

# FOREWORD

By Margie Sovacool, Kelly, Maggie & Sara Haslam



*Margie Sovacool, Sara, Kelly & Maggie Haslam flash three generations of Christopher smiles. 2018 photo courtesy of Phyllis Pigat Richardson.*

**Margie:** One hundred years of *Camping at its Finest*. So much in the world has changed but the Christopher Spirit remains constant. Generations of families have enjoyed the experience of being campers and staff. I am blessed to be among those generational families, starting with my dad, Big Jim Sovacool, and followed by my daughter and granddaughters. Camp helps to preserve faith in our families. The relationships forged at Camp have become bonds of lifelong friendships. Though the world has changed just as our Front Gate has changed, the values of faith and friendship, the love of nature, and the opportunity to grow have remained rock solid. That spirit of Saint Christopher – inspiring each of us to be a Christ bearer – is still the core of Camp Christopher’s second fifty summers.

**Kelly:** Being CYO born and CYO bred has had a positive impact on my life. I am who I am because of my experiences as both a camper and staff member. I have had the

pleasure of being on staff in two separate millennia. I started as a JC in 1993, my grandfather Big Jim's final summer as CYO Director. My six years on staff in the 1990s gave me lasting friendships and prepared me for a career in education as well as motherhood. I could not wait to share Camp with my daughters. They grew up participating in Family Camp, Day Camp, and Resident Camp just as I did. In 2017 I had the opportunity to return to staff. A lot had changed in twenty years. Technology has made communication and activities much easier. Though some of the changes took some getting used to, the Christopher Spirit remained. Now I get to watch the growth of faith, friendship, and love of nature in the staff with whom I have worked in the last six years (my girls being among them). There is nothing more rewarding than being a witness to the endurance of the Christopher Spirit.

**Maggie and Sara:** Our experiences at Camp have strengthened our family relationships. We looked forward to attending Family Camp with our great-uncle Joe Sovacool's family. We always loved being there with our mom's Camp friends. Now their kids have become our good friends. Once we were old enough, we started volunteering at the SumFun program. We loved this mainly because it meant we got to spend more time at Camp, and we got to work with a few of our great-uncle Jim Sovacool's daughters. On staff, we worked with our great-uncle Joe, our cousins, and our mom as well as a good group of our Family Camp friends who were second-generation counselors. We were also happy to work September Song where some of the senior campers have maintained a relationship with Camp for more than fifty years! We liked hearing all the old stories from past decades, realizing how much Camp has changed but how much it has stayed the same over the years. Though our time on staff may be coming to an end, we look forward to visiting Camp in the future. We will always be grateful for the relationships we have made.



Original Linger art by Taylor Baumann