

THE STILL PLACE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





For Families With
Seriously Ill Children

The Still Place Mission

To provide rest, renewal, and re-creation to families with seriously ill children through nature, art, spirituality, and Appalachian culture and adventure to enhance resiliency, self-determination, empowerment, and hope.

The Still Place Vision

A world where all families affected by serious, life-altering illnesses experience freedom from daily burdens of serious illness and enjoy time together as a family.

Core Values

Compassion
Empowerment
Inner Peace
Positive Attitude
Integrity



The Still Place is a 501(c)3 non-profit with solicitation licenses in the states of North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

We welcome family referrals and donations through our website at www.thestillplace.org.

We are located in Hayesville, North Carolina, and can be reached at 828-209-8021 or info@thestillplace.org.

Founder's Message

Transitions are a lot like the whitewater rafting excursions upon which we take families. There is the anticipation of the outcome and pride of meeting the challenge when it is all over. You feel in control. Then, the fear starts rising and crescendos as you get your life vest fitted and the guide instructs you on a whitewater rescue, talking about "The Vortex" on the left bank that can pull your whole raft under. But the reality is if you're going to do it, you get in the raft, follow the guide, surrender to the river, and face the reality of the adventure.

In the 2023-2024, The Still Place met a similar transition challenge as we faced changing from a founder-led to a staff-led organization. Thanks to an incredible Board of Directors, WNC Pathway guides, and consultants we weathered the challenge. Oh yes, we got wet and needed to be pulled back into the raft a few times. Through it all we learned the unique, no-cost retreats The Still Place offers continues to meet a need for families experiencing serious illness or loss of a child. It is simple but we all need more time together to strengthen family bonds after devastating diagnoses and death of a beloved child. The Still Place provides this in large part thanks to you.

We are now all dried off and cozy sitting beside the campfire with a cup of hot chocolate and toasty marshmallows thanks to a successful transition in large part due to the graceful, professional leadership of our new Executive Director, Lori McClure, and the steady hand of our President of the Board, Katy Russo.

Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to our families, volunteers, donors and board members for the outpouring of love and support you have all provided me during my own transition during the illness and loss of my beloved husband and our co-founder, Dr. Craig. I deeply appreciate every story, text, call and donation in his honor. You have all guided, strengthened and encouraged me.

In gratitude and love always,

Dr. Dawn



Executive Director Report

As I am writing this, I am beyond blessed to have been serving as the Executive Director for a year. The last 12 months have been amazing. I have met the most wonderful families, volunteers, and excursion partners. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and that truly applies to The Still Place. We absolutely could not serve these families and bereaved parents without the support of people like you!



Last year was a year of transitioning from a founder led organization to staff led. The founders, Dr. Craig Kitchens and Dr. Dawn Grinenko have created an environment that is truly special. If you have been to the properties on Compass Creek, you feel that connection.

During 2024, we were able to serve 34 families and held 5 Still Your Mom retreats, 2 Still Your Dad retreats and an Alumni retreat for bereaved mothers. The bereavement retreats are made possible through funding from Charlie's Heart Foundation and Child Cancer Fund. If you know of a parent who would benefit from one of our bereavement retreats, please encourage them to visit our website and submit an application.

Our local volunteers and excursion partners are amazing! Many have been assisting The Still Place since the beginning. Our post-visit surveys show having volunteers as part of their family retreat truly makes a difference. We hear over and over how much our excursion partners spend extra time with the families making them feel very special. If you are able, please support these small businesses. We have listed our volunteers and excursion partners on page 12, so if you visit these businesses, please let them know how much they are appreciated.



To give you an example of the difference you are making, I want to share this story. A little boy visiting TSP, met me at the door of the house one day crying. I asked, "Are you hurt? What's wrong?" He just hugged me and said, "I just love it here so much, these are happy tears." So, on those days when things just aren't going well, remember, **YOU** are making a difference in the lives of so many families who visit The Still Place!

In closing, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the warm welcome I have received from each of you. From the encouraging emails, calls, and text messages, they have meant so much to me.

The positive messages I receive from families after their retreat are uplifting and comforting to me from parents going through so much. Thank you!

-Lori McClure

Typical TSP Family Retreat Week!



Saturday

Arrive and settle in for a great week!

Sunday

Get Out Into Nature Day

Monday

Arts/Crafts Day

Tuesday

Farm Visit and Picnic

Wednesday

Adventure Day

Thursday

No Parent Party

Friday

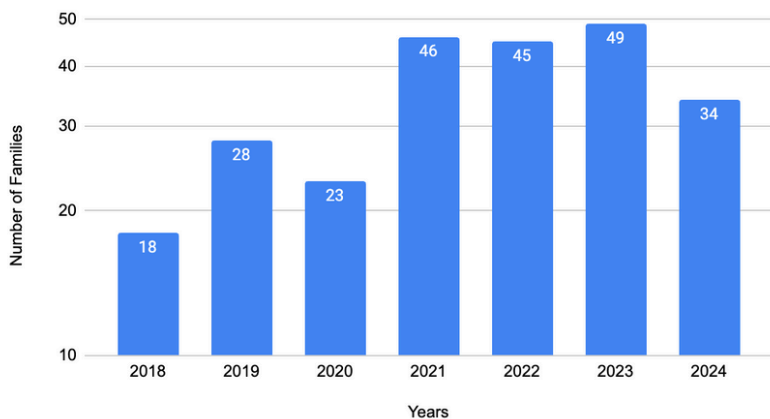
Gem Mining Day

Saturday

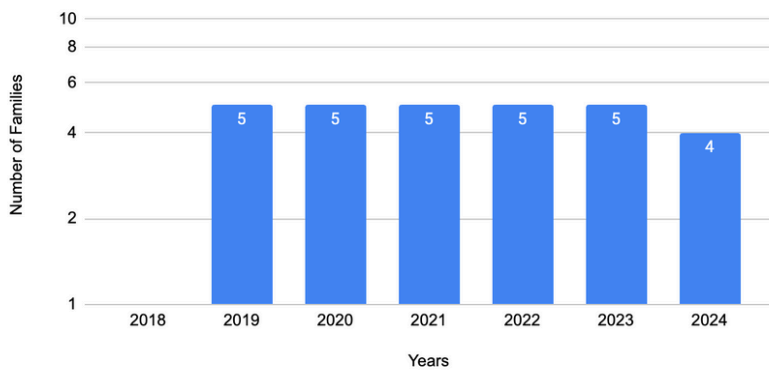
Departure



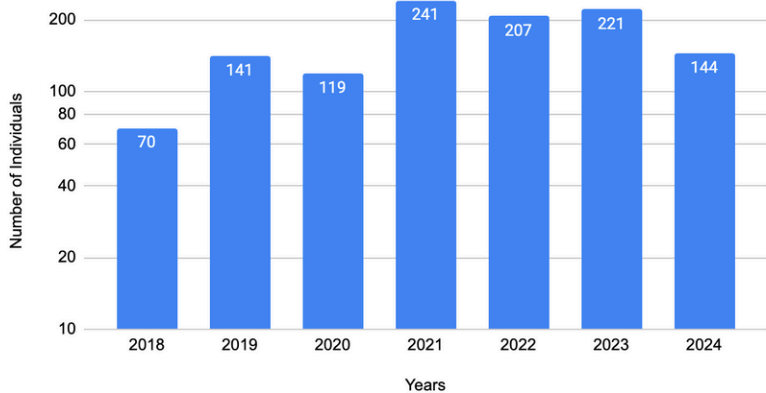
Number of Family Retreats



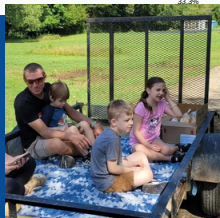
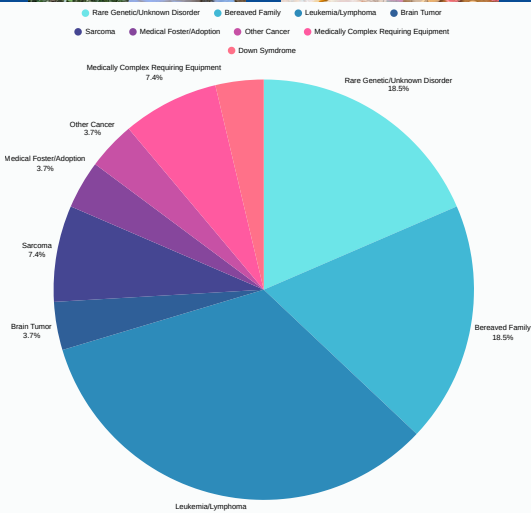
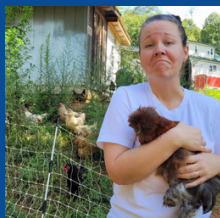
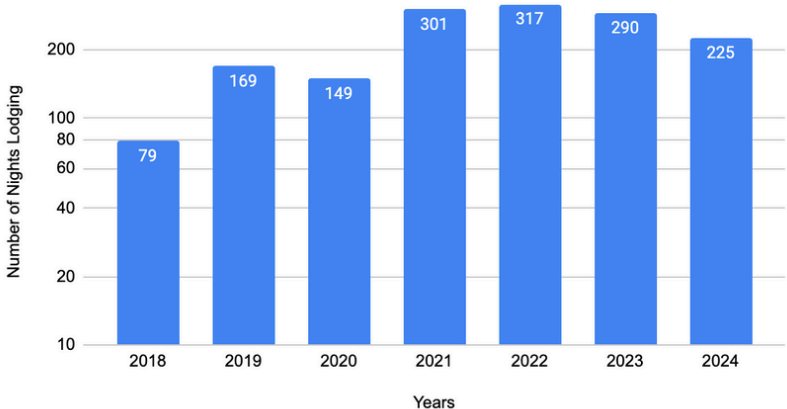
Average Family Size



Number of Individuals Served at TSP



Number of Nights Lodging Provided



Still Your Mom Retreats

No one understands the unfathomable loss of a child more than another grieving mother. Through the bond that develops during the retreat and follow up group chats, sustained friendships develop. As such, our programming has evolved to emphasize peer-support programming and reflection time that adapts to each unique group of mothers.



“TSP provides the
MOST peaceful
atmosphere to dive into
yourself & find what’s
going on.”

“We cried together, laughed together, ate
and drank together, hugged each other
and felt each others deep love and pain - it
is quite extraordinary in only 3 days if you
think about it”

Thursday Evening
Sharing our stories

Friday
Examining Grief with Curiosity
Yoga and the body
Being with our grief
Nature
Broken Bowls

Saturday
Celebrating your Child
Sharing your kids superpowers
Ways we grieve
Legacy
Painted Rocks
Spa Day

Sunday
Closing ceremony



Our bereaved mothers are now coming back to be a part of our care team in all capacities from facilitators and fire starters to heart tenders and huggers.

Still Your Dad Retreats



Still Your Dad retreats are led by a team of local volunteers.

Each retreat is unique, incorporating the season, Appalachian adventure or culture resulting in shared experiences such as building a mourning bench, trout fishing, golf or ax throwing.

Surveys report a better sense of well-being, enhanced resilience and hope. Favorite activities include time alone, sharing with other fathers and various activities. The men felt the experience was enhanced by volunteers.



Friday Evening

Sharing Our Stories

Saturday

Examining Grief
Adventure and Team Building Activities

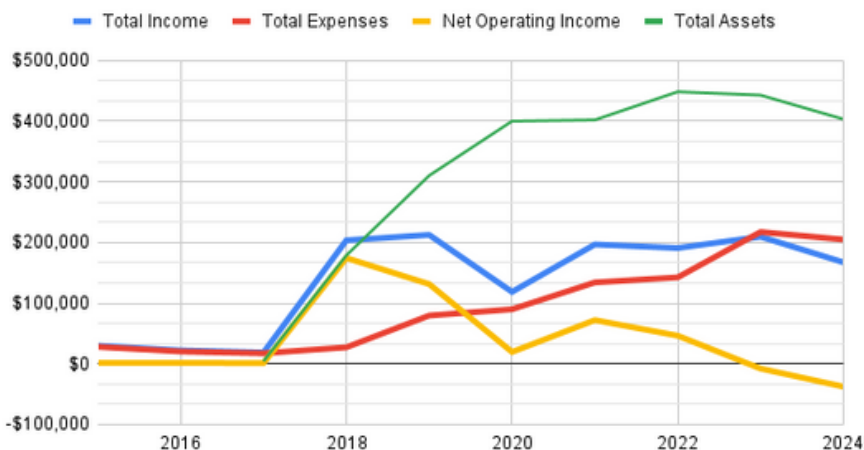
Sunday

Closing Ceremony



"I loved the fly fishing, as it opens the mind and allows it to flow like a river-sometimes calm, sometimes swift and rough, which is true to life when losing a child. Dads need to be allowed to face this mentally as well as emotionally, to effectively progress to betterment."

Total Income, Total Expenses, and Net Operating Income



All because of our Amazing Donors

THANK YOU FOR SO MANY MOMENTS OF JOY AND LOVE



Foundations and Corporations who donated \$5,000 or more:

Community Foundation of North Central Florida
 Granny's Attic
 Child Cancer Fund
 John & Nellie Bastien Memorial Foundation
 Charlie's Heart Foundation

THANK YOU Facebook community for your support in our amazing **#GivingTuesday** campaign. We raised \$10,500 during this campaign and received a dollar for dollar match from one amazing donor!

Financial Statement 2024

Revenue

Individuals/Business	\$118,010
Foundations & Corporations	\$58,500
Gifts In Kind	\$10,151
Fundraisers/Misc	\$5,472
Investments	\$12,834
Total	\$204,967
2718 Volunteer Hours	\$86,432

*at \$31.80/hr per



Operating Expenditures

Program Support	78%
Fundraising/Marketing	3%
Administrative	19%
Total	100%



“The kindness shown by the staff, volunteers and local business partners was truly amazing. A true giving and caring spirit was felt here, at each place we visited and of course here on the property.”

“It gave us hope that we are never alone in this journey. We felt seen and for the first time didn’t have to explain why we are so tired as a family.”

A Special Thank You to...

Adult Volunteers

Cobby Barfield
Diane Barfield
Ricky Beggs
Vicki Beggs
Kathy Bozeman
Sherri Covey
Krisinda Davis
Patricia DeMayo
Barbara Field
Donna Gains
Kathy Gibby
Marjorie Hobkirk
Tom Landis
Barbara Lang
Kathy Mele
Lynn Mulford
Elaine Pancake
Betsy Parker
Wanda Reisinger
Paula Roach
Pam Roman
Janet Shively
Chip Shively
Mike Stringer
Carol Stringer
Susan Warner
Brit Weatherford
Curt Wheeler

Teen Volunteers

Emma Parks
Kaylee Stewart

Board of Directors

Markesha Bradley
John Hindsman
Theresa Holbrook
Tom Landis
Dr. Martina Murphy
Bayne Parker
Andrea Rix
Katy Russo
Rachael Smith
Jeanne Winter

Excursion Partners

Better Together Donut & Coffee
Body Sense
Chinquapins Soda Bar & Tiger's Store
Cowee Gift Shop & Mason Mountain Mine
Crafty Mountain Candle Co.
Crane Creek Vineyards
Georgia Mountain Coaster
Great Smoky Mountain Railroad
High Mountain Meadows Creamery
Highlands Outpost & Scaly Screamer
Georgia Mountain Coaster
John C. Campbell Folk School
Nacoochee Adventures
Paris & Company
Polished Nail Studios
Southern Cross Alpacas
Sunrise Yoga
Still Waters Landing
The Copper Door
West Tubing Co.

