

# PROMOTING JOY



FAMILY AND VOLUNTEER NEWS

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**WINTER 2017**

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



## WHAT A YEAR!

### MICHAEL KATZ - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There always seems to be something happening! The year began with a splash as we dove into 2016 with a chilly plunge into the Atlantic Ocean on New Year's Day at Coney Island. This would set off a series of plunges up and down the East coast (10 locations to be exact) that would allow me the opportunity to meet some really great people, re-connect with both past and present volunteers and Camp families, and have some fun, all while having the added benefit of being able to raise funds and awareness for Camp Sunshine.

The year glided along nicely into the winter programs with families enjoying dog sled rides from area mushers and then a trip to Shawnee Peak for some exciting skiing and snowboarding, where families were able to enjoy the slopes, thanks to the generosity of Karin and Matt Fronczka and Shawnee Peak owner Chet Homer. Spring and summer saw even more individuals and groups volunteering their time and talents to bring some "Sunshine" into the lives of others. Longtime Camp favorites, the Eagle Bass Masters Club took

the children fishing on four different occasions, the Mountain View Woodies Club took the Camp groups for a ride along Sebago Lake in their antique boats, and just for kicks, the group "Kids Kicking Cancer" came to Camp and taught karate. The kindness kept on coming as the Beech family filled the hallways with music, by teaching everyone to play the Orffs, Camp CenterStage entertained us with their interactive performance, and Big Nate cartoonist Lincoln Peirce drew out the artist in children with his drawing lessons.

Other surprises and special events included a day of refreshing smoothies served by our friends and largest corporate partner, Tropical Smoothie Café, a delicious Parents' dinner prepared by Texas Road House staff, and every day we were greeted by the aroma of fresh coffee donated by Dunkin' Donuts. The L.L. Bean Bootmobile pulled into Camp with some fun and games. Maine Game Wardens, the stars of the show North Woods Law, shared their stories with the children and then signed autographs and provided photo ops. Special guest Miss Maine, Marybeth Noonan, captured everyone's hearts when she agreed to attend the prom with one of our amazing campers... way to go, Jack and thank you, Miss Maine for being such an inspiration.

The highlight reel of amazing and courageous people and events continued into the summer as our Navy SEALs and Coast Guardsman once again joined together to undertake another arduous challenge on behalf of Camp, circumnavigating Sebago Lake... biking, running, swimming, and kayaking their way around the lake and into the hearts of Camp families and volunteers. Long distance runner Mike Brooks ran 7 marathons in 7 days to celebrate his 70th birthday and the never-quit attitude of Camp Sunshine families. Other volunteers laced up their sneakers and represented Camp in the Chicago and New York City Marathons, while some stayed a little closer to home and ran the Beach to Beacon in Cape Elizabeth.

Outside of Camp things were just as busy, with volunteers, families, and donors pitching in or spearheading events, such as golf tournaments, road races, evening galas, fashion shows, concerts, pumpkin festivals, and more. We were also fortunate that over the past year many of our "own" were recognized for their dedication and efforts in making a difference! Much deserved accolades went out to our Founder, Anna Gould, who in addition to receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Saint Josephs College, was recognized as one of "50 Mainers

charting the state's future;" Maureen McAllister was the recipient of COCA-I (Children's Oncology Camping Association-International) Spirit Award; Psychosocial Director Nancy Cincotta received the Lifetime Contribution Award from APOSW (The Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers); Medical Director Dr. Andrew Eichenfield was named a Samberg Scholar; Board President and longtime volunteer Al Ragucci was honored with the WCSH 6 Who Care Award; another longtime volunteer Andy Cesnickas shined with the Points of Light Award; and Board Member and Tropical Smoothie CEO Mike Rotondo was presented Camp Sunshine's Ray of Light Award.

Also receiving honors was Camp Sunshine itself, as the hard work and dedication of the staff was confirmed when Camp once again earned ACA accreditation, Charity Navigator's four-star rating, and for the first time was named a Gold Ribbon Camp from COCA-I.

Phew...What a Year! We are grateful for all the time, support and love that so many bestowed upon Camp Sunshine, its families, and especially the children. We are now getting ready for 2017 and look forward to what is sure to be another incredible year of making memories, brightening days, and gaining energy from the inspiration of others!

## GIVING MORE, GETTING MORE

BETH PACKARD - VOLUNTEER & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

It has been my privilege and good fortune to work at Camp Sunshine since 2001. In that time I have worn many hats and been involved in many programs and events, becoming more and more integrated with the volunteers. The promotion to becoming head of the volunteer program was an honor. Applications are not just names with contact information and references, but are people who are giving their valuable time to be part of the lives of our Camp families.

While performing my job, I have had the pleasure of engaging in numerous conversations with volunteers, listening to their stories, or even just answering questions. It always amazes

me that there are people who take the concept of a daily act of kindness, and live it for an entire session. Their compassion is rewarded too, with many volunteers sharing with me that they have in fact received much more positive energy than they think they have given. Navigating through the array of applications, I thank everyone for their patience and I am humbled by the many volunteers that so graciously want to share their time and talents. I look forward to reconnecting with our returning volunteers "old timers" and to meeting all the "newbies" finding Camp Sunshine for the first time in 2017.

## CAMP BEGINNINGS

ANNE FLETCHER, LCSW - FAMILY COORDINATOR

Like many of you, I knew Camp Sunshine was a special place before I fully understood why. I had researched Camp, spoken with friends and colleagues, and toured the campus. I noticed that people talked about Camp Sunshine in a familial way, as something they're part of but is bigger than themselves.

When I came on board as the Family Coordinator this spring, I became more familiar with the beautiful campus we have here on Sebago Lake. I noticed the quiet of the woods, the glimmer of the lake on a sunny day. I walked the brick walkway and saw the new garden taking shape.

In April, a bus of families from New York City pulled into campus and I saw the Camp in action for the first time. Volunteers in bright yellow t-shirts buzzed around, hauling families' suitcases to their rooms. That session, I just tried to take it all in. There was

so much to learn. I matched faces to the names of the parents I'd been coordinating with on the phone. I met volunteers who'd traveled from all over the country to share their time and talents.

Over the course of that session and the season that followed, I began to understand more about the meaning of Camp Sunshine. I saw a child lighting a wish boat for the first time. I heard parents describe the feeling of relief they get when walking through our yellow doors. I saw a volunteer adding "bling" to a child's wheelchair during arts and crafts. I noticed sparkles lingering after Nancy's groups. I felt the magic of a brief snowfall in the midst of a candlelighting ceremony.

Everyone has different kinds of special moments from Camp, but one thing is clear: at Camp Sunshine we are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

## COLD TOES, WARM HEARTS

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON!

Polar Dip season is upon us which means it's time to once again ask yourself... what am I really willing to do to help support Camp Sunshine? If the answer is just about anything, then don't put that swimsuit away quite yet!

Freezin' for a Reason events are planned as far south as Virginia and Maryland and as far north as Massachusetts and Maine with many opportunities in between. Things kicked off on New Year's Day at the iconic Coney Island Polar Dip in New York.

Be a part of the fun this winter by forming a Polar Dip Team, getting your school, business, or community involved or even starting your own polar dip by contacting the Camp Sunshine office at (207) 655-3800.

Last year's events raised in excess of \$350,000 for Camp Sunshine! Just imagine if even more families and volunteers got involved in 2017...

## OVERHEARD AT CAMP

### WINTER QUESTION

"The ice-skating rink becomes what in the summer?! A volleyball court?!"

### FAMILY INQUIRY

"Okay, so you do have electricity, running water, and bathrooms... inside?"

### VOLUNTEER MEETING

"Hey you in the yellow shirt!"

### EVERY WEEK

"What kind of animal is that mascot?"

### FRONT DESK

"I'm just asking for my son... there are no sharks in lakes... right?"

## 2017 SPECIAL EVENTS

### APRIL 2017

SEALs for Sunshine "Around the World Swim"  
- Coronado, CA -

### MONDAY, JUNE 12

Annual Camp Sunshine Golf Tournament  
- Point Sebago Resort -

### FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Tropical Smoothie Café's National Flip Flop Day  
- Locations across the United States -

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Maine Suitcase Party  
- Portland, ME -

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7-8

Monte Carlo Weekend  
- Point Sebago Resort -

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

L.L. Bean Pumpkin Festival  
- Freeport, ME -

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US:

tropicalCAFE Party City

new balance FOUNDATION

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

kw KELLERWILLIAMS

NAPA

Safelite AutoGlass

L.L.Bean

DUNKIN' DONUTS

Renys A MAINE ADVENTURE





A retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families

35 Acadia Road  
Casco, ME 04015

## 2017 PROGRAM DATES

Oncology.....	2/17-21	Lupus.....	7/30-8/4
Oncology.....	2/22-26	Oncology.....	8/6-11
Spring Spirit*.....	4/19-23	Nephrology / Solid Organ Transplant.....	8/13-18
Bereavement.....	5/4-8	Oncology - Off-Treatment.....	8/20-24
Memorial Day Getaway*.....	5/25-30	Oncology - Spanish-Speaking Families.....	8/26-30
Oncology.....	6/8-13	Labor Day Getaway*.....	8/31-9/5
Retinoblastoma & Other Eye Cancers.....	6/15-20	Sickle Cell.....	9/21-24
Fanconi Anemia.....	6/23-28	Brain Tumor.....	10/6-10
Oncology.....	7/2-7	Great Pumpkin Weekend*.....	10/27-30
Diamond-Blackfan Anemia.....	7/9-14	Bereavement.....	11/9-13
Hematology/Oncology.....	7/16-21	Holiday Weekend*.....	12/1-3
Low-Grade Brain Tumor.....	7/23-28		

\* Families of children with any diagnosis served by Camp Sunshine are encouraged to apply

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CAMPSUNSHINE.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPSUNSHINE.ORG)!**  
**(207) 655-3800 • [INFO@CAMPSUNSHINE.ORG](mailto:INFO@CAMPSUNSHINE.ORG)**