

Dear friends,

This isn't the time of year when we typically ask for your financial support, but this year is anything but typical. In fact, you likely received a letter from me saying just that earlier this month! As much as I am sorely missing dancing, singing, playing, and just being together with all of you, I'm inspired seeing the many new ways our communities are learning to connect, to send joy and love to each other. And that is how we're all going to weather these times—**by finding new ways to be in community together.**

At CDSS, we are finding new ways to work, adapting to provide resources our communities need now, and learning to function fully remotely. Given all the uncertainty this season has brought, **we're doing great! But we still need your support.**

This year, we're facing a cash deficit of more than \$300,000. Thanks to Centennial donors, we have operational reserves to use as needed. In addition, we applied for and received a CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, most of which will be forgivable; our camp facility partners waived contractual cancellation fees; and campers from cancelled sessions have been extremely generous, donating nearly \$30,000 in refunded payments so far. **All of this means we will make it through this year.**

But we can't simply focus on our own survival, when so many in our community are struggling. It's time to pivot, adjust to our environment, and **provide extra support when others need it!** So right now, we are seeking an additional \$40,000. This money will help us:

- Offer staff from cancelled camp weeks 50% of their would-have-been pay
- Launch a new collaborative archiving project
- Continue to research and promote existing online opportunities for connection
- Expand our own online offerings
- And—not least!—reduce the reserves we tap this year

And great news: we're already halfway there! Our Board has already donated \$19,000 to this appeal, and folks who donated in the past few weeks have helped even more! **Will you join us in raising the remaining amount?**

This is a tough year for all of us emotionally, but these strange and difficult times bring into sharp focus the **beauty and magic of these traditions we love.** We are inspired by the many ways that you are taking care of each other. Please help us to amplify the good and meet the needs of our communities!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katy German'.

Katy German, *Executive Director*

Help us help our communities.
Donate at cdss.org/appeal

