

CAMP THE SUNSHINE TIMES



Fall 2009



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Striving to Reach the Top

By Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., Executive Director

When Alexandra Capellini reached the top of the climbing wall this summer, many observers stood in awe of her achievement, not because it had taken her several attempts, or that she picked the “hard side”, or that she has battled cancer, but because she did it without the aid of her prosthetic leg.

Alexandra’s story is part of something much larger here at Camp Sunshine – being in an atmosphere where children with life-threatening illnesses and their families join together to reach new goals and milestones. The opportunity to challenge oneself in a safe, nurturing environment, is a very large part of what Camp Sunshine strives to provide.

Whether a camper is trying to prove to themselves or those around them that they are capable of a particular challenge, Camp Sunshine encourages and supports that process. Likewise, Camp Sunshine is a place where volunteers can challenge their own limits, pushing themselves to give as much as possible.

In the end, after each session and each year that passes, it is with great pride that we know everyone will leave here with not only a greater sense of accomplishment, but also empowered by their Camp Sunshine experience.

25 YEARS

Happy Birthday Camp Sunshine!!!



Camp Sunshine Founder Anna Gould Honors Carol & Steve Chapman

Camp Sunshine celebrated its 25th Birthday on June 27th with a big birthday bash. With over 300 people in attendance, it was a great day for all.

Various people were honored for their history and contributions to Camp Sunshine, including Founders Anna Gould and Larry Gould, who received awards recognizing their unyielding commitment and contributions to the program over the past 25 years.

Among others honored at the event were Carol and Steve Chapman, who attended Camp Sunshine's very first session in 1984 as a family with their son Jason who was battling a brain tumor. Jason returned to volunteer at Camp years later, but sadly passed away in 2005. Today, 25 years after their first visit, Carol and Steve continue to volunteer at Camp Sunshine.

The energy leading up to this celebration, and carrying over throughout the rest of the year, was overwhelming. In a year when non-profits and businesses have struggled to survive, Camp Sunshine has had one of its best years ever thanks to the many hands that not only helped us celebrate our birthday this year, but also to those who have contributed to the strength of our foundation over the past quarter century.

We would like to thank those who helped with the event: The Meat House, Migis Lodge, Wal-Mart, The Windham Interact Club, Karla Gustafson, and the 50/50 Band with a special appearance by Camp Sunshine Camper Zach Pomerleau. Special thanks also to our Master of Ceremonies, WCSH6 News Anchor, Cindy Williams.

Hands Up, Baby Hands Up!

Those who know Camp Sunshine well are familiar with our ritual of dancing to "Hands Up" the first and last nights of each session. It's a fitting song, given the love and warmth and many hands that have made Camp Sunshine so special over the past 25 years.

Since our inception in 1984, Camp Sunshine has been blessed to have the support of thousands of caring and wonderful individuals. We could employ an entire paper company if we put pen to paper and wrote down all of the volunteer stories about Camp Sunshine. Take longtime volunteer Dot Gonyea, for example. Her story is so moving, and her history with Camp so rich. Maine's WCSH6, along with TD Bank and the United Way of Greater Portland recently agreed, recognizing Dot's distinguished service to Camp Sunshine with their 6 *Who Care* Award. As you read about Dot on page 3, her involvement in Camp Sunshine has no doubt had a transformative affect on the organization and all of its constituents.

Later in the newsletter you will also read about events and efforts organized by Camp Sunshine families; students at Suffield Academy; a teacher from Longmeadow, Massachusetts; our friends at Tropical Smoothie Café; a group of arborists; and one man who always has a minute for Camp Sunshine.

As we continue to welcome families onto our campus and through our trademark three yellow doors, our hearts are filled, and we look forward to our next 25 years of dancing to Hands Up.



Hands from the 2009 Fanconi Anemia Session

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Founding Volunteer Dot Gonyea Named “6 Who Care” Award Winner

Camp Sunshine is pleased to congratulate Dot Gonyea for winning the 6 Who Care Volunteer Award! The award is a celebration of outstanding volunteers in Maine, and is presented annually by WCSH6 News, in partnership with the United Way of Greater Portland and TD Bank.

Most of our families and volunteers know Dot through her volunteering at the Camp Sunshine Store, but her service to Camp Sunshine goes way back to the inception of the program in 1984. Since that time, Dot has been a leading force in helping Camp Sunshine to become what it is today.

In her early years Dot could be found washing pots and pans in the kitchen at Camp, singing along to Elvis. Dot loves Elvis, and the way she washed dishes with her signature smile, you would think she loved washing dishes too. And when she wasn't scrubbing away, Dot was busy doing numerous other things for Camp.

Dot was instrumental in conceiving the Sunnies Program back in 1987. The yellow paper Sunnies are sold in a host of businesses throughout Maine and beyond. Initially, Dot and a small team pounded the pavement, visiting businesses in their own communities, informing the folks about Camp Sunshine and soliciting their support via the sale of the Sunnies (at

\$1.00 each). Over time, this has become a great fundraising and marketing tool.

It should also be noted that in the mid-to-late 80's, Dot, along with another long-time volunteer, reached out to a number of Lions Clubs throughout Maine, encouraging them to support our unique program. This relationship-building has proven invaluable, as Lions Clubs have provided significant financial support over the years.

In addition to recruiting Lions, washing dishes, and starting both the Sunnies program and the Camp store, Dot has helped raise over \$100,000 for Camp Sunshine through the True Fans for Elvis Fan Club, and has been very helpful in getting her fellow club members involved in Camp Sunshine.

But above all of Dot's aforementioned contributions, her biggest impact is the impression she makes on every person she encounters while at Camp or in the community. She wears her Camp Sunshine volunteer shirt and gear proudly. Her infectious smile radiates with genuine passion, exuberance and love for our mission, children and families.

ENDOWMENT & CAPITAL

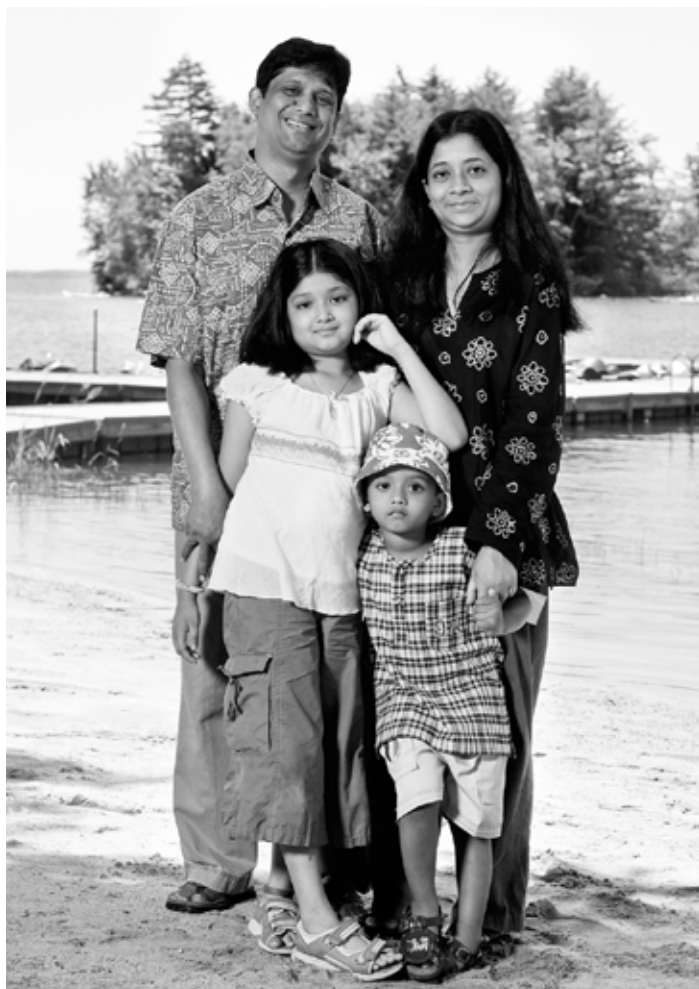
Bricks, Bricks, Bricks!

We are in the home stretch towards the end of the New Balance Foundation \$250,000 Brick Walkway Challenge, but we still need your help! We have exceeded the \$240,000 mark, and still have a huge opportunity to raise another \$10,000 which will be matched by the New Balance Foundation. The challenge ends on December 31, 2009. If you haven't yet purchased your brick, please do so before the end of the year!

A big thank you to our friends at the New Balance Foundation and all those who have helped with the Challenge!

Purchase Your Brick Today!

If you would like to purchase a brick for the walkway, please do so by calling the Camp Sunshine Office at 207-655-3800 or by logging onto the web at <http://www.campsunshine.org/bricks>.



*The Hoques Family Enjoying Some Family Time on the Beach
Camp Sunshine Newsletter, Fall 2009*

Endowment & Capital Commitments of \$25,000 and over as of November 2009

The Orokawa Foundation	\$1,500,000
Anna M. Gould	\$1,000,000
Dr. Lawrence Gould	\$1,000,000
The New Balance Foundation	\$500,000
Shaw Brothers Construction	\$250,000
The Barovick Family Foundation	\$250,000
Alison & Gary Lieberman	\$250,000
TD Bank Charitable Foundation	\$200,000
Joan & Bill Drapeau	\$150,000
The Viterbi Family Foundation	\$150,000
Life is good	\$150,000
The Skirball Foundation	\$150,000
The Hannaford Charitable Foundation & Hannaford Supermarkets	\$150,000
Gail & Stephen Brickel (Bequest)	\$100,000
Carol Hancock, Carol J. & K. David Hancock Charitable Trust, Alison & Kevin Hancock, & Hancock Lumber	\$100,000
Nancy & Morris W. Offit	\$100,000
The Sol & Margaret Berger Foundation	\$100,000
The Hermann Foundation	\$100,000
JTG Foundation	\$100,000
The Anne Griffin Herrick Family Sponsorship Fund	\$85,000
The Sportshoe Center Maine Marathon	\$85,000
Joey's Polar Plunge Family Sponsorship Fund	\$71,000
The Katie Vashon Family Sponsorship Fund	\$63,000
Arline M. & Clayton W. Belyea Family Sponsorship Fund	\$60,000
Acorn Hill Foundation	\$50,000
The Buller Family Foundation	\$50,000
The F.M. Kirby Foundation	\$50,000
Laurie & David Sukoff	\$50,000
Dana & Donald Toms	\$50,000
Tzell Travel Group	\$50,000
The Zobel Foundation	\$50,000
The Ron & Julie Eby - Windham Automotive Family Sponsorship Fund	\$50,000
Camp Mataponi - Marcy & Dan Isdaner	\$50,000
Guests of Migis Lodge - Brick Walkway Section	\$50,000
The Amanda Martin Family Sponsorship Fund	\$49,000
Oakhurst Dairy	\$40,000
The Thomas F. Staley Foundation	\$40,000
Wal-Mart Foundation	\$35,000
The Jason Chapman Family Sponsorship Fund	\$33,000
The William J.J. Gordon Trust	\$32,000
The Anna Gould & Larry Gould Family Sponsorship Fund	\$30,000
Carol & Ted Levy	\$25,000
Mattina R. Proctor Foundation	\$25,000
Anonymous	\$25,000
Nancy Cincotta, M.S.W. & Andrew Eichenfield, M.D.	\$25,000
Milton Gray	\$25,000
The Harold Greenberg Family Sponsorship Fund	\$25,000
Carol & Robert Weissman	\$25,000
The Shawnee Peak & Homer Family Sponsorship Fund	\$25,000
Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation	\$25,000
Sub-Total	\$7,648,000
Brick Walkway Matching Challenge (when complete)	\$250,000
Endowed funds prior to Campaign	\$1,250,000
Total	\$9,148,000

SPECIAL PEOPLE



Scotty wearing his signature shirt!

Strolling for Sunshine — Scotty's Walk

My son Scotty was diagnosed in June of 2007 with an inoperable brain tumor. For nearly two years I sat by his bed every week while he received three- to four-hour treatments. As I sat there one day, I felt as if I had to do something. Something after he was done with treatment that would make some sort of difference in this chemo, cancer, brain tumor world. I just didn't know what that would be yet.

After five days at Camp Sunshine we knew, as a family, that we had found a place of peace, of solace, of open arms and open hearts. Most importantly I found that purpose I was looking for, my chance to make a difference in this world where our children were suffering unfairly every day. So over coffee one day with two of my close friends, "Strolling for Sunshine – Scotty's Walk" was born.

Before the planning started, I knew I would have to run this by the person that mattered the most. After explaining to him that the walk would be in his honor, and all the proceeds would go to brain tumor families at camp, he was on board.

After several months of planning, the day had arrived. I awoke early to sunshine that morning. Scotty woke up early that morning too, and carefully placed on the one thing he wanted so badly for this walk. It was a t-shirt that said, "My brain is so huge, I had room for a tumor!" The shirt was yellow and he wore it proudly.

By the time the walk started, there were hundreds of people there, my heart was filled with joy. There were friends, family, people from town, strangers, and they were all here to honor my son.

And because of him they had all come and realized what a special place Camp Sunshine has become to our family.

Camp became quite contagious in this small town of Voluntown, no more than 3,000 people, had raised over \$22,000 in one day. The outpouring of support was immense, and I was left speechless.

I hugged Scotty later that day. I hugged him so tight and I told him that I was proud. I was proud that he wore that shirt and didn't care what people thought, I was proud because he used his situation to make others' a little better, and I was proud because he is my son, and he is alive. His smile brings sunshine to me every day....

Roxanne Davidson

"The happiest people in the world are those who have a hard time recalling their worries...and an easy time remembering their blessings." - Alin Austin

Suffield Academy Dance-a-Thon: Kids Making a Big Difference

When sixteen year-old Camp Sunshine supporter Didi McDonald shared her passion for our program with her fellow classmates at Suffield Academy, it was the beginning of a partnership that would help send 24 families to Camp Sunshine.

The school hosted a dance-a-thon at which the students danced through the night to help make a difference in the lives of families with ill children – by the event's conclusion the kids had bopped, hopped, and boogied their way to raise an astounding \$36,640!

The Pilmoor Family said it best in a letter to Suffield Academy:

"Having a place like Camp Sunshine allows our son Adam and other ITP (Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura) children to feel safe, happy, and one of the gang! Thank you Suffield Academy for letting us see Adam and his brother Brant smile and shine!"

A special thanks to Didi and all the students who participated, and to Headmaster Charlie Cahn, and Academic Dean Elise Riegel for this very special gift.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

Tropical Smoothie Café Does It Again

For the second consecutive year, Tropical Smoothie Café has been hard at work spreading sunshine across America for children and families in need of a break. Far exceeding last year's fundraising total of \$125,000, the smoothie and sandwich chain raised over \$275,000 for their June 2009 *National Flip Flop Day* campaign in support of Camp Sunshine. This brings their total support of Camp Sunshine to over \$400,000 since our partnership began in 2008.

Funds raised this year are being used to bring more than 180 families from around the country to our Casco, Maine campus, giving them the unique opportunity to meet other families facing similar challenges.

"This year's *National Flip Flop Day* celebration has been another extremely rewarding experience for all of us here at Tropical Smoothie Café," said Jim Valentino, the company's president and chief operating officer. "Our goal for this year was to raise \$250,000, so we're thrilled to have surpassed that goal and to have more than doubled the 2008 total. We can't wait to try and raise even more money next year for Camp Sunshine."

Fundraising efforts took place during the entire month of June at each of the 280 Tropical Smoothie Cafés throughout the country and also at <http://www.nationalflipflopday.com>.

"On the 25th anniversary of Camp Sunshine, Tropical Smoothie Café has helped us have one of our biggest and best years ever," said Matt Hoidal, Camp Sunshine's executive director. "Because of the *National Flip Flop Day* campaign, we are able to reach out to many more families than we otherwise could. This will have a huge impact on the lives of the children and families who benefit from Tropical Smoothie Café's efforts."

The 2010 Membership Drive Underway

Last year over 9,200 people made financial contributions to Camp Sunshine. If you were one of them, thank you for your generosity. Our families will need your help again in 2010. Please mail in your gift today in the enclosed envelope. Donations can also be made online at <http://www.campsunshine.org>.

Volunteer Intern Learns About Camp From Tropical Smoothie Café

Kim Ely was completing her practicum at a local hospital in Florida when she happened upon a video Tropical Smoothie Café produced to promote *National Flip Flop Day* and Camp Sunshine.

Ely was so intrigued by the video that she contacted Camp Sunshine to apply for an internship where she would work within the Camp Program. Shortly after, Kim found herself in Maine at Camp Sunshine enjoying the summer working with the kids.



Kim Ely with camper Mia

"My hope is to become a child life specialist," said Kim. "Camp Sunshine prepared me for a wide variety of diseases I'll see working in that field." Kim summarized her time at Camp, saying, "It's definitely a humbling experience and it makes you look at your own life. Camp Sunshine puts things into perspective."

Other Families Sponsored by Tropical Smoothie Café

"We met Rene Arcemont, the Slidell, LA franchise owner on Flip Flop Day this year. It was so nice to personally thank him and your company for this sponsorship."

The Miller Family, Mandeville, LA

"The volunteers from Tropical Smoothie were amazing, so caring, and genuine. We greatly appreciate everything you have done."

The Engle Family, Gilbertsville, PA

"Who knew the first time I would be brought to tears at Camp this year would be at the Tropical Smoothie Presentation? We feel blessed to have been a part of this amazing week at Camp Sunshine."

The Heady Family, Rhinebrook, NY

NATIONAL SUPPORT



Dear Tropical Smoothie Café:

We are so thankful and beyond gratitude for your support of Camp Sunshine. You and your amazing employees and customers have given my family a wonderful week. Camp Sunshine is a place where everyone is the same, not different and without people like you, we wouldn't have the chance as a family to spend an amazing week as a family celebrating something joyful as bringing us all together during this long journey.

My son was diagnosed with high risk T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy with roughly 7 months left in his 2 years of treatment. The medicine has left him with several challenges. As a 14 year-old boy, he has a foot drop and weak hip from the chemotherapy. With a limp he is always struggling to do things normal 14 year old boys do. We're unsure at the moment if the limp is permanent or not. One of my proudest moments today, and it brings tears to my eyes, was watching my son at Camp Sunshine playing a safe form of volleyball. Side-by-side with other children all fighting cancer or siblings of cancer patients was a very overwhelming and joyful site. Looking at my son's face, smiling and laughing. No one would have ever thought he is struggling through treatment and today was a great day. Thank you for bringing us to this place at this time.

The other part of my gratitude is from my daughter – the sister of my child with leukemia. She is 16 years old and came to Camp as a volunteer. I mention this because she developed close bonds and relationships with your many employees who also gave up their time to volunteer at Camp Sunshine. This was a healing process for my daughter and having remarkable people with her, by her side, was very comforting. So again, I thank you for allowing our family the opportunity to spend a week. My daughter needed to feel some control in the chaos of this disease that has attacked her brother. Because of your sponsorship and donation, our family has had a chance to get closer, to relax, and enjoy each other.

Camp Sunshine has a magical feeling while you're here. When you walk in the front doors, you feel this overpowering feeling that it's OK to have fun, relax, and just not worry so much. As a parent, my heavy heart is lifted and the smiles and laughter overwhelm me.

Thank you again for your friendship with Camp Sunshine, your generosity and sponsorship.

Michelle, Zachary & Kimberly Barthelemy



SPECIAL EVENTS

Pumpkin Festivals, A Gourd Time!

PORTLAND, ME: Thousands of people turned out for Camp Sunshine's Portland Pumpkin Festival to help carve pumpkins, enjoy the entertainment and children's activities, and view the spectacular site of 2,500 carved jack-o-lanterns at Monument Square. The event raised over \$45,000 for Camp Sunshine.

One of the highlights of this event was the corporate carving challenge, where teams of up to 10 people from local businesses competed to see who could carve the most jack-o-lanterns within 10 minutes. Sadly, the 2008 Camp Sunshine champions were forced to hand over the title to the new champion, KG Partners, who carved an impressive 84 jack-o-lanterns in 10 minutes. Congratulations to the KG team!



The Pumpkin Tower at the Portland Festival

Camp Sunshine thanks its lead sponsor Androscoggin Bank, as well as the City of Portland, Portland Recreation, Seacoast Scaffolding, P&G Masonry, New Penn, Reny's, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Village Candle, WPOR and Portland Radio Group, and others who generously supported the event.

WESTON, MA: It was a beautiful sunny day and hundreds of people turned out for the Weston Pumpkin Festival to benefit Camp Sunshine. \$36,746 was raised to help send ill children and their families from Massachusetts to Camp in 2010! Part of that total was a generous \$15,000 matching challenge from Market Basket supermarkets. The \$35,000 raised will send 23 families to Camp Sunshine. This is more than double the amount raised by the event last year!

Camp Sunshine thanks the students of Weston High School, and the Sieber and Brenner families for all of their hard work organizing the 4th annual festival. Thanks also to Market Basket supermarkets and the Demoulas family for their continued generous support of Camp Sunshine.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY: The first ever college Pumpkin Festival was a great success at SNHU on October 31. A committee of 12 students and faculty oversaw the event and 18 student groups joined in the fun by coordinating different games for the kids to support Camp Sunshine and raised over \$1,100 for our program.

Camp Sunshine thanks SNHU and the Center for Service and Citizenship for sponsoring the event. A big thanks also to Sarah Jacobs and Mark DeFazio for leading the charge!

The NYC Great Pumpkin Walk

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who braved the wet weather and participated in this year's NYC Great Pumpkin Walk. Thanks to Instinet's sponsorship, and the combined fundraising of all of the walkers, we were able to raise over \$38,000 to help send ill children and their families to Camp Sunshine!

It was so wonderful to see the entire Camp Sunshine community coming together in support of this event. We had great representation from our families, volunteers, and of course, our friends at Instinet.

Camp Sunshine salutes Instinet and our partners at New York City Parks and Recreation for their help in making this wonderful event possible. A special congratulations also goes out to our top three individual fundraisers: Danielle Antoncic, the Fasciano Family, and Rachel Glincher.



Happy Campers Walking for Camp

CAMP FRIENDS

“You Got A Minute?” This Community Hero Always Does!

It started back in 2006 when Ron Eby took on Camp Sunshine as his “charity of choice”. Ron simply wanted to raise some funds to help out the cause. Little did he know that his life would soon revolve around his quest to educate everyone he knows about Camp Sunshine.



Ron sports his sombrero at the Portland Polar Dip

Eby, who owns and operates Windham Automotive, solicited his employees by offering to match their contributions to the cause. He decided that he would also operate his very own “Ron’s Mexican Cantina” at a local town festival to help raise the rest of the money, and boy did he!

To date, Ron has raised nearly \$100,000 for Camp Sunshine! While we are very thankful for Ron’s fundraising efforts, we have also found Ron to be one of Camp Sunshine’s best advocates for creating awareness!

Ron’s passion for Camp Sunshine flows out of him on a daily basis. He goes out of his way telling everyone he knows about the work Camp Sunshine does and is always reaching out to families who can benefit from the program.

Ron has helped create relationships with Napa Auto Parts, Shaw’s Supermarkets, the Noyes Brain Tumor Foundation, Windham/Gorham Professional Fire Fighters, Cumberland Motor Club, St. Jude’s Hospital, and many others.

So, if you ever meet Ron Eby, you might be asked the question, “You got a minute?” That simple minute will be your education about Camp Sunshine.

THANK YOU!

A very special thank you goes out to Point Sebago Resort and the Camp Sunshine Volunteers for their hard work during Monte Carlo Weekend, which raised over \$45,000 for Camp Sunshine!

The Tree Guys & The Maine Arborist Association

Camp Sunshine is proud to be associated with a great big team of “Tree Guys” and the Maine Arborist Association.

Recently, 9 companies comprised of 35 employees and their trucks, came out to Camp Sunshine to take down 31 failing trees and cut back and trim branches. This was a tremendous benefit to Camp, the value of which was estimated at \$25,000. The companies and their employees are members of the Maine Arborist Association and included Central Maine Power, Double R Crane Services, Hammond Tractor, Bandit Industries, Lucas Tree Experts, McCann Tree Care, Spears Hill Tree, Tamarack Tree & Landscape, Vail’s Tree Service, and Whitney Tree Services, Inc.

Leading the charge was Camp Sunshine donor, volunteer, and board member Bill Drapeau who organized and spearheaded the effort. Bill has been instrumental over the years in helping with tree cleanup throughout our 23 acre campus. In fact, he’s been so helpful, Camp Sunshine has named him its official “Camp Tree Surgeon”.

Shortly after members of the Maine Arborist Association completed their work at Camp, Bill’s “Tree Team” including Frank Healey, Henry Brackett, John Ramsay, Bob Sturk, Butch, and Roger Branchaud came in to help saw up the trees and clean up the campus.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated their time and equipment to help maintain the Camp Sunshine Campus!



The Tree Guys Gather Together

HELPING CAMP



Sue leads the kitchen crew onto the stage during the celebration show

A Teacher Inspires

As we have seen in this newsletter, kids are really stepping up to support Camp Sunshine. Yet while these kids do amazing things on their own, oftentimes there's someone sparking their imagination, helping them to realize that they can make a big difference. In Longmeadow, Massachusetts, that someone is Susan Fitts. For years, Sue has rallied the entire Hampden-Wilbraham School District to support Camp Sunshine annually.

Sue's introduction to Camp Sunshine came back in 2001 when her twin daughters, Kristen and Heather, joined our current Executive Director, Matt Hoidal, on a 1,600 mile relay run from Florida to Maine. Sue immediately began raising funds through the school and in that first year raised \$1,500 to send an entire family to Camp Sunshine. Since

then, Sue, the school district, and local businesses have raised more than \$50,000 for Camp Sunshine!

After Sue is done fundraising for the year she heads off to Camp Sunshine to volunteer with students from her school. Since 2005, Sue has brought over 80 students to see the results of all their hard work and experience the impact of their contributions first hand. Whether Sue is with the 6-8 year-olds or working in the kitchen, she is always smiling.

Thanks to Susan Fitts and everyone in the Hampden-Wilbraham School District for their years of support.

You might think that doing what Sue does would consume your whole life, yet we see day after day that our Camp families (parents and kids alike) give so much back to all who devote themselves to Camp Sunshine. If you haven't done so already, perhaps you too will organize a group in support of Camp Sunshine.

A Family Halloween Party

Many of Camp Sunshine's greatest advocates are the families that Camp Sunshine serves. These families are amazing on a multitude of levels. Their ability to juggle a job, keep their family together and remain strong to help their children battle their illness, to most, would seem daunting. But Camp families use their resilience to help others facing similar struggles.

The Manley Family, whose 10 year-old David suffered from aplastic anemia, is one such advocate. For the 2nd year in a row, they have held a Halloween Party to help raise money for Camp Sunshine, to begin to teach their children about giving back and hopefully inspire other families that they too can help.

Several families and volunteers joined in the fun of this year's event and came in costume to support Camp Sunshine Newsletter, Fall 2009

shine! The kids helped to set up and get ready and even extended family helped to fundraise for the event. In its second year, the event doubled and raised over \$2,000 for Camp Sunshine!



Happy attendees of the Manley Family Halloween Party

PSYCHOSOCIAL CORNER

Polar Dip Dates for 2010

Coney Island Dip	January 1	Coney Island, NY
Joey's Plunge	January 1	Boston, MA
Wachusett Dip	January 23	Wachusett Mountain, MA
AJ's Dip	January 30	Long Branch, NJ
Virginia Dip	February 6	Reston, VA
Bangor Dip	February 7	Dedham, ME
Portland Dip	February 13	Portland, ME
Long Island Dip	February 27	Amityville, NY
Seattle Dip	TBA	Redmond, WA
Ohio Dip	TBA	Cleveland, OH



Eduardo Faubert, owner of Jasmine Cafe, plunging into Lake Anne in Reston, VA

THANK YOU!

Camp Sunshine would like to thank these illness related partners for their continued collaboration and major support in 2009: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation; Childrens Brain Tumor Foundation; Jenna's Rainbow Foundation; Lauren's First and Goal; The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund; Bryan's Dream Foundation; and the National Kidney Foundation of Connecticut.

It Is About The Dialogue, But It Is Not Always About The Words

There is a soul to Camp Sunshine that is not often talked about, not because it is not worthy of conversation, but rather because it is too personal, and maybe too complicated to explain, but it is understood. Perhaps it is what brings people back to Camp.

It is being a child with cancer and coming to camp, and feeling like you don't have to talk about having cancer, because everyone gets it. It is about being a teen who has had a heart transplant, and feeling like a teen at Camp, not like you are different. It is about parents talking with other parents about thoughts and feelings that they do not otherwise share. It is about the dialogue, but it is not always about words. It is really about living with a life-threatening illness, and everything that means. For family members, for volunteers, and for those who do a bit of both, it is about the willingness to participate.

It is about the willingness to become active and connected in a world in which people often pass side by side, never really allowing themselves to be close enough to feel the joy and the sorrow of those on either side of them. Camp Sunshine is about crossing the line by becoming part of a bigger community, a large extended family, something bigger than any individual, and any illness.

When you are faced with a life-threatening illness, you come to understand the meaning of life in a more profound way. Camp Sunshine cultivates a climate that allows you to experience the moment, to embrace the illness journey, and to reconnect with parts of yourself that you may have lost touch with. This phenomenon happens campus wide, and is not exclusive to families. There are concentric circles forming at Camp Sunshine, and relationships growing with tremendous energy surrounding them. The circle, the complexity, the honesty, the communication, the joy, the creativity, and the caring, are all part of the bigger picture.

For twenty-five years Camp Sunshine has been developing the bigger picture. The picture is all about people, thousands of people, those facing illness and those who choose to join in the journey with them, everyone giving of themselves. The base of Camp Sunshine is expanding. It is the synergy among people that is propelling Camp Sunshine forward. We can not be more grateful for all of you who have joined the ever-growing network, regardless of which of the three yellow doors you entered through.

Nancy Cincotta, MSW
Psychosocial Director,
Camp Sunshine



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CAMP SUNSHINE'S WISH LIST

- Pressure Washer
- Golf Cart
- Vacuum Cleaners
- New Desktop Computers (contact office for details)
- Weed Trimmer
- Kid Safe Step Stools

For a complete list, visit our web site at <http://www.campsunshine.org>.



Smiling camper, Aaliyah, having a blast playing in the Tot Lot!

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