

camp ascca

1976-2026

50TH ANNIVERSARY

ALABAMA'S SPECIAL CAMP FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
By Glenn Roswal, Dana Rickman, & Tom Collier



Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults with Disabilities

Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults with Disabilities

Easterseals Camp ASCCA



By Glenn Roswal, Dana Rickman, & Tom Collier

John Stephenson, Camp Administrator

Matt Rickman, Camp Director

Lynne Stokley, Easter Seals Alabama CEO

2026

Camp ASCCA (Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults) is a magical place that fosters equality, dignity, and independence for children and adults with disabilities. Based in east central Alabama, the camp has been operating successfully for 50 years, serving thousands of Alabamians with disabilities and their families, while providing incredible learning opportunities for countless college and university students.

This descriptive history of the first 50 years of Camp ASCCA is an extension of the original work, "Camp ASCCA-Easter Seals: 20 Years of Magic (1996), written by Dr. Robert Hill Couch.

Special appreciation is extended to Jerry Bynum, Camp Administrator 1977-2004, for his collaboration in assuring the historical accuracy of the first 26 years of Camp ASCCA.

The authors thank Peter Levy, a 30-year Camp ASCCA volunteer and Senior Corporate Liaison to the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors, for his valuable insight in proofing and editing this document.

We also thank Dr. Peggy Roswal for her assistance in manuscript design and photo placement.

-----Glenn Roswal, Board Chair 1996-1998 and 2022-2024

-----Tom Collier, Camp Director, 1978-2004

-----Dana Rickman, Director of Development, 1999-present



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For more information about Camp ASCCA or to donate, please refer to the camp website at www.campascca.org or contact Dana Rickman, Director of Development at dana@campascca.org

This book is a historical tribute to the staff, volunteers, donors, families, counselors, and campers that made Camp ASCCA what it is today.

Camp ASCCA Summer Staff 1976



Camp ASCCA Summer Staff 2025



The Camp ASCCA mission is to help eligible individuals with disabilities and/or health impairments achieve equality, dignity, and maximum independence. This is to be accomplished through a safe and quality program of camping, therapeutic recreation, virtual programming, and education in a year-round barrier free environment.

-----Easterseals Camp ASCCA 2025-2026 Board Manual

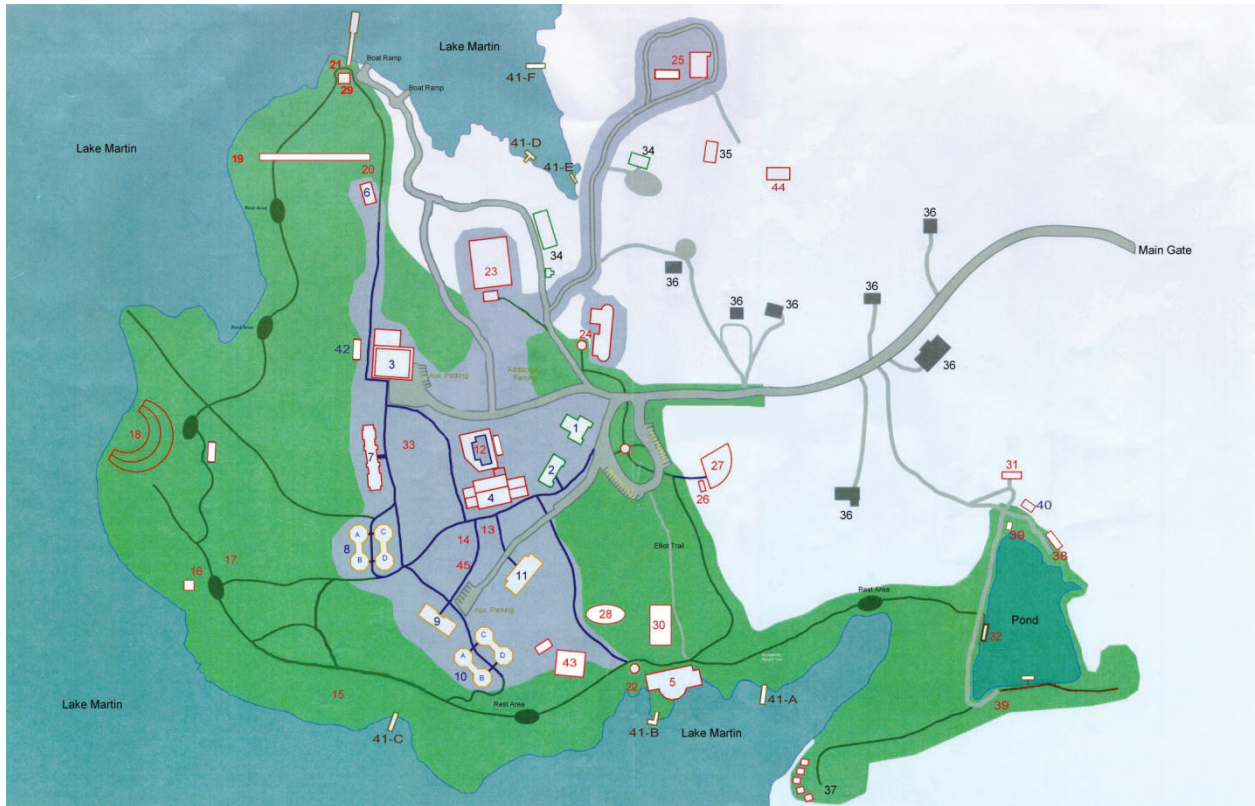


“Our goal as an organization is to give each camper the best possible experience every time they visit Camp ASCCA.” – John Stephenson, Camp Administrator

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Camp ASCCA 2026 Site Plan



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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Alabama Elks Welcome Ctr. | 15. Zipline | 31. Shooting Range |
| 1. Collier Nature Center | 16. Roswal-Levy Zip Tower | 32. Fishing Dock |
| 2. Quarterback Health Building | 17. Levy-Roswal Elements | 33. Campfire Hill |
| 3. Rotary Dining Hall | 18. The Patio | 34. Alex City Rotary Maint. |
| 4. Hoyt Webb Pavilion | 19. Lakefront – Tubing | 35. Bck4T Barn |
| 5. Dunn-Rotary Administration Bldg. | 20. Waterslide | 36. Private Residences |
| 6. Bynum Chapel | 20. Pilots Outdoor Gameroom | 37. Frith Landing & Parent Campground |
| 7. Lions-Rotary Lodge | 21. Hitchcock Boat Dock | 38. Cone-Roswal Big Swing |
| 8. Girls Cabins | 22. Canoeing & Paddle Boards | 39. LPR Zipline
(Levy-Perkins-Roswal) |
| 9. Roberts Lodge | 23. Pickleball & Sports Pavilion | 40. Viewing Area & Restrooms |
| 9. Roberts Arts and Crafts | 24. Horseback | 41. A-F Docks |
| 10. Boys Cabins | 25. Alfa Demonstration Farm | 42. The Big Stage |
| 11. Davis Lodge | 26. Archery | 43. The OutPost |
| 12. Alexander City Rotary Pool | 27. Kravitz Sports Field | 44. Maintenance Area II |
| 13. Game Area | 28. Splash Pad | 45. Music Trail |
| 14. Bungee Jump & Swings | 29. Charron Family Boathouse | |
| | 30. Pilots Miniature Golf | |

An Overview of Camp ASCCA

Situated in East Central Alabama is one of the world's largest year-round barrier-free camps for people with disabilities. Easterseals Camp ASCCA, or “*Camp ASCCA*” as it’s commonly known, is ***Alabama’s Special Camp for Children and Adults***. The Camp opened in 1976 and is situated on 230 acres along beautiful Lake Martin, Alabama’s largest recreational lake. Camp ASCCA is a magical place that allows children and adults with disabilities to increase confidence, improve physical skills, and foster social skills in a fun environment. The mission of Camp ASCCA is to help individuals with disabilities and/or health impairments achieve equality, dignity, and maximum independence. The benefits of the camp experience are immeasurable. The impact that a camp experience can have on increasing confidence and the level of independence often remains long after the camp session has ended.

With more than 40 different activities from which to choose, Camp ASCCA is an exciting place to visit. Each activity area offers a unique experience and allows the camper to succeed on his or her own, as well as in an environment of peer support. Camp ASCCA’s safe, supportive environment encourages the camper to meet new challenges. The major goal at Camp ASCCA is to serve those who can derive maximum benefit from the resident camp experience and provide a healthier, happier, longer, and more productive life for children and adults of all abilities. Camp ASCCA also emphasizes inclusion by involving non-disabled persons with disabled persons in the resident camping experience. Camp ASCCA promotes the development of socialization, coping skills, and independence skills through a series of programs designed to challenge each camper to his or her maximum potential.

Camp ASCCA means fun for the over 4,000 visitors who spend time at the facility each year. Campers with disabilities such as spinal cord injury, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities enjoy unique camping experiences at Camp ASCCA. Funding for Camp ASCCA comes from a variety of sources, including a state allocation, program service fees, civic groups, foundations, businesses, and individual contributors. With additional fundraising efforts, Camp ASCCA has assured that no camper has ever been denied participation at camp due to financial hardship. Rather, donations from organizations across Alabama have allowed many campers to experience the thrill of Camp ASCCA.

Facilities at Camp ASCCA are amazing and include:

- ***Dunn-Rotary Administration Building***, a 7,800 square-foot center for administration offices, conferences, and Board of Directors meetings
- ***Alabama Elks Association Welcome Center***, a 1,000 square-foot center where guests are greeted, camp check-in and check-out occurs, and includes a multi-sensory room
- ***Collier Nature Center***, a 1,600 square-foot nature center with nature crafts, education, and exhibits
- ***Rotary Dining Social Hall***, an 8,000 square foot spacious dining hall with seating for 300 participants

- **Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club Health Building**, a fully equipped health care center staffed with a nurse and medical technicians during summer sessions
- **Hoyt Webb Gymnasium, Pavilion, and Game Room**, a 10,000 square foot indoor recreational facility with a multi-purpose basketball court and game room
- **Bck4T (Back Forty)**, a multi-purpose indoor facility for inclement weather days with indoor entertainment activities and a multi-sensory room for campers with sensory processing disorders
- **The Big Stage**, an outdoor lakeside location for live music presentations and other outdoor events and the host site for ASCCApalooza.
- **The Outpost**, a multi-purpose outdoor music and entertainment area
- **Frith Patio**, an accessible amphitheater overlooking beautiful Lake Martin
- **Alexander City Rotary Club Therapeutic Swimming Pool**, which is accessible for all campers
- **Billy Hitchcock Dock**, the major activity center of over one mile of waterfront property, including the **Floating Elk Pontoon Boat**
- **ALFA and Farmers Federation Demonstration Farm**, featuring a petting zoo and local farm animals
- **Bynum Chapel**, a multi-purpose open-air facility
- **Arts and Crafts Studio**, an indoor/outdoor arts and crafts building with an adjacent panning for gold and covered bridge activity area (the building also serves as a storm shelter during dangerous weather conditions)
- **Lee Eiland Kravitz** lighted multi-purpose field for outdoor sports and **Archery Range**
- **Levy-Roswal Adventure Course Area**, with a challenge course, zipline, and ropes course, and the **Roswal-Levy Accessible Climbing Tower**, a 35-foot tower and connecting zipline, accessible to campers of different abilities
- **LPR Zipline**, an 800-foot zipline where campers traverse over the 3-acre **Fishing Pond**
- **Alabama District Pilot International Club Relaxation Swings**, a brightly colored relaxation area with accessible and traditional benches overlooking the pond
- **Cone-Roswal Big Swing**, an adventure element that gives campers the feeling of flight which is adjacent to the **Swing Area**, a colorful place that provides campers with a relaxing activity while waiting to ride the Zipline or Big Swing.
- **Alabama District Pilot International Club** and **Solon & Martha Dixon** miniature golf course
- **Sport Court**, a covered Pickleball and multi-sport complex
- **Montgomery Kiwanis Club** accessible fishing pier



- **Elliot Nature Trail**, a 1-mile accessible nature trail providing scenic vistas of Lake Martin and accessible program areas
- **The Splash Pad**, an accessible water playground
- **The Rifle Range** provides accessible target shooting in a rifle safety program
- **Tallapoosa County Easter Seals Riding Ring** provides an accessible therapeutic horseback riding experience
- **Alexander City Rotary Maintenance Area**, the maintenance center for the camp
- **Waterslide**, a 100-foot accessible water slide experience for campers of all abilities
- **Charron Family Boat House and Observation Deck**, located adjacent to the Billy Hitchcock Dock, provides storage for lakefront equipment and an elevated viewing area

A variety of dorm-style to private accommodation options, such as:

- **Rotary-Lions Lodge**, a 48-bed residential lodge with semi-private rooms for meetings and conferences
- **Marc Roberts Lodge**, a 32-bed semi-private lodge and the location of the Arts and Crafts Studio and the camp storm shelter
- **Davis Lodge (Roswal Wing)**, a 36-bed dormitory style lodge
- **Bedsole Lodge**, a 1-bedroom and two 2-bedroom apartments for full-time staff members
- **Four cabin clusters** for campers with 160 total dormitory style beds
- **Six staff residences** for designated full-time staff members, allowing the Camp ASCCA staff to live on the campgrounds, providing for year-round programming options
- **Frith Landing** and the **Parent Campground**, a family lodging and camping area that allows families of young children with disabilities to be on-site while their camper is participating in camp activities

These diverse facilities allow Camp ASCCA to provide a myriad of exciting programming options. All facilities are accessible to people of all abilities. All program buildings are on one level, with entranceways by ramp at ground level access. Elevated rampways, boardwalks, and concrete paths throughout the 230 acres allow campers of all abilities and ambulation to explore the outdoor environment.

Programs include summer resident and off-season resident camping experiences. The summer program operates from June to mid-August. The off-season program consists of respite, family, and specialty camps that allow Camp ASCCA to serve a greater number and wider variety of disabled consumers. A Rookie Camp allows first-time campers to experience the thrill of Camp ASCCA in an abbreviated camp session. Frith Landing, a unique parent campground, enables young campers to participate in Camp ASCCA programs while their parents stay nearby on campgrounds.

In the aquatics area, campers have an opportunity to experience activities such as adapted water skiing, tubing, pontoon boating, swimming, scuba diving instruction, stand-up paddle boards, and flat-water canoeing. Swimming includes recreational swimming with an emphasis on safety in water and a water

playground. From high adventure tubing and a 100-foot waterslide, to programs for campers who have never been exposed to water play, the aquatics program offers something for everyone. For campers or participants who need a quiet break from adventure activities, the boat dock and waterfront viewing area offer pontoon boat rides to enjoy the serenity of Lake Martin.

Indoor activities include arts and crafts in an innovative indoor-outdoor environment; the area is integrated with old-west landscaping that includes a covered bridge and a gold-panning water flume. Campers can experience fun and creative painting and craft activities with the enthusiastic support of the excellent Camp ASCCA staff and on occasion even an arts or crafts professional from the greater Alabama community.

The largest program area at Camp ASCCA is the Outdoor Education component. This includes wildlife and farm animal studies, horseback riding, fishing, archery, and riflery. Athletic activities include a variety of both team and individual indoor and outdoor sports. Skill instruction is offered in each sport, as well as recreational and team play. Sports include bocce, floor hockey, a golf simulator, putt-putt golf, disc golf, pickleball, ping-pong, billiards, basketball, and a range of sports that require little or no adaptive equipment. For inexperienced campers, ball games and activities are used as lead-in activities to more advanced programs.



Social activities in the Bynum Chapel, Webb Pavilion, Bck4T, and Sport Court provide campers opportunities to interact with fellow campers with the support of Camp ASCCA counselors and program staff. These facilities are excellent for providing rainy-day activities as well as a respite from the sun and humidity on hot, sunny days in Alabama.

The pond area includes an accessible pier, with an innovative deck design that allows campers using wheelchairs to have access to the pond in ways that are comparable to traditional fishing techniques used by able-bodied individuals. The area also includes an 800-foot zip line activity across the Camp ASCCA pond, an element where campers swing out over the pond, a sling shot and golf launch event where campers launch tennis balls and hit tennis balls at floating targets on the pond, and a relaxation area with shaded multi-colored swinging chairs.

With barrier-free adventure activities, Camp ASCCA offers children and adults with disabilities a chance to slide down a zip line, tackle a low ropes course, and climb up a tower. The Camp ASCCA 38-foot tall Climbing Tower allows individual campers to choose how independent they will be or how much assistance they will receive. The adventure staff rigs a belay rope to a series of rope and carabiner pulleys allowing them to provide as much active assistance as is necessary for the camper to ascend the

tower successfully. Campers can ascend the tower via a 90-degree climbing side, a 45-degree climbing ramp, and a 60-degree climbing ramp. Access to the tower by wheelchair users is through an accessible ramp and a traverse line. The ramp on the climbing tower allows each participant to wheel his or her chair to the base of the tower, lock into a harness system, and then ascend at an individual pace, with or without active assistance from adventure staff. The activity culminates in a 150-foot zip line ride. Truly, this represents inclusion with dignity and maximum independence. The experience is exhilarating for campers, particularly those who spend a significant part of their time in a wheelchair. It is also joyous for parents who have been told many times of the things their children will be unable to do. As incredible and accessible as the Camp ASCCA facilities are, none of the success and joy the campers experience would be possible without the dedication and passion the staff and counselors bring to the many great activity areas daily.

Camp ASCCA is a magical place where dreams have become reality for thousands of children and adults with disabilities. Parent perceptions of what their children are capable of achieving can be fostered and siblings and friends learn to look at people with disabilities as competent individuals. This book chronicles the evolution of Camp ASCCA, from its beginnings in 1976, when it began serving 323 children and adults with disabilities in only three buildings, to the remarkable growth achieved in 2026. During those five decades, Camp ASCCA has provided over 500,000 camper days of service to more than 150,000 children and adults with disabilities. All of this was accomplished in a comprehensive multi-million dollar barrier-free recreation and camping facility.

The focus of this book is on the growth of Camp ASCCA over the 50 years since its creation in 1976. A more detailed chronology of Camp ASCCA from 1976 to 1996 is presented in *Camp ASCCA-Easter Seals: 20 Years of Magic*, written by Dr. Robert Couch, available through Camp ASCCA at P.O. Box 21, Jacksons Gap, AL 36861 or dana@campascca.org.



The Beginning

The legend that became Camp ASCCA began in 1968, when President Jerome Levy of the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults (ASCCA) appointed an Exploratory Committee, led by John Garrett, to study the feasibility of a permanent camp and recreation facility for individuals with disabilities. Garrett, along with ASCCA committee members Hoyt Webb, William Harrison, Olivia Byrd, and John Crowder, located the current property on the north shore of Lake Martin. Harrison and Garrett then met with representatives of Alabama Power Company and signed a 15-year lease on 230 acres of lakefront property for \$1/acre per year (\$230/year). In 1969, a new Camping and Recreation Committee, led by Dr. Woodrow Elliot was formed. ASCCA President Levy and incoming President Oscar Dunn initiated a capital campaign to build the camp.

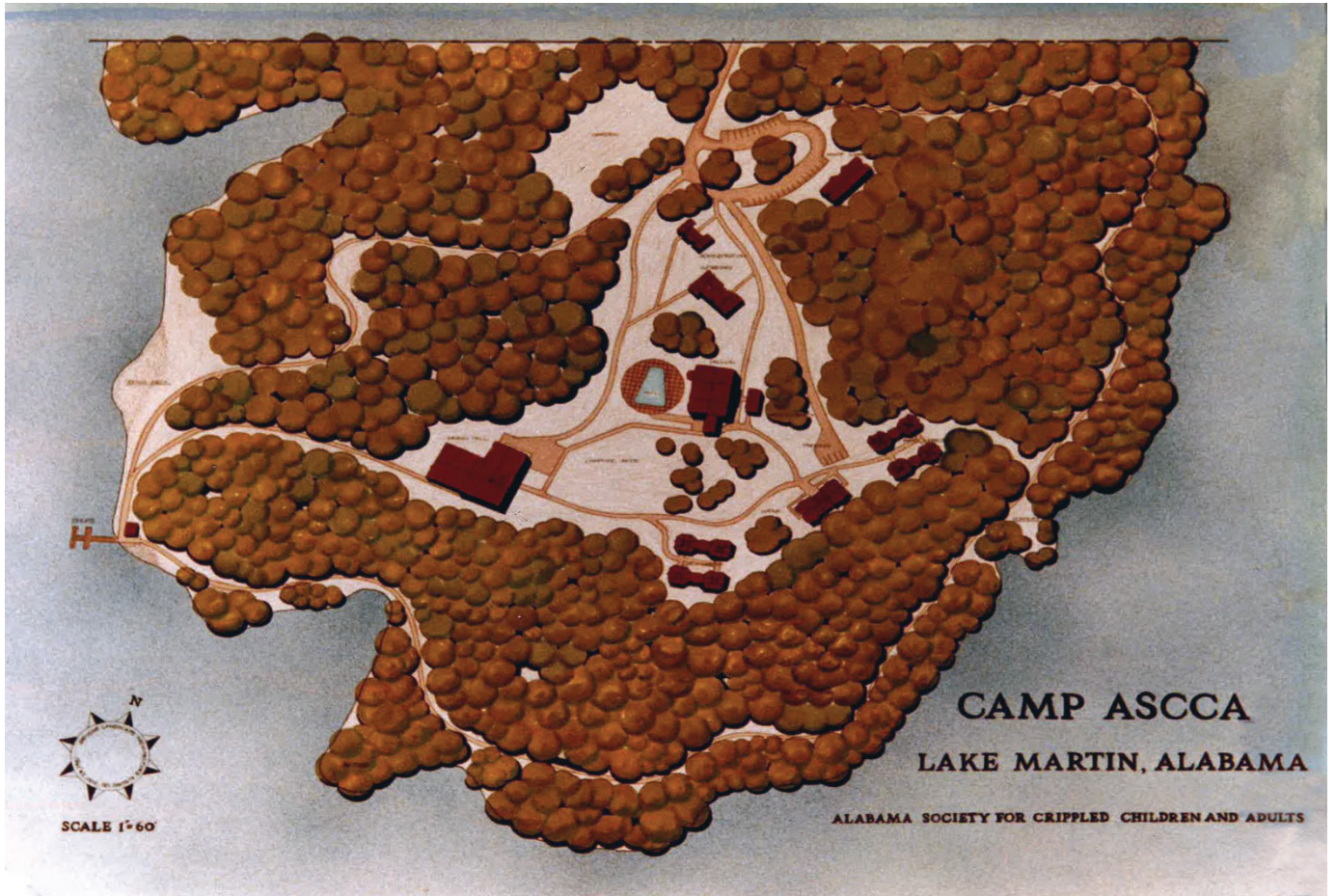
Initial construction funds came from the county chapters of the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults, followed by an outreach to groups, organizations, and individuals across Alabama. In 1969, major donations came from Russell Corporation, Rotary International, Crippled Children's Clinic Foundation, Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club, Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, Telephone Pioneers, and Civitan.

In the 1970's, the Alabama state government became the largest contributor to the construction of Camp ASCCA, investing over \$350,000 in special appropriations under Governors Albert Brewer and George Wallace. Along with in-kind work from Alabama Power Company, South Central Bell, and the Army and Air Force National Guard of Alabama, the campaign closed in on its initial goal to raise \$1.5 million to build the camp.

Concurrently, work began on programs to provide children with disabilities with a fun, educational, and recreational experience in an outdoor setting. In 1973, ASCCA Director Charles Higgins secured a three-year federal grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to hire staff and a program planning committee. The committee, led by Auburn University professor Dr. Robert Couch and Auburn University students Ed Collier and Helen Deese, began researching program options for Camp ASCCA. This work laid the foundation for the camp program.

In 1974, Director Higgins met with representatives of the First Alabama Bank in Montgomery and convinced them to grant an unsecured, five-year loan of \$400,000 for the construction of Camp ASCCA. Groundbreaking was held on December 20, 1974, and Camp ASCCA had become a reality. The following year, with funding from a federal grant, Bert Emmons, Alan Bolick, and Kris Emmons, along with secretary/booker Kelsie Wade and maintenance director Wayne Freeman were hired as the first Camp ASCCA employees. Facility construction proceeded, with the completion of the Pioneers Administration Building, Rotary Dining Hall, Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club Health Building, Federated Women's Clubs cabin clusters, Easter Seals Society Pavilion, and the James Graham Brown Lodge.

Camp ASCCA Original 1976 Site Plan



The First Generation of Camp ASCCA (1976-1986)

Camp ASCCA opened in the summer of 1976 with a successful program hosting 323 campers with disabilities. In 1977, Jerry Bynum became the Camp ASCCA Administrator. In 1978 Tom Collier, a counselor at the first Camp ASCCA summer session, was hired as Program Coordinator, a position that became Camp Director in 1983. Bynum and Collier would work together over the next 26 years to develop Camp ASCCA into one of the premier barrier-free recreation facilities in the world, thus fulfilling the goal set forth by the original Alabama Society for Crippled Children of building “*a comprehensive recreational, treatment, and rehabilitation complex*” that would be open year-round. Over their 26-year tenure with Camp ASCCA, Bynum and Collier became national leaders in camp, leisure, and recreation for individuals with disabilities. Their work and leadership philosophy were based on three tenets: (1) ***camper first***, the philosophy set forth by first Camp Administrator Bert Emmons, (2) ***add a new program every year***, as put forth by Robert McBride, Camp Mac owner/director and trusted Camp ASCCA mentor, and (3) ***tell me what I cannot do, and I will show you what I can do***, from a Camp ASCCA camper. These three tenets were built into the fabric of the Camp ASCCA philosophy in 1976 and are still alive and well today.

Facility expansion occurred at a rapid growth during the first 10 years, with the building of additional activity facilities and cabins to increase residential space. The original cabin clusters, sponsored by the Alabama Federation of Women Leagues, were expanded and the Tine Davis Lodge was constructed, further increasing the capacity for residential camping. The Rotary Dining Social Hall expansion enabled the Dining Hall to seat 250 individuals with disabilities. The Telephone Pioneer’s Administration Building was expanded. Kiwanis Clubs and Greater Birmingham Foundation staff residences were constructed, and the Elliot Accessible Nature Trail was created. The Jaycees of Alabama Crafts Building, along with the Cottle Chapel were completed, and the Pavilion was winterized, providing spaces for indoor and evening activities. The Pavilion upgrades included rollway garage doors, heating, changing rooms, and a new sport floor. The Tallapoosa County Easter Seals Riding Ring and the Lee County Kiwanis Club accessible fish pond were completed. The pond area was expanded involving an apiary and the horse residential area. Two staff residences were added and a Classification 9 Camp ASCCA Volunteer Fire Department, with Forestry Commission radio communications capability, was developed. Dr. Henry Orr created a landscape management plan for Camp ASCCA and the Cottle Sidewalk Project was completed, which upgraded the interior camp asphalt pathways to accessible concrete trails.

In 1983, the Tallapoosa County Commission officially named the county road from Jacksons Gap to the camp entrance, ***Camp ASCCA Drive***. In 1985, with the original 15-year property lease expiring, Alabama Power Company President/CEO Joe Farley approved the transfer of the 230 acres upon which the camp is located to Camp ASCCA. The camp’s name ASCCA, which was derived from our parent organization, the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults, was subsequently changed to Alabama’s Special Camp for Children and Adults.

Camp ASCCA opened in 1976 with program activities in swimming, fishing, canoeing, pontoon boating, archery, riflery, arts, crafts, and outpost camping. Photography was added in 1977 and nature programs in 1979. Whitewater canoeing on the Tallapoosa River was added in 1981. The next year saw the introduction of the horseback riding program and the Camp ASCCA Children's Bass Tournament. Outdoor adventure education was introduced as a full-time program, beginning with the Ropes Adventure program, which included the treehouse, a challenge course, the ropes program, and a climbing/rappelling tower. Low elements challenge activities were added to the outdoor adventure course. A new rappelling tower ropes program was added to the summer program. Tubing and water skiing were launched in the new Camp ASCCA aquatics program in 1983. ASCCA Adventure Camps were introduced, with visits to Alabama State Parks and Disney World. Special winter camps and a series of special mini-camps were introduced. Rotary International hosted the first international campers through the International Disabled Persons Camper Exchange Program with an exchange of campers between Camp ASCCA and England. Today, staff and campers from around the world participate at Camp ASCCA. Camp ASCCA was awarded full compliance accreditation by the American Camping Association in 1983.

As program offerings increased, additional full-time permanent staff were added. Ina Watson was hired as the bookkeeper/secretary in 1979. Jake Shaw was selected for the newly created position of Director of Outdoor Education in 1981. The Camp ASCCA aquatics program was launched in 1983, led by Phil Martin and Steve Hamilton. Dr. Sue Ruzicka was hired as Director of Program Services in 1984 and Dorothy Collier, who formerly worked as a summer camp counselor, was hired as the first full-time nurse in 1985. Robert French was hired as the first Public Relations Director in 1985, and Cheryl Bynum was hired as a therapeutic recreation specialist in 1986.

Programming in the early years was supported by university students from across Alabama. From the very beginning, through the guidance of Dr. Robert Couch and Dr. Judy Tomlin, Professors at Auburn University, students in special education and rehabilitation and disability studies at Auburn University served as counselors during weekend and summer sessions. The relationship with Auburn University continues today and was expanded through the efforts of Dr. Robert French and his students in communication and journalism. In 1979, Dr. Glenn Roswal, a Professor at Jacksonville State University, developed an adapted physical education program that brought JSU students to camp for a weekend each semester and in 1980, Dr. Greg Frith, a Professor at Jacksonville State University, included a practicum experience in his special education classes that brought JSU students to camp throughout the academic year. Those programs continued until 2010. In 1998, Dr. Michael Hall, a Professor at the University of North Alabama, developed a course that brought UNA students in a therapeutic recreation course to camp for a week each spring. The week was supported by the Charles & Isabel Hall Foundation. Drs. Couch, Tomlin, Roswal, Frith, and Hall would later serve on the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors and make numerous charitable donations. In 1981, Cheryl Bynum was hired to direct off-season group staff training and help coordinate the university student volunteers.

The growth of Camp ASCCA was significantly aided by the legislative efforts of Alabama House of Representatives Betty Carol Graham and Alabama Senators Ted Little and Wendell Mitchell, strong advocates for Camp ASCCA in the Alabama Legislature. They championed the growth and sustainability of Camp ASCCA until their retirements in 2010. Glen Browder, who served in the Alabama House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives, was also an active advocate for Camp ASCCA.

The Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund, which was established in 1975 through the generosity of Col. Leroy Priest, was continued in 1984 by Dr. and Mrs. E.E. Camp of Huntsville. All three of these great volunteers were long-time friends of Easterseals Alabama. The Endowment Fund was established to receive and hold major endowment gifts in perpetuity for providing camperships for eligible applicants.

The first decade in the development of Camp ASCCA was led by such historic leaders as Camp Administrators Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier, Easter Seals Alabama Administrators Charles Higgins and Barry Cavan, and Board Chairs Dr. Woodrow Elliot and Hoyt Webb. Phenomenal growth occurred in facilities, programming, funding and the number of campers and their families served. During the first generation of Camp ASCCA (1976-1986), Camp ASCCA provided 89,386 camper days of service to children and adults with disabilities. The annual operating budget grew from \$152,692 in 1976 to \$721,460 in 1986.



Dr. Woodrow Wilson Elliot



Dr. Woodrow Elliot was the first chair of the Camping and Recreation Committee established by the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults (ASCCA) in 1968. During his tenure as Committee Chair (1968-1976), Camp ASCCA went from an abstract idea to a reality.

Dr. Elliot played a significant role with the Alabama Society in working for Alabamians with disabilities. As Superintendent of Shelby County Schools, he had worked to establish the Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Montevallo and while serving as Tuscaloosa County School Superintendent, was involved in the development of the West Alabama Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Elliot served as President of ASCCA, President of the Alabama Education Association, President of the Alabama Institute

for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB), and as a member of the National Easter Seals Board of Directors.

While President of AIDB, Elliot pursued the process of racial integration. Previously in charge of integration for Tuscaloosa County Schools, he used that experience to ensure a smooth transition at AIDB. During his tenure as President, the AIDB campus grew, student population increased, and a program for students with multiple disabilities was established. Programs established during this time are still recognized as among the finest educational programs of its kind in the country. He retired in 1978.



Hoyt Webb



Charles Hoyt Webb followed Woodrow Elliot as Camp ASCCA Board Chair in 1976, a position he served for the next decade. After receiving therapy for a stroke at the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in Montgomery, Webb became a committed volunteer to services that the Alabama Society was providing to Alabamians with disabilities. He would serve on the Alabama Easter Seal Society Board of Directors for 17 years. Mr. Webb was named the Disabled Representative for Men in the United States by the National Easter Seal Society, was recognized for volunteerism by President Ronald Reagan, and received the Governor's Award by Governor George Wallace.

Hoyt Webb earned a degree in agricultural engineering from Auburn University and began his professional career with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, serving as a County Agent in Tallapoosa and Coosa Counties, retiring after 31 years as County Extension Coordinator. He served as Tallapoosa County Farm City Chairman for over 25 years and was a past Director and Treasurer of the Tallapoosa County Farmers Federation. He received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and the Alabama Rehabilitation Association Achievement Award for Distinguished Service. Mr. Webb was President of the Kiwanis Club of Dadeville and a member of the Masonic Lodge, Cattleman's Association, VFW, AARP, NARFE, and Auburn University Alumni Association.

Hoyt Webb is a revered leader in the history of Camp ASCCA. His impact to the campers and programs is seen throughout the Camp ASCCA facilities.



Charles T. Higgins



Charlie Higgins had an impact on so many lives across the state of Alabama throughout his life. He attended Auburn University where he was a member of the Auburn Band and later served as head of Procurement at Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile. In 1956, Higgins joined the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults. He was named acting President of Easter Seals Alabama in 1973 and in 1974 became President, where he served in this position until his retirement in 1986. Higgins dedicated a lifetime of service to Easter Seals and worked tirelessly to raise funds to develop the Easter Seals facilities as we know them today. He was one of the primary individuals responsible for building the network of Easter Seals facilities that served individuals with disabilities from Huntsville to Mobile. Higgins played a major role in the development

and fundraising of one of his proudest accomplishments, Camp ASCCA, a camp for individuals with disabilities so they too could participate in outdoor recreation opportunities. He continued to serve on the Easter Seals Alabama Board of Directors for the remainder of his life. Charlie Higgins was an active member of several organizations, including the Alcazar Shrine Temple, Royal Order of Jesters, Auburn Knights Alumni Association, and the Montgomery Rotary Club, where he also served as President.

Charlie Higgins played a significant role in the development of Camp ASCCA, including the selection and mentoring of a team of young professionals that would bring the Camp ASCCA dream to reality. He was a friend and advisor to countless Camp ASCCA leaders and board chairs and an integral part of creating a camp for individuals with disabilities so they too could participate in a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe and accessible environment.



A Chronological Look at the History of Camp ASCCA 1968-1986

1968 Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults Board Chair Jerome Levy appointed an Exploratory Committee to look into the idea of developing a permanent camping and recreational program that would provide a year-round comprehensive recreational, treatment, and rehabilitation complex for individuals with disabilities. Later that year, committee members John Garrett (Chair), Olivia Byrd, Hoyt Webb, and John Crowder, along with Alabama Society Director William Henry Harrison visited a site on Lake Martin that had been previously leased to the Girl Scouts of America.

1969 Harrison, Garrett, and D.D. Wendel from the Alabama Society met with Ollie Smith and Jesse Vogtle of Alabama Power Company (APCO) and APCO agreed to lease 230 acres of property on Lake Martin to the Alabama Society for 15 years at \$1/acre per year. In Fall 1969, the Alabama Society Board created a new Camping and Recreation Committee, chaired by Dr. Woodrow Wilson Elliott and included John Crowder, E.P. Toulmin, and John Garrett.

1970 A campaign to raise \$1.5 million in funds to build the camp was launched, headed by General Walter E. Todd. By 1973, the campaign had raised nearly \$400,000.

1973 Dr. Robert Couch, assisted by Ed Collier and Helen Deese, began researching potential program options. A fee-for-service plan was agreed upon to fund operational costs, with the condition that a program to sponsor those campers that could not afford to attend camp be implemented.

1974 Charles Higgins, then Alabama Society Director, convinced the First Alabama Bank of Montgomery to loan the Society \$400,000. Architects Blondheim, Williams, and Chancey developed plans for the first construction phase. Moates Construction Company was selected to begin construction. Construction began at Camp ASCCA in the fall of 1974. The 1st Annual Camp ASCCA Arts & Crafts Show fundraiser took place. The fundraising event would continue for 14 years.

1975 Facility construction proceeded, with the completion of the Pioneers Administration Building, Rotary Dining Social Hall, Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club Health Building, and Federated Women's Clubs cabin clusters, (two boys' cabin clusters and one girls' cabin cluster). The Easter Seals Society Pavilion was completed, which provided an indoor facility for sports and games. The Alabama Society Tallapoosa County Chapter's swimming pool, adjoining the Pavilion, was opened. Camp ASCCA's first lodge, the James Graham Brown Lodge was completed. With funding from a federal grant, Bert and Kris Emmons, Alan Bolick, Kelsie Wade, and Wayne Freeman were hired as the first Camp ASCCA employees. The Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund was established with a gift from Col. Leroy Priest.



1976 Camp ASCCA opened to serve 323 campers with disabilities. Programs included swimming, fishing, canoeing, pontoon boating, archery, riflery, arts, crafts, and outpost camping. Camper fees for a one-week session were \$100. Hoyt Webb was appointed the 1st Chairman of the Camp ASCCA Camping and Recreation Committee.

1977 Jerry Bynum was hired as Camp Administrator. Bynum would serve as Camp Administrator for the next 26 years. A photography program was added. A maintenance building was erected to keep up with the ever-expanding Camp ASCCA.

1978 Tom Collier was hired as Program Coordinator. In 1983, the position became Camp Director. Collier would serve as Camp Director for the next 21 years. Over their 26-year tenure with Camp ASCCA, Bynum and Collier became national leaders in camp, leisure, and recreation for individuals with disabilities. The 1st Annual Dance-A-Thon fundraising event took place. Ina Watson was hired as bookkeeper/secretary.

1979 Alfa Cabin Cluster and Montgomery Cabin Cluster were completed, increasing the residential space to 40 campers. Nature programs were added.

1980 Jaycees of Alabama Crafts Building was completed, housing the library, photography lab, newspaper, and indoor craft activities. People movers (trailers pulled by camp vehicles) were first used. Camp ASCCA joined with Georgia Easter Seals Society in the first ever joint Easter Seals Summer Camp program.

1981 Rotary Social Dining Hall was expanded to serve 250 campers. The Kiwanis Clubs and Greater Birmingham Foundation staff residences were completed. The Elliot Nature Trail and Kiwanis staff residences were completed. Whitewater canoeing on the Tallapoosa River was added. Special winter camps and a series of special mini-camps were introduced. Cheryl Bynum was hired to direct off-season group staff training. Jake Shaw was selected for the newly created position of Director of Outdoor Education.



In its first five years of operation (1976-1981) Camp ASCCA served 3,229 campers with disabilities.

1982 Cottle Chapel was completed, providing an indoor space for evening activities. Tallapoosa County Easter Seals Riding Ring was constructed and the horseback riding program was introduced. The Telephone Pioneer's Administration Building was expanded. A farm area was developed at the pond, involving an apiary and the horse residential area. The ballfield was expanded by the 877th Engineer Battalion of the Alabama Army National Guard. The Alexander City Bass Masters started the annual Camp ASCCA Children's Bass Tournament. An area for a ball field was cleared by the Alabama National Guard. Dr. Henry Orr created a landscape management plan for Camp ASCCA. Ropes Adventure programs began with the treehouse program. Camp ASCCA was awarded the prestigious *Lotus Award*, sponsored by the Women's Committee of Spain Rehabilitation Center, for providing outstanding service to people with disabilities. Robert French was hired as Director of Public Relations and Development, the first public relations position in the Easterseals camp network.

1983 Tine Davis Lodge was constructed adding 40 beds for residential camping and increasing sleeping capacity to 220 beds. The Tallapoosa County Commission officially named the county road from Jacksons Gap to camp, **Camp ASCCA Drive**. The American Camping Association awarded full compliance accreditation to Camp ASCCA. Tubing and water skiing were launched in the new Camp ASCCA aquatics program, led by Phil Martin and Steve Hamilton. The 1st Annual Disney World Trip, led by Jake Shaw, was started and continued for 24 years. The 1st Annual Alabama Power Company Golf Tournament started. Horseback riding and adventure outdoor education were introduced as full time programs.

1984 Two staff residences were added, sponsored by the East Central Alabama Division 8 Kiwanis Clubs and the Montgomery Kiwanis Club. A 38-foot rappelling tower was built and climbing programs began. The Pavilion was winterized. Lee County Kiwanis Club accessible fish pond was completed. Establishment of a Classification 9 Camp ASCCA Volunteer Fire Department took place. South Council Pioneers in Birmingham donated a new 15 passenger van. Dr. Sue Ruzicka was hired as Director of Program and Research and received a \$33,789 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for 14 weekend outdoor adventure camps and two travel camps. Rappelling and a new rappelling tower ropes program were added to the summer program. The Alabama Recreation and Parks Society awarded the *Lay Organization Award* to Alabama Easter Seals Society for the development of Camp ASCCA. Dr. and Mrs. E.E. Camp made a gift (valued at \$50,000+) to the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. ASCCA, Inc. was formed as a separate 501(c)(3) corporation to control the land and property of Camp ASCCA, independent from Alabama Easter Seals Society.

1985 Alabama Power Company President Joseph Farley deeded the 230 acres upon which the camp was located to Camp ASCCA. The camp's name was changed to Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults. Rotary International hosted the first international campers through the International Disabled Persons Camper Exchange Program with an exchange of campers between Camp ASCCA and England, led by camper Allison Wetherbee and staff nurse Dorothy Collier. The Outdoor Education Adventure Ropes Course opened. Low elements challenge activities were added to the outdoor adventure course. The Rifle Range, using .22 rifles, was opened by Flint Hill United Methodist Church. A fitness room was opened. The 1st Annual Alexander City Bassmasters Tournament was held at Camp ASCCA. Dorothy Collier, who formerly worked as a summer camp counselor, was hired as the first full time nurse in 1985. The 1st Annual Alexander City Kiwanis Golf Tournament was held. Camp ASCCA received the *Governor's Award for Excellence in Recreation*. Tennis professionals John McEnroe and Vita Gerulaitis were featured in the First Southern Tennis Challenge held in Mobile for the benefit of Camp ASCCA and the Mobile Easter Seal Society.

1986 The riflery, adventure, horseback, sports, archery, and tree house programs were upgraded. ASCCA Adventure Camps were introduced, with visits to Alabama State Parks and Disney World. The Cottle Sidewalk Project was completed, which upgraded the interior camp asphalt pathways to accessible concrete trails. Rotary International sponsored two campers with disabilities from England to Camp ASCCA. A series produced by WALA Television in Mobile, featuring Camp ASCCA, received the United Press International *Best Overall New Series Award for 1985 in Alabama*. Cheryl Bynum was promoted to full-time therapeutic recreation specialist. John Stephenson was hired as an intern and was the summer aquatics director. Stephenson would later become Camp Civitan Director (1995-2004) and Camp ASCCA Administrator (2004-present).



Camp ASCCA Continues to Grow (1987-1996)

The second decade at Camp ASCCA was one of continued growth, evidenced by new facilities, innovative programming, and the addition of highly skilled staff. Volunteer leadership became more diverse. Revenue for capital projects prospered and an emphasis on the Endowment Fund was used to plan for the future of Camp ASCCA.

An original camp building, the Telephone Pioneer Administration building was expanded. The expansion provided for a more conducive environment for staff and a more inviting welcome center for campers and families, donors, and visitors to Camp ASCCA. A flagpole was erected in front of the Administration Building, also sponsored by the Telephone Pioneers. Additional staff residences, sponsored by Kiwanis Clubs and the Greater Birmingham Foundation were built. The Bedsole Lodge was built to accommodate the hiring of additional staff. New picture windows for the Dining Hall were installed. The original swimming pool was replaced with the new, fully accessible Alexander City Rotary Club Therapeutic Swimming Pool. A large maintenance building was built, sponsored by the Alabama Power Eastern Division and the Rotary Club of Alexander City. The Pavilion was expanded to include a game room, table tennis, billiards and a staff lounge; it was proudly renamed the Hoyt Webb Pavilion. Lions International and the Montgomery Rotary Club, along with a number of private foundation and individual investors, undertook the largest capital addition at camp since the original construction of Camp ASCCA. The new Rotary-Lions Lodge was a 12,000 square foot education/conference center with 48 beds, meeting rooms, and storage space. Joe Walters, a civil engineer from Huntsville, spent nine months on site volunteering his services toward construction of the Rotary-Lions Lodge. The construction of the Rotary-Lions Lodge provided opportunities for Camp ASCCA to conduct inclusive camp programs that involved parents, siblings, and friends of campers with disabilities.

A second fishing dock by the Lee County Kiwanis Club was completed and the Alabama Telephone Pioneers sponsored paving the Elliot Nature Trail. Alabama Farmers Federation/ALFA Demonstration Farm became operational, along with the Emfinger Wildlife Farm. SONAT-Share built a fishing pier along the Elliot Nature Trail. The Pruett Gazebo was built. Key components of the Outdoor Adventure program, the Challenge Course and High Ropes courses, were constructed. The Alabama Archery Association made enhancements to the archery range in advance of holding its state championship at Camp ASCCA. The Kappa Delta Tennis Courts were completed. Pi Kappa Phi national fraternity began a 3-year project (PUSH Camps) to build fishing piers, boardwalks at the fishing pond, and the overlook deck at the Rotary Dining Hall. Push America, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded by members of Pi Kappa Phi in 1977 as the exclusive service-learning project of the Fraternity, with the purpose of instilling lifelong service in members and serving people with disabilities.

The addition of new facilities created opportunities for new programs to be added. The Alabama Telephone Pioneers launched a toll-free number (1-800-THE-CAMP), providing easy access for families to become involved with Camp ASCCA. The addition of lights and fencing to the ballfield by Woodman of

the World allowed for evening outdoor activities. The Demonstration Farm, Wildlife Farm, and new fishing piers provided opportunities for campers to learn about farm animals and outdoor recreation. Archery and tennis programs were added and Sports Camps specializing in tennis, golf, basketball, and rugby were implemented. The adapted water skiing and tubing programs were launched.



The 1st Outdoor Retreat with the Alabama Head Injury Alliance was held. The 1st Annual Conclave hosted by the Auburn University Forestry Club took place at Camp ASCCA. The Alabama Adult Kidney Camp Renal Round-up was held at Camp ASCCA. The 140-acre forest of Camp ASCCA was certified as an Alabama Tree Farm. Soccer, basketball, baseball, field hockey, track and field, archery, horseshoes, and bowling were added to the sports program. Rock climbing and rappelling at Mt. Cheaha and canoeing down the Tallapoosa River were also added. ASCCA Adventure Camps were funded to serve 12 Alabama Easter Seals Society Rehabilitation Centers.

To facilitate and develop an outstanding camp and recreation program, a number of permanent staff positions were created and an aggressive campaign to recruit the best professionals was undertaken by Camp Administrator Bynum and Camp Director Collier. In 1987, Eric Dresser was hired as Director of Program Services. Kristi Hill was hired as Executive Secretary the following year and in 1989 Robert and Lona Faye Wright were hired as a maintenance team. Eddy Sokol was hired as Director of Institutional Development, and Dan Gilliland was employed as Education/Program Services Director. In 1990, Cathy Jones became the first full time accountant, Gaye Haggerty was hired as Director of Housekeeping and she later became Director of Food Services and Housekeeping. Phil Martin was brought on staff as Aquatics Director in 1991 and developed the Camp ASCCA tubing program and water-skiing program. Steve Hamilton, the 1994-95 World Champion Disabled Water Skier, succeeded Phil Martin in 1994. The position of Director of Program Services and Education Director was created in 1992 and Dan Gilliland moved into that position. Eric Bailey was hired in 1992 and started the Camp ASCCA Adventure Program; Stan Gooden took the reins in 1995. In 1993, Camp ASCCA hired Caren Higdon as the first Director of Development and Communication. Shannon Cooper replaced her in 1996. Wylone Brewer joined the office staff in 1994 as secretary/receptionist. Barbara Daschner was hired as Director of Health Services in 1995.

In 1992, Camp Seale Harris, Alabama's diabetic camp, was launched at Camp ASCCA. The relationship between Camp Seale Harris and Camp ASCCA would continue for the next 35 years. Camp Seale Harris

has been providing children with diabetes a summer camping program since 1947. Seale Harris teaches diabetes management through classes designed to help campers develop a positive approach to living with diabetes while engaged in an outdoor fun environment. Many of its camp counselors are former campers.

In 1995, Camp ASCCA hosted Operation Challenge, a national water sports program for people with disabilities. A team of national sports instructors with disabilities, led by World Disabled Water Ski Champions, put campers on water skis and taught the Camp ASCCA aquatics staff how to design and fit water skis for campers with physical disabilities. Camp ASCCA, along with Seattle, Minneapolis, and Cleveland were the sites of Operation Challenge, a U.S. Department of Education grant for training instructors such as Phil Martin and Steve Hamilton on the Camp ASCCA aquatics staff.

A portion of U.S. Highway 280 between Birmingham and Auburn was named, *Camp ASCCA Easter Seals, Alabama's Special Camp for the Disabled Highway*. A resolution by the Alabama State House of Representatives was sponsored by Representatives L. White and J. Venable and signed by Governor Guy Hunt and Secretary of State Glen Browder on April 28, 1988.

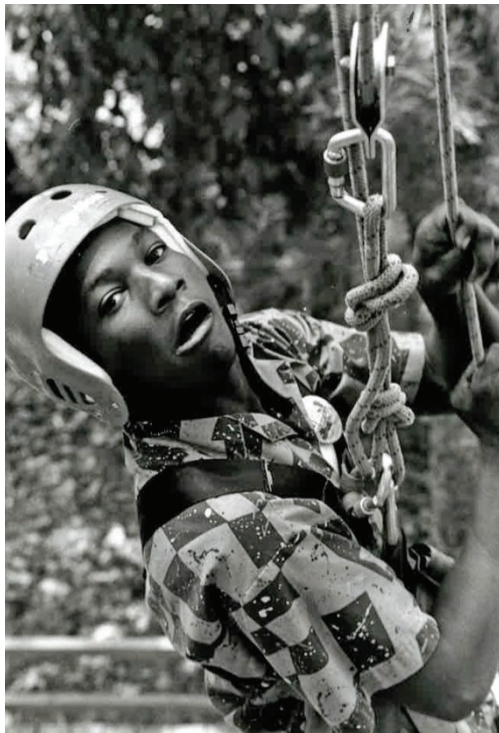
During this decade, the Alabama Central District of Civitan International contacted Camp Administrator Jerry Bynum and Board Chair Pat Schuessler, soliciting advice on improving their operation of Camp Civitan, a small camping program for children with disabilities located on another part of Lake Martin. Camp Civitan had been created in 1971 with the purpose of serving individuals with mental and physical disabilities. The discussions that evolved between Bynum, Schuessler, and Jim Yerkey (Camp Civitan Committee Chair) resulted in Civitan of Alabama donating the 37-acre Camp Civitan to Camp ASCCA in 1994. John Stephenson, a Camp ASCCA summer counselor, was hired as the Camp Civitan-Easter Seals Director. Within a short time, Stephenson successfully transformed Camp Civitan into a viable location for serving a select group of campers with intellectual disabilities and their families. In 2002, the camp was renamed Camp ASCCA—Dadeville Campus.

A number of fundraising events were launched during this time. The 1st annual Tallapoosa County Easter Seals Valentine Dinner and Dance was launched. The dinner would continue for 18 years, raising \$3,000 annually. Camp ASCCA hosted the first workshop for artists with disabilities in cooperation with *A Very Special Arts*. The 1st Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge, the Terry Bowdon/Blue Creek Marina, Alexander



City Kiwanis, and Easter Division Alabama Power Golf scrambles fund-raising events were held. The 3rd

Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Challenge Golf Marathon became the largest special event conducted by Camp ASCCA to date. The 4th Annual Alexander City Bassmasters Tournament was held at Camp ASCCA. The 1st Annual Decatur Life Underwriters Golf Tournament was held. Camp ASCCA Classic Buddy Bass Tournament was conducted. The Camp ASCCA & Central Alabama Community College Tennis Tournament fundraising event was held. The Kappa Delta Tennis Courts campaign was led by Cheryl Bynum and Glenn Roswal. Bynum and Roswal engaged students from Jacksonville State University and statewide Kappa Delta sororities to raise funds to build the tennis center, along with assistance from Peter Levy from New Jersey. The *Pathway to Our Future* project offered donors a commemorative brick in the pathway in front of the Administrative Building. The path would eventually become the walkway from the Pioneers Administration Building to the Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center. The *Wall of Honor* project recognized donors to the Lions Rotary Education Center. Cecil Dowdy sponsored 100 billboards statewide promoting Camp ASCCA. The *Buy a Block, Build a Deck* campaign recognized donors to sponsor the floating deck and lakefront boat slips.



Glenn Phillips, Camp ASCCA photographer, won the 1987 Camping Magazine photo contest for his photo of camper Eddie Lee Wright rappelling off the Camp ASCCA tower. The photo appeared on the cover of Camping Magazine's May 1987 issue. A WVTM Birmingham television news story on whitewater canoeing trips at Camp ASCCA won the Associated Press and United Press International *Awards for Excellence*.

As Camp ASCCA continued to develop as one of the premier barrier-free camps for children and adults with disabilities, the influence of camp's leadership in the recreation and leisure areas extended nationwide. Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier were becoming recognized as leading national experts in the provision of accessible camping and recreation programs. Beginning in 1991, Camp ASCCA hosted three national symposiums with representatives from across the nation. DOORS (Disabled Outdoor Organizations Recreation Symposium) addressed issues related to hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and leisure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Proceedings were disseminated nationally by Easter Seals and U.S. Fish & Wildlife in 1995 and resulted in the publication "*Resource Guide to Facilitate Aquatic and Outdoor Accessibility for People with Disabilities*" (Roswal, Bynum, and Collier). A 1997 national publication, "*Including People with Disabilities in Camp Programs: A Resource for Camp Directors*," (Roswal and Bynum) was published by the American Camping Association and a 2000 publication "*Outdoor Ministries Program Leadership Manual*" (Roswal

and Bynum) was published by the National Council of Churches. In 1995, Dr. Roswal was appointed to the National Easter Seals Board of Directors in Chicago, representing Camp ASCCA and program aspects of Easter Seals camps across the country.

In 1995, Peter Levy, a prominent New Jersey/New York attorney and former pharmaceutical company CEO joined the Camp ASCCA family. In 2001 he was designated as Camp ASCCA Board consultant for business planning. Levy would make numerous donations and provide valuable consulting advice on strategic business plans and government regulation adherence. He was responsible for introducing a number of donors to Camp ASCCA and donating funds for capital projects such as the Levy-Roswal Adventure Course area, Roswal-Levy Accessible Climbing Tower, LPR Zipline, Kappa Delta Tennis Courts, and the Levy Outpost Picnic tables.

The promise of the second decade in the history of Camp ASCCA was led by a new group of dynamic leaders with backgrounds in business, government, and education. Led by Bynum and Collier, Board Chairs Jimmie Pruett, Dr. Clinton Owens, William Calhoun, Pat Schuessler, and Dr. Judy Tomlin Camp ASCCA moved forward, increasing leisure and recreation opportunities for Alabamians with disabilities. Phenomenal growth occurred in facilities, programming, and funding. During its second decade (1987-1996), the camp annual operating budget had grown from \$152,692 in 1976 to \$1.2 million in 1996. The Camp ASCCA Endowment fund reached \$236,000.



Jerry Bynum



Tom Collier



Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier

Jerry Bynum became the Camp ASCCA Administrator in 1977 and would hold that position for 27 years. He holds degrees from Auburn University and Florida State University. Bynum served on the U.S. Access Board Play Facility Registry, which develops accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered play areas as a supplement to the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also served on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Recreational Trails Program.

Tom Collier was a counselor at the first Camp ASCCA summer program and joined Camp ASCCA as Program Coordinator in 1978. He holds a degree from Auburn University and previously worked at the East Montgomery Y.M.C.A. Collier was named Camp Director in 1983 and after his retirement in 2004 served as a consultant to Camp ASCCA. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association and as an Accredited Visitor of the Mid-South Section of American Camping Association.

As fate and good fortune would have it, Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier first met as freshman students at Auburn University, Jerry via his hometown of Talladega and Tom from Montgomery. Coincidentally, they ended up sharing many classes together as recreation administration majors. Bynum was hired as Camp ASCCA Administrator in 1977 after he finished a master's degree in therapeutic leisure services at Florida State University. Six months later he hired Collier as Program Coordinator via his job as Physical Director at East YMCA of Montgomery. Together, they paired in the early years to hire all summer staff, recruit campers, volunteers, and outside groups (disabled and non-disabled). Their work with off-season groups often involved them leading programs, kitchen duties, and housekeeping. Every group received a presentation on Camp ASCCA that ultimately led to increased financial support and more importantly, *people helping people* power. Bynum and Collier's efforts influenced so many; they inspired many people to become great supporters as future board members, staff, and volunteers. Many are still involved to this day! Through their leadership over 26 years, Camp ASCCA experienced tremendous growth and became recognized nationwide as a leader in camper for people with disabilities.

Collier and Bynum are recognized among the national leaders in camping, leisure, recreation, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. For decades, they were regularly consulted on issues related to programs for children and adults with disabilities. Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier have positively influenced the lives of generations of college and university students and mentored dozens of young professionals. Today, many of the leaders at camping and recreational programs around the country had their roots at Camp ASCCA, under the tutelage of Bynum and Collier. For 10+ years, they each served as Presidents of the National Easter Seals Camping and Recreation Institute.

A Chronological Look at the History of Camp ASCCA 1987-1996

1987 Expansion of the Telephone Pioneer Administration building was completed, more than doubling the size of the original building built in 1976. Woodmen of the World provided fencing for the ballfield and lights were added for evening use. A new program building for the ALFA Demonstration Farm was added. The Pruett Gazebo was built. ASCCA Adventure Camps were funded again to serve 12 Alabama Easter Seal Society Rehabilitation Centers. 1st Annual Decatur Life Underwriters Golf Tournament held. Glenn Phillips, Camp ASCCA photographer, won the 1987 Camping Magazine photo contest. His photo of camper Eddie Lee Wright rappelling off the Camp ASCCA tower appeared on the cover of Camping Magazine's May 1987 issue. A WVTM Birmingham television news story on the whitewater canoeing trips at Camp ASCCA won the Associated Press and United Press International *Awards for Excellence*. Eric Dresser was hired as Director of Program Services.

1988 Kiwanis Clubs and Greater Birmingham Foundation staff residences were completed. A second fishing dock sponsored by Lee County Kiwanis Club was completed. Alabama Telephone Pioneers launched the 1-800-THE-CAMP toll-free number and sponsored the paving of the Elliot Nature Trail. Camp ASCCA hosted the first workshop for artists with disabilities in cooperation with "A Very Special Arts." 1st Outdoor Retreat with the Alabama Head Injury Alliance was held. 1st Annual Conclave hosted by the Auburn University Forestry Club took place at Camp ASCCA. Alabama Adult Kidney Camp Renal Round-up was held at Camp ASCCA. The 140-acre forest of Camp ASCCA was



certified as an Alabama Tree Farm. Soccer, basketball, baseball, field hockey, track and field, archery, horseshoes, and bowling were added to the sports program. Rock climbing and rappelling at Mt. Cheaha and canoeing down the Tallapoosa River were added. 4th Annual Alexander City Bassmasters Tournament held at Camp ASCCA. Cecil Dowdy sponsored 100 billboards statewide promoting Camp ASCCA. A portion of U.S. Highway 280 was named, *Camp ASCCA Easter Seals, Alabama's Special Camp for the Disabled Highway*. The *Pathway to Our Future* and *Wall of Honor* projects were launched. Kristi Hill was hired as Executive Secretary.

1989 Alabama Farmers Federation/ALFA Demonstration Farm became operational. The ballfield completed. Challenge Course and High Ropes courses constructed, sponsored by Auburn Pilot Club. John Eric Emfinger Wildlife Farm, led by Dan Gilliland, was implemented with funds from the Kellyton Community. Robert and Lona Wright were hired as the Maintenance Team. Eddy Sokol was hired as Director of Institutional Development, and Dan Gilliland was hired as Education/Program Services Director.

1990 Bedsole Lodge completed with funds from the Bedsole Foundation in Mobile, Alabama. Telephone Pioneers erected the flagpole in front of the Administration Building. Cathy Jones became the first full time accountant. Gaye Haggerty hired as Director of Housekeeping and in 1993 became Director of Food Services and Housekeeping.

1991 *Camp ASCCA Affair*, hosted by The Club in Birmingham, was held. Phil Martin hired as Aquatics Director, launching the adapted water skiing and tubing program. Martin was succeeded in 1994 by Steve Hamilton, the 1994-95 World Champion Disabled Water Skier. 1st DOORS held at Camp ASCCA.

1992 Camp Seale Harris, Alabama's diabetic camp, held at Camp ASCCA. Dan Gilliland took over as Director of Program Services and Education Director. Eric Bailey started the Camp ASCCA Adventure Program. Stan Gooden took the reins of the Adventure Program in 1995.

1993 Cabin cluster renovations completed. New archery range was built. Pi Kappa Phi began a 3-year project (PUSH Camps) to build fishing piers, boardwalks at the fishing pond, and the overlook deck at the Rotary Dining Hall. New picture windows for the

Dining Hall were donated by Dr. Patti Frierson. Alabama Archery Association improved the archery range and held their state championship at Camp ASCCA. 1st Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Golf Challenge tournament netted \$60,000. Camp ASCCA & Central Alabama Community College Tennis Tournament fundraising event was held. Caren Higdon became Director of Development and Communication.

1994 The original swimming pool was replaced with a new, fully accessible Alexander City Rotary Club Swimming Pool. SONAT-Share built a fishing pier along the Elliot Nature Trail and the maintenance building was expanded with funding from the Alabama Power Eastern Division and the Rotary Club of Alexander City. 2nd DOORS held at Camp ASCCA. 2nd PUSH Camp built an accessible nature walk, made improvements to the Demonstration Farm, and built a new overlook deck at the Dining Hall, funded by Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. Lakeshore Sport Camps began. Camp ASCCA leased 1,100 acres from Alabama Power Company for a disabled hunter program. Camp ASCCA Board of Directors approved the implementation of a program that emphasized programming by ability rather than disability. Campers would select summer programs by activities offered and camp dates. Hoyt Webb was awarded the RSVP Volunteer of the Year. Wylone Brewer joined the office staff as secretary/receptionist.

Civitan of Alabama donated their 37-acre Camp Civitan to Camp ASCCA. John Stephenson was hired as Camp Civitan Director.

1995 The Pavilion was expanded to include a game room, table tennis, billiards and a staff lounge and was renamed the Hoyt Webb Pavilion. The Rotary-Lions Club Lodge was constructed. Kappa Delta Tennis Courts campaign, led by Cheryl Bynum and Dr. Glenn Roswal was completed. Director's house completed at Camp Civitan. Sports Camps specializing in tennis, golf, basketball, and rugby were conducted. 3rd Outdoor Accessibility Conference (DOORS) was held at Camp ASCCA. Board Chair-Elect Roswal was appointed to the National Easter Seals Board of Directors in Chicago, representing Camp ASCCA and program aspects of Easter Seals camps. Barbara Daschner was hired as Director of Health Services. Stan Gooden was hired as Program Specialist in Outdoor Adventure.

1996 Camp Civitan initial summer camp was held with funding from Camp ASCCA and the Foundation Club. The Terry Bowdon/Blue Creek Marina, Alexander City Kiwanis, Eastern Division Alabama Power Golf Scramble, and Camp ASCCA Golf Marathon fund-raising events were held. The 3rd Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Golf Challenge became the largest special event to date. Camp ASCCA Classic Buddy Bass Tournament conducted. 1st annual Tallapoosa County Easter Seals Valentine Dinner and Dance was launched. *Chairman's Council*, *Wall of Honor*, *Path to Our Future*, and *Buy a Block--Build a Dock* fundraising campaigns were launched. Virginia Lyon estate contributed \$120,000 to the Endowment Fund. Shannon Cooper was hired as Director of Development. Miles Thompson, Sports/Games Director, was loaned to the New Mexico Society Easter Seal Camp for four weeks. Peter Levy joined the Camp ASCCA family as a corporate consultant.

During its second decade (1987-1996), the Camp ASCCA annual operating budget had grown from \$152,692 in 1976 to \$1.2 million in 1996.



New Programs and New Directions (1997-2006)

The third decade of Camp ASCCA saw the continued growth of facilities and programs, along with a new focus of securing the future of Camp ASCCA through continued cooperation with the Alabama Legislature, growth of the Campership Endowment Fund, and facility renovation. Most notably, Camp ASCCA celebrated 25 years of service in 2001. In 2004 Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier retired after working 26 years together to build Camp ASCCA into a global model of accessible camping and recreation for people with disabilities. John Stephenson was promoted to Camp ASCCA Administrator and Matt Rickman was promoted to Camp Director to succeed Bynum and Collier. Matt Rickman was first employed in 1999 as Outdoor Adventure Program Specialist.

A number of new facilities and renovations took place during the decade. The Rotary Dining and Social Hall was renovated with the support of Rotary Club of Alexander City, Rotary International Foundation, and Rotary District 6880. Project Renew was completed with the renovation of camper cabins restrooms and the health building with support from the Montgomery Rotary Foundation and the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation. An upgrade of the Marc Roberts Lodge was provided by Opelika Kiwanis Club.

The Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Center, a 7,800 square foot facility which provided hands-on environmental learning opened in 2004. The Center was designed to provide year-round accessible environmental



education opportunities for children and adults with and without disabilities. Educational opportunities focused on land, water, sky, and wildlife indigenous to Lake Martin and areas draining into Lake Martin and East Alabama. Southern Custom Exhibits and the Alabama Forest Forever Foundation provided new exhibits and displays for the Dunn Rotary Environmental Center, offering exciting new environmental education opportunities at both the Center and through field trips for K-5th grade students. Programs offered were designed to reinforce the existing Alabama state science curriculum, while promoting the idea of environmental stewardship rather than ownership. The format included both day camp and overnight sessions through a combination of supervised instruction and self-guided discovery, available to campers during summer sessions, science camps during seasonal sessions, and camps and retreats throughout the year.

The Billy Hitchcock floating boat dock was built and the Alabama District Pilot International Club sponsored the roof cover on the boat dock. A new floating dock and a new covered pavilion overlooking Lake Martin were sponsored by Gunter Dixon Foundation. Eichold Amphitheatre, overlooking Lake

Martin, was sponsored by the Smith Foundation. The fishing pier was renovated and expanded by Lee County Kiwanis. Push America added a new boat storage shed and a major renovation to the fishing pond dam and drainage system. The Alfa Equestrian Center at the Alfa-Alabama Farmer's Federation



Demonstration Farm was started and a new 12 stable horse barn was built. The Roswal-Levy Accessible Climbing Tower, an expansion of the Levy-Roswal Ropes Challenge Course, was completed. The 38-foot tower, with multiple options to ascend, culminated in a 300-foot zipline ride.

In 2004, the relationship between Camp ASCCA and Push America, which began as a 3-year project in 1993, entered the 11th consecutive year of Push Camp. Push America, the national outreach project of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, was founded in 1976 when the fraternity sought to better serve its community through forming a new organization to serve people with disabilities. The young men involved in Push Camp improved both Camp ASCCA and the Camp ASCCA-Dadeville campus to make the experiences for campers better each year. During the 3rd decade of Camp ASCCA, Push Camp continued construction of accessible elevated trails, finished the boardwalk and decking at the Oscar Dunn-Rotary

Environmental Center, built additions to the Adventure/Low Ropes Course, constructed fencing and horse stalls at the horse barn, and built an accessible clubhouse for bathroom, shelter, and storage at the Camp ASCCA-Dadeville Campus.

Program innovations, seasonal camps, educational conferences, and retreats continued to expand to provide greater utilization and service to campers. A program to reach out and share the story of Camp ASCCA was introduced. Camp ASCCA staff traveled to civic clubs, community organizations, businesses and schools around Alabama, proudly using the reach-out program as a platform to describe how Camp ASCCA positively changes the lives of children and adults with disabilities—many of whom come to camp for years. Family programs such as *Family Deer Hunt Weekend*, *Camp Seale Harris Family Weekend*, and *Fun Fish Weekend* were held. Lakeshore Foundation brought 32 disabled veterans, severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, to Camp ASCCA for the 1st *Rise and Conquer Weekend*. The veterans, friends, and family members enjoyed activities such as adaptive water skiing, ropes course activities, the climbing wall and zip line, and a paint ball course. The ALFA Equestrian Center at the Alfa-Alabama Farmer's Federation Demonstration Farm was launched. Camp Seale Harris, serving children with diabetes, continued to expand.

In 1999, the 1st Annual Right Moves Sports Camp, sponsored annually by Rotary District 6860 was started. Right Moves was a fully accessible inclusive sports camp for both disabled and non-disabled children ages 10-18 years old, who came from different backgrounds. The goal of sports camp was to promote teamwork, character development, inclusion, empathy, dignity, equality and to learn and enhance new skills through sports training. Campers enjoyed activities such as softball, water-skiing, basketball, tennis, golf, swimming, fishing, scuba, adventure skills and aerobic activity. Campers were also encouraged to become advocates in helping develop policies and programs for those with disabilities.



In 2000, Camp ASCCA hosted the 1st AAHPERD Student Leadership Conference (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) with over 100 young professionals from the health, physical education, and recreation fields participating in team building and leadership activities. The collaborative partnership between Camp ASCCA

and the AAHPERD Student Leadership Conference would continue through 2004, providing leadership training in recreation and education. AAHPERD (now SHAPE AMERICA) is the leading professional membership association in the health and physical education professions. In 2002, AAHPERD helped sponsor the Camp ASCCA Climbing Tower.

During the 1997-2006 decade, Camp Civitan continued to expand facilities and programs providing services to individuals with disabilities by adding a ballfield, water balloon fort, covered pavilion, and a floating boat dock to the existing program of ski boat, group elements, boating canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, sports and games, and evening programs. An *Assisted Vacation* program was introduced which provided campers with day trips from camp, opportunities to dine out, and sports events with a small group of peers. The Alabama Central District of Civitan International has had a long history with Camp Civitan and Camp ASCCA. In 1971, Civitan approved building a Camp on Lake Martin for the purpose of serving campers with intellectual and physical disabilities. In 1994, the camp's operation and management were given to Camp ASCCA with the understanding that it would continue to be used as a camp for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Camp Civitan was renamed Camp ASCCA-Dadeville Campus in 2002 and began hosting eight one-week sessions for campers with intellectual disabilities. It continued to offer a variety of weekend group programs and special fundraising events, as well as hosting business retreats and family reunions for non-disabled groups. John Stephenson served as Camp Director until 2004. When Stephenson became Camp ASCCA Administrator in 2004, Josh Rhodes became the Dadeville Campus summer camp director.

From the beginning, Camp ASCCA has been supported by the State of Alabama, through special funding from the Governor's Office and appropriations from the Alabama State Education Trust Fund. Thanks to strong advocates in the Alabama Legislature, such as Representative Betty Carol Graham of Alexander City, Senator Ted Little of Auburn, Senator Wendell Mitchell of Luverne, and Representative Seth Hammett of Andalusia, state funding remained constant at 20%-30% of the camp operating budget through the first three decades of growth of Camp ASCCA operation.

Named in honor of Rotarian Oscar C. Dunn of Ozark, many individuals, clubs, businesses, and organizations from throughout the state made the Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center possible. Included were Rotary International District 6880, Alabama District Pilot International, The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, Alabama Forests Forever Foundation, The Gunter Dixon Foundation, the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, Hillcrest Foundation, M & M



Construction, Push America, Southern Custom Exhibits, Andalusia Rotary Club, Opp Rotary Club, Senator Wendell Mitchell, and Judge Bill & Olivia Byrd. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) provided a grant to renovate and add new trails to and radiating from the Center.

A major component of funding for Camp ASCCA comes from a community of generous philanthropic organizations and individuals. In 2006, the Endowment Fund exceeded \$1 million, with multiple levels of giving recognition. In 2000, Rotary Club of Alexander City made the largest contribution by a single civic club to date (\$100,000). In 2001, Rotary Club of Alexander City also made the 2nd largest gift by a single civic club (\$90,000). The Elks of Alabama became a major partner in 1999, joining existing major partners Alabama Power, Mobile Rotary, First Sertoma Club of Birmingham, Alabama Power Energizers and APSO, Bell South Pioneers, Easter Seals County Chapters, United Ways, Rotary Clubs in Districts 6880 and 6860, Camp WheezeAway/Alabama Lung Association, Alabama Epilepsy Foundation, the Children's Rehabilitation Service, the Robert Meyer Foundation, Montgomery Rotary Foundation, Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation, Lee County Kiwanis, Opelika Kiwanis Club, Isabel and Charles Hall Foundation, and Camp Seale Harris in sponsoring thousands of camperships for summer and seasonal camps or the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. Camp Civitan major sponsors included the Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club Children's Foundation, Martha Dixon Foundation, Lake Martin United Way, Montgomery Kiwanis, Central Alabama Community Foundation, Tallapoosa County Commission, and Civitan of Central Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Districts.

The Chairman's Council, established in 1997, was modeled after the President's Council of the National Easter Seals Society, recognizing board members that donated \$1,000 to the Campership Fund. The Camp ASCCA Board established a 2007 goal of \$3 million in the Endowment Fund. Board member Jerry Thomley pledged a gift of \$100,000 toward the Endowment Fund. In 1998, Marc Roberts, CEO of Worldwide Entertainment & Sports in New York, contributed stock resulting in a contribution of \$142,000 to the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. Mr. Roberts was introduced to Camp ASCCA through long time Camp ASCCA friend Peter Levy. By 2006, the Camp ASCCA Endowment exceeded \$1 million. This helped Camp ASCCA remain focused on the bottom line - equality, dignity, and independence for children and adults with disabilities.

New staff hired during the decade included Dana Rickman as Director of Public Relations, Dan Gilliland moving from Program Director to the new Director of Environmental Education, Nathan Waters as the Director of the Dadeville Campus, Melody Jones as Director of Development, Angelyn Wilson as Aquatics Director, Josh Rhodes as Outdoor Adventure Program Specialist, Paula Gilliland as Director of Health Services, Sharry Mathews as Director of Development, Erin Witschey as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, and Paula Moseley as secretary. Jerry Lynch replaced retiring Robert Wright as Maintenance Supervisor. With a change in administrative leadership, the Board of Directors purchased a \$750,000 life insurance policy on the Camp Administrator with Camp ASCCA as beneficiary.

Robert French, and his students at Auburn University, developed a website for Camp ASCCA. New donor tracking and fundraising program software was implemented. The Board of Directors was reorganized to 15 members and four standing committees. Peter Levy from New Jersey, became a board consultant for business planning.

A third generation of leaders, Board Chairs Dr. Glenn Roswal, Jerry Thomley, Gene Chandler, Dr. Graham Sisson, and Dr. Jim Krudop kept Camp ASCCA moving forward, ever promoting the improvement of facilities and programs to provide the best experiences possible for campers with disabilities and their families. Growth continued from 1997 to 2006 with the 2006 camp annual operating budget now at \$1.3 million.



Barry F. Cavan



Barry F. Cavan spent his entire career in the non-profit sector in service to individuals with disabilities and the underprivileged. A native Floridian, he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Auburn University, where he was a member of the Auburn University Marching and Concert Bands and studied under Dr. Robert Couch, in the newly established Rehabilitation Services Education Program.

After completion of graduate school, Cavan joined the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults as an Area Representative working in approximately 25 Alabama Counties. His primary responsibilities were to generate donations for the newly approved Camp ASCCA project and to organize Volunteer County Chapters on a local basis. He was later promoted to the position of Director of Development and Programs and then to President and CEO in 1986. During his leadership, Easterseals Alabama grew to include Easterseals Columbus Georgia and to facilitate the expansion of Goodwill Easterseals in Mobile. Cavan retired in 2004 after 31 years of service. In 2007 he came out of retirement to serve as Director of Catholic Social Services in Montgomery and retired from there in 2015.

Mr. Cavan has served on various boards, including the Governor's Commission for the Disabled, Seaton Haven (Senior Housing), Food Bank, Mid Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, St. Bede School Board and Parish Council, and River Region United Way. He joined Montgomery Rotary Club in 1975 and is a Charter member of the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club, where he continues as an active member. As President in 2007-2008, he was instrumental in establishing the Commitment to Service Roast and Recognition fundraiser. He was a member of the committee to establish the Montgomery Sunrise Foundation and served as the Foundation's first Chairman of the Board. Mr. Cavan also served as District Governor for Rotary District 6880 in 2016-2017, Assistant Governor, Assistant Governor Coordinator, Chair Simplified Grants Committee, District Visioning Chair and District Representative for Rotary International Council on Legislation. In 2022, Cavan was awarded the Harry P. Hall Meritorious Achievement Award, the highest award presented by the Rotary District.

Barry Cavan was a pivotal leader in the history of Camp ASCCA and as an advocate for people with disabilities.

Robert Eugene McBride



Robert “Bob Gene” McBride gave a lifetime of service to Easter Seals Alabama programs. A former teacher at the Alabama Institute of Deaf and Blind, he was a dedicated Camp ASCCA supporter and played a vital role in the success of the Camp ASCCA program. McBride was owner and director of Camp Mac, a premier camp for children in the Alabama Cheaha Mountains, for over 50 years. He played a critical part in the history of Camp ASCCA, serving as a volunteer, Board member, Board treasurer, Board finance chair, and mentor to Camp ASCCA administrators and Board Chairs since 1977. Much of the Camp ASCCA program philosophy can be traced to the camp model McBride developed at Camp Mac and then influenced at Camp ASCCA. His experience and insight of the camping business, as well

as facility management and program development, played an important role in the success of Camp ASCCA. Bob McBride was also financially generous to Camp ASCCA. In 2011 a level of giving in the Camp ASCCA *Wall of Distinction* was named in his honor. Donors contributing more than \$10,000 annually are recognized at the Robert McBride Level. In 2007, McBride was awarded the Hoyt Webb Award, in recognition of a lifetime of service to Camp ASCCA and The Outpost Wall contains a quote that reflects his philosophy:

*"A society grows great when we plant trees under
whose shade we know we shall never sit."*

He is fondly remembered by many through the adventures of the summer camp started in 1948 by his family, Camp Mac, and the impact his family had on the successes of camps across the state.



Judy Williams



Judy Williams is a woman who personifies ultimate dedication, service, and love for Camp ASCCA. Beginning her service to Camp ASCCA during its inception in 1976 as a lifeguard, she has subsequently served as staff throughout many other summers. She has been involved as head counselor, aquatics director, and served as program staff on many trips throughout the years and summers. Judy has remained a dedicated Ex-Officio Board Member and a leader for alumni coordination and events.

Judy graduated from Auburn University and taught at Talladega Academy for three years. After a short stint as a substitute teacher in Alexander City, she began her career at the School for the Blind (Talladega) in 1976 and retired in 2001. In addition to her 50 continued years of service at Camp ASCCA, this amazing woman is currently providing numerous contributions in memory of staff, provides special treats to staff, provides an annual staff scholarship, and provides the campers an up-close-and-personal experience with the Talladega Superspeedway pace car each summer. Judy remains the ultimate example of service to many children and adults with disabilities.



A Chronological Look at the History of Camp ASCCA 1997-2006

1997 Billy Hitchcock floating boat dock was built. New bear pen was added to the Emfinger Wildlife Area. Accessible playground was completed with help from major sponsor Kiwanis Club of Montgomery. Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge raised \$60,000. The Chairman's Council, at Dr. Glenn Roswal's initiative, was modeled after the President's Council of the National Easter Seals Society, recognizing board members that donated \$1,000 to the Campership Fund. Camp ASCCA Board of Directors established an Endowment Fund goal of \$3 million by 2007. Board member Jerry Thomley pledged a gift of \$100,000 toward the Endowment Fund. Allison Wetherbee joined the Board of Directors as a camper representative.

1998 Marc Roberts, CEO of Worldwide Entertainment & Sports in New York, contributed stock resulting in a contribution of \$142,000 to the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. Roberts and Jerry Thomley were inducted into the National Easter Seal Association Edgar Allen Founders Society for their \$100,000+ donations. Renovation of the Rotary Dining and Social Hall through Rotary Club of Alexander City, Rotary International Foundation, and Rotary District 6880. Pilot Club sponsored the roof cover on the boat dock. Adult Buddy Camp with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation was started. Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge raised \$70,000. State Allocation increased to \$453,804, an increase of \$50,000 from the 1997 allocation. Nursing Scholarship program started, funded by Board member Billy Hitchcock. The wildlife program received the donation of the SONAT Share Bear, a young black bear. Camp Civitan served over 2,000 people in 1998. Monica Johnson hired as Director of Development.

1999 Lee County Kiwanis renovated and expanded the fishing pier. An upgrade of the Marc Roberts Lodge, provided by Opelika Kiwanis Club, and a new accessible fishing dock were completed. Alabama Elks Association became a new major partner and sponsored their first Elks Week with 100 campers and 50 volunteers. 1st Annual Right Moves Sports Camp, sponsored annually by Rotary District 6860 was started. 1st Annual Tommy Tuberville Golf Tournament was launched. Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge raised \$81,000 for Camp ASCCA. Alabama Power Eastern Division Golf Tournament was conducted to benefit Camp ASCCA. Andy Roswal wired the administration offices with their first computer network. Matt Rickman hired as Outdoor Adventure Program Specialist and Dana Rickman hired as Director of Public Relations.



2000 Camp ASCCA hosted the 1st AAHPERD Student Leadership Conference with over 100 young professionals from the health, physical education, recreation field participating in team building and leadership activities. Former U.S. Olympic Champion Lucinda Adams was the keynote speaker at the Conference. Rotary Club of Alexander City made the largest contribution by a single civic club to date (\$100,000). A contingency plan was approved by the Board of Directors should the loss of state funds occur. Representing Camp ASCCA, Past Board Chair Glenn Roswal was appointed to the National Easter Seals Board of Directors and the National Easter Seals Professional Advisory Council.

2001 Camp ASCCA celebrated 25 Years of Service. The Roswal-Levy Accessible Climbing Tower, an expansion of the Ropes Challenge Course, was completed. The 38-foot tower, with multiple options to ascend, culminated in a 300-foot zipline ride. Opelika Kiwanis Club sponsored the renovation of the low ropes course. Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Center groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 28, 2001. In future years, the Center would provide year-round accessible environmental education opportunities for children and adults with and without disabilities. Educational opportunities focused on land, water, sky, and wildlife indigenous to Lake Martin and areas draining into Lake Martin and east Alabama. State appropriation increased to \$550,000, with \$50,000 designated to the continuing construction of the Oscar Dunn Environmental Center. However, state

proration ultimately reduced the allocation by 11%. Eichold Amphitheatre, sponsored by the Smith Foundation, overlooking Lake Martin was built. Rotary Club of Alexander City made the 2nd largest gift by a single civic club (\$90,000). Bell South Pioneers of Alabama donated a new 15 passenger van. Camp Civitan added a ballfield, water balloon fort, covered pavilion, and a flocking boat dock sponsored by Gunter Dixon Foundation. A \$750,000 life insurance policy was purchased on the Camp Administrator with Camp ASCCA as beneficiary. Melody Jones was hired as Director of Development, and Angelyn Wilson as Aquatics Director. Peter Levy from New Jersey, became a Board consultant for strategic planning.

2002 Entrance drive into Camp ASCCA was named the *Charlie Higgins Trail*, in honor of the past Easterseals of Alabama Executive Director. Endowment Fund exceeded \$1 million, with multiple levels of giving recognition: The Soaring Zip Line (\$25,000+), The Tree House Club (\$15,000-\$24,999), The Tubing Circle (\$10,000-\$14,999), Wildlife Friends (\$5,000-\$9,999), The Ropes Challenge (\$1,000-\$4,999), and Campfire Circle of Friends (\$999 and below). ADECA provided \$50,000 to renovate and add new trails to and radiating from the Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center. Four interior home lots at Stillwaters Resort on Lake Martin were donated to Camp ASCCA by individual donors. Valentine's Day Dance raised over \$35,000 since its inception in 1996. Board Member Dr. Kristi Sayers began a program to conduct research into the effectiveness of Camp ASCCA programs. Camp Civitan was renamed Camp ASCCA-Dadeville Campus and hosted eight one-week sessions for campers with mental disabilities. Camp ASCCA offered a Nurse Scholarship. Josh Rhodes was hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure and Paula Gilliland as Director of Health Services. Jerry Lynch replaced retiring Robert Wright as Maintenance Supervisor.

2003 The Alfa Equestrian Center at the Alfa-Alabama Farmer's Federation Demonstration Farm was started and a new 12 stable horse barn was built. PUSH America Camp added a new traverse tower to the climbing tower options at the Roswal-Levy Accessible Climbing Tower. Push America also added a new boat storage shed and a major renovation to the fishing pond dam and drainage system. Camp Seale Harris, serving children with diabetes, continued to expand. The annual camper trip to Disney's Magic Kingdom and Sea World took place with 42 campers and counselors. Existing major partners helped sponsor over 1,200



campers during the summer, with over \$235,000 as a subsidy toward full cost. New partners also provided support for continued growth in the Camp ASCCA Campership Fund. A new venture "Rotary Pathway to the Future", a brick pathway, was begun by the Andalusia Rotary Club and the Opp Rotary Club as a follow-up to the Rotary District 6880 Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center project. State appropriation was reduced by \$196,000. Board member Robert McBride led a Camp ASCCA delegation to



Montgomery to speak with legislators regarding a proposal to move the Camp ASCCA state appropriation from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund. Sharry Mathews was hired as Director of Development.

2004 Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Center, a 7,800 square foot facility which provided hands-on environmental learning opened. Pi Kappa Phi Push Camp completed its 11th consecutive year at Camp ASCCA. The fraternity work groups constructed a ballfield clubhouse at the Camp ASCCA-Dadeville Campus, finished the boardwalk extending from the Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center, and constructed an entrance/work building at the accessible raised garden. There were three PUSH Camps in

2004. Southern Custom Exhibits and Alabama Forest Forever Foundation provided new exhibits and displays for the Oscar C. Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center, providing exciting new environmental education opportunities at the Center which began

offering environmental education and field trip opportunities for K-5th grade students. Programs offered were designed to reinforce the existing state science curriculum as well as promote the idea of environmental stewardship rather than ownership. The format included both day camp and overnight sessions. 11th Annual Alexander City Rotary and 6th Annual Tommy Tuberville golf tournaments were held. TNT Custom Cycles Benefit Bike Ride fundraiser was held. Camp ASCCA provided over \$210,000 in financial assistance to campers attending summer sessions. 9th Annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance was renamed Ina Watson Memorial Valentine's Dinner & Dance. Timber was cut and reforested, resulting in a \$239,000 revenue increase. Robert French and his students at Auburn University developed a website for Camp ASCCA. Board Chair Dr. Jim Krudop challenged each Board member to contribute or bring donors to camp. During his two-year tenure as Board chair, \$119,000 was donated or raised by Board members. The Board of Directors was reorganized to 15 members and four standing committees. Dan Gilliland was hired as Director of Environmental Education and Paula Moseley hired as secretary.

Jerry Bynum and Tom Collier retired after working 26 years together to build Camp ASCCA into a global model of accessible camping and recreation for people with disabilities. John Stephenson was promoted to Camp ASCCA Administrator and Matt Rickman was promoted to Camp Director.

2005 ASCCA, Inc. and Alabama Easter Seals Society merged to form Easter Seals Alabama. A Timber Management Plan was implemented to reforest the 230 acres that was cut. In addition to providing operating funds, logging roads provided access to previously undeveloped areas for a multi-use trail system and future interpretive horseback-riding trail. A marketing/media staff position was created. New donor tracking/fundraising software program implemented. Erin Witschey hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure.

2006 A facility-wide, multi-year renovation plan, *Project Renew*, kicked off with renovations to the Pavilion. State funding resumed. Renovations were completed to the girl's cabins restrooms and the health building with support from the Montgomery Rotary Foundation and the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation. Three family programs were held, *Family Deer Hunt Weekend*, *Camp Seale Harris Family Weekend*, and *Fun Fish Weekend*. *1st Rise and Conquer Weekend* with Lakeshore Foundation was held. Camp ASCCA Endowment exceeded \$1 million.



Programs and Services Expand (2007-2016)

The fourth decade at Camp ASCCA saw continued expansion in facilities and programming. Camp ASCCA had become visible across Alabama and support from individuals, communities, and the State of Alabama made the introduction of innovative programming possible. Despite the economic downturn during 2007-2011, through excellent leadership and administration, Camp ASCCA preserved and continued to grow.

With continued support from our sponsors, facility development and improvements to the Camp's infrastructure continued. The Alabama Elks Association supported renovation of the Administration Building and a 900 square-foot Storm Shelter and Arts and Crafts Building. The exterior of the Health Building, the Administrator's home, and the Girls Cabins restrooms were renovated with financial support from Montgomery Rotary Foundation and the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation. The Dining Hall Social Area overlooking Lake Martin was renovated. Roberts Lodge renovation continued with upgrades of new flooring, exterior siding, roofing, landscaping, and kitchen and lobby upgrades, thanks to support from the Alabama Elks Association, Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, Alabama District Pilot International, and Montgomery Kiwanis Club. An Outdoor Game Room was sponsored by the Alabama District Pilot International. A new metal roof was placed on the Rotary-Lions Lodge, as well as new windows and a new exterior. A fully accessible water playground was built. The playground was designed to promote



movement and social interaction for campers who do not swim. The Camp ASCCA Golf & Yacht Club, with support from the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, opened with 18 holes of accessible miniature golf and a one-of-a-kind radio-controlled boating experience on and around two beautiful new ponds. An accessible Waterslide was opened, angled down a hill overlooking Lake Martin to the lakefront. The Fitness and Exercise Room

was completed, which used a Wii gaming system as the centerpiece to allow campers the opportunity to participate in fun, safe activities promoting general fitness. The tennis courts were resurfaced and reformatted to include Quick Start Tennis for younger players through a grant from the United States Tennis Association. A 400-foot accessible nature path and 500 square-foot accessible fishing dock were built. Updates to the sports field, garden, and barn were completed, as were interior and exterior renovations of the dining hall. Alabama District Pilot International, the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, and the Alabama Elks Association sponsored interior and exterior work on the Boys and Girls cabin clusters. The pool was resurfaced. Davis Lodge was renovated after 20 years of use, with accessible

restrooms, upgraded HVAC systems, and a complete interior and exterior restoration funded by the Alabama Elks Association and the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation. The original fishing pier was replaced with a 20'x40' pier constructed by Ability Camp (formerly PUSH Camp) volunteers. The Outpost, located near the boy's cabins, was built to host cookouts, talent shows, karaoke, impromptu dances, and snow cone parties. With support from the Autism Society of Alabama and the Lake Martin Area United Way, a multi-sensory room was created as a special environment designed to generate a relaxing and calming environment for those who may need it. New staff residences were completed.

Phi Kappa Phi Push Camp, involved with Camp ASCCA for nearly 20 years, officially became Ability Experience, the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, with the purpose of instilling lifelong service in its members while enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. Ability Experience has grown into a nationally recognized nonprofit with numerous programs educating undergraduates, alumni, and communities about the abilities of people with disabilities. From 2007-2016, the young men from Phi Kappa Phi built a new shade shelter for the accessible horseback riding ring, a decking area, and pathways for the new accessible waterslide and a new accessible fishing pier. They built accessible picnic tables, a guard rail, hammock stands, and refurbished the laundry carts and gym benches. They also constructed a new game at the lakefront area, pathways at the pond, an accessible ramp to the Waterslide, a shed at the Splash Pad, a fence at the new sports field, created an accessible area at the new lakefront area, worked on the outdoor game room, and painted the exterior of the administration building, boys' cabins and Dining Hall.

Education programs at the Oscar Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center continued with unique hands-on activities combining supervised instruction and guided discovery utilizing the beautiful 230 acres at Camp ASCCA, including Lake Martin and the streams, forest, and ponds surrounding the Environmental Center. Programs were customized to each group's level and complimented the Alabama Course of Study in both science and social studies.

Camp ASCCA hosted three military family camps designed to provide a variety of challenging activities for service members and their families.



Operation Purple Healing Adventures was a program specifically designed to meet the needs of wounded service members and their families, supported by the National Family Military Association and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. *Operation Military Kids* was a residential family camp for military youth with special needs as part of the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support

children and youth impacted by deployment. *Operation Rise & Conquer* was a joint effort with Lakeshore Foundation to provide an outdoor adventure weekend that involved service members and their families in a variety of challenging activities.

The Meredith Birchfield Foundation sponsored the equestrian program, providing qualified staff, care for horses, barn/pasture maintenance, saddles, and safety equipment to conduct a program tailored to each



camper's cognitive and physical abilities. Numerous hunting weekends were conducted, including deer hunts held in cooperation with Lakeshore Foundation, involving separate hunts for both youth and adults with disabilities and their families. Camp ASCCA also hosted a *Shepherd Center Adventure Skills Workshop*, *Alabama District Traumatic Brain Injury Camp* with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, and several 3-day science camps for elementary

school students. In sports, Pat Fegan (formerly President/CEO of Special Olympics Maryland) and Denny Poorman (U.S. bocce official) conducted a Special Olympics bocce workshop/competition at Camp ASCCA. A grant from the Professional Tennis Registry supplied tennis equipment and a tennis ball machine. The Jacksonville State University tennis team provided tennis nets. Camp ASCCA's annual *Fun Fish Weekend* continued to be very popular in its 24th year, with 20-30 campers and 20-25 volunteer counselors and boaters participating. The *Pilot Queen* pontoon boat was renovated, providing a relaxing activity on the lake for campers.

In 2013, Camp ASCCA hosted Professors Lu Yan and Li Wei from Beijing Sport University (China), who were interested in learning more about the good work being accomplished at Camp ASCCA. The following year, John Stephenson, Matt Rickman, and Glenn Roswal were invited to Beijing and Huangshan (China) to consult with local government officials on the construction of a facility similar to Camp ASCCA in China. Their meetings led to visits over the next three summers of Chinese campers, families, and university student counselors who participated in special two-week Camp ASCCA sessions over three summer sessions. In 2015, Board Chairs Robert Kelley and Glenn Roswal visited the Beijing Chapter of Rotary International to promote recreation programs for children with disabilities in China using the Camp ASCCA model. Three Chinese future business and university professionals, Liu Yang (Eric), Han Xiao (Hans), and Wang Zheng (Jeremy) spent the summer of 2015 at Camp ASCCA learning about accessible education and recreation. B'Beth Weldon, a professional artist in Fairhope conducted three workshops for campers during summer session 2014 and then Weldon accompanied Roswal to Beijing to promote the artwork of Camp ASCCA campers at local schools in Beijing.

On April 27, 2011, Camp ASCCA's Dadeville Campus suffered a direct hit and sustained heavy damage and destruction after a tornado devastated the area. The Dadeville Campus incurred extensive damage to buildings, program areas, and land. Both houses at the site were affected; one totally destroyed and the other damaged by fallen and broken trees. Several large shed structures and a maintenance building were destroyed. The remaining buildings all suffered damage, including the central activity center/gym and three cabins. There was minor to extensive damage to all of the boating and fishing piers. All program areas were affected or destroyed including the putt-putt area, amphitheater, canoeing, paddle boats, riflery, water balloon fort, and hiking trails. The Camp ASCCA Board of Directors decided to discontinue programs, close the Dadeville Campus, and exit the lease held with Alabama Power. The Dadeville Campus (formerly Camp Civitan) was donated to Camp ASCCA in 1994 by Alabama District Civitan and opened in 1995 for summer programs for adults with mental disabilities.

Permanent full-time staff hired during 2007-2016 included Abbey Mitchell Murray as Director of Health Services, Amber Cotney as Outdoor Adventure Program Specialist, Heather White as Aquatics Program Specialist, Geni Payne as Director of the Dunn Rotary Environmental Center, Barbara Stark as Dadeville Campus nurse, Joe Spavone as Director of Health Services, Kasey Langley as the first Social Media Specialist, Heather Chumney as Program Specialist Aquatics, Cody Graham as Program Specialist Aquatics, Lyle Coutts as Program Specialist Environmental Education, Alex Dumais as Outdoor Education Director, Karen Cheatham as accountant, Jocelyn Jones as Secretary, Enis Higgs as Food Services Director and Allison Wetherbee as Public Relations Representative. Wetherbee was a former Camp ASCCA camper, providing her with a unique perspective of the value of camp. *PR Weekly*, a well-

respected public relations periodical, chose Dr. Robert French, who handles the Camp ASCCA website, as a "person to watch" in 2008. Erin Witschey returned to Camp ASCCA as Program Specialist Aquatics and Jeff Veres was hired as Maintenance and Housekeeping Supervisor. Amber Cotney became Program Director in 2009. Cotney first came to Camp ASCCA as a counselor in 2000 and served as a unit leader and head



counselor before becoming program director and has been with Camp ASCCA for 26 years. John Stephenson was selected to join the Governor's Office on Disabilities.

In 2016, Camp ASCCA celebrated the 40th year of providing camping and recreation services to individuals with disabilities and their families with an Alumni Staff Family Day. Current and previous staff members traveled from around the country from the first summer in 1976 to 2016 to attend. When asked about how Camp ASCCA has progressed over the years, Bert Emmons, the first camp administrator,

said, "It's just overwhelming to think that we had a tiny part in starting this wonderful program that has now served so many thousands of people over the last 40 years."

Camp ASCCA continued to grow over the past decade due to the incredible support of organizations, individuals, and the State of Alabama. By 2016, over 90% of summer campers received full or partial campership funds through the generosity of donors. The Endowment Fund grew to over \$2 million. The Board Investment Committee hired ParsonsBroach Financial Services in Montgomery to handle camp investments. Peter Levy of New Jersey conducted several Board trainings and Board giving grew to 93%.

The Alabama Elks Association continued to be a major supporter, donating \$50,000 to renovate the Administration Building and another \$50,000 for renovation of the Girls Cabins. Thanks to Auburn University Head Football Coach Tommy Tuberville (now the Senior United States Senator from Alabama), the Tommy Tuberville Golf Tournament completed its 11th year. The tournament became the Gene Chizik Golf Tourney in 2010 when Coach Chizik became Auburn University Head Football Coach. The 17th Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Golf Challenge, 1st Annual Camp ASCCA Open Mini-Golf Tourney, and Birdies for Charity Regions Charity Classic were held. The 18th Annual Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge was held. By 2013 nearly \$4 million had been raised through this event for the benefit of Camp ASCCA and neighboring charity Children's Harbor. The 17th (2012) Annual Ina Watson Memorial Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction was held in 2012. It became the FOCA (Friends of Camp ASCCA) Valentine's Dance in 2013. Southern Company Fleet Operations and Trading out of Birmingham donated \$22,000 from its annual Customer Appreciation Outing and Vendors Showcase.



Camp ASCCA's inaugural Jingle Jump fundraiser was held in December 2015 and was an overwhelming success, raising \$41,500 to sponsor campers with disabilities to attend summer camp. There were 45 jumpers, comprising 30 teams/individuals, with four campers who had staff members jump for them. The jumpers spent the previous month raising money for camperships, with a goal of raising \$725 each. If they were successful, they jumped into the Camp ASCCA pool. In the summertime, the pool was the place to be, but in December, that water was FREEZING.....especially after 5-gallon sized ice cubes were added.

To recognize the philanthropy of individual supporters, the **Wall of Distinction** was established in the Welcome Center to honor donors giving at the Charlie T. Higgins Level (\$50,000+), Robert McBride Level (\$10,000-\$49,999), Vision Level (\$5,000-\$9,999), and Leadership Level (\$1,000-\$4,999). Over the next two decades (2007-2026) Dr. Greg Frith presented Camp ASCCA with life insurance gifts in excess of

\$500,000, Timothy Harbuck presented a \$520,000 estate gift, Dan and Susan Charron contributed over \$452,000, Meredith Birchfield donated \$143,000, Elaine Price presented a \$171,000 gift, Marc Roberts presented \$162,000 in gifts, Guilford Houston Smith, Jr. donated over \$130,000, Charles & Isabel Hall contributed over \$135,000, Dale Glover donated over \$105,000, Jerry Thomley announced Camp ASCCA was part of his planned giving valued over \$100,000 gift, Wadyne Bolton Bishop presented a \$100,000 gift, Dr. Glenn Roswal presented a \$100,000 life insurance gift, Dr. Steve Burak contributed over \$100,000, and the Sandra Davenport estate presented a \$50,000 life insurance gift to Camp ASCCA.



Camp ASCCA received an Endowment Gift of \$100,000 from the Ruth Bonham Camp estate, one of the original contributors to the Endowment Fund in the early 1980's. Frith, Glover, Burak, and Davenport are past Board members and Thomley and Roswal are past Board Chairs.

A fourth generation of leaders, Board Chairs Judge Wade Drinkard, Richard Bollinger, Rob Hunter, Walter Meigs, and Jim Carlo continued establishing Camp ASCCA as one of the premier facilities providing camping and recreation opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and their families. By 2016 the Camp ASCCA operating budget was \$1.5 million and the Camp ASCCA Endowment fund reached \$2.3 million.



Lynne Stokley



For Lynne Stokley, Easterseals is not just a career - it is a calling that has shaped the past 40 years of her life. A graduate of Auburn University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling, Lynne began her journey with Easterseals at the Janice Capilouto Center for the Deaf (JCCD). Early in her career, she served as a counselor and program coordinator, developing a deep commitment to individuals with disabilities. She later spent six years working within the Auburn University system, supporting college students with disabilities - an experience that broadened her perspective on disability services. In 1999, Lynne returned "home" to Easterseals as Director of JCCD. Just six years later, she stepped into the role of CEO of Easterseals Alabama where her steady leadership has guided the organization's

continued growth and impact across the state. Camp ASCCA has been woven into Lynne's story from the very beginning. Long before she worked within the Easterseals system, she was introduced to Camp as a student at Auburn in the early 1980s. Through campus organizations, she volunteered at Camp and attended retreats there. She still recalls those days fondly - walking the wooded trails, gathering for fireside programs at night and experiencing the unique sense of community that Camp creates.

Throughout her decades with Easterseals, Camp ASCCA has remained a meaningful part of her journey. While her connection does not quite reach back to Camp's earliest days, Lynne has had the rare privilege of witnessing much of its growth, change, and development over the years. She sees Camp ASCCA as an extraordinary place - one sustained by visionary leadership and a deep commitment to serving individuals and families across Alabama. Lynne lives in Montgomery and is the proud mother of one daughter, Laura. In a meaningful full-circle moment, Laura served as Camp's Public Relations Intern during the summer of 2023 - continuing a family connection to an organization that has been central to Lynne's life and legacy.



John Stephenson



John Stephenson is the Administrator of Camp ASCCA and responsible for the business operations of Camp ASCCA, including oversight of ASCCA's marketing activities, financial development, facility capital projects, and coordinating the efforts of the Board of Directors. A 1987 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation, his first experience with Camp ASCCA was during the summer of 1986 when he worked as the Lakefront Program Director. While working as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist for seven years at Norwest Regional Hospital in Rome Georgia, he returned to work at Camp ASCCA during the summers of 1987 and 1995. In 1995, Stephenson became the Camp Director of Camp Civitan, which was renamed Camp ASCCA-

Dadeville Campus in 2002. At Camp Civitan, he was the sole full-time permanent employee, supported by volunteers and summer staff. His duties at Camp Civitan included supervising all administrative, personnel, and program aspects of the Dadeville Campus, under the umbrella of Camp ASCCA. In 2004, Stephenson was hired as Camp ASCCA Administrator, leading Camp ASCCA to new heights. John Stephenson has served on the Boards of the Alabama Governor's Office of Disabilities, Easter Seal Society of Alabama, and the Alabama Association of Camps. He was invited to speak at Beijing Sport University in China as one of the foremost experts in recreation and camping for people with disabilities in United States. John Stephenson is recognized as one of the world's most respected leaders in recreation services for people with disabilities.



Matt Rickman



Matt Rickman is the Camp Director at Camp ASCCA, with over 27 years of camping experience working with people of all ages with various disabilities. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of West Georgia in Therapeutic Recreation, he came to Camp ASCCA as an intern in 1998 and has worked full-time at Camp ASCCA since 1999. He was originally hired as the Outdoor Adventure Program specialist and has been the Camp Director since 2004. He is responsible for the hiring, training, and supervision of staff and coordinates scheduling of over 40 user groups each year. Parent and camper interaction is also a large part of his job. His wife Dana also works at Camp ASCCA as the Director of Development and has treasured watching his two children grow up and work at Camp. Rickman has been instrumental in the design and construction of numerous innovative camp facilities and has constructed various adaptive high and low ropes course elements for Camp ASCCA. In 2003, he received the merit award in Therapeutic Recreation from the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association. He has presented at conferences for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), Beijing Sport University, and the American Alliance for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), as well as many schools, churches, parent groups, civic organizations, and businesses. Matt Rickman is recognized as one of the country's foremost experts in recreation and camping for people with disabilities.



A Chronological Look at the History of Camp ASCCA 2007-2016

2007 Exterior of the Health Building and Girl's Cabins restrooms were renovated with financial support from Montgomery Rotary Foundation and Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation. The Dixon Foundation also provided \$50,000 to renovate the Health Building and Administrator's house. Camp ASCCA Dadeville Campus served 134 campers with intellectual disabilities during the five 1-week sessions. Christmas shopping and the Callaway Gardens light show trip began. Board members Dr. Greg Frith and Dr. Glenn Roswal gifted life insurance policies to the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. Haynes Downard LLP (Max Campbell) was selected to conduct the annual audit. They would continue as the audit firm for the next 20 years.

Dr. Greg Frith conducted a winter board workshop on using legacy money and Charitable Remainder Trusts to achieve short and long-term financial goals. Allison Wetherbee, a former camper and Camp ASCCA Director of Community Relations, spoke about her experiences growing up with a disability and how Camp ASCCA had a positive effect on her life. The Board of Directors accepted a proposal to rewrite sections of the bylaws with membership of 12-18 members, serving a 3-year term, with the option for a second 3-year term. State appropriation was \$520,00 through Mental Health under the Education Trust Fund. Geni Payne was hired as Director of the Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center. Nathan Waters was hired as Camp ASCCA Dadeville Campus Camp Director and Barbara Stark as Dadeville Campus nurse. Allison Wetherbee was hired as Director of Community Relations, with a focus on presentations to community organizations and donor development. Heather White was hired as Aquatics Program Specialist, Barclay Bentley as Food Services Director, Amber Cotney as Outdoor Adventure Program Specialist, and Jocelyn Jones as secretary. Retired Camp Director Tom Collier became Manager of Operations at the Dadeville Campus. Paul Vercher, a lobbyist for the Birmingham Chamber and U.S. Steel, was selected to promote Camp ASCCA in the Alabama legislature. John Stephenson was selected to join the Alabama Governor's Office on Disabilities.



2008 The Splash Pad, a fully accessible water playground was built. The 2,800 square-foot playground was designed to promote movement and social interaction for campers who do not swim. With support from the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation and the Alabama District Pilot International Club, the Camp ASCCA Golf & Yacht Club opened with 18 holes of accessible miniature golf and a one-of-a-kind radio-controlled boating experience on and around two beautiful new ponds. New staff residences were completed. Phi Kappa Phi Push Camp continued for the 15th year. A policy of board members thanking donors with personal thank-you notes began. State appropriation remained at \$520,000, despite the State of Alabama projecting a \$400 million deficit for 2009 due to the recession. Timothy Harbuck presented a \$520,000 estate gift. Tommy Tuberville Golf Tournament took place for the 10th year. *PR Weekly*, a well-respected public relations periodical, chose Dr. Robert French, who handled the Camp ASCCA website, as a "person to watch" in 2008. Erin Witschey returned to Camp ASCCA as Program Specialist Aquatics and Jeff Veres was hired as Maintenance and Housekeeping Supervisor.

2009 Camp ASCCA hosted three military family camps designed to provide a variety of challenging activities for service members and their families, *Operation Purple Healing Adventures*, *Operation Military Kids*, and *Operation Rise & Conquer*. Camp ASCCA Dadeville Campus served 134 campers with mental disabilities during the five 1-week sessions. 1st Annual Camp ASCCA Open Mini-Golf Tourney was held. Birdies for Charity Regions Charity Classic was held. Due to the recession, state appropriation was reduced to \$470,000. Camp ASCCA received an estate gift of \$100,000 from Wadyne Bolton Bishop and an Endowment Gift of \$100,000 from the Ruth Bonham Camp estate, one of the original contributors to the Endowment Fund in the early 1980s. Upon the advice of Board member and Camp Mac owner Robert McBride, the policy of reporting the number of campers served was changed to the number of camper days served. Number of camper days served is used in the traditional for-profit camping industry

as it is the real measurement of camping services. Rotary Youth Leadership Camp was held with Alabama Treasurer Kay Ivey (now Alabama Governor Ivey) as the keynote speaker. Director of Community Relations Allison Wetherbee published a book, *I Was Born This Way*. Amber Cotney was promoted to Program Director.

2010 The Accessible Waterslide opened, a 300-foot waterslide winding down a hill overlooking Lake Martin from behind the Chapel directly to the lakefront. The Fitness and Exercise Room was completed, which used a Wii gaming system as the centerpiece to allow campers the opportunity to participate in fun, safe activities promoting general fitness. Tennis Courts were resurfaced and reformatted to include Quick Start Tennis for younger players through a grant from the United States Tennis Association. The Dining Hall Social Area overlooking Lake Martin was renovated, including a new sound system. Sponsored by the Alabama District Pilot International, the Outdoor Game Room, featuring ping pong tables and checkers opened. A 400-foot accessible nature path and a 500 square foot accessible fishing dock were built. In its 18th year, the Phi Kappa Phi Push Camp built a new shade shelter for the accessible horseback riding ring, a decking area and pathways for the new accessible waterslide, and pathways at the pond. Renovations to the nurse's apartments were completed. The Pilot Queen pontoon boat was renovated. The paddleboard activity area was created with new YOLO paddleboards. The Professional Tennis Registry granted tennis equipment and a tennis ball machine. The Jacksonville State University tennis team provided tennis nets. The Alabama Elks Association donated \$50,000 to renovate the Administration Building. Three hunting weekends were conducted, two deer hunts with the Lakeshore Foundation and one hunt for Camp ASCCA campers. 1st Annual Camp ASCCA Open Miniature Golf Tournament was held. Gene Chizik Golf Tourney, a continuation of the Tommy Tuberville Tournament that was conducted for 11 years, was held. Coach Chizik, Auburn University Head Football Coach, took part in hosting the 24 golf teams. The 17th Annual Rotary Golf Challenge was held. Nashville Artist Kirk Seufert's Charity Art Show benefiting Camp ASCCA was held. Camp ASCCA state appropriation was further cut to \$436,000 as all state contracts were cut by 7% due to the recession. Board Chair Rob Hunter established a priority for 100% Board member participation in donating and/or raising funds for camp. An ad-hoc Committee on Board Giving, chaired by past Board Chair Glenn Roswal, established a new campaign of board giving that transitioned the Chairman's Council into the Wall of Distinction, with recognition to donors contributing \$1,000 or greater. Jocelyn Jones was hired as secretary. Past Board Chair John A. Garrett, one of the founders of Camp ASCCA, passed at 101 years old.

2011 The Administration Building was renovated with grants from the Alabama Elks Association and the United States Steel Foundation. Pi Kappa Phi Push Camp built an accessible ramp to the Waterslide, created an accessible area at the new lakefront area, worked on the outdoor game room, and painted the newly renovated exterior of the Administration Building. Camp Civitan suffered tornado damage and was subsequently closed. 19th Annual Fun Fish Weekend held for anglers with disabilities. Christmas shopping and trip to the Montgomery Zoo started. Alabama Elks Association donated \$50,000 to Camp ASCCA for renovation of the boys' cabins, which included a new heat pump system. The Leadership Courtyard was established adjacent to the Dining Hall to honor donors giving at the Charlie T. Higgins Level (\$50,000+), Robert McBride Level (\$10,000-\$49,999), Vision Level (\$5,000-\$9,999), and Leadership Level (\$1,000-\$4,999). The 18th Annual Alexander City Rotary Golf Challenge was held. Nearly \$4 million had been raised through this event for the benefit of Camp ASCCA and neighboring charity Children's Harbor. The 16th Annual Ina Watson Memorial Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction took place. Easter Seals staff visited legislators and Governor Bentley to promote Easter Seals' services, including support for Camp ASCCA. Endowment Fund exceeded \$1.5 million. Joe Spavone hired as Director of Health Services and Enis Higgs as Food Services Director.



2012 Updates were done to the sports field and it was dedicated in memory of donor and former staff member Lee Eiland Kravitz. The garden and barn were also updated. Interior and exterior renovations of the dining hall were completed. Alabama District Pilot International, the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, and the Alabama Elks Association sponsored interior and exterior work on the boy's cabin cluster. Roofs on the Roberts and Davis Lodges were replaced with metal roofs. Push Camp built a shed at the Splash Pad, constructed a fence at the new sports field, and painted the newly renovated boys' cabins and the dining hall. Three accessible hunts were conducted, two of them with partner Lakeshore Foundation. Alabama Elks Association donated \$50,000 to Camp ASCCA for renovation of girl's cabins. The 19th Annual Alexander City Rotary Club Golf Challenge sponsored by Russell Lands and Willow Point Golf & Country Club took place. The 17th Annual Ina Watson Memorial Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction was held. Over 90% of summer campers received full or partial campership funds. Aubrie Collins became Program Specialist Aquatics. Karen Cheatham was hired as accountant, replacing Cathy Jones who had worked at Camp ASCCA for 12 years.

2013 Girls cabins were renovated thanks to the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, Alabama Elks Foundation, and the Alabama District Pilot International. Rotary-Lions Lodge was renovated with a new exterior, new windows, and a new roof. The 32-bed Marc Roberts Lodge was renovated with a metal roof and lobby and kitchen renovations funded by Montgomery Kiwanis Club and the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation. Christmas Weekend at Camp ASCCA with local bands was launched. The Alabama Head Injury Foundation, with support from Alabama District Pilots, held their 1st Traumatic Brain Injury Camp.



Professors Lu Yan and Li Wei from Beijing Sport University (China) visited Camp ASCCA with Dr. Glenn Roswal. The 20th Annual Alexander City Rotary Club Golf Challenge sponsored by Russell Lands and Willow Point Golf had raised over \$1 million for Camp ASCCA in the past 20 years. 1st Annual Friends of Camp ASCCA (FOCA) Valentine's Dance (formerly the Annual Ina Watson Memorial Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction) was conducted. Investment Committee hired ParsonsBroach Financial Services in Montgomery (Raymond James Financial Services) to handle camp investments. Peter Levy and Glenn Roswal conducted a winter board workshop on *Building the Endowment*. A commitment was made by the entire Board that all Board members would donate; the Board further committed to facilitate meetings between John Stephenson and potential donors. Lyle Coutts was hired as Program Specialist Environmental Education. The professionalism of the summer camp nurses was uniquely enhanced, as three of the four nurses were former summer camp counselors.

2014 Marc Roberts Lodge renovations were completed and expanded to 3,600 square feet, Cottle Chapel renovations were completed, and ball field improvements were finished with a new backstop and netting all thanks to support from Alabama Elks Association, Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, Alabama District Pilot International, and Montgomery Kiwanis Club. Shepherd Center Adventure Skills Workshop and Fun Fish Weekend were held. The Traumatic Brain Injury Camp, sponsored by Pilots International, Alabama District Pilots, and the Alabama Head Injury Foundation took place. B'Beth Weldon, a professional artist in Fairhope conducted three art workshops for campers. Pat Fegan (formerly President/CEO Special Olympics Maryland) and Denny Poorman (U.S. bocce official) conducted a bocce workshop and competition at Camp ASCCA. Tracy Tyler's Caribbean Chrome Steel Drum Band from Jacksonville performed for campers. Thanks to Dr. Glenn Roswal's long standing relationship with Beijing Sport University and various leaders in China, John Stephenson, Matt Rickman, and Dr. Roswal were invited to Beijing and Huangshan (China) to consult with local government officials on the construction of a facility similar to Camp ASCCA in China. A group of Chinese campers, family members, and student counselors participated in a 2-week summer session at Camp ASCCA. Meredith Birchfield Foundation sponsored the 2014 equestrian program, which provided qualified staff, care for horses, barn/pasture maintenance, saddles, and safety equipment to conduct a program tailored to each camper's cognitive and physical abilities. Holiday Support Giving Campaign raised \$15,000 from Camp ASCCA alumni and staff. Summer counselor Gordon Warner was the

2014 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship (\$500). Abbey Mitchell was hired as Director of Health Services, and Cody Graham as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure. Peter Levy conducted a Board Winter Workshop on *Going from Good to Great*. The endowment Fund exceeded \$2 million. The Sandra Davenport estate gifted Camp ASCCA a \$50,000 life insurance policy.



2015 Named originally after Mr. Tine Davis, the Davis Lodge was renovated after 20 years of use, with accessible restrooms, upgraded HVAC systems, and a complete interior and exterior restoration funded by the Alabama Elks Association, the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, Rotary District 6880, Montgomery Sunrise Club, and the Alabama District Pilot International. The swimming pool was resurfaced. The original fishing pier was replaced with a 20'x40' pier constructed by Ability Experience (formerly Push America) volunteers. Ability Experience also built accessible picnic tables, a guard rail, hammock stands, and refurbished the laundry carts and the gym benches.

The OutPost, consisting of an open-air karaoke stage, refreshment area with shaved ice treats, hammocks, cabana, and tables was built. Fun Fish Weekend was conducted with volunteers from Pi Kappa Phi, Auburn University chapter and local boaters. Two accessible deer hunts were conducted in cooperation with Lakeshore Foundation. Camp ASCCA hosted several 3-day science camps for elementary school students. Past Board Chairs Bob Kelly and Glenn Roswal spoke about Camp ASCCA at the Rotary Club of Beijing in China. A 2nd group of disabled campers, parents, and university student counselors came from Beijing to Camp ASCCA during the summer session. Southern Company Fleet Operations and Trading out of Birmingham donated \$22,000 from their annual Customer Appreciation Outing and Vendors Showcase. Jingle Jump, a December fundraising event held in conjunction with the Camp ASCCA annual Christmas Weekend was initiated, raising \$41,500 to sponsor campers to attend summer camp. Alex Dumais was hired as Outdoor Education Director. Financially, Camp ASCCA's balance sheet was moved from the Alabama Education Trust Fund to the General Fund, with funding projected at \$317,000. The summer camp fee was increased from \$695/week to \$725/week. Brett Gray was the 2015 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship.

2016 Camp ASCCA celebrated the 40th year of camping and recreation services to individuals with disabilities and their families with an Alumni Staff Family Day. Online summer session registration was successfully launched in October. The Arts & Crafts program was relocated to the lower level of the Marc Roberts Lodge allowing both indoor and outdoor project areas. The lower level of the Roberts Lodge was renovated to serve as a storm shelter during inclement weather, with support from the Alabama Elks Association. A new Multi-Sensory Room opened thanks to a grant from the Autism Society of Alabama and the Lake Martin Area United Way. Dining Hall restrooms were renovated. North wing of the Davis Lodge was named in honor of Dr. Glenn Roswal for his years of service and dedication. Civitan clubs from Alabama Central Civitan District funded the 24th Annual Fun Fish Weekend with volunteer counselors from Auburn University and the University of South Alabama. The ASCCA *on the Road* program was launched to increase statewide awareness of programs and services offered through a series of programs for special education classes across Alabama. Emily Frederick of Gadsden, Alabama, an alumna of Camp ASCCA's summer sports camp, was selected as a member of the U.S. Paralympic Track and Field Team for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. Christian Thomason was the 2016 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship. Amber Cotney moved from Program Specialist Outdoor Education to Program Director. Kasey Langley was hired as Social Media Specialist and Heather Chumney as Program Specialist Aquatics.



A 50-year Legacy of Service to Campers with Disabilities (2017-2026)

What began as an improbable dream in the 1960s developed into one of the premier programs in the world providing recreation and camping programs for children and adults with disabilities and their families. A group of remarkable Alabamians set Camp ASCCA on a path to success 50 years ago and over the past five decades Alabamians, civic organizations, communities, and state government came together to make the dream possible. Despite economic downturns and health crises, Camp ASCCA persevered and continued to grow. With each challenge, new leaders, new donors, and supporters emerged. By 2026, the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund, long an emphasis of many Boards of Directors Chairs seeking to secure the future of Camp ASCCA, had surpassed \$3 million. This was achieved through the efforts of generous donors and volunteers bestowing legacy gifts. Camp ASCCA is a story of how committed people came together to build one of the finest accessible recreation and camping facilities, serving thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families.

On March 21, 2020, Camp ASCCA announced for the first time in the 44-year history of the camp, programs would be suspended to comply with Center for Disease COVID mandates and a commitment to the safety and well-being of Camp ASCCA campers, families, and staff. The Board decided to refund all fees that were paid in advance for summer 2020 sessions. Camper families were given the option of a full refund and/or donating all or part of the fees to camp. While \$125,000 in fees were refunded, \$27,000 of those fees were donated back to Camp. Several groups elected to apply their deposit to a 2021 camp session. Shortly after online registration for summer sessions 2021 opened, all 2021 sessions were full.

To keep campers and families connected, a virtual camping program was developed. Virtual camping programs, which were provided at no cost to campers, included: Facebook Live (covering updates, concerts, and sign-in), Zoom meetings with staff and campers, art activity boxes (including special activities for those in group homes without access to computers), dress up theme days, and a variety of recorded videos from staff that were entertaining and educational. Due to the success of this option, the Camp ASCCA mission statement was revised to include virtual programming.



Weekend programs and summer sessions returned in 2021 using a modified attendance policy to adhere to post-COVID safety procedures (60% capacity campers and staff). Seasonal group bookings went back to normal after COVID precautions were lifted with reduced camper numbers (60% of capacity). Online registration continued to work well, with summer sessions 95% full within 72 hours after the website

opened. In preparation for campers and visitors after COVID procedures were relaxed, several health and safety precautions were introduced, including air scrubbers for cabins and key buildings, water bottle filling stations, large handwashing stations, hand sanitizer dispensers, scan thermometers, an ice dispenser, and necessary personal protective equipment thanks to sponsors Charles & Isabel Hall Foundation, Joe Spavone, and the Central Alabama Community Foundation.

While Camp ASCCA was closed to visitors, staff used the time to upgrade and renovate camp facilities. The Big Stage, sponsored by the Alabama Elks Association and the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation, was built to provide a professional venue for live music and performing arts with a target audience of individuals with special needs. The Big Stage was completed in 2021 to host ASCCApalooza. The first annual ASCCApalooza was a great success in 2017, held at the Outpost. The festival was created as a music concert with professional musicians performing for Camp ASCCA campers participating in a Camp ASCCA weekend and/or a summer camp session. Selected individuals with and without special needs were also invited to the concerts. Events were free of charge, with donations accepted. Concert performers included *Red Clay Strays*, *Russell Craig*, *Grady Spencer & the Work*, *Mo Lowda & the Humble*, *Flying Buffaloes*, *Brent Cobb*, *Black Jacket Symphony*, *Bobby Miller*, *Webb Wilder & the Beatnecks*, *To the 9's*, *Riley Green*, *Sweet Tea Trio*, *The Negotiators*, *Bonus Round*, *Little Raine Band*, *Winston Ramble*, *Diner*, *Band of Heathens*, *Sam Burchfield & the Scoundrels*, *Blue Water Highway*, *The Vegabonds*, *Langhorne Slim*, *Drake White*, *The 502s*, *Happy Landing*, *Charity Bowden*, *Adam Hood*, *Taylor Hunnicutt*, *Sam Burchfield*, *John Hollier*, *Sam Morrow*, *Stop Light Observations*, *Carver Commodore*, *Jordy Searcy*, *Willie Pearl*, and *Will Stewart*. Country music artist Charity Bowden of *Sweet Tea Trio* performed three concerts at ASCCApalooza and *The Red Clay Strays*, one of the most popular groups in the Concert Series, held a surprise concert for the benefit of campers.



Administration offices were moved to the Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center and the building was renamed the Dunn-Rotary Administration Building. The original administration building was renovated to include the Collier Nature Center, the Alabama Elks Welcome Center, and a quiet room for campers with sensory processing disorders. Environmental displays in the original building were relocated to the new Collier Nature Center, as well as strategically displayed in other buildings across camp where they were incorporated into existing programs. The Collier Nature Center, a 1,600 square-foot facility with nature crafts, education, and exhibits, opened in the original administration building and was named in recognition of the lifetime contribution of former Camp ASCCA Camp Director Tom Collier.

The Cottle Chapel, a multi-purpose open-air facility, was renamed Bynum Chapel, in recognition of the lifetime contribution of former Camp Administrator Jerry Bynum. The LPR Zipline, sponsored by Peter Levy, Donald Perkins, and Glenn Roswal, was completed providing campers with an exhilarating 800-foot zipline ride across the Camp ASCCA pond. Sponsored by the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, the Charron Family Foundation, and the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Pickleball and Sport Pavilion was constructed with Pickleball and basketball courts, a recreation play area, and a shaded area during inclement weather and hot, sunny days. The old amphitheater area overlooking Lake Martin was revamped into Frith Patio, aptly named after Dr. Greg Frith, whose philanthropic efforts helped secure Camp ASCCA's future for decades to come. The patio was built with three different levels of seating areas and multi-colored accessible seating for campers for a perfect place for occasional breakfast dining. A new departure platform was built for the zipline in the challenge course area. There were now three ziplines at Camp ASCCA, each at different heights and distances.

The Backyard Area was renamed The Outpost, which could host small music concerts and recreational gatherings. The subarea outside the Outpost was renamed Hammocks and Horseshoes. The Outpost



received an update by shifting the stage to an open-air concept, installing new flooring and moving the ramp, making it more spacious. A restroom at the Outpost was built. The Cone-Roswal Big Swing and the new Pilots Swing Area were built along the shoreline of the pond. The Big Swing, which allows campers to swing from the hillside out over the water, was sponsored by loyal Camp ASCCA friends Drs. Steve and Theresa Cone from Vermont. The Swing Area is a colorful area that provides campers with a relaxing activity while waiting to ride the Zipline or Big Swing. Sponsors included the Alfa Foundation, the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Foundation, and Alabama District Pilot International. Two staff residences, sponsored by the Alabama Elks Association and Montgomery Sunrise Club, were renovated. The Bck4T building was expanded to house a virtual simulation game

with multiple sports on it and a soundproof sensory room. The room is a great place for campers to leave the noise of the main building without leaving the building. The Boathouse area at the lakefront was extensively renovated with new concrete access areas, a two-story boathouse, and a viewing deck, sponsored by Juneau Construction, Charron Family Outreach Foundation, Concrete Construction Services, Jacaman Construction, Summit Concrete Construction, and Sunrise Docks. Juneau Construction partnered with Camp ASCCA to donate used and new unneeded construction materials for

future projects around camp. Marc Roberts Lodge received new plumbing, a more accessible entrance, and plumbing upgrades. The Rotary-Lions Center basement waterproofing project was completed.

Work began on Frith Landing and the Parent Campground, a unique family lodging and camping area that allows families of young children with disabilities to be on-site while their camper is participating in camp activities. In 2026 there were four of five cabins and two RV spots at Frith Landing. Each cabin is sponsored by an individual or organization donor (Charron Family Foundation, Alabama Elks Association, Steve Burak, Steve Cone/Glenn Roswal, Pilot Club of Guntersville).

Camp ASCCA's inaugural Rookie Camp was launched. New campers and their parents made the trip to Camp ASCCA for the first-ever Rookie Camp, a weekend to learn about the place so many people called home and the opportunities that were offered. Each family was also paired with an experienced ASCCA camp counselor for any needed assistance or to answer any specific questions. The schedule for the weekend allowed campers to enjoy activities offered at Camp ASCCA, while parents were able to see the programs in action and find comfort in how the staff managed each activity. Throughout the weekend, parents were overheard talking about how impressed they were with the staff and how they wished they had known about Camp ASCCA a long time ago. Campers participated in activities that they did not have the opportunity to do anywhere else and each time the activity ended with a smile and a desire to go again. Activities included swimming, tubing, waterslide, zipline across the pond, canoeing, fishing, arts & crafts, karaoke, and dancing. At subsequent Rookie Camps, most of the campers attending enrolled in an upcoming summer session.



The Camp ASCCA Podcast was launched to share information about Camp ASCCA and topics that may be of interest to families and friends. Podcasts included conversations with current and former staff members *Matt Rickman, Amber Cotney, Barclay Bentley, Tre Marbury & Justin Hammers, Abbey Murray, Maggie Barnard, and Chris Pendergrass*. There were also resource podcasts on *Financial Planning with Dr. Greg Frith and Dr. Glenn Roswal, Divine Medicine with Langhorne Slim, Nurse Check-in with Nick & Cynthia, Maximum Independence at ASCCA with parent Searcy Kelly, Experiential Learning with Patrick Shremshock, A New Perspective with Dr. Graham Sisson, Learning More About Down Syndrome of Alabama, Camper & Parent Testimony with Josie & Catherine Smith, Recreational Therapy and Its Importance, Parent Testimony – Letting Go and Trusting with Allison Ashurst, A Place Is Only As Good As The People In It with Carmine Vara, Conversations in Speech Pathology with Lindsey Piazza, Exploring Assistive Technology with Dr. Elizabeth Stewart, Learning More About Camp Seale Harris with*

John Latimer, The Art of Being Someone Who Cares About Something with Nathan Waters, Zach Woolley's Story of Resilience, Growth, and Impact, Michael Pereira with Autism Voyage, Debbie Lynn with Easterseals Central Alabama, Kelly Edens the Therapeutic Recreation Manager at Shepherd Center, Exploring Alabama Outdoors with Marianne Gauldin, Tyree McIntosh caring for children with disabilities, Accessibility Travel Agent Trish Robinson, and pediatric occupational therapist Danielle Peters.

Despite the cancellation of programs in 2020 and thanks to loyal supporters, revenue from clubs, organizations, and individuals remained constant. Support from the State of Alabama helped maintain the policy that no camper with a disability is excluded from participating in Camp ASCCA programs due to an inability to pay. Although the real cost of a camper to attend Camp ASCCA for a week was \$1,250, many campers were subsidized by campership funds. Annually, Camp ASCCA provided over \$230,000 in financial services to campers with disabilities attending summer camp sessions.

The Jingle Jump fundraising event completed the 12th year, raising an average of \$50,000 annually with funds going to the campership fund, with a record year of \$77,150 in 2024 thanks to extra efforts from the Alabama Elks Associate lodges and Rob and Susie Hunter. Dr. Greg Frith continued making annual donations, including a \$40,000 contribution by donating his yacht to Camp ASCCA.



The Judy Williams scholarship was created in 2014 to recognize a summer camp counselor who displayed an unmatched work ethic, enthusiasm, contagious energy, and a great attitude. Ms. Williams is a donor, volunteer, and former staff member who came to Camp ASCCA the first summer in 1976. Gordon Warner, Brett Gray, Christian Thomason, Matt Smith, Lance Chayka, Zach Rickman, Bryce Perrien, Elizabeth Bryson, Emily Lamberson, Jackson Blount, and Kayana Luke, were the 2014-2025 recipients. Abbey Murray returned as

Director of Health Services, Jon Dollar was promoted from Outdoor Education Program Specialist to Kitchen Supervisor, Lance Chayka was hired as Maintenance & Housekeeping Supervisor, and Dana Rickman became the Director of Development. Other new hires included Elise Quinn as Social Media Specialist, Sean Jaco as Director of Health Services, and Jacob Boyer as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure. Tre Marbury was hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, Justin Hammers as Aquatics Program Specialist, Maggie Barnard as Aquatics Program Specialist, Chris Pendergrass as Outdoor Education Program Specialist, and John Hobbs as Aquatics Program Specialist.

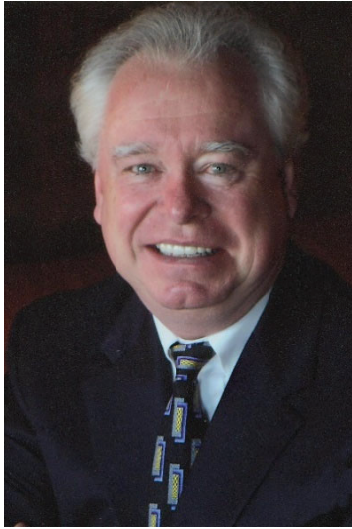
A fifth generation of leaders, Board Chairs Marshall Griffin, Bob Kelley, Tony Glebosky, and Janey Sanderson continued moving Camp ASCCA toward an even brighter future, along with former Board

Chairs Dr. Graham Sisson and Dr. Glenn Roswal, who served second terms as Board Chairs. In 2026 the Camp ASCCA operating budget reached \$2 million and the Camp ASCCA Endowment fund moved over \$3 million, with a continued increase in legacy gifts. Through five decades, Camp ASCCA has been established as a premier facility in providing over 500,000 camper days of innovative recreation and camping programs to children and adults with disabilities in a comprehensive barrier-free recreation and camping facility.

**Scenes from ASCCApalooza
and the Annual Concert
Series**



Dr. Gregory Frith



Greg Frith has been a friend of Camp ASCCA for over 45 years. As a Professor and Department Head of Special Education at Jacksonville State University, Dr. Frith began referring his university students to volunteer at Camp ASCCA for practical experience working with children and adults with disabilities. He served two terms on the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors. His wife, Linda, also served two terms on the Board. Dr. Frith has become the single largest individual donor to Camp ASCCA. In 2007, he presented Camp ASCCA with a life insurance gift of \$250,000 and has gifted several additional life policies valued at over \$500,000 to Camp ASCCA. He makes annual donations to the Campership Fund program. In 2022, Dr. Frith donated his yacht to Camp, resulting in a \$40,000 donation to Camp. He has designated a major portion of his estate to Camp ASCCA as a legacy gift. Additionally, he has assisted other Board members plan legacy gifts for Camp ASCA.

After retiring from Jacksonville State University in 1995, Frith became a Senior Financial Services Executive with MetLife where he achieved a golden level of sales excellence and was recognized nine times at Chairman's Council and 11 times at President's Conference, MetLife's elite recognition conferences. He is a Life Member of the President's Conference and a member of the MetLife Hall of Fame. Dr. Frith is retired from Wealth Solutions Group LLC in Rainbow City, Alabama.



The Alabama Elks Association



The Alabama Elks Association is an active fraternal organization with nearly 7,000 members across 23 lodges in the state of Alabama. In late 2010, the statewide association began a renewed partnership with Camp ASCCA. The Alabama Elks chose Easterseals Camp ASCCA as their state major project and contributed \$50,000! Sixteen years later, the Alabama Elks support capital and program projects with the same annual gift! Individual Elks members and lodges have supported Camp ASCCA for years through local lodge fundraisers and camper sponsorship support.

In 2019, Elk lodges and individuals came together to also contribute over \$40,000 for the purchase of a new tritoon pontoon boat – The Floating Elk! The Elks of Alabama continue to work hard and contribute annually to their capital gift. Camp and staff look forward to seeing Elks at the annual Camp ASCCA Christmas weekend, the Annual Elks Appreciation Day, at the annual Jingle Jump fundraiser, and during the summer when they visit and volunteer multiple times.



The Charron Family Outreach Foundation

Since 2021, Camp ASCCA has benefited from the Charron Family Outreach Foundation's generosity. The Foundation has been a key part of creating new buildings and program areas. After initial undesignated capital gifts, the new Boathouse was constructed with a beautiful new concrete surround with their 2022 donations. They also got Juneau Construction of Atlanta and a number of other construction companies on board with the project. Next, they then helped with Camp projects through 2023 including land improvements, the purchase of maintenance equipment, road development for Frith Landing (the parent campground), and the Bck4T addition. In 2024, the Charron's sponsored the Charron Family Outreach Foundation cabin at Frith Landing. Additionally, they helped to fund the Pickleball sports court area. And by the end of 2025, the family continued their assistance with gifts for the Dining Hall renovations and site preparation for the new maintenance building structure. Dan Charron has additionally jumped in many times to work on the projects.

The Charrons don't want a lot of recognition and simply enjoy helping people. According to Susan Charron, "Less is more for us. All of your activities and the smiles in Camp pictures are what make us who we are. The families enjoying the cabin and the kids enjoying the boat house – that's the best!" The cabins she is referring to are at Frith Landing where they sponsored one. The first camper families stayed in the Charron Cabin during the summer of 2025. Camp ASCCA looks forward to continued years of a great relationship with the Charron family and recognizes them as an integral part of Camp's present and future!



Marc Roberts



Marc Roberts is a renowned businessman, philanthropist, and a great friend of Camp ASCCA. In 1998, Mr. Roberts was introduced to Camp ASCCA through long-time Camp ASCCA volunteer and senior corporate liaison to the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors Peter Levy. Roberts subsequently donated 100,000 shares of stock in his company Worldwide Entertainment & Sports, resulting in a contribution of \$142,000 to Camp ASCCA. It was the largest single individual contribution to Camp ASCCA at the time. In his honor, the original camper residence building was renovated and renamed the Marc Roberts Lodge. For his philanthropy, the Alabama State Legislature proclaimed June 5, 2003 *Marc Roberts Day*. Mr. Roberts has made numerous additional contributions to Camp ASCCA over the past 28 years and received the prestigious Edgar Allen Award from the National Easter Seal Society and the Camp ASCCA Endowment Award.

Roberts was the first person to ever take a Sports Agency Firm public; his company Triple Threat Enterprises managed two worldwide boxing champions, Ray Mercer and Shannon Briggs. One of the youngest people to take a company public on the NASDAQ market, he is now owner and co-founder of E11EVENHotel and Residences and E11EVEN Beyond as well as the co-founder of Miami Worldcenter, the largest mixed-used project development in the United States. Marc Roberts was recognized as *Crohn's and Colitis Man of the Year* and was inducted into the New Jersey Jewish Hall of Fame. He is the author of *Roberts Rules: Success Secrets from America's Most Trusted Sports Agent*.



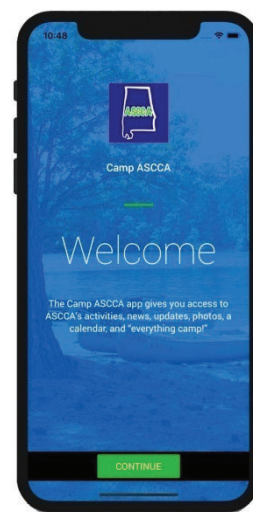
A Chronological Look at the History of Camp ASCCA 2017-2026

2017 1st Annual ASCCApalooza music festival was a great success. The festival provided a venue for live music and performing arts with a target audience of individuals with special needs. ASCCApalooza would continue as a music concert with professional musicians performing for Camp ASCCA campers. The Backyard area was expanded and renamed the Outpost to host ASCCApalooza and small music events, karaoke, and the occasional talent show. The surrounding area outside the Backyard with hammocks and picnic tables was renamed Hammocks and Horseshoes. New courtyards were added in the cabin area. Backup generators were installed. A new shade structure was built at the pool. Summer counselor Matt Smith was the 2017 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship (\$500). A feature article on Camp ASCCA was published in *Exceptional Parent* magazine (Roswal and Rickman).

2018 LPR Zipline was introduced as an activity area. The Big Stage, an outdoor entertainment area and stage was built on a hill next to the Dining Hall. Restrooms at the OutPost were completed. Life insurance was purchased on Administrator Stephenson and Camp Director Rickman with Camp ASCCA as the beneficiary. *Black Jacket Symphony*, *Bobby Miller*, *Webb Wilder & the Beatnecks*, and *To the 9's* performed in the concert series. Collaborative programs with Lakeshore Foundation adult hunting and youth hunting trips were conducted. ARPA and Fall Family weekends were continued. 4th Annual Jingle Jump raised \$46,000, with Board members Peggy Long and Ann Herndon raising \$12,000. Summer counselor Lance Chayka was the 2018 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship.

2019 Camp ASCCA's inaugural Rookie Camp was launched. The Bck4T (Back Forty) opened and is an inclement weather activity center and an indoor concert stage designed with a county fair atmosphere with support from sponsors Alabama Elks Association and the Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation. A new departure platform was built for the zipline in the challenge course area. There were now three ziplines at Camp ASCCA, each at different heights and lengths. The Alabama Elks Association renewed their annual donation of \$50,000 for each of the next five years, which was presented at the 15th annual Elks Day. The Elks also sponsored a new tritoon boat, the Floating Elk, which could carry campers using heavier wheelchairs. Country music artist Charity Bowden of Sweet Tea Trio performed at the Bck4T stage during Fun Fish 2019 weekend. It was Ms. Bowden's 3rd performance at Camp ASCCA. The *Red Clay Strays*, *The Negotiators*, *Bonus Round*, *Little Raine Band*, *Winston Ramble*, *Diner*, and *Band of Heathens* performed in the concert series. Jingle Jump with 59 jumpers raised \$51,000, for a five-year total of \$223,000. The real cost of a camper to attend Camp ASCCA for a week was \$1,150, however most campers were subsidized by campership funds. The State appropriation was level-funded at \$380,000. Zach Rickman was the 2019 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship. Sean Jaco was hired as Director of Health Services and Jacob Boyer was hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure.

2020 Camp ASCCA canceled all onsite programs to comply with CDC regulations relating to the COVID pandemic. Staff created a variety of virtual programs to stay connected with campers. The mission statement was revised to include virtual programs. Camp ASCCA permanent staff voluntarily offered to take temporary salary reductions to ensure that Camp ASCCA remained solvent during the closure. The Cone-Roswal Big Swing and new Swing Area were built along the shoreline of the pond. An ASCCA Outing took place with staff and campers at the Birmingham Zoo. The 6th Annual Jingle Jump took place with 18 in-person jumpers at the Camp ASCCA pool and 12 virtual jumpers who jumped at home, raising \$30,000. The Annual Demopolis Rotary Golf Tournament was held. Camp ASCCA launched a new app, available in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store, with camp news and announcements in the newsfeed, as well as events, photos, and staff contact information, with easy access to camp photos and calendars. State appropriation was level funded at \$380,000. Peter Levy and Glenn Roswal led a discussion on long range planning through 2020 at the winter board meeting. Elise Quinn was hired as Social Media Specialist and Jon Dollar was hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Education.



2021 Participation for seasonal programs returned to normal using a modified attendance policy to adhere to post-COVID safety procedures (60% campers and staff capacity). Summer camp registration opened on October 1 and sessions were 95% full after 72 hours. In preparation for campers and visitors after COVID procedures were relaxed, several health and safety precautions were completed, including air scrubbers for cabins and key buildings, water bottle filling stations, large handwashing stations, hand sanitizer dispensers, scan thermometers, an ice



dispenser, and necessary PPEs. The old amphitheater area overlooking Lake Martin was revamped into Frith Patio. Juneau Construction partnered with Camp ASCCA to donate used and new excess construction materials for future projects. The 2nd annual Rookie Weekend was held, with all of the campers that participated enrolled for a summer session. The 2021 Concert Series included *Red Clay Strays*, *Grady Spencer & the Work*, *Sweet Tea Trio*, *Flying Buffaloes*, and *Brent Cobb*, with a concert every Thursday evening during summer camp sessions. The 7th annual Jingle Jump had 33 participants that raised \$50,000. Alabama State appropriation increased to \$415,000. Summer counselor Bryce Perrien was the 2021 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship. Abbey Murray returned as Director of Health Services, Jon Dollar was promoted to Kitchen Supervisor, and Lance Chayka was hired as Maintenance Supervisor.

2022 The Bck4T building was expanded with a 16' x 70' addition which included a virtual game system with multiple sports, bright deco, and a quiet soundproof room for campers to leave the noise of the main building without leaving the building. Internet services were significantly improved through Starlink. The Boathouse area at the lakefront was renovated with new concrete access areas, a two-story boathouse, and a viewing deck, sponsored by Juneau Construction, Charron Family Outreach Foundation, Concrete Construction Services, Jacaman Construction, Summit Concrete Construction, and Sunrise Docks. Alabama Power brought power to the Parent Campground at Frith Landing with a \$300,000 matching grant through the ARPA program. Over \$185,000 of capital projects were funded. *Sam Burchfield & the Scoundrels*, *Mo Lowda & the Humble*, *Grady Spencer & the Work*, *The Red Clay Strays*, *Blue Water Highway*, *The Vegabonds*, *Langhorne Slim*, and *Flying Buffaloes* performed in the 2022 Concert Series. Seasonal group bookings went back to normal after COVID precautions were lifted with reduced camper numbers (60% of capacity) for summer sessions in effect. Online registration continued to work well, with summer sessions 95% full 72 hours after the website opened. The first outing of 2022 was a trip to the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta with campers, family members, and staff. Campers & staff were able to participate in a shark cage dive immersion program. The Camp ASCCA Podcast was launched to share information about Camp ASCCA. Podcasts included *Welcome to Camp ASCCA: The Podcast*, *Catching Up with Matt Rickman and Amber Cotney*, *Nurse Check In!*, *How ASCCA Unknowingly Changed My Life: Barclay Bentley*, *Get to Know the Program Specialists: Tre & Justin*, *Financial Planning Discussion with Dr. Roswal & Dr. Frith*, and *ASCCA Update with Matt Rickman*. The 8th Annual Jingle Jump, with 34 teams/individuals participating, raised \$53,000, the most to date. Dr. Greg Frith made a \$40,000 donation by donating his yacht to Camp ASCCA. Alabama state appropriation increased from \$415,000 to \$440,000. Summer counselor Elizabeth Bryson was the 2022 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship (\$500). Tre Marbury was hired as Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure and Justin Hammers as Program Specialist Aquatics.

2023 The Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Center was renovated, administration offices were moved to the former Center, and the building was renamed the Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Administration. Environmental displays in the original building were relocated strategically to other buildings across camp where they were incorporated into existing programs to be more widely used. Construction began on Frith Landing and the Family Campground for two RV spots and six small buildings for families of children attending Camp ASCCA programs. The Outpost received an update by shifting the stage to an open-air concept, installing new

flooring, and moving the ramp and making it larger. Marc Roberts Lodge received new plumbing, a more accessible entrance, and plumbing upgrades. Rotary-Lions Center basement waterproofing project was completed. Summer camp sessions were filled within a few weeks of the October registration opening. A greater number of campers were paying the full camper fee, with less reliance on campership funds. The summer camp schedule was modified to begin one week earlier, allowing for more camper sessions, a better schedule for recruiting university summer counselors, and an enhanced counselor orientation and training in conjunction with Camp Seale Harris, the camp for children with diabetes. Summer session camper participation averaged 60-65 campers per session. This size was evaluated to be a more cost-effective approach to providing higher quality programming. The Concert Series was great, including performances by *Drake White, Langhorne Slim, The 502s, Happy Landing, The Red Clay Strays, Russell Craig, and Charity Bowden*. Camp ASCCA Podcasts in 2023 included *Divine Medicine with Langhorne Slim, The Least Restrictive Environment, Maximum Independence at ASCCA, Experiential Learning, ASCCA Summer 2023 Wrap Up, ASCCA, and Get to Know Aquatics with Program Specialist Maggie*. \$133,000 was spent on capital programs. Summer counselor Emily Lamberson was the 2023 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship (\$500). Dara Bernstein, a former summer counselor and Partner Product Marketing Manager with Meta (Facebook), presented a workshop to the staff and Board on using social media to promote Camp. Peter Levy worked with long-time camp donor, Marc Roberts from Miami, to continue his donations with an additional donation. Maggie Barnard was hired as Program Specialist Aquatics.

2024 The original administration building was renovated to become a welcome and visitors center and was renamed the Alabama Elks Association Welcome Center. The Collier Nature Center, a 1,600 square-foot facility with nature crafts, education, and exhibits, opened in the original administration building and was named in recognition of the lifetime contribution of former Camp



ASCCA Camp Director Tom Collier. Construction continued on Frith Landing and the Family Campground with the construction of cabins and RV spots. Sponsorship for four of the five cabins was secured, with the Charron Family cabin the first cabin to be completed. The Sport Court was constructed and included a roof to provide shade on sunny days. Fun Fish Weekend was renamed the ASCCA Spring Weekend, which included the Big Swing, arts & crafts, boat rides, fishing, karaoke, a talent show, and a dance. Summer camp sessions were filled 72 hours after registration opened. The Ability Experience with Phi Kappa Phi members from Mississippi State University and LaGrange College made major repairs to the floating lakefront dock, built an inclusive Gaga Ball area, and created an accessible path at the Pickleball Courts. The number of

campers paying the full session rate increased from 107 in 2023 to 147 in 2024. The 2024 Concert Series included *The Red Clay Strays, Adam Hood, Taylor Hunnicutt, Sam Burchfield, John Hollier, Sam Morrow. The Red Clay Strays*, one of the most popular groups in the Concert Series, held a surprise concert for the benefit of campers. The Podcasts in 2024 were *A New Perspective with Dr. Graham Sisson, Learning More About Down Syndrome of Alabama, Get to Know Outdoor Education Program Specialist Chris Pendergrass, Camper & Parent Testimony with Josie & Catherine Smith, Recreational Therapy and Its Importance, Parent Testimony – Letting Go and Trusting with Allison Ashurst, A Place Is Only as Good as The People in It with Carmine Vara, and Conversations in Speech Pathology with Lindsey Piazza*. 10th Annual Jingle Jump raised a record \$77,150 with special thanks to the Alabama Elks Association lodges and Rob and Susie Hunter. Summer counselor Jackson Blount was the 2024 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship. At the spring board workshop, Dr. Greg Frith spoke to the group on *Promoting Legacy Gifts to Camp ASCCA*. Peter Levy also conducted a workshop on *Recruiting & Cultivating Past, Present, and Future Donors*. Led by Camp ASCCA Board of Directors members Peter Levy, Steve Burak, and Glenn Roswal, an initiative was introduced to recruit young professionals and professionals from outside Alabama to the Board of Directors. Nick Krajniak, Dara Bernstein, and Andrew Roswal joined the 2024-2027 Board. Krajniak, from Georgia, has family ties to Camp ASCCA. Bernstein, from New York, worked as an intern at Camp ASCCA, and Roswal worked as a summer camp counselor for six years and helped computerize the Camp administrative offices in 1999.

2025 Funding for all five of the Frith Landing Parent Campground Cabins was secured with sponsors Charron Family Foundation, Alabama Elks Association, Steve Burak, Steve Cone/Glenn Roswal, and the Guntersville Ladies Civitan Club. Concert performers included *Stop Light Observations*, *Carver Commodore*, *Jordy Searcy*, *Willie Pearl*, and *Will Stewart*. Podcasts included *Exploring Assistive Technology with Dr. Elizabeth Stewart*, *Learning More About Camp Seale Harris with John Latimer*, *The Art of Being Someone Who Cares About Something with Nathan Waters*, *Zach Woolley's Story of Resilience, Growth, and Impact*, *Michael Pereira with Autism Voyage*, *Debbie Lynn with Easterseals Central Alabama*, and *Kelly Edens, Therapeutic Recreation Manager at Shepherd Center*, *Exploring Alabama's Outdoors with Marianne Gauldin*, and *Nannying for children with special needs with Tyree McIntosh*. The 11th Annual Jingle Jump continued to be successful. Summer counselor Kayana Luke was the 2025 recipient of the Judy Williams Scholarship. New board members Dara Bernstein, Nick Krajniak, and Andy Roswal led discussions on *Using AI technology*, *ABLE Accounts at Camp ASCCA*, and *Cybersecurity Concerns with AI Implementations* at the summer board meeting. During the 3rd summer session, a lightning strike to the tree towering over the Rotary Dining Hall resulted in a fire and water break, damaging the building and the electrical supply, including kitchen equipment and supplies. Additionally, power in the Rotary-Lions Lodge was disrupted with a total loss of the building's elevator. Session #3 was cancelled, but the remaining summer sessions resumed as scheduled, with the support of the Southern Baptist Association disaster relief team, which served meals for the remaining summer sessions. Donors, many of them new to Camp ASCCA, provided over \$198,000 in relief to finance building repairs.

2026 The Cottle Chapel, a multi-purpose open-air facility, was renamed Bynum Chapel, in recognition of the lifetime contribution of former Camp Administrator Jerry Bynum. Alabama Elks Association completed 25 years as a major Camp ASCCA sponsor, contributing nearly \$1 million since their introduction to Camp ASCCA 27 years ago. Jingle Jump completed a 12th year as a successful event, raising approximately \$50,000 annually. Alabama state appropriation increased to \$550,000. The Camp ASCCA facility is conservatively valued at over \$100 million. *PALAESTRA* magazine published *Camp ASCCA: Accessible Recreation* (Rickman, Quinn, & Roswal) in their March 2026 issue.



Our Supporters: A Legacy of Donors and Volunteers

Since its beginnings, an overriding policy at Camp ASCCA has been the principle that no camper with a disability would be excluded from participating in Camp ASCCA programs due to an inability to pay. To that philosophy, generating funds for Camp ASCCA evolved around three principal revenue streams: (1) an appropriation from the state of Alabama; (2) donations and contributions from individuals, civic clubs, community organizations, corporations, and fundraising events; and (3) fees for services (each revenue stream contributing approximately a third to the operating expenses of the camp.) The most stable funding of Camp ASCCA came from an annual appropriation from the State of Alabama. Thanks to the advocacy of State Senators Ted Little, Wendell Mitchell, Tom Whatley, Dick Brewbaker, Gerald Dial, and Jay Hovey and Representatives Pete Turnham, Lester White, Dr. Betty Carol Graham, Mark Tuggle, and Ed Oliver, as well as Governors Wallace, Brewer, James, Hunt, Folsom Jr., Siegelman, Riley, Bentley, and Ivey, Camp ASCCA has received an annual appropriation from the State of Alabama since 1982. Beginning with a one-time capital fund legislative appropriation of \$250,000 in 1971, the annual appropriation increased to a high of \$550,000 in 2001, fell to \$0 in 2007 due to the recession, and has steadily returned to \$550,000 in 2026.

Revenue generated through contributions from individuals and organizations played an important role in allowing Camp ASCCA to provide the best camping and recreation services for children and adults with disabilities. Groups such as the Alabama Elks Association, Alabama District Pilot International, Alabama Rotary Clubs, Alabama Kiwanis Clubs, Lions International, Civitan International, Ability Experience, Alabama Power Company, Telephone Pioneers, and the Alabama Farmers Association provided revenue for operating costs, camperships, and facility development. Family foundations, such as the Charron Family Outreach Foundation, J.L. Bedsole Foundation, Davis Foundation, Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation, and Charles & Isabel Hall Foundation sponsored building construction and program development. Thousands of individual donors supported camp programs, with gifts from \$100 to \$450,000 and exceptional individuals such as Dr. Greg Frith, Marc Roberts, Rob & Susie Hunter, Timothy Harbuck, Elaine Price, Jerry Thomley, Dr. Glenn Roswal, Sandra Davenport, Wadyne Bolton Bishop, Ruth Bonham Camp, Eulene Miller, Dan & Susan Charron, Meredith Birchfield, Guilford Houston Smith, Jr., Charles & Isabel Hall, Dale Glover, Ruth Bonham Camp, and Dr. Steve Burak making large donations to secure the future of Camp ASCCA. Special events such as the Annual Rotary Club of Alexander City Golf Challenge, Camp ASCCA Jingle Jump, Annual Alexander City Bassmasters Tournament, and Valentine Dinner and Dance also supported camp programs.

Fees for service support the final third of the camp operating budget. In most cases, families and group users paid a camp fee for their campers to attend Camp ASCCA. The fee to attend a one-week summer session at Camp ASCCA in 1976 was \$100 and had increased to \$1,250 in 2026. Camperships were raised by Camp ASCCA through fundraising events and cooperative relationships with community and civic groups to support campers who need financial assistance.

Corporate, Club, Family, and Organization Donors \$1,000+

Ability Experience (PUSH America)
 Action Civitan Club
 Acuity Brands, Inc.
 Adams Foundation
 Adamsville Lioness Club
 ADCO Companies Ltd
 ADECA
 AFCEC
 Alabama Central District Civitans
 Alabama Central Junior Civitans
 Alabama District Anchor Clubs
 Alabama District Pilot International
 Alabama Elks Association
 Alabama Elks Memorial Center
 Alabama Elks Trust
 Alabama Federation of Women's Leagues
 Alabama Forests Forever Foundation
 Alabama Handicapped Sports
 Alabama Jaycees
 Alabama Lung Association
 Alabama National Guard
 Alabama Power Energizers
 Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.
 Alabama Power Service Organization
 Alabama Rehab. Counselors & Educators Assoc.
 Alabama State Assoc. of Emblem Clubs
 Alabama State Fraternal Order of Police
 Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club
 Albertville Civitan Club
 Albertville United Way
 Alexander City Civitan Club
 Alexander City Elks Lodge No. 1878
 Alexander City Independent Methodist Church
 Alexander City Kiwanis Club
 Alexander City Lions Club
 Alexander City Middle School
 Alexander City Recycling Council
 Alexander City Rotary Club
 Alfa Foundation
 Alliance Communications Mgt.
 Allstate Insurance
 ALMGA
 Alpha Psi Fraternity Rodeo
 Alpha Tau Omega Troy
 Alpha Xi Delta UAB
 Andalusia Domino Tournament
 Andalusia Health Services
 Andalusia Rotary Club Foundation, Inc.
 Anniston BPOE 189
 Anniston Emblem Club
 Anz Family Foundation

Arab Livestock Market, Inc.
 Arab Rotary Club
 Arc Morgan County
 Arc of Barbour Co.
 Area Concrete
 Ascend Cares Foundation
 AT&T Pioneers South Cahaba Council
 Athens Rotary Club
 Atmore Rotary Club
 AU Student Chapter Society of American Forestry
 Auburn High School
 Auburn Rotary Club
 Auburn University, Office of Accessibility
 Auburn-Opelika Assn. Life Underwriters
 Auburn-Opelika BPOE #1834
 Auburn-Opelika Emblem Club
 Autism Society of Alabama
 B & D Electric Motor Co., Inc.
 Baptist Foundation of Alabama
 Baxter Healthcare
 Bay Minette Rotary Club
 Beacon Sunday School Class
 Bellsouth Pioneers
 Benjamin & Roberta Russell Foundation, Inc.
 Bessemer BPOE 721



Bessemer Emblem Club
 Beta Sigma Phi
 Big Oh's LLC
 Birmingham Centennial Sertoma Club
 Birmingham Civitan Club
 Birmingham East Rotary Club
 Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club
 Bray Properties
 Brewton Rotary Club
 Brundidge Rotary Club
 Bruner R. & Barbara H. Dicus Foundation
 Bruno Rumore Foundation
 Bruno's Memorial Classic
 Buckmasters

Burn Nutrition
 Cahaba Valley Elks Charities
 Calera Elks Lodge
 Calison Foundation
 Camp ASCCA Legacy Endowment Plan
 Camp Seale Harris
 Capital City Kiwanis
 Cargill
 Caring Foundation
 Carlisle Family Foundation
 Castone Corporation
 Casual Pint
 Cecil Dean Constructions
 Central Alabama Community Foundation
 Central Baldwin Sunset Rotary Club
 Chandler Springs Baptist Church
 Charles and Isabel Hall Foundation
 Charron Family Outreach Foundation
 Childersburg BPOE
 Christ the King Lutheran Church
 Christian Women in Action
 Church of the Ascension
 City of Montgomery, Richard Bollinger
 Civil Air Patrol
 Civitan Alabama-West Florida District
 Civitan Club of Auburn
 Civitan International
 Clanton Kiwanis Club
 Clanton Pilot Club
 Clayton Rotary Club
 CLUCK Cancer
 Comer Foundation
 Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
 Computerware
 Cornerstone Geological Services, LLC
 Crippled Children's Foundation
 Cullman County Easter Seal Society
 Cullman Elks Lodge 1609
 D.W. Brooks Family Charitable Fund
 Dadeville Animal Clinic
 Dadeville Area Chamber of Commerce
 Dadeville Area Women's Assn.
 Dadeville Church of Christ
 Dadeville Employees Fund
 Dadeville First United Methodist Church
 Dadeville Key Club
 Daniel Foundation
 Daphne-Spanish Fort Kiwanis Club
 Daphne-Spanish Fort Rotary Club
 Davis Bait Co.
 Decatur Elks Lodge No. 655
 Decatur Emblem Club
 Decatur Life Underwriters Assn.
 Delphic Club Dadeville

Delta Kappa Troy
 Delta Sigma Phi
 Demopolis Interact Club
 Demopolis Rotary Club
 Diabetic Clinic of Mobile
 District 6880 Rotary International
 Dixie Service Cleaners
 Dothan Civitan Club
 Dothan Elks Lodge BPO Elks 1887
 Dothan Rotary Club
 Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club
 Dothan-Houston Rotary Club
 Double Springs Lions Club
 Double Springs Lions Club
 E.C.M. Home Health
 East Alabama Night Hunters Club
 East Alabama Telephone Specialties, Inc.
 Easterseals Society of NJ
 Easterseals Alabama Society County Chapters
 Easterseals Alabama, Inc.
 Easterseals Rehab Ctr. Mobile
 EBSCO
 El Paso Corporation
 Elaine E. Price Trust
 Enterprise Lions Club
 Enterprise Rotary Club Foundation
 Epsilon Sigma Alpha
 Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Beta Pi Chapter
 Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Iota Alpha Chapter
 Ethan Club of Dadeville
 Eufaula Rotary Club
 Evergreen Kiwanis Club
 Evergreen Rotary Club
 Fairhope Elks Lodge No. 1879
 Fairhope Rotary Club
 Faith Temple
 Family Success Center of Etowah County
 Faulkner University
 FBI



Fine U Foundation
 First Sertoma Club of Birmingham

Florence Kiwanis Club



Flint Hill United Methodist Church
Floyd's Feed & Seed
Fly High Goose Foundation
Foley Interact Club
Foley Rotary Club
Forestdale Lions Club
Forte Inc.
Gadsden Pilot Club
Gamma Phi Beta
Geneva Rotary Club
GKN Foundation
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Golotko Foundation
Good Vibes Tattoo Studio
Goodwater Rotary Club
Goodwill Easterseals of the Gulf Coast
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Greater Anniston Business & Professional Assn.
Greater Huntsville Rotary Club
Greenville Rotary Club
Guilford Houston Smith, Jr. Charitable Trust
Gulf Coast Elks Lodge 2782
Gulf Shores Rotary Club
Gunter Dixon Foundation
Guntersville Ladies Civitan Club
Guntersville Rotary Club
Hagen Family Charitable Fund
Hank Poore Foundation
Harwell and Company
Haynes Downard LLC
Heart of Alabama Combined Federal Campaign
Heart of Dixie Chevelle Club
Helen Keller Club, Evergreen
Hetherington Services LLC
Hill Crest Foundation, Inc.

Hoover Rotary Club
Houston Co. Kiwanis Club
Houston Co. Rotary Club
Hudson Family Foundation, Inc.
Huntsville Boeing Employees
Huntsville Civitan Club
Huntsville Elks Lodge
Huntsville Emblem Club
Huntsville Kiwanis Club
Huntsville Rotary Club
IBM Mobile
International Paper Co. Fdtn.
Inverness Lions Club
Iron Workers Local Union 92
J. J. Thomley Legacy Endowment Plan
J. L. Bedsole Foundation
J. Smith Lanier & Co.
J.G. Brown Foundation
Jackson Rotary Club
Jackson Kiwanis Club
Jacksonville State University
Janco360 Inc.
Jasper Elks Lodge 2571
JCPenney
Jenifer Baptist Church
Joann F. Holt Family Foundation
John C. Webb III & Marie S. Webb Fdtn.
John Hunt Pilot Club of Huntsville
Jones Contractors, LLC
Jordan Pile Driving
Junior Achievement
Kamp Kiwanis
Kappa Delta Sorority Auburn
Kappa Delta Sorority Montgomery
Kappa Delta Tuscaloosa
Kathryn Hornsby Foundation
Keel Point Fund
Kellyton Community Club
Kickin' Bass Coaches Tournament
Kiwanis Club of Chelsea
Kiwanis Club of Hartselle
Kiwanis Club of Heflin
Kiwanis Club of Lake Martin-Dadeville Area
Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Fdtn.
Kiwanis Club of Opelika
Kiwanis Club of Talladega
Knights of Columbus
Ladies Auxiliary BPO Elks Huntsville
Ladies Auxiliary to VFW
Ladies in Action Club
Ladies of 798
Lafayette Rotary Club
Lake Martin Area United Way, Inc.
Lake Martin Association of Realtors

Lake Martin Civitan Club
 Lake Martin Community Hospital
 Lake Martin Signature Construction
 Lake Watch of Lake Martin
 Lakeshore Foundation
 Lee County Medical Alliance
 Lee County Sunrise Rotary Club
 LeHigh Portland Cement Co.
 Linden Rotary Club
 Lions Club International
 Live Like Libby, Love Like Libby
 Living Waters Church
 Loachapoka Ruritan Club
 Loeb Family Foundation, Inc.
 Logan Martin Civitan Club
 Louise Rich Waldrop Estate
 Luncheon Pilot Club of Enterprise
 Luverne Rotary Club
 Lynn's Hallmark
 M & M Construction
 Magic Moments
 Marriott Fdtn.
 Marshall County Elks Lodge #2869
 MAX Credit Union



McClinton & Co.
 McKelvey Chevrolet
 Meals to Missions Foundation
 Meredith Birchfield Foundation
 Merrifield Real Estate
 MetLife Insurance Co.
 Millbrook Civitan Club
 Mobile Rotary Children's Foundation, Inc.
 Mobile-West Rotary Club
 Monroeville Rotary Club
 Montevallo Civitan Club
 Montgomery Advertiser
 Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group
 Montgomery Area State Combined Campaign
 Montgomery Capital Rotary Club
 Montgomery Civitan Club

Montgomery Rotary Club
 Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club
 Moon Construction
 Moses Foundation
 Mountain Brook Kappa Delta
 Myos Corporation
 New Prospect United Methodist Church
 Niffer's Place, Auburn & Dadeville
 Nonna's Garden
 Northport Lions Club
 Oakline Investment LLC
 Off Road Fun Club
 Old Newsboy Day Fund
 Omega Tau Sigma AU
 Opelika Lions Club
 Opelika Rotary club
 Opp Rotary Club
 Optimist Club of Columbus
 Ozark Rotary Club
 Parsons Broach Financial Services
 Payless Group of Companies
 Pell City Civitan Club
 Pell City High School
 Pell City Rotary Club
 Pensacola-Mobile Post-Polio Support Group
 Perimeter Civitan Club
 Perryville Baptist Church
 Pi Kappa Phi, Alpha Iota Chapter
 Piggly Wiggly Dadeville
 Pilot Club of Athens
 Pilot Club of Auburn
 Pilot Club of Decatur
 Pilot Club of Guntersville
 Pilot Club of Heflin
 Pilot Club of Huntsville
 Pilot Club of Jasper
 Pilot Club of Montgomery
 Pilot Club of Opelika
 Pilot Club of Opp
 Pilot Club of Prattville
 Pilot Club of Roanoke
 Pilot Club of Selma
 Pilot Club of Talladega
 Pilot Club of Troy
 Pilot Luncheon Club of Morgan County
 Pinkert Family Foundation
 PNC Bank
 Poe-Cumbie SS Class, First Methodist Church
 Prattville Lions Club
 Prattville Rotary Club
 Price Road Boring & Utility, Inc.
 Pro Mar Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
 Publix Super Markets, Inc.
 Purdue University

Re/Max Around the Lake
 Rebel Pest Control
 Red Bay Civitan Club
 Red Clay Strays LLC
 Red Ridge United Methodist Church
 Regions Bank
 River Region United Way
 Robertsdale Rotary Foundation
 Rocky Creek Baptist Church
 Roebuck Elks Lodge
 Roebuck Emblem Club
 Rome Lions Club
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central AL
 Rotary Club of Birmingham
 Rotary Club of Decatur Daybreak
 Rotary Club of Jasper
 Rotary Club of Mobile Sunrise
 Rotary Club of Phenix City
 Rotary Club of Selma
 Rotary Club of Shades Mtn. Sunrise
 Rotary International
 Rotary International District 6860
 Rothschild Charitable Trust
 Russell Corporation
 Russell Lands
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School
 Saint James School
 Salesforce.com, Inc.
 Samford Cannon Foundation
 Scott Bridge Co.
 Shades Crest Baptist Church
 Shilston & Associates
 Skilstaf, Inc.
 Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation



Sonat-Share
 Soroptimist International
 Southeast AgriSeeds
 Southern Company
 Southern Natural Gas
 Southside Collision Center

SouthTrust Bank
 SouthTrust Charity Fund
 State Farm Co.
 State of Alabama
 Sunshine Mills
 Super Foods of Luverne
 Sylacauga Civitan Club
 Sylacauga Rotary Club
 Talladega Rotary Club
 Tall-Alex City Training Center
 Tallapoosa County Commission, Steve Robinson
 Tallapoosa County Farmers Federation
 Tallapoosa County Homebuilders
 Tallapoosa County Retired Teachers Assn.
 Tarrant American Legion
 Taste of the South
 Tenet Healthcare Fdtn
 Thames Batre Insurance
 The Johnston Family Foundation
 Tidal Wave Auto Spa
 Tine Wayne Davis Foundation
 Torch Helps Fund
 Tractor & Equipment Co.
 Tri-County Civitan Club
 Troy Lions Club
 Troy Rotary Club
 Trussville Noon Rotary Club
 Trussville-East Jefferson Rotary Club
 Tuesday Study Club
 Tully Andrews Cleaners
 Tuscaloosa Civitan Club
 Tuscaloosa Elks Lodge 393
 Tuscaloosa Morning Rotary Foundation
 Tuskegee Rotary Club
 Twentieth Century Study Club
 United Givers Childersburg
 United Methodist Women Opelika
 United Way of Acadiana
 United Way of Central Alabama
 United Way of Lee County
 United Ways of Alabama SCC
 Uniti - CSL National LP
 Verbena Methodist Church
 Verizon Wireless
 VFW 5566
 Vincent Middle School Beta Club
 Volunteers of America, Inc.
 W. R. Berley Corporation
 W.S. Newell, Inc.
 WAC Veterans Chapter 62
 WACD-AM Radio
 Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation
 Wadley Kiwanis Club
 Walmart

War Eagle Lions Club
Wes Beverage
West Point Pepperell Foundation
Westpoint Stevens
Wetumpka Rotary Club
Whitesburg Christian Academy
Wilsonville Civitan Club

Winn Dixie Charities
Women of Montgomery
Woodland United Methodist Church
Wool & Floss, Inc.
Wylie Rosa Fish & Feather Club
Zachry Construction Corp.
ZLB Behring, LLC



Wall of Distinction

The Wall of Distinction was created to honor generous donors who contribute significant funds to Camp ASCCA. Donors are recognized for annual gifts at the Charlie T. Higgins Level (\$50,000+), Robert McBride Level (\$10,000-\$49,000), Vision Level (\$5,000-\$9,999), and Leadership Level (\$1,000-\$4,999). In 2024, the Legacy Level was added to recognize donors who had given and/or pledged a lifetime of gifts to Camp ASCCA over \$100,000+. Previous recognition tiers include the Leadership Courtyard, the Chairman's Council, and Easterseals, Inc.'s President's Council. The Wall of Distinction is located in the Welcome Center at Camp ASCCA.

Legacy Level

The Ability Experience
Alabama District Pilot International
Alabama Elks Trust
Alabama Power Energizers
Alabama Power Foundation
Alexander City Kiwanis Club
Alexander City Rotary Club
Alfa Foundation
Andalusia Rotary Club Foundation
AT&T Pioneers
Benjamin & Roberta Russell Foundation
Meredith Birchfield
Wadyne Bolton Bishop
Steve Burak
Ruth Bonham Camp
The Caring Foundation
Castone Corporation
The Gunter Dixon Foundation
Charles & Isabel Hall Foundation
The Charron Family Outreach Foundation
Easterseals of the Birmingham Area
First Sertoma Club of Birmingham
Greg Frith

Dale Glover
Timothy Harbuck
Rob & Susie Hunter
The J.L. Bedsole Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Foundation
Lake Martin Area United Way
Eulene Miller
Mobile Rotary Children's Foundation
Montgomery Rotary Charity Foundation
Elaine E. Price
River Region United Way
Robertsdale Rotary Foundation
Marc Roberts
Glenn Roswal
Rotary District 6860
Rotary District 6880
Guilford Houston Smith, Jr.
Solon & Martha Dixon Foundation
The State of Alabama
Jerry Thomley
United Way of Lee County
R. Walker



Community Program Partners

AAHPERD
Ability Experience
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
Alabama Cystic Fibrosis Association
Alabama District Pilot International
Alabama Epilepsy Foundation
Alabama Hands and Voices
Alabama Head Injury Foundation
Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind
Alabama Muscular Dystrophy Association
Alabama Nephrology
Alabama Spina Bifida Association
Alabama Recreation and Parks
Alexander City Special Education
Anniston Parks and Recreation
American Lung Association
American Red Cross Adapted Aquatics
AmeriCorps
Anchor Clubs
ARC of Macon County
Arnold Air Society
Arthritis Foundation
Arc's of Alabama
Auburn Junior High School
Auburn Panhellenic Council
Auburn University
Auburn University Campus Crusade
Autism Society of Alabama
BellSouth Pioneers
Baldwin County Mental Health
Beulah Elementary School
BridgeWays Alabama
Brookstone School
Bullock-Pike Adult Mental Health
Burton Center of Talladega
Camp Mobile Rotary
Camp Montgomery Kiwanis
Camp Seale Harris
Camp Sertoma
Camp WheezeAway
Cerebral Palsy Association
Cheaha Mental Health
Children's Aid Society
Children's Rehabilitation Services
Clarke County Mental Health
Columbus College
Coosa County Schools
Crohn's Colitis Foundation
Dadeville Elementary
Dadeville High School
Dothan Park and Recreation
Down Syndrome Alabama
Drake Center
Drake Middle School
East Alabama Fly Fishing
East Alabama Medical Center
East Alabama Mental Health
East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy
East Samford School
Encompass Health
Escambia County Mental Health
Exceptional Foundation of East Alabama
Father Walters Center
Florida Epilepsy Foundation
Foley Interact
Friends for Life
Georgia Easter Seal Society
Georgia Recreation & Parks
Glenn Ireland Center
Golson Elementary
Goodwill Easter Seals
Hartselle Parks and Recreation
Helen Keller School
Hemophilia Association
Hope Heals
Jacksonville State University
Joni & Friends
Junior Achievement
Loachapoka High School
Lakeshore Foundation
Lake Watch of Lake Martin
Leadership Easter Seals
Leadership Montgomery
Lee County Children's Camp
Learning Tree Center
Leadership Lake Martin
Montgomery Therapeutic Recreation
Muscle Shoals Parks and Recreation
North Alabama Search Dog Association
Opelika High School
Prattville High School
Randolph County Learning Center
Rooftop Friends
Rotary Youth Leadership
Shepherd Center
Sickle Cell Foundation of Central Alabama
Southeastern Diabetes Education Services
Special Olympics Alabama
St. James School
Tall Timbers
Tallasse Elementary
Troy Christian Student Center
University of North Alabama
Yarbrough Elementary
Young Life

Campers of the Year

At the end of each summer, the Camp ASCCA summer staff selects that year's Camper of the Year. The staff members choose the nominees based on what makes each person unique and how their summer experience was that year. There are a variety of qualities that are considered, for example, how much the camper enjoys the summer camp experience, the energy and happiness that he or she exudes, how they encourage other campers, friendliness, and overall enthusiasm.

2025	Jason Moore from Montgomery	1997	Emily Hill from Birmingham
2024	Alan Torrontor from Toney	1996	Jacob Rhodes from Florence
2023	Tanya Glaze from Selma	1995	Randi Browning from Oxford
2022	Mark (MJ) Arnold from Madison	1994	Griff Alexander from Moulton
2021	Ron Houston from Mobile	1993	Peaches Davis
2020	Chad Phelps from Alberta	1992	Ashley Adams from Union Grove
2019	Christina Brown from Alexander City	1991	Kendra & Candy Hill
2018	Tim Dillard from Andalusia	1990	Kelly Kaufman
2017	Cale Galloway from Montgomery	1989	Roxanna Gaston
2016	Matthew Davis from Greenville	1988	Sandy Trott
2015	Cameron Tubbs from Tuscaloosa	1986	Heather Oliver from Huntsville
2014	Nigel Davis from Demopolis	1984	Kealee Burrow from Birmingham
2013	Mark Carlo from Winfield	1982	Jamie Duffal
2012	Sam Sullivan from Birmingham	1981	Dennis Wiley from Tuskegee
2011	Hank Poore from Tuscaloosa	1980	Allison Wetherbee from Camden
2010	Michael Oglesby from Alabaster	1979	Steve Jenkins from Montgomery
2009	Becky Johnson from Troy	1978	Troy Morgan from Montgomery
2008	Ryan Mercer Loganville (Georgia)	1977	Jennie Crotzer
2007	Alicia Finley from Fultondale	1976	Jodi Trimmell
2006	Justin Strickland from Tuscaloosa		
2005	Jared Clay from Valley		
2004	Phillip Crain from Birmingham		
2003	Damien Kasten from Huntsville		
2002	Rowdy Burton from Wetumpka		
2001	Chris Pickrell from Pell City		
2000	Laura Lee Hughes from Hoover		
1999	Jercolbie Bradford from Bessemer		
1998	Haylee Cain Emens from Florence		



Camp ASCCA Full-Time Staff

Administration

John Stephenson, Administrator 2004-current (Camp Civitan Director, 1995-2004)
Jerry Bynum, Administrator, 1977-2004
Bert Emmons, Administrator, 1975-1976
Matt Rickman, Camp Director, 2004-current (Outdoor Adventure Director 1999-2004)
Tom Collier, Camp Director, 1978-2004 (Manager of Operations Dadeville Campus 2008-2011)
Alan Bolick, Program Coordinator, 1975-1976

Marketing, Public Affairs, and Social Media

Elise Quinn, Social Media & Marketing Specialist, 2020-current
Kasey Langley, Social Media Specialist, 2016-2020
Allison Wetherbee, Director of Community Relations, 2007-2014
Wayne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant, 1993

Development

Dana Rickman, Director of Marketing Communications 1999-2020, Director of Development 2020-current
Sharry Mathews, Director of Development, 2003-2004
Melody Jones, Director of Development, 2001-2002
Monica Johnson, Director of Development, 1998-1999
Shannon Cooper (Gooden), Director of Development, 1996-1998
Caren Higdon, Director of Development, 1993-1995
Eddy Sokol, Director of Institutional Development, 1989-1993
Robert French, Director of Public Relations & Development 1982-1989, Media Specialist 2006-2009

Program

Amber Cotney, Program Director 2016-current, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure 2009-2016
Josh Rhodes, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure & Dadeville Campus Summer Director, 2002-2007
Eric Dresser, Director of Program Services, 1986-1992
Dan Gilliland, Program Director 1989-2004, Director of Environmental Education 2004-2007
Sue Ruzicka, Director of Program Services, 1984-1987
Cheryl Bynum, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, 1981-1989
Eleanor Craig, Program Director, 1977-1978

Outdoor Adventure

Tre Marbury, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, 2022-current
Jacob Boyer, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, 2019-2022
Cody Graham, Program Specialist Aquatics and Outdoor Adventure, 2014-2020
Lyle Coutts, Program Specialist Environmental Education, 2013-2015
Nathan Waters, Outdoor Adventure Director, Dadeville Campus Camp Director, 2006-2008
Stan Gooden, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, 1995-1998
Eric Bailey, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, 1985
Kevin Waldrop, Outdoor Adventure Director, 1994-1995
Jake Shaw, Outdoor Education Director, 1981-1984

Aquatics

John Hobbs, Aquatics Program Specialist, 2025-current
Maggie Barnard, Program Specialist Aquatics, 2023-2024
Justin Hammers, Program Specialist Aquatics, 2022-2023
Heather Chumney, Program Specialist Aquatics, 2016-2020
Aubrie Collins, Program Specialist Aquatics, 2012-2014
Erin Witschey, Program Specialist Adventure Staff and Aquatics, 2005-2006, 2008-2012
Heather White, Aquatics Program Specialist, 2007-2008
Angelyn Wilson, Aquatics Director, 2001-2006
Warren Henley, Aquatics Director, 1997-2001

Steve Hamilton, Aquatics Director, 1994-1997
Phil Martin, Aquatics Director, 1991-1994

Outdoor Education

Chris Pendergrass, Outdoor Education Program Specialist 2024-current
Alex Dumais, Outdoor Education Program Specialist, 2015-2016
Lyle Coutts, Environmental Education Program Specialist, 2013-2015
Geni Payne, Environmental Education Program Specialist, 2007-2012

Medical

Abbey Murray, Director of Health Services 2015-2018, 2021-2023
Sean Jaco, Director of Health Services, 2019-2020
Joe Spavone, Director of Health Services, 2011-2014
Pam Williams, Director of Health Services, 2006-2010
Paulina Gilliland, Director of Health Services, 2003-2005
Barbara Daschner, Director of Health Services, 1990-2002
Jackie Bush Smith, Director of Health Services, 1988-1990
Dorothy Collier, Director of Health Services, 1980-1987

Office

Karen Cheatham, Accountant, 2012-current
Cathy Jones, Accountant, 1991-2012
Ina Watson, Bookkeeper/Secretary, 1978-1990
Jocelyn Jones, Secretary, 2010-current
Karen Richard, 2006-2007
Paula Moseley, Secretary, 2004-2006
Wylone Brewer, Secretary/Receptionist, 1994-2010
Kristi Hill, Secretary, 1988-2003
Kelsey Wade, Secretary, 1976-1978



Food Services and Housekeeping

John Dollar, Program Specialist Outdoor Adventure, Kitchen Supervisor 2020-current
Enis Higgs, Food Services Director, 2011-2020
Barclay Bentley, Food Services Director, 2007-2011
Gaye Haggerty, Director of Housekeeping & Food Services, 1990-2007

Maintenance

Lance Chayka, Maintenance Supervisor, 2021- current
Jeff Veres, Maintenance & Housekeeping Supervisor, 2008-2021
Jerry Lynch, Maintenance Supervisor, 2002--2005
Robert and Lona Faye Wright, Maintenance Supervisors, 1989-2022
Sam Heatherington, Maintenance Supervisor, 1984-1988
Jay Collier, Maintenance Director, 1978-1984
Wayne Freeman, 1975-1977

Summer Camp Staff

The majority of the 65-70 summer staff employed each summer were college or university students, or recent graduates studying or working in areas related to services for people with disabilities. There was generally an overall ratio of better than one staff for each two campers. Most staff with direct responsibility were 18 years of age or older and selected to work after a competitive interview process. Staff participated in a rigorous week-long training session before summer camp which was conducted by Camp ASCCA staff, related professionals, previous campers, and veteran summer staff.

Camp ASCCA Board Chairs

1968-1976 ***Dr. Woodrow Elliot***



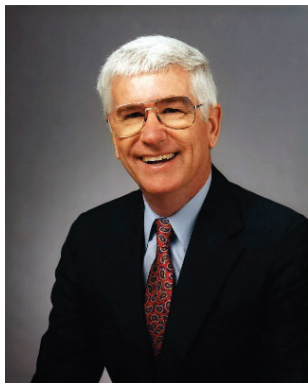
President of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, Superintendent of Tuscaloosa County Schools, Shelby School Superintendent, President of the Alabama Easter Seal Society, and a member of the National Easter Seals Board of Directors, Dr. Elliot led the development of Camp ASCCA in the decade leading to opening in 1976. He was also involved in the establishment of the University of Montevallo Speech and Hearing Clinic and the West Alabama Rehabilitation Center in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Elliot was a pioneer in developing innovative programs that provided services to thousands of Alabama citizens with disabilities.

1976-1986 ***Hoyt Webb***



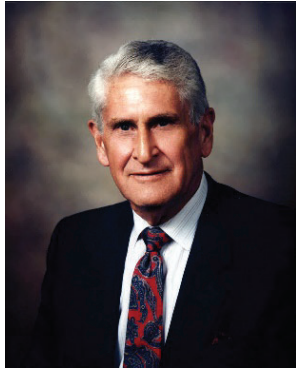
Hoyt Webb was an impactful leader in the history of Camp ASCCA. His legacy can be seen in all areas of Camp ASCCA as he served as Chair for 10 years, and remained involved in Camp for another two decades. As a Tallapoosa County agent, Mr. Webb pioneered the development of apple orchards in Alabama as a cash crop. He was a member of the Easter Seals Alabama Board of Directors for 17 years and in the 1970's he was recognized as the Disabled Representative for Men in the United States and later honored for his volunteerism by President Reagan. During Hoyt Webb's chair tenure, Camp ASCCA developed from a small camp for children with disabilities to a world class barrier-free recreation residential facility.

1986-1988 ***Jimmie Pruett***



As President of the Montgomery Kiwanis Club, Board Chair of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center of Central Alabama, and a New England Life Insurance representative, Jimmie Pruett has been a valuable community citizen throughout his life. Mr. Pruett founded the Montgomery Junior Miss Pageant and headed Montgomery's Sesquicentennial Celebration. He has been a leader in the Boy Scouts, Montgomery Mental Health Association, Family Guidance Center, and spearheaded the Alabama Riverboat Project. During his time as Chair, the term of the Chair was changed to two years and Board members began serving three-year terms.

1988-1990 ***Dr. Clinton Owens***



Dr. Owens was the Alabama State Director of Special Education, Director of federal special education programs in Alabama, and a Professor at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He was Chair of the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Central Alabama, Board member of Special Olympics Alabama, and a member of the Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame. As Board Chair, Dr. Owens organized a new committee structure for the board and an annual winter board workshop. The three-year rotating term of office for Board members was fully implemented during his tenure as chair.

1990-1992 ***William Calhoun***



Bill Calhoun served as Director of the City of Opelika Parks and Recreation. He was a former camp director and was involved in camping and recreational program associations at the Alabama, regional, and national levels. An active member of the Opelika and Lee County Sunrise Rotary Clubs, Mr. Calhoun was responsible for organizing the annual July 4th VITALE Fireworks show at Camp ASCCA. During his time as Camp ASCCA Board chair, the Rotary Club became an integral part of sponsoring the growth of camp facilities and programs, as well as the Rotary International Camper Exchange Program.

1992-1994 ***Pat Schuessler***



Pat Schuessler was Operations Manager for South Central Bell in Birmingham and a leader of the Telephone Pioneers of Alabama. During his tenure as Chair of the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors, the Telephone Pioneers became an integral sponsor of a number of camp facilities and programs, and several fund-raising events such as the Camp ASCCA Golf Marathon. During this time, Camp ASCCA agreed to take over running programs for disabled children at Camp Civitan, a 34-acre property on Lake Martin. Mr. Schuessler was responsible for selecting John Stephenson to organize and run Camp Civitan, a decision that was beneficial to Camp ASCCA for many years.

1994-1996 *Dr. Judy Tomlin*



Dr. Judy Tomlin is a retired Professor from Auburn University, where she served as Assistant Dean in the College of Education and a faculty member in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation. She is a former public school special education teacher. Dr. Tomlin was the first female Chair of the Camp ASCCA Board of Directors. During her term, Camp ASCCA fully acquired Camp Civitan and embarked on an aggressive campaign to add new facilities and upgrade existing programs. The Lions Rotary Lodge, fishing dock, tennis courts, and renovated swimming pool were completed during her term.

1996-1998 *Dr. Glenn Roswal*



Dr. Glenn Roswal is Professor Emeritus from Jacksonville State University, where he started the adapted physical education program. Dr. Roswal has a background as tennis director and athletic director of a summer camp and served as President of SHAPE America and as a member of the National Easter Seals Board of Directors and Special Olympics Alabama. He has traveled around the world promoting Camp ASCCA. During his term as Chair, the focus was on facility renovations and building the Camp ASCCA endowment fund. Chairman's Council was started and the Marc Roberts donation was received during his tenure.

1998-2000 *Jerry Thomley*



Jerry Thomley was a graduate of Auburn University and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and was a member of the Alabama and Florida State Bars. Mr. Thomley retired after working 33 years as a professional engineer with Alabama Power Company. He was active in numerous community, civic, and charitable organizations. During his term as Camp ASCCA Board Chair, the focus was on sustaining funding from the Alabama Legislature and continued growth of the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund. Jerry Thomley made two legacy gifts of over \$100,000 toward the Camp ASCCA Endowment Fund.

2000-2002 ***Gene Chandler***



Gene Chandler is a retired executive from Reynolds Aluminum Company. He has been an active community philanthropist, working with the Stillwaters Homeowner Association and numerous local churches and organizations in the Alexander City area. He is an active member of the Auburn University Alumni Association. Camp ASCCA celebrated 25 years of service during his term. Ground breaking on the Dunn-Rotary Environmental Center took place and the Accessible Climbing Tower opened. Rotary Club of Alexander City made the largest contribution by a single civic club at the time and the Endowment Fund exceeded \$1 million.

2002-2004 ***Dr. Graham Sisson***



Dr. Graham Sisson is a graduate of the University of North Alabama and the Vanderbilt Law School. He also has a doctorate in rehabilitation from Auburn University. Dr. Sisson served as the Alabama State ADA Coordinator, Assistant Attorney General with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Director of the Governor's Office on Disability, and adjunct disability law professor at Auburn University and the Birmingham School of Law. During his tenure as Board Chair, he led Camp ASCCA through proration and layoffs due to state budget cuts, the retirement of Camp Administrator Jerry Bynum, and transition to John Stephenson.

2004-2006 ***Dr. Jim Krudop***



Dr. Jim Krudop served as Interim President, Vice-President, and Dean at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College for 40 years and now held the title of Vice-President Emeritus of LBWCC. He also served as Interim President of Reid State Technical College. He was President of numerous professional organizations and has been recognized as an outstanding administrator by several universities and colleges. Dr. Krudop has served as President of the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Greenville, Andalusia Rotary Club, Andalusia Chamber of Commerce, and Andalusia United Fund. During his tenure, over \$700,000 in estate gifts were received.

2006-2008 Judge Wade Drinkard



Judge Wade Drinkard practiced law in Marengo County, served as District Attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit, and as Marengo County District Court Judge. He was community sponsor of the Upward Bound Program at the University of West Alabama, Linden Rotary Club President, and District 6880 District Governor. Judge Drinkard was District 6880 Rotarian of the Year and received the Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award from Rotary International. During his term, Camp ASCCA completed over \$600,000 in facility renovations and increased the Camp ASCCA campership endowment fund by over \$400,000.

2008-2010 Richard Bollinger



Richard Bollinger was a civil engineer and land surveyor in Montgomery for 50 years and retired after 24 years of service as a Major in the National Guard. Mr. Bollinger also served as Montgomery City Councilman District 1 for nine years. He was Rotary District Governor, President of the Sunrise Rotary Club in Montgomery and traveled to India with Rotary to administer polio vaccines and to Africa to work on a water project. He was active with numerous local non-profit groups and focused on connecting neighborhood associations. Significant program and facility expansion took place during his tenure.

2010-2012 Robert (Rob) Hunter



Rob Hunter founded and ran Alliance Communications Management, a telecommunications management firm, for 25 years before selling it in 2020. He also serves as Co-Managing Partner of The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Fort Smith, AR, a role he has held since 2014. Prior to starting Alliance, Mr. Hunter worked as a Management Consultant and held several management positions within the pulp and paper industry. During his term as Chair, the Board's focus was on three key areas: key employee retention, increased focus on fundraising and the endowment, and the construction of new facilities and recreational spaces.

2012-2014 Walter Meigs



Walter Meigs earned his J.D. degree from the University of Alabama in 1973. He worked initially on passage and implementation of the revised Judicial Article of the state's constitution and served many years as General Counsel of Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company and corporate successors. Mr. Meigs served as chair or president of Middleton Charitable Trust, Mobile Pre-School for the Deaf, Mobile Red Cross, and Mobile Navy League, as well as a member of the Alabama, Mobile, and American Bars, and Maritime Law Association. During his term as Board Chair, renovations to all housing accommodations were completed.

2014-2016 Jim Carlo



Jim Carlo graduated from the University of North Alabama, where he played on the UNA baseball team. He retired as a Manager of Coca-Cola United after 30 years with the company. He was a member of the Alabama Beverage Association and is a member of Gideon's International. His son, Mark, has been a camper at Camp ASCCA for many years. They regularly attend the Fall Family Weekend together. Mr. Carlo currently runs a farm business in western Alabama. Camp ASCCA celebrated 40 years of camping and recreation services to individuals with disabilities and their families during his time as Board Chair.

2016-2018 Marshall Griffin



Marshall Griffin worked with Alabama Power Company in local office management and retired in 2019 after 35 years with the company. He graduated from the University of Alabama and worked with the basketball team as head manager for Coach C.M. Newton. Mr. Griffin has held numerous leadership roles in local economic development and community and civic organizations in the Alexander City and Tallapoosa County areas. During his term, the Annual ASCCApalooza music festival was launched and the state appropriation was moved to the General Fund.

2018-2020 *Robert (Bob) Kelley*



Bob Kelley is the retired owner of the Tally Ho Restaurant in Selma for over thirty years. During that time, he was President of the local restaurant association and President of the State of Alabama Restaurant Association. Besides supporting many local charities, Rotary International became his lifelong passion. Mr. Kelley has been involved in worldwide travel to help prevent Polio, build water wells, and promote Camp ASCCA. As the Rotary District Governor for Southern Alabama, Kelley championed fundraising for Camp ASCCA through Rotary Club contributions to the Dining Hall remodel, accessible water slide, and much more.

2020-2022 *Dr. Graham Sisson*



Dr. Sisson previously served as Chair of the Camp ASCCA Board in 2002-2004 and became the first person to serve non-consecutive terms as Board Chair. He is recipient of the distinguished Easterseals Alabama Gold Award. During his second term, programs were canceled due to COVID restrictions. Dr. Sisson aptly led the Board in navigating the COVID crisis and returning Camp ASCCA to regular programming in 2022 in a sound financial position with demand for camper programs at pre-COVID levels. With the camp facility closed, the Board and staff focused on extensive renovation and repair of facilities along with revenue growth.

2022-2024 *Dr. Glenn Roswal*



Dr. Roswal previously served as Chair of the Camp ASCCA Board in 1997-1998. There have been four generations of Roswals involved with Camp ASCCA. Glenn and his wife Peggy are Legacy Donors. His mother Ruth is a donor and his son Andy and his wife Kimberlee are donors. Andy and his daughter Michaela were summer session counselors. Andy is now a Camp ASCCA Board Member. During his second term, there was considerable facility development and revenue growth to facilitate program expansion, including the initial construction phase of Frith Landing and the Parent Campground.

2024-2026 Tony Glebosky



Anthony “Tony” Glebosky retired from Michelin NA after 37 years as a Quality Manager, Tire Designer, and North American Auditor. He previously worked for 10 years with Uniroyal Tire Company in Detroit before facilitating the transfer of the Development Center to Opelika in 1981. He has been a member of the Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge #1834 since 2006, serving as Lodge Exalted Ruler, Lodge Secretary, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, and the 2024-2025 Alabama Elks Association State President. During his tenure as Board Chair, Frith Landing and the Parent Campground, the Alabama Elks Welcome Center, and the Collier Nature Center opened.

2026-2028 Janey Sanderson



Janey Sanderson has degrees in special education from Athens State and the University of Alabama. While teaching special education for 26 years, she was involved with special needs children and adults through The Pilot Club of Guntersville and the Anchor Clubs of Guntersville City Schools. Since retiring, she continues her involvement through Pilot and Anchor clubs, Shining Stars, Night to Shine, Miracle League, CAST for Kids, the Arcs of Marshall County and Alabama, Special Olympics, and Camp ASCCA. Her grandson, Bryce, has served as a summer session counselor. The 50-year celebration of Camp ASCCA took place during her term.



Camp ASCCA Board Members (1976-2026)

Rod Alexander
Russell Allman
Gerald Allen
Johnnie R. Aycock
Betty Baggott
Sarah B. Baker
Katherine Barr
Jerry Batts
Vicki Baugh
Lisa Beck
Dara Bernstein
Dr. Bill Berryman
Dr. Anne Bishop
Dr. T.R. Bice
David Blair
Richard Bollinger
Melvin Bolt
Susanne Bray
Ruth Brewbaker
Glenda Brooks
Willard Brooks
Mike Brown
Dr. Richard Brown
Vivian Brown
Georgia Buettner
Louis Buettner
Dr. Steve Burak
Emily Dawn Bush
Laeman Butcher
Olivia Byrd
Bill Calhoun
Edith Calvert
Jim Carlo
Jack Cater
Gene Chandler
Charles Chapman
Tom Chappell
Sandra Cleveland
Dr. Joe Cherry
Dr. Theodore Childs
Boyd Christenberry
Dawson Christian
Sandra Cleveland
Melvye Cooper
Dr. Robert Couch
Dr. Martha Ann Cox
John Crowder
Steve Crowe
Sandra Davenport
Carolyn Davis
Dr. Reid Davis

Steve Davis
Lisa Ditchkoff
Judge Wade
Drinkard
Sheila Dunbar
John Eddins
Dr. Sam Eichold
Banks Farris
Brenda Fowler
Nita Frenzel-
Wallace
Dr. Patricia L.
Frierson
Dr. Greg Frith
Linda Frith
Rad Gaines
John Garrett
Dale Glover
Andy Gosselin
Tony Glebosky
Jack Greer, Jr.
Robert Greer
Marshall Griffin
Dr. Gerald Guinn
Dr. Karyn Gunn
Dr. Mike Hall
Jim Hardy
Donna Harper
Martin Head
Anne Herndon
Billy Hitchcock
William Hitchcock
Bruce Hopper
David Housel
Bruce Hughes
Rob Hunter
Sandy James
Dr. Emerson
Johnson
Clyde Jones
Bob Kelley
Suzanne Kendra
Wayne Killough
Larry Kloess
Dr. Jerry Klug
Ramsey Knight
Dr. Ben Koepke
Nicholas Krajniak
Dr. Jim Krudop
Ron Layne
Peter Levy

Peggy Long
Dr. Riley Lumpkin
Tom Mann
Jeff Matherne
Barney March, III
Jim Martin
John Martin
David Matthews
Debby Mathews
Jake Mathews
Bo Mattei
Robert McBride
Jennifer McClung
Walter Meigs
Eulene Miller
Joel Miller
Chris Mitchell
John Moore
Sam Morgan
Linda Morrison
David Muhlendorf
Dr. Erskine Murray
Bobb-Ann Neel
Thomas O'Connor
Dr. Henry Orr
LTC Earle
Overholser
Clinton Owens
Howard Palmes
Dean Pappas
Danny Patterson
Dr. Harold
Patterson
Donald Perkins
Glenn Phillips
Randall Pinkston
Donnie Pritchard
Jimmie Pruett
Robert Renfro
Wayne Reuter
Anita Rhodes
Jim Rigler
Paula Rigler
Charles Roe
Frank Robinson
Louise Rogan
Sarah Rogers
Beverly Ross
Andy Roswal
Dr. Glenn Roswal

Robert Rudder, Jr.
Bobby Ryals
Joe Saloom
Janey Sanderson
Dr. Kristi Sayers
Pat Schuessler
Art Scroggins
Rusty Sheehan
Dr. Jack Sellers
Alex Sheftic
Dr. Graham Sisson
Victoria Sisson
Marian Skipworth
Dr. Ben Smith
Eddie Smith
Jim Smith
Ronnie Smith
Willis Smitherman
Eddy Sokol
Rimson Solomon
Richard Stabler
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Mike Strain
David Sullivan
Judge Herman
Thomas
Jerry Thomley
Hugh Thompson
Mike Thrasher
Bill Trant
Bill Thweatt
Robert Todd
Dr. Judy Tomlin
Francis Tucker
Ken Tucker
Bonnie Turner
Dr. Percy Vaughn
Paul Vercher
Wayne Villadsen
Dale Wallace
Jim Whaley
Hoyt Webb
Tyler Whitson
John Wilson
Phil Williams
Clyde Wood
Charles J.
Worcester
Jim Yerkey



Authors

Glenn Roswal



Glenn Roswal is Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville State University, where he taught special education, physical education, and coached the JSU Men's tennis team. He has been an advocate for sport and recreation programs for people with disabilities for 50 years, promoting programs at universities in China and Eastern Europe as well as consulting with Special Olympics Alaska and Special Olympics International for 20+ years. Glenn has been involved with Camp ASCCA for 45+ years, is a Legacy Level Donor, and served two terms as Camp ASCCA Board Chair.

Dana Rickman



Dana Rickman has worked with Camp ASCCA since 1999. As Director of Development, she works to obtain and maintain philanthropic support to assist Camp ASCCA in achieving its mission. In the community, Dana has been a member of the Ethan Club and the Alexander City Rotary Club, where she served two terms as president in each club. Dana enjoys spending her free time with her pets and coming up with "empty nester" things to do since her two children are "flown." Her husband, Matt, is also employed with Camp ASCCA as the Camp Director. Dana and her husband reside at the camp and love every moment of it!

Tom Collier



Tom Collier served as Camp ASCCA Camp Director for 26 years before retiring in 2004 and continued working as a consultant to Camp ASCCA until 2011. He has served as President of the National Easter Seals Camping and Recreation Institute, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association, and as an Accredited Visitor of the Mid-South Section of the American Camping Association. Tom is recognized among the national leaders in camping, leisure, recreation, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Easterseals Camp ASCCA
Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults with Disabilities



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