Turning seven was an exciting milestone in my extended family, because it meant that you were finally able to go to family camp with Grandma and Grandpa. My grandparents, Ed and Marjorie Potter, started this tradition some years before I was born, bringing just two grandchildren at first, and then gradually adding more until all of us were in attendance. As the youngest, you can imagine my joy at finally arriving at camp as part of the well-established "Potter Clan." I turned seven in 2001, and that summer all eight grandchildren were in attendance together, ranging in age from seven to eighteen. It was a magical week for me, where I was able to spend time with my cousins and grandparents while also forming new friendships in class and during the community dances and gatherings. These friendships continued to grow over the years, nurtured each summer during the brief, but impactful week together at camp. It was with these friends that I learned contras and squares, stories and songs, and most importantly how to be a part of creating a community that loves each other. By bringing their grandchildren to camp, my grandparents fostered joy and love in us and created something truly special. I feel lucky to have had them in my life, championing the traditions of music and dance that have become central to my existence.

What I understand now as an adult is that these experiences were only possible because of my grandparents’ financial stability. Many multigenerational families lack the resources to attend camp together. With this in mind, family and friends have joined together to establish a fund in memory of my grandparents, Ed and Marjorie Potter, that will help families attend the CDSS Cascade of Music & Dance camp program.

Scholarship Details

The new Ed and Marjorie Potter Family Scholarship Fund is an ongoing scholarship honoring Ed & Marjorie Potter’s legacy of supporting and celebrating the magic of intergenerational dance, music, and song. Ed and Marjorie Potter attended CDSS camps for over 31 years (1978-2008), including Pinewoods, Buffalo Gap, and Timber Ridge. Thanks to the generous support of family and longtime friends this fund will create opportunities for more families to experience the magic of family dance camp. Beginning with the 2020 camp season, multigenerational families interested in attending CDSS’s Cascade of Music & Dance camp program can apply for the funds.

Help us spread the word! Do you know a multigenerational family who would love family camp? To apply for a scholarship, visit camp.cdss.org/scholarships. You can also donate to the Potter Fund at cdss.org/donate. (Just enter “Potter Fund” in the comments.) For more information, please email camp@cdss.org.

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Left: Daniel Potter, the youngest grandchild today.  
Middle: "Potter Clan"—all eight grandchildren at camp.  
Right: Ed and Marjorie Potter. Photos courtesy of family.