



# Camphill Foundation

Lifesharing communities. Lifechanging care.

Newsletter

Summer 2026

## Camphill Foundation Celebrates 60 Years!



As we reach the midpoint of Camphill Foundation's 60th Anniversary celebration, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary community that has carried our mission forward for six decades. This spring, we gathered to celebrate a remarkable milestone, but what unfolded was so much more than an anniversary gala. It was a joyful reminder of the generosity, commitment, and shared purpose that have always been at the heart of the Camphill movement. Together, you helped us exceed every expectation.

*Thanks to the incredible support of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends, our 60th Anniversary Gala raised nearly \$440,000, far surpassing our \$300,000 goal. These gifts will inaugurate the Pietzner Family Fund for*

*Art, Education, and Culture, creating a lasting legacy that will strengthen and sustain Camphill communities for years to come.*

While we are deeply grateful for this achievement, what moves me most is what it represents. Every gift is a vote of confidence in the kind of world we are working to create: communities where every person is valued, where differences are embraced, and where meaningful relationships create the foundation for lives of purpose and belonging.

As you browse the pages of this newsletter, you'll see photographs from celebrations across North America, where Camphill communities shattered fundraising records and gathered in joyful support of our shared mission. You'll also find a look back at the rich history of Camphill in North America, a reminder that our movement has always been shaped by people who believe that a more inclusive and compassionate world is possible.

*That story continues today because of you.* Your generosity does more than support programs or buildings. It nurtures community. It creates opportunity. It ensures that the values that inspired Camphill Foundation sixty years ago continue to thrive for generations to come.

*Anniversaries invite us to look back with gratitude, but they also encourage us to look ahead with hope. As we celebrate this milestone year together, I am filled with optimism for what lies ahead and profound appreciation for everyone who makes this work possible, because the story of Camphill has always been one of community, and you are an essential part of it.*

Thank you for celebrating with us. Thank you for believing in our mission. And thank you for being the power behind our impact.

Wishing you a summer filled with warm breezes, new adventures, and abiding peace,

Karen Murphy, Executive Director

## A Movement Rooted in Love:

### *The Story of Camphill and the Legacy of the Pietzner Family*

The story of Camphill begins with a courageous act of hope. In 1939, as the shadow of Nazi persecution spread across Europe, Austrian pediatrician Dr. Karl König led a group of refugees from Germany and Austria to safety in Scotland. Guided by the teachings of Austrian philosopher and social reformer Rudolf Steiner, they carried with them a bold vision: to create a community where every person would be recognized for their inherent dignity and unique gifts.

On the Camphill Estate near Aberdeen, Scotland, they founded the first Camphill community for children with developmental disabilities. At a time when many individuals with disabilities were isolated in institutions and viewed through the lens of limitation, Camphill offered something radically different—a lifesharing community built on mutual care, meaningful work, respect, and belonging.

König described this mission as “defending the image of the human being wherever it is most threatened.” More than eighty years later, that vision remains at the heart of the Camphill movement.



*Carlo and Ursel Pietzner*

The early years of Camphill attracted individuals who felt called to this work, among them Carlo and Ursel Pietzner. In 1941, the Pietznors joined Dr. König in Scotland and became part of the pioneering community that helped shape the movement's foundations. Through their dedication and leadership, they played a significant role in nurturing Camphill's growth beyond its original home.

A little more than a decade later, Carlo and Ursel helped establish Camphill Glencairn in Northern

Ireland, one of the movement's first major expansions beyond Scotland. What had begun as a single community was evolving into an international movement rooted in shared life, spiritual development, and social renewal.



*The Camphill School*

Then, in 1961, at Dr. König's invitation, the Pietznors carried the Camphill vision across the Atlantic. They founded Camphill Village Copake in New York and Camphill Special School in Pennsylvania, introducing North America to a new model of community life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These communities challenged conventional approaches to care by creating environments where people with and without disabilities lived, worked, learned, and celebrated together as equals.

The timing was significant. Across North America, families, educators, and advocates were beginning to question institutional models of care and seek more inclusive alternatives. Camphill offered a living example of what such a future could look like.

As these pioneering communities took root, a new need emerged: sustainable support to help them grow and flourish. In 1966, Camphill Foundation was established to provide financial resources and stewardship for the fledgling communities in New York and Pennsylvania.

Over the following decades, the Foundation grew alongside the movement it served. During the 1970s and 1980s, it helped support the expansion of

homes, schools, farms, workshops, and vocational programs that enriched community life and created meaningful opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. As new Camphill communities emerged throughout North America, the Foundation became an enduring partner in their development.

Meanwhile, the movement itself continued to expand. What began on a Scottish estate evolved into a global network of more than 120 Camphill communities dedicated to building inclusive, lifesharing environments where people of all abilities can thrive.

Today, 19 Camphill communities and affiliates operate across the United States and Canada. The legacy of Carlo and Ursel Pietzner continues to be felt throughout this work. As founding coworkers of Camphill in North America, they helped plant the seeds of a movement that has transformed countless lives. Their children—Clemens, Christiana, and Cornelius—carried that commitment forward, helping to nurture and strengthen the movement across generations.



*The Pietzner Family at the 2026 Spring Benefit*

Today, the establishment of the Pietzner Family Fund for Art, Education and Culture honors this remarkable legacy and reflects the family's enduring belief in the transformative power of creativity, learning, and community.



Please scan the QR code to watch our powerful video, debuted at the 2026 Camphill Foundation Spring Benefit, which shares the story of the Camphill Movement and the Pietzner Family.

## Camphill In North America Timeline

- 1961** Camphill Village Copake (NY) is founded.
- 1963** The Camphill School (PA) is founded.
- 1966** Camphill Foundation (PA) is founded with \$951.
- 1971** Camphill Foundation forms an investment committee to manage \$10,000 in assets.
- 1973** Camphill Village Kimberton Hills (PA) is founded.
- 1979** Triform Camphill Community (NY) is founded.
- 1980** Camphill Village Minnesota (MN) is founded.
- 1984** The Ita Wegman Association (BC) is founded.
- 1986** Camphill Communities Ontario (ON) is founded. Camphill Foundation and communities run a campaign honoring Camphill's 25th anniversary in North America. The first Gala is held at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center.
- 1988** Camphill Soltane (PA) is founded.
- 1990** The Cascadia Society for Social Working (BC) is founded.
- 1992** Glenora Farm (BC) is founded.
- 1998** Camphill Communities California (CA) is founded.
- 2000** Heartbeet Lifesharing (VT) is founded.
- 2002** The Camphill School Transition Program is founded to provide education and vocational and life skills to young adults. Camphill Foundation funds a Camphill Association Coworker Development Office to support communities in recruiting volunteer staff in North America.
- 2007** Camphill Hudson (NY) is founded.
- 2012** Camphill Ghent (NY) becomes an affiliate.
- 2013** Camphill Foundation commits \$150K in grants for professional education through Camphill Academy.
- 2014** The first annual Camphill Research Symposium is held to share research on the Camphill movement.
- 2015** Plowshare Farm (NH) becomes an affiliate.
- 2016** Camphill Foundation celebrates 50 years. Raphael Village (LA) becomes an affiliate.
- 2020** Camphill Foundation supports communities with grants related to special Covid-19 needs. The Otto Spect School (NY) becomes an affiliate. The annual Gala is held virtually.
- 2026** Camphill Foundation celebrates 60 years and establishes the Pietzner Family Fund for Art, Education, and Culture.

## Camphill Foundation Celebrates 60 Years!

On April 15 Camphill Foundation supporters packed the room at Tribeca 360° for a night of celebration. Marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Camphill Foundation, the night honored the Pietzner Family and their lasting legacy of impact on the Camphill movement, especially in North America. The Camphill Hudson Chime Choir performed their magic and the audience even had a chance to dance!

The evening raised nearly \$440,000 in support of Camphill Foundation's grantmaking program and established the new Pietzner Family Fund for Art, Education, and Culture. ***An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored, donated, joined and celebrated!***





Scan the code or visit us online at [camphillfoundation.org/springbenefit](https://camphillfoundation.org/springbenefit) to watch videos from the event!

## A Season of Impact

Across North America, generous supporters gathered to celebrate community and raise critical funds that will expand opportunities and strengthen lives for years to come. Check out the highlights from some of these magical, memorable, impactful events! And check the event calendar on the back for what's to come!

### The Camphill School • Foxfield Al Fresco Gala

May 29 was a picture-perfect evening for celebrating The Camphill School. *The Foxfield Al Fresco Gala* was held at the student-run flower farm, which has been in operation since 2019. Guests strolled through the gardens and greenhouses, enjoying cocktails while browsing and bidding on auction items.

Dinner followed beneath a tent, where attendees were delighted by a charming performance from the Class of 2026. Phoenixville Mayor Peter Urscheler served as emcee and, alongside Guy Alma, inspired generosity among guests with a blend of moving remarks and witty repartee.

The event raised \$225,000 that will support students' educational and prevocational experiences. The school is deeply grateful for its extraordinary community of supporters!



### Camphill California • Fleur de la Mer Gala

In true Camphill fashion our community gathered for a beautiful farm-to-table dinner and gala at Camphill California on May 9th. The theme *Fleur de la Mer* (flower of the sea) was represented by coastal elements of driftwood and seashells, and an amazing dinner hosted by Outstanding-in-the-Field where guests dined around a colorful flower-crowned maypole.

Guests were welcomed at Marimi Property with passed appetizers and oysters plus a variety of beverage options while they browsed the silent auction.

The live auction portion highlighted our Fund-a-Need, raising enough to break ground for our new community house that will be built on the property. Thanks to the generous donors we were able to meet the \$100,000 goal for the Community House Foundation, and the event as a whole raised more than \$200,000!

After the auction, guests were guided by the Camphill performers to watch a joyful maypole dance before their delicious farm-to-table dinner was served. The meal was prepared by a local chef from HOME restaurant, with vegetables from Blossoms Biodynamic Farm along with wine from local vintner Keegan Mayo of Assiduous Wines.

This whole event truly let Camphill shine and the community is continually thankful to all the family and friends who showed up to support the cause in a meaningful way.

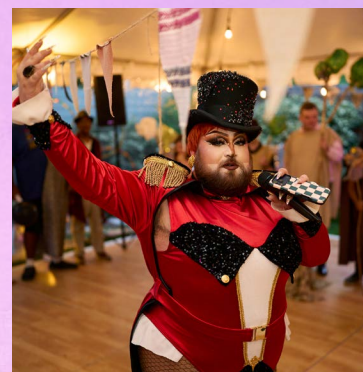
## Camphill Soltane • Wine & Fine Dining Experience

*Camphill Soltane's 2026 Wine & Fine Dining Experience* brought together friends and supporters from around the country for a landmark evening. More than a fundraising event, the evening was a defining moment – one that celebrated how far the organization has come, boldly embraced what is possible next, and reaffirmed a shared belief that every person deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, contribute, and flourish after high school.

The evening was kicked off by Camphill Soltane's recognition as Chester County's Nonprofit of The Year, a testament to the organization's unwavering dedication to fostering meaningful futures for all. Guests also received an inspiring first look at the brand new Soltane Hospitality and Soltane Horticulture training programs designed to equip and empower participants with meaningful skills, hands-on experience, and pathways to greater independence and learning. A powerful Cash Ask video premiered bringing daily campus activities to life and inviting supporters to invest directly in the futures of participants served. The response was remarkable, and the outpouring of generosity was unforgettable. In a moving display of generosity, guests contributed more than \$120,000 during the appeal, launching the evening into a record-breaking event total of \$295,037.

But the most moving event of the night, by far, was the standing ovation received by Honorary Speaker, Mr. Steven Fecht, after his lighthearted and record long 15 minute speech where he declared, "I. Love. Soltane!"

Cheers to a beautiful evening of fine wine, flowers, and fulfilling futures!



## Raphael Village • Cirque du Soirée

Raphael Village celebrated *Cirque du Soirée* on Saturday, April 18, in New Orleans' historic Irish Channel, bringing together supporters for a night of enchantment under the big top.

Sponsors and their guests enjoyed oysters and signature cocktails during a VIP reception, followed by the main event. Guests were treated to live music, delicious food and libations, a tempting silent auction, and several surprises throughout the evening.

Attendees also had the opportunity to experience the Raphael Village Town Center, state-of-the-art classrooms, Dragonfly Café, and garden, gaining a firsthand look at what makes Raphael Village such a magical place.

The 16th annual *Cirque du Soirée* raised critical funding for Raphael Village, supporting initiatives that elevate and empower differently-abled adults to live full, purpose-driven lives. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, donors, and guests, the event helped ensure that Raphael Village can continue offering high-quality, hands-on programming that transforms lives.



# Camphill Foundation

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## LOOK INSIDE

See photos from the Spring Benefit!  
Read about Galas around the region  
The history and impact of the Pietzner Family



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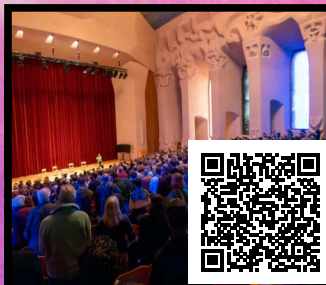
### UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS



**Plowshare**  
invites you to join us for our  
**39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 18**  
**3:30PM - 7:30PM**  
All are warmly welcome!  
32 Whitney Drive, Greenfield, NH  
RSVPs are welcome but not needed:  
[events@plowshare.org](mailto:events@plowshare.org) or 603-547-2547

*A Good Time for All!*  
*Farm to (mostly) Table Food*  
*Live Music with Tattoo!*  
*Put on Your Dancing Shoes!*

**Annual Summer Celebration**  
**Saturday, July 18 / 3:30 to 7:30pm**  
**Plowshare Farm**



**International Conference for Inclusive Social Development**  
**October 2-6**  
**at the Goetheanum, Dornach Switzerland**



**CAMPBILLVILLAGE KIMBERTON HILLS**

**Farm to Table 2026**  
**Saturday, October 3**  
**4 - 8:30pm**  
**Camphill Village Kimberton Hills**



FIRE PIT | YARD GAMES | FOOD | BEER | ARTISAN MARKET  
LIVE MUSIC | COFFEE BAR | DESSERT | RAFFLE

**Autumn Under the Glass**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
A GREENHOUSE MARKET  
BY FERN + FIRELIGHT

**Under the Glass**  
**Friday, October 9 at 5pm**  
**Camphill Soltane**



**CRT** Camphill Resident's Trust

**A Celebration of the Camphill Resident's Trust**  
**on the evening of the Camphill Association Meeting Wednesday, October 14**  
**Camphill Hudson**



**Camphill Foundation Spring Benefit 2027**  
**Wednesday, April 28, 2027**  
**Tribeca 360°, NYC**