



WHERE DIFFERENCES DO NOT MEAN DISABILITIES

“THERE’S A PLACE FOR US, FOR WE ARE GLORIOUS!”

MARCH 31- APRIL 2, 2023

SALVATION ARMY
KEYSTONE CAMP
STARKE, FL

THIS IS ME!

HAND CAMP 2023



H2L Talent Showcase Update:

Space is limited to 15 acts
mark your calendars

**Sign Up Genius Goes Live
February 18th @ 5pm EST**

(all acts have 3 minute time limit)

HAND CAMP '23 STATS:



15 HAPPY CAMPERS (6 MONTHS-3 YEARS)

20 FIREFLY EXPLORERS (PRE-K & KGN)
58 FIREFLIES (1ST - 5TH GRADE)



22 CAMPFIRE CREW (6TH - 8TH GRADE)

28 PATHFINDERS (9TH - 12TH GRADE)



26 NEW FAMILIES
74 TOTAL FAMILIES
77 CHILDREN WITH UPPER LIMB DIFFERENCES
17 STATES REPRESENTED

WHO ARE THE FIREFLY EXPLORERS?



The Firefly Explorers are a sub-group of the Fireflies. After receiving feedback from Hand Camp '22, we learned that many of our younger Fireflies needed a modified schedule that allowed for more breaks and a bit of rest time. With that in mind, H2L created this new group for Pre-K and Kindergarten campers. Firefly Explorers will have adapted activities such as Makerspaces, Nature Walks, and an Obstacle Course, as well as shorter rotations.

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!



GRiP (Generational Relief in Prosthetics) is a student organization, made up of University of Florida students, that strives to make a difference in the lives of others. We make 3D-printed assistive devices, as well as adaptive controllers and toys, for recipients all over the nation free of charge and completely custom-made. We also conduct research and educate the local community on STEM through outreach activities.

If you would like to learn more about GRiP, please visit our [GRiP Website](#).

To place an order, email gripfamilyuf@gmail.com

AND

fill out this form:
[GRiP Order Form](#)

GRiP will be at Hand Camp all day Saturday!
Please be sure to stop by!

Sincerely,
Marion Hegstrom, GRiP President
Kathryn Kalouf, GRiP Vice-President

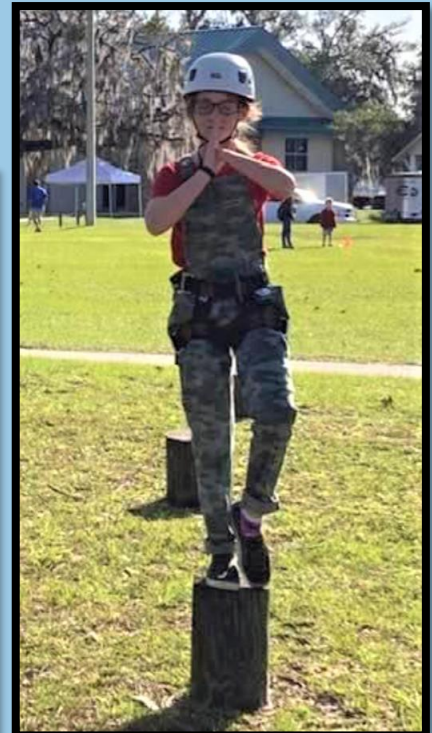
If you are interested in submitting an idea or article for an upcoming H2L newsletter, please contact us at amy@handstolove.org

GRACE AND AMY MCCLELLAND, NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO NALIA BEAM, OUR HAND CAMP BAG DESIGN WINNER!



Nalia at Hand Camp



Nalia has beautifully captured our Camp Theme! Thank you, Nalia, for sharing your artistic gifts with our H2L Family!

Thank you for all camp bag submissions! You may well see your work at Hand Camp this year!

OUR H2L
UNSUNG HERO
 KEVIN GRIFFIN



Insurance agent by day, and caterer on the side, Kevin Griffin has been an amazing friend of Hands to Love for many, many years with his Saturday BBQ dinner. Kevin shared his journey to cooking as a ministry by recalling a time when he and his wife, April, found their cupboards almost completely bare. With two young sons and themselves to feed but having only a few cans of beans and fish on hand, Kevin was shocked to find two bags full of groceries outside of his door that day. Kevin has never learned who left the groceries and says it was a “God Thing” that has inspired him to feed others.

“Everything we cook is mission-oriented,” he says as he shares that most of their catering is for churches and non-profit groups where his catering company charges no more than the cost of preparing the food. Kevin mentions, “Hands to Love is always first on my calendar.”

Kevin used to cook for his three sons’ schools as a thank you to the staff and teachers. He shared that the custodians and kitchen staff were always invited to eat first, a testament to the value he places on each and every person. Once an Eagle Scout himself, Kevin works with scouts at camp and invites them to earn service hours by being on the catering crew alongside himself and his sons. He also coaches a high school baseball team and volunteers his time to read with 5th grade students.

When asked what was the neatest part about cooking for H2L, Kevin replied, “All those we are serving in a physical way are part of Hands to Love. God made each one of us special as we are. We are so blessed.”

This year, Kevin’s Griffin Catering will be providing **ALL** of our meals at Hand Camp! We are blessed by and grateful to Kevin for his devotion to Hands to Love and, of course, for his amazing BBQ!

I have been a decorative artist and restoration craftsman for most of my adult life. About 15 years ago I was fortunate to be hired by Dr. Paul Dell and his wife, Ruthie, to work on a project at their home. That led to other projects, and this working relationship continues to this day.

As often happens in a positive work environment, the Dells and I got to know one another. I really appreciated their interest in art and also their passion for the work they do. So, naturally, I came to know about Hands to Love. It was hard not to notice the positive energy as the physical effects of Hand Camp emerged from various closets and began to be neatly stacked around the Dell's hallway and garage floor.

My parents had volunteered their time to several organizations as they neared retirement, and I always knew that I would want to as well. So, once Ruthie had explained the organization and the logistics of planning this special weekend, I knew that I had found an avenue in which I could help. I became the first ever "roadie" for Hands to Love about 10 years ago.

The first couple of years I would shuffle all of the necessary items out to the camp in my work van, sometimes making two trips. As the popularity of the camp increased, so did the "luggage," and it was determined that an enclosed 14' trailer would increase the efficiency of transporting the physical effects of H2L to and from camp. I outfitted the trailer interior with shelves to increase capacity and officially became Captain of the "Good Ship Hands to Love." This trailer also provides a convenient place to store items for the rest of the year.

I enjoy having this behind-the-scenes role for Hand Camp. I generally drop off the trailer on Friday and pick it back up on Sunday. Seeing all of the exuberant and happy smiles makes me happy. The love is real and abundant at these memorable weekend events.

WHY I GIVE

BY TOM THOMAS



Hands to Love is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We strive to provide all H2L events and activities at the lowest possible cost to our families. We rely on the donations of generous supporters like you in providing services to upper limb different youth and their families. Thank you for helping us make a difference!



SCAN HERE TO GIVE

MR. JOHN HOSMAN

H2L BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN



John is a Financial Advisor who lives in Pensacola, FL with his wife (Kindra), their daughter (Kylah), twin sons (Jordan and Jansen) and their foster sons (Eli and Allen).

John was introduced to Hands to Love by Eric and Sean Branch. John and his family have been attending camp since Jansen, who has a limb difference, was six or seven years old. They have not missed a year, and John remarks that it is the most important event that Jansen has each year. John's family appreciates how Hand Camp focuses primarily on Jansen just as Jansen has focused his support on his siblings in their sports endeavors.

John is motivated to work with Hands to Love because of the impact the organization makes on campers and families. John remarked, "I see the impact that Hands to Love has had on Jansen, and I want to give back and help make it possible for other campers and their families to be impacted the way that Jansen and our family have been impacted and blessed by Hands to Love!"

MEET OUR H2L BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

DR. SEAN BRANCH

H2L BOARD OF DIRECTORS VICE CHAIRMAN

Sean was born with an upper limb difference affecting his right arm and hand. He has volunteered at Hand Camp since 2007 and remarks that it is one of his favorite weekends of the year. He says, "There is nothing like witnessing the transformation that occurs with campers. Seeing their confidence grow, individual obstacles overcome, and the ah-ha moment they realize their dreams are attainable is just part of the magic of Hand Camp."

Sean lives in Gulf Breeze, FL with his wife, Kellie, their son, Benny (age 5), and their daughter, Joie (age 2). Professionally, Sean is a dermatologist.

