

Camp Ten Trees Year in Review

A Letter from Woot

I remember we were driving,
driving in your car
The speed so fast
I felt like I was drunk
City lights lay out before us
And your arm felt nice
wrapped round my shoulder
And I had a feeling
that I belonged
And I had a feeling I
could be someone

-Tracy Chapman, "Fast Car"

Often times people talk about how rough high school can be, due to work, stress, and friends. It's mostly a social environment, and if a student doesn't have friends, high school can be much worse. For me, I lost it in the fall of my freshman year when my good friend, Jeff, died. It wasn't all totally gone, but I lost a huge portion of my social life. Luckily, I was given a brochure that would change a major course

of my life, starting that summer.

It was a brochure to a camp called Camp Ten Trees, given to me by a girl from the university. The brochure said it was a camp for youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, or just questioning (LGBTQ). After getting the guts to come out to my family I signed up and I went, but I had no idea what I was getting into.

Like most summer camps, this place had a lake for swimming, a place for archery, an arts and crafts cabin, music, games, sports, and almost everything else that is fun in the summer. At the beginning of the week, we got to choose the activities we wished to do each day, and we'd get into

groups to do whatever we picked. There were also discussion groups, where we'd go to a group and talk about chosen topics for an hour. Often times topics would come pretty close to home, such as "Family Problems," which brought up a lot of tears just after a few people shared.

When harsh topics would come up, the camp had an amazing staff of counselors who were all very cool with any given situation. If somebody had to cry, every shoulder was free; if someone had to vent, every ear was listening. It was a place where nobody felt stupid to say something they felt, because at

Continued on Opposite Side



Quick Stats: 2007

- States/Territories at CTT '07: British Columbia, California, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ontario, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington
- Week 1 Campers, 2007: 104
- Same Week, 2001: 23
- Week 2 Campers, 2007: 52
- Same Week, 2001: 11
- In the Bank, Sept '06: - \$5,000
- In the Bank, Sept '07: + \$20,000
- Cost to Provide for a Camper for One Week: \$410
- This Year's Fundraising Goal: \$250,000

CTT in 2007: the Good, the Bad...

Dear Family & Friends of Camp Ten Trees,

It is because of your tremendous generosity at the 2007 Camp Ten Trees Auction that camp was able to continue this past summer. We, the staff and campers, are forever grateful. In short, the vision of Camp Ten Trees (CTT) to support campers to strengthen their inner courage, develop leadership skills, encourage creativity and individual choice, and make new friends with whom to build community after camp—your donations directly affect the youth that come to CTT!

Even with such a successful year behind us, and an auction that raised over twice what it had just a year before, it is

important for you to know that one year ago today CTT was in a financial crisis and had a negative account balance; CTT came close to shutting down this year. The bottom-line is that in our current political climate, it is difficult to fund LGBTQ services. It was the dedication, support, and backing of the CTT family that helped us open our doors again this August to over 150 campers.

The good news is Camp Ten Trees has started this year with a modest reserve of funds in our bank account. A remarkable number of seasonal staff has made the commitment to working year-round and are dedicated to keeping CTT going. Each year, there are testimonials from

multiple people about how CTT is an essential part of their life. CTT staff has responded to this passion and need for camp by making a commitment to build a sustainable organizational structure, to create a financial reserve and engage the community in camp year-round!

We're hoping you'll take a moment right now to make a commitment with us to keep Camp Ten Trees alive by giving a contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or whatever you can afford! We need your support to provide a loving camp community for LGBTQ and allied youth, and for youth from LGBTQ families, to explore and be themselves.

Camp Ten Trees
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A Letter from Woot (Continued)

least one person shared the same thought.

It was a camp where everybody had at least one thing in common. Everybody there had similar experiences with coming out, dealing with family, mourning a loss, and ways of having a good time; it was a

place that inspired self esteem and belonging. By the end of the week, everybody felt like family, and nobody wanted to leave.

Leaving was inevitable, though. On the last night there was a large camp fire with everybody from camp watching it. We sang, listened to readings, and "dedicated the fire" to people or things we appreciated at camp. This was done by saying our dedication, then throwing a stick into the fire; I dedicated my stick to everybody.

After I got home, my whole life had been changed. I now had a very large support group, as well as a very large group of friends and family that I could go to. My life became social once more, and I

was very happy. My sophomore year seemed like a breeze, now that I had something to look forward to every summer from then on.


--Gabriel "Woot" Ingalls


Woot shared this story with his school, with all of camp, and has given us permission to share it with all of you.


Please consider sending Camp Ten Trees a donation today to help more campers like Woot transform for the better. Money raised now will help us to build a sustainable Camp Ten Trees organization that will bring connection and transformation for years to come.


How to Help CTT: What You Can Do Now

 **Goodsearch it**
Browse with Goodsearch (www.goodsearch.com) instead of Google--each search donates \$0.01 to camp.

 **Party On**
Throw a Fundraising Party--take the opportunity to enjoy time with friends while you raise money and awareness for CTT! Plus, you'll sharpen your mixology skills at the same time.

 **Join the Team**
There are several subcommittees of the CTT Advisory Committee working on all aspects of camp--from tracking down new funds to planning this year's programming. See the list of Volunteer Opportunities below.

 **Talk It Up**
Spread word of camp to your sympathetic friends, peers, and coworkers! A strong camp stems from a strong community.

 **Put Your Money...**
The most important help you can provide is funding--please help us ensure that camp can change lives every summer!

Need suggestions or advice on any of the suggestions above? Our very own Bettie is an excellent resource. Email her at becca34@gmail.com

It's a Wrap: CTT in 2007

Camp has continued to grow since our first session back in 2001. In its first year, Week 1 saw only 23 campers, while Week 2 had 11 in attendance. Since then, we have grown by a factor of five: this past year Camp Ten Trees offered security and growth to 104 campers during Week 1 and 52 during Week 2.

The staff has an 80% return rate for camp each summer, and the majority of summer staff has begun to volunteer

year-round. CTT staff listens to LGBTQ and allied youth and recognize the complexity of young peoples' issues.

The success of camp this past year was due in large part to the dedication, time, creativity and volunteer hours of the CTT Advisory Committee. Interest in this committee has grown and the group is now accepting applicants in hope of creating a strong, goal-oriented team who will commit to influencing the di-

rection of camp for the next two years.

Camp Ten Trees has a committed, sustainable, and passionate year-round staff as well as annual camp-staff volunteers. The camp also has a growing interest from youth and scores of campers who anxiously await this annual adventure; youth who continue to return to CTT yearly and are able to give testimony about how camp changes their lives.

Volunteer Opportunities

Administrative/Office: We are looking for reliable volunteers to devote 2-10 hours per week to help us with general administrative office tasks.

Committees: Camp Ten Trees (CTT) is a fiscally-sponsored project of the Seattle LGBT Community Center/Queen City Community Development, a non-profit organization. CTT's organizational leadership is housed in an Advisory Committee, a governing body that reports to the Seattle LGBT Community Center and also supervises the work of the various CTT subcommittees and volunteers. We are actively recruiting committee members for the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees. Descriptions are as follows:

- **Advisory:** works on policies & procedures, organizational, staff and board structure, board of director recruitment, 501c3 and ACA Accreditation pursuit, general governance, etc.
- **Fund Development:** works on annual auction, grants, donor development, etc.
- **Outreach & PR:** works on newsletter, brochure, pamphlet, website, press releases, seeking out outreach opportunities, tabling, etc.
- **Programming:** evaluates and improves summer camp programming, including activities, scheduling, and much more!
- **Finance:** reviews monthly statements, reports on financial activities to the Advisory Committee. Assists in quarterly & yearly reports, audits, etc.

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