



CAMP CHICKAMI

WHERE MAGICAL MOMENTS LAST A LIFETIME

Since 1955, children have spent their summers at Camp Chickami, walking forest paths, catching frogs in Pine Brook, and getting filthy in Mud City. Chickami has a magical formula: use unexpected, creative activities to develop tomorrow's great citizens. To be sure, we're dedicated to building skills, providing new experiences and teaching YMCA values—honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. At Chickami, kids learn to swim, conquer our ropes course, and tackle fantastic crafts projects.

But that's only the beginning. Chickami is full of old-fashioned, crazy fun. The kind of fun that's often missing at home and school, where kids are overscheduled and plugged in to electronic devices. It's so fun campers call Chickami "The Best Place on Earth."

Our staff give kids the independence to do what they love, the motivation to learn and excel their own way, and the confidence to try. It all happens in nature, where the best tool to create fun is the imagination. The result: friendships, teamwork, creative thinking and laughter. Pure magic.

Now, you have the opportunity to help us continue to provide the environment that ensures generations of children flourish at Camp Chickami. Join us as we make magic together.



A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Chickami's huge success has created challenges. Most of our facilities were built in 1963 or even much earlier, and were designed to serve half as many kids as we serve today. Thanks to a great staff and lots of creative thinking, we make magical moments despite our limitations. But we can do even more. It's time to ensure that our campers have amazing experiences well into the future. And we look to you to help us make that happen.



920 campers
attend Camp Chickami each summer.

**We provide \$45,000
of scholarship assistance**
annually to ensure no child is turned away.



Capital plans include:

Phase 1: More Space, More Magic: NEW MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

Our first goal is to respond to growing needs and increase indoor capacity in time for the summer of 2022.

- **Year-round Recreation and Creative Arts Space:** Indoor space can be at a premium at Chickami, especially when it rains. Air conditioning, heating, and an accessible layout will create a year-round facility to welcome more children and community partners to experience the magic of Chickami. This will be coupled with an all-weather, protective shelter covering a full basketball court. Together, these two new structures will ensure the safety and positive experience for our full camp on our own property, in all weather.
- **Nurse's Care Center:** We've been providing outstanding care in a facility that's small and without running water. A modern facility will match our commitment to care.
- **Administration Office:** With a senior staff of 45 (triple when we began), the current 70-square-foot office isn't working anymore. A new building will provide more efficient space and storage.

Phase 2: More Room to Learn and Splash: NEW AQUATICS COMPLEX

The next few years will include our second phase - expanded and improved aquatics facilities.

- **Larger Pool:** Thousands of children have learned to swim in our pool. But we can do more. Our current pool was built for a previous generation and can no longer accommodate the growing number of campers. A new, larger pool will provide more time for swimming lessons and recreational swimming by allowing us to serve more campers at one time.
- **Larger Locker Room Facility.** The current locker rooms are outdated and too small for our growing camp. Our new, modern facility will more comfortably accommodate campers and staff.
- **Splash Pad.** We'll add a new form of magic that provides more old-fashioned fun in a 21st-century way. A splash pad is perfect for kids of all swimming abilities and will allow them to stay cool in the summer heat.

Building Blocks for Magical Moments: INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- **Control of Pine Brook:** Environmental changes at Chickami have caused a section of Pine Brook to infringe upon our program area. We hope to work with Town of Wayland and other officials over the next few years to rectify this situation in an environmentally sound manner.
- **Septic System Upgrades:** With nearly 400 people on site daily, our 60-year-old septic system is no longer efficient. We will update the septic system to meet new standards, and increase our water conservation.



Total Need: \$2.9 million

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Your support is crucial. It will create more magical moments—moments that build great kids and great communities.

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Steve Kendall, Chickami Staff 1968-1974

“Every day, I couldn’t wait to get to Chickami. I knew we were opening up kids’ eyes and giving them experiences they wouldn’t get anywhere else. Our goal was simple, really: Make it new, make it exciting, make it creative. Kids blossomed.

“We developed kids’ skills and taught values, but we did it in an atmosphere of joy. Kids didn’t even realize how much they were growing.

“I think Chickami is more important today than ever. Now, kids have little free time, they make fewer decisions on their own, and they have greater restrictions. Chickami is the opposite of all that. When kids go to Chickami, they become kids again. They slide in the mud, catch frogs in the brook, play in the woods. As long as it’s safe, almost anything goes. Every day is a surprise, an adventure.

“It was as meaningful for the staff as for the kids. Nothing—no job, no mentor, no place—has ever had as great an impact on my life as has Chickami. It made me a leader. It made me confident in front of a group. It made me more sensitive to different kids’ needs. It made me think creatively.

“When I was the director, I created a tagline for Chickami that said: Your Children Deserve It. I think ALL children deserve it.”



**CAMP
CHICKAMI**

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