



ROUND UP

2025 NEWSLETTER

This summer, Zajac Ranch welcomed 395 campers for transformative, fully accessible camp experiences.

From paddling on the lake to making new friends around the campfire, every child had the opportunity to grow, explore, and celebrate their abilities in a supportive and inclusive environment.



395

Total number of
Summer Campers

40 +

Different medical diagnoses
represented at Summer Camp

10 %

Increase of campers
from 2024!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As we close another remarkable year at Zajac Ranch, I am once again filled with deep gratitude and pride. This year reminded us of why the Ranch exists — to ensure that every child and young adult with complex medical needs has the chance to experience belonging, joy, and possibility.

This summer, we welcomed hundreds of campers back to the Ranch for another unforgettable camp season. Once again, our team — alongside dedicated volunteers, partners, and generous supporters — created an inclusive space where campers could paddle across the lake, try the newly rebuilt high ropes course, ride horses, laugh with new friends, and simply be themselves. Every cheer, every accomplishment, and every moment of pure joy reaffirmed the importance of what we do.

Beyond our core summer programs, we continued to strengthen our year-round offerings, partnerships, and supports for families. From family camps to private medical groups, and with the launch of our new Dare to Dream camps, 2025 has been a year of growth, impact, and renewed commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the children and families we serve.

Reflecting on everything achieved this year, I am reminded that none of it would be possible without our extraordinary community. Your belief in our mission — your time, generosity, and compassion — fuels every program and touches every life that comes through our gates. As we look ahead, our goal remains clear and unwavering: to expand access, deepen impact, and ensure that every child who dreams of camp has a place to belong at Zajac Ranch.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for being part of the Zajac Ranch family. Together, we will continue creating a future filled with more adventures, more friendships, and more moments of joy for the children we serve.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Mel Zajac, C.M., O.B.C
Founder & Chairman



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CAMPER SPOTLIGHT



When you support Zajac Ranch, you're not just giving a week at camp—you're opening doors to independence, belonging, and life-changing experiences. **Few stories show this more clearly than Matteo's.**

Matteo lives with multiple lifelong disabilities, including cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, legal blindness, and cognitive challenges. Functionally non-verbal and often overwhelmed by medical needs, he spent much of his childhood navigating specialists, surgeries, and hospital visits. For years, independence and social connection felt out of reach. Everything changed when Matteo discovered Zajac Ranch.

He first attended a Family Camp weekend, where he could explore camp at his own pace.

With the support of his family and the Zajac Ranch staff, he climbed the rock wall, completed the high ropes course, and fully participated in activities he had never before been able to try. "For the first time, we saw our son included, supported, and understood," shares his mom, Michelle.

When Matteo returned for his first week-long camp in 2024 at 19 years of age, the impact was transformative. He made friends, took on new challenges, performed with joy at the Amphitheatre, and came home proudly showing his family all the things he could now do on his own—new independence that surprised even them. Camp didn't just build his confidence; it sparked momentum. Matteo and his family spoke about his experience so often that he convinced six of his friends to join him this year at summer camp and share the magic of Zajac Ranch together.

"The experience was incredible for Matteo. Camp made him realize he didn't need us to do so many things for him at home. Although we are an encouraging family, it has also opened our eyes to what is possible for Matteo too." – Michelle, Matteo's mom

Because of donors, Matteo has found independence, friendship, and a place where he truly belongs.

ZAJAC NEWS



HIGH ROPES COURSE RE-OPENS

Just in time for our 2025 Summer Camp season, our fan-favourite **High Ropes course re-opened to our campers!**

Featuring new challenges and additional levels, our campers raved about our new addition to the Ranch.

FAMILY CAMP RETURNS

This past February, we relaunched our popular Family Camps! Filled with snowy activities, the camp was a huge hit for our families. Moving into 2026, our goal is to increase the number of Family Camp offerings **for more opportunities year-round!**

FEATURE ON AMI

On November 13, 2025, Zajac Ranch was featured in **AMI's acclaimed television series Our Community for their 10th season.** We invite all of our community members to watch the episode online at www.ami.ca!

DARE TO DREAM



This year, Zajac Ranch launched the Dare to Dream program, providing inclusive and medically supported camp experiences for underserved Indigenous and low-income youth across the Lower Mainland. With support from our partners Envision Financial, we delivered two 3-day camps and offered subsidy support for families attending our February Family Camp.

By removing financial and accessibility barriers, the program created a safe and empowering space for youth to build confidence, strengthen peer connections, and experience the joy of outdoor recreation—many for the very first time. With overwhelmingly positive feedback and growing community partnerships, Dare to Dream set the foundation for a sustainable year-round program that will continue to uplift marginalized youth for years to come.

“It was really amazing that the staff made so much room for flexibility in the schedule for the youth. I think the youth really appreciated not feeling forced to participate in certain activities and that this flexibility made it possible for them to be more present in other activities throughout their stay.”

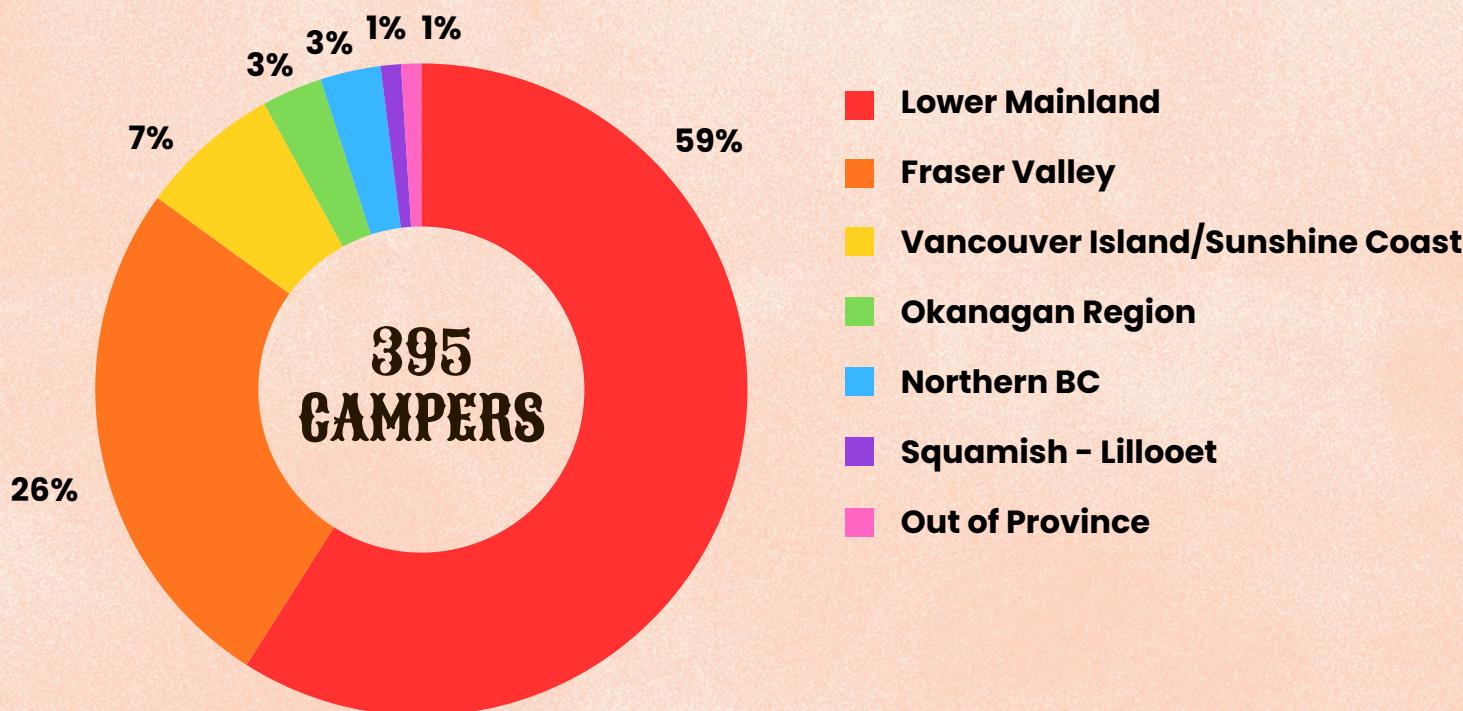
SUMMER



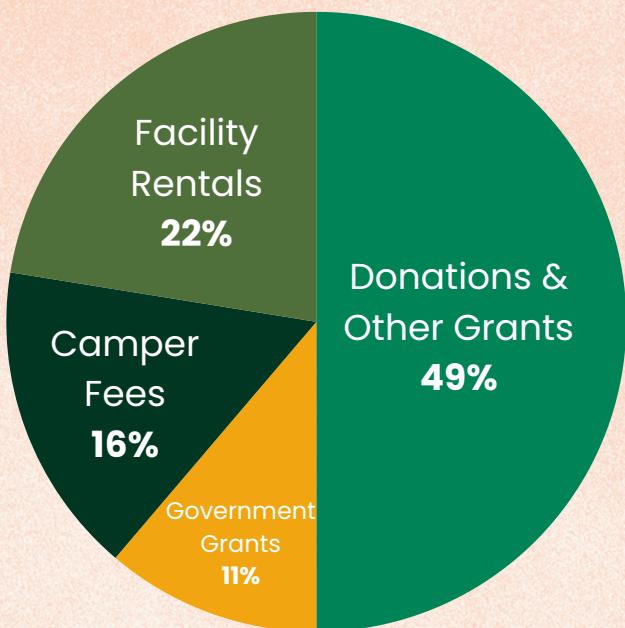
MEMORIES



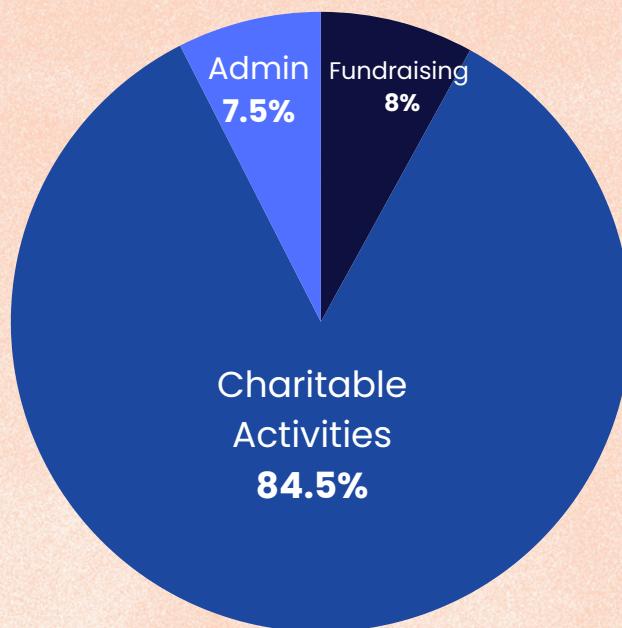
BY THE NUMBERS



REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



WAYS TO SUPPORT ZAJAC RANCH:



Become a Monthly Donor

By becoming a monthly donor, you provide continuous support throughout the year, allowing more children to enjoy the camp experience!

Volunteer at the Ranch

We're always in need of additional assistance at the Ranch, both during the summer and in the off-season!

Host a Third-Party Fundraising Event

Fundraising events offer a fantastic opportunity to have fun while giving back to the community!

Rent the Zajac Ranch

Consider renting the Ranch for your next special occasion! All proceeds directly benefit the Zajac Campership Allowance Program!

OUR IMPACT



95% of parents felt their child benefited from being around other campers with similar medical conditions



85% of parents reported their child developed new friendships & felt part of a supportive community while at camp



78% of parents reported their child had an increased willingness to try new things and challenge themselves since attending camp.



73% of parents reported their child demonstrated increased confidence in their personal abilities since attending camp



ZAJAC EVENTS

ZAJAC NIGHTS 2025

The Zajac Nights Gala was a tremendous triumph! With heartfelt gratitude to our incredible sponsors and attendees, we raised over \$400,000 to support sending children to camp! If you couldn't join us this year, mark your calendars. **Our next Zajac Nights event will take place on May 30, 2026!**



LUNCH WITH A LEGEND RETURNED!

This year's **Lunch with a Legend with Amar Doman** was a tremendous success, bringing together an engaged audience, inspiring stories, and meaningful support for Zajac Ranch. His leadership and community spirit made the event both memorable and impactful!



THANK YOU TO OUR 3RD PARTY FUNDRAISERS!

We are truly grateful for our incredible community of supporters who share our vision. Thanks to remarkable contributors such as the British Columbia Sheet Metal Association, TriWest Mechanical, and Chloe and her family for fundraising in honour of her first birthday, **over \$30,000 was raised at 3rd party events to help send children to the Ranch this year!**



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS



Thanks to generous donors, Zajac Ranch provides transformative summer camp experiences for youth with special needs. For over 20 years, your support has fostered lasting memories and friendships, making a meaningful difference in campers' lives through adventure and inclusion.

Our Community Partners:



Since 2009, **White Spot Restaurants** has been one of our greatest supporters through sponsoring camps and hosting their annual

Pirate Pak Day! To date, White Spot has helped to raise **over \$1 million dollars in support for the Zajac Ranch.**



As a longtime supporter of the Zajac Ranch, the **Mr. Lube Foundation** has been a integral part of the Zajac family since our beginnings in 2004. By **sponsoring summer camps year after year**, they have provided over \$420,000 to date and helped to send **over 500 kids to camp!**

Special Thank You to:

The Keg Spirit Foundation

\$ 50,000

The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

\$ 40,000

The Grayross Foundation

\$ 40,000

The Morris & Helen Belkin Foundation

\$ 30,000

Chernoff Family Foundation

\$30,000

Jacqui Cohen Family Foundation

\$ 25,000

Envision Financial

\$ 25,000

Open Hands Charity

\$ 16,000

Diamond Foundation

\$ 15,000

Beem Credit Union

\$ 15,000

Klaus & Margot Richter

\$ 10,000

Bridges Autism Fund

\$ 10,000

Storrs Family Foundation

\$ 10,000

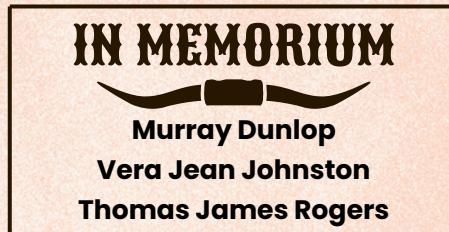
Mission Health Care Auxiliary Society

\$ 10,000

Horsman Family Fund

\$ 10,000

We're deeply grateful to all our supporters — every contribution truly makes a difference!



Dear Zajac Supporters,

My name is Holly, and I'm 12 years old. This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Zajac Ranch in Mission, BC. It's a special camp for kids ages 7–17 who are on the autism spectrum or have other special needs.



At first, I was nervous to go, but the camp was so much fun! I made lots of new friends, tried new activities, and even got over my fear of horses. I had ridden a horse before, but this time I really felt confident and comfortable. The staff were so kind and encouraging, and they helped me try things I didn't think I could do. I laughed a lot, learned new skills, and made memories I'll never forget.

I think every kid should get the chance to experience Zajac Ranch. It's a place where you can be yourself, feel accepted, and have a great time. Thank you for supporting programs like this that help kids like me grow and have fun.

Sincerely,
Holly B.
2025 Summer Camp
Autism Spectrum Disorder Camp #2

Donate to the Zajac Ranch today!

Every dollar will help in providing a transformative summer camp experience at Zajac Ranch for children like Holly.

DONATE

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!