

EAGLE ISLAND CAMP Q'S and A'S

The Friends of Eagle Island have raised and contributed large sums of money. How has that money been used?

According to our understanding of the legacy council records, approximately \$110K has been raised over the last 10 years for Eagle Island. Much of this was donated in 2006 and 2007 and was directed to the Ruth E. Hardy Memorial Fund to restore the Boat House. Additional funds were designated to the Friends of Eagle Island (FOEI) and the HEC capital campaign.

We have a fiduciary responsibility to use the funds as the donor has designated. Each donation that comes in with such a designation is marked as "restricted" and used for the purpose designated.

Since October 1, 2008, the beginning of the new Council, \$8,337 has been donated toward Eagle Island and was requested to be designated to the "Friends of Eagle Island".

I specifically earmarked my donation to camperships at Eagle Island. What will happen to that money?

Again, all donations received with a specific designation are marked as such and are restricted in their use to the purpose designated. With the suspension of camp this season, these funds will be held in their restricted status.

When the end of year appeal envelope was sent, there was no place for me to designate my donation for Eagle Island. I understand there is a new Council rule about this.

In the past, it was the practice of one of the former legacy councils to have a specially designated section on its donor envelope for Eagle Island. In order to put into practice our message of a unified council which would provide the Council with its greatest flexibility in utilizing donations where they were most needed, GSHNJ chose to have our first annual appeal support one united council.

The end of year appeal was a general Council appeal and we did not specifically list properties or programs for designation (e.g., Eagle Island, Camp Hoover, The OVAL, Camp DeWitt, Girl Scouting Beyond Bars, Bound Brook After School program, etc.). If a donor specified a particular camp or program, we honored that request and restricted the donation. At no point did we discourage or reject designated contributions.

There will be times when appeals will be directed to a supporter's specific area of interest, but that was not the intent of the appeal in December. We appreciate all donations. We do have more flexibility to serve many more girls across our Council with more programming when we receive unrestricted gifts.

We asked Council to partner with us to raise money for Eagle Island, but we don't feel we received the support we desired.

The newly merged Council now serves over 26,000 girls out of a potential 217,000 girls across seven counties. The Council needs to balance all of its fundraising efforts across all of its leadership programs (including our camps). The Council partnered this winter with alumnae who were planning the Friends of Eagle Island's Brookline, MA reunion. We helped prepare and the printed and provided the postage for 400 invitations. We appreciated the donations that came in as a result of that reunion and restricted the funds accordingly if asked to do so.

The alumnae have offered both financial and staffing assistance. Why hasn't Council taken us up on our offers?

The situation at Eagle Island is a complex one as there is not just one thing that can be solved to make the camp the success it can and should be in the summer. Staffing is an operational decision that is made on the basis of the skills needed to match the program's needs. These skills may be different than those needed in the past due to a variety of factors (the type of program offered, the length of the camp season, the desired ratio of domestic to international staff, etc.).

In terms of financial support, the alumnae have always been generous with their time and donations. While these gifts of time and treasure are very much appreciated, at this moment, we don't know exactly what is most needed to support program on the Island.

The Council will be reaching out to the alumnae once formal maintenance and program plans are in place with ways in which you can assist. We want to ensure we are utilizing the alumnae's and membership's time, talent and treasure in the most efficient and productive way.