

Carol Ramsey

“Whenever I read a newspaper article or confront a complex problem, I thank Northfield for giving me the presence of mind to do my own thinking. When I commit to one charity or another, I remember what has been given me. When I meet classmates, I recall and relive the fun and community we shared. My mood and confidence are always elevated. I have chosen to make a gift to the school through my estate plan because I know it will be worth much more than a one-time cash gift I can ever be. I will also make an NMH Fund pledge because I know that ready money is essential in the competition for the students we serve best. And, this is a competition we must win. NMH produces good people. The world needs more.”

Jon Rounds

“I grew up in Wilmington, Massachusetts, a town with a high school similar to the one in the movie *Grease*. I was going nowhere and Mount Hermon saved me. I was woefully unprepared for Mount Hermon—academically, socially, politically, emotionally. I lacked it all, and my first couple of years were a struggle. But gradually with the help of friends, teachers, and the Mount Hermon community, I began to figure things out, and the trajectory of my life fundamentally changed. I credit many of the positive things in my life to the lessons learned during those formative years. My family paid what they could afford, but the majority of my education was paid for by the generosity of Northfield Mount Hermon alumni. And so now, because those alumni gave to a school community that changed my life, I give back what I can.”

Carrie Pelzel

“My home was near Perry Pond on the Northfield campus. When I started as a Northfield day student, I didn’t travel far. But over four years, I would travel 10,000 miles from home socially, intellectually, and emotionally. I felt out of my league. The faculty were (thankfully) unmoved. They encouraged, challenged, critiqued, and never seemed to think I couldn’t rise to their standard. Northfield changed the course of my life and my engagement with life. It led to my career choice and desire to broaden access to education. Since graduation I have given back to NMH whatever I could afford because my Northfield experience was made possible by alumni who had done the same. For our 50th I will give to the NMH Fund and make a bequest intention that someday will endow a scholarship fund for female students. I hope their world will be transformed as mine was.”

Bruce Berk

“After working for nearly 40 years in independent schools, and inspired by a number of Mount Hermon teachers, I have learned a number of truths. Here are two. First, we were deeply privileged to receive the teaching/coaching/advising by the faculty at Northfield and Mount Hermon. Each of our instructors worked with an intention to make us stronger ethical citizens and effective professionals. Whether we realized it or not, whether we appreciated it or not, our teachers devoted themselves far beyond the bounds of a normal job (consider running a dorm and raising your family while navigating our teenage angst). Second, I know from my work that independent schools — other than a few of the truly fortunate — urgently need our financial help. Whether it is a donation for financial aid, infrastructure, or to support underpaid faculty and staff, your dollars (and mine) are needed. Each of us needs to find an amount that we feel is meaningful, financially stretch a bit, and then contribute to Northfield Mount Hermon.”