

CAMP THE SUNSHINE TIMES



Spring/Summer 2013



Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield

INSIDE Highlights

[2013 Program Dates & Update,](#)
Pages 2-3

[New Partnership,](#) Page 4

[Family Letter,](#) Page 5

[Endowment Success,](#) Page 6

[Planned Giving,](#) Page 7

[Special Events,](#) Page 8

[Special People,](#) Page 9

[Medical & Psychosocial,](#) Pages 10-11

What Makes Camp Sunshine Special ...

By Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., Executive Director

The sun glistening off the water, the boy looking out, and the families happily afloat are all typical of the Camp Sunshine experience. But beyond the islands that form the cove protecting Camp Sunshine's waterfront, Sebago Lake can turn from placid to tempestuous in a matter of minutes. Yet our cove always remains calm, as shown above.

Like those islands that form the protective barrier around our waterfront, Camp Sunshine's volunteers, donors, medical professionals, staff, and other professionals all help provide a calming and supportive environment for families while they are dealing with the most turbulent

and volatile time in their lives. Camp Sunshine wraps itself around families, providing warmth and comfort, and a safe and playful environment where children and parents can enjoy precious time together and time connecting with others.

As our winter and spring programs give way to sunshine and summer, we delight in knowing that those protective islands will once again serve their purpose, keeping Camp Sunshine a safe and joyful place for the many more families who will step through our three yellow doors.

PROGRAM UPDATE

On the Horizon in 2013

By Michael Katz, Campus Director

This year has already seen some “really cool” activities and events taking place! We skated into February with a visit from members of the Portland Pirates hockey team (Phoenix Coyotes AHL squad). Players included 2011 Hobey Baker Award winner Andy Miele and highly touted rookie sensation Chris Brown to name a few of Pirates.

Not to be outdone, in March members of the Portland Red Claws (Boston Celtics D-League players) bounced into town to visit with the children, play a little hoop and sign some autographs.

In April, Camp Sunshine families were graced with a visit from Miss Maine Teen USA, Delaney Seavey. Delaney posed for photos, chatted with the children, displayed her tiara and was affectionately referred to as the “Princess”.



What’s in store for the rest of the summer? We can look forward to a return visit during one of our June sessions with Lincoln Pierce. Last year Lincoln, a cartoonist, comic strip creator, and author of the popular “Big Nate” book series, treated the children to a fun and inspiring drawing lesson. For those looking to have their taste buds tickled, we will be hosting the Epicurean Club Chefs again for a camp session in June and one in September. Then, in August we will be joined by a group called Culinary Corp Volunteers, looking to work with all age groups. One of the biggest catches of the summer will be the return of the Eagle Bass Masters. The Bass Masters are hooked on Camp Sunshine and are planning on scheduling approximately five stops at camp, to bring the children out on the lake to experience some great fishing!

In the evenings you can expect some great programs. We have expanded our partnership with the Chewonki Traveling Natural History group, so when we don’t have the ever popular “Mad Science” program, we will be presenting exciting live programs such as “Owls of Maine,” “Birds of Prey,” “Scales & Tails,” and “Animal Adaptations”. The fun doesn’t stop there, as we will be bringing back some of our most popular entertainers, such as magicians Norman Ng and Phil Smith, and crowd favorite juggler, comedian and all around performer, Michael Miclon.

Some new and fun changes also include upgrading our bonfire pit area, building a permanent and enhanced barbecue station for our outdoor cookouts, and adding other new and fun activities.

Looking forward to a fun, exciting and event-filled summer, with even more to come!!

2013 Program Dates

Feb 15-19.....	Oncology
Feb 20-24.....	Oncology
March 8-12.....	Oncology
April 12-14.....	Oncology
April 17-21.....	Oncology
May 23-27.....	Bereavement
June 10-14.....	Retinoblastoma
June 16-20.....	Oncology
June 21-26.....	Brain Tumor
June 28-July 3.....	Fanconi Anemia
July 7-12.....	Brain Tumor - Low Grade
July 15-19.....	Solid Organ Transplant/Renal
July 21-26.....	Diamond-Blackfan Anemia
July 28-Aug 2.....	Hematology/Oncology
Aug 4-9.....	Oncology
Aug 11-16.....	Oncology
Aug 18-23.....	Lupus
Aug 25-29.....	Oncology - Spanish Speaking
Aug 30-Sept 3.....	Oncology - Off Treatment
Sept 20-22.....	Oncology
Sept 26-29.....	Sickle Cell
Oct 11-15.....	Brain Tumor
Nov 1-3.....	Oncology
Nov 7-11.....	Bereavement
Dec 6-8.....	Brain Tumor

Visit our website at www.campsunshine.org for family and volunteer applications.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Maine Sports Teams Rally at Camp! *Portland Pirates and Maine Red Claws Visit During Winter Sessions*

Members of the Portland Pirates hockey team and the Maine Red Claws basketball team visited Camp Sunshine to hang out with campers and their families during the February and March oncology sessions.

Portland Pirates team members Andy Miele, Chris Brown, Brendan Shinnimin, and Joel Rechlicz had a great time signing autographs, taking pictures, and playing a spirited indoor hockey game with some of the campers. The Campers vs. Pirates hockey game got very intense and was close for a little bit, but the campers pulled out the victory! Volunteers and families lined the sidelines cheering on both teams.

Maine Red Claws team members Chris Wright, Micah Downs, and their mascot, Crusher, also visited. They signed autographs, took photos with the families, and shot a few hoops with all the kids and volunteers.

What these local athletes really did was help raise the spirits of Camp Sunshine's families, and they should be applauded for their efforts. They ensured that families were able to leave Camp Sunshine with yet one more "magical" experience.



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine



Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield



Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Texas Roadhouse Serves Up Serious Support!

More than 80 employees, owners, and district managers from Texas Roadhouse restaurant locations across New England joined together at Camp Sunshine recently for a day of volunteering. However, the group's service extended well beyond the several hundred hours donated.

The relationship began when longtime Camp Sunshine volunteer Dot Gonyea introduced Nick Kalogerakis, local managing partner of the Scarborough, Maine Texas Roadhouse, to Camp in May of 2012. Then, in June, Nick and New England market partner Michael Halpern brought more than 50 employees for a day of volunteering. The team couldn't have been more excited about the project and upon leaving Nick commented, "This was just the beginning of a great partnership." His words could not have been truer.

In October, Nick's team helped out again, selling more than \$2,500 in paper pumpkins to support Camp Sunshine's annual Pumpkin Festival. Just weeks later the store partnered with Con-Way Freight to organize a "Stuff the Truck" bottle drive in their parking lot to benefit Camp Sunshine.

This spring, Nick and Michael saw an opportunity to make an even bigger impact at Camp when Texas Roadhouse CEO and Founder Kent Taylor offered up a \$10,000 grant to a charity in their district. Their passion for Camp Sunshine was very convincing, and the grant was awarded to help with the purchase of new mattresses for our family suites, and updated computers in the *Jennifer Harrison Learning Center*.

Next, the two men decided that all the store owners in their district, extending into Massachusetts, should witness first-

hand how they can change lives at Camp Sunshine. So they organized a tour of the campus that would include ten store owners and Regional Marketing Director Kirsten Sands. They were so moved by the program that when Michael Halpern suggested a fund-raising initiative to raise \$10,000 to send families to Camp Sunshine, the group quickly fired back with a commitment to raise more than \$30,000 over the next month!

With the company's mascot *Andy the Armadillo* on hand to cheer everyone on, the team arrived in mid-April. Needless to say, Camp Sunshine was overcome by the heartfelt efforts of the Texas Roadhouse crew. Not only had they brought new computers, they also surprised us with an additional \$13,000 in much-needed wish list items, including game consoles, chromebooks, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, housekeeping and arts & craft supplies, and a brand-new sectional sofa. But that wasn't all – so impressed by a server's passion for Camp Sunshine at the Texas Roadhouse store in Leominster, Mass., a patron offered to donate 15 laptop computers.

After a great day of service helping Camp Sunshine prepare for its spring programs by freshening up rooms with new bed frames and mattresses, clearing downed trees, readying the waterfront, putting out furniture, and sprucing up around the wish-boat pond, it was time for the big surprise. As teary-eyed employees watched with anticipation, Michael and Kirsten announced that in just one month the ten Texas Roadhouse stores in their district had raised an unbelievable \$40,000 to help send 20 more families to Camp Sunshine! Thank you to everyone at Texas Roadhouse for this herculean effort. We couldn't be more grateful!!!



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

FAMILY LETTER



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Dear Stonewall Kitchen,

It is with great appreciation that we want to thank you for sponsoring our family for this winter week at camp Sunshine. With joy in our heart we are celebrating this week with our daughter, Morgan, or Mo Mo, as we call her. She just celebrated her fourth birthday last week and she is having a wonderful time with her friends and family this week. Camp Sunshine is a jewel for cancer families and is a refuge and a haven for us.

...thank you for caring, caring about a little girl, dressed in a princess dress tonight who wants to dance and sing.

What is Camp Sunshine? It is a bright spot and place that we treasure and a place where we can share our love in our family and in the cancer community as well. Children go off with many excellent volunteers who provide exciting age-appropriate activities for them. This also allows all of them to find new friends and re-affirm friendships they have made on other trips here.

Parents meet and discuss what the needs of their child are and how they meet those needs. Parents are able to discuss how they plan to face the future and how they are facing today. Cancer takes the whole family with it. They discuss

fundraising for pediatric cancer and how they manage to do this in their own communities all over the United States.

This organization is the very best. It treats each child as a special gift. It helps all the children to forget cancer for awhile and it allows them to just be children. The siblings attend also and that is a big plus because it is just "fun." A week of "fun" for everyone so they don't have to deal with any external stimuli that might change that.

We are simply thrilled to be here. So...thank you for caring, caring about a little girl, dressed in a princess dress tonight who wants to dance and sing. Leukemia is just a word tonight and not who she is. This week was greatly appreciated and we will always be grateful.

Sincerely,
Laura, Andrew, Morgan "Mo Mo", & Grandma Nancy

ENDOWMENT SUCCESS

Camp Sunshine's Endowment & Capital Campaign Hits the Home Stretch with a \$200,000 Matching Challenge from the Hermann Foundation

By Anna M. Gould, Co-Founder & Board Chair

June 30 is around the corner, and Camp Sunshine's *Let the Sun Shine All Year* \$14.5 million Endowment & Capital Campaign received a final push from the Hermann Foundation, in the form of a \$200,000 matching challenge. The challenge will match gifts of \$100 or more by the June 30 end date, up to a total of \$200,000.

It is with gratitude that I announce the anticipated success of this critical endeavor, and thank all who have participated. As we approach its completion, we are grateful to the Hermann Foundation, as their match gives many more people an opportunity to invest in Camp Sunshine's future.

This June will mark the success of two major capital improvements completed during the campaign totaling over \$2.5 million - the *Shaw Brothers Construction Second Floor* addition onto the *Viterbi Family Activity Center*, and the *Orokawa Foundation Family-Volunteer Center*. Meanwhile, \$12 million has been set aside for the beginning of an endowment fund which is expected to grow over time.

I am proud of Camp Sunshine's continued top rating from Charity Navigator recognizing our constant commitment to fiscal responsibility. Our focus on the future is a reflection of the commitment made years ago in support of this campaign. With your support toward this match, we can all celebrate yet another great success for Camp Sunshine and its ability to provide this much needed program to many new families in the future.

There are many ways to help Camp Sunshine reach its goal by June 30. Outright gifts of cash and/or stock are always welcome. Other options include a multitude of planned giving options, a summary of which is included on the next page.

Commitments to the campaign may also be pledged over a period of years. This is an attractive option for those who would like to help close out the campaign but are unable to contribute the full amount of their gift in 2013.

Thank you all for helping to achieve this wonderful milestone. By sending in your endowment contribution or pledge today, we can all enable Camp Sunshine to continue growing responsibly for the next 30 years.



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Available Underwriting Opportunities

Endow a Session at Camp.....	\$1,000,000
Elevator.....	\$50,000
Front Porch.....	\$50,000
Family Suites.....	\$50,000
Volunteer Suites.....	\$50,000
Endow a Family Sponsorship.....	\$25,000
Adult Craft Room Furnishings.....	\$15,000
Executive Office Furnishings (6).....	\$5,000

To learn more about how you can underwrite and name one of these or other spaces, please contact a member of our development team at (207) 655-3800.

Help Complete the \$200,000 Hermann Foundation Matching Challenge

Any donation of \$100 or more will be matched, up to a total of \$200,000. Your gift will help secure the future of Camp Sunshine. Please mail in your gift today in the enclosed envelope by June 30. Donations can also be made online at www.campsunshine.org.

PLANNED GIVING

How to Make a Good Gift Better

More and more people are taking advantage of the many gift-planning options available today. These include bequests by will, revocable trusts, gift annuities, pooled income funds, charitable trusts, gifts of securities and real estate, and endowment giving.

Planned gifts often come out of estate assets. You have to consider the impact of your gift on your overall financial condition. Can you afford a sizable gift at this time, or should you make it later by will? What is the best way to make this gift? Do you need temporary or life-time income from your gift arrangement? What are the tax implications?

Careful planning can actually make a good gift better. Consider these potential benefits of planning your gift:

- Maximize the size of your gift
- Obtain life income from your gift
- Optimize the tax-related benefits
- Tailor your gift to a specific need
- Increase your personal satisfaction

Help for You

Camp Sunshine wants to help you make a good gift better. Our executive director, Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., can assist you in finding the best gift plan while considering your needs. He will explain the various options and provide helpful tailor-made illustrations. He will be sensitive to your financial needs and objectives, and will protect your confidentiality.

For further information about charitable gift planning, complete and mail the response form included in the column to the right, or call Matt at (207) 655-3800. There is never any obligation.

Dear Friends at Camp Sunshine:

Please send me literature about opportunities for making planned gifts to Camp Sunshine.

Please contact me to discuss a planned gift or arrange for a visit.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail this form to:
Camp Sunshine
Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq.
35 Acadia Road
Casco, ME 04015



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit Tropical Smoothie Café — Support Camp Sunshine on National Flip-Flop Day!

The first day of summer is just around the corner and that can only mean one thing ... National Flip-Flop Day is almost here! Get out and celebrate open toes and open hearts on June 21, from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., at any Tropical Smoothie Café across the nation. Every customer wearing flip-flops will receive a free 24-oz. Jetty Punch Smoothie.

In 2008, Tropical Smoothie Café began its partnership with Camp Sunshine. Since then, they have raised nearly \$1.5 million. The money raised annually is used primarily to provide sponsorships for more than 100 families to attend Camp Sunshine throughout the year, and assist with families' travel costs. Funds are also set aside for future needs, invested in Camp Sunshine's endowment fund.

Last August, Mike Rotondo, Tropical Smoothie Café's Chief Executive Officer, presented a \$375,000 check to Camp Sunshine's co-founder, Anna Gould, and also announced a \$1 million dollar commitment to Camp Sunshine's endowment.

So please be sure to go out and visit a Tropical Smoothie Café near you. While you're there, be sure to thank them for having such a huge impact on Camp Sunshine and the families we serve.



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Auto Rally to Benefit Camp

Last year, Scott Spielman & Tony Intrieri, founders of Rally North America, reached out to us after learning about our program on Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator rates thousands of non-profits across the nation based on their fiscal responsibility and transparency. Fortunately, a number of supporters have been introduced to our program by the site, due to our consecutive four-star ratings (only 13% of charities rated are awarded that distinction).

Rally North America runs one major event each year. Camp Sunshine will be the beneficiary of the Rally New England 2013 event, taking place July 22-25. Teams will travel 1,200 miles, hitting over twenty-five exciting checkpoints on their way from Ithaca, New York, to New Brunswick, Canada. The teams will stop in Rutland, Vermont, at Camp Sunshine, and in Lewiston, Maine.

The complete field of 85 drivers and co-pilots filled up in a matter of weeks. Participants registered from 31 states and 3 Canadian Provinces, as far west as California, and as far south as Florida.



Collectively, organizers hope to raise around \$80,000, or enough to sponsor an entire new session for 40 families in 2014!

During the event, safety is paramount. Any teams receiving traffic violations or reported for reckless driving will be eliminated. To allow drivers to let loose, organizers have arranged for the participants to run a few laps at historic Watkins Glenn International Raceway before the start, and a couple drag runs at Oxford Plains Speedway while in Maine.

Since speed doesn't determine the overall winner, it is up to drivers to decipher clues and photograph themselves or their cars at "checkpoints" along the way. With a course running through the Pocono Mountains, White Mountains, and along the Maine Coast, there should be no shortage of great pit stops for these driving enthusiasts. The rally will conclude with a dinner and celebration in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

SPECIAL PEOPLE

Camp Sunshine Volunteer Ron Eby Recognized by The NASCAR Foundation as Betty Jane France Award Finalist, and Joins Camp Sunshine's Growing Team of WCSH 6 Who Care Winners!

By now, we realize this story may be old news to many of you. However, for those of you who have not yet heard, it's another heartwarming story about the power of volunteerism and its impact on Camp Sunshine.

In 2006 Ronald Eby raised \$5,000 to sponsor a few families to attend Camp Sunshine. But supporting Camp Sunshine became a way of life for Ron. Nearly seven years later, Ron has launched several successful, ongoing fundraisers, and has created lasting partnerships with other contributing organizations. His work has resulted in more than \$250,000 in donations, enabling numerous children and their families to benefit from the respite of Camp Sunshine.

Ron has partnered with NAPA Auto Parts, Applebee's, Shaw's Supermarkets, the Gorham/Windham Firefighters, the Noyes Brain Tumor Foundation, and many others, all of whom give graciously to Camp Sunshine. Ron's fund-raisers don't leave out the "fun," like his "raw egg snowmobile ride," winter Polar Plunge, and "Ron's Mexican Cantina," a real cantina serving Mexican food – all for the benefit of Camp Sunshine.

In addition to supporting Camp Sunshine, Ron contributes to the local community in many other meaningful ways: donating money and toys to provide Christmas gifts to almost 300 children, providing food and clothing to the Windham Food Pantry and Clothes Closet for the Needy, and revitalizing

Windham's Summerfest. Ron is the founder and owner of Windham Automotive, among the most successful auto repair shops in Maine. In some emergency situations, he has provided auto service to Camp Sunshine families at no charge. Ron Eby

is an inspiration to all people and an appreciated friend and caregiver to so many.

For his efforts, Ron was recognized by The NASCAR Foundation as one of four finalists for the 2012 Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award. As a finalist, Ron was guaranteed a \$25,000 donation from The NASCAR Foundation to Camp Sunshine. Meanwhile, here in Maine, WCSH

6 News recognized Ron's contributions and compassion with the *Mary Rines Thompson Award*. This award is the highest level of recognition given annually during the WCSH 6 *Who Care Awards*, by WCSH 6 in partnership with the United Way of Greater Portland and TD Bank. Ron joins these other Camp Sunshine volunteers who have been honored with this distinction over the years: Vern Watters, Ruth Shadbolt, Dot Gonyea, Jean Sequeira, Greg Bove, and Joe Pappalardo.

We extend our congratulations to Ron on this prestigious award from WCSH 6, and national recognition by The NASCAR Foundation, and we thank him for all he has done and continues to do for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families at Camp Sunshine.



Ron Eby with Camp Sunshine camper Tacey at the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards in Las Vegas

Do You Want to Help Camp Sunshine Through a Special Event in Your Area?

Thanks to our families, volunteers, and friends, much of the funding for Camp Sunshine comes from special events that have been organized to benefit Camp Sunshine. If you have an event planned or would like to plan an event and are not sure where to start, contact Camp Sunshine's Special Events Team at 207.655.3800 or by email at events@campsunshine.org.

MEDICAL & PSYCHOSOCIAL

Some of the Many Faces of Camp Sunshine

By Nancy Cincotta, MSW, MPhil, Psychosocial Director & Andrew Eichenfield, MD, Medical Director

Camp Sunshine has many faces, both in the programs that we run, and with the people with whom we partner. Some people only know the primary program that we run in which we offer both recreational and psychosocial support. However, in 23% of our programs in 2012 we employed a model in which a component of the program additionally involved medical, scientific, and psychosocial information to enable families to both better understand their child's illness and its implications, and in some instances to utilize the knowledge gained to inform upcoming decisions in complex medical situations.

In addition to several days of podium presentations at the sessions for families of those with Fanconi Anemia, Diamond-Blackfan Anemia, Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome, and Dyskeratosis Congenita, the Camp Sunshine environment allows for an ease of both informal conversations as well as brief meetings among physicians, researchers, and families. Psychosocial programming can focus on some of the unique components of the illness for parents of children living with bone marrow failure diseases and their siblings. The intensity and the depth of these various components of the program allow for an experience that is unequalled. With rare illnesses you may not ever meet someone with your illness, nonetheless have the opportunity to talk about the very issues that you experience as a result of such a diagnosis.

Some of the reasons we do what we do, programming to help families of those affected by inherited bone marrow failure:

- To provide an environment to help educate, inform, and support families
- To work in collaboration and support of our partner agencies
- To afford families the opportunity to anticipate future medical concerns
- To help minimize the unique experience of isolation experienced in these groups
- To maximize the connection among families to support them in their lifelong journey
- To afford families the opportunity for respite
- To help our partner organizations in their research to enhance treatment and seek cures for these populations
- To enable hope.

Rarer still than these bone marrow failure diseases are the dedicated professional clinicians and researchers who are committed to these populations. When you put them together with families in collaboration with the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, Shwachman-Diamond Foundation, Diamond Blackfan Anemia Foundation, and Dyskeratosis Congenita Outreach and Camp Sunshine, the energy and outcome is remarkable. We cannot be more grateful to all of our professional partners in these collaborative efforts.

Some of the professionals we enjoyed hosting at Camp Sunshine for the bone marrow failure sessions this past year.

Suneet Agarwal, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Monica Bessler, MD, PhD
The Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Helmut Hanenberg, MD
Riley Hospital for Children
Indianapolis, IN

Scott Kozin, MD
Shriners Hospital for Children
Philadelphia, PA

Blanche Alter, MD, MPH
National Cancer Institute
Rockville, MD

David Bodine, PhD
National Human Genome Research
Institute, Bethesda, MD

Richard Harris, MD
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Jeffrey Lipton, MD, PhD
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

Eva Atsidaftos, MA
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

Stella Davies, MBBS, PhD, MRCP
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Maria Henwood-Finley, DO
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH

Ellen Muir, MSN
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

K. Scott Baker, MD, MS
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research
Center, Seattle, WA

Ralf Dietrich, Executive Director
Fanconi Anemia Patients'
Organization of Germany

Jill Huppert, MD, MPH
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Renee Ortiz, MSW
City of Hope, Duarte, CA

Nancy Barbach, MSW
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

Andrew Dietz, MD, MS
Rady Children's Hospital
San Diego, CA

Peter Kannu, MB ChB, PhD
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada

Johanna Rommens, PhD
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada

Elana Bern, MD
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Steven Ellis, PhD
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY

Elizabeth Kerr, PhD
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada

Susan Rose, MD
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Andria G. Besser, BEd, MS, CGC
The Reproductive Genetics Institute
Chicago, IL

Hanna Gazda, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

H. Jeffrey Kim, MD
Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, DC

Vijay Sankaran, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

PSYCHOSOCIAL CORNER

In Quest of Hope

Sometimes there are things that seem impossible to deal with, because of the magnitude of the thing, because of the volume of bad things happening, or simply because of what may seem to be the limitations of coping.

The recent events in Boston were universally devastating. There is no rhyme or reason as to why tragedies happen, or to whom they happen. In this instance we were in session at Camp for most of that week in April, so some of us experienced the anxiety of the Marathon and the ensuing week together. In some ways Camp served as a safe haven to avoid all that was going on for many who were present. In other moments it became a place to talk about how such a tragedy feels, and what it provokes in you when you have a child with cancer. Once in the illness realm, you have already been exposed to the reality that bad things can happen.

Weekly, families arrive at Camp Sunshine at wit's end, at a point when it feels that things cannot get worse. Then often, it seems like something happens. Something makes life feel a little bit better. Maybe it is because there is an opportunity to laugh, or perhaps it is because there is the opportunity to talk. On some level, maybe it is because people allow themselves to connect with one another. As one mother told me after she got home from the program, "I leave Camp Sunshine and feel as though I have changed." In that week in April, we were all changed.

The prevailing themes at Camp Sunshine, whether it is in a bone marrow failure program, or a week with an external tragedy, are virtually the same. It is within that sense of connection and camaraderie that hope is inspired, and the potential of the future seems possible. To actually make an illness that is rare less rare, is impossible. To make such an illness feel less rare, minimizing the emotional sequelae, borders on life-changing.

For me, it is within the promise of the summer season and the families that we will meet, and the expectation of our thirtieth year serving families, that the hope inspired by Camp Sunshine becomes actualized.

Nancy Cincotta, MSW, MPhil,
Psychosocial Director

Sharon Savage, MD
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, MD

Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg, MD
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

Akiko Shimamura, MD, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research
Center, Seattle, WA

Bhuvanesh Singh, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer
Center, New York, NY

Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

Eunike Velleuer, MD
Heinrich Heine University
Düsseldorf, Germany

Adrianna Vlachos, MD
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

John Wagner, MD
University of Minnesota Medical
School, Minneapolis, MN

Lawrence Wolfe, MD
Cohen Children's Medical Center of
New York, New Hyde Park, NY

David Wong, DMD, DMSc
UCLA School of Dentistry,
Los Angeles, CA





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CAMP SUNSHINE'S WISH LIST

- Birthday candles
- Car seats
- CFL Lightbulbs
- First aid kits
- Frisbees
- iPad
- Paddleboats
- Ping-pong balls

For a complete list, visit our website at www.campsunshine.org.

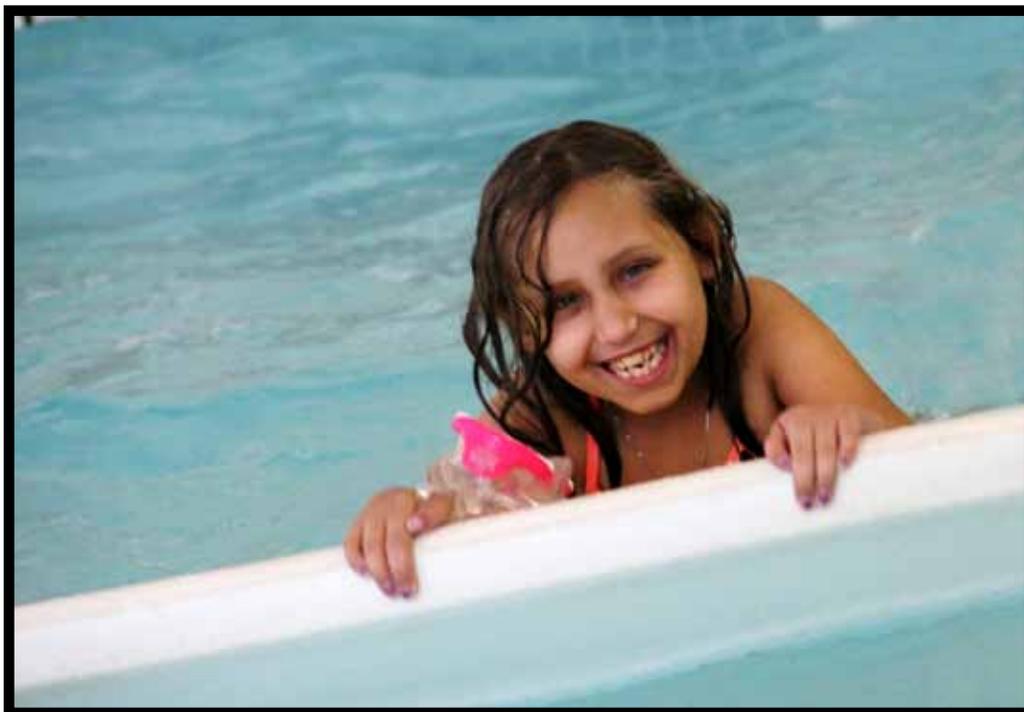


Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield

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