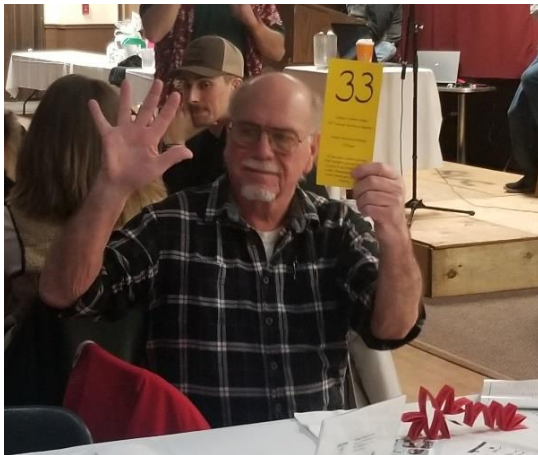


BETHLEHEM, N.H. – Over 90 low-income New Hampshire youth will be attending summer camp for free this year, thanks to the efforts of Copper Cannon Camp’s 51st annual auction Saturday March 4th.

Even with the snow storm, nearly 150 people joined together at the Littleton Elks Lodge on March 4th for an evening of food, fun and philanthropy. Though a massive team of volunteers spent months putting everything together, all the hard work culminated in five days’ worth of bidding through our “on line” auction and live auction Saturday.



An immense silent auction featuring hundreds of items and spanning a diverse assortment from artwork to restaurant gift certificates to sporting goods to memorabilia. The live auction featured items ranging from “Beermuda Triangle”: three \$100 gift cards to each of the local breweries (Rek*Les, Iron Furnace and Shillings) plus a driver and usage of the Copper Cannon van, Cannon Season pass and even a paranormal ghost hunting experience.



The result of all the bidding and donating was a total of more than \$90,000 raised, exceeding the camp’s projected goal.

One of the most magical moments of the night came as former camper and staff Shyanne Allbee, addressed the entire audience from the stage about her time at camp and how it had changed her. Shyanne now sends her students to Copper Cannon and takes the extra effort of visiting them

when the children are in attendance.

Another magical moment came when Executive Director Peter Christnacht opened up bids for the most important live auction item of all. Auction-goers were given the opportunity to sponsor a camper for a day or more. The donors would hold up their bidder numbers with one hand and the number of days they wished to sponsor on their fingers on the other hand. Several bidders sponsored more days than they could hold up on one or two hands, including one person who took their socks off

donating 20 days! The sponsor-a-camper opportunity lasted no more than a couple of minutes but quickly raised tens of thousands of dollars.



This was our first truly blended event with both a live and on-line component. The on-line started Wednesday with bidding open and ended Sunday at noon. Again this year, people were able to log in to Zoom and watch the event's live stream. Over thirty people logged in and a number added to the Fund a Camper through the chat feature.

Copper Cannon Camp is New Hampshire's only completely free summer camp for low-income youth. The camp, located between Franconia and Bethlehem, has served well over 24,000 low-income youth since its inception in 1963. The summer of 2023 will

be the camp's 60th anniversary.

For more information on Copper Cannon, including how to donate or volunteer, visit www.coppercannon.org, email info@coppercannon.org or call (603) 823-8107.