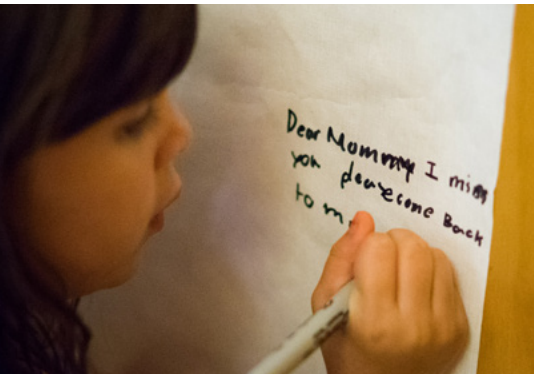




# COMFORT ZONE CAMP

## 2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



[WWW.COMFORTZONECAMP.ORG](http://WWW.COMFORTZONECAMP.ORG)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

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As we entered 2021 and left the embers of 2020 behind, we at Comfort Zone Camp needed a rally cry. Something aspirational. Something inspirational. Something transformative. We found it in....RISE.

For our CZC Families, RISE means to transform from the ashes in the face of unspeakable loss and learn to RISE and soar again. And RISE is exactly what they did. We saw 680 campers and 109 parents / guardians RISE and transform at 14 in-person camps and 6 virtual camps!

We saw the power and gratitude for connection and community at our camps.

We witnessed grieving children and families blossom, grow and heal.

As we look back at 22 years of serving +20,000 grieving children at Comfort Zone Camp, we know we could not have done that without community support. We could not have done it without YOU!

Without YOU grieving children would not have a place or a community in which to heal. You are pivotal to their healing. They RISE because YOU gave them the opportunity to do so.

We are forever grateful.

Warmly,

Lynne B. Hughes  
Founder & CEO





## 2021 SNAPSHOT

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Thank you for making so many things possible in 2021!

### DID YOU KNOW?

20

CAMPS FOR GRIEVING  
CHILDREN & FAMILY  
MEMBERS

680

GRIEVING CHILDREN  
ATTENDED CAMP

109

PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
ATTENDED CAMP

10

# OF STATES  
THAT HOSTED CAMPS



30

# OF STATES  
CAMPERs CAME FROM

677

CAMP VOLUNTEERS  
FROM 27 STATES

173

VOLUNTEERS WERE  
TRAINED TO BE BIG  
BUDDIES

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

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I am humbled and excited to take on the role as Chair of the Board in 2022. I want to thank the outgoing Chair, Whit Baldwin, for his many years of service to Comfort Zone and for all that he has done to lead the Board.

While 2021 proved to be yet another challenging year, I am so proud that Comfort Zone continued with its mission to serve as many grieving children (and families) as possible. This would not have happened without our incredible staff and our dedicated and passionate volunteer base. In addition, our supporters and partners nation-wide have ensured that the organization will continue to thrive for many years to come. No matter how you were involved this year, THANK YOU for changing lives and being a part of the Comfort Zone family.

Looking forward to 2022, the Board has worked closely with Lynne and Kelly to implement a strategic plan that will see us increase the total number of camps in certain regions. We will of course have to continue to navigate the COVID-related issues, but we have learned a lot over the last two years, and we are prepared to pivot, when necessary, so that we can continue providing our services. The need to support grieving children will always be there, and Comfort Zone remains committed and focused to continue to carry out its mission.

Once again, thank you for your contributions to this amazing organization. I am grateful to be a part of this community and I look forward to achieving great things in 2022!

- Mitch Decter



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mitch Decter, *Chair*

Derek Mohar, *Secretary & Treasurer*

Lynne B. Hughes, *Founder & CEO*

Karen Bouchard

Carlisse Davis

Ginger Drysdale

Elaine Haney

Craig Heah

Candace Hipple

Kelly Plageman

Luke Puccinelli

Marty Wilson

Sahmon Zoughi

## NEW PLACES, NEW FACES IN 2021

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Thanks to Intermountain Healthcare and the Cline Family Foundation we expanded our camps to children in Nevada and West Virginia!





## KICKING OFF THE YEAR WITH A YOUNG ADULTS CAMP

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The Young Adults Camp kicked off the new year with participants from CA, VA, NY, TN, and MD.



*"It was truly an amazing experience, and I cannot recommend it enough. Especially being in our early twenties and having a lot of changes is weird to begin with, but not having a loved one is another factor that makes it more stressful. Hearing how others are navigating their life was amazing for me to hear and truly let us know we are not alone out there. It was truly transformative and empowering."*

**- Kate Hassenfratz**



## TRADITIONAL CAMPS

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We were thrilled to return to camp in 2021 and held 14 in-person camps.





## EXPANDED ON NEW CAMPS IN 2021

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In 2020, we developed new programs to continue to help children heal during the pandemic. The “Comfort Zone at Home” and “Family Camps” proved to be powerful methods to impact children.

### Comfort Zone at Home

“Comfort Zone at Home” allows us to reach children we normally would not be able to reach due to location, and the ability to hold in-person camps in their area. We also discovered some kids find it easier to share from the comfort of their own home, especially for the first time. We continued to offer “Comfort Zone at Home” in 2021, with 6 programs. From Healing Circle Leader Dan, *“Thankfully, the CZC magic came through and put our fears to rest. The campers opened up and shared in a deep, meaningful way.”*



### Family Camps

We also developed a Family Camp during the pandemic to allow more social distancing from the general population. These camps gave parents/guardians the tools they need to understand their child’s grief and to manage their own grief in healthy ways to strengthen their family. A Mother shared, *“If I could sum up one word for Comfort Zone, it would be “Lifeline.” It’s hard to describe without experiencing it. Who knew you could combine fun with healing?”* We held 7 Family Camps in 2021.





## WE COMMEMORATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

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On September 11, 2001, America was devastated by terrorist attacks. That day will live on in so many American memories as our nation's greatest tragedy, but the tragedy was even more personal for those who lost someone that day. More than 3,000 children lost a parent, sibling, or guardian on 9/11/01.

The loss of a loved one is not encapsulated to just a day. 20 years later, families are still grieving those who never made it home.

The first camp for children of the victims was held in November 2001. Today, many of those children continue to be involved with Comfort Zone Camp, including Katie Pereira, who joined our staff in 2020 after many years of volunteering as a Big Buddy.

CZC held a special camp program during the 20th anniversary weekend of 9/11 to remember those we lost, their loved ones and campers who attended those first 9/11 camp programs. Both national and local news outlets covered this powerful camp, and how camp helped the children who attended the 9/11 camps 20 years ago.



*CZC Staff Member: Katie Pereira*

*"Comfort Zone has been instrumental in who I've become!!!  
I literally could not have grown into who I am without you guys!"*

**- Hilary, Camper**

# COMFORT ZONE IN THE COMMUNITY

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Thank you to these organizations for spotlighting Comfort Zone Camp and helping us to provide childhood grief resources to more people in our community.

## PRESENTATIONS

2021 New Jersey School Counselor Association Conference  
Bernards Rotary Meeting  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Mass  
BNI - Boston  
Brandermill Rotary  
Bronx School Counselors  
Carolina Hurricanes w/ Lindsay Robertson  
Central Virginia Employee Benefit Council  
Chesterfield County School Counselors  
Chesterfield County School Elementary School Counselors  
Christ the King High School  
Compassionate Friends Wake County Chapter  
Corporate Citizenship Americas Credit Suisse  
Crisis Team Points Presentation  
Día de los Muertos with Cultura and Family Matters  
Director of Social Work Wake County DOE  
Dominion Payroll  
End of Life DOULA  
Exec Dir. Of Y&D YMCA of Charlotte  
Girls Running Group  
Gloucester NJ Township Middle School  
Good Shepherd Community Care  
Haley Terry Credit Suisse  
Hudson County Child Study Team  
Kiwanis of Goldsboro  
KPMG  
Lacordaire Academy  
Maryland County Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia Foundation  
Middlesex County Care Management Organization  
Montgomery/Rocky Hill Rotary  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
NB+C Networks  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
NY School Presentation  
Putnam County Consortium  
Radio Entrepreneurs  
NYU Palliative Care Team  
One Cause  
Parents' Independent School Network  
Partnership for the Future  
Petersburg School Counselor Presentation  
Richmond Rotary  
Saddle Brook Public Schools

Strikers Girls Soccer Team  
Table at NC School Counselor Conference  
Tara Waters with Volunteer Raleigh  
UNOS  
VCU WISDM Leadership Conference  
Virginia Pond  
Virtual Youth Wellness Conference  
VP of Y&D YMCA of Triangle  
VP of Y&D YMCA Triangle  
WEST SUBURBAN YMCA  
Worcester Academy  
YMCA of Charlotte  
YMCA of Triangle

## MEDIA

Radio Entrepreneurs  
Fox News Online  
CBS Channel 6  
CBS National News  
CBS Fox 59  
Richmond Times Dispatch

## SUPPORT & PROCESSING SESSIONS

Richmond Volleyball Club Coaches  
Richmond Volleyball Club Girls' Team  
Quiocassin Middle  
Richmond Strikers  
Girls on the Run  
Hanover County  
Goochland County Schools  
Short Pump Elementary School PTA





## OUR REGIONAL RACS GET THINGS DONE

In 2021, our Regional Advisory Council members did A LOT! They raised funds, recruited and trained volunteers, reached out to grieving families, and organized events. Collectively, they raised over \$450,000, trained over 100 volunteers, and organized 12 events.

MA	NC	NJ/NY	VA
Karen Bouchard Brenna Carney Eric Gorewitz Jenn Harris Joe Harrold Paige Malinowski Molly Moran Sherri Pelski Barbara Peterson Cindy Speer Alison Yeardley Erik Yi	Chasta Hamilton Erich Hottenstein Izzy Larscheid Kimberly Lawrence Patrick Nunn Lydia Ross Cindy Strauser Helen Towarzynska Andrea Wise Mary Wolkomir	Chris Avella Mitch Decter Caitlin Fabrocini Kara Feigeles Vivian Garcia-Tunon Joe Mastrogiovanni Chris Pellegrino Joe Revello Mary Stone David Weber	Charlie Connell Andrew Dooley Craig Heah Sara Heisler Tim Hoerrner Anthony Jackson Ryan Keuster Tom Love Dawn South Michele Stehl Megan Wolfgang Daniel Wright



## FUN FUNDRAISING

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Thank you to everyone who put the “Fun”  
in Fundraisers in 2021 and helped us raise:

**\$695,105!**





## LOOKING FORWARD

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In 2019 we learned to **BELIEVE**.

In 2020 we used our **VISION**.

In 2021, campers across the country learned after their loss, that like the Phoenix bird, they could **RISE**.

Now, in 2022, we will find our voices. We will recognize that strength exists within each of us, even when we don't feel our strongest. And we will find our voices and we know that we are not only okay but we can do anything!

We can indeed...**ROAR!**



## NEW IN 2022!

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- We are expanding the New Jersey/New York region with additional staff, and more camps.
- This year is the first year Comfort Zone Camp has a National Board Chair that does not reside in Virginia. Mitch Decter is a resident of New Jersey.
- We will be adding additional camps to Virginia.
- We received a grant that will allow us to offer 4 in-person camps, 2 support groups, and 1 Comfort Zone at Home camp for children who have experienced the death of a loved one from COVID-19. The locations will be announced and added to the calendar in the next few months.
- We will expand on our support groups for children.
- The Giving Circle is a special group of supporters who sponsor one or more children each year.



*To learn more, please contact Anne-Marie Worthy  
at [aworthy@comfortzonecamp.org](mailto:aworthy@comfortzonecamp.org).*



## CAMP DATES & LOCATIONS

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### **FEBRUARY 5TH**

North Carolina Volunteer Training

### **FEBRUARY 19TH**

Comfort Zone at Home

### **MARCH 5TH**

Virginia Volunteer Training

### **MARCH 8TH - 9TH**

Virtual Volunteer Training

### **MARCH 11TH - 13TH**

Wake Forest, NC at Camp Kanata

### **APRIL 1ST - 3RD**

Williamsburg, VA at Jamestown  
4-H Educational Center

### **APRIL 8TH - 10TH**

Fruitland Park, FL at Warren Willis in  
Partnership with The Mark Wandall  
Foundation

### **APRIL 22ND - 24TH**

Hardwick Township, NJ at Camp Mason

### **APRIL 29TH - MAY 1ST**

Palmyra, VA at Camp Friendship

### **APRIL 29TH - MAY 1ST**

Cowen, WV at Camp Cowen in Partnership  
with the Cline Family Foundation

### **MAY 20TH - 22ND**

Johnsonburg, NJ at Camp Johnsonburg  
in Partnership with A Little Hope

### **MAY 20TH - 22ND**

Palmdale, CA at Angeles Crest  
in Partnership with OneLegacy

### **JUNE 3RD - 5TH**

Sandwich, MA at Camp Burgess

### **AUGUST 5TH - 7TH**

Occidental, CA at CYO  
Camp in Partnership with By the  
Bay Health

### **AUGUST 19TH - 21ST**

Wanship, UT at Big Canyon Camp  
in Partnership with Intermountain  
Healthcare

### **SEPTEMBER 9TH - 11TH**

Hardwick Township, NJ at  
Camp Mason

### **SEPTEMBER 23RD - 25TH**

Palmyra, VA at Camp Friendship

### **SEPTEMBER 30TH - OCTOBER 2ND**

Sandwich, MA at Camp Burgess

### **OCTOBER 7TH - 9TH**

Greensboro, NC at Camp Weaver

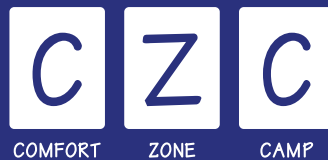
### **OCTOBER 21ST - 23RD**

Hardwick Township, NJ at  
Camp Mason

### **OCTOBER 21ST - 23RD**

Cowen, WV at Camp Cowen  
in Partnership with the  
Cline Family Foundation

*We will be adding more camps and programs throughout the year. Please check our website at [www.comfortzonecamp.org](http://www.comfortzonecamp.org) for the most up to date calendar!*



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