




The Tulgey Wood

2019 Impact Report

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**Message
from our
leadership:
Jan Campbell**



I think maybe there's nowhere else in the world that 35 people, with wide-ranging abilities and ages, might enjoy time with each other as much as we do at the Tulgey Wood. I see that that joy in friendship, voiced and not, woven throughout our days: the whole group sitting after dinner on our porch until it's pitch dark and we're chilled but we're still telling stories and jokes and no one wants to end the magic, and at the beach, when we're frolicking in the waves or lying together on towels until the last minute when we need to leave because we have something else fun to go to. I see it when we're dashing across the lawn, playing running charades and cracking up, and when no one wants a dance party to end. Amazingly, friendship far outweighed comfort even when we were drenched to the skin from a torrential rainstorm, but still, every one of our voices filled the room with enthusiastic and beautiful music at our sing-along in Siasconset.

In addition to the large group activities and our many chances to be together and enjoy each other as a whole group, Tulgey Wood is also just the right size to make it easy for small groups to go on biking or boating or beach or downtown outings, which also support the kinds of friendships and shared experiences that we all need to feel like we're loved and part of a community.

Most of the people who come together at the Tulgey Wood have few opportunities to spend time in such beautiful settings and with such an inclusive group of friends. I am honored to be a part of this group and to get to experience and observe the caring, the laughter, the hard work and the love that makes Tulgey Wood the best time of the whole year.

**Message
from our
leadership:
Rachel
Campbell**

As a participant for over 10 years and a recent co-director of Tulgey Wood's summer retreat, I have experienced from multiple perspectives the joy of being part of this community. All participants (with and without disabilities) challenge themselves to do things that are outside of their usual routine; saying a line in our musical, providing care for another person, swimming in the ocean, singing a solo, making lunch or doing dishes for 40+ people. No one pays or gets paid to attend Tulgey Wood; we are all there because we LOVE being part of this community.

My favorite part of every summer is watching people develop new connections and deepen lifelong friendships. Before the start of the summer, we spend time considering room pairings; who will stay together and support each other. We puzzle through who will mesh well with each other, who might benefit from living with a particular person, who will empower their friend to do their best. Our friendships transcend traditional understandings of who is giving and receiving support. Everyone is responsible for supporting each other's participation in the group. We had a number of new people join us this summer, and it was a joy to watch new friendships form, witness people start to learn and celebrate each other. I continue to be humbled by the deep connections formed among my friends with and without disabilities, reminding me that building community is the most empowering, sustainable, joyful thing that I could be doing with my summers.

As I look forward to Tulgey 2020, I am thrilled to continue to be part of creating new opportunities for our community to share this magic. We will be running our first ever Spring Weekend retreats in April and May, as well as our summer retreat in August, expanding on our mission to cultivate and support lifelong friendships. I am so grateful for all of the people who enable Tulgey Wood to gather every year, and I cannot wait to keep celebrating this incredible community! Thank you for supporting connection, joy and community for so many people.



**Message
from our
leadership:
Mike Hipson**



I often ask myself, What is the point of Tulgey Wood? Why do we do this retreat?

I usually land thinking about the meaning of community and justice. Tulgey Wood exists to foster relationships that make the world a better place. Relationships matter. They affect how we think about the world and make decisions about our lives. When we connect to people different from ourselves, we understand the world better. Friendships at Tulgey Wood enable all participants to engage with experiences and perspectives that are different from their own. In a perfect world, everyone would have such a diversity of friendships that we could learn from each other how to build a just society.

Well Tulgey Wood isn't that! We are not a perfectly diverse utopia. But by creating a space for people with and without disabilities to create friendships, we get a tiny bit of it. We learn about each other, we learn about ourselves, and we learn about the world. On a personal note, I love this community, because we adventure and have fun together. I'm committed to this community, because we practice justice by making friendships based on trust, care, and interdependency.

"What does Tulgey Wood mean to you?"

"I especially love Tulgey Wood because everyone in the Tulgey Wood community treats everyone as equals and with love and respect. I wish all other disability organizations were just like Tulgey Wood in that regard. Tulgey Wood truly cares about its members and it's the most fun I have all year! I love everything about Tulgey Wood. I really enjoy putting on our own play, going to the Boston Pops concert and going on boat rides."

- Meg Timbie, Tulgey Wood community member



Highlights from the year:

August 9, 2019- Arrival Day

On Friday, most of the group met in Hyannis and took the ferry to Nantucket. When we got to the house, roommates and suitemates spent a little time unpacking and chatting and then we played Running Charades. Charades is fun but challenging because you have to act out the clues without saying any words. Everyone gave it their best, and Luke was the most enthusiastic and committed player. He always has a great outlook on life and has the most contagious and cheerful smile.



After a blessing by Peter and a very delicious meal cooked by Ellen's aunt, Kathleen, we told each other stories and met all the new people. Jokes by Peanut and Grace were interspersed with quite a few funny stories of uncomfortable digestive experiences and a Greek myth about the first bee, amongst others. We kicked off Tulgey Wood with an epic dance party in our living room, and danced the night away!

A huge thank you to the Steamship Authority and HyLine Cruises, who donate all our ferry tickets and helps us get to the island!
Without them, hosting Tulgey Wood on Nantucket would be much more challenging!

Highlights from the year:

August 10, 2019- Beach & Boston Pops

Saturday dawned bright, warm and sunny and we took full advantage of a chance to go to the Washing Pond - or Water Tower - beach. It's an incredibly beautiful spot with a 2000 ft tall sand dune (okay, that's a slight exaggeration!) to climb up and over before you reach the beach. By the time we had reached the beach and were recovering and applying sunscreen, only Thomas still had the energy to unload all the towels and water and everything else we still needed from the vans. There was a really nice sandbar a ways out to sea, and while most of the group frolicked and splashed and swam, the rest of the group enjoyed the sound of the waves and the feel of the increasingly strong breeze until it was time to head back for a late "dunch" — or dinner for lunch.

Thank you to the Nantucket Cottage Hospital and all the wonderful people we met while at the "Pops" on Saturday evening. We had to arrive several hours early to secure our spots, but being together is what we love most, so it was no problem to pass the time singing, telling stories, chatting and watching the crowds walk in with coolers and beach chairs. We loved the concert, we loved dancing and singing, and we loved the fireworks. A great, and late, night!



Sam even ran into Bethany Frankel, Reality TV Star, and founder of Skinny Girl Margarita mix!

Highlights from the year:

August 13, 2019- Finding meaning



We began the day with another yoga class, this time taught by Sally, for which we are again so grateful! It was cloudy all morning, which was perfect for a pottery class, a painting class and a small group play practice. But first we had music class. If you've never come to one of our music classes, we want to try to give you a glimpse. The whole group sat in a circle around Monik at the piano. There were some big sheets of paper with the words to the song we were learning today, which was "Brave" by Sarah Bareilles. Monik gave us one or two lines at a time and we echoed them back to her until we were fairly comfortable with the first verse and the chorus. Then, anyone who wanted to tried singing solos. Anthony, Jack, Rebecca, Peanut, Peter, Sam, Gabriella and Olivia all did a great job as soloists, and after they had sung the song so many times, we were even more familiar with it. Everyone stayed really focused and worked really hard throughout the class.

Ritch is a teacher on Nantucket who met us last year and offered to come teach pottery and maybe other crafts as well. Today in pottery, his idea was to make name placques based on traditional quarter-boards. Some people used the clay in other ways, and that was fine, too.

In art class, Reed suggested we paint whatever Tulgey Wood means to us. Everyone interpreted that in different ways, and everyone was really into it!



Highlights from the year:

August 17, 2019- Tulgey Wood Play

Play day!!! When we went to bed on Friday night, the play didn't have an ending yet. The creative process spanned from about Tuesday to Saturday, but by the time the lights went up, we had a play that we were proud to share.

"Meaner Girls" was basically about a new girl named Cady trying to fit in as a transfer student to a high school with well established cliques: jocks, plastics, nerds and goths. Meg played Cady and was glad that, unlike in the movie "Mean Girls," she didn't end up actually being mean.

The play was phenomenal and everybody did a great job! Sarah, who we knew from many productions at the Theatre Workshop, including Mama Mia, stepped into a cameo role as the mother of the "plastics" and did a terrific job! We were so happy to see the actors from Grease and many, many, many other friends in the audience.

After the play, a small group headed home to take a nap, and the rest of us went to the lighthouse beach. It was glorious to swim and watch the boats go by. We went back for an amazing dinner by Maggie and celebrated how well the play had turned out.



Highlights from the year:

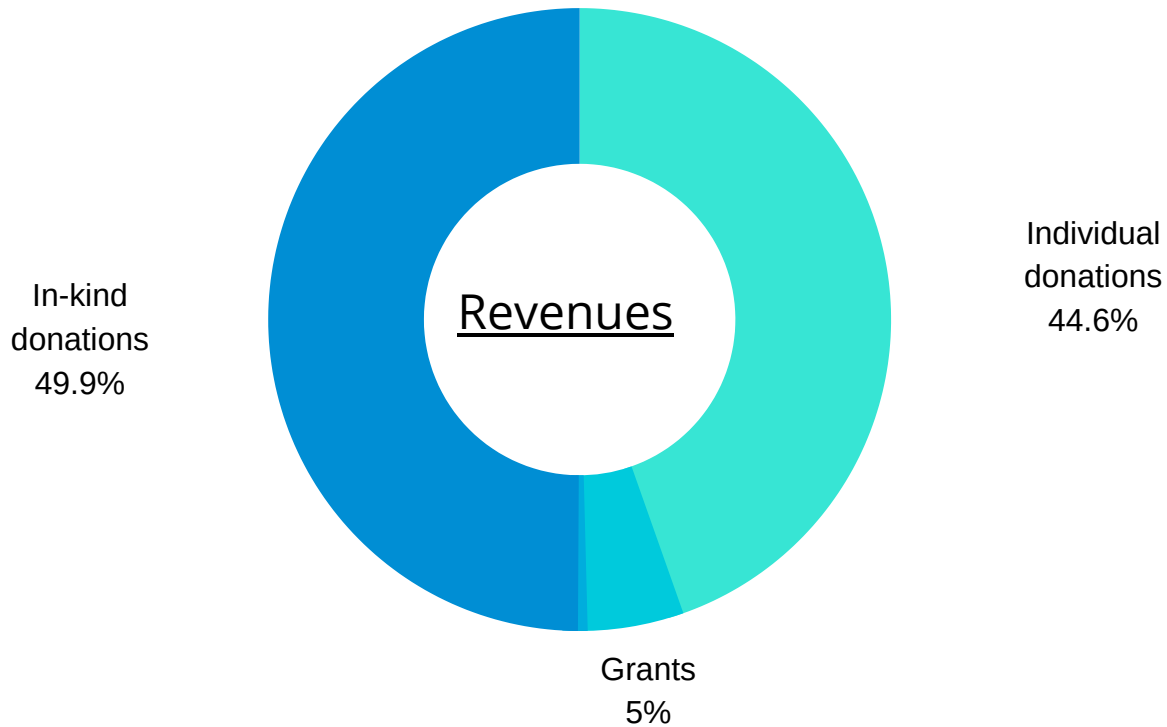
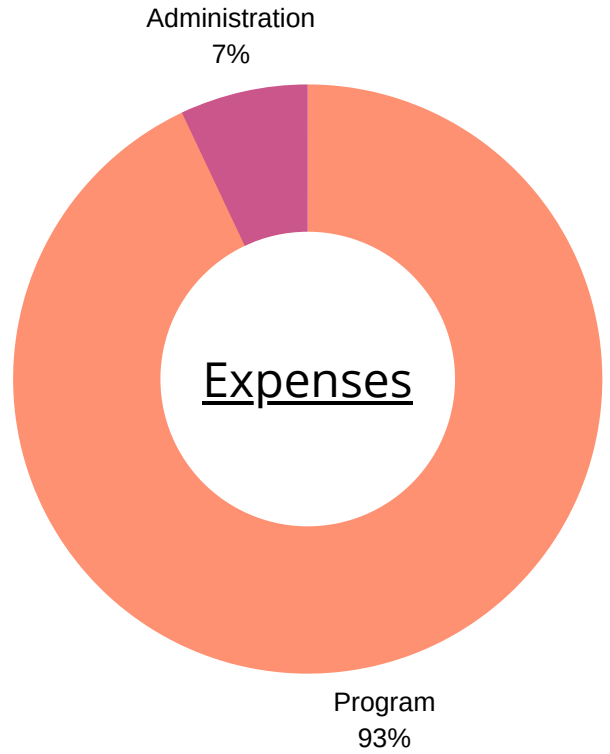
August 18, 2019- Cisco Brewery



We ended our retreat by going out in a bang! Everyone headed over to Cisco Brewery for an afternoon of food, dancing, and great beer for those over 21. Everyone had a great time, with live music, and plenty of new people to dance with. It was the perfect final party to end our summer on!



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