



It is with much gratitude and great excitement that we announce that The Painted Turtle successfully met the conditions of the second year of the Weingart Foundation's multi-year grant challenge. Through the generosity of nearly 1,000 individuals, companies, other foundations, and community organizations, we were able to generate the required contributions to leverage the Weingart Foundation's very generous matching gift.

Even more children who have serious illnesses will have the life-transforming opportunity to come to camp as a direct result of everyone's efforts and remarkable participation. On behalf of our campers, their families, and everyone here at The Painted Turtle, we extend a huge thank you! And we offer a very heartfelt thank you to the Weingart Foundation.

2007 marks our third and final year of the Weingart Challenge and importantly, this phase will help ensure that The Painted Turtle has a financially sustainable future. In order to receive this year's gift from the foundation, we must raise significantly more matching funds than ever before. Your help is deeply appreciated.

Look for your campership mailing in May!

The Camp Calendar

Spring Family Weekends
 March 9-11 Liver Transplant
 March 24 Diabetes Day
 March 25 Open House
 April 13-15 Arthritis
 April 20-22 Crohn's and Colitis
 May 4-6 Spina Bifida

Summer Sessions
 June 10 Severe Burns Day
 June 16-21 Hemophilia
 June 24-July 1 Kidney
 July 6-11 Liver Transplant
 July 14-20 Crohn's and Colitis #1
 July 23-29 Crohn's and Colitis #2
 August 1-5 Muscular Dystrophy
 August 9-14 Skeletal Dysplasia (Dwarfism)
 August 17-21 Diabetes

Fall Family Weekends
 Sept 21-23 Primary Immunodeficiency
 October 5-7 Skeletal Dysplasia (Dwarfism)
 October 19-21 Asthma #1
 November 2-4 Kidney
 November 16-18 Crohn's and Colitis
 Nov 30 - Dec 2 Asthma #2

North LA County Regional Advisory Board Brings Community Together To Sponsor Campers

Last fall our North LA County advisory board, hosted 500 guests at its second annual fundraiser. Together with title sponsors AC and Shaughne Warnack and co-chairs Tom DiPrima and Greg McWilliams, the 18 member advisory board raised more than \$175,000 for camp programs.

The advisory board, comprised of community leaders from the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley, asked that the event proceeds sponsor The Painted Turtle's summer session for children with type 1 diabetes and a family program for children with Crohn's disease and colitis. More children from their local region attended these sessions than any others.



Says chair Sherry Lasagna, "The Painted Turtle Camp is important to all the board members because it is a part of our Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita communities. Although campers come here from other areas and are not all local children, it is a labor of love to give to these children. Feeling useful to those in need gives us a deep feeling of connection to humanity and a powerful sense of purpose."

Valley and Santa Clarita communities. Although campers come here from other areas and are not all local children, it is a labor of love to give to these children. Feeling useful to those in need gives us a deep feeling of connection to humanity and a powerful sense of purpose."

On September 29 at The Painted Turtle camp, the regional advisory board will hold its 3rd annual event. *Shell We Camp* will be a night of dinner, dancing and carnival-style games to raise funds to continue sponsoring campers. For information, please call Amanda at 310-451-1353 ext. 101.

The Painted Turtle earns ACA-Accredited Camp status!

The American Camping Association recently visited and reviewed our camp to ensure it complies with as many as 300 industry established health and safety standards. Designed and updated continuously by camp professionals, this accreditation process reflects current best practices for camp operations in the United States. We are proud of this recognition as it truly celebrates the program's developed excellence and our staff's accountability and ongoing commitment to the care, fun and well-being of our campers and their families.

A LETTER FROM OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Even though I've been working as the new medical director since September, in many ways this is my first chance to say, "Hello" and to introduce myself to you—the families, campers, volunteers, and seasonal staff who make The Painted Turtle such a valuable and magical place.

The journey here for me has been exhilarating and serendipitous. My story begins in 1995 when I spent a summer as a cabin counselor at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. It was an experience of intense caring, heroic teamwork, and dedication to the celebration of life. For two summers thereafter, while a medical student at The University of Pennsylvania, I returned to HITWGC to serve as a medical volunteer under the expert supervision of Dr. Howard Pearson.

Throughout my pediatric residency at UCSF and as a clinical pediatrician with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, the thought of returning to camp would creep frequently into my dreams. Laura, my wife (an internal medicine physician), had to wake me up gently by saying something sweet like, "Nice smile, honey, but if you don't wake up RIGHT NOW, you'll be late for morning report at the hospital!" It became clear I must listen carefully to these dreams or suffer the consequences of forever being aggressively awakened from satisfying sleep.

When I heard that a medical director position was available, I jumped at the chance to apply. Three weeks later, after an inspiring trip to The Painted Turtle, meetings with the incredible Well Shell staff, I once again awoke smiling from sleep. This time my dreams had come true... and my wife was smiling as well.

It has been an eventful, exciting first five months in my new post. The Well Shell team served our first ventilator-dependent child, hosted new illness groups, and created an outreach plan to help bring The Painted Turtle to more eligible children throughout California. The 2007 program promises to be spectacular as we continue to grow towards capacity.

My gratitude goes out to the amazing Dr. Wendy Cook whose huge shoes I am attempting to fill and whose hard work has made this transition as smooth as possible for me. My family and I feel so blessed to be welcomed into this community. In the short time we have been here, volunteers, campers, families, and staff have brought our daughters—3 year old Lea and 1 year old Sophia—so much joy and such wonderful experiences. Thank you for the warm welcome. It is an honor to be part of such a great team.

~ Ben Meisel, M.D., FAAP

Turtle Scoop

A Publication of The Painted Turtle; A Member of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps © 2007

a Summer of Lovin' it



Antoinette, age 9, on the Painted Turtle Zip Line Burn Day Session on September 16, 2006

- Founding Hospitals**
 Cedars-Sinai
 Children's Hospital and Health Center, San Diego
 Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland
 Children's Hospital Central California
 Children's Hospital of Orange County
 Children's Hospital Los Angeles
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
 Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
 Los Angeles County Hospital + USC Medical Center
 Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
 Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA
 Miller Children's Hospital
 UC Davis Children's Hospital
 UCSF Medical Center
 UCSF Children's Hospital
 University Children's Hospital, UCI Medical Center
- Medical Advisory Board**
 Robert Adler, M.D.
 William Byrne, M.D.
 Harvey Cohen, M.D., Ph.D.
 Wendy Cook, M.D.
 Lorry Frankel, M.D.
 Frederick W. James, M.D.
 Adam Jonas, M.D.
 Neal Kaufman, M.D.
 John Mace, M.D.
 Mohammad Malekzadeh, M.D.
 Melvin Marks, M.D.
- Sam Ho, M.D.
 Edward R.B. McCabe, M.D., Ph.D.
 Maria Minon, M.D.
 Larry Opas, M.D.
 Anthony Phillips, M.D.
 Larry Shapiro, M.D.
 Chuck Simmons, M.D.
 David Sine, M.D.
 Steve Stephensen, M.D.
 Emily von Scheven, M.D.
 Feizal Waffarn, M.D.

For more information, please call 310-451-1353 or email: info@thepaintedturtle.org
 Please visit us at our website online at www.thepaintedturtle.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 THE PAINTED TURTLE
 Address Service Requested

The Painted Turtle
 1300 4th Street
 Suite 300
 Santa Monica, CA 90401
 An innovative camp and family care center for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Turtle Scoop

SPRING 2007 A Publication of The Painted Turtle; A Member of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps © 2007

A Painted Life



The one thing we thought they'd never have.

Chronic illness has a way of sneaking up on you and stealing the things you take for granted, like hope and serenity. Sometimes it's an immediate loss, while other times it's slow and gradual, with pieces being plucked away bit by bit. Last fall, The Painted Turtle was able to give back the single most important thing my children had lost due to their chronic illness—Freedom.

There is no way to sugarcoat it—my four year old instructs nurses on the best vein to use for a blood draw and my six year old knows the difference between a T cell and a B cell. They ask me questions about the possibility of death and live in a world where doctors and nurses are more frequently in their lives than their peers. They've had their freedom stolen from them, their freedom to be children. The freedom to explore and play without worries of health and germs. They've lost the freedom to dream of a time when needles and nurses will not be paramount in their lives; the freedom to be themselves when the world they live in is so remarkably different than that of other children their age.

Camp gave back all that chronic illness had managed to take away and more. They ran, and played and fished and created! They sang and danced and lived life to the fullest possible extent! They gained the confidence to explore with the knowledge that help was near by if ever needed. They found that time, for once, was on their side. They made friends, friends who understood, friends who know what it's like when life stops for a medical crisis, friends who were adults and wanted nothing from them, no blood, no tests, just to be there and play. They found a dream—to return to camp year after year and live that life again and again!

My words will never adequately express the gratitude we have in our hearts for all at The Painted Turtle. To all those who built it, donated to it, work or volunteer at it, THANK YOU!

~ Dayna Fladhammer

The Founders

- Page and Lou Adler
 Lani and Herb Alpert
 Shelly and Larry Brown
 Janet Crown
 Gil Friesen
 Jami Gertz and Tony Ressler
 Joan and John Hotchkis
 Martha and Bruce Karsh
 Nancy and Howard Marks
 Sue Ann and Richard Masson
 Ann and Jerry Moss
 Paul Newman
 Carolyn and Bill Powers

The Board of Directors

- Page Adler
 Lou Adler
 Tom Amster
 Mary Brown
 Shelly Brown
 Larry Brown
 Melanie Cook
 Janet Crown
 Dr. Lorry Frankel
 Gil Friesen
 Steve Gaggero
 Riva Gebel
 Jami Gertz
 James F. Griffiths
 Laurentius Harrar
 David M. HERNAND
 John Hotchkis
 Matthew Jones
 Bruce Karsh
 Nancy Marks
 Sue Ann Masson
 John Miller
 Colleen O'Brien
 Carolyn Powers
 Bill Powers
 Tony Ressler
 Gene Rosenfeld
 James P. Steyer
 Dr. Cynthia Telles
 Roger Wittlin

The Painted Turtle Staff

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Arturo Aguayo | Alice Mason |
| Carrie Augenstein | Ben Meisel, M.D. FAAP |
| Derrick Caballero | Jeff Nash |
| Margaret Davis | Lynn Parker |
| Jamiesen Fitzgerald | Michelle Plasse |
| Lisa Goodfried | Jackie Ramirez |
| Nicholas Holden | Alicia Reid |
| Kyle Hidalgo | Jessica Santos |
| Michael House, PhD | Cassidy Skelton |
| Amanda Johnson | Sean Torres |
| Julie Knickerbocker | Beth Vandenbogaart |
| Alexis Madrid | Cindy Weiland |
| Blake Maher | Claire White |

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

The Painted Turtle had an amazing year in 2006. We more than doubled the number of kids and family members served at camp during our summer sessions and spring and fall family weekends—reaching 1,890 people last year compared to 917 the previous year! In addition, we served five new medical conditions including arthritis, asthma, primary immunodeficiency diseases, severe burns, and spina bifida.

That means almost 2,000 kids and family members afflicted with one or more of 12 different medical conditions were able to leave their worries behind, forget about illness, and have an experience at The Painted Turtle they will never forget.

This big step towards capacity was made possible by three things: a dedicated and philanthropic board of directors, a creative and hard-working staff, and the best volunteers you can imagine. Speaking of volunteers, 859 people joined us in 2006 for a work day, family weekend, or summer session. It is important to also mention that The Painted Turtle was accredited by the American Camp Association last year. We received a rating of 100%, which is no small accomplishment given there are hundreds of standards to be met in order to receive accreditation.

Everything achieved at The Painted Turtle is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. With much work last year, we achieved our fundraising goal thanks to the individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations that contributed to our appeals, requests for support, and invitations to join us at our fundraising events. By the way, despite the large increase in campers last year we were able to reduce what it costs us per camper while maintaining the quality and safety for which the camp is known. The money and time you contribute are being managed very well.

Our goals for 2007 are again rather lofty but attainable. We plan to increase the number of campers served by 15%, add another family weekend to our schedule, create a junior counselor program, create a hospital outreach program, enhance our presence in Northern California, revamp and expand our equine program, and so much more. It's sometimes hard to believe The Painted Turtle has been open less than three short years, as we've already had more than 3,000 kids and family members participate in our program.

I hope you feel very good about your association with The Painted Turtle. We couldn't do it without you!

- Michael House, PhD

California's Voluntary Health Organizations Partner with The Painted Turtle

Among the many services and types of support Little People of America (LPA) now offers children with dwarfism and their families are life-changing experiences at The Painted Turtle. LPA is enhancing its members' lives and lifestyles in partnership with The Painted Turtle.

The organization is particularly aware of the social and emotional issues that come with the physical circumstances and limitations associated with dwarfism. It can be especially tough for young people and teens—it's a condition you simply can't hide from others.



Joanna Campbell, LPA's Executive Director, first learned about The Painted Turtle from a neighbor whose two sons were due to attend a hemophilia camp during our inaugural summer. Joanna had always dreamed of giving her own daughter Elizabeth such an opportunity. Because of the medical needs associated with her achondroplasia — one of 200 types of dwarfism—a typical summer camp experience had never been a possibility.

Many discussions, considerations and a year later, 85 children and family members from the California chapters of Little People of America arrived at The Painted Turtle for their first weekend program. With over 80% of people with dwarfism born to average-size parents with no history of dwarfism in the family, these programs are particularly important in fulfilling the Little People of America's mission of improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism while celebrating their contributions to social diversity.

"When he looks in the mirror, he no longer sees that he is 'too short', but that he is unique. The camp and meeting others who have the same or similar issues as he does was an unexpected gift."

In 2006, the partnership grew further to include a LPA summer camp session that allowed us to welcome 70 children and teens. Joanna believes that experience is essential to assuring these children know that they are not alone — at camp they find others facing the same restrictions, judgments and challenges. Most importantly, she says, "Camp is the chance for our children to speak to a peer eye to eye. And in some cases, that would be for the first time in their lives."



Little People of America is just one of The Painted Turtle's extraordinary volunteer health organizations that we proudly name as our partners. These groups support our program through camper recruitment as well as financial contributions to directly offset the costs of their campers' attendance. Together, we are removing barriers to this experience among families throughout California. Thank you for your partnership and efforts!

Our Medical Partners

- ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION**, Southern California Chapter
Manuel Loya, President and CEO
- CHILDREN'S BURN FOUNDATION**
Keely Quinn, Program Development Director
- CHILDRENS HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES**
Francine Kaufman, MD, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
- CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**, Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Ronni Epstein, Executive Director
- HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**
Linda Corrente, Executive Director
- LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA**
Joanna Campbell, Executive Director
- MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION**
Kelly Craig, Healthcare Services Coordinator
- NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**
Linda Small, Executive Director



AT THE HEART OF THE PAINTED TURTLE

is a community of extraordinary volunteers. They create the laughter, memories, friendships and self-confidence among our campers that mark each session. Last year, more than 850 volunteers helped bring our mission to life. Among these special friends of The Painted Turtle are Sherry and Dennis Immel. Since our earliest volunteer days planting trees during the camp's construction to the most recent family camp, they have offered us a seemingly endless amount of their time and compassion.

You'll often find Sherry greeting campers in the Well Shell or snapping photos for the end of session slideshow, and Dennis in the woodshop crafting projects and earning his nickname of "Pops"—taking special care of siblings and campers with grandfather-like affection.



Pops and Sherry can recall many wonderful moments among the children and families who have visited camp since it opened. Further, the volunteers and summer staff have become an extension of their own family, individuals Pop would 'be proud to have as their own sons and daughters.'

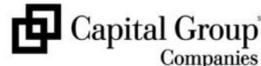
"The Painted Turtle changed our priorities," Pops confided. "Before we found camp, we were just normal people. Then this camp was built in our backyard and it has redirected our lives." For Sherry, "this place and the time we spend there as volunteers just seems meant to be, exactly the way it is."

We say thank you to Sherry and Dennis and every one of our volunteers last year for the gift of your friendship and for celebrating the impact camp can have on all those involved!

Students from local schools continue to help at camp.



Tony and Nicky enjoy lunch at The Painted Turtle Dining Hall
from the **Center for Early Education**. It was a chance for them to support the school's service learning program.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

You probably know The Capital Group Companies as a successful and respected investment management firm. At The Painted Turtle, we have come to know the organization and its employees more as generous and active members of our Southern California community.

After Laurentius Harrer — a Painted Turtle board member and Senior Vice President at Capita I — invited us to share our mission and program with his colleagues, an enthusiastic group of employees came out to our corporate volunteer day last year. Among those lending a hand in the camper cabins and activity areas was Kieantria Paschal.

She shared that, "Volunteering at The Painted Turtle on (that) Day was awesome! Even though I didn't have an opportunity to work directly with the kids, I felt that our efforts made a difference. It was a great feeling to know that I participated in helping an organization that means so much to seriously ill children and their families."

It wasn't long after that we learned Kieantria, Marci Schroeder and others were planning a holiday drive to raise funds for the camp — complete with a bake sale, Wear Jeans to the Office day and other fun events. The Painted Turtle experience was a bit contagious; the word was spreading through the office and others were getting involved.

Capital Group enhanced the impact of its employees' personal efforts by matching their contributions. The Company is committed to supporting nonprofits that capture the interest and involvement of its associates; its foundation's generous grant to The Painted Turtle further celebrated our friendship with Kieantria, Marci, Laurentius and many others last year.



Goldman Sachs employees lend a hand at camp during a team work day last year. **Thanks to Tom Amster**, a Managing Director at the firm as well as member of The Painted Turtle Board. **Does your employer match gifts or encourage volunteerism? We invite you to get involved & introduce us to your company. Contact Michelle at 310.451.1533**

GREEK BROTHERS AND SISTERS JOIN THE PAINTED TURTLE FAMILY

ΦΚΤ

Spirited members of two national Greek organizations have chosen to offer great support to The Painted Turtle! The Phi Kappa Tau fraternity — who names Paul Newman among its alums — not only donated



\$20,000 to sponsor the camp's Staff and Volunteer Program, but a number of energetic collegiate members from around the country actively participated in summer and family sessions last year. Phi Tau brothers are encouraged to have real-life service experiences, learning the importance of

community involvement. Campers, families and program staff all benefited from the more than 35 Phi Tau brothers and alum that joined us in that spirit at The Painted Turtle in 2006. What a wonderful celebration of the longstanding partnership that has grown and deepened between PKT and the camp over these past few years.

The women of Delta Zeta sorority have also generously adopted The Painted Turtle as one of its national philanthropies, making an inspiring commitment to raise money and awareness to help support our program through chapter events planned this year. With over 200,000 active and alumnae members, The Painted Turtle eagerly anticipates their support and involvement as volunteers as well. In this exciting new partnership, we even share an affection for the turtle. The DZ mascot challenges members saying, "She does not achieve unless she sticks her neck out!"



The Painted Turtle



George Lopez and campers during his visit to the kidney family weekend.

SINGERS AND SONGS

Celebrate Tony Bennett's 80th



On November 9, 2006, Singers and Songs Celebrate Tony Bennett's 80th, was held at The Kodak Theater in Hollywood to benefit the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps. A special thanks to our Board for its remarkable support and to the many generous donors who contributed to the success of this amazing event.



The fourth annual Bingo at The Roxy was attended by an extraordinary collection of friends and supporters. On March 15, guests came together on Sunset Boulevard for an evening of spirited games and incredible prizes. The evening celebrated the camp's impact on children in California with serious and chronic illnesses with a short film and presentation by the mother of two of our campers from last year's programs at The Painted Turtle. The evening has become a tradition on our camp's calendar. With Ricki Lake as our host and special bingo caller, this year again held much fun and offered invaluable funding support. We are so grateful for all those who joined as guests and contributors.

The sold-event was chaired by Lisette Ackerberg, Eve Gerber, Simone Harrer, Susan Mazzoni, and Carolyn Powers. The Painted Turtle wishes to share our sincerest thanks with our hosts as well as the local businesses who generously contributed products and services.