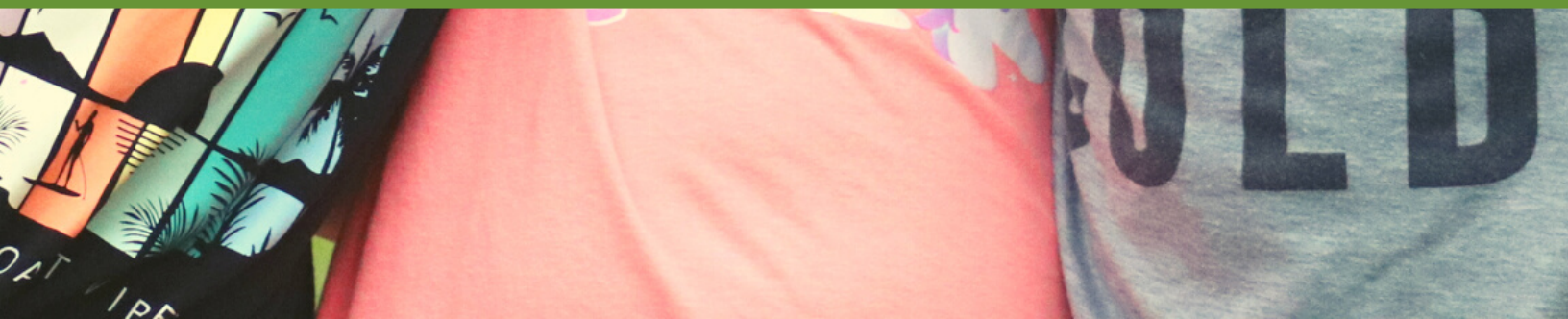


# CAMP KIRK

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Promoting strong mental health for children facing social and emotional challenges. We deliver recreational experiences that build resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging.







## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To the Camp Kirk Community,

This summer we celebrated our 27th year, and it was certainly one for the books! Watching the kids grow in confidence throughout their camp sessions demonstrated the power of the camp experience. However, it has been the emails and calls from parents this winter that has really highlighted the impact of Summer 2019. Through social struggles and academic difficulties, the Camp Kirk experience has been a source of fuel that our kids use to overcome the tough stuff through the year.

Now, more than ever, your investment in places like Camp Kirk is playing a critical role for children with social and emotional challenges. The landscape of Ontario's education system is shifting, and the impact of these changes hit our population of campers the hardest. Without adequate support, our kids will fall through the cracks.

Thank you to everyone who made Summer 2019 a success. I hope you enjoy the family and camper feedback in this report - it is a true testament to the difference you made.

Sincerely,

Erica Park-Coutts  
Executive Director & Camp Director

# THE CHILDREN WE SERVE



"My daughter is a super friend when others allow her to shine. School students have never been inclusive since her multiple challenges are invisible. At camp, she can be herself and is accepted just by being!"

~Angela, camper parent

## 97%

of our campers come from  
across Ontario

## 40%

of our campers have come to  
Camp Kirk for four or more years

## 100%

of our campers have at least one challenge that puts them  
at greater risk for mental health disorders. Here are a few of  
the diagnoses our kids have:

Autism • Attention Deficit Disorder • Learning Disability  
Sensory Processing Disorder • Mild Developmental Delay  
Gifted • Oppositional Defiant Disorder • Anxiety Disorder



# BUILDING STRONG MENTAL HEALTH

The term "children's mental health" refers to children's social, emotional, and behavioural well-being, and is considered an integral part of children's healthy development (SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health, 2019).

Children that come to Camp Kirk struggle with social skills, processing emotions, and behavioural regulation. As a result of their challenges, they are at greater risk for mental health disorders. By providing our kids with an experience that builds their confidence and promotes connection we are equipping them with the tools they need to lead happy and healthy lives.

"My son was given the chance to be himself and realize that he is not "made wrong." The staff made him feel accepted and appreciated. It was good for him to hear that people, who are not his immediate family, think highly of him."

~ Ian, Camper Parent



After Summer 2019, we surveyed our families to ask about the camp experience and their child's mental wellbeing. Here's what they had to say...

95%

of families said camp improved their child's sense of social acceptance and belonging

82%

of families said camp is their child's main opportunity to build meaningful connections

86%

of families said camp helped their child manage strong emotions like anger, sadness, and frustration



144

children and youth  
enrolled in our summer  
camp programs

\$450,235

in camper fee subsidies distributed because  
of your generous support

0

children left out of our programs  
because of their family's  
financial means



90%

of families said camp  
helped their child  
become more  
independent

99%

of families said the  
camp experience  
boosted their child's  
self-esteem

88%

of families said camp  
helped their child to be  
more adaptable  
to change



YOU HAD AN IMPACT





"Camp Kirk is my happy place. It is where I can just be myself, everyone is different, yet all the same. No one judges me, everyone helps me and I have made good friends. I wish the kids at school could see me at camp."

-Tyrell, 3rd year camper





# A COMMUNITY WE CAN LEAN ON

BY KELLY, CAMPER PARENT

My son Tyrell is feisty and intelligent but struggles with a variety of social, emotional and behavioural needs. Prior to Camp Kirk, he didn't have friends, because kids tired of his inability to understand and read social cues. He struggled with team sports because he couldn't grasp the art of winning and losing graciously. At school, unstructured time and transitions would often lead Tyrell to undesirable outbursts.

He was frustrated, anxious, and isolating himself to the comfort of our home. It made me question my parenting, I would jump to the conclusion that it must be my fault. Or I would course correct his behaviour after an outburst not really understanding the root of the problem; it just made things worse.

Then we found Camp Kirk. It is simply magical. It has taught Tyrell to be independent, to live in a community with cabin-mates and has pushed him beyond his comfort zone. Camp has helped Tyrell build lasting friendships, develop his toolkit of strategies that help him handle everyday challenges, and has improved his self-esteem. Each year he brings back what he's learned at camp and it helps him throughout the school year.

The most special thing he's gained from camp are friendships. These friends understand him and they support one another. I have heard on several occasions them talking about a school situation and how they would have handled something like that at camp. Being a part of the Camp Kirk community has made such a big difference in our day-to-day life.





With support of the Harold E. Ballard Foundation and Sunlife Financial we restored our climbing wall and built a new vertical playground. We love seeing our campers glow with pride when they reach new heights!





# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: TEENS

For many years our camp program ended for kids when they turned 13. Our camper families struggled to find programs that offered their teens the tailored support and nurturing environment we had given them. Frustrated and struggling, they turned to us to fill the service gap. Five years ago we launched a set of Teen Programs and today our teens are thriving!

The Teen Programs provide campers with tangible ways to develop leadership skills and give back to their communities. Whether the focus is developing teamwork through wilderness adventure, or life skills through cooking classes, our teens are able to practice the skills they need to transition into adulthood...and all in the fun setting of camp!





# OUR PARTNERS AT CAMP

The Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Foundation (LCCKF) is unwavering in their dedication to and support of the Camp Kirk kids. Through their tireless fundraising efforts and volunteer hours, LCCKF ensures the camp property is a welcoming and safe home for our campers.

On top of annual maintenance and contributions to our financial aid program, LCCKF funds special projects at camp. In 2019, they came through for our campers in a big way by funding the repair of the pool. Because of the A-16 Lions and Lioness', our campers had a place to cool off and have fun on hot summer days.

We are grateful for all the love and support we receive from Lions Clubs in Ontario.





# SUMMER STAFF

Supporting Camp Kirk is an investment, not only in our campers, but also in our staff. They are a compassionate team of young adults, and many are working towards becoming teachers, social workers, and mental health practitioners.

We place a great deal of importance on staff training to ensure our campers have the best possible care. We also do it because we know our staff will move forward with the skills learned at camp and be champions for children with exceptionalities within their own communities. We cherish our summer staff - they have relentless patience, compassion and love for the Camp Kirk kids.

"Over the past 5 years I have followed strong leaders, and slowly, learned to lead by example. As a young adult there are few places that take the time to help set goals (like stress management, positive relationships, or working in a team) and give one-on-one guidance on how to follow those through. The time and effort that has been invested in my success has allowed me to do well in year-round work and in school. Camp Kirk gives care and respect to everyone in its community and is an organization that means the world to me."

~ Kate, 5th year staff





# OUR COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR CAMPERS



## CAMP KIRK'S 27TH ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

On November 3rd, the Camp Kirk community came together for our 27th annual fall fundraiser. The night was filled with music, great food, and a one-of-a-kind auction.

The fundraiser wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteer event committee. With their dedication and leadership the event raised over \$115,000!



## TORONTO FAMILY SHARES THEIR JAMAICA GETAWAY

Allan and Lynn Day have been giving generously to Camp Kirk for years. In 2019, they once again gave a one week stay at their private villa in Jamaica to our Live Auction - it sold for \$10,000!



## TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD HOLDS STREET FESTIVAL

Cotton candy, basketball, ball-hockey, live music, and a bouncy castle! The Walmsley Boulevard Street Festival just might be the best street party in the city. We are thrilled to be a charity they support each September.

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMP AT BINGO

Our volunteers and the patrons at Dolphin Gaming Centre raised over \$8,000 in 3 months. Giving a few hours to Camp Kirk each month has a big impact.



## WE GET BY WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS



## FAMILY BUILDS CANOE FOR CAMP KIRK FUNDRAISER

Quinn and Don from Allman Boatworks in Huntsville built a cedar plank canoe for our Live Auction - it sold for \$6000!

## LAW OFFICE GIVES BACK

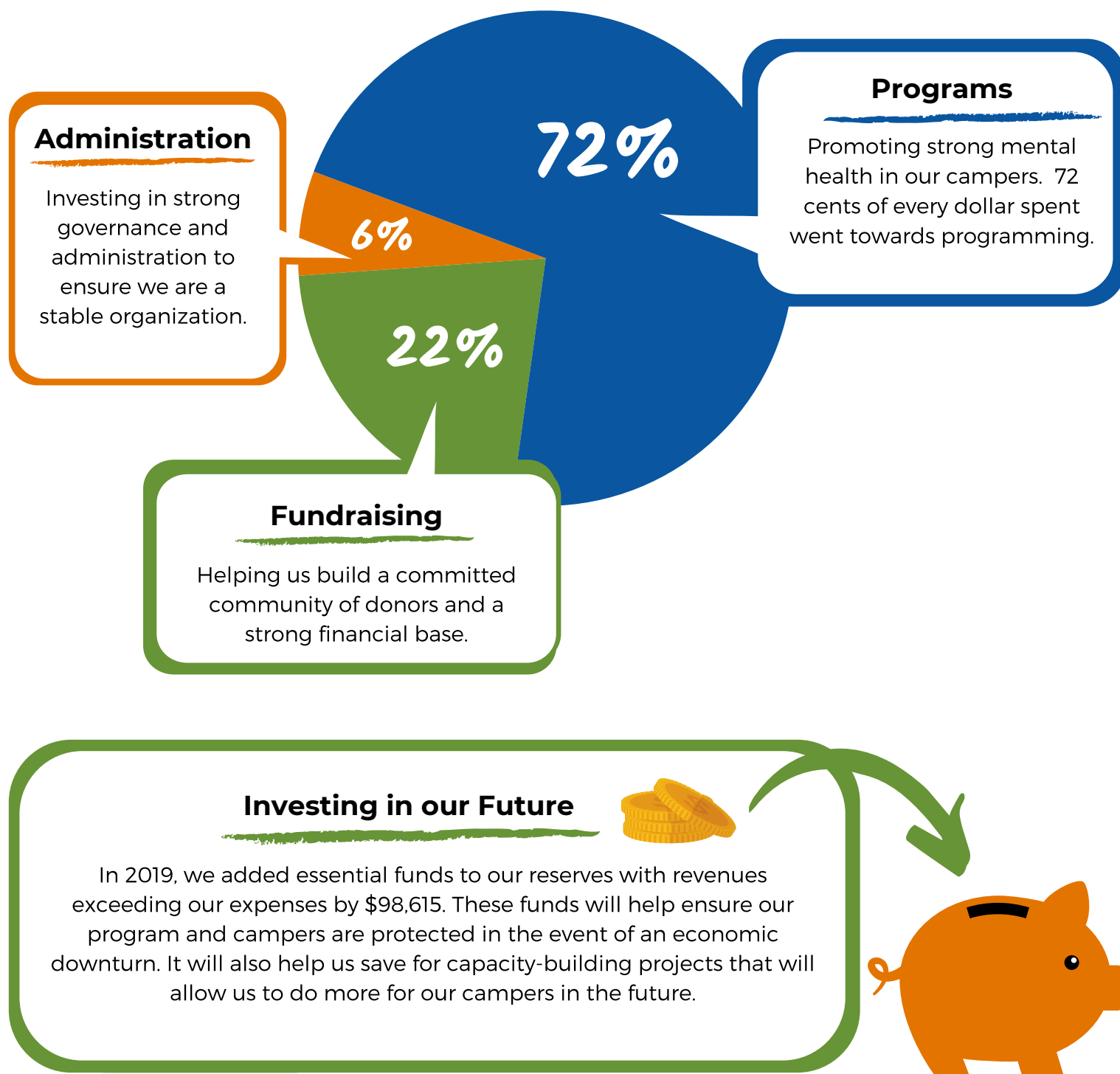
Fasken raised over \$1,000 for Camp Kirk at their casual days in June.

## COLLEGE STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMPERS

Stacey and her classmates at Fanshawe College raised funds for our campers at their Bowling "Fun"draiser!



# YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK



The financials in this report are for the 2019 fiscal year (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@CampKirk.com](mailto:info@CampKirk.com) or (416)782-3310. You can see our complete financial statements for 2019 at [CampKirk.com](https://www.CampKirk.com).



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## \$10,000+

Amici Camping Charity  
The Beutel Goodman Charitable Foundation  
Reid Bowlby & Debbie Bongard  
Dean Connor & Maris Uffelmann  
Paul & Vicki Hand  
Harold E. Ballard Foundation  
The Mariano Elia Foundation  
The Midloch Foundation  
The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund  
Taylor Statten Camping Bursary Fund  
Unity for Autism

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Boland Foundation  
Matthew Bowlby  
Cadillac Fairview Corporation Ltd.  
The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
Bob Henderson & Margot Peck  
Jackman Foundation  
The Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation  
The John David & Signy Eaton Foundation  
Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Foundation  
Mastermind Toy  
Bill & Betty Morris  
Rexall Foundation  
The Sir Joseph Flavell Foundation  
Sunlife Financial

## \$1,000 to \$4,999

Henri & Jane Audet  
Avison Young  
Jason Baker & Ellie Morch  
Howard Barton & Sally Hannon  
Bauer Systems Inc  
Monica Biringier  
Robert Black & Judith Adams  
CBRE  
Sydney & Ken Clark  
Coboconk & District Lions  
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.  
Fasken  
Garth Girvan & Sue McKenzie  
Julie Girvan  
Heathbridge Capital Management Ltd  
Grant Irwin & Carol Lome  
Alfred Johnston  
The John and Victoria Tremayne Family Foundation  
Dot Jones  
Kids in Camp  
Mr. John and Ms. Judy Kitchen  
Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club  
Susan Layard  
Jay & Jane Lewis  
David and Stefanie Leuty  
Lions Club of Westport  
Lions Club of Goodwood  
Claire McDerment  
MDRT Foundation Canada  
Mississauga Central Lions Club  
Newmarket Lions Club  
The Nixon Charitable Foundation  
Lind and Judy Nyman  
Optimist Club of Lindsay  
Paul and Joanne O'Hea  
Wade Oosterman & Wendy Adams  
Parkhill Lions Club  
Sian Phillips  
Suzanne Porter & Sara Gardner  
Jonathan Price  
Ellen Rethore  
The Sharp Foundation

## \$1,000 to \$4,999 cont

Joanne Sterling  
Richard & Glenna Talbot  
Ed & Susan Taves  
Toronto Knights of Columbus

## \$100- \$999

Vince & Lenore Aguanno  
Rob & Alison Anthony  
Michael & Barbara Baker  
Jennifer Barretto  
Joyce Barretto  
Jessica Bartlett  
Belle River Lions Club  
Beth Beattie  
Bobcaygeon and District Lions Club  
Barbara Bocking  
Bonfield and District Lions Club  
David & Wendy Bunston  
Andrea Burrige  
John & Anne Brace  
Glenn Bryant & Helen Kain  
Canada Development Investment Corp.  
Canadian Tire Jumpstart  
Ryan Carr  
The Children's Foundation of Muskoka  
Chris F. Mellor Insurance Brokers Ltd  
Joshua and Robyn Coates  
Vance Cooper  
Tim & Susan Cork  
Kelly Cowell  
Caren Crawford  
Tecca Crosby  
Eric Cumming  
Robert & Anne Cumming  
Audrey Davidson  
Cameron Douglas  
Michael Douglas  
Debbi & Keith Eaman  
Aled & Elizabeth Edwards  
Fergus Lions Club  
Adele Ferguson  
Ferris Lions Club  
Denise Fruchter & Carolyn Heil  
Tim Gerrits  
Aaron & Sarah Good  
John & Patricia Gouinlock  
Ernie & Barb Gutstein  
Alayne Hall  
Marianne Harris  
Kimberly & John Hassard  
Judy & Peter Hatcher  
Lynn Hendrick  
Alix Herber  
Wanda Ho  
Richard Hugessen  
David Humphrey  
John Gardner  
Ryan Kamuf  
Robert Kepes & Jennifer Martin-Kepes  
Erin & Serge Khera  
Liz Kirk  
Kitchener Waterloo Community  
Spirit Lions  
Barrie & Joan Laver  
Michael & Dian Leuty  
Jon & Karyn Levy  
Randall & Elisabeth Linton  
Lions Club of Merritton  
Lions Club of Widdifield

"Though I never went to Camp Kirk, I grew up going to summer camp and my life wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for my second home and my second family. I want to help give children, who can't attend a traditional summer camp, their home away home."

~Jessica Bartlett, monthly donor

## Leadership

### 2019 Board of Directors

Reid Bowlby, Chair	Sally Hannon
Katherine Beattie, Secretary	Alix Herber
Owen Roberts, Treasurer	Ellie Morche
Judith Adams	Ellen Rethore
Jamie Bunston	Maris Uffelmann

## Management Team

Erica Park-Coutts, Executive Director  
Tara Allman, Development Director  
Victoria Crawford, Assistant Camp Director

## \$100 - \$999 cont

Natalie and Michael Little  
Rishaal Lodhia  
Roopa Lodhia  
Jocelyn Macdonald  
Luc Marceau  
Cynthia Mccall  
McConnell Foundation  
Sydney McMorran  
Claire McNevin  
Glenn Michael  
Jonathan Nyquist  
Navan Lions Club  
Mike Newell & Tara Allman  
North Bay Lions Club  
Michael and Elsa Nowlan  
Omeme District Lions Club  
Kevin Palmer  
Ben & Erica Park-Coutts  
Steve and Diana Parker  
Young-Dae Park  
Catherine Paterson  
Michael Patti & Judith Robertson  
John & Anne-Marie Prendiville  
Mark Quigley  
Cynthia Quinn  
The Royal Canadian Legion Br 135  
Ian Sandler  
John Scott & Lindsay Rogan  
David & Stacey Sharpe  
Everett Singh  
Paul Slade  
Andrew Staf & Martha Collyer  
Russ and Lucy Stewart  
Jim Tory & Cindy Rogers  
Thorndale Lions Club  
Tom Trimble & Lisa Applegath  
Victoria Cross Public School  
Peter Vincent & Monica Hodgson  
Waterford Lioness Club  
Gerry Wood  
Woolwich Community Lions Club  
David & Jennifer Wortzman  
Donald Wright & Leslie Pringle  
York Mount Dennis Lions Club

## In Kind Supporters (\$1,000+)

Ace Hill Beer  
Allman Boatworks  
Allan & Lynn Day  
Kilcoo Camp  
Kuma Outdoor Gear  
Lions Club Camp Kirk Foundation  
Mastermind Toy  
Rexall Foundation  
Secure Capital  
True History Brewing  
Sarah White

## Volunteers

Ishma Alexander-Richardson  
Nithya Caleb  
Reegan Connor  
Steph Fauquier  
Katherine Ferron  
Anna Gilliatt  
Robbie Gunn  
Jess Hayes  
Linley Mcconnell  
Mike Newell  
Stephanie Nickerson  
Ben Park-Coutts  
Amanda Paulter  
Christine Prince  
Ian Sharpe  
Kaley Welch  
Michael Wilson





We can't wait to see what we accomplish together in 2020.



Camp Kirk  
639A Mount Pleasant Rd  
Toronto, ON M4S 2M9  
[CampKirk.com](http://CampKirk.com)  
416.782.3310



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