



**The Nicholas Wolff Foundation
Camp Victory
Annual Report 2020**

The Nicholas Wolff Foundation, Inc. (Camp Victory) is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1987 for the purpose of building and maintaining a camping facility to serve chronically ill and physically and developmentally challenged children. The Camp incorporates aspects of terrain and facility design that contribute to the comfort and well being of these “special kids” otherwise denied a camping experience because of limitations imposed by their illnesses and challenges. It offers a healing environment to these children by providing them a chance to meet and interact with others who share the same illness or disability. In doing so, they come to terms with their limitations and build the self-esteem necessary to function fully in society at large. The kids summarize it best by saying, “We find our best friends at Camp Victory.”

The Foundation has a 31 member volunteer Board of Directors, which includes 11 Emeritus Directors, who come from a diverse background including health care professionals, parents of campers, business and community leaders and Partner Group representatives who provide an expertise that compliments the objectives of Camp Victory. The board meets quarterly to establish policy and procedures for the Camp. Many Board members are active volunteers in the construction and operations of the Camp. Presently there are five standing committees, which spearhead the key functions of land and building management, camp operations, resources development, finance, and KidsKash.

Staff consists of an Executive Director, who serves as the Chief Executive of the Nicholas Wolff Foundation, Inc. and is responsible for the management and day-to-day operations, including supervision of the Camp Director, the Bookkeeper, and the Resource Development Associate. A newly developed position of Camp Director was filled in the fall of 2015. This person coordinates arrangements with the camping groups and supervises all of the seasonal staff, including the dining hall, waterfront, and challenge course part-time employees. Beginning in 2012, Camp Victory created the position of Resource Development Associate. This is a part-time, year-round position. In the fall of 2017, we added a full time Assistant Camp Director/Food Service Manager. The addition of the full time Camp Director, full time Assistant Camp Director and the half time Resource Development Director greatly adds to the efficiency and positive

growth of the Foundation. There is also a year-round part-time bookkeeper, and a year-round, part-time maintenance person who round out the Nicholas Wolff Foundation, Inc. team. The founder of the Foundation, Dennis Wolff, continues to serve as President.

The Camp is situated in a rural area of Columbia County of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The 130+ acres of level terrain were chosen and all facilities designed with these special children in mind. Components include twelve sleeping cabins (six winterized with individual bathrooms for year-round use), two large dining/indoor recreation halls (also winterized), a bathhouse, two open air pavilions, one screened game pavilion, an outdoor stage, a swimming pool, a low ropes challenge course, climbing wall and zip line, staff quarters, an open air chapel, two-acre pond for boating and fishing, and a unique high-tech medical facility (also winterized and air conditioned) capable of handling the often complex daily needs of each group. The specialized services of a children's hospital at a nearby medical center are readily accessible. Improvements are made as needs are identified and funds available. Primary gravel paths were upgraded to blacktop to facilitate wheelchairs and reduce dust. And, the entire roadway system through Camp was also upgraded to blacktop to complete the ability of all of our campers and counselors to navigate through Camp independently.

Camp opened in 1994 for its first overnight summer season. Today with a capital investment of over 2.7 million, plus a major amount of volunteer labor, Camp Victory offers potential accommodations upwards of 180 campers and counselors at a time, or a total of 2,579 during the 2019 camping season.

A Welcome Center was completed and available for use midway through the summer of 2005. This center is located at the entrance of Camp Victory, where parents can arrive with their children and receive information about the camp facilities and program. The Welcome Center enhances the orderly and safe arrival and departure for the growing number of campers and freed up much needed space in the Med Shed. This project was funded through grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, and the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, and Williamsport Masonic Lodge 106.

A beautiful, unique, handicapped-accessible treehouse was completed in June of 2007. This project was made possible through the generosity of West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. They provided all of the financial backing for this project as well as the volunteer workforce to construct "Uncle Walter's Treehouse". West continues to cover the cost to maintain this beautiful structure, as well as providing volunteers to do the work.

Also, completed in the fall of 2007 was a caretaker house. The Katerman Caretaker House was made possible through a generous donation from Myles and Joanne Katerman. Camp Victory now has a year-round, on-site caretaker.

A new staff house was completed in the spring of 2008, and a new maintenance building and renovations of an existing building for a new arts and crafts center were completed in 2009.

In 2012 we replaced our outdated wastewater treatment plant with a completely new one. And, in July of 2012, we had the ribbon cutting for our new Nature Center. Our Nature Center features programs that focus on meaningful activities that enrich the hearts and minds of our campers as they discover the beauty and intricacies of nature. The campers are given many opportunities to explore animal homes, take part in aquatic studies, observe birds, and take time to reflect on the wonders of nature! We have been very fortunate to have received funding for two interns that manage and facilitate the Nature Center Programs for our campers each summer.

We were very excited when we received funding through the Pennsylvania DEP Growing Greener Program to complete a “Wetlands Reclamation Project” in 2015. This project has enabled us to reclaim the wetlands in two of the Camp Victory pond areas, thus improving water quality on the campus, creating a better overall habitat for wildlife, and reducing pollution within our ponds. This project included removing built-up sediment from our recreation pond as well as the wetland restoration, which includes planting and seeding of the reclaimed wetland area. After the wetlands were reestablished, we built a universally accessible observation walkway and deck that will enable more than 4,000 campers, students, and visitors each year to enjoy the wetlands and learn about the importance of a healthy watershed.

The most thrilling aspect of Camp Victory is the growing utilization of the facility. In 1994 more than 300 kids plus adults from five groups put the camp to its first test. Since then, we have continued to add new partner groups..... for a total of 31 camping groups in 2019. Camp Victory had 1,502 campers plus 1,077 counselors for a total of 2,579 people that used the Camp in 2019...the twenty sixth overnight summer camping season. To date, Camp Victory has served 30,305 special camper over the 26 years and when you include 21,020 counselors, we have welcomed 51,325 to our camp over the years!

In addition, the facilities are used throughout the year for weekend retreats and training sessions. Also, each spring, since 2006, we have offered our Greenwood Environmental Education Program to local elementary school students. Over the past 15 years, more than 15,000 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students have traveled to Camp Victory to learn about our watershed through hands-on activities that include water testing, discovering the life in a pond habitat, and learning about topographical maps.

Sadly, during the entire year of 2020, Camp Victory had to close our doors to everyone.....campers, counselors, staff and our Greenwood Environmental Education program's 4th, 5th and 6th graders due to the corona virus pandemic. The Nicholas Wolff Foundation's board of directors took into consideration the guidelines from the CDC and the American Camp Association and made the decision to close Camp Victory in the interest of the health and safety of our campers, counselors, and staff.

During the 2019 camping season 47% of the total campers came from 19 counties of Northeast/Central Pennsylvania; 34% from other sections of the State, with 18% from out-of-state as far away as California. Overall there were 23 states represented at Camp Victory in 2019.

The 2019 audited annual balance sheet shows assets of \$7,251,000. Total liabilities of \$32,316 result in net assets of \$7,211,000.

Camp Victory continues to thrive and continues to provide an amazing camping experience and safe haven for hundreds of campers with special needs each year!