



## **COVID-19 VIDEO UPDATE (TRANSCRIPT) – April 19<sup>th</sup> 2020**

*Below is the transcript for the April 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 video message from Michelle “Konk” Roberts, Executive Director.*

Hi Friends,

As you can probably see today I’m coming to you from the Lodge.

The Board and I are continuing to work on planning for all potential scenarios for summer, and hope we will get to gather together in the Lodge once again soon. Don’t worry, as soon as we have an official update, we will let you know. But I want to take a few moments today and share with you my appreciation for our community of the past few weeks.

During summer we often talk with campers and staff about the spaces at camp that are special to us. Match has her bridge along the M&D path, Glen Mhor Mountain holds a special place in Dalah’s heart, and Phenno loves the first step onto the tree side boardwalk. Maybe for you it’s the canoe docks, or Seeker’s Edge, or Whispering Pines rock, or even the picnic table by the climbing wall. There are as many special places at camp as there are people in our camp family. But sometimes I think we forget to mention the Lodge.

This past summer Bridget said something I will never forget. We were eating lunch, looking up at the paddles in the rafters, and she said “can you imagine the joy and love these walls have seen”. Immediately I started thinking of just a few of my memories in the lodge. The way my stomach pitched and hands shook the first time I made an announcement and the pride I felt after it was done, crying through my last Quaker service, leading my first fireside chat as a Director, experiencing God’s presence as the sun beamed through the windows during a family camp chapel.

I then thought of all of the people who have come through the Lodge doors over the past 42 years. The countless meals filled with laughter, the limitless number of silly announcements starring even sillier characters, the thousands of campfires, the friendships created, the “God” moments experienced. And I know that these walls have seen more joy and love than can ever be measured.

Right now we aren’t able to gather together in the Lodge but I am shown everyday that THAT joy and love aren’t held by this building but by the relationships in our community. These past 4 weeks of Cairn Connects have shown me just how strong, loving, and resilient that community is.

We have been inspired by the way we have come together. Inspired by the connections that are being created. We have seen campers, staff, and alumni across all generations build relationships with each other. We have watched our camp family welcome home new friends who might not have ever set foot onsite but have found us through our virtual programs. We have seen the positivity and love spread day after day and been uplifted by it.

I want to take a moment to shine some light on what goes on behind the scenes of Cairn Connects and appreciate all those who make it possible. Mapes is hard at work everyday creating programs, making schedules, coordinating volunteers, acting as tech support, and making sure everything is communicated



to all of you. We have a mass of volunteers - some you see on your screens running programs and some you don't. I want to shout out a few behind the scenes volunteers today – thank you to Fauna who is helping us on social media, Cantis who has taken on the role of tech host for our Songbook series, and Kinniq who is hard at work helping Mapes to map out future weeks of Cairn Connects. And to all our volunteers who's name I didn't mention – thank you for your time, talent, and dedication.

Thank you also to all of our donors. We rely on the support of our monthly donors to be able to run free programs during this difficult time. We have seen day after day, week after week, the importance of the connection and community that camp provides, especially in the midst of social distancing and uncertainty. We are so grateful to all those individuals who continue to support camp financially and make programs like Cairn Connects possible.

We will be posting this week's Cairn Connects schedule later today, and we hope to see each of you at an event! Know that all of us up at camp are praying for health, safety, and happiness for you and your families. I hope you have a great week. Thanks for listening friends!