### Cancer takes a toll, not just on children who are diagnosed, but on their parents and siblings, too. For many of them, long hours at the hospital and a lingering fear become part of their daily routine.

Special Love gives these children and their families a welcome break from the stress and hardship illness can cause.

We offer a special brand of healing – the kind that restores joy and hope. We offer a community of caring like no other.

Special Love lets kids be kids. We keep them from feeling "different" because they're sick. Our camps, weekend getaways, and other programs help children and their families reconnect and have fun, with amazing results that last.

Special Love offers something for everyone: a menu of free programs that focus on the whole family, including young adults with cancer up to age 25, siblings of children with cancer, and parents.







**Special Love, Inc.** 117 Youth Development Ct. Winchester, VA 22602

31 Center Drive, Box 2062 Bethesda, MD 20892

888.930.2707 specialove.org

#### Name

i tailie	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone # (Cell or Home)	
Email	

Want to go

to camp?

Join our mailing

specialove.org.

list! Complete this

questionnaire and return to the top address at the

left or register online at

#### Patient Info

Name of patient	
Date of birth of patient	
Hospital	
Diagnosis	
Date of diagnosis	
Still on treatment?	

If no, what was off-treatment date?

Full names & birth dates of siblings \_

Parent/guardian names \_\_\_\_\_ Bone marrow transplant date \_\_\_\_\_

Want to... VOLUNTEER? specialove.org/volunteer DONATE? specialove.org/donate









## - Join our COMMUNITY OF CARING

for children with cancer and their families



# SING. SCREAM. JUMP. DANCE.



Kids do it all at camp, whether set in Virginia's beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains near the Appalachian Trail or on the gorgeous Breton Bay.

Buses filled with eager campers make their way to weeklong adventures for patients and their siblings. At weekend camps, patients bring their best friends, or they go skiing in the winter, or they bring their families to explore nature in the spring and carve pumpkins in the fall.



I truly believe what Special Love has done for our son will emerge from him as an adult, though he may never understand that. We are not only grateful for everything you have done for our children, but we know, beyond doubt, that medical treatment alone did not save our son. - Father, Stafford, VA



But camp is more than a good time. At Camp Fantastic, it's a place where kids with cancer don't have to feel funny if their hair is thin, their skin is pale, or they just don't feel well today. The other campers understand – because they've had cancer, too. At BRASS Camp for siblings, the kids are comfortable sharing how their families have changed as parents focus their time on caring for an ill brother or sister. Or they don't have to talk about it at all. The goal is to relax and grow stronger.

C One of my favorite memories is of our daughter getting off the bus... She was smiling so big and her teeth were purple from all the grape juice, her hair was a mess, and 90 percent of her clothes were still packed and unused in her suitcase. What a wonderful time! — Parent





Since Special Love created our hallmark summer camp in 1983, it's grown into year-round activities and events that celebrate our campers and create a vast and closely knit community of families.

### More than camp.

Special Love also offers post-secondary education scholarships for young adults who've conquered cancer and now are ready to move on to the next phase of their lives. And we provide **emergency financial** assistance - for non-medical bills like utilities and auto maintenance - to help families struggling with the economic trials that often come with a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

Find out more about our many programs at specialove.org.

## YOU CAN HELP KIDS LIVE LOUD.

### Give the gift of laughter and friendship.

Your contribution to Special Love will help sustain children and families during their most difficult times. Make a donation online at specialove.org/donate.

### Become a volunteer.

Special Love volunteers are cancer survivors, 4-H counselors, teachers, members of community groups, corporate executives, and families of children with cancer. They have one thing in common: They feel privileged to be part of this unique community.

(I was blessed the day I joined the Special Love family. I'm looking forward to 25 more years of campfires, crazy songs, pillow fights, tea parties, great outfits ... and incredible examples of strength, courage, and hope. )) - Special Love volunteer



We knew that with you she would be safe, with you she would be normal, and with you she might have a few days of putting this relapse news on a back burner. Although it was not an easy decision, we knew what the answer should be if at all possible – GO TO CAMP! Your gift of back-to-back, concentrated, fun-filled days cannot be replaced.

