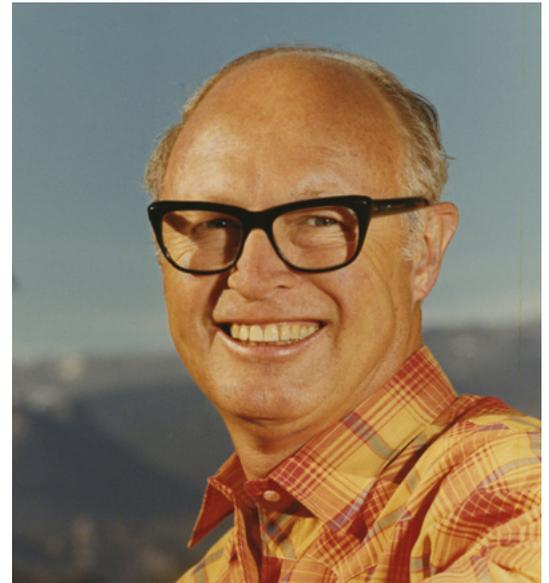




2020 NEWSLETTER 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE DREAM THAT SPARKED A THOUSAND SUMMERS

Jack Cheley believed, as his father did, that “great things happen when youth and mountains meet.” As the director of Cheley Colorado Camps from 1941 to 1987, Jack shaped the lives of thousands of kids and families through the camp experience and influenced many to develop lasting character and resiliency through challenging experiences in a supportive and natural environment.



(ABOVE) JACK CHELEY, DIRECTOR OF CHELEY COLORADO CAMPS FROM 1941 TO 1987.
(BELOW) JACK PICTURED WITH FAMILY.



30 years of changing kids' lives through transformative summer camp experiences

Jack also believed that kids from all walks of life should be able to attend camp and experience the magic that happens there – new friendships, adventures, and opportunities for growth. Following Jack’s death in 1987, the John Austin Cheley Foundation (JACF) was formed by a dedicated group of Cheley Camps alums who wished to honor Jack’s memory and his vision.

After formally registering as a 501(c)(3) organization, the dream of sending kids to camp in Jack’s honor became a reality, and JACF sent its first camper to Cheley Colorado Camps in 1990. She hailed from Thornton, Colorado, her name was Stephanie Hutchcraft, and we are excited to share her story with you in this newsletter.

For the last 30 years, the hard work and generous support of individuals no less visionary or motivated than our founders has led to the awarding of more than 1,300 camperships, allowing kids who couldn’t afford it on their own to go to camp.

But our work is about more than just providing financial assistance. We know that by breaking

down barriers to the camp experience for the kids we serve, we are giving them a gift that has the power to shape the trajectory of their lives. This is why we do what we do. The founding purpose of JACF remains a central focus of our work as we follow our mission to change kids’ lives through transformative summer camp experiences.

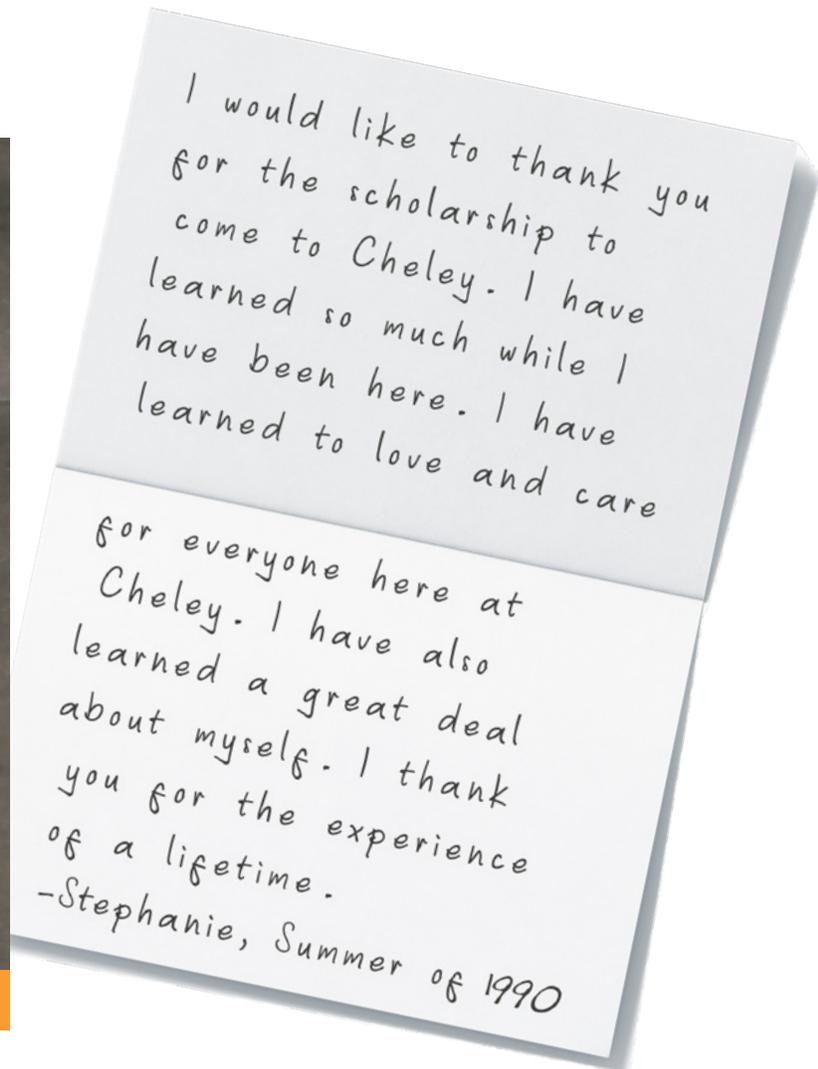
Meet Stephanie Hutchcraft Hamby

JACF’s First Campership Recipient

In June of 1990, Stephanie Hutchcraft left her home in Thornton, Colorado, and eventually wound up on Fish Creek Road, crossing under the Cheley Camps sign for the first time. As JACF’s first ever camper, Stephanie spent four weeks of her summer in the Senior Chipeta unit. We recently had the pleasure of catching up with Stephanie and hearing about her camp experience, her memories, and the lasting impact of the opportunity.



STEPHANIE AT CHELEY COLORADO CAMPS IN 1990



Stephanie was one of only four new campers in the unit during that summer, which would be challenging under any circumstances, but she was shy and everything about camp was a new experience for her. Stephanie admitted “it was harder for me than I thought it would be. The first week or so I wanted to go home. Everyone knew everyone else and I wasn’t the most outgoing teen. I kept at it and made friends and ended up having a great time.”

Stephanie clearly did have a great time, as her weekly counselor reports from 1990 indicate that

she approached the overall program with great enthusiasm. She took every opportunity to do the technical climbing program and also did a lot of horseback riding. In both activities, she overcame her fears and increased her confidence through persistence and determination. In fact, her counselor wrote that Stephanie was on a challenging mountain biking trip and after struggling up a steep hill, decided to do the hill again, just to prove to herself that she could do it. Stephanie told us that camp “was a whole new world to me and I realized that I could do more than I thought I could. Eventually it gets easier if you don’t give up.”

“Some of the lessons I learned about myself I really didn’t understand until later in life. The opportunity you are providing for these kids can make an impact that will last longer than camp itself.”

- Stephanie



30 YEARS OF CAMP PARTNERSHIPS

1,313 TOTAL AWARDS

15 Anderson Camps
6 Brush Ranch Camp

588 Cheley Colorado Camps

16 Clearwater Camp

233 Colvig Silver Camps

31 Friendly Pines

72 Kawanhee

20 Kooch-I-Ching

11 Ogichi Daa Kwe

249 Sanborn Western Camps

64 Thunderbird

8 Trails Wilderness School

Now 44 years old, Stephanie lives in San Angelo, Texas, and is the Executive Director for a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing. Stephanie exemplifies the long-lasting impact of the camp experience and the life lessons that come from pursuing challenging adventures in an outdoor environment.

We asked Stephanie what she would like our donors to know as she looks back on her time at camp. She replied, "I can guarantee that everyone who has the opportunity to go to camp will learn something – not just about friendship and outdoor activities – but they will learn something about themselves as well. Some of the lessons I learned about myself I really didn't understand until later in life. The opportunity you are providing for these kids can make an impact that will last longer than camp itself."

Meet Zahir Giwa

JACF's 1,000th Campership Recipient

Fast forward almost 30 years and meet JACF's 1000th campership recipient – Zahir Giwa. Zahir is sixteen years old and from Chicago, Illinois, and he has spent the last three summers at Camp Thunderbird in Bemidji, Minnesota.

We were introduced to Zahir through one of our valued community partner organizations – Midtown Educational Foundation. Zahir attended a tutoring and mentoring program at Midtown and was presented with the opportunity to go to summer camp on a JACF campership. As he watched the different camp videos, he decided that Camp Thunderbird was where he wanted to go. He was excited about having the opportunity to try new activities that he didn't think he'd ever be able to do. He was also really looking forward to taking a break from his double accelerated academic program at school and year-round competitive sports and learning, in his words, "how to have fun and relax."

Camp Thunderbird is located on a lake and much of their outdoor adventure programming is water-based, both on the camp property and through their

off-site canoe, kayak, and rafting trips. This posed a bit of a problem... Zahir didn't know how to swim.

“It is so nice to have a place where I can just come and be myself and can be the person I feel I am meant to be.”

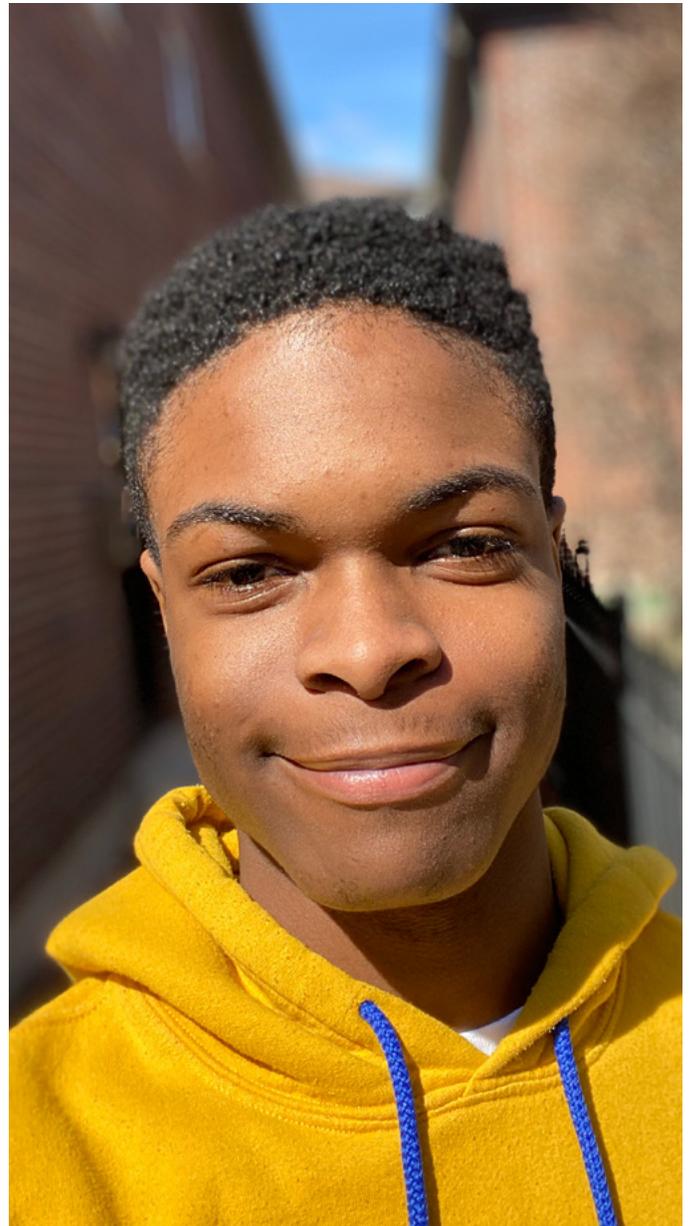
— Zahir

Zahir spent his first two summers at camp learning how to swim and attempting to pass all of the required ability tests to be able to participate in the camp's water-based programs. He worked incredibly hard at it and after passing all of his tests at the first attempt during his third summer, Zahir was selected to go on one of the advanced water adventure trips. This trip was the goal he had been working toward and though the process was a struggle at times, he learned an important skill, which opened up new and exciting experiences for him.

This challenge taught him that “just because you don't get something on the first try doesn't mean you can't learn how to be good at something. You have to try your hardest to push through everything that comes your way.”

Zahir learned more than how to swim. Through his camp experiences and living with others for several weeks at a time, Zahir learned to be more independent and a better problem solver, to work with others, and to respect others and their things. His communication skills improved and he strengthened his leadership ability. He draws strength from these camp lessons and has changed how he reacts in situations when he is back at school in Chicago.

Camp is an experience that everyone should be able to have, according to Zahir. It has taught him “to be a better person in this world” and is something that he feels he can never repay. He says, “The people, environment, and experiences have instilled in me values and skills that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I would like to thank the donors as well as JACF for truly changing my life.”



We appreciate and thank Zahir for being such a great role model and example of the wonderful kids we serve. To hear more from Zahir about his camp experience, go to <http://tiny.cc/g4i8lz>. Zahir is an inspiration to all of us to keep working to provide life-changing experiences through summer camp.

A Thousand Summers

JACF has been so fortunate to serve kids like Stephanie and Zahir over the last 30 years. We haven't changed who we are or what we do, but we recognize that over time, organizations must evolve to keep up with their needs. The past 30 years have brought new partnerships, new initiatives, new definitions of success, and a vision to serve many more young people in the future through deeper and more integrated partnerships. To help achieve this vision, we are delighted to announce an exciting new brand identity for our organization.

A Thousand Summers really captures what Jack Cheley knew about camp – there is a long lasting and meaningful impact that comes from spending time in wilderness environments challenging kids' comfort zones. This new brand identity builds off our founding purpose and leverages our history and heritage to help us extend our reach, attract new supporters and expand our capabilities - enabling many more kids to experience their own summers of growth at camp. Jack Cheley's dream has sparked over a thousand summers of camp for the young people we serve and it continues to guide and inspire us today as we deliver on the next thousand summers.

We invite you to continue to shape the future through the power of camp and support our vision as we honor Jack's dream that sparked **A Thousand Summers**.



JOHN AUSTIN
CHELEY FOUNDATION

Our past is to be celebrated. Our value is great. Our future is bright.



Visit Our New Website

As part of the rebrand process, we are also excited to announce that we have a new website!

Check out our new look at www.cheleyfoundation.org.

Your Investment Matters

The John Austin Cheley Foundation truly appreciates your investment in the future of our youth. Here are a few ways you can make a significant impact on our campers by supporting JACF:



\$150,000 Endowed Campership

Deliver the summer camp experience for one camper per year in perpetuity



\$2,500 Half Campership

Your funding will pay half the expenses for one summer camper



\$50,000 Power of Ten

This generous sponsorship level makes it possible for ten campers to attend camp for one summer



\$1,000 Young Explorer

Provide an introductory camp experience for a young camper



\$25,000 Adopt a Camper

A one-on-one relationship between the sponsor and a camper for his/her entire camp career



\$500 Transporter

Provide travel expenses for one camper



\$10,000 Double Campership

Your generosity will fund two campers for a summer



\$250 Outfitter

Provide equipment for one camper



\$5,000 Full Campership

The summer of a lifetime for one lucky camper



\$100 Piggy Banker

Fund a camper's bank account during his/her stay

Join Our Trailblazer Program

Did you know that if you join the Trailblazers, our recurring giving program, you can make a significant impact on a camper's summer? Just \$25 per month will provide a camper with equipment and help fund their camp store account. What a wonderful gift! Make your monthly or quarterly pledge today: www.cheleyfoundation.org.

Leave A Legacy

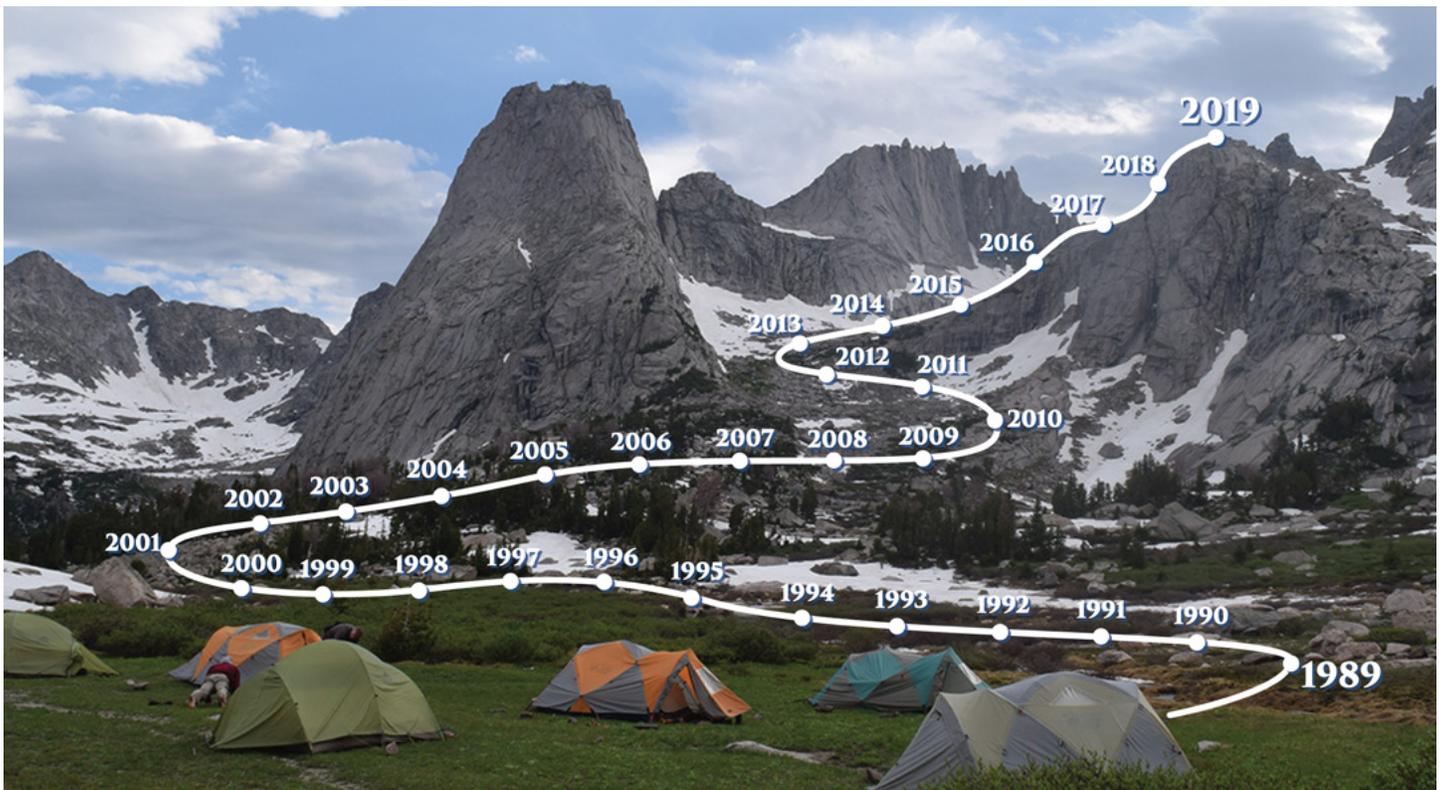
Many of our supporters have decided to leave a gift to the John Austin Cheley Foundation (FEIN #48-1077337) in their wills or estate plans so that they can have an even greater, long-term impact on a child's life. If you would like more information on leaving an impactful gift in your will or naming JACF as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy or retirement fund, please contact Alyssa Street at 720.981.2532 or at alyssa.street@cheleyfoundation.org.





1420 N. Ogden St. Suite 102
Denver, CO 80218

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Celebrating 30 Years

As part of our 30th anniversary celebration, we have produced a series of videos marking some of the most important milestones of the organization as told by some of the people who were involved with the Foundation at those times. Visit our website to watch every episode in the series and witness the growth of the Foundation over the last 30 years.

**Would you like more information on how you can positively impact a child's life today?
Visit our website at www.cheleyfoundation.org or call us at 720.981.2532.**