



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

AT CAMP KIRK, BELONGING COMES TO LIFE.

Because of you, campfires crackle with laughter. Breakthroughs happen. New skills take root. Confidence shines.

Your generosity creates a community built with neurodivergent minds at its centre. A place where friendships form without judgement, confidence grows without comparison, and children experience the freedom of being fully and authentically themselves.

The transformation between drop-off and pick-up is remarkable. Campers leave standing taller, carrying a belief in themselves that lasts long after summer ends. That change happens because you make it possible.

In 2025, your impact reached further than ever.

More campers experienced belonging with our new 5-day session for younger, and new campers. Creative expression and confidence expanded through an enhanced music program. Leadership pathways grew through LIT and employment opportunities.

You also strengthened the Camp Kirk team who support campers every day. Enhanced mental health training, self-care strategies and peer mentorship programs ensured staff were able to support campers with skill, empathy, and consistency.

Your support extended beyond camp, too. Parents and community members accessed our webinars with Holland Bloorview (embracing neurodivergent identity) and Specialisterne Canada (neurodiversity in the workplace). Campers also stayed connected after camp with new virtual sessions during the school year. The ripple effect of your generosity continues long after camp closes for the season.

Even more is possible in the year ahead.

Through the dedication of volunteer Board and committee members, Camp Kirk is guided by thoughtful leadership that reinforces stability and supports expanding impact. Look for our 2026 plans in the pages ahead to see what's coming for campers and community this year.

Because of you, every child who walks through the camp gates finds belonging, confidence and a future filled with possibility.

With sincere appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre Thomas".

Deirdre Thomas,
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Dougherty".

Linda Dougherty
Board Chair

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

\$750,000+

of camp costs subsidized because of your generous support.

1710+

Impact Days.
An impact day is equal to 1 day of programming.

480+

Family members received one to two weeks of respite.

WHAT FAMILIES SAY

"She talks so positively about camp, honestly every conversation we have is her happy stories of doing things with kids her age and feeling brave. She also talks about becoming a counsellor so she can bring happiness to young kids and do for them what she needed which is kindness and acceptance."



86% of campers said they felt safe and supported at camp.



80% of campers would recommend Camp Kirk to other neurodivergent kids.



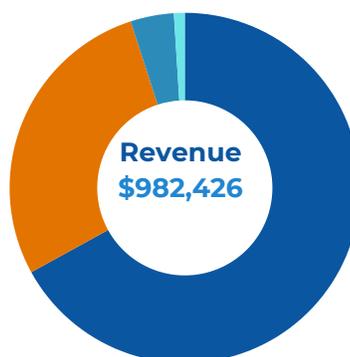
75% of campers agreed that their sensory needs were met at camp.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thanks to your generosity, fundraising revenue grew by nearly \$160,000 in 2025. Strong foundation and individual support, Dolphin Gaming funding and a successful Fall Gala fuelled this momentum.

That growth allowed Camp Kirk to significantly reduce its deficit and build a stronger financial foundation, ensuring more campers can experience belonging not just this year, but for years to come.

For our 2025 audited financial statements please go to www.campkirk.com



- Donations & Fundraising 67%
- Camper Fees 28%
- Government 4%
- Interest & Other Income 1%

- Programs 77%
- Fundraising 15%
- Administration 8%

2025 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM UPDATE

2025 AT A GLANCE

- **180** Campers
- A new **5** day session for younger and new campers
- Enhancements to our **Sensory** Room and **Music** Program

OUR PLANS FOR 2026

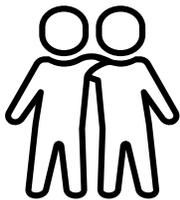
- **180** Campers
- New rainy day programming & indoor space
- New library of books on being neurodivergent
- With more frequent heat warnings, we are looking to purchase A/C units for the cabins.



“He expressed fondly that he made some new friends, challenged himself with a variety of activities, loved the food, the people and generally felt a sense of belonging. He said he could be his best self at camp. He is excited to come back next summer.”

METRICS THAT MATTER

(Pre camp versus post camp)



80% of campers reported feeling happy with the friends they had after camp, compared to 75% pre camp.



81% of campers felt they could now take part in the same activities as others, compared to 69% pre camp.



72% of campers reported feeling understood by the adults in their life, compared to 61% pre camp.

CAMP KIRK CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH DMITRI AND MARLON

How long have you been at Camp Kirk?

Dmitri: I've been here five years.

Marlon: I've been here for technically six years. The first year we met, we kind of just instantly became friends and it was just like a deep friendship from then on.

What does Camp Kirk mean to you?

Dmitri: I have ADHD and anger issues but I feel like here it's just helped it get better. I don't get angry as much. I'm more of a laughing person here.

Marlon: Everybody at Camp Kirk has something special about them. That's why I love Camp Kirk. A warm welcoming place. A lovely place to be. I just don't want to see this place change, I love it.

Dmitri: It means making a whole bunch of new friends and also seeing old friends again like Marlon.

Marlon: That's why I keep coming back and I hope I can come back as an LIT, so I can further help the camp that shaped me.

If you could change something about Camp Kirk what would it be?

Marlon: If I could change one thing, it would be nothing because this camp's perfect.



2025 LIT & INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

LEADER IN TRAINING PROGRAM

2025 at a Glance:

- 10 LIT placements
- 3 Work Placement Streams
- Morning Skill Session/Afternoon Work Placement
- 100 Volunteer Hours Completed

Our Plans for 2026:

- Doubling of LIT program to 20 placements
- Launch of 2 new 8-day LIT programs - Junior LIT & Belong.
- New Sailing and Equine Program

INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT / TRANSITION PROGRAM

2025 AT A GLANCE

- 25% of the summer staff team are former campers
- Participants earn industry-recognized certs such as First Aid, CPR, Food Handlers and WHMIS.
- Personalized mentorship and coaching

OUR PLANS FOR 2026

- Strive to maintain a quarter of staff being past campers
- Continuation of skills-based learning and development
- Mental health supports for staff
- Continuous evaluation

METRICS THAT MATTER

Leader In Training Program



100% of LITs reported significant growth in leadership and self-advocacy skills

100% of parents agree that the program improved their child's social skills and future career readiness

Inclusive Employment Program



86% of participants strongly agreed that they gained critical employment readiness skills

100% of participants agreed that they were given the guidance and support needed to be successful

OUR COMMUNITY

PROGRAM EVENTS

Empowering Conversations: Helping Children Embrace Their Neurodivergent Identity Webinar

In April we hosted a webinar with Holland Bloorview that helped equip families, educators and professionals with practical strategies and inspiring insights for discussing neurodivergence with children in affirming and empowering ways.

Monthly Virtual Camper Clubs

Back for Fall 2025, Virtual Clubs are a fun way to keep the spirit of camp alive all year long! New campers get a sneak peek of camp life, meet our friendly staff, and start building friendships before they even arrive. Clubs include: Minecraft, Baking, Arts & Crafts, Active Games and more!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

McMullan Family Fundraiser, Sutton

In April, we came together for the 3rd annual Camp Kirk Kick Off hosted by the McMullan Family. This year's event included live music performances by the [Connors Brothers](#) and Highland Dancing from [Bold Steps Dance Studio](#).

Tri Kirk Cup, Toronto

In June we welcomed corporate teams from SunLife, RBC, SalesForce and more to our first-ever Tri Kirk Cup! A "fun in the sun" tournament of beach volleyball, dodgeball and frisbee! Our own Camp Kirk team took home the Tri-Kirk Cup Trophy! Together we raised over \$10,000.

Boots and Ballads, Fenelon Falls

In August, we enjoyed an evening of live country music under the stars. The night kicked off with rising country star [Jessica Sole](#), followed by a powerhouse performance from [New Moon Junction](#).

Building Inclusive Pathways for Neurodivergent Youth Event, Toronto

In September, over 100 guests joined us for an evening focused on building community, connection, and hope. We heard about our Inclusive Employment Program, we welcomed Julie Branscombe of [Specialisterne Canada](#), and we listened to the inspiring stories of our panel of former campers, now staff members.

Champions for Children Gala / Blue Jays Game 7 Watch Party, Toronto

Over 150 guests joined us for a wonderful evening of community and excitement! We enjoyed a 3 course meal, live performance by David Celia and Band, live and silent auctions. We also came together to watch the Blue Jays World Series Game 7! Together we raised over \$90,000.



CAMP KIRK CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH JULIA AND ZOE

How long have you been at Camp Kirk?

Zoe: I've been coming to Camp Kirk I think three years, I lost count. It's too fun here to keep track.

What are your favourite things to do at Camp Kirk?

Julia: There's pottery, arts and crafts. There's the Bucky Slinger. There's a bunch of awesome clubs. They have awesome food.

Zoe: Yes the food here is awesome. I'm normally a picky eater, but for some reason here, I will literally eat anything.

Julia: I like it here also because you can be goofy and funny and people will understand. You can mess up a lot and people still get it.

What does Camp Kirk mean to you?

Zoe: It's kind of like there's a forcefield around you when you're outside of Camp Kirk and then when you are at Camp Kirk, you can step out of the forcefield and feel like yourself.

Julia: This is my first sleep away camp and it has been the best experience I have ever had. It's the best camp I've ever been to.



OUR SUPPORTERS

(The Camp Kirk 2025 financial year covers donations made between October 1st, 2024 - September 30th, 2025)

\$25,000+

Ontario Charitable Gaming Association
The Mariano Elia Foundation
Paul and Vicki Hand
Connor-Uffelmann Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Taylor Statten Bursary Fund
Unity for Autism
Sun Life Financial
Linda Dougherty
The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
RBC Foundation
June and Ian Cockwell
Honda Canada Foundation
Canada Post Community Foundation
Nosreap Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Lions Club Camp Kirk Foundation
The Jackman Foundation
MNP
The Peter Cundill Foundation
Andy McMullan & Madison Oliver
Newmarket Lions Club
John and Chris Reidy
Sandra and Kris Smith
Alison Holt
AMICI Camping Charity
Midloch Foundation
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
The Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation
Katy Leighton
Flavelle Family Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Judith Adams and Robert Black
Claire McDerment
Bob Henderson & Margot Peck
Martin and Deirdre Thomas
Jon and Karyn Ley
Kevin Palmer
Patrick Harrington
Jean Wansbrough Leadership Training Fund
Henri and Jane Audet
Dot Jones
Shelley Peterson and Oliver Schmelzer
Mike and Emily McDerment
Mary and Doug Kirk
Admed and Maria Holder
Regional Municipality of York
Nemar Limited
Alix Herber
Donna Keystone
District A-12 Lions
Pamela Henderson
Kids In Camp
Jim and Dale Egan
Louise Gleeson and Jon Britton
Brent Pumple

\$1,000 - \$4,999 cont.

McGuire Trust
Aaron Den Boer and Carmen Li
Pauline James and Remus Covriga
Leamington Lions Club
Ed Taves
Brenda Doig and Derek Plaxton
Dean Connor and Maris Uffelmann
Kelly Cook
Bobcaygeon & District Lions Club
Jay and Jane Lewis
Jamie and Emily Bunston
Jim and Rachel Williams
Joanne Kowell
Susan Layard
Michael Douglas
Marlin Horst
Julie Girvan
Durham Radio
Wendy and David Bunston
Hilary and Peter Gray
Four Seasons Hotel
Martha Perry
Sandra Zidaric
Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club
Joanne Oliver
Allyson Roy
Dave and Stacey Sharpe
Welland Lions Club
Wink Eyecare
Rakesh Chadra
Mississauga Central Lions Club
Michael Miller
Liz Calvin
Lions Club of Westport
Lions Club of St. Thomas
John McAllister
East Peterborough Lions Club
Cambridge Highlands Lions Club
Blair Audet

\$500 - \$999

Britton Orthodontics
Claire McNeven
BAM Lions Club
1000 Mile Challenge
Krista McMullan
Passion Fruit Partners
Michael Bennett
Anna Gilliatt
Pierre Lussier
John Wallace
Iris Tam
William Pigott
The Sharp Foundation
Erin District Lions Club
Katherine and Scott Beattie-Gives
Ellie Morch
Adam Vollering
Vienna Lions Club
Graham Tate
Royal York Hotel
Reegan Connor

\$500 - \$999 cont.

Heather and Steve McLimont
Shoberry's Daycare
Amanda Stanley
Townsend Lions Club
Sean Thomas
Ruth Hanton
Rebecca Reott
Patricia Peterson
One Properties
Myles Slocombe
Melissa Murphy
Matthew Sitka
Mary King Lyons & John Lyons
Margaret Tromp
Lions Club of North Oshawa
Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club
Gerry McLeod
Geoff Bartle
Gary Eves
Dunnville Lions
Doug Paterson
David Beach
Craig Franklin
Burlington Lions Club
Brechin Lions Club
Belmont Swans Club
Beaverton Lions Club
Barbara Hnatiak
Alyssa Boyd

\$150 - \$499

Wendy Girvan
Sumeet Bhatia
Reid Bowlby and Debbie Bongard
Brad McCamus
Burdock Brewery
Sonya Goldman
Sarah Alescio and Andrew Monic
Rockwood & District Lions Club
Robert Noakes
Rebecca Morgan
Massimo Siciliano
Lori-Ann Saroli
Gerald Wood
Fonthill Lions Club
Alex Barker and Kyla Reid
Schomberg Lions Club
William Stewart
Stamford Lions Club
Naseem Cohen
Toronto Symphony Orchestra
Doug Miehm
Todd and Eliana Neath
Natalie Iwinski
Marg Harrison
Linda Jackson
Kanata Hazeldean Lions Club
Joyce Barretto
Jordan Lions Club
Fenelon Falls District Lions Club
Emma Lui
Andrew Staff

\$150 - \$499 cont.

Vittoria Lions Club
Anne Marie Prendiville & John Gillies
Rochelle Zorzi
Waterdown & District Lions Club
Uxbridge & District Lions Club
Takuma Handa
Simone Chan
Shanna Deasley
Ryan Stanga
Rob Saunders
Pamela Steer
Michael McInerney
Medicine Professional
Martha McDerment
Lions Club of Parkhill
Karen Simmonds
Julie Branscombe
Jason and Kristen Dockeray
Deborah Piotrowski
Bracebridge Lions Foundation
Beth Beattie
Audrey Davidson
Erin Khera
Ted Garrels and Eva Touchburn
Sarah Nguyen
Settler's Ghost Golf Club
Robin Boys
Valerie Stacey
Michael Milad Mahdavian
Erin Stoik
Venkat Maddi
Sergei Antipov
Scott McLean
Sameer Sharma
Roy Baldwin
Rojena Rangarajan
Rajvi Chavada
Philip Vitorino
Newcastle Lions Club
Lynn Valley Lions Club
I Have Resolve Foundation
Harsh Shah
Hamza Rehman
Geri Berholz
Claudia Marin
Caroline Zammit
Avneet Bassi
Amy Nguyen
Kandle Artistique
Omeme District Lions Club
Burlington Aldershot Lions Club
Yusuf Adeleke
Wilhelm (Bill) Haust
Vanessa Vanclief
St Davids & District Lioness Club
Max Sun
Gibson Cleaners
Doris Gleeson
Darren Kosack
Amberley Cinti
Ali Hassen

2025 Board of Directors

Linda Dougherty, Chair
Alix Herber
Jamie Bunston
Barbara Hnatiak
Shelley Peterson
Louise Gleeson

Kevin Palmer, Treasurer
Bob Henderson
Andy McMullan
Brenda Doig
Pauline James

2025 Management Team

Deirdre Thomas, Executive Director
Kristen Jackson-Dockeray, Camp Director
Claire Beddoe, Assistant Camp Director
Heather McLimont, Events Manager
Michele Garry-Jones, Office Manager



THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for all of our supporters and everything you do for our kids and camp.



Our Mission

We empower neurodivergent kids and youth to reach their potential through recreational programs.

Our Vision

A community where everyone can embrace their differences and harness their strengths



/CampKirk



/Camp_Kirk



/company/campkirk



www.campkirk.com