

How Camp Changes Lives...

On January 1st, 2019, while many were ringing in the New Year and celebrating the excitement that it brings, one family was confronted with the devastating loss of their beloved wife and mother from cancer. Brian and his children, Owen (12) and Lorna (11), had to face the challenges that came with the loss of a parent. While the support of loved ones and community members was extremely helpful at first, it slowly tapered off, and Brian described himself as feeling lost.



Brian, Jen,
Owen and
Lorna

“Life was completely overwhelming trying to raise two kids without their mom. Finding Wildflower relieved so much pressure for me. It wasn’t just financial, but emotional support, too. If we need something, I can call [Wildflower], and they always have the resources to steer us in the right direction to get the help we need.”



Owen +
Lorna
preparing
for camp

Wildflower welcomed Brian and his kids in 2021, and Owen and Lorna have benefitted greatly from the experiences summer camp offers. This summer, they are looking forward to new adventures at Maine Teen Camp, one of our partnering camps. Not only does summer camp provide opportunities for fun, but Brian also knows that his children are developing strong friendships and life skills that will prepare them for the world beyond.

“This has been an extraordinary experience and opportunity for our family. I don’t know how I would have gotten through this without Wildflower.”

When asked what it means to be a camp partner and provide summer camp experiences for teens like Owen and Lorna, Maine Teen Camp Director, Matthew Pines, said: “Camp is so vital for these teens because they can rebuild a part of themselves and get a new sense of self as they become a part of something. There is such a powerful element of going somewhere where you’re in control of your story. It’s transformative and powerful.”



Brian,
Owen, +
Lorna at
the beach

Strong camp partners, as well as strong donor support, ensure the success of our mission. Matt added, “When Wildflower makes a commitment to a kid, it’s long term. Summer camp is a deep-rooted experience that works best if kids can come back year after year, and your model allows that to happen.”