



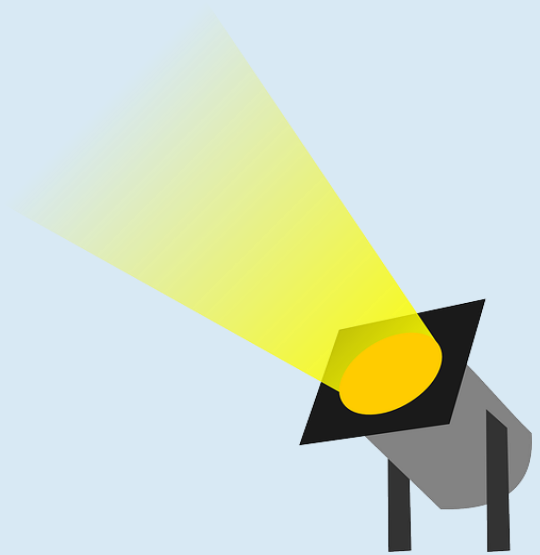
WHERE DIFFERENCES DO NOT MEAN DISABILITIES

HAND CAMP '23 THIS IS ME!

"THERE'S A PLACE FOR US,
FOR WE ARE GLORIOUS!"

MARCH 31 – APRIL 2, 2023
SALVATION ARMY KEYSTONE CAMP
6581 SE 9TH AVE, STARKE, FL 32091

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER!



CONGRATULATIONS, DR. PAUL AND RUTHIE DELL!



[LEGACY AWARDS DONOR HONOREES 2022](#) (click for tribute!)
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA



HELLO, HANDS TO LOVE FAMILY & FRIENDS!

I am Courtney Wampler, your new Executive Director. I am so grateful for the opportunity to give back to Hands to Love in this way. For those of you who don't know, my son is Trae. After his talent show appearance last year, he is kind of a big deal at Hand Camp! Haha! He was born with a rare condition called Thrombocytopenia Absent Radii Syndrome or TAR syndrome for short. His upper limb difference presents as both of his hands on either of his shoulders. We attended our first Hand Camp when Trae was 1 ½ years old (2014) and haven't missed a year since.

My involvement with Hands to Love has steadily increased since that first year. We have been family hosts to new camp families. A few years ago I began organizing H2L's participation in the Amazing Give Fundraiser, and now ...Here I am! My passion for Hands to Love comes from being able to attest to what the organization can do for a family that has a child with a limb difference. I want so many children and their families to be able to experience what we have. Therefore, I hope to continue to help grow Hands to Love as an organization that can withstand the test of time and always be here to give children with upper limb differences the chance to be welcomed into the Hands to Love family; learn to embrace their difference; celebrate every accomplishment; find, use, and develop innovative resources; and become empowered by their engagement with Hands to Love.

However, what excites me most about this new position is the ability to work with all of Hands to Love's family and friends, and especially the children and their families. I have served children and families in various ways throughout my life and this new adventure gives me yet another opportunity to do that in a community that is near and dear to my heart. It brings me so much joy to be able to watch children grow and develop into unique individuals while partnering with and supporting their parents during that season. For the first time, I can truly say that my job reflects my passions and God-given calling, and I can't wait to start work every morning!



Feel free to contact me at courtney@handstolove.org

OUR MISSION IS TO PARTNER WITH FAMILIES TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH UPPER LIMB DIFFERENCES THROUGH FUN, SUCCESS-ORIENTED EXPERIENCES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

OUR VISION IS TO DEVELOP STRONG, CONFIDENT PEOPLE WHO LEAD IN THE WORLD!



IN MY OWN WORDS by Betsy Dunham

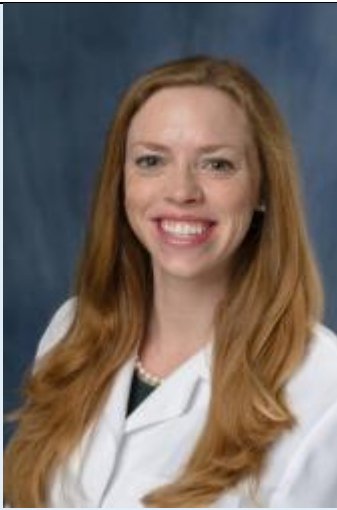
When our daughter Natalia was born with two fingers on her left hand we figured, "this is God's will; we'll be just fine." We assumed the love and support of our family would be enough, and it was, until we walked into our first Hand Camp. The old saying, "You don't know what you don't know," hit us hard as we saw children, babies, adults, and teenagers who had hands and arms that looked like Natalia's hand! We met people from EVERYWHERE and we had flown from Vermont to be there, too! We met people with all kinds of limb differences, and they could do EVERYTHING! We watched Natalia beam as she met our Family Pal and started to learn all about the adventures that awaited her over the next two days.

Natalia was six years old when we experienced the magic of our first Hand Camp. While she had the best time meeting new friends, learning archery, climbing the courses, meeting the Robotics Team and learning all about the cool stuff they do, and on and on... It was my husband, Chris, and I who learned and experienced the most.

During our parent sessions we learned about advocating for our daughter's education in a way that had never occurred to us. We learned how other parents handled their children's anxiety surrounding their differences. But, most of all, we learned the power of bringing together all of these amazing, inspiring people so that one thing is perfectly clear: difference does not equal disability!

We missed Camp the next two years during COVID and were ecstatic to return to Gainesville last spring for Camp. Natalia had been struggling with anxiety in school and was hiding her hand under hoodies. (We had since moved to Florida after our last Hand Camp visit!) She was now nine years old, and we were working with counselors at her school, her teachers, and we were "throwing the book" at her struggles with little progress.

Then, we went to Camp. Our Family Pal, Olivia, took to Natalia immediately and made her feel like the only person at camp! They played endless games of Gaga Ball, did all the arts and crafts, sat in the front row at the talent show, and Olivia was Natalia's loudest cheerleader at every event at camp! She was also amazing with Natalia's precocious little sister, Cece - which was no small feat! Natalia made a great friend in the sibling of a camper, who joined in on the fun with Natalia and Olivia. When we returned from camp, Natalia flourished in school and in soccer. Her teachers and counselors saw a leap in her confidence. Natalia even asked for a huge box to put her hoodies in. **Our family has been so blessed to be a part of the magic that is Hand Camp. We cannot wait to attend this year!**



WHY I GIVE...

I give to help foster the little moments that have a big impact throughout Hand Camp. Watching a camper or sibling offer words of encouragement to a friend frustrated with a camp activity, hearing a parent share advice on how to optimize school resources for their child, and seeing the looks of joy and excitement when a camper gets to try something new--these are the moments that make Hand Camp so special.

Personally, as a surgeon, it's often tempting to get lost focusing on the technical and medical components of patient care. My Hand Camp experience has given me a better understanding and appreciation for the components of care beyond the clinic and operating room. I feel so lucky to be able to tell my patients about **Hands to Love** and what a great organization it is.

DR. ELLEN SATTESON

Assistant Professor and Plastic Surgeon
University of Florida Department of Surgery
Hand Camp Health and Safety

HANDS TO LOVE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

We strive to provide all Hands to Love events and activities at the lowest possible cost to our families. We are able to provide low-cost services to these special families thanks to the charitable support of our donors.



Hands to Love relies on the donations of generous supporters like you. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of the families we serve through your time, talent, and treasure!



BAG DESIGN CONTEST FOR HAND CAMP 2023

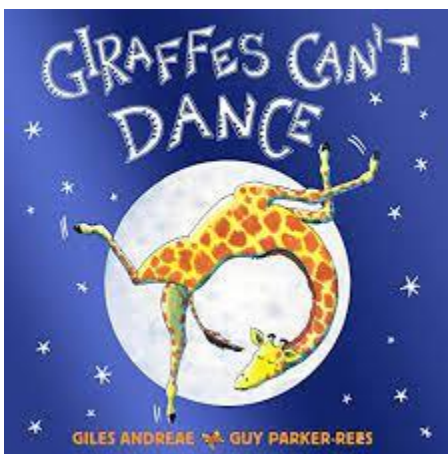
CHALLENGE: Create a graphic design based on our theme song, "This is Me" from the musical The Greatest Showman to be printed on our Hand Camp '23 bag.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

1. Click this link to find the lyrics-included version of the music video for This Is Me.
2. Create a graphic design that illustrates the theme song's message as it relates to Hand Camp. Your final design should be made with black marker on white paper. Remember that simpler graphic designs tend to print more clearly,
3. Please save your hard (paper) copy of the design, as it will be needed for printing if your design is chosen as the winner.
4. Send in a pdf or picture of your design with your first and last name, age, and contact information to info@handstolove.org by December 9th, 2022.

PRIZE: Your graphic design with your name will be featured on the Hand Camp '23 bag AND you will receive your designer bag full of Hands to Love goodies!

A GREAT READ



This delightful book by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees focuses on abilities: the abilities one has, the abilities one lacks, and how one discovers abilities in new ways.

Gerald is a tall, awkward giraffe who is best at eating leaves from tall trees. He dreams of being able to dance. At the Jungle Dance, other animals make fun of Gerald's dancing, which leads to Gerald feeling useless. A cricket encourages Gerald to try dancing to a different song. Gerald, although initially skeptical, finds his song and his excellent dance moves with a different tune.