

the

RAINBOW CONNECTION

january 2025



connect with us!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!

- JANUARY 26th - Washington DC Reunion at the Fleischer/Kraner Home
- FEBRUARY 2nd - University School of Milwaukee open house (2100 W Fairy Chasm Rd, River Hills, WI 53217)
- MARCH 8th - Windy City Camp Fair at Lake View High School in Chicago (4015 N Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL 60613)

SUMMER 2025 EMPLOYMENT

We are busy building the BEST TEAM for our summer 2025 staff!! Do you know someone (friend/cousin/neighbor/YOU!) looking for a summer job?

KAMAJI IS THE PLACE!

Please contact
jason@kamaji.com
for more info!

Want to tell someone about Kamaji? Just pass along our QR Code! Easy Peasy!



BIG SISTERS WANTED!

Interested in being a "Big Sis" to one of our new campers? This means you'll proactively connect with a new camper, answer questions, stay in touch before camp, share your experiences, offer advice and invite her to hang with you on travel day! Have questions or interested in being apart of the Big Sister team?

Contact Kat at kat@kamaji.com

DID YOU
KNOW?

Online reviews mean the world to us and are so impactful for those looking into Camp Kamaji for their daughter. Would you take a few moments to leave a five star review for us?

**CLICK HERE TO
LEAVE A REVIEW!**



A MASSIVE THANK YOU!



As 2024 winds down, it is a time of reflection and to feel grateful for the many gifts this past year has brought. My hope is that as you reflect, Kamaji is one of the things you are most grateful for!

One aspect of what makes the Kamaji community so special is the value we place on building a diverse and inclusive community of campers and families. Many of you know that the earliest iteration of Camp for All Kids began at Kamaji in the early 1990's. It was a Kamaji dad who provided the funding to invite Black youth from underserved communities to be part of our camp community. Since then, and the foundation has grown and evolved, more than 1,800 camperships have been awarded to participate in both 4 or 8 week sessions at one of the 7 partner camps.

We are incredibly grateful for our Kamaji community who also believe deeply in the importance of Camp for All Kids. The following list includes Kamaji families, alumni, alumni families, campers and friends of camp who have donated to CFAK this past year.

Thank you. Your contribution is so important, and we are very grateful.

If you are interested in learning more about Camp for All Kids please check out the [2024 Impact Report](#). If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, you can click on [this link](#).

AN EXTRA BIG THANK -YOU GOES OUT TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Leah Israel
Debra Bernard & Robin Schachtel
Michael & Gloria Morison
Genevieve Thompson
Lisa Freeman
Rebecca Case
Heather & Brad Roseblatt
Evie McWilliams
Shira Roza
Nanci Garoon Leigner
Carly Trueger
Diane Block (in honor of Rosie Rissman)
Gallop Family Foundation
Eddie Feinstein
Charles & Michael Seigel

Kia Swan-Moore
Shayna & Adena Rosenbloom
Melissa & Matt Friedman
Mitchell Cobey & Janet Reali
Thomas and Jennifer Hillman
Mark and Jean Burnstine
Sarah Cort
Muffie Michaelson
Sandra Simon and Mark Broutman
Jamie Schachtel
Patty Nicoella
Mindy & Gary Sircus
Allison Amend
Michael and Kerry Leaf
Nancy Segal
Vannesa Henneke

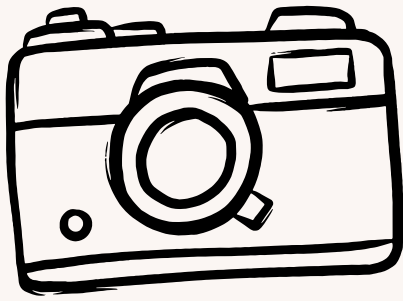
Chloe White
Kate Stewart
Chris & Frank Sachs
Kim Cole
Jeff & Lucy Heegaard
Max & Heidi Garfield
Rachel Eixenberger
Jamie and Brad Lash
Jamie Hensel
Rebecca Albertalli
Megan & Steve Kaplan
Rosalia Ruiz
Sharin & Bill Remis
Jordan Taylor
Matthew Stern
Betsy Kesselman

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE DONATED IN HONOR OF BETSY KESSELMAN WHO ASKED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CFAK AS PART OF HER MITZVAH PROJECT:

Violet Park
Patrick Majewski
Jessica Klein
Violet Louw
Peg & Mike Wurzburg
Mary Wurzburg
Alex Fung
Erika Vogel
Stacy & Maddie Hernandez
Ami Polonsky
Laura Geller



Lisa Rubin
Kate Joyce
Mary Mages
Amy Melnick
Katie Meyer
Amanda Lerias
Mary Lopert
Nicole Dorfman
Elaine Wiczer
Beverly Kesselman



KAMAJI KAPTURED



(L to R, clockwise) Ella Tadesse, Arie Domb, Sophia Storino, Fiona Belmonti, Celeste Belmonti, Evelyn Kras, Sloane Storino



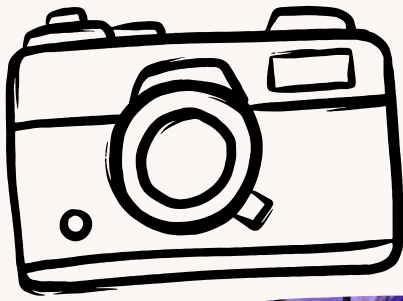
(L to R) Celeste Belmonti, Evelyn Kras, & Sloane Storino celebrating Evelyns double digit birthday!



Abbie Anderson and Layla Arion skating the day away together!



Randy and his pal taking full advantage of the beautiful snow at Kamaji!



KAMAJI KAPTURED

NYE
EDITION!



Julie and Alice Grant (& Obie!) ringing in the New Year!



Josie and Elodie Fredman celebrating NYE with the lighting of their Kamaji candles!



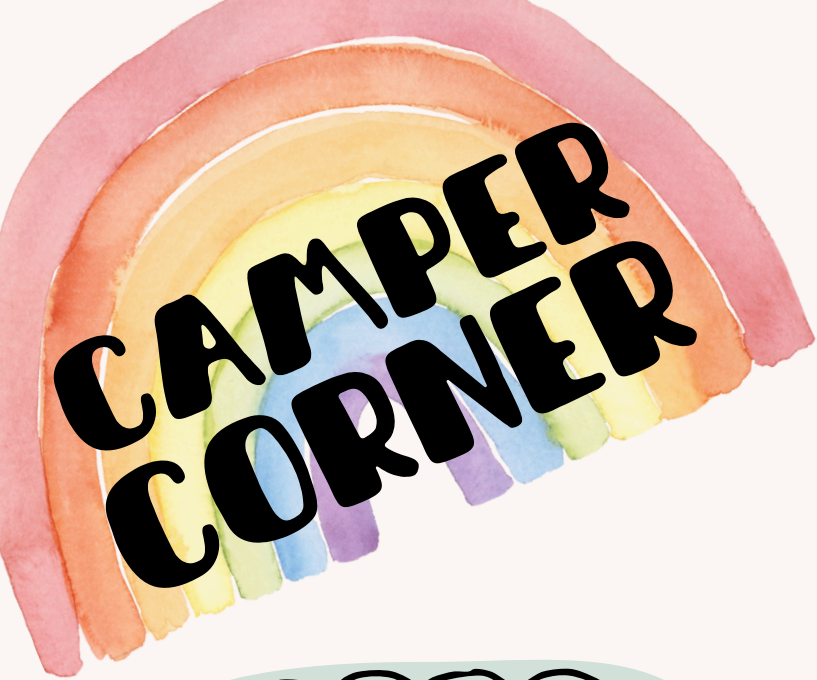
Gracie Mervis on her first candle lighting NYE. Beautiful!



The Lima and Alderman families rang in the new year together in Japan!



Serena Meyers-Baer showing her Kamaji love!



CAMPER CORNER

OPINION POLL!
[CLICK HERE TO VOTE ON ALL YOUR CAMP FAVORITES!](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C3G76RT)
 actual link is ↓ if needed!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C3G76RT>

LET'S DO THIS

Which camp friend do you NOT see on the 2025 enrollment list? Log in to CampInTouch, get your friend's contact information, and send her an e-mail/letter/text encouraging her to get enrolled today!



Goodness Alert:
 Send a note to someone to compliment them on a recent accomplishment or to tell them something you admire about them!

DID YOU KNOW?

Kamaji's grounds span **126** beautiful acres in the Northwoods of Minnesota!

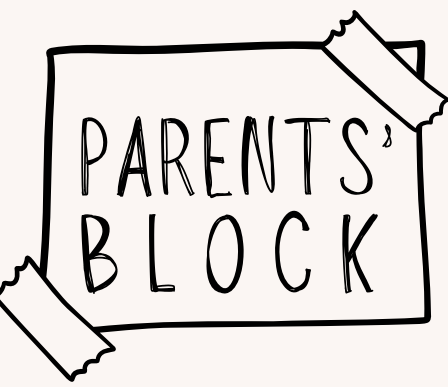
How many snowflakes can you find in this Rainbow Connection? Answer is at the bottom of the last page.



JASON'S JOKE

What do you call an old snowman?

WATER



Content created just for **YOU**, the parent!!

I've only been a parent for (almost) 10 years. But I have been working alongside, with and for children since 2001. That is a super long time. Longer than most of my staff have been alive. It is the 25 years of camp, the 10 years of being a mom and the fact that my own self-published monthly newsletter is sent out to hundreds of parents that I am now referring to myself as an "Expert". And I would encourage you to refer to me similarly.

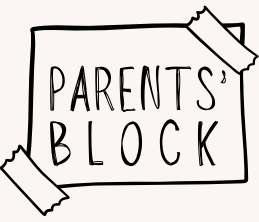
I would like to use my status as a (Capital "e") Expert to share my thoughts about parenting, about kids, about camp, about community and maybe I'll insert a funny anecdote or two for you. But unlike other real parenting experts and legitimately trained psychologists, I am here simply to share the things I know from my own personal experiences and hopefully, frankly, to validate your own parenting decisions. I reserve the right to make glaring generalizations, to misquote statistics and to deny having said something you might find controversial, despite it being in print. And, unlike my Instagram feed, I will never, ever, make you feel guilty about what you're not doing or what you should be doing to raise happy children. With that, I proceed with my first KAT talk (like TED, but not).

I'm finally reading The Anxious Generation. Have you read it? You should, or at least listen to it. It is a little sciencey and data heavy at the beginning, but it has been a really good read. A lot of what I will muse upon will be based on the things written about in Jonathan Haidt's incredible book, which, for the record, is essentially a 295-page book that could be entitled "Why Send your Kid to Sleepaway Camp." My book is flagged with yellow post-its, donned with scribbles such as: "Yes! Camp!", "Kids' AND Staff Mental Health!", "Quality vs Quantity Friendships", "Help grow more roots as a guide for campers" and the one I want to talk about today, "Let me do it-easier for me than you!"

That last post-it was referring to this paragraph on page 74:

Well-intentioned parents who try to raise their children in a bubble of satisfaction, protected from frustration, consequence and negative emotions, may be harming their children. [Kat edit: we all do this sometimes, you're a great parent, your kids are ok, don't panic, keep reading]. They may be blocking the development of competence, self-control, frustration tolerance, and emotional self-management. Several studies find that such "coddling" or "helicopter parenting" is correlated with later anxiety disorders, low self-efficacy (which is the inner confidence that one can do what is needed to reach one's goals), and difficulty adjusting to college.

So, back to my post-it. "LET ME (Kat)DO IT-EASIER FOR ME THAN YOU". One of the reasons camp is so impactful is because at camp we have to take many people's needs into account, not just your child's. So, what happens as a result? She might have her archery class right after waterskiing which means she inconveniently has to quickly run to the washhouse to rinse off then change out of her wet suit into dry clothes and run up to archery with wet hair. Super annoying. Then at archery, she does archery and, it turns out, she is absolutely fine.



And at camp, when she's late to tablesetting because she didn't get out of bed when the wake-up bell rang, her Tribe Leader, the really nice one who knows everyone's name, looks straight at her when she finally arrives at the Dining Hall—a little frustrated and definitely stressed. Later that day your camper asks her counselor to help make sure she is out of bed at the wakeup bell so she can make sure she's on time for tablesetting.

And speaking of Tribe Leaders... at camp, the 20 or so campers in a tribe vote for 2 Tribe Leaders to be their representatives and run tribe activities. It is typically a couple of the oldest campers in the tribe. But not necessarily. This can be one of the most exciting or disappointing announcements at camp. Your kind, lake-loving, shy Ishkaday was not voted in for Tribe Leader. She contains her tears right after the announcement at Council Fire. She even stands up during the keylog ceremony to congratulate and recognize the two new tribe leaders. And when she gets back to the cabin after the campfire, she cries. She cries to her friends who were elected tribe leader in their tribes, and she cries to her favorite counselor who hugs her and tells her it will be okay. During the first tribe meeting, she feels a little clunky, maybe even a little jealous. And then...she is totally okay. She is still kind, she still has her friends, she still loves the lake, still a little shy and definitely still loves the Ishkadays. And, she was asked to step-in and be the substitute Tribe Leader while the Tribe Leader from Cabin 5 is on her canoe trip. And that felt pretty okay, too.

These situations present frustration, consequences and even negative emotions. And your child has just navigated all of them— and that's just the first week of camp! Perhaps the best part is that she did it on her own...with the support of her camp community.

She learned she could do all those hard things on her own. And, best yet, you weren't there to feel like you should call someone to fix her activity schedule to have two waterfront activities back-to-back, you weren't responsible for waking her up and making sure she made it to the washhouse and therefore, table-setting on time. And you were not there to try to take away her heartache when she didn't hear her name called for Tribe Leader. She is the owner of all those experiences, she gets to own how she handled them, and she owns the lessons learned from them.

So, back to the post-it. It is easier for me, Kat, to help coach your camper through these experiences. I am her camp director, she knows I'm a safe place to land, knows I'm always there with a hug, but I'm not her mom. It is easier for me to do this with your child. So, let me. By letting her participate in camp you are ensuring that she learns she can navigate frustrations, consequences and even devastating disappointment. And we all know that life is filled with those. Camp allows her time to practice, to develop these skills, to make mistakes and to build her own self-confidence so she can tackle all the inevitable hard things up ahead, because she has done it before. And you, you gave her camp! Nailed it.

 Kat



HAPPY *january* BIRTHDAY

Staff

MIA HAYES	2
SUMMER GARRENO	4
EKIN TUNCEL	19
CLAUDINE KOFFI	20
CARYS HARRY	23
SANDRA HERNANDEZ ZACARIAS	25
MATTHEW BLUFF	26
RUBY LAST	26
MAILYN BALANTA GARCIA	30
SIENNA TURNER	31

Camper

DATE	NAME	DATE
	MAUDE JERNAGAN	2
	LILLIAN WALL	3
	EMMA RIVERS	10
	JULIET TRUEGER	10
	KALEESI GREENE	12
	ADALYN RUMSCHLAG	14
	JOSLYN RIDDLE	15
	DYLAN CARTER	17
	SCARLETT RISSMAN	23
	GABBY CAMPUZANO	25
	LAYLA GREENWOOD	31



Wish your pals a happy birthday! Log in to [Campintouch](#) for contact information! :)



2025 CAMPER ENROLLMENT!

SUMMER 2025 8 WEEKERS!!

JESSE DORNAN
6th grade
Denver, CO

MADDIE
HERNANDEZ
7th grade
Northbrook, IL

SERENA
MEYERS-BAER
3rd grade
Brooklyn, NY

LILLY GREENE
3rd grade
Minnetrista, MN

TOLULA MASTIO
5th grade
Wichita, KS

HANNAH RABB
3rd grade
Lowell, MI

KIRA THOMAS
4th grade
Chicago, IL

KALEESI
GREENE
5th grade
Minnetrista, MN

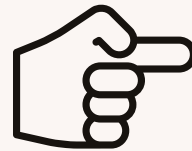
BETSY
KESSELMAN
7th grade
NORTHBROOK, IL

KENDALL
RICHARDS
7th grade
St Louis, MO

IVY SWARTZ
7th grade
Chicago, IL

Interested in spending 8 weeks with us this summer? Have questions about what that looks like? Reach out for a chat with Kat!

Kat@kamaji.com



ENROLL
HERE

2025 Kamaji Dates

FULL 8 WEEK SESSION
June 18 - August 11

1st SESSION
June 18 - July 14

2nd SESSION
July 16 - August 11

2025 CAMPER ENROLLMENT!

1ST SESSION



*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI
FOR SUMMER 2025!

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN	NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Femi Abidemi	4th	Chicago, IL	Lilah Pearl	8th	Encinitas, CA
Avery Bargfeldt	5th	Franklin, TN	Amelia Rabb	5th	Lowell, MI
Hadley Bussen	5th	Lake Bluff, IL	Caroline Rabb 🌈	1st	Lowell, MI
Juniper Bussen	3rd	Lake Bluff, IL	Abigail Reinke	8th	Ofallon, MO
Yamaris Cabrera	9th	north chicago, IL	Joslyn Riddle 🌈	4th	Lake Bluff, IL
Gabby Campuzano	6th	Park Ridge, IL	Emma Rivers	6th	Springfield, VA
Paris Caradine	6th	North Chicago, IL	Maddie Roddy	5th	Cleveland, OH
Lucinda Chorney	8th	North Chicago, IL	Memphis Ronk	9th	Tulsa, OK
Addie Cronk-Gebbia	6th	Lake Bluff, IL	Josephine Rouspil	6th	Des Moines, IA
Elodie Fredman	5th	Bannockburn, IL	Naomi Roza-Broxmeyer 🌈	3rd	Ferndale, MI
Josie Fredman	4th	Bannockburn, IL	Adalyn Rumschlag 🌈	3rd	Hawthorn Woods, IL
Eliana Garcia	9th	North Chicago, IL	Julia Showalter	6th	Tulsa, OK
Mylena Garcia	7th	North Chicago, IL	Anastasia Taylor	9th	Menifee, CA
Brynn Goldstein	5th	Chicago, IL	Jessica Taylor 🌈	2nd	Menifee, CA
Cate Graziano 🌈	5th	Lake bluff, IL	Oakley Thiesen	8th	Brainerd, MN
Madeline Hannes	3rd	Lake Forest, IL	Piper Vasey	6th	Chicago, IL
Ava Harden	4th	Brook Park, OH	Alani Ware	8th	Chicago, IL
Emma Harrison 🌈	4th	Deerfield, IL	Layla Wiedmann	6th	Lake Forest, IL
Noa Jacoby	6th	Chicago, IL	Brooke Willhite	7th	Albuquerque, NM
Hope Jernagan	8th	Saint Louis, MO	Genevieve Worley	3rd	Chicago, IL
Maude Jernagan	6th	Saint Louis, MO	Lorelei Worley	6th	Chicago, IL
Lizzie Joyce 🌈	3rd	Chicago, IL			
Bea Kastner 🌈	3rd	Fox Point, WI			
Gweneth Kelley 🌈	6th	Lake Bluff, IL			
Pauline Kelley 🌈	4th	Lake Bluff, IL			
Ellie Laragh	6th	Chicago, IL			
Julia Laragh	4th	Chicago, IL			
Katie McDonough 🌈	4th	Steamboat Springs, CO			
Lauren McIntire	9th	Newbury Park, CA			
Felicity Nelson 🌈	1st	Lake Luff, IL			



2025 CAMPER ENROLLMENT!

2ND SESSION



*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI
FOR SUMMER 2025!

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN	NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Abby Anderson	8th	Lake Forest, IL	Olivia Kansupada	3rd	Chicago, IL
Louise Anderson	3rd	Lake Forest, IL	Erin King	3rd	Bethesda, MD
Ella Arnold	9th	Corte Madera, CA	Evelyn Kras	4th	Kenilworth, IL
Matilda Asarch	5th	Denver, CO	Vivienne Laufer	6th	Deerfield, IL
Eloise Baker	3rd	Washington, DC	Akari Lema	7th	Tokyo, Japan
Clio Bandle	9th	Winterthur, Switzerland	Kassi Leonard	9th	St Louis, MO
Celeste Belmonti	4th	Chicago, IL	Willa Limbert	6th	Berkeley, CA
Fiona Belmonti	8th	Chicago, IL	Flo Lloyd	7th	Washington, DC
Eliana Brown	7th	Shaker Heights, OH	Eve Mason	6th	Deerfield, IL
Zoey Caine	8th	St. Louis, MO	Evie McWilliams	7th	Ann Arbor, MI
Cat Carrazana	4th	Mission Hills, KS	Gracie Mervis	5th	Arlington, VA
Elle Cassidy	7th	Evanston, IL	Kate Mervis	3rd	Arlington, VA
Dylan Ditto	5th	Chicago, IL	Willa Nash	7th	Chicago, IL
Blake Eldridge	5th	Highland Park, IL	Maddie Paine	4th	Kenilworth, IL
Dylan Eldridge	9th	Highland Park, IL	Abby Rezyin	4th	Glencoe, IL
Chloe Fleischer	4th	Chevy Chase, MD	Kai Richards	4th	St. Louis, MO
Lia Fleischer	7th	Chevy Chase, MD	Kennedy Richards	7th	St. Louis, MO
Orly Garfield	4th	New York, NY	Rosie Rissman	8th	Berkeley, CA
Lily Genser	5th	Highland Park, IL	Scarlett Rissman	5th	Highland Park, IL
Sydney Genser	8th	Highland Park, IL	Violet Rissman	6th	Berkeley, CA
Zali Gouin	5th	Kirkland, WA	Ella Rubenstein	8th	Glencoe, IL
Layla Greenwood	3rd	Glencoe, IL	Olivia Rubenstein	5th	Glencoe, IL
Mabel Hall	3rd	Palos Verdes Estates, CA	Emma Sagett	8th	Highland Park, IL
Ruby Hall	7th	Palos Verdes Estates, CA	Henri Saipe	3rd	St. Louis, MO
Caroline Hirsh	5th	Glencoe, IL	Serenity Sanchez	6th	Deerfield, IL
Mollie Hirsh	7th	Glencoe, IL	Brooke Schieber	5th	Hinsdale, IL
Eve Jackson	7th	Kansas City, MO	Mae Severn	6th	Washington, DC
Millie Jackson	7th	Kansas City, MO	Mary Elizabeth Stewart	7th	Lake Bluff, IL
Mia Jimenez	7th	Riverwoods, IL	Kayla Thomas	6th	Maywood, IL
Val Jimenez	9th	Riverwoods, IL			

2025 CAMPER ENROLLMENT!

2ND SESSION CONT.



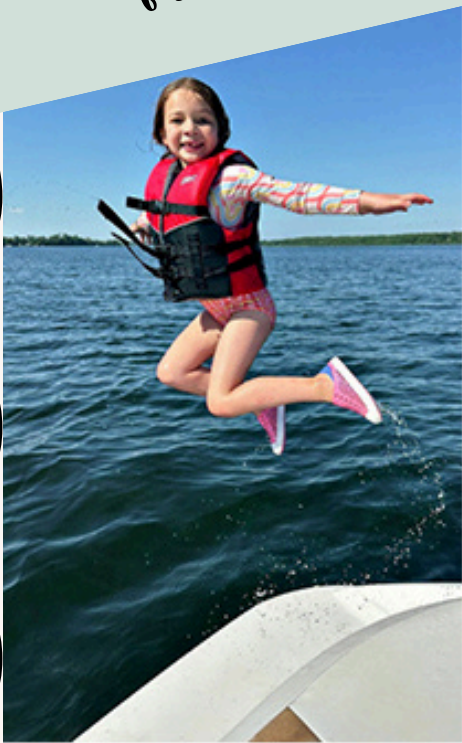
*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI FOR SUMMER 2025!

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Campbell Trombley	3rd	Lake Bluff, IL
Juliet Trueger	6th	Chicago, IL
Opal Vandelloo	8th	Oakland, CA
Ellie Kate VanGilder	1st	Lake Bluff, IL
Ava Verdun	7th	Chevy Chase, MD
Ellie Voller	5th	San Diego, CA
Nora Williams	7th	Ann Arbor, MI
Claire Windom	7th	Washington, DC
Colleen Windom	6th	Washington, DC
Lexi Young	7th	Deerfield, IL





One final wish,
from our family to yours.....



HAPPIEST
HOLIDAYS

WITH LOVE FROM,
the Nelson Family