



April 2, 2020

Dear Aloha Friends,

In this uncertain, unprecedented time, some things remain steadfast, like our commitment to our mission and community. And how much we care about you.

As you may have read on Friday when we shared the news, I have been appointed Interim Executive Director of the Aloha Foundation. We will have opportunities to meet or get to know each other more in the months ahead, and I am really looking forward to those connections and conversations. (Aloha Foundation staff bios are posted [here](#) if you are interested.) Today, however, I'd like to share some of our current thinking on the challenges facing us.

First, I want to reassure you that the Aloha Foundation is strong and stable. This is a storm we will weather, and from which we will emerge wiser, nimbler, and better positioned than ever before to make a positive impact in people's lives.

I am grateful to continue partnering with a devoted team of senior leaders, program directors, administrative staff in the Foundation Office and to be supported by a dedicated Board of Trustees. Our outgoing Executive Director, Chris Overtree, is working with us in a consulting capacity this spring as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our camps and programs. The combined diverse expertise of the leadership team enables us to remain true to Aloha's history and values while we adapt, innovate, and prepare for mission delivery today and tomorrow.

Many of you have questions about our summer programming. 2020 camp families and 2020 staff will hear from us separately next week with information geared specifically to you. In the meantime, here is a community update and a few resources:

Updates on COVID-19 and Summer 2020

alohafoundation.org/safety

It is our sincere hope that our camps and programs—Aloha, Hive, Horizons, Lanakila, and Ohana—will be able to run as scheduled this summer. Our directors have been hard at work planning for the upcoming season. The situation is changing rapidly, however, so we do not yet know exactly what summer will look like. Right now, our [Aloha Foundation COVID-19 task](#)

[force](#) is analyzing information and different scenarios. We will promptly post updates on our safety web page.

The safety of our campers, staff, and participants is always our top priority. Any decision about the summer 2020 season—to hold camp as scheduled, modify our offerings in some way, or cancel camp—will be made by the leadership team in collaboration with our Board of Trustees, based on recommendations and requirements from the state of Vermont, the federal government, the American Camp Association, medical health professionals, and other trusted advisors in the camping industry.

We know how much you care about camp. Because we share that feeling, we are taking the time needed to determine the best path forward for the 2020 season. While it is difficult to know at this point, we estimate making a final decision around May 1. If we need to cancel camp, we will work with families to put their tuition toward summer 2021 or issue a full refund. We will post the policy soon on our website. This is a difficult time financially for many families; please reach out to us if there is something we can do to ease your burden.

Staying Connected as a Community

alohafoundation.org/alohaconnections

We love hearing from you and being in touch. Visit our new Aloha Connections web page regularly to discover resources and opportunities to engage with our Aloha community. Recently, we hosted a Zoom sing-along with over 200 of you. **This evening, Thursday 4/2 at 6:30 pm EDT, I hope you will join my family and me, and the entire Aloha community, for our first-ever virtual Talent Show, hosted live by Jackie Schram and Tommy Dickie.** Enjoy the share-fest! **Zoom login information is posted on the [Aloha Connections](#) page.**

The Aloha community is a network of caring people dedicated to becoming their best selves. We are here for each other and for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your camp director or call our main office line at (802) 333-3400 if we can support you in any way.

Wishing you and your family Aloha,

Vanessa

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