

SILVER LAKE

Camp & Retreat Center

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Dear Friends,

Walking around Camp, I often marvel at the simple beauty of its natural surroundings. **The trees, the wildlife, the waterfront, the garden... all of these places remind you that when you are at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, you are on sacred ground.** This past summer, Silver Lake provided a glimpse through the window of normality during our sessions. There was an undeniable sense of community and a sense of togetherness in spite of the many changes Silver Lake has faced. As we continue to balance the intricacies of a pandemic world, I will hold dear the memories of this wondrous place until I can return.

I've worn many hats as a volunteer at Silver Lake. I've run confirmation retreats both through the historic Connecticut Conference and with churches I've served. I was a Dean for three summers and I've now added Chaplain to my Silver Lake resume. I am a long-standing member of the Silver Lake Advisory Board. All of these roles have deepened my love for Camp and Outdoor Ministries. However, the most important role I have played at Silver Lake is as a parent. Sending my oldest son to Silver Lake has been life changing for us as a family.

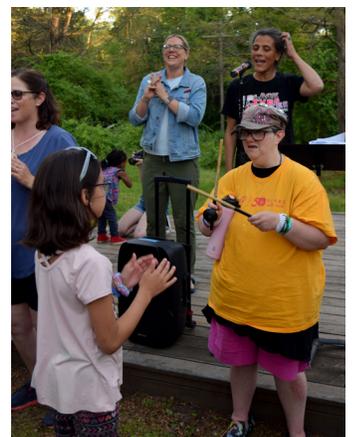
Knowing that youth and young adults can gather in God's Backyard to grow in confidence, in faith, and in community is a blessing. Yet, knowing that they can gather at Silver Lake – just as they are – is a miracle. We have church and unchurched, neurodiverse and neurotypical, LGBTQ+ and allies, young and old all joining together every summer and during the retreat season to learn about their value and worth as God's beloved. My son has matured in so many ways during his weeks at Silver Lake. He is able to be himself, to meet lifelong friends, to have fun in a safe and accepting environment and to deepen his faith. **Silver Lake has been a shining light for us during the dim days of the pandemic.** Whether it's been in-person or online, Silver Lake has endeavored to continue its excellent ministry and it has been meaningful for everyone who has engaged.

So here is my invitation: as a nonprofit ministry, **Silver Lake belongs to you.** Your passion is what makes Silver Lake, and your philanthropy keeps Camp going – both physically and in spirit. **Today, I ask you to give generously to our Annual Appeal.** Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center requires support from those who value it, have experienced its magic and want to help it continue. Together, we can love this sacred place into an assured and successful future.

In Gratitude,



Rev. Dr. Kelly Hough Rogers



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