

# THE LAKE PATH

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF SKY LAKE

## SKY LAKE FOUNDATION, INC.

### MISSION

*Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to raise awareness and donations to help Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center remain financially healthy for generations to come.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Baron  
Tim Barnes  
Deedee Jones  
Nick Keeney  
Heidi McDonough  
Eric Yetter

*Ex-officio, Matthew Williams*

## YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION

In early November, the Foundation Board of Directors gathered for a day retreat at Sky Lake. One topic of discussion that you as a donor might find to be beneficial was centered on gaining further clarity on why donations are important and how said donations are put to use in furtherance of the mission.

The ongoing work of Sky Lake is supported by three primary revenue streams: camper and guest fees, ministry shares generously provided by The Upper New York Annual Conference, and donations. In turn, donations are further broken down into four categories: Annual Fund, Camperships, Designated, and In-kind.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are much like the foundation walls of a building—critical support, but not necessarily flashy. In 2024, gifts to the Annual Fund have gone towards summer staff salaries, electricity, tie-dye supplies, a new battery for the AED, diesel for the tractor, and more.

In 2024, the Campership Fund provided almost \$30,000 in underwriting so that 82 individuals who might otherwise not have attended a session of summer camp or one of the retreats sponsored by Sky Lake.

Designated gifts have been used for things that are a bit more visible—such as the new Smart TVs in Riley, Founders', and Underwood Lodges; the bench placed in



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  
*Order from December 1-19*

### FAMILY WINTER WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 14-17  
*All ages*

### SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT

MARCH 14-16  
*Ages 15-18*

### SPECIAL NEEDS GETAWAY

MARCH 20-22  
*Ages 18+*

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT

APRIL 4-5  
*Ages 12-18*

### REJUVENATE: A SPRING LADIES OF THE LAKE

MAY 2-4  
*Ages 18+*

## GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

*An opportunity for friends of Sky Lake to give generously in an effort to raise \$7,500 for the Annual Fund in one day.*

GIVE ONLINE  
[skylakecenter.org/donate](https://skylakecenter.org/donate)



## DONATIONS IN ACTION... CONTINUED

the Memorial Tryst in memory of Janet Lunger; and the weather stations that are in the process of being installed on both shores thanks to a bequest designated to increase understanding of nature.

Less visible, but important for keeping the new bedding in Underwood Lodge looking great, was the designated gift that covered the purchase of a new washer and an in-kind donation of a gently-used dryer.

## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you happen to be over the age of 70½ and are an owner of an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), did you know that the IRS allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 to charity (such as the Sky Lake Foundation) tax-free each year?

According to the IRS website, “[t]hese transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity before the end of the year. And, for those who are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

*As always, check with your licensed financial or tax advisor first.*

## THE WIND FARM, ONE YEAR ON

A little over a year ago the Bluestone Wind Farm was first powered up and in early 2024 began producing electricity for the power grid of the Eastern United States. Four of the 26 total turbines are located on Sky Lake land and despite being over 600 feet tall, campers and guests have quickly grown accustomed to them. It turns out that they are far quieter than anticipated and the bird and bat populations continue to thrive. The deer and bees especially love the clover and native grasses that were planted along the access roads and above the buried transmission lines. While there have been a few instances where the rotating blades were mistaken for a tree falling in the distance, BP rates quickly returned to normal. But perhaps the most exciting aspect of the turbines is that they are also producing revenue which will allow the “magic” of Sky Lake to live on for decades to come!

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