A town of only 2,000 people, WaKeeney had only so much to offer a bright young student looking to accomplish "big things in life." As luck would have it, Izzy and her mom happened to hear about Cheley Colorado Camps and the John Austin Cheley Foundation from a friend and decided to apply. JACF awarded the then 13-year-old Izzy a campership for the summer of 2015. When Izzy left the small town that was all she had known and arrived at Cheley Colorado Camps, she embarked upon an adventure that changed the path of her life forever.

"Camp for me is a place where I can escape from a lot of real world problems, be myself and not be judged for it, see amazing views that take me away from reality, meet new people and have close relationships." – Izzy
As a dedicated volunteer, she has encouraged 26 of the 200 students at her school to join her in volunteering there as well. She has plans to make these activities a permanent club at her school next year. Izzy also has plans to expand her project over the next three years by introducing an ‘Adopt-a-Grandparent’ program where she will pair girls at her school with elderly people in the community to participate in local events together, celebrate the holidays together as well as share in ‘old fashioned letter writing’.

Her mentor and dean of students at Salem Academy, Lauren Rogers, says that Izzy is committed to being an active and engaged member of her new community, and that type of dedication will be extremely important to her success at school and in life.

It has been tough for Izzy’s mother to let her go, but when asked what attending camp has done for her daughter she said, “The confidence from going to camp let her do what she is doing today. Camp changed her. She learned how to peak a mountain, and that when you get thrown off a horse you dust yourself off and get back on. She is now able to go away to school and get the opportunities in life that she couldn’t have gotten here at home.”

Needless to say, Izzy IS going to accomplish big things in life, and we can’t wait to see what is in store for her. Izzy’s message to the donors who helped make her campership possible is: “Thank you for giving me this amazing experience and giving me the opportunity to go to camp. It will forever be in my heart.”

The four weeks away from home began a transformational process as Izzy learned and experienced many new and amazing things. While living and working with others, she tried new activities, scaled peaks, and became more independent, self-sufficient and adventurous. As a result, she began to grow and make new friends and formed many lasting relationships.

One of these friendships allowed Izzy to learn about the different educational opportunities in the world – specifically the advantages of boarding schools. To accomplish the “big things in life” that she had in mind, Izzy decided that she wanted to attend one of the top boarding schools in the nation. She took all of the tests and applied for financial assistance and, because of her tenacity, is currently attending ninth grade on scholarship at Salem Academy in Winston Salem, NC. Established in 1772, Salem Academy is one of the most highly regarded and oldest boarding schools for girls in the nation.

Izzy will be returning to attend her third summer at Cheley in 2017 as a Capstone Program participant. She will be completing a Capstone Project this year that will serve the school and community in which she lives. She volunteers at a local Kindergarten and also at the local Children’s Museum.

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JACF Welcomes Three New Camps

As the John Austin Cheley Foundation has evolved over the past 27 years, we have sought new partnerships with high-quality summer camps capable of helping us to deliver on our mission. These Associate Camps form the backbone of our program and are critical to our success as an organization committed to helping alter the trajectory of the lives of the youth we serve. Because of these Associate Camps, our campers get to spend time in nature learning from caring, adult mentors in safe environments, learning and growing as individuals and as members of a community. And thanks to camp, we watch these young people learn new skills, make new friends, overcome adversity, gain courage, become confident and resilient, develop compassion, and appreciate diversity, all while having a wonderful, fun and unique experience!

With an ambition to increase the number of young people we serve, we also aim to increase the number of our Associate Camps to ensure that we have sufficient capacity for growth in camperships, as well as a variety of offerings for our campers. This broad-ranging portfolio of camps allows us to offer diverse programming, diverse locations, and wide-ranging program structure to our campers. The common features we believe must always remain are strong mission alignment, high-quality wilderness programming and a shared responsibility to achieving our goals.

Our process of identifying prospective new Associate Camps is considered and thorough. With specific criteria to guide us, the conversation begins 18 months before our first campers will ever set foot on a camp property. This background work to ensure mission alignment and understand the motivation to align helps us anticipate the experience that our campers are likely to have. Our process helps identify the most appropriate and mutually beneficial approach to alignment to ensure that JACF can secure a true partner in our work to advance young people through a wilderness summer camp experience.

We are proud to introduce three new Associate Camps, all of which provide open and welcoming communities and a commitment to the growth and well-being of their campers. They are motivated to partner with JACF to support the funding of unique programming (including Native American dancing and crafts), offering new destinations (including extensive trips into Canada), and adding to our complement of coed and stand-alone boys’ camps by introducing environments designed exclusively for girls.

Camp Kooch-I-Ching and Ogichi Daa Kwe develop young men and women in body and spirit through wilderness experiences that celebrate a love of the outdoors. The camps are focused upon promoting self-discovery, teamwork and service to others in the pristine surroundings of Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota.

The philosophy of these brother-sister camps is based on recognizing the worth of each individual, embracing fun and progressive learning, challenging the imagination, and developing a feeling of belonging to something much larger and more important than the individual. They celebrate the nobility of a strong work ethic, encourage resourcefulness, and value wisdom and good judgment.

Through the stability and traditions of the in-camp environment, campers learn about new cultures and support each other, gaining confidence and resilience to become leaders in their communities and beyond.

Clearwater Camp has been helping girls build confidence, adventurous spirits, and the courage to become independent, thoughtful young women since 1953. Nestled on the shores of Tomahawk Lake, in the magnificent Wisconsin Northwoods, the camp is an ideal venue for over 25 scheduled and free-choice activities. Backpacking, canoe, kayak and sailing expeditions are highly regarded and made part of the program for every camper. Working toward a common goal, girls build resourcefulness and a connection with the natural world as part of a caring, inclusive and empowering community.

The Clearwater Camp community is nurturing, inclusive and open, an ideal environment in which to empower girls to become their best selves.
“We believe that this experience is too special and too life altering not to share it with as many girls from as many backgrounds as possible. Working with JACF will move us by leaps and bounds into our future.”

– Clearwater Camp

deal with the unknown and come to terms with change. Wilderness trips mandate teamwork and teach through real consequences, all of which have a positive, long lasting impact on the campers at Kooch-I-Ching and Ogichi Daa Kwe.

We are so excited to welcome each of these unique and excellent camps to the JACF family. They offer us exciting new programming, wonderful new environments, and shared commitments to partnerships that will help us deliver our mission to more children. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to sharing the first of our campers with them in the summer of 2017.

We invite you to learn more about these great new additions to JACF’s Associate Camps by visiting their websites:

www.koochiching.org/index2.html
www.ogichi.org/index_site.html
www.clearwatercamp.org

Your Investment Matters

The board and staff at the John Austin Cheley Foundation truly appreciate your investment in the future of our youth. Here are a few ways you can make a significant impact on our campers by supporting JACF:

$150,000 Endowed Campership  
Deliver the summer camp experience for one camper per year in perpetuity

$2,500 Half Campership  
Your funding will pay half the expenses for one summer camper

$50,000 Power of Ten  
This generous sponsorship level makes it possible for ten campers to attend camp for one summer

$1,000 Cultivator  
Provide an introductory camp experience for a young camper

$500 Transporter  
Provide travel expenses for one camper

$250 Outfitter  
Provide equipment for one camper

$100 Piggy Banker  
Fund a camper’s bank account during his/her stay

$10,000 Double Campership  
Your generosity will fund two campers for a summer

$5,000 Full Campership  
The summer of a lifetime for one lucky camper

Make a Monthly Pledge Today

Please join our special community of monthly givers who play a key role in the future of the youth we serve. Make your monthly pledge today at www.cheleyfoundation.org, and know your charitable giving is in place for now and into the future - no further action required.

Leave an Impactful Gift in Your Will

If you are looking to make a significant gift to JACF, consider naming the John Austin Cheley Foundation (FEIN #48-1077337) as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, retirement fund or in your will. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Alyssa Street at 720.981.2532 or at alyssa.street@cheleyfoundation.org.
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Why I Support JACF

“I actively support JACF because it seeks out pinnacle summer camp experiences in which youth learn important life lessons that naturally transfer into living a life of purpose, compassion, and promise.”

- Priscilla Walker Engeln, supporting JACF since 1996