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Camp Sunshine Receives Donation of Round-Trip Travel for a Family Each Month for a Year from JetBlue Airways

Camp Sunshine recently received a donation of round trip travel for a family each month for a year from JetBlue Airways. This gift of travel will allow the Camp to fly families from around the country into Portland, ME to attend Camp.

“JetBlue is honored to be able to support these families with the travel assistance they need to participate in the unique Camp Sunshine program,” said Icema Gibbs, Director Community Relations for JetBlue Airways.

The first families to benefit from this donation will be attending their upcoming Retinoblastoma program from June 17-22. They have families from Texas and Florida thus far who will be able to take advantage of the travel provided by JetBlue.

“Through this generous donation we will be able to offer families who otherwise would not be able to attend our program the opportunity to do so,” said Matt Hoidal, Executive Director Camp Sunshine.

Nestled alongside the shores of beautiful Sebago Lake, Camp Sunshine offers children with life threatening illnesses and their families a place to relax together for a week, and to take a break from the extraordinary demands placed on them on a daily basis. The year-round program is free of charge and staffed almost entirely by volunteers. It has the distinction of being the only program in the nation whose mission is to address the impact of a life threatening illness on every member of the immediate family—the ill child, the parents, and the siblings. Since its inception, Camp Sunshine has provided a haven for over 23,000 individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. In addition to providing 24-hour onsite medical and psychosocial support the camp offers a variety of daily activities ranging from swimming and boating to archery and soccer and special events such as bonfires and cook-outs.

This is the first time Camp Sunshine will be offering the Retinoblastoma program. There are no other such programs in the country. Other programs the Camp will offer this year will focus on specific illnesses such as cancer, lupus, and kidney disease, and rare diseases such as Diamond-Blackfan Anemia, Fanconi Anemia and solid organ transplants. A total of 27 sessions will be offered throughout this year.

For a detailed schedule, application and additional information, visit the camp’s website at www.campsunshine.org, or call (207) 655-3800.