Heeding the ‘Clarion’ Call

To call Camphill a “movement” is, in some ways, an understatement. Those who make up our global social renewal effort embody so much more than mere motion. Their daily actions—large and small—build relationships, celebrate abilities, and honor the inherent dignity of all people!

This work is as significant and relevant today as it has been at any point in Camphill’s almost 80-year history. When the first Camphill community was founded in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1940, it provided a sanctuary for people of all abilities, who fled Nazi-occupied Austria. In establishing Camphill, these refugees created a home, where each and every person belonged.

Today, more than 100 Camphill communities and affiliates across the globe, including 15 in North America, continue this mission. They offer refuge from exclusion, ostracization, and discrimination. They provide the community, opportunity, and meaning that so many of us search for.

Through our Camphill Clarion newsletter, we are proud to celebrate this impact by sharing news and personal stories from within Camphill. Importantly, we also hope each issue sends out a clarion call to our supporters, reminding you why you are part of Camphill and underscoring how vital your contributions are.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to living Camphill’s values, and for your continued support. In so many ways, you make Camphill’s impact possible!

Celebrating 80 Years of Camphill

On June 1, 1940, Dr. Karl König and the founders of the first Camphill community, purchased their Camphill estate in Aberdeen, Scotland. From the seeds planted by this pioneering group of Austrian refugees, a global social renewal movement took root and flourished. Today, there are more than 100 Camphill communities worldwide, spanning 22 countries.

Throughout the coming year, Camphill communities in North America will celebrate and honor Camphill’s extraordinary 80-year legacy, with community celebrations, reflections, acts of service, and more, all taking place within the context of our anniversary year theme, “From Refugees to Belonging”. We invite you to join us in honoring this groundbreaking vision of community.
This autumn, Camphill Foundation launched a much-anticipated outreach campaign to introduce the public to the Camphill movement in a new way: through holiday shopping!

In October, the Foundation published the 2019 Camphill Holiday Gift Guide, which encourages holiday gift givers to “shop Camphill” for beautiful, one-of-a-kind gifts handmade by Camphill community members in the United States and Canada. Foundation staff also curated a collection of Pinterest boards showcasing Camphill-made gifts (accessible at http://bit.ly/ShopPinCH), and will highlight favorite items on the Foundation’s social media accounts throughout the holiday season.

Nine North American communities were featured in the “Shop Camphill” holiday campaign: Camphill Communities Ontario, Camphill Hudson, The Camphill School Transition Program, Camphill Soltane, Camphill Village Copake, Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, Cascadia Society, Glenora Farm, and Plowshare Farm.

Each of these communities makes and sells a range of unique goods, including pottery, wooden serveware, wooden children’s toys, handwoven textiles, upcycled reusable woven shopping bags, pure beeswax candles, wool decorative angels, and more. Proceeds from sales of these products go back to the communities, helping to nurture the many abilities of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“We are thrilled to be able to shine a spotlight on the impressive work being done by so many talented artisans who live in Camphill communities, and hope this campaign will bolster understanding and awareness of Camphill among new audiences,” said Karen Murphy, Executive Director of Camphill Foundation.

To learn more about Camphill-made holiday gifts and to find out where to shop, please visit: www.camphillfoundation.org/shop-camphill

Clockwise from left: hearts, Cascadia Society; bowl, Beaver Farm; candles, Glenora Farm; bear, Cascadia Society; candles, Camphill Village Copake; bag, Entwine Studio/Camphill Soltane; maple syrup, Camphill Communities Ontario; bag, Camphill Village Copake.
College Loan Support Program Increases 2019 U.S. Coworker Applications

When Camphill Association of North America unveiled the Camphill College Loan Support Program, funded by a multi-year $150,000 Camphill Foundation grant, many communities were eager to educate new audiences of young people about Camphill communities and the abundant life experiences they offer.

In its first year, the program has already begun to address ongoing shortages of qualified volunteer candidates in the North American region. To date, seven communities in the U.S. have achieved, on average, a 22% increase in U.S. coworker applications compared with the same period last year. Five communities are providing $24,000 in college loan assistance to 10 coworkers through the program.

“Half of our incoming volunteers this year are American, which is a big increase from last year,” said Craig Williams, Camphill Village Kimberton Hills’ Development Director. “I think having this program to offer helps us present our community as a serious organization, and adds legitimacy to our online job postings. It’s been a great recruiting tool for us in this way.”

The Camphill College Loan Support Program provides Camphill coworkers who meet eligibility requirements with college loan repayment assistance during their volunteer tenures. In addition to loan assistance, volunteers’ basic living needs are met while they live and work at Camphill.

To learn more about the program and residential volunteer positions at Camphill communities in the United States and Canada, visit [www.camphill.org/clsp](http://www.camphill.org/clsp) or e-mail [leila@camphill.org](mailto:leila@camphill.org).

Whether they spend a year, 10 years, or a lifetime as part of Camphill, coworkers share many gifts with their communities. But they receive even more in return, according to Olivia Tarlton, a new Camphill Village Minnesota volunteer and recipient of college loan support through the Camphill College Loan Support Program.

“Two of the main gifts I share with my community are my passion to take part in meaningful work and my desire to never stop learning more. I may not be able to do certain things, but I can—and am willing to—try my best,” Tarlton said.

“By living here, I hope to increase my understanding of how to live a life that is both simple and beautiful,” she continued. “I can confidently say I already have.”

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**March 26, 2020**

**Gala**

80 Years of the Camphill Movement

Join us in New York City for an 80s-themed evening in celebration of Camphill!
In September, residents of Glenora Farm in Duncan, British Columbia, celebrated the groundbreaking for a fully-accessible duplex farmhouse that will expand the community’s residential capacity, and enable it to welcome new community members.

Glenora Farm is working with David Coulson Design on the seven-bedroom, five-bathroom fully-accessible structure, which will be built to provincial licensing standards. When construction is completed, the farmhouse will add five residential and day program support spaces for companions, as well as two coworker rooms.

Designed to blend with the surrounding landscape, the farmhouse overlooks Glenora Farm’s three-acre biodynamic vegetable garden. Construction has been planned to minimize disruption to the farm’s natural ecology, allowing many surrounding trees to remain in place and using cut trees in the design through on-site millwork.

The farmhouse will be situated to take advantage of natural solar energy, and a rain-water collection system will be installed to reduce potable water consumption. This natural, low-impact design reflects Glenora Farm’s commitment to sustainable, symbiotic agriculture, while creating a welcoming, restorative space for those who call the farmhouse home.

Many local organizations and supporters have been instrumental in making Glenora Farm’s dream of a new residential facility a reality. Camosun College will design and install ecological landscaping for the farmhouse as part of their landscape design program. And Duncan’s White Spot Restaurant hosted a fundraising dinner that raised $15,660 in one night.

“We are grateful for the support we have received to date,” said Tara Batho, Glenora Farm’s Business Administrator. “Friends, family, local businesses, and community groups have stepped forward with generous cash donations, gifts in kind, reductions of fees, and offers of volunteer hours. It really does take a village!”

By the close of 2019, Camphill Communities Ontario will be home to two “barn quilts.” These eight foot by eight foot aluminum panel squares, painted with quilt patterns, will be installed on barns at the community’s Nottawasaga property as part of the Simcoe County Barn Quilt Trail.

Created by the County of Simcoe and the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada’s confederation, the Simcoe County Barn Quilt Trail is a self-guided agri-tourism trail. It aims to inspire residents and visitors to explore Simcoe County and experience the rich fabric of the area.

The trail will feature 150 barn quilts by the time it is completed at the end of 2019. Each barn quilt pattern is unique, displaying designs that represent family traditions and local heritage.

Camphill Communities Ontario’s barn quilts feature the Camphill Foundation Canada logo, and an image of the Heritage Highland cattle that reside at the Nottawasaga Camphill property. Both barn quilts were painted by community members, with contributions from Simcoe and Barrie local residents, in their studio and at a community event.

“We are hoping that this project will introduce Camphill to new visitors; drive farm sales of our maple syrup, honey, and vegetables; and provide the opportunity to share the beauty of our property as the valuable resource it is,” said Kathy Downes, Executive Director of Camphill Foundation Canada.
NY Communities Welcome Friends and Neighbors at Michaelmas Bible Evening

Deeply influenced by the faith of his wife Tilla, Camphill founder Dr. Karl König held the first Camphill Bible Evening in Aberdeen, Scotland. This weekly gathering became a bedrock of community life, cultivating Camphill as a place of peace and unity.

To this day, Bible Evenings are celebrated across the Camphill movement. On Sept. 28th, the four Camphill Communities in northern New York—Camphill Ghent, Camphill Hudson, Camphill Village Copake, and Triform Camphill Community—hosted a special Bible Evening event, held in conjunction with the local Anthroposophical Society branch.

More than 100 friends and neighbors attended, including many from outside Camphill. Carrie Schuschardt, from the House of Peace near Boston, Mass., shared wisdom and inspiration from her home community, which has roots in Camphill.

The evening’s readings explored the theme of “refugees,” which was selected in honor of Camphill’s origins. The first Camphill community was founded by refugees of Jewish descent, who fled the Nazi invasion of Austria.

“[König] tells us that the light-filled vision of Camphill came to him in his moment of homelessness,” said David Schwartz, longtime Camphill community member and volunteer. “In imagining Karl König in this situation, we can see that the refugee crisis in the world today connects to the deepest spiritual roots of Camphill.”

For this reason, the North American Camphill communities plan to continue to examine these themes during community Bible Evenings in the coming year. By helping community members explore spirituality in an atmosphere of openness and respect, these events offer a fitting tribute to Camphill’s landmark 80-year anniversary.
Bringing the Community to Our Table and Planting Seeds of Social Renewal

By Anya Hobley, Executive Co-Director, Camphill Communities California

Coming together for a meal was once a daily occurrence, at the heart of family life. But, in the modern age, many people rarely have time for a shared meal with loved ones, let alone for a common meal with friends or neighbors. In Camphill places worldwide, however, the ritual of sharing meals remains sacred—providing spiritual and emotional sustenance, as much as physical nourishment.

Camphill meals are accompanied by verses and songs. Items are passed and shared, as are words and people's personal highlights for the day or week. Time is taken to enjoy and practice gratitude for our food. We digest daily experiences and build social connections, thereby cultivating community on a daily basis.

In our bountiful corner of California, there is a widespread revival of eating locally-grown food, sourced from nearby farms and gardens. Celebrating the land that sustains us and getting to know the folks who grow and prepare our food connects Camphill to the wider community. Three years ago, this bond inspired Camphill Communities California to open our arms and gardens to the public through farm-to-table style community dinners.

At these events, now known by family, friends, neighbors, and local businesses as Camphill’s “Farm to Table,” we share the warmth of true connection created by living in a Camphill community. We have partnered with amazing local chefs to create and serve incredible food. Each course includes our own produce, herbs, and flowers! We have also given garden tours, pressed apples in our orchard, and introduced the local community to biodynamic agricultural practices and lifesharing.

Simply by starting this tradition, we have shared the values of Camphill with more than 100 new individuals in three years. We have planted seeds for the future, both in our gardens and in the hearts and minds of others. In turn, we have been strengthened and enriched by nurturing relationships with those who live in our neighborhood of Soquel and beyond.

What is cultivated in a plant between its germination as a seed to the time it flowers into fruit—unfolding potential and striving to be balanced and whole—is also true for the human spirit. These “Farm to Table” meals help us reach our true potential by allowing us to bask in the warmth of human connection and to develop deep roots in the rich soil of our social and community life.

By Anya Hobley, Executive Co-Director, Camphill Communities California

Save the Dates - Regional Calendar of Events

January 17-19
Regional Homemakers Retreat
Triform Camphill Community

House leaders from Camphill communities in North America will explore how the homemaking impulse manifests in the wide diversity of living situations present in the Camphill movement today.

February 4-6
Camphill Development Office Retreat
Camphill Hudson

Those responsible for coworker admissions at Camphill communities come together for this annual meeting to share best practices for volunteer outreach, training, and integration.

March 16-20
Camphill Dialogue
Hermanus, South Africa

This international conference is held in a different country every three years and is aimed at promoting cooperation and cohesion between Camphill communities worldwide. www.camphilldialogue.org
She Is Important: A Mother’s View on Camphill
By Jen Althouse, mother of The Camphill School student Alex

Our daughter Alex is a 15-year-old girl who likes to do the things that 15-year-old girls do. Listening to music, going to the movies, riding in our Jeep with the top off and the wind in her hair, and spending time with her big sisters are some of her favorite activities. She has a smile that can light up a room when she is happy. Alex is also autistic and has a very limited ability to speak, so that comes with many challenges.

Alex’s abilities and restrictions were so different from the typical student, that both academics and non-academic activities were very difficult. She was bored and overwhelmed all at the same time, leaving her with nothing to look forward to each day. When she saw the school bus coming in the morning, she would drop to the ground and cry.

Working with the school, we agreed to look at alternative education programs to meet her needs. We were worried. Would she learn more? Would she regress? After visiting and researching many schools, we found The Camphill School.

Alex is excited to go to school now. Last year at Camphill, Alex played the part of Maria when her class put on the Shakespeare play, *Twelfth Night*. All of the roles were adapted to each child’s strengths and abilities. They practiced their parts and put the show on for their fellow students and their families. What a beaming smile she wore on that stage!

In pre-vocational garden club, Alex collects herbs in the school garden and uses them to make herbal tea. Now she understands that tea doesn’t just come from a store. Someone grows the herbs, crushes them, mixes them together, and then packages the tea. All of those jobs are important. All of the people who do those jobs are important. Alex knows she can do these things herself; she is important.

In woodshop, Alex made a stool by carving the pieces of wood by hand and assembling them. When we read or do crafts at home, she sits on that stool—the one she made with her own two hands. What better way to start off a new activity than firmly supported by your past accomplishments?

At Camphill, Alex is learning reading and math, too. Those tasks might be integrated with a lesson on the settlers coming to America and struggling to do things that are hard for them while they make a new life. The lessons have context and meaning for her, and this makes them easier for her to understand.

When we think about all of the wonderful activities that Alex is able to participate in, it just makes us so happy for her. You can see joy in her face. She knows that she can learn and be proud of what she is doing. It affects us, too. Seeing Alex now makes us wonder what the future holds for her. We’re excited to see what Alex can and will do next.

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March 20-22
Camphill Association of North America Meeting
Cascadia Society
If you live at a Camphill community, you are a member of Camphill Association. Please consider joining us for this Association meeting in Canada. [www.camphill.org](http://www.camphill.org)

March 26
Camphill Foundation Gala
Edison Ballroom, New York City
Join Camphill Foundation for an evening of celebration and fundraising, honoring Harvard Divinity School Professor Daniel McKanan, Camphill Elizabeth Boggs Leadership Award recipient. [www.camphillfoundation.org/gala](http://www.camphillfoundation.org/gala)

May 15-17
Camphill Association of North America Meeting
Heartbeet Lifesharing
Consider joining us for this Association meeting in northern Vermont. [www.camphill.org](http://www.camphill.org)
Happy Holidays from Camphill Foundation!

Our future is in your hands!

For almost 80 years, supporters like you have ensured that Camphill communities are a welcoming and accepting home for people of all abilities.

We need you to continue this life-changing legacy of inclusion.

Please donate a year-end gift to Camphill Foundation today at: www.camphillfoundation.org/donate

100% of your donation supports Camphill communities.

Follow our timeline to the front page.

1940: The first Camphill community is founded in Scotland.
1944-45: Two additional properties are purchased for communities.
1949: The Camphill Seminar Program teaches coworkers the principles of Camphill.
1953: Five communities have opened in England, Ireland, and South Africa.
1961: Camphill Village Copake, the first community in North America, is founded.
1963: The Camphill School is founded, serving school-aged children in the United States.