



*A retreat for children with life threatening illnesses and their families.*

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**Camp Sunshine Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Dedicated Volunteers & Donors Provide Needed Support for Sick Children and Their Families*

**CASCO, Maine (June 10, 2009)** – Camp Sunshine, a free program dedicated to supporting children with life-threatening illnesses and their immediate families, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Since 1984, more than 30,000 children, siblings and parents have come to Camp Sunshine to enjoy fun camp experiences and connect with other families facing similar challenges.

“We could not have provided support to this many families for free if it weren’t for our donors and our dedicated volunteer base,” said Anna Gould, Founder of Camp Sunshine. “Since its inception, more than 22,000 volunteers have given more than 750,000 hours of their time to Camp Sunshine, and funding has continued to grow year after year. We have been extremely fortunate to cultivate strong relationships with individuals and businesses that have been very generous with their time and donations, even in tight economic times. Many organizations have come forward to contribute to our mission to address the impact of a life-threatening illness on every member of the immediate family, and we’ve been able to help the diverse needs of thousands of families from more than 44 states and 15 countries.”

Events to commemorate Camp Sunshine’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are scheduled to take place on June 27, 2009 at its Casco, Maine location. A celebratory picnic for families, friends, volunteers and donors will take place with Cindy Williams, Anchor of WCSH6 News in Portland, acting as the master of ceremonies. The ceremony will be underwritten in part by The Meat House, Migis Lodge, and various other sponsors. Other events and campaigns will be held throughout the year to help celebrate the non-profit’s quarter century of distinguished and compassionate service, including a \$250,000 matching challenge from the New Balance Foundation.

Camp Sunshine offers families with a child diagnosed with diseases such as cancer, kidney disease, lupus, brain tumors, and other life-threatening illnesses free week-long camp experiences. Because the strain of a life-threatening illness can be significant to the entire family, Camp Sunshine gives them the opportunity to rebuild their relationships and enjoy week-long retreats packed with fun-filled events.

Camp Sunshine operates year-round, and is the first camp in the nation to focus on serving the entire family, not just the sick child. The program is free of charge to all families, and includes 24-hour onsite medical and psychosocial support. Bereavement groups are also offered for families who have lost a child to an illness.

The Camp is accredited by the American Camping Association and has also been awarded Charity Navigator’s Top Rating for fiscal management

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.

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