



COMFORT



ZONE



CAMP

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!

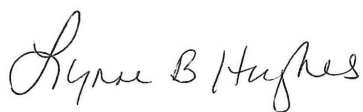
WHAT'S THE LONG-TERM IMPACT?

- 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



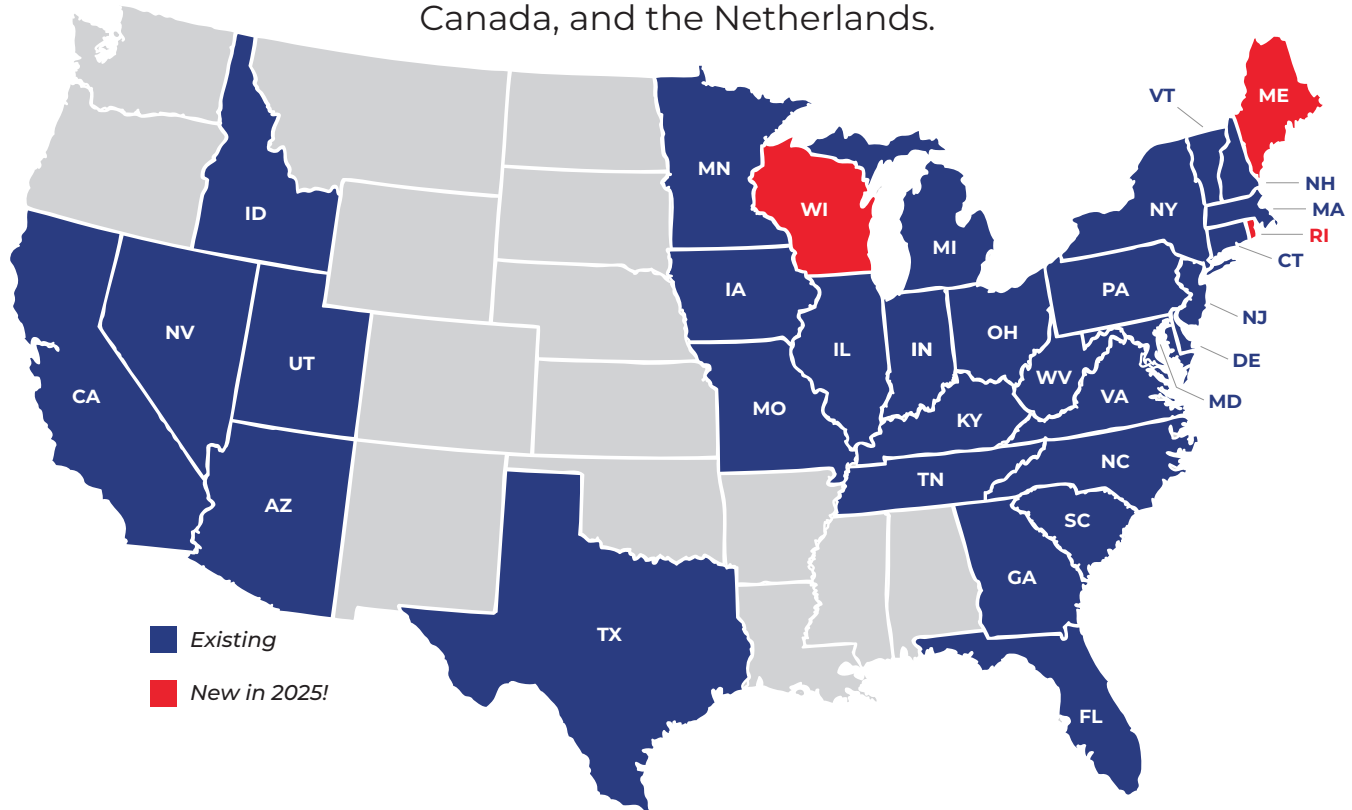
"As a former three time little buddy, coming back as a big buddy had a significant impact on my personal growth in grief. It helped me reflect on and understand things I didn't quite realize when I was a little. It made me realize just how much of an impact my big buddy made in my life and I can't wait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



"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

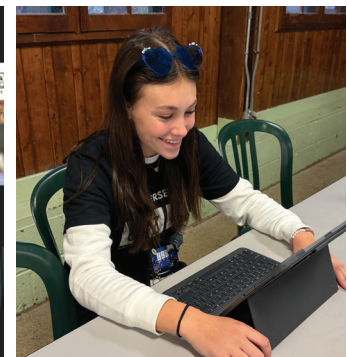
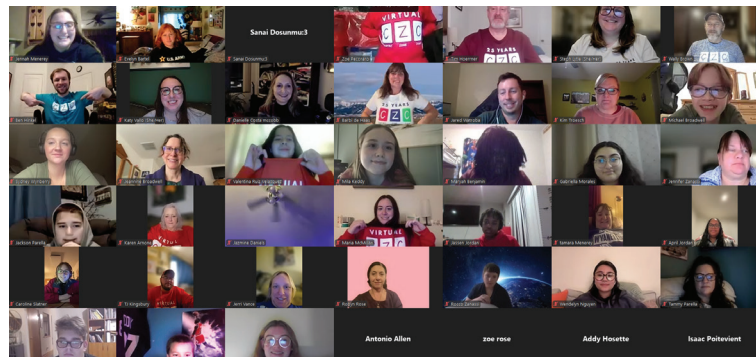
122 CHILDREN
ATTENDED

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	Deidre Carter Brooke Conn Jena Ellis Shantel French Adam Horsley Allison Hudson Annelyse Iglesias Izzy Larscheid
NY/NJ	UT	VA
<i>RAC & Engagement Committee</i> 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	Cathy Dyer Jamie Garland Craig Heah Sara Heisler Tim Hoerrner Ryan Kuester
		

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

Act Local Community Night

AJs Alliance

Altar'd State Mission Mondays

Ashley Mielke

Belk Charity Days

Blue Goose Foundation (Shuck N' Jive)

Buena High School

Bumble Bee Childhood Cancer Support

Caroline County Public Schools Health and Wellness Fair

Clifton School Community Wellness Event

Community in School

Community Renewal Team

Cresthaven Academy (Union County)

Crestview Elementary

Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition

Fall Frolic in the Park - Child & Family Resource

Family Engagement Services

Frances W. McClenney Elementary

Gina Spence Program

Glen Allen High School

Grief Relief 5K Walk

Grief Workshop Oak Ridge Presbyterian

Grief, Hope, Recovery

Hanover CSB

Hanover High School Resource Fair Harbor- UCLA Medical Center

Health Fair - Lakemont Elementary

Here for the Girls 16th Annual Run for the Hills and Screening + Prevention Village

Hike for Hospice House

Hosparus Health

International Survivors of Suicide Loss

John Jay High School - InterAct Club

Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital

Kids Grief Support

Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg

LA County Office of Education

Liberty University Mental Health Summit

Loudoun Out of Darkness Walk

Mahwah Professional Development Day

Massachusetts School Counselor Conference

Mechanicsville High School

Nashville Christian Family Magazine

NASW Utah Spring Conference

National Night Out

New England School Nurses Conference

New Jersey School Counselor Association Conference

Night Lights Lantern Festival

NJ School Counselor Conference

NJ School Health Conference

Northeast Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce

Out of the Darkness Walk, MI

Passaic County School Counselor Association

Paterson SB Staff

PLC Meeting

Ressie Jeffries Elementary

Richmond Public Schools Career Exploration Fair

Richmond Technical Center

Saint Helen's (Union County)

Samaritians (Boston, MA)

Secaucus High School

Show Up For Summer Service

Southwestern Wake County Counselor

Summit Oaks Hospital Rehabilitation Center

Sunrise Kiwanis

UVA Recruitment

UVU Social Impact Fair

VCU Health Unit Bereavement Coordinators Meeting

Virginia School Counselor Association Convention

Volunteer Expo Prudential

Walk In The Light

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Pediatric Evening of Remembrance

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!



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



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



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



How to Raise Children Who Are Compassionate and Empathetic



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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