

What's News?

A Quarterly Newsletter from STLF



Fall 2020



Dear Friends,

Well, this sure has been quite a year, hasn't it? During this pandemic, I was able to take some time away from my consulting practice and spend it with my family, and really reflect on what direction we wanted to go. When I received word that Sky's The Limit Fund was looking for a new executive director, I knew this was the right next step for me. As we experience this public health crisis- a generational trauma - from inside of our homes, the need for wilderness therapy is growing exponentially, and the more help we can provide families who need it, the better.

As I write this letter here in my second week at STLF, I am feel almost overwhelmed with thankfulness - what an amazing organization helping people discover the changes that come in wilderness therapy. The team at STLF is ready to meet this crisis head-on, and indeed we've already started a COVID-19 relief fund to help support families dealing with the consequences of a public health crisis.

To those of you reading this, thank YOU. STLF wouldn't exist without your support, and we're so grateful that you choose to support families in crisis. Personally, I'm extremely excited to see where STLF goes next, and how many more families we can help. I wish wilderness therapy was available to all, but until then, our STLF community will help make access to their programs more equitable. Again, thank you, and I'm looking forward to our work together!

In gratitude,

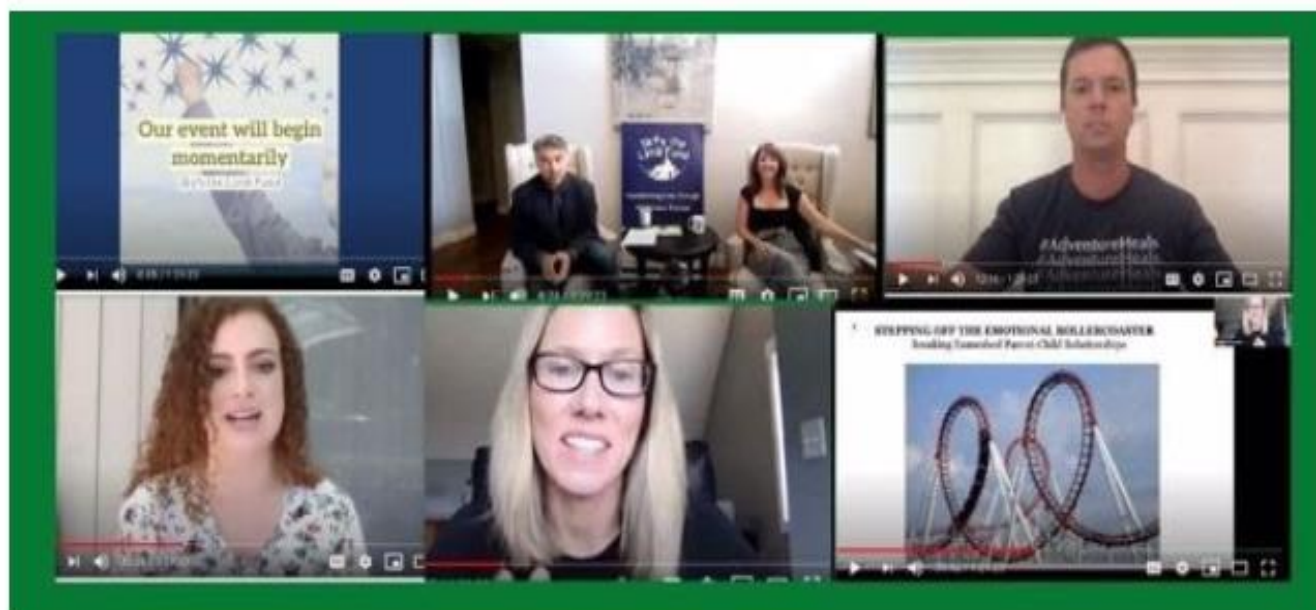
Mike Ferguson

Executive Director, Sky's the Limit Fund



We are off to a good start this fiscal year with the success of our first-ever Virtual Reaching for the Stars event which was held on July 22nd. Our 244 registrants represented over 25 states from Hawaii to Vermont! The event featured a wilderness therapy program alumni, a speaker from our partner program Aspiro Wilderness Adventure Therapy, as well as guest speaker and author of *The Parallel Process* - Krissy Pozatek. Thank you for all of the generous donations. Because of you, we raised over 200 days of wilderness therapy treatment. We truly can't do this work without your continued support.

In case you missed the event or simply want to watch it now -
Reaching for the Stars Virtual [LINK](#)



STLF's COVID-19 Response

"I want to thank you so much for the financial grant you offered my son to help make it possible for him to get treatment through a therapeutic wilderness program. My 15 year old son is struggling with mental health issues and substance abuse, which has almost taken his life on two separate occasions. We have tried many recommendations of treatment for him, none which have really helped him. My insurance does not cover any part of treatment at a wilderness therapy program and this is 100% out of pocket. Financially, this is extremely difficult. I am currently furloughed due to Covid19 and receiving unemployment. The financial strain has been extremely stressful and unmanageable, along with the stress of trying to find the right resource to help my son. I am confident that if he didn't get into this (wilderness) program, he could have ended up with another overdose, or worse. I am overflowing with gratitude for Sky's the Limit Fund! This grant has taken the financial burden down and made it possible for him to continue in his program. Thank you Sky's the Limit Fund for your generosity, especially during Covid19!! I am forever grateful for your help!"



To better serve youth in crisis and their families during these difficult times, we established the **STLF COVID-19 Response Fund**. This fund supports those who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and, as a result, are unable to pay for their youth to complete wilderness therapy treatment. Support and funding is provided to families with youth enrolled in one of STLF's wilderness partner programs as well as in other OBH (Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare) and AAE (Association of Experiential Education) accredited wilderness therapy programs. Families can also receive additional post wilderness therapy support through our Extended Family Coaching Service.

STLF has experienced a significant increase in applications since March and our wilderness partner programs continue to accept new students as they guide and counsel them through these stressful times. Programs have put in place protocols in accordance with CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of their young people, families and staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting everyone. The impact may be financial, social, emotional, and/or physical. This is uncharted territory and we know the impact on mental health is significant, especially on youth already in crisis. While we have postponed all in-person fundraising events, we are pivoting to alternative fundraising methods in order to continue to help as many youth and their families as possible.

With your support, together we can be the beacon of hope for youth in crisis and families in need.

Welcome to Our Newest Partner Program!



Northwoods
Wilderness Therapy
A NEW VISION PROGRAM

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MAKE YOUR BIRTHDAY EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL WITH A
FACEBOOK FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR STLF



Facebook makes it super easy to raise money for Sky's the Limit Fund. These birthday campaigns are easy and becoming the norm. When someone gets your birthday notification via Facebook, they can also see you are raising money for a worthy cause. It is simple for your friends and family to donate. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to set up a fundraiser for your birthday!



Double *the* Donation

matching gifts made easy



Percentage of match-eligible donors that have no idea whether their company offers a matching gift program.



Percentage of donors at companies with matching gift programs that actually submit a matching gift request.

Company Matching

STLF donor Paul Kimball recently took advantage of his company's generous matching program to not only double his own contribution, but also make it easy for his colleagues to support Sky's the Limit Fund. "As soon as I found out the organization qualified for matching, I saw that others in my company began donating as well, so the effort continues to bring value beyond my own financial support. All at the cost of just a tiny bit of admin work on my part." Thank you Paul for your donation and pursuing a company match!

Thank You to our Annual Sponsors

WILSON
SONSINI
FOUNDATION



Connect With Us!

Transform a life today simply by supporting us or sharing your story.
We would love to hear from you.

Email us at info@stlfgives.org or call us at 408-618-8093.

[Donate Today](#)



Shop with STLF in mind!
Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of qualifying
purchases to Sky's the Limit Fund.

