

Mr. Aldrich,

I wanted to send you a quick note to thank you for the wonderful experiences I had at camp. As you know, I've had a rough year, and there are few people with whom I feel comfortable sharing my story. I believe that it speaks wonders to your character and to the character of those who attended the camp that on the second day of camp I felt that I was able to share my experiences with all of you. I know for certain that I have both strengthened the friendships that I have with Caroline C. and Caroline O., but I have also made friendships that will last, I have remained in contact with several campers and have agreed to visit Molly whenever either of our schools play each other in sports!

Out of all of the experiences you provided us, our visit to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was the one that spoke to me the most by far. If you were to ask any of my family members, you would realize just how much it affected me, I have not stopped talking about it and I can go on for hours. I was wondering if you would be able to provide me with the contact information of Mr. Canton so that I could talk to him about further opportunities for me to get involved with their program? I would greatly appreciate it.

You may be wondering exactly what about the visit struck me so, seeing as in a few of the previous days, I wasn't nearly as into it as I now feel I should have been. Well the answer to that is simple. When we had first gotten there we were standing outside of the theatre, I wasn't in the greatest mood so instead of looking at Mr. Canton while he was talking, I was looking at my shoes. I noticed what I thought was a strangely shaped rock, after further inspection I realized it was not a rock at all, but it was in fact a bead. I reached down and picked it up, this triangular bead was attached to a string, creating a bracelet. Touch the tip of your thumb to the tip of your pointer finger, this bracelet was about half of that size. I showed it to Emily, and she told me that I should keep it. And keep it I did, I carry this bracelet with me everywhere I go. Why? Because I realized that somewhere out there is the child who made this bracelet, this young child is fighting an illness that I couldn't possibly imagine, spending countless hours in the hospital. It made me realize that no matter how bad things get for me, this young child is fighting for their life, so the least I could do to honor them would be to live mine to the fullest.

Thank you Mr. Aldrich. Thank you so much for this opportunity, I can only hope that one day I will be able to touch a fraction of the lives that you've touched.

Sincerely,

Samantha (Sam)

Class of 2014