

"I felt like I was flying...just like a bird"
 ~A camper on high ropes
 who had never walked!



One of the most transformative activities for campers at The Painted Turtle is the High Ropes Course program. At the Ropes Course - which is 30 feet up in the air! - campers challenge themselves to a variety of extraordinary feats: the plank walk, the bridge crossing, the zip line, to name a few. As with all activities at The Painted Turtle, our ropes course is universally accessible so that ALL children, regardless of mobility, can gain confidence with the success of their accomplishments. Children both in and out of wheelchairs are able to feel the excitement and thrill of soaring down the zip lines.



A Letter From A Parent

Dear Painted Turtle Family,
 We do not know how to thank you for everything each and every one of you has done for Asher and for our family. Those of you around during Asher's first summer might remember a slightly shy, more reserved child. When he came home from that first summer we knew that he had been changed forever, we just didn't realize how much... every time he came home from camp, he was stronger and more capable to deal with whatever life threw his way...Six years later and Asher is who he is.

He does not give his crown's any power over his life, he doesn't let the bullies bully him. Being a part of the Painted Turtle has empowered him and allowed him to try new experiences with a confidence built on knowing that there are good and wonderful people that accept him for who he is...

Sharon Farkas ~ Asher's Mother



Asher Farkas (second from left) and the Salerno family

Our extraordinary Volunteers are at the core of all that we do at The Painted Turtle. Without the generous gift of their time and energy none of what we do would be possible.

A few amazing statistics about our volunteers this summer:

- ♥ 235 cabin volunteers
- ♥ 103 medical professionals
- ♥ 230 volunteers from California
- ♥ 108 out of state volunteers
- ♥ 169 first time volunteers
- ♥ 205 returning volunteers
- ♥ 25,224 total hours of volunteer time were donated this summer!

The Painted Turtle gives a great big **Standing "O"** to the women and men who give so much of themselves to change the lives of so many kids. We ♥ Volunteers!

A Letter From The Camp Director

"2-0-double-that-1, living the summer of non-stop fun." This was the cheer that campers, volunteers, and staff chanted throughout all eight sessions of Summer 2011. But we did more than cheer about "the summer of non-stop fun," we lived it. The spirit of fun and energy was unstoppable, and so were the over 750 incredible campers we served.

During our summer adventure, the most memorable snapshots of our journey are those where campers united to celebrate the friendship, support, and never-ending fun of their Painted Turtle experience. During our Hemophilia session, we awarded 16 campers with "big sticks" after they had the courage to self-infuse for the first time, a step that allows them to care for their own medical needs, independent from parents, nurses and doctors. As the entire camp cheered these campers on, their bravery in accepting new challenges and their willingness to support one another were at the heart of our adventure.

Many campers discovered the adventure of camp for the first time. At our closing campfire during our Special Diagnoses session, one new camper proudly took the microphone and expressed that "we are one world at camp", a community where everyone is accepted and free to have fun. Our campers during our Rheumatic session also highlighted this acceptance, when the oldest boys' cabin rallied around a cabinmate who was nervous to perform at Stage Night. His cabin supported him every step of the way: to encourage him to perform, to take the spotlight, and finally, to sing his song as they linked arms and cheered him on in the background.

Our campers, staff, and volunteers, created a place where it was safe to step outside of one's comfort zone and experience the possibilities of adventure. Staff and volunteers traveled from across the country and all over the world to join our team, including fourteen international team members from Ireland, Canada, England, Australia, and Germany.

Although this summer's journey has ended, it will live on in the heart of our adventurers. With the approach of our fall family weekend season, The Painted Turtle looks forward to new adventures ahead!

~ April Uyehara, Camp Director



Turtle Scoop

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Founding Hospitals

Cedars-Sinai
 Children's Hospital and Health Center, San Diego
 Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland
 Children's Hospital Central California
 Children's Hospital of Orange County
 Children's Hospital Los Angeles
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
 Los Angeles County Hospital + USC Medical Center
 Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
 Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA
 Miller Children's Hospital
 UC Davis Children's Hospital
 UCSD Medical Center
 UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital
 University Children's Hospital, UCI Medical Center

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Amy Houtrow, M.D. MPH	Charles Simmons, M.D.
	Feizal Waffarn, M.D.

Fall Calendar

Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases
 Family Weekend:
 September 23 - 25

Liver Transplant Family Weekend:
 September 30 - October 2

Asthma and Allergy Family Weekend:
 October 14 - 16

Spina Bifida and Paraplegia Family Weekend:
 October 28 - 30

Kidney Disease and Transplant
 Family Weekend:
 November 4 - 6

Rheumatic Diseases Family Weekend:
 November 18 - 20

Camper Holiday Gathering:
 December 3



Please visit us at our website online at www.thepaintedturtle.org or email: info@thepaintedturtle.org or call 310-451-1353

Turtle Scoop



SUMMER 2011 A Publication of The Painted Turtle; A Member of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps ©2011

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 Jami Gertz and Tony Ressler
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 Martha and Bruce Karsh
 Nancy and Howard Marks
 Sue Ann and Richard Masson
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His vision has impacted the lives of thousands of Painted Turtle campers, parents, siblings and volunteers, staff members and supporters and will continue to touch lives in the years to come and for that we are eternally grateful to our founder, Paul Newman. ♥

dear whoever- is reading- this,
 Hi im Kimmie and i was in the 7-12 1st session of CCA 2011. There were tons of fun times! i guess what im tryin' to say is that this camp is truly magic. maybe not in the sense of witches or wizards but it changes you. and there's NO WAY to describe how amazing this camp will make you feel you just have to experience it for yourself. AND NO matter what disease you have i wanted you to know that you ARE NOT alone. At this camp, we CAN finally be free and NO1 questions ~~are~~ you for it. dont let anything stop you from being who you wanna be. find yourself in you!

♥ Kimmie

THE PAINTED TURTLE THE HEART OF ADVENTURE

Our Camp theme this summer was "The Painted Turtle and the Heart of Adventure," and if you ask any child who attended camp this year, there's no better place to have an unforgettable adventure than The Painted Turtle—and there's certainly no place with more heart!

I think the exuberant letter above, left by one camper for the next child who would sleep in the very same bunk the following session, captures better than I ever could how rich and meaningful this adventure and opportunity is for our campers. Camp Adventure encompasses the journey of friendship, the challenge of growth, the discovery of self-confidence, and the exploration of one's own possibility. It changes lives.

Over 750 campers attended The Painted Turtle this summer during which we served children with over 30 different medical conditions. In addition we hosted our inaugural Special Diagnoses Session and for the first time served children with a variety of conditions that included neuromuscular illnesses, metabolic and genetic disorders, and craniofacial conditions. They had the time of their lives!

Kimmi's letter is a testament to how incredibly powerful The Painted Turtle experience is for campers. It is inspiring to see one child encouraging another to believe in what is possible in life and for us all to know that a single week of hope and belonging at The Painted Turtle can open each and every child to a lifetime of adventure.

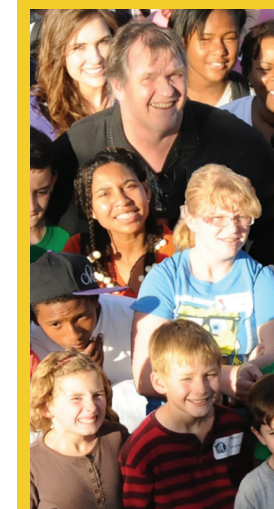
~Blake Maher
 Acting Executive Director

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Meat Loaf

(He Would Do Anything For Love and The Painted Turtle)



Over the past six years, music legend Meat Loaf has become a hero in the eyes of The Painted Turtle as time and again, and often singlehandedly, he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help support our organization. Through his

ongoing participation in *Don't Forget the Lyrics*, *Celebrity Blackjack*, *NBA Celebrity Fantasy League*, *Celebrity Charades*, and most recently and publicly on *The Celebrity Apprentice*, Meat Loaf has raised enough money to send over 500 children to our summer sessions – more than half of the number of children we serve each summer!

Meat Loaf's generosity goes far beyond simply writing a check. An asthma sufferer, Meat Loaf has visited The Painted Turtle to meet and talk with campers and their families, offering words of encouragement and understanding, and even laughing uproariously when a young camper (not old enough to be a fan) called him "Meat Ball."

His tireless and impassioned advocacy for The Painted Turtle, which he expresses through a host of charity events, on stage, in front of the camera, online, and through many other forums, has had a tremendous impact on the awareness of people nationally and internationally about The Painted Turtle. This was most noticeable when, after his first win on *The Celebrity Apprentice* and his expressing such emotion for and devotion to camp, our Facebook fan base increased by over 1,000 people. Shortly after, contributions began coming to us from fans worldwide, all of whom cited Meat Loaf as the catalyst for their donations.

Meat Loaf is a man who has used celebrity as a platform for good and positive change, for the opportunity to make a difference. With hard work, emotion, determination, and exuberance Meat Loaf has lifted The Painted Turtle into his own personal spotlight in order to make a difference in the lives of children who are searching for a brighter day.

~Acting Executive Director Blake Maher

Over \$360,000 is saved each year due to medical volunteer hours worked!

Dr. Jimmy Beck

Not every doctor who volunteers at The Painted Turtle knows camp the way Dr. Jimmy Beck knows it—that is, from the ground up. Long before Jimmy earned his medical degree, and long before the camp's doors even opened, Jimmy began volunteering at The Painted Turtle in every imaginable way: planting trees, assembling furniture, licking envelopes, you name it he did it.



Jimmy's sister, Tina, was the first volunteer coordinator at The Painted Turtle, and she wasted no time in corralling her brother into helping out at camp. Of course she knew it wouldn't be a hard sell. Prior to The Painted Turtle's opening, Jimmy had spent two summers working in Florida as a counselor at one of The Painted Turtle's sister camps, Camp Boggy Creek, where he became expert at meeting the needs of children with acute medical conditions in a camp setting, as well as fairly accomplished at the fine art of "no-hands" spaghetti eating!

When choosing his residency in 2004, Jimmy made a conscious decision to remain in Southern California so that he could continue to volunteer at The Painted Turtle. Not only did he volunteer at the camp's very first family weekend but during our first summer he arranged his on-call schedule so that he could volunteer for an entire week as a cabin counselor.

In the ensuing years "Counselor Jimmy" became "Dr. Jimmy," and every year he has volunteered during both Summer Sessions and Family Weekends in the Well Shell, even more deeply understanding all that it takes to enable these children to participate in the camp experience.



Without the medical professionals who come to camp on their own vacation time each year, the campers could not be there. But doctor or counselor Jimmy has never cared about titles, he's always been just as willing to sweep the floor or set up the dining hall for carnival as he is to be the doctor on duty. He is at camp for the kids, whatever it takes.

Even when a new opportunity took him to Washington, D.C., this past summer, Jimmy returned for two week-long stints as a volunteer doc during our Kidney and Skeletal Dysplasia Sessions.



When asked "What does camp do for kids?" Jimmy has the unique perspective of both a medical doctor, who has observed the healing power of camp and the way it alters children's perception of their illnesses, and that of a cabin counselor, who has cared for the campers round-the-clock and seen on a day-to-day measure how camp influences children's understanding of who they are and who they want to become. "I just come to camp, no matter what role I am in," Jimmy says. "Providing medical care at The Painted Turtle has definitely helped me become a better doctor. In the hospital you focus on the disease and getting patients better. But at camp it's not just about the disease. Caring for the whole person is not just about the medicine. Providing the intangibles to the campers is so important for the health of these kids, you cannot measure it."



Gregg Miller is one of the many volunteers who gives of his time to make camp possible for hundreds of campers and their families. He has been a tremendous asset to The Painted Turtle since 2007 when he first volunteered his skills as a Spanish/English interpreter. He has ensured that the magic of camp is experienced by English and Spanish-speaking families alike. By volunteering for more than 14 family weekends and several Hospital Outreach Events, and by translating documents and other correspondence as the families prepare to come to camp, he allows them to be fully immersed in the community that The Painted Turtle creates.

Gregg brings a tremendous amount of talent and 30 years experience as an interpreter to The Painted Turtle. During Family Weekends, he is instrumental in making sure that Spanish-speaking families are comfortable and welcome by assisting them one-on-one and also by interpreting group activities, such as the opening campfire, the parent's discussion, announcements and the closing ceremony. For each family weekend he attends, Gregg donates wireless interpreting equipment, that allows the participants to be anywhere in the room while he simultaneously transmits his Spanish interpretation to them.

"Interpreting and translating for The Painted Turtle poses a fun challenge," Gregg says, "since so much at camp is based on word play in English, lots of jokes involving puns... It's a great feeling when you can come up with something that has the same flavor in Spanish, the favorite part, of course, is seeing how much it all means to the kids and their families."

Muchas Gracias to Gregg for his service and commitment to ensuring that camp may be enjoyed by everyone who comes through the front gate!

"I knew it would be amazing, what I didn't expect was to leave camp as a changed individual."
~Muscular Dystrophy Session Volunteer



We are delighted to receive ongoing support from so many terrific Greek organizations, including two shining stars, **Delta Zeta Sorority** and **Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity**. Throughout the years, numerous staff and hundreds of volunteers from these organizations have spent time at camp, including this summer, when we had two Delta Zeta summer staff and 28 volunteers, and nine Phi Kappa Tau summer staff and 14 volunteers. Our current full-time Residential Life Coordinator, Bryan Wage, is also a dedicated Phi Tau! The amazing chapters of these organizations have also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of our campers.

Delta Zeta has sponsored three Family Weekends, a year of Staff and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, a Young Adult Leadership Weekend, and our Leadership In Training Program. Phi Kappa Tau has sponsored our Aquatics Program, a year of Staff and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, and several years of General Operating Support. Both organizations have participated in our annual athletic fundraising events, including the Honda LA Marathon and our own Camp Challenge Ride event. They also donate tons of Gifts In Kind each year.

Thank you to both organizations for all of your remarkable efforts in support of our campers each year!



"I have never been surrounded by such a concentrated amount of love and energy in my life!" ~Liver Session Volunteer



We are deeply grateful for the generous fundraising efforts of the employees of Southern California Edison Operations Support in 2010. Their creative fundraising efforts included: participation in our Inaugural Camp Challenge Ride, toy truck sales, and a generous contribution from the division of Philanthropy and Community Involvement. Thank you to the friends of The Painted Turtle at Southern California Edison!

FUN RAISING FUNDS



ALOHA! Once again our annual Turtle Beach Bar-B-Q fundraiser was a tremendous success! Hosted on July 23, 2011, by our North Los Angeles County Regional Advisory Board, this beach-themed evening, filled with fun and friendship, included dinner, entertainment, tours of camp, an antique car show, and silent and live auctions. Founder **Jami Gertz** led the excitement as the fabulous Mistress of Ceremonies! Nearly 400 people came out to this summer spectacular. The Painted Turtle is so grateful for the wonderful support of our local community and all those who made it a night to remember.



FUTURE EVENTS!

The Foundation for Giving HOPE will hold its 11th Anniversary Charity Benefit for The Painted Turtle at Bimbo's 365 Club, one of San Francisco's most legendary venues on Saturday, November 12. Tickets will be available in September and sell out quickly. www.bimbos365club.com.



Take on a personal challenge while changing the life of a child. Join Team Turtle for the LA Marathon or LA 5K! on March 17 & 18, 2012. Marathon registration is open now so please contact Anabel Holland for more information, anabelh@thepaintedturtle.org or (310) 451-1353, ext 109.

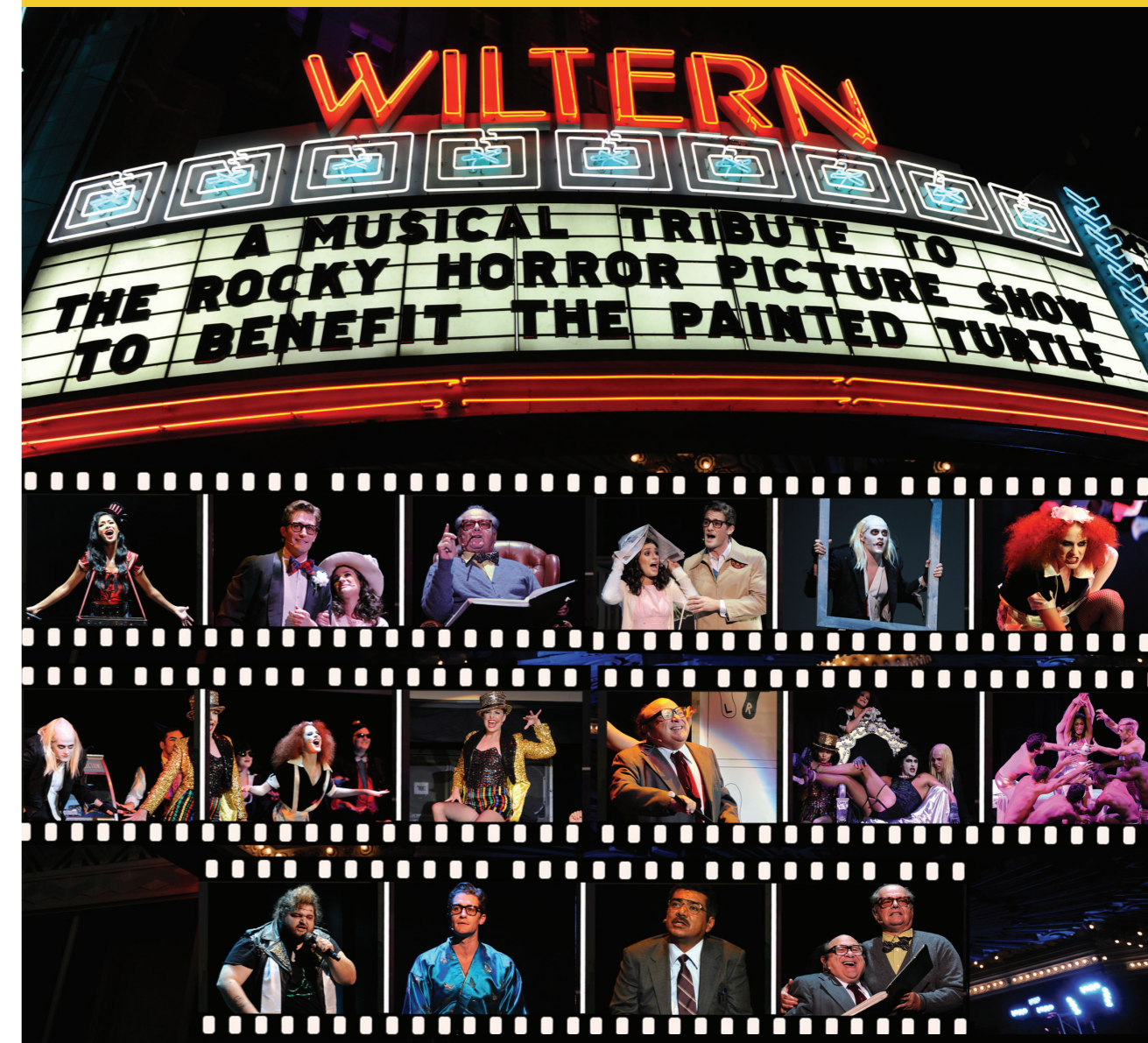
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

This fall keep an eye out for the first of our quarterly e-newsletters coming to your email inbox. If you're not already on our e-mail list, be sure you don't miss out. Sign up for our mailing list on the front page of our website – click "Join our Mailing List." We look forward to sharing all the excitement happening in the Turtle World!



HATS OFF to **Allen McBroom** and the facilities team for making and keeping the camp looking so wonderful!

Recent Events To Benefit The Painted Turtle



On October 28, 2010, in celebration of The Rocky Horror Picture Show Horror's 35th Anniversary - **Danny DeVito**, **Jorge Garcia**, **Lucas Grabeel**, **Melora Hardin**, **Ricki Lake**, **George Lopez**, **Julian McMahon**, **Lea Michele**, **Matthew Morrison**, **Jack Nicholson**, **Nichole Scherzinger** and **Evan Rachel Wood** performed "Live On Stage" backed by "The Creatures of The Night," an international shadow-cast to a star-studded audience at The Wiltern. The benefit was directed by **Kenny Ortega** and produced by **Lou Adler** with **Kevin Duncan**.

OUR 8TH ANNUAL BINGO AT THE ROXY

On March 23, 2011, The Painted Turtle hosted the Eighth Annual Bingo at The Roxy Theatre! A dedicated group of friends and supporters braved a rainy evening to play some fun and "funny" bingo as guest callers **Jay Leno**, **Paul Reiser**, **Isaiah Mustafa**, **Greg Kinnear**, **Johnny Knoxville**, **The Laker Girls**: **Bria and Melissa**, **Cheech Marin** and **Dana Gould** led the fun. A special thank you to our wonderful perennial host **Ricki Lake**!

Thanks to all who supported the event which allows The Painted Turtle to continue to serve children and families year-round and completely free of charge.

As always, kudos to outstanding event committee members **Lisette Ackerberg**, **Janet Crown**, **Eve Gerber**, **Simone Harrer**, **Susan Mazzoni** and **Carolyn Powers**!

