted with old friends and to strengthen the bonds with those camp friends that I have always had regular contact with. I met my closest friend aka "Partner in Crime" when we were Pioneers, and I was honored to be her Maid of Honor in her first wedding in 2021. A few years ago, I started participating in the annual spring volunteer weekend. Although the assignments always prove to be a good workout, it is highly recommended and it is always great to see everyone working together for the benefit of the next generation of campers.

Looking forward to celebrating Camp Sloane's 100th anniversary in 2028.



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Register as an Alumni [here](#).

Join our [Alumni Facebook group](#) and connect with fellow Sloanies!

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