

## DAILY NORTH SHORE

### 'Camp Night' Lifts Young Lives

by Bill McLean



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The Winnetka resident and mother of two daughters read them while going through some thank-you notes from young campers. The children had attended a House In The Wood camp in Delavan, Wisconsin, for many a life-altering experience made possible by the North Shore Board of the Northwestern Settlement.

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The words also moved Carfagnini.

"I got misty-eyed when I read his note," Carfagnini, volunteer maven, recalls. "He wrote, 'When I'm at home I wear shoes and lace them tight so I can run fast if I need to. At camp, I go barefoot.'"

"That says it all," she adds. "The kids, many of them are afraid to be outside at home, and they arrive at camp with fear. Some of them are angry. It doesn't take them long to consider the camp their get-away, a safe place to learn and have fun."

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Carfagnini and Wilmette resident Ann Adams are co-chairs of “Camp Night”, formerly known as “Glitter Ball”, the annual fundraiser for House In The Wood. This year’s event is set for Oct. 29, at the Modern Wing of The Art Institute of Chicago. The goal is to raise \$500,000, with most of the money earmarked for 400 camp scholarships.

The night should be a spectacular one. Tony Mantuano, chef of four-star Spiaggia, will provide his signature cuisine at Terzo Piano, located on the third level of the Modern Wing. There will be a silent auction, a live auction and the inaugural presentation of the House In The Wood Hall of Fame Award to Kathleen and Michael Elliott, a pair of generous supporters for more than 20 years.

**Among the live auction items: an Iwamanzi African Safari for four; a one-hour shoot-around with Chicago Bulls power forward Taj Gibson for 10 children at the Bulls’ practice facility, The Advocate Center in Chicago; and a five-day private yacht charter for six people in the Bahamas.**

**There’s a two-year waiting list to hire auctioneer David Goodman of *Auction Results*. “Camp Night” organizers can’t wait to hear Goodman perform.**

A “Camp Night” ticket costs \$350; 350 tickets, coincidentally, were available for purchase at the outset of the drive. More than 100 have been sold. The attire is festive formal. The event plans to offer a Golden Paddle Raffle to those interested in winning \$5,000 worth of buying power during the live auction. Each raffle ticket costs \$100.

But you can’t put a price on the value of a child’s life transformed. Imagine arriving in a beautiful setting, in another state (in another world, really), and feeling uncertain and bitter and pessimistic. Imagine returning home and feeling confident and magnanimous and optimistic. House In The Wood opens its arms for campers. It embraces. It nourishes. It inspires. Then it lets go.