



“Do something.” Elijah Cummings

December 2020

Greetings from the [Steve Glidden Foundation \(SGF\)](#):

What a long, strange, and fraught year this has been. We at [SGF](#) have been hanging on as best as possible. We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe, being kind, and facing forward – toward what we all hope will be a brighter future.

We write to provide SGF’s annual end-of-summer camp scholarship update and to ask for your utmost generosity as we get ready for 2021.

SGF’s Mission: Even in the face of a devastating pandemic, unprecedented political instability and divisiveness, and economic uncertainty (to put it mildly), SGF’s overall goal remains unchanged since its founding in 2001: to enable children who are refugees, experiencing homelessness, or are exposed to violence or abuse to take part in enriching summer camp experiences – the kind so many of us simply take for granted.

2020 Camp Scholarship Wrap-Up: Most camps were not open at all this past summer for in-person programming. One of our trusted camps ([Winona Camps for Boys](#) in Bridgton, Maine) was allowed to operate, albeit for just a half-season. Winona is the beloved camp that Steve attended for his entire “camping” life – from age 7-11.

SGF worked closely with Winona staff and managed to send five children to what turned out to be a successful and thankfully infection-free camp experience. These five campers – all of whom had been sponsored previously by SGF, are from Portland Maine-area refugee families. SGF is so glad to have become an important and trusted partner to Winona and to the families whose children benefit so richly from the special place “on the shores of Moose Pond” that is called Winona.

Nearly Twenty Years of Scholarship Funding: This year’s camp scholarships have contributed to SGF providing, since its founding in 2001, a total of **\$1,262,302.89** in summer camp scholarships that benefited **683** children who attended a total of **2,687** weeks of camp. Not bad for an all-volunteer endeavor with no paid staff and no fixed office (thus, essentially no overhead). Steve’s short life has clearly transformed tragedy into opportunity.

What the Future May Hold: We fervently hope that the summer of 2021 will bring healing and stability on all fronts, so that all children will be able to return to their essential tasks of physical, social, and emotional growth and development. Children, their parents and caregivers, housing and domestic violence advocates, and camp staff all tell us that safe and enriching summer camp experiences are vital for children living with adversity -- even more so in the face of COVID-19 and its trail of health, economic, and social challenges.

We have already started to receive inquiries for summer 2021. To do the best we can to help the anticipated onslaught of requests, we need your help. **SGF needs to restore the funds on which we so desperately depend to be in a position to offer scholarships to as many deserving children as possible.**

Why Donate to SGF? People tell us they support SGF for three reasons:

1. **Because of what we do:** SGF provides vital summer camp scholarships for children who have experienced homelessness, who are refugees, or who have been exposed to child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, or other trauma. **SGF funding is the only way most of these kids can go to camp;**
2. **Because of how we do it:** SGF continues to operate as a small, responsive, flexible, and all-volunteer foundation that is, honest, transparent, and that helps children directly while supporting their caregivers and the communities in which they live; and
3. **Because they wish to keep Steve’s memory alive** by honoring and supporting his values.

As you know, we communicate primarily (and also infrequently) by email in order to respect your time, conserve donor dollars, and save trees. We don’t send out repeated emails or costly postal mailings, nor do we make phone calls that interrupt your privacy. **This email is our only formal fundraising appeal** and will not be repeated until this time next year. For all these reasons, **we ask only that you do your best to respond as generously as you can.**

In addition to our end-of-year appeal for funds, SGF welcomes donations made in celebration or honor of a person or event, contributions made in remembrance of those who have passed on, gifts of appreciated stock, and bequests. Donations are acknowledged both on the SGF website and by postal or electronic means to the honoree or bereaved family (as well as to the donor).

SGF also encourages supporters who choose to purchase items on Amazon.com to go through [SGF’s “Amazon Smile” link](#) to select the Steve Glidden Foundation as the beneficiary charity. Instructions and a direct link can also be found on the [SGF home page](#). To date, SGF has raised **\$1,672.49** through the Amazon Smile program. That amount alone represents a full summer of camp for a deserving child, and then some! THANK YOU!

So, as a tumultuous and all-too-often tragic year winds down, SGF humbly and candidly asks for your generous support. With your help, and only with your help, we can help transform the lives of real children and real families in tangible and meaningful ways. To the extent that you can include the Steve Glidden Foundation in your 2020 charitable giving, we would be most grateful.

How to Help:

To donate by check, please mail your contribution to:

Steve Glidden Foundation
996 Blaine Ave.
Blaine WA 98230

To donate by credit card, please select one of the options below:

1. **PayPal Giving Fund:** Those who have an existing PayPal account (or who sign up for one) can donate using the PayPal Giving Fund (which is its own 501(c)3 entity and thus handles all tax-related acknowledgements). Because there are no service or transaction fees to you (the donor) or to SGF (the recipient), **SGF receives 100% of the amount donated when donations are made through the PayPal Giving Fund.**
2. **Regular PayPal:** Donations, including monthly or recurring donations, can be made through PayPal.com. Since donations made this way go directly to SGF, the tax acknowledgement to the donor would come from SGF.

Gifts of appreciated securities and bequests can also be arranged. Please contact us directly at sgf@stevegliddenfoundation.org to organize this prior to the year-end tax deadline.

SGF is a registered 501(c)3 charity. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law and will be acknowledged accordingly.

Our Ongoing Pledge: As always, we will do everything we can to ensure that your donations are safeguarded prudently and used judiciously to benefit deserving children. We also thank you for making a difference in our own lives for the past 19 years, and for enabling SGF to help so many others.

We close our end-of-year appeal with two beautiful sayings by The Dalai Lama:

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries.”

“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.”

May the New Year bring good health and prosperity to all those you hold dear, and stability, reason, tolerance, kindness, and peace to the world.

In sincere gratitude,

SGF’s Trustees:

Elaine Alpert, Bill Marsh, Sarah Glidden, Dan Glidden, and (soon to turn 103) Lillian Alpert