



For Immediate Release  
December 10, 2013

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## **Camp Sunshine Honored as 2013 Top-Rated Nonprofit**

*GreatNonprofits.org award is based on positive online reviews*

**CASCO, Maine** (December 10, 2013) – Camp Sunshine announced today that it has once again been honored with a prestigious 2013 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations.

Camp Sunshine ([www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org)) is a one-of-a-kind national retreat in Casco, Maine for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.



“We are proud to again be named a Top-Rated 2013 Nonprofit,” said Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., Executive Director at Camp Sunshine. “This award is meaningful to us as it is based on the personal experiences of our families, volunteers and supporters. It’s both gratifying and humbling to read their comments and understand the impact Camp Sunshine has made in their lives.”

The [Top-Rated Nonprofit award](#) was based on the large number of positive reviews that Camp Sunshine received from those who have had direct experience with the organization – reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. Many reviews were posted by people who have been touched by [Camp Sunshine](#) and wanted to share their story.

For example, one parent wrote about a week spent at Camp Sunshine just six weeks after their daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor: “*We met about 30 other families going through the same thing and many of them have become close friends. The support and love offered to the families by the staff and volunteers is unparalleled. ... Having a week spent with people that truly understand the trials and tribulations of being a cancer family is such a reenergizing experience.*”

Another parent wrote about the joy felt by her daughter, who has lupus, each year upon returning to Camp Sunshine: *“As a parent I cannot express to you how much happiness it brings to our child and as a parent mere words would never explain the support, unity and friendship that we receive to tide us over to the next year. Our daughter has always said she would rather go to Camp Sunshine every year than have Christmas!”*

Camp Sunshine was part of the inaugural group to qualify for the Top-Rated Awards for the year.

“Savvy donors want to see the impact of their donations more than ever,” said Perla Ni, CEO of [GreatNonprofits](#). “People with direct experience with Camp Sunshine have voted that the organization is making a real difference.”

Being on the Top-Rated list gives donors and volunteers more confidence in the credibility of a nonprofit organization, she said, as the reviews by volunteers, clients and other donors show the on-the-ground results.

Camp Sunshine also has received recognition from other charity evaluators in 2013, including a coveted 4-star rating – ranking in the top 10 percent nationally – for fiscal responsibility from [Charity Navigator](#), the nation’s leading charity evaluator. The [American Camp Association](#) also recently recognized Camp Sunshine for program excellence.

Camp Sunshine operates year-round on the shores of beautiful Sebago Lake and provides week-long respites at no charge to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The camp offers the only program in the nation whose sole mission is to address the impact of cancer, kidney disease, lupus and other life-threatening illnesses on every member of the immediate family. The program includes 24-hour onsite medical and psychosocial support. While attending the various sessions, families are able to rebuild relationships together and meet other families facing similar challenges.

Camp Sunshine relies on donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to carry out its mission. For more information about Camp Sunshine’s programs and to learn more about volunteering or making a donation, visit the camp’s website at [www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org), or call (207) 655-3800.

### **About GreatNonprofits**

GreatNonprofits is the leading site for donors and volunteers to find reviews and ratings of nonprofits. Reviews on the site influence 30 million donation decisions a year. Find more information at [www.greatnonprofits.org](http://www.greatnonprofits.org).

### **About Camp Sunshine**

Camp Sunshine is a year-round retreat, which provides respite, support, joy, and hope to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families through various stages of a child’s illness. The program is free of charge to all families, and includes 24-hour on-site medical and psychosocial support. Bereavement groups are also offered for families who have lost a child to an illness. To support Camp Sunshine, call (207) 655-3800 or visit [www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org).