

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND



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## A Brief History

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Way back in the late 1960's when Windsor Mountain International Summer Camp (formerly known as Interlocken) was still a fledgling summer program in the southwestern hills of New Hampshire, Richard and Susan Herman- together with camper and staff alumni- decided to start a non-profit "campership" program that would serve the needs of deserving children from varied social, economic, racial and religious backgrounds. At the time, very few summer camps made special efforts to create diverse communities of children who could live and learn from each other as they shared their summers together.

Windsor Mountain, however, always had an ideal goal of creating a multicultural educational camp community that would include a broad spectrum of kids, but it always required tuition funding that would help support the essential diversity. The vehicle to make the "dream" happen was the establishment of the Educational Opportunities Fund. Hundreds of generous folks supported the idea and more than fifty years later, the fund is still reaching out and selecting promising young people who want to grow and gain from an enriching summer.

Since the beginning in 1969, the EOF has succeeded in providing summer camp tuition funds for hundreds of children, financed by parents, kids, alumni, private and public foundations and other individuals. We're proud to say that the network of donors and camper alumni is vast, varied and worldwide!

The EOF has always believed in the values and life changing potential of inspired, creative top-notch summer camp programs. The ideal EOF campership grant provides support for young people to grow and develop into adults who want to give to others and help make the world a better place to live.



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## Letter from the Board



Dear Friends,

We hope you've visited our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). (If we aren't "friends" yet, then we are missing you!) Our goal is to connect with our community so we can rally around our shared appreciation for the value of an excellent summer camp experience- and the ideal of making such an experience possible for all kids.

With help from you—our passionate community of camp supporters—we were able to award ten camp scholarships. We choose programs that embody EOF's mission: they value diversity, opening minds, fostering personal growth and helping young people respond to social, cultural and environmental challenges as responsible global citizens.

In the summer of 2011 we sponsored four students, in 2012 we met our goal of doubling our scholarships, enabling camp experiences for eight young people. For the last few years we have consistently been able to sponsor ten or more campers, and even help an entire school pursue leadership training and community building. We continue to move in the right direction for kids!

Since 1969 The Educational Opportunities Fund has helped hundreds of children from around the world attend summer camp: Refugee children from the Sudan and Liberia, kids from under-resourced urban areas across the US, and youngsters from rural areas where resources are thin but kids are eager to play and learn in a thoughtful environment. We believe a summer camp experience can be deeply transformative. Connecting with nature, connecting with peers, connecting with your inner-self and being inspired by creative and magical camp counselors are only a few of the rare benefits of being at camp.

Please help us connect more kids with camp this year.

Sincerely,

Sarah Herman  
Board President

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## Board Members 2023

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**Danny English:** Outdoor educator, storyteller and children's book author. Windsor Mountain sports department head, cabins coordinator and summer camp co-director.

**John Fitzsimmons:** Teacher, poet, songwriter and folksinger who, along with his wife Denise and seven children, has been a part of the Windsor Mountain community since 2004.

**Jessi Hempel:** New York-based editor at large for LinkedIn. She writes extensively about the impact of technology on culture, business and society.

**Richard Herman:** Member of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Commission and former member of the NH House of Representatives; Founder of Windsor Mountain International and Crossroads Educational Travel. Founder Educational Opportunities Fund and Thomas Hines Sr. Scholarship Fund.

**Sarah Herman:** Head of School at Our Sisters' School in New Bedford MA. Former Director of Windsor Mountain International.

**Megan Schorle:** Patient Experience Analyst for Lifespan, former Humanities Educator in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

**Andy Taylor:** Current History and human geography teacher, squash and tennis coach at the Taft School. Andy has an extensive history in education and curriculum development abroad and in the U.S.

**Adam Tepper:** Analyst with Castle Hook Partners, where he focuses on research in agriculture and energy. Former Windsor Mountain camper and staff member.

**Deidre Tobey:** A Windsor Mountain veteran administrator whose entire career has been dedicated to youth development and now, most recently, systems management.

## Advisory Board and Support Team Members

### **Melissa Herman**

Dartmouth College professor; former Interlocken camper and staff member

### **Joshua Hahn**

Former EOF board President; former Interlocken camper and staff member

### **Pam Butler**

EOF bookkeeper and key support team member

### **Renee Blinn**

Administrative aid and key support team member





## Letter from Minister Lenray Gandy from Meridien, Mississippi

*Back in the 1960s, a boy from Meridien, Mississippi, Lenray Gandy, attended Interlocken on a camper scholarship. He returned every summer for five life-changing years. Here are some of his memories of that experience:*

Imagine being a child and living in a place where you knew that you had very little chance of doing great things in life. Imagine having very little opportunity to receive a proper education; fair housing, decent job and dignity, or enjoy basic rights as a citizen in a great country.... There was no easy chance to see what lay beyond the borders of Mississippi.

However, at Interlocken summer camp my brothers and I participated in things that we would use and carry the rest of our lives. Our camp director, Richard Herman, appeared to me as if he was a lumberjack wearing a checked shirt with rolled sleeves, denim shorts with hairy legs, white socks and black hiking boots. Steve Hahn was a giant of a counselor - but he made children feel safe. I remember my Judo and karate instructor Ken Yorimoto from Japan. There was a steel drum instructor Willie Nedunga from Uganda. There was a soccer instructor named Najib the Sheikh from Morocco.

I remember Ken and Bertha, our cooks and their white aprons. I can hear the bell ringing from the tower ever so loudly right now, and smell the delicious steaming hot pancakes, mouth-watering maple syrup, cool fresh butter and tasty link sausages, yummmie!

I was not raised in a house - but in an apartment. Can you imagine a child like me who had no back or front yard, no grass or trees finally becoming exposed to the outdoors. I was sure that this was the heaven my grandmother had told me so much about. We were taught to swim, horseback ride, archery, pottery, art, fishing, drama, games and too many activities to list here. We had the best tug of wars ever, older boys against younger boys, campers against counselors, counselors against counselors, campers and counselors against the truck. We would get muddy and head to the lake to swim the mud off.

*Continued on page 7 ...*



# Honoring 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Aden Ackah: Wyonegonic  
 Melen Ackah: West End House Camp  
 Rana Byarns: Wyonegonic  
 Genesis Cisneros: Windsor Mountain  
 Asher Hakoola: Windsor Mountain  
 Lushomo Hakoola: Windsor Mountain  
 Clemence Kaneza: Windsor Mountain

Ruby Latham: Teen Adventure Service Corps  
 Katania Matthews: Windsor Mountain  
 Karlee Medina: Wyonegonic  
 Jennyfer Rivera Diaz: Windsor Mountain  
 Namyjah Santiago: Chimney Corners  
 Amina Sheets-Whitlow: Windsor Mountain  
 Eeziyah Velez: Chimney Corners Camp

## 2023 Donors:

Meet the people who supported the EOF this year and join the effort.

### \$3000 - \$300

Adam Tepper  
 Ari Weinstein  
 Jessi Hempel  
 Sarah Herman  
 Conor Dearden  
 Ellen Kreiger  
 Hauser Family  
 Powell Family

### \$300 - \$150

Covello Family  
 Perez Correa Family  
 Borrayo Family  
 McCloskey Family  
 Lawrence Family  
 Brown Family  
 Beeson Family  
 Daniel Haley  
 Peter Herman  
 Richard Herman  
 John Sargent  
 Andy Taylor  
 Hagler Family  
 Talvola Family  
 Zigindere Family  
 Katz Family  
 Crystal Family  
 Dickerson Family  
 Mahoney Family  
 Bradbury Family  
 Imbrie Family  
 Kahn-Greene Family  
 Chase Family  
 Schwarz Family  
 G.-Smith Family  
 Socarras Family  
 Cort Family  
 Smilevski Family  
 Helburn Family  
 Ohly Family  
 Robichaud Family  
 Shah Family  
 Edwards Family  
 Donnelly Family  
 Mitchell Family  
 Cole Family  
 Dietrich Family

### \$150 - \$100

Haley Family  
 Hubbard Family  
 Insley-Pruitt Family  
 Magenau Family  
 Rooney Family  
 Steinberg Family  
 Todd Family  
 Derby Family  
 Studley Family  
 Mattler Family  
 Ellen-Klein Family  
 Reith Family  
 Hernandez Family  
 Pereira Family  
 Gesser Family  
 Beaulieu Family  
 Colvard Family  
 Maeda Family  
 Slocum Family  
 Bennett Family  
 Henderson Family  
 Harris Family  
 Adams Family  
 Iadevaia Family  
 Johnson Family  
 Farnham Family  
 Fechner Family  
 Navazio Family  
 Sutton-Rath Family  
 Jamal Family  
 Gomez Haro Family  
 Salane Family  
 Cote Family  
 Killmer Family  
 Lee Family  
 Reid Family  
 Kaitano-Price Family  
 Steckler Family  
 Knemeyer Family  
 Abramowski Family  
 Ross Family  
 HarEven Family  
 Eckerle Family  
 Hilger Family  
 Sher Family  
 Belfer Family  
 Mutch Family

### \$100-\$75

Abdo Family  
 Ben Farkas  
 Wylie Klain  
 Amy Milano  
 Douglas Orifice  
 David Sasser  
 Davis Family  
 Massad Family  
 Tetens Family  
 Rosenfeld Family  
 Bitran Family  
 Rubin-DuLong Family  
 Taylor Family  
 Taormina Family  
 Serhant Family  
 Magaziner Family  
 Dearden Family  
 Ives Family  
 Cole Family  
 Seal Family  
 Langsfeld Family  
 Karlsson Family  
 Rothman Family  
 Johnston Family  
 Logan Family  
 Grudin Family  
 Mills Family  
 Schwchheimer Family  
 Gelade Family  
 Sharrard Family  
 DeSpirito Family  
 Grant Family  
 Albin-Lackey Family  
 Brill Family  
 Chu Family  
 Barrio Martin Family  
 Bausch Family  
 Pliskin Family  
 Patten Family  
 Hudec Family  
 Luckey Family  
 Wong-Raffone Family  
 Felder Family  
 Gerber Family  
 Halaby Family  
 Miller Family  
 Klagsbrun Family

### \$75 - \$50

Elizabeth Beal  
 Kumble Family  
 Leopold Family  
 Masterson Family  
 Zader Family  
 Holtschlag Family  
 Benjamin Family  
 Weinstein Family  
 Holman Family  
 Arnt Family  
 Blount Family  
 Carrington Family  
 Hubball Family  
 van Zadelhoff Family  
 Shaffer Family  
 Vitali Family  
 Kaitano Family  
 Greenstein Family  
 Robbins Family  
 Weir Family  
 Morrissey Family  
 Doench Family  
 Bordeleois Family  
 Gelber Family  
 Ludwig Family  
 Inman Family  
 Culley Family  
 Savage Family  
 Laugier-Claude Family  
 Scher Family  
 Beal Family  
 Galvin Family  
 Newmark Family  
 Simon Family  
 Whittaker Family  
 Bond Family  
 McGaughan Family  
 Herman Family  
 Asnes Family  
 Kendall Family  
 Karlsson Family  
 Walkowitz Family  
 Jeff Becherer  
 Paula Bordeleois  
 Brian Chase  
 Jessica Dulong  
 Thomas Keenan  
 Deidre Tobey

### \$50 - \$20

Gerstein Family  
 Pincus Family  
 Mark Family  
 Saldana Family  
 Pianko Family  
 Staal Schmidt Family  
 Brown Family  
 Vander Family  
 Garfias Family  
 Braman Family  
 Pyle Family  
 Holliday Family  
 McDonagh Family  
 Weills Family  
 Herzman Family  
 Dana Family  
 Green Family  
 Papaioannou Family  
 Parikh Family  
 Wesevich Family  
 Dorval Family  
 August Family  
 Smith Family  
 Lung Family  
 Symonds Family  
 Kent Family  
 Poole Family  
 Singh Family  
 Borisoff Family  
 De Angelis Family  
 Eisenberg Family  
 Moffa Family  
 Star Family  
 Blank Family  
 Mulliken Family  
 Rivera Family  
 Barletta Family  
 Cespedes Family  
 Haber Family  
 Katie Mcglynn  
 Taylor Family  
 Milano Family  
 Goddard Family  
 Moran Family  
 Ristorucci Family  
 Tarlo Family  
 Moloff Family  
 Tipert Family  
 Dore-Weeks Family

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The music was truly inspiring. Richard would grab his banjo, others would play on guitars, drums and there was always a good bass from the wash tub mop stick and string. We would sing folk songs such as "The Cat Came Back," "Good Night Irene," "If I Had a Hammer," "We Shall Overcome" and many more. It seemed as if the songs touched our souls, which moved our mouths and bodies into action to express and spread fellowship, joy, peace and love.

I can smell the burning logs on the fire as we roasted our marshmallows. I can taste the red licorice candy that I never had before, and I can feel the wind brushing against my face as I cruise across the Big Blue Lake in a sailboat.

When my brothers and I returned to Mississippi we would always have the best stories to share. At the beginning of the school year kids would sit in amazement as I would tell about my summer adventure. Their eyes would buck, their mouths would open wide and I had their undivided attention. Even the teachers were excited about our stories.

If there are ever times when I need to reassure myself that all men are brothers, all I need to do is merely think of those days at camp. One month at camp surely was equivalent to a year in paradise. It was truly the time of my life. I will never forget the faces, voices, songs, the love of my fellow campers and counselors.

In other words I am saying that I would not trade the time I spent at camp for millions of dollars. I was there one month every summer for 5 years. It taught me to embrace different cultures and people. It strengthened my love for all mankind. No man was ever a stranger again.

I wish that other less fortunate children could be afforded the opportunity to go to camp the same as we did over 47 years ago.

Most sincerely, Lenray Gandy



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*"I am convinced that camp contributed a great deal to our children's ability to live and work cooperatively, to challenge themselves, and to be responsible world citizens. They will always carry camp values in their hearts and minds."*  
- Camp Parent

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This report provides a summary of charitable gifts made to the Educational Opportunities Fund (29 7<sup>th</sup> St., New Bedford, MA 02740; EIN 02-0277028) between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

This report was edited by Sarah Herman, President, Educational Opportunities Fund. We have worked hard to ensure the correct spelling of each donor's name. However, if we have made an error, please accept our sincerest apology and contact Sarah at 917-696-8282 or [Ed.O.Fund@gmail.com](mailto:Ed.O.Fund@gmail.com)

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