

**For Immediate Release
May 3, 2006**

**Contact: Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., Exec. Dir.
Camp Sunshine
(207) 655-3800
Paul or Shirley Chorney
(520) 825-8502**

News Release

Maine's Camp Sunshine Brings Renowned Program to Arizona

Developed for families of sick children, Camp Sunshine to offer a June 11-16 camp at Rincon Country West RV Resort in Tucson

Tucson, Arizona – Camp Sunshine, the nationally known Maine camp that serves families with children with life-threatening illnesses, announced today that it will offer a program for the first time in Arizona this June in Tucson for families of children who have had cancer and are now off treatment.

Camp Sunshine is one of the only camps in the nation whose focus is to serve the entire family, not just the child who is ill. Since opening in 1984, Camp Sunshine has hosted families from 44 states and 15 countries, and provided a camp experience for more than 20,500 family members.

The week-long Tucson camp program, offered free of charge to the families who participate, will be held at the Rincon Country West RV Resort on Mission Road in Tucson from June 11-16. The owner of the resort, George O'Leary, has donated the use of the facility and park model homes to the program.

For more information, or to apply for the program, visit the organization's Arizona website at www.campsunshinearizona.org.

The camp is being organized locally by volunteers Paul and Shirley Chorney of Oro Valley and Kathy Flores Bell of Tucson. O'Leary also is involved in the planning of the camp's inaugural session in Arizona. They will follow the Camp Sunshine post-treatment program model to provide a "safe" setting for families to deal with the physical and emotional issues involved in life after cancer treatment.

"It's all about the families of these kids," said O'Leary. "We wanted to provide a place for families to bond with each other, and the Camp Sunshine program is exactly what these families need to help them deal with life after treatment."

The residents of Rincon Country East and Rincon Country West RV Resorts have made generous monetary contributions to Camp Sunshine Arizona, which have been matched by O'Leary. In addition, his staff in both resorts held benefit dinners to further enhance the resources of the camp.

In addition to traditional camp activities, the camp provides 24-hour onsite medical and psycho-social support, giving families an opportunity to meet others in the same situation.

“By providing a place to meet others who are dealing with post-treatment issues, the camp creates a unique sense of community and connectedness that families can take away with them when they leave,” said Matthew M. Hoidal, executive director of Camp Sunshine. “We are indebted to Mr. O’Leary for allowing us to use this beautiful facility for a very worthwhile cause and the Chorneys are an amazing asset to the program.”

Hoidal said holding a session in Arizona will allow more families in need of services in the West to remain closer to home, rather than travel across the country to Maine like they do now. The travel distance has likely kept families in the West from participating in the past.

During the Camp Sunshine Arizona program at the Rincon Country West RV Resort, participants will have access to swimming, shuffleboard, tennis, basketball, as well as arts and crafts projects, a talent show, a masquerade party, visits from clowns and magicians, and more.

The camp is modeled after Camp Sunshine’s program in Casco, Maine. For more information on the Maine program, visit www.campsunshine.org.

Free services provided at the camp include accommodations, meals, onsite medical services, counseling services, and recreational facilities. While the camp is in session, each family stays in their own park model home. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served each day in a group dining area.

Volunteers are also needed for the week-long Arizona camp, and if from out of town, they may also stay on the property. To learn more about volunteering, visit the Camp Sunshine Arizona website, www.campsunshinearizona.org.

Families attending camp are often sponsored by an individual, civic group, corporation, or foundation, which enables a family to spend a week at Camp Sunshine Arizona free of charge. **To sponsor a family**, the donation is \$1,500. The Family Sponsorship Program provides a way for donors to sponsor a family or families from their geographic area.

For more information on this program, call Paul or Shirley Chorney at (520) 825-8502.

#