





March, 2024

To whom it may concern,

In 2003, Sam Lazarus, age 25, combined his love of working with young children with a desire to travel and went to Ghana to work at a daycare centre. After only a few months, he contracted cerebral malaria and died.

The Sam Lazarus Fund was created in 2004 in memory of a beloved son, brother, friend, and long-time camper and staff member at YMCA Camp Kanawana. Its mission is to give the gift of camp to underprivileged children, who would not otherwise have the opportunity to get away in Summer, and enjoy the great outdoors.

During its first 16 years, the Sam Lazarus Fund organized an annual street-hockey fundraiser every August (affectionately known as *Sam Jam*), in the parking lot of Royal West Academy in Montreal-West. Hundreds came to play or take in the action, eat sausage and corn, and buy signature t-shirts, designed by local campers and artists. Slowly but surely, the Fund started to grow, eventually reaching unimaginable heights—especially given that most of the money raised came in loonies, twonies and other small change.

By 2020, a trust of over \$500,000 had been built. When COVID-19 closed both Kanawana and the annual street-hockey tournament, the Sam Fund turned its energies into the selection of campers sponsored by the cause, working with groups like Praeda, which supports refugee youth who immigrate alone to Canada.

The Sam Lazarus Fund has sent nearly 200 kids to Kanawana— giving them a chance to experience the magic of nature, new friends, and enjoy a week or two away from their day-to-day challenges.

We appreciate your support, in whatever form it may come.

Sincerely,

Sam's Family

Janet Denny Marlene Pia. Pat Rochelle

