	LiGHT Grant Application 2026	
	2026 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines	

Name of individual, group or organization: Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do

Contact name(s): Jennyfer Balkema

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Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: _____

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do Camper ship

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: This grant will cover the approximate cost for Xander to attend camp.

Dollar amount requested: \$900

Would the program be offered if only a *partial* grant from LiGHT is made? Yes

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: We are requesting \$900 for

► May be utilized for part of the presentation.

Xander to attend camp. \$900 covers his weekly cost for camp plus the two extra counselors that he requires with his medical needs. Camp Watcha Wanna do allows kids like Xander to have fun, be their true selves and not focus on their cancer; A place to feel "normal".

1) This Cover Form

2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:

- What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- What do you want to do?
- What is your timeline?
- What results do you expect?
- If partnering with other organizations, please list.
- Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
- Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.

3) Detailed budget

**LIGHT grant Narrative for the \$900 grant award to Camp Watcha
Wanna Do:**

WHAT NEED WILL THIS PROGRAM ADDRESS AND WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do is a place where children surviving cancer can go to have fun, be themselves, feel normal and be a kid! They are supported by their peers and counselors who understand exactly what they are living day to day. CWWWD allows the parents a break from daily caregiving and gives the siblings a place where they fit in, are seen and understood. All these kids are amazing, and these families are extremely resilient but they both deserve a break from their daily normal of battling the awful disease of cancer. Camp helps children and their families cope with the mental and emotional aspects of potentially life-limiting illnesses. We help them cope with and offer reprieve from the daily stress of surviving cancer.

Our program is the only Indiana oncology camp offered free to families and the only camp based in Northern Indiana serving young cancer survivors. Campers can participate in a variety of skills classes of their choosing, including water sports, culinary arts, archery, crafts, drama, horseback riding and team building. Nurses are equipped to provide treatment outside of the usual hospital walls, while campers continue to do what they "wanna do" as campers, not patients! Children aged 7-graduation from high school surviving cancer may attend camp while in treatment and throughout management of long-term effects of cancer treatment. We make accommodations for any differently abled children whether due to cancer or other medical concerns.

The other important and impactful aspect to our program is that the campers who age out can come back as counselors after they graduate High School. This helps the younger campers see that one can survive hardship and that there is value in giving back to something that gave something to you. It is a great built in mentoring system. The average % of past campers who come back as counselors has been over 80% post COVID. In 2026, we had only four new counselors, but all of the new ones had a direct connection to camp. The other life-changing part of our program is the excitement of the kids; there have been years where we have applications for next year's camp two days after camp has ended. Their enthusiasm is contagious and makes for a happy, motivated board of directors, volunteers, and counselors.

The results that I expect are more happy kids and families as well as Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do continuing to make an impact to then give the organization a wider footprint. This week is said to be the best week of the year by the kids, their families, the counselors, the volunteers, and the board of directors. I expect smiles and laughter and inner strength and tears and emotions and confidence to shine all week by our kids who can do what they wanna do and challenge themselves to be better than their battle with cancer. Studies also show positive outcomes for the power of nature, strong support systems and their healing qualities. We immerse these kids in nature surrounded by a support system that understands exactly what they are going through whether they are a cancer patient or sibling.

WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?

I want to send Xander to camp with a campership that this grant would cover at \$650. The additional \$250 I am requesting is the difference in pay that his two counselors receive over the non-medical counselors. We have Xander with two counselors at all times due to some of his unique needs that are from the post effects of cancer treatment when he was little. Xander has been coming to camp since he was 7, and he just turned 16 a few weeks ago; we have been able to accommodate all of his needs as he is differently abled with the help of Camp Potawatomi and having additional staff with him.

Sadly, Xander is our only Wells County camper currently as the other two aged out and graduated. We would love for you to still support us and him with this grant.

WHAT IS OUR TIMELINE?

We start planning for camp in January preceding camp in June. This planning committee finalizes the theme, evening/day programming, shirt design, manages all the donations for the week of camp, figures out meals, plans Kinder Camp, provides skills classes, staffs/plans projects for the art barn and works closely with the Camp Potawatomi YMCA staff to provide the best week we can for our kids. We plan for one week of camp from January through June; six months of camp planning fun! Applications for campers start coming in around January online and then more in February/March after we send out the paper applications via US mail.

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do Information

MISSION STATEMENT:

"Providing recreational opportunities and support for those children, and their families, surviving cancer."

BELIEF:

"It is our belief that all people, regardless of their individual circumstances, flourish through recreational activities."

HISTORY:

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. is an independent 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit Indiana corporation serving adolescent cancer survivors in Northeastern Indiana and the surrounding areas. A volunteer Board of Directors, comprised of working professionals from the region, administers the organization in addition

to developing and implementing our programs with the assistance of additional community volunteers. All of our programs are provided at no cost to the families and funded entirely by community support. We have never turned a camper away.

The concept for Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do began in 1991 as several people came together to find an outlet for area children with cancer or a brain tumor. Our first summer camp was held in June 1992 with thirty-eight children. In less than three years, over one hundred children spent one week in June hiking, swimming, and playing without the worries of cancer. We continue to average about 110 children each camp week comprised of cancer patients/survivors and their siblings.

PROGRAMS:

All programs are medically supervised; we have a "med shed" which is staffed around the clock with volunteer pediatric oncology nurses. When needed, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist is available, and children may receive their medical treatment at camp as appropriate. All children must be cleared by their doctor to attend camp and participate in activities. All counselors and staff receive additional training to best meet the special needs of the cancer patients.

Resident Camp:

A weeklong camp for children, ages seven through high school graduation, with a focus on skill development and overall achievement. Campers can try many camp activities and develop new skills by participating in courses of their own choice. Campers make new friends and experience new activities such as archery, boating, crafts, dance, drama, a high-ropes course, hiking, music, swimming, team-building and other special events.

Kinder Camp:

This is a camper's first step into the camp experience, with a one-day adventure at camp. We provide a safe, comfortable, and fun program for our youngest campers (ages 2 – 7). Our staff guides campers throughout the day with a caring approach and individual attention. This fun program, loaded with traditional camp activities, prepares a child for a full week of camp in the future.

Other Programs and Partnerships with other organizations:

- We work closely with Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Parkview Oncology Children's Clinic, The Affiliates, Tin Caps/Parkview Field, Lutheran Child Life Specialists, and the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.
- There are several local businesses (i.e. Indiana Auto Auction, Starbucks, Midwest America Federal Credit Union, Preferred Auto, Christopher James Menswear, Casa Restaurants, Anytime Fitness-Georgetown) and non-profit groups (i.e. Appleseed Quilters Guild, RSVP group in Auburn, Elkhart Optimist Club, Tri Kappa, Girl Scouts) who partner with us and donate to us throughout the year in various capacities.
- We also hold two bigger fundraisers (Golf outing in June and Gala in the winter) and several smaller ones throughout the year to help us raise funds for camp as it is free for all campers and their siblings.

PEOPLE SERVED:

Our main focus is serving children who have or have had cancer or a brain tumor. Children with a terminal illness usually cannot play sports or attend camp due to medical restrictions, but with volunteer medical staff available always these children can attend summer camp like many other healthy children. We accept children from all over the state of Indiana, Western Ohio, Northern Kentucky, Southern Michigan, and Eastern Illinois. If they can get to/from camp and are surviving cancer they do not get turned away, even if not from one of the surrounding states.

DISTINCTIONS:

In 2026, Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. celebrated its 35th summer camp program with an Under the Sea theme – Lost at Sea, Found at Camp! The 2027 theme is Video games. 🎮

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. is a long-standing member of Children's Oncology Camping Association International (COCA-I), which allows for networking and program expansion opportunities and helps in providing a safe and memorable experience for campers. Additionally, our organization is accredited by the Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana.

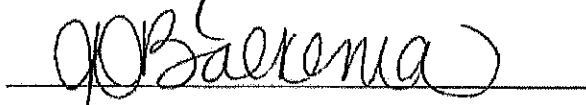
HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

The \$900 grant will be used to send Xander, our only Wells County camper, to camp for the week plus the additional costs to provide two people with him at all times. It costs about \$650 for each child to attend camp; this is the approximate cost of the rental of the campground, food, and programming costs per person for the week. The additional \$250 requested covers the difference in rates between medical and non-medical counselors.

I have reviewed the LIGHT grant application and endorse its contents to be accurate. We, the board of Camp Watcha Wanna Do, thank you for your consideration of this grant award of \$900.



Carmen DeBruce, Board President



Jennyfer Balkema, Program Director

	<u>2026</u>	
Support & Revenue		
Donations (individual and business)	\$ 86,000.00	
Grants/Foundations	\$ 66,000.00	
Care Camp Grant for The Camp Show	\$ -	*Not happening in 2026
Fundraisers	\$ 62,500.00	
Bank Interest		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 214,500.00	
Expenses		
Wages	\$ 37,956.00	
Computer software (zoom, protection, etc) and website and technology	\$ 2,500.00	
Storage Unit	\$ 1,070.00	
PO Box	\$ 360.00	
Office Supplies	\$ 250.00	
Postage/Mailing	\$ 500.00	
Non Camp Week Programming	\$ 1,000.00	
Meals/Entertainment	\$ 1,500.00	
Programs/ Camp Supplies	\$ 14,700.00	
Camp Rental	\$ 45,000.00	*lodging at Potawatomi is \$535 per kid x 85 kids
Camp Staff Pay	\$ 12,300.00	*20 counselors at 450 with room for medical counselors making more
Camp staff training	\$ 900.00	
Background Checks	\$ 1,000.00	
The Camp Show	\$0	**will not host The Camp Show in 2026
Credit card/bank charges	\$ 2,050.00	
Fundraising costs	\$ 28,000.00	
Memberships (COCA, nursing, BBB)	\$ 350.00	
Camp Insurance	\$ 5,800.00	
Professional Services	\$ 3,500.00	
Advertising/promotion/marketing	\$ 1,500.00	
Cell Phone	\$ 1,300.00	
Development (COCA conf. Etc.)	\$ 14,500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 176,036.00	
NET INCOME	\$ 38,464.00	

CAMP	Costs	
Programs/ Camp Supplies	\$ 14,700.00	
Camp Rental	\$ 45,000.00	*lodging at Potawatomi is \$535 per kid x 85 kids
Camp Staff Pay	\$ 12,300.00	*20 counselors at 450 with room for medical counselors making more
Camp staff training	\$ 900.00	
Background Checks	\$ 1,000.00	
Insurance	\$ 5,800.00	
Total	\$ 79,700.00	