



2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

WWW.COMFORTZONECAMP.ORG

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As I reflect on 2025 for Comfort Zone Camp, one word sticks out—**remarkable!**

This year brought unprecedented visibility to our mission. Being named a L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honoree, appearing on Live with Kelly and Mark, and being featured as the cover story of USA Today—not once, but twice—brought our work in front of millions of people nationwide. People Magazine shared our story, too. But beyond the headlines, the real story is what you made possible: healing and bravery in our campers from coast to coast, increased awareness of the needs of grieving children, and more programs to support them—all at NO COST thanks to YOU!

This year we helped over 1,399 children from all across the country. And in our 26 years, we've held over 500 camps and helped over 26,000 children!

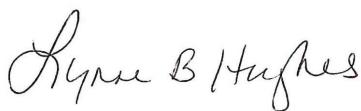
WHAT'S THE LONG-TERM IMPACT?

- One-third of our volunteers are former campers paying forward what was given to them
- Three former campers are now on staff
- 35% of our former campers are going into healing and helping professions—teachers, nurses, therapists, school counselors—creating bright lights of understanding in our society

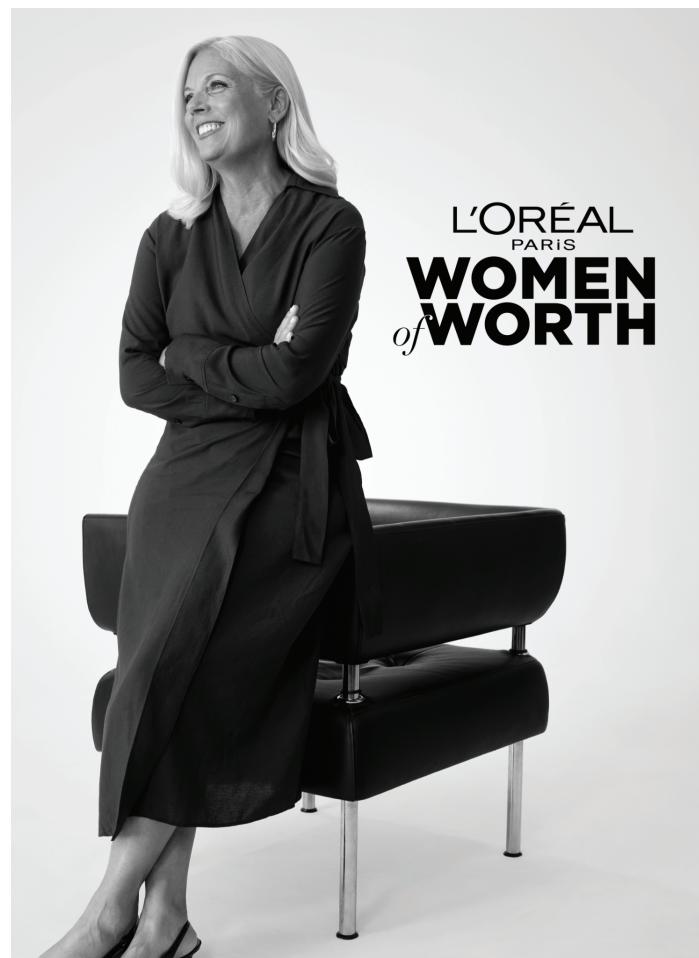
Comfort Zone Camp is more than a nonprofit—it's a family, a community, a national movement and, best of all, a mission with passion.

Thank YOU for showing up once again for grieving children and Comfort Zone Camp. Every referral, every volunteer hour, every dollar donated... it all adds up to profoundly changing lives.

Let's do it again together in 2026. More children are waiting for us.



Lynne B. Hughes
Founder & CEO



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with profound gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together. Comfort Zone Camp exists to bring hope, healing, and connection to children who have experienced the devastating loss of a parent or sibling—and this year, your support ensured that no child had to grieve alone.

Because of your generosity and belief in our mission, 1,521 grieving children were welcomed into safe, supportive camp communities where they could express their feelings, build resilience, and rediscover joy. In addition, 148 parents and guardians participated in our camps, gaining tools, understanding, and reassurance as they supported their children through grief.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. This year, 2,021 volunteers gave their time, energy, and hearts to Comfort Zone Camp. Their presence created spaces of trust, understanding, and belonging—spaces where healing could begin.

We were also inspired by the remarkable generosity of our supporters at our Virginia Gala, where we raised a record-breaking \$500,000 and other very successful events throughout the country! This milestone reflects not only financial success, but the strength of a community deeply committed to serving grieving children and families.

Every story of healing, every moment of connection, and every life touched this year is a testament to what can happen when a community comes together with purpose and compassion. On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and the thousands of children and families we serve, thank you for making 2025 an extraordinary year for Comfort Zone Camp.

Your involvement—whether through volunteering, donating, attending events, or sharing our mission—has made a lasting difference. We are deeply appreciative of each and every one of you and look forward to continuing this vital work together in the year ahead.

With heartfelt thanks,



Mitch Decter
Board of Directors Chair



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitch Decter, Chair

Derek Mohar, Vice Chair

Craig Heah, Secretary & Treasurer

Lynne B. Hughes, Founder & CEO

Karen Bouchard

Carlisse Davis

Rob Fink

Elaine Haney

Joe Harrold

Patrick Nunn

Chris Pellegrino

Kelly Plageman

Matt Togna, Ph.D.

Daniel Wright

Sahmon Zoughi

A GLIMPSE INTO THE BUBBLE



A GLIMPSE INTO THE BUBBLE



2025 CAMPER SNAPSHOT

We are thankful for our resilient and brave campers in 2025!

31

CAMPS FOR GRIEVING
CHILDREN & FAMILY
MEMBERS

1,521

GRIEVING CHILDREN
ATTENDED CAMP

148

PARENTS/GUARDIANS
ATTENDED CAMP

10

OF STATES
THAT HOSTED CAMPS

33

OF STATES
THAT CAMPERS
RESIDE IN



2025 VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

Thank you to our volunteers for impacting so many lives in 2025!

2,021

CAMP VOLUNTEERS HELPED
GRIEVING CHILDREN

543

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

105K+

VOLUNTEER HOURS
IN 2025



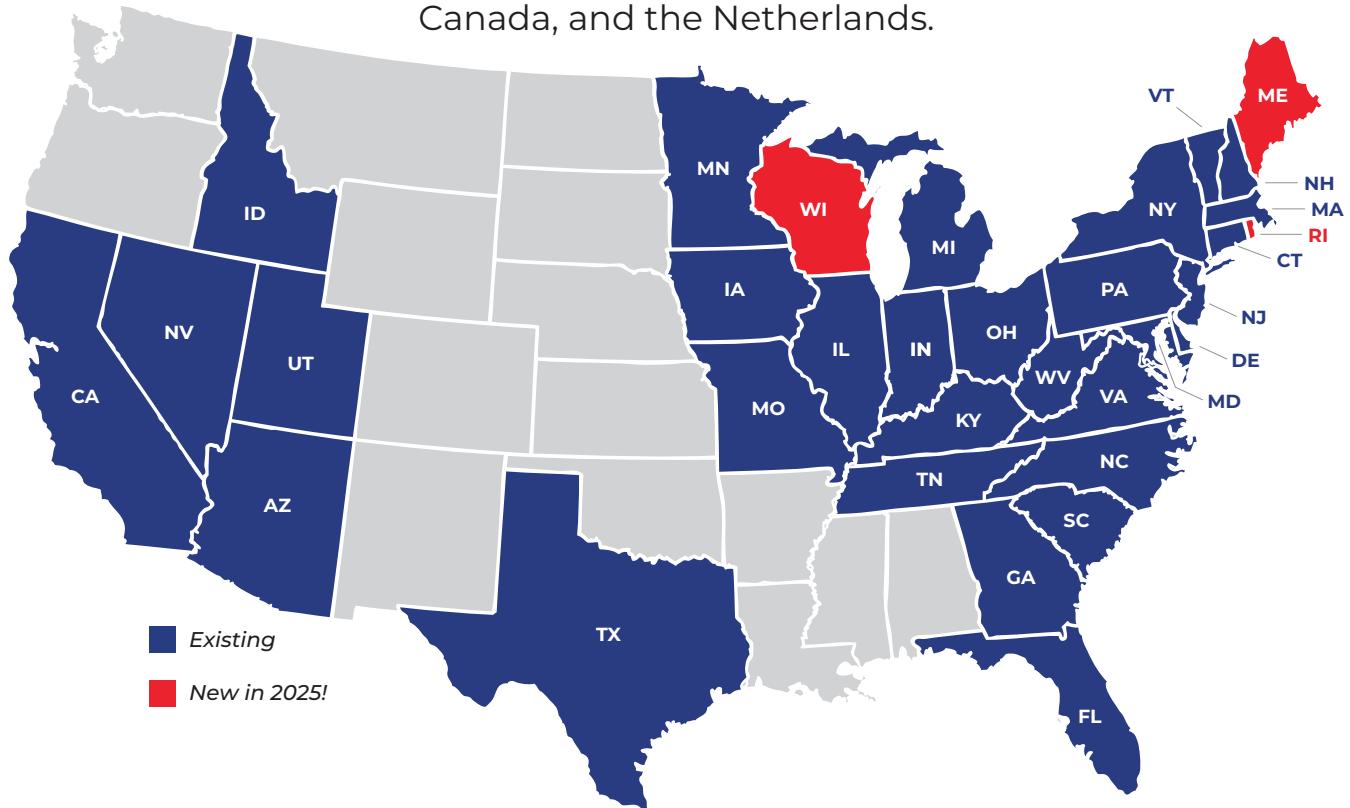
"As a former three time little buddy, coming back as a big buddy had a significant impact on my personal growth in grief. It helped me reflect on and understand things I didn't quite realize when I was a little. It made me realize just how much of an impact my big buddy made in my life and I can't wait to get back to camp to help more little buddies."

- Mia Walker, Camper Turned Volunteer



WHERE CZC SERVED IN 2025

Highlighted in **BLUE** are the states where our campers resided in 2025. We also had campers join us from Canada, and the Netherlands.



TRADITIONAL CAMPS

Grieving children's lives were changed coast-to-coast in 2025 thanks to our amazing supporters!



"Henry had an amazing time, his only regret was that the camp is so short! He brought 4 pins back to his best friends who he said had been anchors during his grief journey. He proudly took them to school to share about the camp with his class."

- Rikka Pietilaniene-Caffrey, Camper Parent



PARTNERSHIP CAMPS

We held **11** camps with our amazing partners in **2025** allowing us to reach more grieving children across the country.

Partnership camps took us to **CA, FL, NJ, NY, UT, VA, and MI!**



The National Foundation for Grieving Children, Teens and FamiliesSM



"When Intermountain Children's Health first partnered with Comfort Zone Camp, it became more than a partnership—it became a shared commitment to caring for bereaved families in our community. I've seen firsthand the powerful impact Comfort Zone Camp has in helping children heal, grow, and feel less alone. It's truly been a privilege to watch the transformation that happens when children come back year after year."

- **Jenny Nys**, Intermountain Health



YOUNG ADULT CAMPS

45 YOUNG ADULTS
ATTENDED CAMP FREE
OF CHARGE IN 2025

3 YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS
OFFERED THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY

"Everything about Comfort Zone Camp sounded too good to be true, but it turns out it was better than I could have imagined. They treated me like family, and I'll forever be in awe of their kindness."

- Payton Brennan, Young Adult Camper



VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS

3 VIRTUAL SUPPORT
GROUPS IN 2025

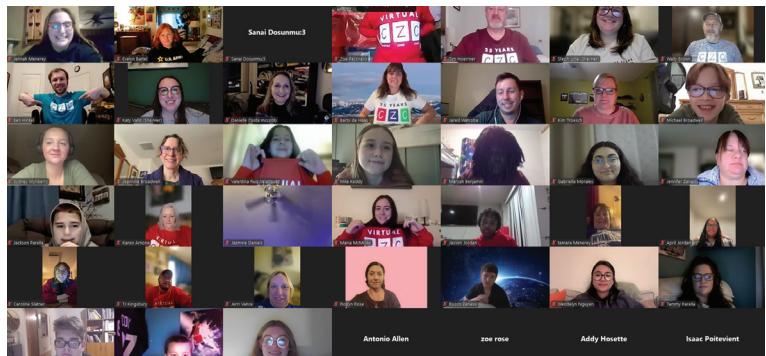
122 CHILDREN
ATTENDED

20 ADULTS
ATTENDED

44 PARENTS/
GUARDIANS
ATTENDED

"My daughter had an absolutely amazing time at Comfort Zone Camp. The first breakthrough was her joining the virtual group and after the first session she let the tears fall hard and it was the first time since her dad passed away 5 years ago that she was able to express her hurt. I want to thank Comfort Zone Camp for seeing what these grieving children need, ways for them to navigate the eternal road of healing and for taking care of my baby."

- Veronica Moore, Parent Guardian



SUICIDE LOSS CAMPS

Suicide Loss Camps were held in New Jersey and Michigan.

96
GRIEVING CHILDREN

25
PARENT/ GUARDIANS

18
STATES CAMPERS TRAVELED FROM

3
COUNTRIES CAMPERS TRAVELED FROM



OVERDOSE LOSS CAMP

CZC responds to the national need and epidemic by holding its third annual Overdose Loss Camp in New York state.

28
GRIEVING CHILDREN

6
PARENT/ GUARDIANS

6
STATES CAMPERS TRAVELED FROM



PARENT / GUARDIAN CAMPS



148

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ATTENDED
CAMP FREE OF CHARGE IN 2025

7

PARENT/GUARDIAN PROGRAMS
OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



"I was lucky enough to be able to attend the parent program and it was AMAZING. I knew roughly what happened at camp but to be able to go through that process myself was eye-opening, cathartic, and fun."

- Laura Marx, Camper Mom



YAC

In 2025, the YAC (Young Adult Council) helped raise awareness, recruit volunteers and put on the 1st Annual VA Pickleball Fundraiser that brought in nearly \$10,000!



"The CZC YAC works on important fundraising opportunities that support our upcoming camps and educates our community on CZC and its mission. Being part of this group reminds me how impactful it is to be involved with CZC and has introduced me to so many incredible fellow volunteers."

- Courtney Wright, YAC member

CAC

The CAC (Camper Advisory Council) is an amazing group of teen campers that help spread the word of CZC's mission.



"I absolutely love being a part of CAC! It's so special to connect and form friendships with other campers outside of camp. Getting to collaborate with people I don't usually see while planning fundraisers and raising money for a cause we all care deeply about is truly rewarding!"

- A.V. Musick, CAC Co-Chair



OUR REGIONAL RACS GET THINGS DONE

In 2025, our Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members accomplished A LOT! Together, they raised over **\$567,057**, trained **206 volunteers**, and organized **10 events!** Thank you to all of our **RAC MEMBERS!**

CA	MA	NC
Kendi Epley Mike Gaines Carly Oates Steve Pomerantaz Maya Puterbaugh Vonique Schmidt Dave Storch Sahmon Zoughi	Robbie Ashton Jenn Harris Joe Harrold David Hull Isabella Grillo Steven Kunevich Caroline Lidz Molly Moran	Isaac Nichols Beth Powers Ziggy Zweig
RAC & Engagement Committee Grace Acheson Jacquie Dougherty Caitlin Fabrocini Stephanie Greenberg Amy Hayowyk Leslie Levitt Jaimie Mammolito Joe Mastrogiovanni Meagan Muller Karina Smith David Weber	Jonathan Coffey Quinn Eury Alex Eversmeyer Sierra Jensen Hailey Kim Andrew McReynolds	Deidre Carter Brooke Conn Jena Ellis Shantel French Adam Horsley Allison Hudson Annelyse Iglesias Izzy Larscheid
NY/NJ	UT	VA



CZC IN THE COMMUNITY

We love telling others about CZC as a resource! Here's where we were in 2025!

4th Annual Invisible Pain Day	Hanover High School Resource Fair Harbor- UCLA Medical Center	Northeast Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce
Act Local Community Night	Health Fair - Lakemont Elementary	Out of the Darkness Walk, MI
AJs Alliance	Here for the Girls 16th Annual Run for the Hills and Screening + Prevention Village	Passaic County School Counselor Association
Altar'd State Mission Mondays	Hike for Hospice House	Paterson SB Staff
Ashley Mielke	Hosparus Health	PLC Meeting
Belk Charity Days	International Survivors of Suicide Loss	Ressie Jeffries Elementary
Blue Goose Foundation (Shuck N' Jive)	John Jay High School - InterAct Club	Richmond Public Schools Career Exploration Fair
Buena High School	Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital	Richmond Technical Center
Bumble Bee Childhood Cancer Support	Kids Grief Support	Saint Helen's (Union County)
Caroline County Public Schools Health and Wellness Fair	Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg	Samaritians (Boston, MA)
Clifton School Community Wellness Event	LA County Office of Education	Secaucus High School
Community in School	Liberty University Mental Health Summit	Show Up For Summer Service
Community Renewal Team	Loudoun Out of Darkness Walk	Southwestern Wake County Counselor
Cresthaven Academy (Union County)	Mahwah Professional Development Day	Summit Oaks Hospital Rehabilitation Center
Crestview Elementary	Massachusetts School Counselor Conference	Sunrise Kiwanis
Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition	Mechanicsville High School	UVA Recruitment
Fall Frolic in the Park - Child & Family Resource	Nashville Christian Family Magazine	UVU Social Impact Fair
Family Engagement Services	NASW Utah Spring Conference	VCU Health Unit Bereavement Coordinators Meeting
Frances W. McClenney Elementary	National Night Out	Virginia School Counselor Association Convention
Gina Spence Program	New England School Nurses Conference	Volunteer Expo Prudential
Glen Allen High School	New Jersey School Counselor Association Conference	Walk In The Light
Grief Relief 5K Walk	Night Lights Lantern Festival	Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Pediatric Evening of Remembrance
Grief Workshop Oak Ridge Presbyterian	NJ School Counselor Conference	
Grief, Hope, Recovery	NJ School Health Conference	
Hanover CSB		

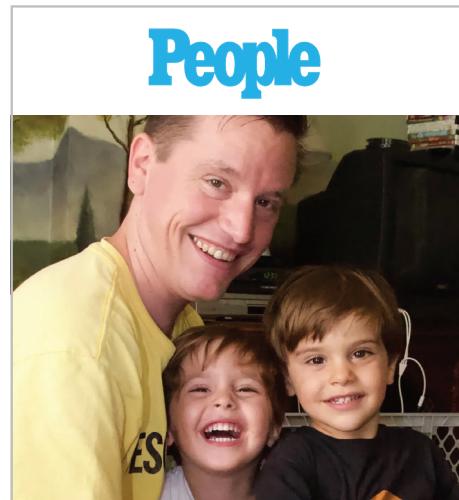
CZC IN THE MEDIA

In 2025, Comfort Zone Camp celebrated a standout year of national recognition with features in USA Today, People, Vanity Fair, Vogue, and Authority Magazine. Our social media following grew, with Instagram increasing from 18,000 to over 57,000 followers and TikTok rising from fewer than 1,000 to more than 11,000. To cap off the year, our CEO and Founder was named a 2025 L'Oréal Women of Worth Honoree!



USA TODAY

In the early 2000s, opioids were everywhere. These are the kids that were left behind.



People

In the Shadow of Grief, They Found They Weren't Alone.



VANITY FAIR

Sophia Bush interviews Lynne Hughes LIVE on the red carpet for Vanity Fair



Authority Magazine

How to Raise Children Who Are Compassionate and Empathetic



L'ORÉAL PARIS WOMEN of WORTH

Instagram

39,000+
NEW FOLLOWERS IN 2025

TikTok

10,000+
NEW FOLLOWERS IN 2025

FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who put the “fun” in fundraising in 2025 and helped us raise:

\$1,540,000



2026 CAMP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2-4

HARRISONBURG, VA

FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL
SUPPORT GROUPS

MARCH 6-8

GREENSBORO, NC

MARCH 27-29

GLENDALE, CA

MARCH 27-29

WILLIAMSBURG, VA

APRIL 10-12

HARDWICK, NJ

APRIL 24-26

FRUITLAND PARK, FL

MAY 1-3

PALMYRA, VA

MAY 15-17

JOHNSONBURG, NJ

MAY 15-17

GLENDALE, CA

MAY 29-31

SANDWICH, MA

JUNE 4-7

WILLIAMSBURG, VA
(4 DAY CAMP)

JUNE 5-7

HARDWICK, NJ

JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

JULY VIRTUAL
SUPPORT GROUPS

JULY 31-AUGUST 2

WADING RIVER, NY

AUGUST 7-9

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

AUGUST 14-16

WANSHIP, UT

AUGUST 21-23

LAKE WYLIE, SC

SEPTEMBER 11-13

PALMYRA, VA

SEPTEMBER 18-20

COPAKE, NY

SEPTEMBER 18-20

ORTONVILLE, MI

SEPTEMBER 25-27

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

OCTOBER 2-4

PALMER, MA

OCTOBER 2-4

WAKE FOREST, NC

OCTOBER 16-18

GLENDALE, CA

OCTOBER 16-18

NASHVILLE, TN

OCTOBER 23-25

HARDWICK, NJ

NOVEMBER 6-8

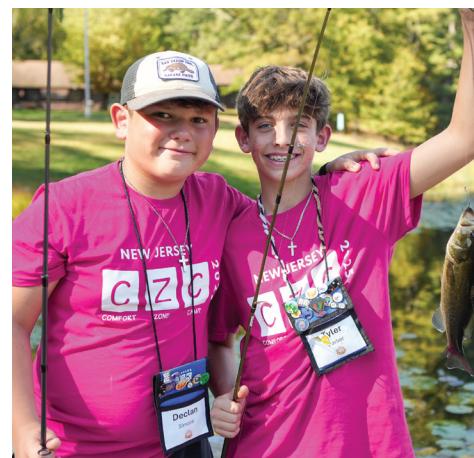
GOOCHLAND, VA

NOVEMBER 13-15

FRUITLAND PARK, FL

NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23

NOVEMBER VIRTUAL
SUPPORT GROUPS



2026 CAMP THEME: BUFFALO



Buffalos have a unique response to storms—they run into storms to get through them faster rather than wait them out. They turn and face the storm. They are intelligent, have excellent memories, and protect herd members. We give campers the tools to face the storm, find their herd at CZC and grow their resilience, getting braver and stronger after navigating and surviving each storm.



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