

Board of Directors

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PO Box 411
Dover, NH 03820

We hope that you and yours are well and having an enjoyable summer. The purpose of this letter is to share some important news about the Zebra Crossings organization.

At the end of this year Astrid Wielens will be stepping down as Executive Director of Zebra Crossings, after twelve successful years of leading the organization that she founded in 2009. For Astrid it has been an incredibly rewarding experience to witness the impact of our programs on our youth and families. This journey was only possible with the support of many wonderful and dedicated volunteers, donors and supporters.

Organizations have natural life cycles, and Astrid feels that Zebra Crossings is at a point where new direction and new leadership is appropriate. The Zebra Crossings Board of Directors has discussed this and agrees with her recommendation. We have used the reduced program schedule this past year to plan for the hiring process of a new Executive Director. Astrid will be staying on for two months to facilitate the transition to the new Executive Director. Kim Strout and Meg Arnold will stay in their current program and administrative roles to maintain continuity.

We would like to update you on the current state of affairs at Zebra Crossings. As you are aware, our camps have been suspended for the past two summers for health and safety reasons due to COVID-19. While it has been hugely disappointing to be apart from our campers and families, there are three positive things that we can report from our hiatus:

- Zebra Crossings is in solid shape financially, due to the continued generosity of our sponsors, donors and partners.
- The Board of Directors have completed a Strategic Planning process, focused on how Zebra Crossings can continue to fulfill its mission in the post-pandemic period and beyond.
- We are planning our first program again and are starting with Heart Family Camp in November. We look forward to re-connect and welcome back our camp families.

In our monthly newsletter we plan to provide updates on our search for the next Executive Director. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude for all that you have done for Zebra Crossings. We hope and ask that you can continue to be a strong supporter of our mission, youth and families. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us.