

CAMP THE SUNSHINE TIMES

Winter 2011



New England Sports Network Volunteers with Camp Sunshine Founder Anna Gould at the Stephanie Rothweiler Amphitheater
Photo courtesy of Michael Gibeault

Winter photos courtesy of Camp Sunshine

INSIDE Highlights

- 2011 Winter/Spring Program Dates, Page 2

- Volunteer Spotlight, Page 3

- Endowment & Capital, Pages 4-5

- National Support, Pages 6-7

- Special Events, Page 8

- Special People, Page 9

- Family Letter, Page 10

- One-On-Ones, Page 11

- Psychosocial Corner, Page 11

Solar Power: Volunteers Make Camp Sunshine Glow

By Matthew M. Hoidal, Esq., Executive Director

Like rays of sunshine, they dance around the campus clad in yellow shirts, fueling and filling the hearts of the children and families they have come to help. These are special people, some of whom have come for the first time, and others who are familiar with the program. But all will leave Camp Sunshine with that same desire to soon return, hearts filled with the indescribable emotion that comes from being a part of something that is greater than one's self. They

are Camp Sunshine's volunteers, and they are the heart, soul, and sunshine behind the magic of our program. Without them, Camp Sunshine's light would be a mere flicker compared to the robust and warm glow that we have all come to know so well.

“Since 1984, over 27,000 volunteers have given nearly 900,000 hours of time to Camp Sunshine.”

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continued on page 2

FOUNDER'S LETTER

Dear Camp Sunshine Families and Friends,

The winter, for me, is a time of reflection as I watch a blanket of pure snow, protecting the sleeping buds of spring. It is a time to think about all that has transpired and to ponder what the future will bring. As I look at the past and analyze the various stages that Camp has taken to achieve its current position, I am continually amazed at what an incredible life force Camp has become.

I spend a fair amount of time at Camp interacting with families I consider friends, and families we have met more recently who are finding their way into what most of us refer to as "The CS Family". For families that I have now known for more than 20 years, it still amazes me that Camp is such an integral part of their daily life. This is also true of the extraordinary volunteer force, who make the time, year after year, to come and give their time, and more importantly, their love, to all those who come through Camp Sunshine's "Magical Doors".

I listen to the children's fears and dreams when they openly discuss what Camp means to them, and how grateful they are that Camp will always be there for them. They too want to come back and volunteer. I read letters from many, adults and children; I watch the slide shows at the end of the sessions and they still make my eyes tear.

In our fast paced lives with so many uncertainties to deal with, it is difficult to sometimes stop and appreciate where we are, let alone where we are going. I recently received an incredible letter from a young man, Dragen, who made me stop and think about so many of the details of Camp that you can begin to take for granted.

As a Founder of Camp Sunshine, I did not have a vision of the future as I was planning for the first session in 1984. After the session, I did not know the future of Camp Sunshine, but I knew at that moment that it had to continue. The overwhelming need was visible to me through the comments of the parents. Today, after 26 years, I do know where we have been, and I do know where we are. Where we need to end up is still being guided by the comments of the parents and the children. I have been given the tremendous privilege of stewardship of a great organization that gives all of us connected to it a wonderful sense of fulfillment.

But with privilege comes responsibility, particularly fiscal responsibility, in these uncertain times. We must maintain a constant vigil that the financial status of this foundation stays sound and secure. The organization requires that all of us involved in its guidance maintain the highest level of integrity, honesty, and a true commitment to only the betterment of Camp Sunshine. All who are truly committed to this great organization will no doubt protect and ensure that the course set forth by the needs of our parents and children is the one we will continue to follow. As we expand, we renew our com-

mitment to all who come to Camp for services that are needed and valued. We will not fail our mission, as there are too many families who depend on Camp Sunshine and what it stands for: love, hope, support, inspiration, and a sense of "family".

I want to thank Dragen and all who come to Camp Sunshine, for being given the honor to continue on the amazing journey that we all share together.

Sincerely,
Anna Gould, Founder

Solar Power: Volunteers Make Camp Sunshine Glow (continued from cover)

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge our veteran volunteer icons like Joe "Papa Joe" Pappalardo, who was the founding force behind our volunteer program. And of course, who doesn't know Mike Katz, our Campus Director, who has been with Camp Sunshine since day one, coordinating the program and volunteer force as he so masterfully does. And then there are the new friends like the volunteers from New England Sports Network (NESN) who came for the first time and became instant members of the Camp Sunshine family (see page 9 for more about this wonderful group of people).

Fortunately, there's a list of volunteers far too long to include in this piece, but you will read about some truly special people and groups in the pages that follow. Please join us in celebrating these people and all of the wonderful volunteers who give of themselves so that children with life-threatening illnesses and their families can find hope and respite at Camp Sunshine.

2011 Winter/Spring Program Dates

February 18-22.....	Oncology
February 23-27.....	Oncology
March 18-21.....	Oncology-Twin with Cancer
April 15-18.....	Brooklyn Families-Hematology/Oncology
May 20-22.....	Oncology
May 26-30.....	Bereavement
June 3-7.....	Solid Organ Transplant
June 12-17.....	Retinoblastoma
June 18-22.....	Oncology
June 24-29.....	Fanconi Anemia

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

*Please note, all volunteer openings have been filled for the February sessions.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Camp Sunshine Volunteer Ruth Shadbolt Named 6 *Who Care* Winner!

Camp Sunshine is pleased to announce and congratulate Ruth Shadbolt 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.

Ruth is extremely well known by our bereaved families for her dedicated leadership and compassionate commitment to the “memorial quilts” program. During Bereavement Sessions, families can find Ruth bustling about the numerous workstations among the wide array of fabric, cutting tools, and sewing machines. Leading dozens of volunteers, she is always hard at work helping families make their quilts.

While not on campus, Ruth spends numerous hours hand-painting wooden ornaments (which she donates) and our trademark “Sunny Pins”, which are sold in the Camp store. These two items generate hundreds of dollars annually. Additionally, the exquisite machine-stitched quilt that she donates yearly to our auction also raises hundreds of dollars.

In her “free time,” while not volunteering at Camp, Ruth is active with Project Linus and the Cobblestone Quilters. Both organizations provide blankets and quilts to children in need.

Besides fashioning quilts for fundraisers to Camp Sunshine, Ruth’s quilts have also benefited the Barbara Bush Children’s

Hospital, and various other organizations. According to Becki Jaques, longtime Camp Sunshine volunteer and former local Project Linus Coordinator, “Ruth always has one of her masterpieces in the works for a charitable organization, a child in need or a special person to be recognized.” Ruth is truly a giver.

Ruth has always been proud of her community, evidenced by her marching in costume in her hometown of Westbrook’s Together Days Parade. When she lived in Raymond, Ruth coordinated the clowns—Ruth Shadbolt’s Clowns—for the Raymond Founder’s Day Parade. She gathered and/or made numerous clown costumes, assuring that everyone who aspired to be a clown had a costume.

Succinctly stated, Ruth has a genuine passion and concern for others - from sick children and grieving families to those who aspire to be clowns for a day!



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Again, we would like to extend our CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth on winning this prestigious 6 *Who Care* Award, and we thank her for all that she has done and continues to do for Camp Sunshine.

ENDOWMENT & CAPITAL

Jack's Magic Bean Fund Completes John T. Gorman Foundation \$250,000 Matching Challenge With Additional Gift – Brings Camp Sunshine's *Let the Sun Shine All Year* \$14.5 Million Campaign Total to \$10,735,000

As you may recall from our recent *Momentum* Endowment & Capital Campaign Newsletter, the John T. Gorman Foundation offered Camp Sunshine a generous matching challenge in 2010, in which the Foundation would match all donations of \$25,000 and above to Camp Sunshine, up to a total of \$250,000. We are pleased to announce that, thanks to another gift of \$50,000 from Jack's Magic Bean Fund and the Ramsden Family, the Gorman Foundation matching challenge is complete.

This latest gift brings Jack's Magic Bean Fund's total support of the challenge to \$100,000. It also brings Camp Sunshine's *Let the Sun Shine All Year* \$14.5 Million Endowment & Capital Campaign total to \$10,735,000.

"The successful completion of this matching challenge is a reflection of Camp Sunshine's strength as an organization, and the importance of the support it provides to families of children with life-threatening illnesses," said Shawn Gorman, president of the John T. Gorman Foundation. "Our gift, and the funds raised through our challenge, will endow 20 family sponsorships in perpetuity, providing the resources to help families connect and support each other for years to come."

Additional gifts of \$25,000 towards the Gorman Foundation Matching Challenge were made by Carol J. & K. David Hancock Charitable Trust, David and Laurie Sukoff, The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, The Billy Burchard Foundation, The Sasser Family, and an anonymous donor.

"It is our absolute pleasure (and honor) to be able to help a place that has helped us so much. This past December makes 5 years since our son Jack left this world behind, and in that time we have continued to live because of the role Camp has played in our lives. We have been emotionally present for our surviving children and have watched with such joy as they grow into the coolest, most compassionate young ladies. We have welcomed new children into our family, both biologically and through adoption, neither of which would have been fathomable without the healing of Camp. We have continued to prosper in our professional lives and have created a nonprofit to honor our child and others like him. We can't even begin to imagine what the past five years might have brought without the bereavement program at Camp Sunshine. We want to ensure that this program is there for future families as it has been there for ours. We suffered from a loss that cripples and buries whole families each and every year. These families are forgotten by each and every other



The Ramsden Family during their recent visit to Camp Sunshine for a Bereavement session.

organization that once cared for them. They had support taken away from them, offers for magical wish trips retracted, all of this on top of the ultimate loss of experiencing the death of a child.

The surviving children, the real unsung heroes, are told that they won't be going to Disney, or wherever, because their brother or sister died. There is simply no other organization that cares for grieving families the way that Camp Sunshine does. It was the one place that my kids felt welcomed, after falling off of all the other mailing lists. I don't know if anyone really understands what it is like for a newly bereaved family, what the transition 'off-treatment' is like for families that lose everything in a single instant. All of the support, all of the care—none of it exists in bereavement. No single organization has made it their mission, nor has any other organization understood this to be a family experience. So we feel very fortunate to have lived so close and to have soaked up as much Sunshine as we have."

With Love,
The Ramsden Family

ENDOWMENT & CAPITAL

New Volunteer Housing Construction Under Way

The ground-breaking for the construction of our new volunteer housing building commenced on November 1, 2010. Since then, workers have been busy clearing the area, which included drilling and blasting the site to remove all ledge in the ground. Our staff had fun watching, listening to, and feeling the ground tremor from the blasts of dynamite breaking up the rock.

In late November and early December, crews kept on schedule and poured the foundations before winter settled in. Framing then began in January, giving shape to the buildings. It's a rapidly progressing project, of which we will continue to keep you posted with updates on our website, in eNewsletters, and in print newsletters. In the meantime, feel free to visit the construction page on our website for weekly updates.

We remain ever grateful to the Orokawa Foundation for their funding of this project. Thanks to their generous investment and unyielding support, this new home for families returning to volunteer and give back will be a welcome addition and enhancement to Camp Sunshine's program.



Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Available Underwriting Opportunities

Volunteer Lounge.....	\$100,000
Volunteer Suites (10).....	\$50,000 (each)
Volunteer Suite Furnishings (10).....	\$5,000 (each)

If you would like to learn more about how you can underwrite and name one of these spaces, please contact a member of Camp Sunshine's Development Team at (207) 655-3800.

Lauren's First and Goal Sets the Pace

The Loose family has been remarkable in their support of Camp Sunshine. At first, Lauren's First and Goal was quite generous in helping us support an innovative pet therapy project and enabling more of an "animal presence" on the campus, such as the horse-drawn sleigh rides and duck, even in the winter session. They went on to provide support to the Yoga Program and other Healing Arts to help children and families deal with the stresses imposed by life-threatening illness. In 2009, when Camp Sunshine needed help supporting programming for returning families of children with brain tumors, Lauren's First and Goal stepped up and gave Camp Sunshine \$30,000 to enable 20 families to attend.



Camper Hailey with the horses during a 2010 Winter Session

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

In 2010, Lauren's First and Goal again

offered support for families of children with brain tumors to attend Camp during the first session completely funded through the efforts of families of children with brain tumors and their friends. Additionally, leaders in their own quiet way (with Lauren very much setting an example of how to live life to its fullest), Lauren's First and Goal is the first group to sign on to endow a suite in the new family volunteer building.

With the majority of the funds for the construction donated by an organization founded by a past Camp Sunshine family, it is only fitting that the first room to be endowed is to be funded by yet another Camp Sunshine family. As an added bonus, given Lauren's interest in therapy dogs, the Lauren's First and Goal suite will provide housing to the special canine volunteers and their families when they volunteer at Camp Sunshine. On this note, we must not forget to thank Rocky and Max for their many hours of service in 2010.

Nancy Cincotta, MSW, MPhil
Psychosocial Director

NATIONAL SUPPORT

A Flip Flop Fabulous Friend, Tropical Smoothie Café Raises \$310,000 For Camp Sunshine

On August 5, 2010, the last night of “*Tropical Smoothie Café Week*” at Camp Sunshine, representatives from Tropical Smoothie Café presented our founder Anna Gould with a walloping check in the amount of \$310,000 to help support family sponsorships and family transportation. Tropical Smoothie raised the funds through their annual *National Flip Flop Day* promotional campaign, which set a record for the event this year, and brings the three-year total raised for Camp Sunshine to \$710,000.

On hand to present the check from Tropical Smoothie Café corporate headquarters were Jim Valentino, then Chief Operating Officer & President, and Barbara Valentino, then Vice President of Marketing & Communications. Jim and Barbara were joined by a remarkable and caring team of Tropical Smoothie Café area developers and store owners who spent the whole week at Camp volunteering.

“Everyone in the Tropical Smoothie Café community, from franchisees to area developers to employees, is ecstatic about the success of this year’s *National Flip Flop Day* celebration, and all of us are truly grateful to our loyal and wonderful customers who donated money to this worthy cause,” said Jim Valentino. “As we continue to surpass preceding years in the funds we raise, we look forward to reaching the \$1 million mark next year in total funds raised.”

Camp Sunshine is proud of this special partnership with Tropical Smoothie Café and appreciates the opportunity to help more families with this generous support.

National Flip Flop Day is June 17, 2011

Volunteer Learns About Camp Sunshine From Tropical Smoothie Café

We are always amazed by the stories of how volunteers are exposed to Camp Sunshine and the lengths they will go to in order to help Camp Sunshine families. Here is just one example.

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a frequent flyer to the Tropical Smoothies in the Flint area of Michigan. Last year I attended National Flip Flop day and found out about Camp Sunshine. I was very intrigued and wanted to learn more about the camp, so I looked it up online and later learned

that the camp needed volunteers weekly for all the families that visited. So, I sent in an application and encouraged two other friends to do so as well. We later were accepted to volunteer and we made the 16 hour drive to Casco, Maine from Flint, Michigan. People were amazed that we would travel so far to volunteer and they were so curious about how we had found out about the camp. My answer was always, “Well, Tropical Smoothie, of course.”

I'm sending this note as a Thank You for giving Camp Sunshine the attention they need and deserve and for helping so many families. I loved the volunteer opportunities and I will be going back

this year and many more to come. So, as National Flip Flop day approaches, you are not only raising money for families, but you are getting the word out about Camp Sunshine and getting them the volunteers that they need to keep the camp going and I thank you for introducing me to the camp.

*Yours Truly,
Genny Carley
Tropical Smoothie Customer, Beach Bum Smoothie Lover*



Tropical Smoothie Cafe check presentation at Camp.

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

The 2011 Membership Drive Is Under Way

Last year over 9,200 people made financial contributions to Camp Sunshine. If you were one of them, thank you for your generosity. Camp Sunshine families will need your help again in 2011. Please mail in your gift today in the enclosed envelope. Donations can also be made online at <http://www.campsunshine.org>.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

Hyundai Delivers Hope, And A Check For \$100,000

On Saturday, September 25, 2010 – during National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – Hyundai Hope on Wheels visited Camp Sunshine’s campus on a beautiful, sunny Fall day. Approximately 150 family members, volunteers, donors, and friends joined us as representatives from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program presented Camp Sunshine with a check in the amount of \$100,000! Camp Sunshine will use funds from the grant to add two additional oncology sessions to its 2011 schedule.

Hyundai Hope on Wheels is a partnership of 800 Hyundai dealers across the United States and Hyundai Motor America aimed at raising awareness of childhood cancer.

Camp Sunshine is delighted and humbled to receive this generous donation from Hyundai. This investment will enable us to expand our program in 2011, and help us achieve our goal of providing much-needed respite, support, and hope to an ever-growing number of families.

We thank Hyundai and their network of dealers in Northern New England and around the country for helping us continue our service, and for their contributions to the cancer community. Camp Sunshine also thanks Kevin Barry, District Sales Manager of Hyundai Motor America; all of the Hyundai dealers from Maine who joined Kevin on behalf of Hyundai; and the Camp Sunshine families and friends who helped us celebrate this special occasion!



Camper Lexi shares her story at the Hyundai Hope on Wheels Event.

Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield

Golf Fights Cancer: One Day, One Tournament, 14 Golfers, 100 Holes, \$100,000!

In June, 2010, in the interest of Camp Sunshine, Golf Fights Cancer ran a Golf Marathon. Each golfer committed to playing what seemed an impossible task, a minimum of 100 consecutive holes of golf in one day. This amazing (and long) event yielded tremendous satisfaction: it allowed the golfers to use a sport they are passionate about to achieve their goals of helping others in the fight against cancer and its attendant stresses.

“Participating in the Golf Marathon this year was an amazing experience,” said Ed Lynch, Golf Marathon participant. “Knowing that the funds were going to the bereavement program at Camp Sunshine gave me the inspiration to make the most of the event. In a small way, I was able to honor the memory of my son Jack while teaching my children that through tragedy you can move on, make a difference and have a little fun at the same time.”



The Lynch Family presents the check from Golf Fights Cancer.

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

gram initiatives. “We are thrilled to be able to support Camp Sunshine,” stated Brian Oates, chairman of Golf Fights Cancer. “By supporting the bereavement programming it is our hope to comfort and assist families that are dealing with the ultimate loss of cancer. We are humbled by the prospect that our donation will ensure a permanent place of respite for these special families.”

With the expansion of Camp Sunshine programming, the number of referrals to our bereavement program continues to grow. Often families feel that they lose support from those they have known throughout their illness journey after their child dies. Camp Sunshine affords families a connection to a bereavement community in which children and adults feel understood and find hope.

At the November Bereavement Program, fueled by a session of mini-golf tournaments for children and adults of all ages (with love cup trophies for winners), golf-themed super duper blooper cheers and activities, and a golf cake, Camp Sunshine was happy to be the recipient of a \$100,000 check from Golf Fights Cancer’s Executive Director, Dianne Lynch, to support bereavement pro-

gram initiatives. “We are thrilled to be able to support Camp Sunshine,” stated Brian Oates, chairman of Golf Fights Cancer. “By supporting the bereavement programming it is our hope to comfort and assist families that are dealing with the ultimate loss of cancer. We are humbled by the prospect that our donation will ensure a permanent place of respite for these special families.”

Nancy Cincotta, MSW, MPhil
Psychosocial Director

At Camp Sunshine we are ever

grateful for our many donors who play a role in securing our future. When donors or referrals come from within our constituency, from families who have been served and value the program, our gratitude is unequalled.

SPECIAL EVENTS

“Gourd” Times Had at Camp Sunshine’s Pumpkin Festivals!

WESTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL: A blustery fall New England day was perfect for bringing out a record-breaking crowd of over 1,000 people to the Weston Town Green on Saturday, October 16, 2010 for the fifth annual Weston High School Pumpkin Festival to benefit Camp Sunshine.

It was a glorious, fun-filled day for everyone who attended, with more than 200 Weston High School students running activities

for children and adults of all ages on the Town Green. The warm spirit of camaraderie, combined with appreciation for the efforts of the students to raise money for a worthwhile cause, offset the chilly weather.

In addition to providing the community with an exciting day of pumpkin carving, activities and music, the festival, now in its fifth year, surpassed previous fundraising efforts, raising over \$35,000. This includes a \$10,000 matching gift from Market Basket Supermarkets. Other sponsors included Wolf Greenfield, InScribe Inc., and ESR Associates.

Camp Sunshine would like to thank the Weston Pumpkin Festival Committee and the Sieber Family for all of their hard work to pull off this spectacular event each year!

CAMP SUNSHINE’S PUMPKIN FESTIVAL at L.L. Bean: Over 25,000 people turned out for Camp Sunshine’s Pumpkin Festival at L.L. Bean on Halloween weekend to help carve pumpkins, enjoy the entertainment and children’s activities, and view the spectacular sight of 5,000 carved jack-o-lanterns at L.L. Bean’s Discovery Park in Freeport, Maine.

One of the highlights of this event was that many of our Camp Sunshine families were able to experience the Pumpkin Festival with us this year as we held the Great Pumpkin Weekend session at Camp Sunshine. With over 300 volunteers, 30 Camp families, and many friends (new and old), we could all feel the

warmth in our hearts as we stood in awe at the pumpkins that were carved and the spectacle when we lit the night for all to know the special place that we call Camp Sunshine.

Camp Sunshine would like to thank its co-presenting sponsors Androscoggin Bank and Hancock Lumber for their generous financial and volunteer support. Thanks also to Seacoast Scaffolding for their donation of scaffolding and labor, and to Village Candle for supplying all of the votive candles. Finally, we are extremely grateful for the gracious hospitality and generous support from our



The Camp Sunshine Pumpkin Festival at L.L. Bean.

Photo courtesy of A.J. Cincotta-Eichenfield

friends at L.L. Bean, who were incredibly supportive and a delight to work with throughout the entire planning process and event. Thanks to these organizations and the public, the funds raised by the event will help provide respite and support to many more families at Camp Sunshine, while the widespread exposure and awareness generated by the festival helps spread the word about the magic of our program.

Polar Dip Dates for 2011

We are excited to announce Camp Sunshine’s 2011 Polar Dip schedule! We hope that you will be Freezin’ for a Reason with us this year and join one of our bone-chillin’, heart-warming plunges as we work to raise \$250,000!

January 1	Joey’s Plunge	Boston, MA
January 1	Coney Island Polar Dip	Coney Island, NY
January 22	Wachusett Polar Dip	Princeton, MA
January 29	AJ’s New Jersey Polar Dip	Long Branch, NJ
February 5	Virginia Polar Dip	Reston, VA
February 6	Bangor Polar Dip	Dedham, ME
February 12	Portland Polar Dip	Portland, ME
February 19	Colin’s Crew Polar Dip	West Haven, CT
February 26	Long Island Polar Dip	Amityville, NY

Get pledges, plunge, and make a difference...

To find out more information about these 2011 plunges, please visit www.freezinforareason.com.

SPECIAL PEOPLE

Moving Forward

About four years ago, I was introduced to an eight year old brain tumor survivor in our community. Two years later, the Williams family introduced me to Camp Sunshine where I had the opportunity to share in the magic that comes with volunteering there. That summer I worked with an amazing child who changed my family's life in ways that I could never explain with words. Since then, we do not look at life the same....gratitude is a word that we feel and share with each other every day because of Camp Sunshine!

Back at home, and wanting everyone we knew to experience the unconditional love and "sunshine" that exists there, my family and I hosted our kickoff event in March which was a sellout. Over 250 people came out for dinner and dancing in support of Camp for an evening of laughter and tears. We were blessed with several families from Camp who mingled with the crowd and spoke of their experiences and how Camp renews their tired spirits again and again. It was more powerful than anyone was ready to handle... but they did and it opened the eyes of our community beyond my imagination! As I looked around the emotion-filled and teary-eyed room, I saw and felt something I had never seen or experienced before in a hall filled with people who didn't necessarily know each other. I saw them consoling each other, hugging and looking at each other with kindness and love. It was more intense and magical than I can explain.

Since then, our entire community has transformed our little town and stepped up to the plate for Camp Sunshine... from adults selling raffle tickets, making posters, golfing, running long distances, playing bunco and organizing car shows... to children organizing teams for skateboarding competitions, buying sports photographs to raffle off in school, and having car washes... all to honor Camp Sunshine. But the one most selfless act I observed was when my nine year-old little boy said to me... "Mom, would you take me to the craft store so I can buy some things I need for Camp Sunshine... I think I have enough in my wallet." Without hesitation, I took him to the store where he purchased materials to make "God's Eyes"...a small yarn strung object that he later explained would watch over and protect anybody who bought one. I watched him work tirelessly for two days, making over 40 of these, and I was astounded at his perseverance to help "make a difference." His friends then sold them for him at our last Golf Tournament and raised over \$96, but more important was how people embraced what this little guy was trying to accomplish and relished in the belief that we can all move mountains together!

For these beautiful encounters... we owe you a HUGE thank you. Your efforts extend far beyond the boundaries of Sebago Lake, and you are touching lives and "spreading sunshine" all over the world! THANK YOU CAMPSUNSHINE, from the bottom of my heart!!

In Peace and With Love, Michelle Trojano

NESN: What Great Sports!

Game On! From July 18-20, 2010, New England Sports Network (NESN) teamed up with Camp Sunshine to be part of one of our very special Oncology camp sessions. Twenty dedicated NESN employees and family members joined other volunteers to share their time and talents in a variety of roles: providing for an outstanding and entertaining Camp Sunshine experience.

The event was organized by NESN's Post-Production Manager Michael Saindon and his first round NESN employee draft picks including popular NESN Sports Commentator Kathryn Tappen and NHL pro hockey player Jay Leach. The atmosphere at camp was electric! With a sincere concern for the families and children, the NESN team assisted in making everyone feel at ease and comfortable the whole week. NESN's mission statement of providing meaningful corporate citizenship was driven home by all the NESN employees, but most notably by the fact that Jay and Kathryn Leach elected to spend their first-year wedding anniversary at Camp serving the needs of our Camp Sunshine families.

Highlights of the week included a superbly prepared video production by the crew on hand that appeared on NESN and helped to bring the mission of Camp Sunshine into the households of thousands of New England families. Jay hosted an impromptu hockey clinic for the children, culminating in a spirited mini one-on-one competition between day camp groups. Kathryn and Jay also made themselves available posing for photos and autographing pictures to the delight of all.

Other NESN stars included Ray Guilbault (CEO/COO) and his wife Lynn Guilbault, Bryan Brennan, Matthew Bryan, Holly Burgess and her husband Robert Burgess, Jeffrey Cummings, Lauren Edwards, Veronica Gibeault and her husband Michael Gibeault, Nathan Haney, John O'Leary and his son Jack O'Leary, Justine Pouravelis, Paul Scannell and his daughter Caroline Scannell, Kevin Shea, Neil Fiedler, Peter Morton and his son Peter Morton Jr.

A great partnership developed between the Camp Sunshine family and the NESN family with the final score being a fun-filled and inspiring week for all. Camp Sunshine appreciates the opportunity to have worked with such a generous and caring organization and looks forward to teaming up with NESN again in the future. Tune in next year!

Story submitted by: Syndicated Camp Sunshine Sports columnist Michael A. Katz

FAMILY LETTER

Dear Mattina R. Proctor Foundation:

I wish to thank you for sponsoring our family this week, here at Camp Sunshine.

This is not our first time here at Camp. In fact we have become somewhat “regulars” here for “Renal Week.” This year however, it was particularly important that we come here. My 18 year old son, Sean, received his 2nd Kidney Transplant. I gave him one of my kidneys in 1997. He was able to get use of that kidney for 13 years. When the doctors told us he would need another

transplant to stay alive, we were devastated. The call went out to family and friends to try and find a suitable donor. Then one day, a co-worker and family friend of my sister-in-law came forward and asked to be tested as a donor. After many tests and several months passing by, it was determined that she was a good match. The surgery was then scheduled.



The Bedard Family during their visit to Camp Sunshine this summer.

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

On June 22nd of 2010, Sean had his 2nd transplant. The new kidney worked beautifully and right away. Sean was full of new energy and the color came back to his face (he was very pale prior). Julie M. (the donor) was doing well and all was looking great. Three weeks to the day of surgery, Sean woke up screaming in pain. His stomach hurt tremendously and he could not stand up straight. We rushed him into the hospital immediately. Blood tests and an ultrasound showed that he was bleeding internally. Sean was brought into surgery immediately and opened back up. He had developed a bleed from an unknown source and a pocket of blood that developed was getting bigger. The doctors removed just over a liter of blood from Sean’s abdomen area.

At one point the doctor feared that the new kidney may have to be removed in order to save his life. Fortunately that did not have to happen, but they never did find the source of the bleeding. He was given 13 units of blood both during and after the operations, as well as other blood products. We almost lost Sean again, if not for the tireless efforts of the many doctors and nurses.

When Sean started to recover and was able to comprehend what had happened, the first thing he said was “Dad, will I be out of the hospital in time to go to Camp Sunshine?” He almost died, was opened up again from his chest down to his waist for the 2nd time in three weeks, and he was worried about being able to go to Camp. THAT is what this place has come to mean to not only Sean, but to all of us.

We have many extended family members due to Camp Sunshine. We all keep in touch through phone calls, visits to each other where possible, and Facebook. When we do see each other at Camp, it’s like we never left. That is what Camp Sunshine has come to mean to us and many, many other families. Through the kindness and generosity of organizations such as yours, you have changed the lives of countless families such as ours, forever.

Forever Grateful, The Bedard Family
Roger, Adelaide, Derek, Bob, Sean, Nick & Shane

PSYCHOSOCIAL CORNER

A Salute to Camp Sunshine's One-On-One Volunteers

For more than 25 years, Joyce Grossman has been volunteering at Camp Sunshine as a “one-on-one” counselor to children requiring special attention. In 2010, more than 150 campers required these exceptional volunteers. Some may wonder how these volunteers muster the extra physical and emotional strength it takes to be a one-on-one counselor for a week.

We believe it's the Magic of Camp Sunshine...

Joyce, as with all of our one-on-one counselors, has a sincere concern for others, especially for children who have to face additional hurdles and challenges in life. She treats all one-on-one children as if they were her own child and doesn't focus on what the child is not able to do, but adopts an attitude that, “this child can do it; let's find a way!” She embraces the opportunity to work with and help the child with gusto.

Every one-on-one counselor strives to assist children in achieving their goals, provides for a comfortable transition into their peer group, and, most importantly, becomes an integral part of the child's growth and Camp Sunshine experience. Thanks to Joyce and all of our volunteers for providing a week full of love, patience, and understanding to each and every very special child.



Joyce Grossman and camper Sterling enjoying some one-on-one time during a recent Brain Tumor Session.

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

Volunteerism is Synonymous with Camp Sunshine

Volunteerism is, and always will be, one of the major components of Camp Sunshine. We have designed a model that reaches out for help from others, sometimes people we know well, sometimes those we have just met, allowing for an experience that is different and vibrant each time. Camp Sunshine runs “live” with a force of people ready and willing to “plunge” into each session. The willingness to help, coupled with the willingness to be helped creates a unique harmony.

Camp Sunshine stretches you, exhausts you, and allows you to find strengths in yourself that you may not have known before. It takes the energy of many to create the magical feeling encountered at Camp Sunshine. That magic is about the willingness to participate, to face the world head on, and to be open to laughter, even if the reality of living with an illness is not fun. It is about friendship and understanding, and making life a little better one experience at a time. The magic stays with you when you are home; it is the yearning to come back. Being part of the Camp Sunshine community permeates your soul.

Ultimately, at Camp Sunshine, everyone can volunteer. The spirit of volunteerism is pervasive; the family journey is intense, the energy remarkable. Camp Sunshine kids are growing up to be volunteers, and their presence is invaluable in instilling hope, whether they are survivors, siblings or bereaved siblings. There is a unique synergy when a parent who has “been there” is in the Tot Lot to take care of a baby newly diagnosed with cancer. Life becomes more comfortable within the context of the shared stories.

Anyone who has ever been employed by Camp understands that there are things that you do, and hours that you work, not because the system requires it, but because the moment demands it, yet another component of volunteerism. The moments at Camp Sunshine are filled with opportunities to go somewhere, where you may not have been before, emotionally or experientially, and to realize that it is okay to be there. There is much to tolerate in life; at Camp Sunshine you do not have to tolerate it alone.

I applaud each of you for your willingness to participate and your commitment to Camp Sunshine. I look forward to the experiences 2011 will bring with each of you.

Nancy Cincotta, MSW, MPhil
Psychosocial Director



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- Pressure Washer
- Golf Cart
- Birthday Candles
- Trash Bags
- Wii Games
- Duracell 9V Batteries
- Glass Beads (for adult bracelet making)
- Origami Paper

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



Camper Kerrin, posing for a photo with the Monsters, Inc. characters.

Photo courtesy of Camp Sunshine

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