THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CAMP
Since 1961, Camp Michigania has been a place for alumni to unplug, unwind, and connect to their Michigan roots. It's home to countless summer memories, where families carry on Michigania traditions from generation to generation.

Sailing the waters of Walloon Lake. Painting pottery. Horseback rides and nature hikes deep into the woods. Nearly 60 years later, these are still the activities that make Camp the place we all love, and it's you who keeps this Michigania Magic alive.

Each year, the camper experience remains enriching and exciting. Your generous gifts support long-cherished programs and activities and fund new ones for future generations of Wolverines. Your giving carries on the legacy of Camp Michigania and represents the value it brings to the alumni community—thank you for making a lasting impact on this Alumni Association treasure.

Because of you, Camp is more than just a place to visit—it's a place where some of life’s best moments happen. For many campers, it is a sanctuary, a place where they can escape hardships and celebrate major milestones. It's the home of family bonding and unforgettable experiences during the times they're needed most.

These are the things that truly define Michigania Magic—your giving makes true magic happen.

I want you to hear from the people whose lives have been affected by your generosity. I hope their stories and experiences make you feel that same magic and take you back down Sherwood Road to the place that will forever live on in the hearts of campers for generations to come.

Forever, Go Blue!

Executive Director of Camp Michigania Alumni Association of the University of Michigan
New Beginnings

Camp Michigania has always been an escape for alumni and families, where beloved traditions are celebrated—but even more than that, it is a place where new chapters, and even love stories, begin.
Since 2003, Camp has been a family tradition for Aaron Tam, and his kids would come to know this week as the highlight of their summer, too. Busy lives in different states meant Michigania was the one vacation the extended Tam family got to enjoy together. They watched their kids grow more each year, collected cherished moments, and bonded with staff—Aaron’s mom even served on Camps Council from 2009 through 2011.

This was where the Tam family came to get away from the outside world. They would set their watches to Camp time and get lost in the magic of being in the moment. Michigania is where they spent some of their best summers.

The summer of 2011 was the last year the Tam family spent together at Camp before the death of Aaron’s father. Between this loss and going through a divorce, Aaron was dealing with a lot of grief.
Camp Michigania, a place that was Aaron’s childhood safe haven, now held memories of loss. He needed time to step away and face these challenges, so he hung up his lanyard for four years.

By 2015, the kids were begging to return to Camp, and Aaron felt he was ready to revisit his Michigania roots. It was hard going back, but watching his kids fall in love with the experience all over again reminded him of what it means to have a place you love so much.

“It meant a lot to have a place to go to relax and not feel anxious. It became my sanctuary. I would kayak to the middle of the lake and just float there, recenter myself. It was kind of my only place to take refuge during such a challenging time.”

Aaron and the kids returned the following two years, starting a new chapter in their Michigania tradition. Right before they left for Camp in 2017, Aaron met Andrea Weisbond.

“She lost her husband and both parents within a two-year time frame right around the same time I was experiencing loss. We bonded over that, and that’s when I knew I would never go on any vacation without her—especially at Camp Michigania.”
In 2019, Aaron took Andrea to Camp Michigania with his family, and he asked her to marry him.

“I WANTED TO PROPOSE IN A PLACE THAT HAS REAL MEANING TO ME, AND I WANTED TO RESTORE THAT SPOT—TRANSFORM IT FROM A PLACE OF HARDSHIP TO A PLACE I CELEBRATE AND LOVE THE SAME WAY I ONCE DID.”

He took her to his sanctuary: the middle of Walloon Lake. On one knee, rocking in a canoe, Aaron asked Andrea to be his wife. Family watched from afar, campers greeted them back at the boathouse, staffers drew sketches of a canoe and a diamond ring on their lanyards.

“Camp Michigania is where some of my most major life moments have happened. I’ve started a lot of new chapters there, and it was a big part of my healing process. Thank you for creating this place and continuing to support it so it has the same meaning to my kids.”
AARON AND ANDREA CELEBRATING THEIR ENGAGEMENT ON WALLOON LAKE
For some, Camp Michigania is a place to escape from anxieties and health challenges. Dominique and Charlotte Matthews and their three children, Blake, 19, Chloe, 12, and Madison, 10, will forever see Camp as a place that gave them so much joy during one of the hardest times in their lives.

There were 162 days blocked off in Charlotte Matthews’ calendar in 2019. She spent every single one of these days in hospitals with two of her children, Blake and Chloe, who both have sickle cell anemia. For their family, this was a normal year.

Blake was in the hospital when the Mott Family Program shared the exciting news with the Matthews family—they were going to Camp Michigania. Their entire year had been one hospital admission after the other, so this quickly became the highlight of their summer.

When they arrived, Charlotte says, it felt like a whole different world. For once, they got to connect with other Mott families outside of the hospital, and, for once, they got to experience other people’s “normal.”

“When you have children with any chronic condition, your ‘normal’ is so abnormal, but we got to experience Camp just
like any other family. I just kept thinking, ‘Wow, this is what families do when they aren’t worried about the next health crisis.’”

For 19-year-old Blake, being at Camp means never missing out on experiences.

“There’s always something to do. If you miss ziplining at 10 a.m., you can go sailing at 3 p.m. On any other vacation, I have to stay close to a building at all times, and if I get tired and have to rest, I miss out on activities. I don’t have to worry about that here.”

As parents, Dominique and Charlotte have a hard time finding the right words to express what their Camp experience means to them.

“‘Thank you’ doesn’t even seem sufficient—it’s priceless, really. This is absolutely the best gift of our entire lifetime. We are so grateful.”

In between the hospital stays and doctor appointments, the Matthews family was granted one week to step away from all these challenges and find peace of mind in 2019. Camp Michigania will forever be the place they remember as the special place where they spent this time as a family.
‘THANK YOU’ DOESN’T EVEN SEEM SUFFICIENT—IT’S PRICELESS, REALLY. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST GIFT OF OUR ENTIRE LIFETIME. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL.”

CHARLOTTE MATTHEWS