



WHERE DIFFERENCE DOES NOT EQUAL DISABILITY

MAKING CONNECTIONS BECOMING FRIENDS



Since initially meeting at Hand Camp last Spring, these friends have been messaging and using FaceTime to connect. Ellie, who was born in Chicago, now lives in Charleston. Prudence lives in Michigan.

This was Ellie's first Hand Camp and, in addition to being an inspiring and uplifting weekend, her family hoped that she could form a real connection with a friend there. That's exactly what happened!

Their Chicago Reunion was a chance to keep that important connection growing. Ellie was born in Chicago, so a trip to her hometown and a chance to explore the city was perfect for a Girls' Trip! They met during the first week of August, and they had the best time visiting the Lincoln Park Zoo, shopping on the Magnificent Mile, and visiting the Color Factory.

Pru remarked, "It was cool to meet up with my friend, Ellie from Hand Camp, and explore a new city together. It was like we picked right back up from camp."

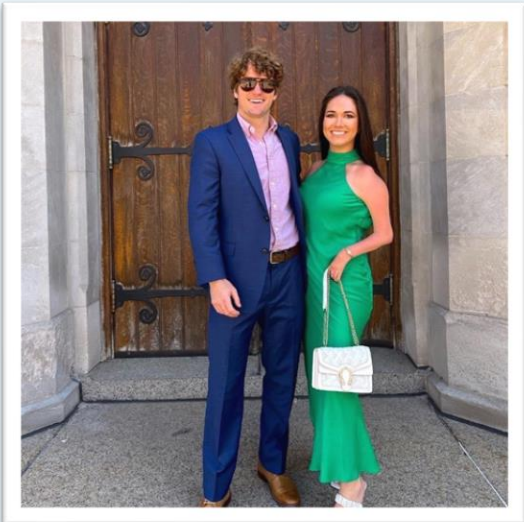


They are already counting down to Hand Camp 2024!

HANDS TO LOVE'S
BOUTIQUE
GRAND OPENING



Click above to open the online boutique!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

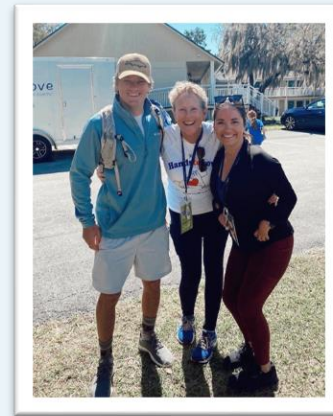
JAIDE CHILDS

Jaide is 25 years old and lives in Gainesville, FL with her boyfriend, Clay, and their two dogs and two cats.

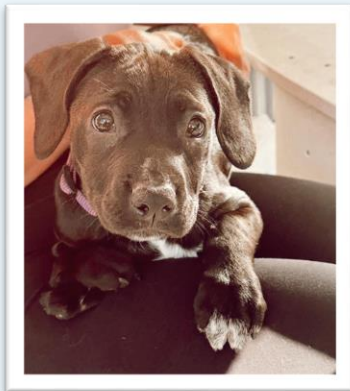
She was born with a condition called Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita (AMC), which is a condition that deals with stiffness of the joints and muscle weakness throughout the body.

Jaide's first year as a Hand Camper was in 2002. Camp impacted her life in so many ways. "Throughout these years," Jaide recalls, "I have met so many beautiful people through Hand Camp - the campers, parents, volunteers, all of the OTs - that come to help every year, and so many more people."

Jaide explained that attending the camp at such a young age allowed her to share her achievements and adventures with everyone along the way. She says Hand Camp is part of her family. Without Hand Camp, Jaide feels she wouldn't have the confidence in herself that she now enjoys, both privately and publicly. She remarked, "I am very grateful and blessed to have this support from my friends and family; without them, none of this would have been possible. These people have pushed me to be the best I can be."



Jaide is an accomplished swimmer. She had what she describes as the greatest privilege at age 12 when she was named to the PanAm Swim Team for the Guadalajara, Mexico game. At age 13, she was named to the 2012 USA Paralympic Swim Team. After that, Jaide took a step back from swimming to focus on school until recently. She shared, "I will give it one last run...or I should say swim?" as she currently has her eyes set on the 2028 Paralympic Games which will be held in Los Angeles that summer.



Now getting ready to graduate with her Bachelors in Health Science, Jaide is applying to graduate programs as she aims for her Master's degree in Genetics. Her goal is to pursue a career in Genetic Counseling.

Jaide and Clay recently adopted their puppy, Opal. She was also born with a limb difference called *ectrodactyly* in her front left paw.

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BECKY MALLON

Becky was born in Nicaragua and raised in Miami, FL. She is married to Michael Mallon, and they have two daughters, Kaitlyn (15) and Abigail (13). They also have two dogs, Carly and Trident. Trident is a rescue born with three paws; he was born without his front left paw.



Becky is an Insurance Agent. She and her family involved in Hands to Love as their daughter, Abigail, has a limb difference called *symbrachydactyly* of her left hand.

Becky remarks, “Since our first Hand Camp, I fell in love with Hands to Love and the visible labor of love it takes to make camp happen. Throughout the years, I came to know some incredible mom volunteers who inspired me to get more involved. I’m thankful to have followed in their footsteps to continue the beautiful labor of love that is Hands to Love.”

Becky has served different roles in her capacity as H2L Board Member and volunteer. She has been a strong advocate and voice in Parent Programming. Becky, Mike, and their family also have become fundraisers who both raise awareness and financial support for the mission of H2L.



Becky shares, “Hands to Love has given us a family that we never knew possible. I want every family of a child with a limb difference to experience Hand Camp.”

AMY MCCLELLAND

Since I’m the newsletter editor, I’ll use first person here!

I was born in Arizona, and spent my childhood in Arizona, Michigan, California, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. My husband, Tom, and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary in October. We are parents to five: Sean (25), a film editor; Patrick (22), an Army National Guard Military Police Officer completing his BS degree in Criminal Justice; his twin, Grace, who is pursuing her doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy; Danny (21), a Purdue Polytech Cybersecurity student, and Aidan (19) a Purdue Polytech Forensics student.



I’m a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Specialist for Kindergarten through Fourth Grade students in Westfield, IN. I also serve as the High Ability Coach, Robotics Team Coach, and School Garden Manager.

Our McClelland Family became involved with Hands to Love when our daughter, Grace, shared her story about growing up with *symbrachydactyly*, The Gift of Grace, with the H2L community more than a dozen years ago.

We were immediately hooked on the mission and vision of H2L and brought Grace’s four brothers to the various Hand Camps to expand their world views.

I have worked with many facets of H2L as a parent, volunteer, and board member. I volunteer because I believe every contribution matters to children with limb differences and their families. My roles have included theme integration, STEM activities, Parent Programming, and the evolution of H2L groups and programs. I am currently the H2L newsletter editor.

The greatest joy for me has been seeing Grace move from shy camper to Legacy and leader. I revel in this transition for all campers as they find their beauty and share it with the world. This is my **WHY**.

OUR HAND CAMP THEMES

WHAT WILL THIS NEXT YEAR BRING?

2023: This is Me
 2022: Whatever It Takes
 2021: Virtual Camp - Whatever It Takes
 2020: Virtual Camp - Back to Our Future
 2019: Find Your Voice
 2018: Stellar Hands
 2017: Defy Gravity
 2016: You're One in a Minion
 2015: The Best of Hands to Love... the Adventure Continues
 2014: Keep Calm and Rock On
 2013: On a Noble Quest to Inspire
 2012: Lucky to be me, Lucky to know you, and Lucky to Tri New Things
 2011: i-Can
 2010: Transform. Hand Camp 10th Anniversary
 2009: H2L...Marvel at Us
 2008: We're All in this Together, Hand in Hand, Hands to Love Goes Green!
 2007: We Are the Champions
 2006: March Forth Together and Discover the Possibilities
 2005: We Are Family
 2004: Find your Treasure
 2003: Get Connected: Families, Friends, Hearts and Hands
 2002: Hands to Love
 2001: Helping Hands Overcome



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!

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 TO GIVE!

HAND CAMP H.E.R.O.E.S.



HEART
EMPOWER
RESILIENT
OPTIMISTIC
EMBRACE
SELFLESS

Our HEROES have been identified and nominated by their fellow campers, or other members of the Hands to Love community for the work they are doing to further the mission and vision of the H2L organization. If you know someone who embodies these traits, we invite you to nominate them! Our HEROES committee reviews each submission to ensure the nominee meets the criteria. To nominate someone, click [here](#).