



camp rainbow

Serving children with cancer
and blood-related disorders

Volume 6: Fall 2014



OUR MISSION: The Camp Rainbow Foundation provides free camping experiences to children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases and disorders. We provide a recreational and nurturing environment for campers and their families where the children can create positive memories, build self-esteem, make new friends and are relieved of the everyday stresses caused by their illness.

IN THIS EDITION

- Page 1
President's Message
- Page 2
Parent's Perspective
- Page 3
Family Camp Recap
- Page 4
Easy Ways to Help Camp Rainbow;
Shout Out to Our Supporters
- Page 5
Kids Helping Kids
- Page 6
Walk-a-Thon 2014
- Page 7
Summer Camp by the Numbers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Mark Kronemer

"Whatever the mind can conceive and believe it can achieve; and the starting point of all achievement is DESIRE."

-Napoleon Hill

This powerful quote encompasses many of my own sentiments with regard to the Camp Rainbow Foundation. The conception of an idea 27 years ago has blossomed upon the foundation of believing in our mission; and by dedicating time and energy as a community, we have achieved more than any of us ever dreamed possible.

Knowing that we are helping so many children and their families maintain hope, while having fun in the process, is a gift I appreciate each and every day. I feel fortunate to have been amply blessed in my life, and the ability to pay this forward is why I am proud to serve as President of our Foundation.

2014 has brought many positive dynamics into play for Camp Rainbow, all of which are the result of teamwork and energetic cooperation on the part of our tireless staff, volunteers and donors. Our successful addition of Camp Rainbow Family Camp helped us to realize the importance of bringing families together, sharing the power of positive healing.

By becoming involved in Camp Rainbow, I learn the meaning of a positive attitude every time I interact with a laughing camper, hug an appreciative parent, or thank a gracious volunteer. These individuals have wrestled with circumstances many of us may never fully understand, yet every one of them has chosen an attitude that compels me to continue pursuing our dreams, fulfilling our mission, and sharing the desire with our community.



"Like Us" on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
@CampRainbow_STL



“I wanted to cry seeing my child so happy. This is really the first time they’ve been this happy.”

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Kronemer - President
 Matt McClelland - Vice President
 Carly Scaduto - Secretary
 Penny Cutrell - Treasurer
 Laura Kaufman - Member-at-Large
 Bill Wolff - Member-at-Large
 Allen Brockman - President Emeritus

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Robert Bergamini, Barry Brimer, Ronnie Brockman, Steven Brockman, Brett Bunsick, Larry Glenn, Nicole Gray, John Greeson, Debbie Lefton, Beth Lehrer, Neil Marglous, Mary Schroeder, Bert Schweizer III, Chris Southerland

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Robert Bergamini, Medical Director
 Dr. Rob Hanson
 Dr. Frederick Huang
 Dr. Christopher Hugge
 Jamie Krause, RN
 Susanne Rosenberg, RN, MSN
 Abigail Sharamitaro, PNP

STAFF

Debbi Braunstein - Executive Director
 MaChelle Raniszkeski - Admin. Assistant

FOUNDERS

Allen & Ronnie Brockman

A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Becky Guinta

Recently our son Luke was talking with a friend who was angry because she asked for an iPhone for her 10th birthday but didn’t get one. “That’s not so bad,” he told her. “For my 10th birthday I got cancer.” The words “your son has lymphoma” immediately changed our lives; and what followed the next two years is nothing you can imagine. However, along this difficult journey we were introduced to the Camp Rainbow Foundation and its programs.

Over Labor Day weekend we attended their first Family Camp and the time together was invaluable. The ages of our kids span 10 years, and finding activities we can do as a family is challenging even before you add the demands of childhood cancer. Family Camp provided us the perfect opportunity to exchange chores of everyday life for the ability to see our kids smile from ear-to-ear as they swam in the lake, scaled a 100-foot climbing structure, galloped on horseback and rode on a banana boat! Family Camp offered the perfect balance between family and independent time, and when our kids were off with their groups my husband and I found ourselves windsurfing and sailing. Over the weekend we also had the opportunity to bond with other families who understood what we were going through. We are eternally grateful for the time spent at Family Camp and the positive memories it created.

Luke also attended Summer Overnight Camp. I was both happy and concerned for this, especially since my child has significant medical needs. But my concerns were eased quickly once we realized he was being given the opportunity to forget he had cancer and experience the same things kids without cancer do at camp, under the watchful eye of a dedicated medical staff. My heart swelled with gratitude upon meeting his counselor, also a lymphoma survivor. During camp he talked with other survivors to find out how to meet new challenges head-on as he approached the end of his treatment. While Luke was enjoying camp, we were enjoying a week respite from medications and hospital visits and lavishing some much needed attention on Luke’s siblings. We missed Luke terribly, but it was a win-win situation for all.

Cancer has stolen so much from us; however, Camp Rainbow has restored many of these opportunities for our family and has left us with fantastic memories!



“I’ve truly never been as happy as I am after attending camp. Thank you for all your hard work & acceptance.”

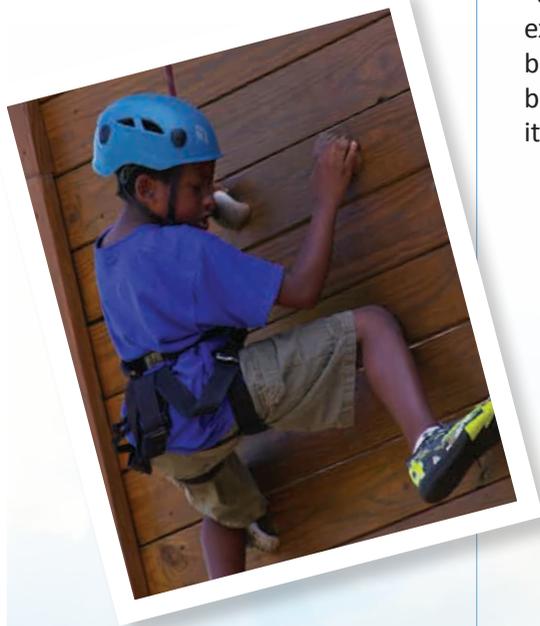
FAMILY CAMP: A MUCH-NEEDED GETAWAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Over Labor Day weekend, 34 families gathered at the YMCA’s Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri for Camp Rainbow’s first annual Family Camp. Although a thunderstorm threatened from miles away, Co-Director Glenn Dummerth said the weather couldn’t have been more perfect for the full weekend of activities.

From the minute the families arrived, Camp Rainbow Family Camp volunteers were ready to make the weekend a special one for everyone. “We have a lot of families that come to volunteer for the weekend,” said Dummerth. “It is great to see families helping families.”

From babies to parents, Camp Rainbow Family Camp had a weekend full of fun activities for the whole family, including horseback riding, ropes course, alpine tours, pontoon rides, archery, put-put, shuffle board, human foosball, a beach party, a carnival, crafts, movie night, and much more.

“Our Family Camp Families are always so appreciative of this mini getaway,” explained Dummerth. “When you see the kids having a blast and the parents beaming, you know they needed something like this. We do it for the families because we have been there and it isn’t fun but we know Family Camp can make it more bearable.”





WANT TO FEEL GREAT? EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP CAMP RAINBOW



ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT!

The **SOUND ROOM** has offered to match charitable donations made from now **until November 30, 2014** up to \$15,000. By turning \$15,000 into \$30,000 *we will fulfill a child's dream together.* To donate please visit our website at www.camprainbow.com and click the "**Donate**" box or you can send checks with "**matching**" in the memo to the camp office.

The Camp Rainbow Foundation is now enrolled in the **Schnuck's eScript Community Card** program. By showing this free, easy-to-obtain card to the cashier at check-out each time you shop, Schnuck's will happily donate a percentage of your total bill to our Foundation.

We are also enrolled in **Prairie Farms' new "Our Caps, Your Cause"** program. Every Prairie Farms product you purchase that bears this phrase stamped on the lid will generate a donation from the company to the Camp Rainbow Foundation. Bone up on your dairy intake and make a difference in more than just your health!

Amazon.com has created a program to help fundraising efforts by donating a percentage of all purchases to one's charity of choice. Visit AmazonSmile.com for details, and be sure to keep this in mind when holiday shopping time rolls around!

SHOUT OUT TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thanks to **The St. Louis Feed Club** and **Teamsters Local 688** for holding golf tournaments to benefit the Camp Rainbow Foundation

Thanks to **NFTY Missouri Valley** for their ongoing financial support

The Proceeds from These Fundraisers Went to the Camp Rainbow Foundation:

Stifel Jeans Day

Race to Cure Lymphoma Cinco K Mayo Race

Lauren Dooley's 4th Birthday Fundraiser

St. Louis BBQ Society Fundraiser

We also thank **Brentwood Middle School** for donating books and supplies for Summer Camp, **Baskets of Hope** for donating bags filled with toys, books and much needed supplies for Family Camp, **Green Pines Girl Scout Troops** that donated toys for Family Camp carnival night, and **Parkway West High School** for donating camp supplies.



Joey Flom donated 11 centerpieces full of gifts for Camp Rainbow Programs in addition to portion of his Bar Mitzvah gift.



“Thank you for making camp possible. I have made so many friends and learned so much about myself.”

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Hannah Suffian

This past year, I was honored to become a Bat Mitzvah. An important part of the Bat Mitzvah experience is performing community service. Since summer camp is such an important part of my life, I chose to focus on the Camp Rainbow Foundation and its Summer Camp programs.

At the camp I attend every summer, duct tape art is a fun activity that we like to do so I asked everyone who attended my Bat Mitzvah to bring a roll of duct tape with them. In June, I took all the duct tape to Camp Rainbow Summer Camp and taught a group of campers how to make a duct tape pouch for a choice activity.

The campers loved learning how to make something out of duct tape and the camp kept hundreds of extra rolls so that kids who attend Camp Rainbow programs can enjoy this activity for years to come. I am so thankful to my friends and family who brought the colorful rolls of duct tape to my Bat Mitzvah, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to help other kids enjoy summer camp as much as I do.

THANKS TO
BLAIR DUBINSKY

WHO DONATED
A PORTION
OF HER BAT
MITZVAH GIFT!

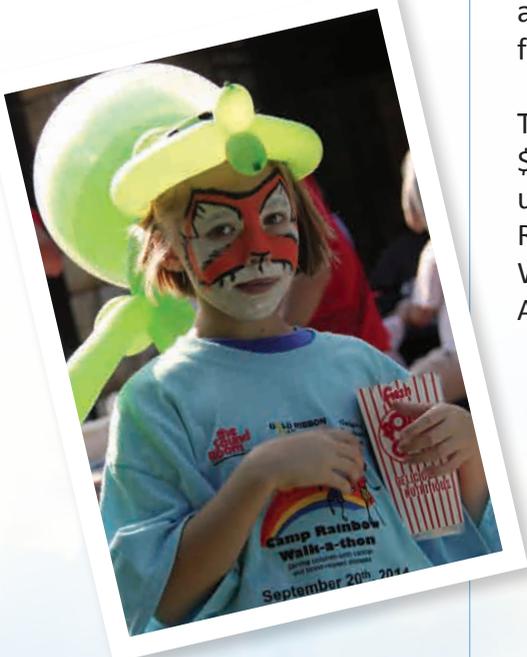


SAVE THE DATE

Trivia Night is March 28, 2015
Walk-A-Thon is August 29, 2015

MORE CAMP RAINBOW PROGRAMS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER IN 2015!

Teen Camp - March 20th - March 22nd
Overnight Camp - June 7th - June 12th
Day Camp - June 8th - June 12th
Family Camp - September 4th - September 7th
Camp-In - March, July/August, October/November



“Keep changing lives because without you I wouldn’t be at this camp. It made a great impact.”

CAMP RAINBOW WALK-A-THON 2014

Early on the morning of September 20th, a crystal-clear sky greeted over 300 campers, families, and supporters as we gathered in Tilles Park for our 4th Annual Walk-a-Thon. Amidst good music, delicious snacks, games, a tractor-pulled train and face-painting, a good time was had by all. Before the morning concluded we heard from two of our survivor camper/counselors, Kelly Eastman and Magda Lijowska. Each shared a few words about their experiences at various Camp Rainbow Programs and reinforced why our organization is strongly heading into its 28th year.

Promptly at 9:00 am, our MC Andy Strickland sent a sea of blue tee-shirts, proclaiming September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, on foot, in strollers, and even on parents’ shoulders onto the 1 mile path. One of the highlights of the morning were the three raffle winners who walked away with a signed baseball from Matt Carpenter, a Mizzou gift basket, a signed David Freese jersey and recently worn and signed hockey gloves from Alex Steen.

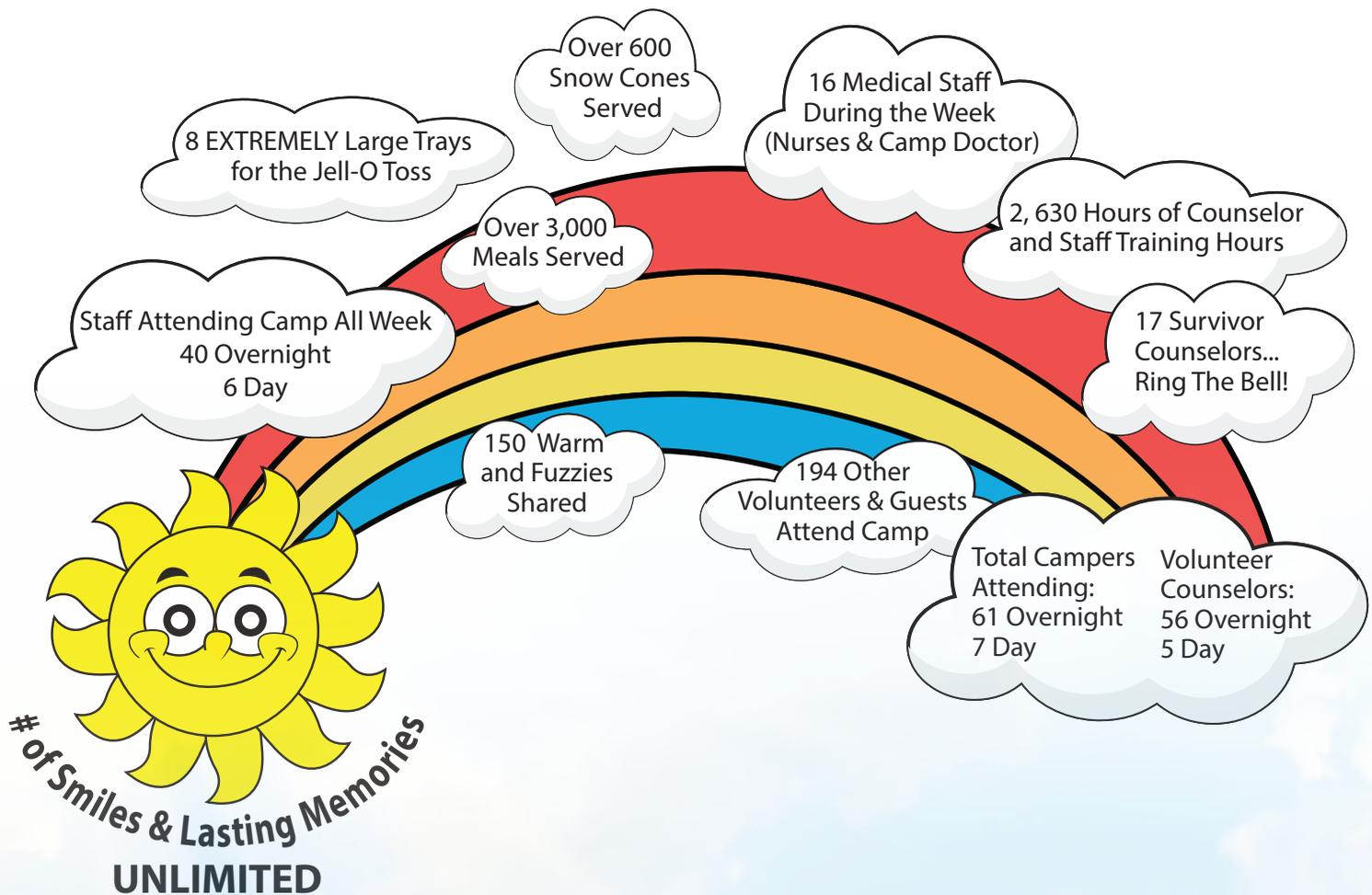
Thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful supporters we raised over \$21,000 for the Camp Rainbow Foundation. If you were unable to join us this year, there will be many other chances to catch up with the Camp Rainbow Foundation for more fun and excitement throughout the year. Watch our website, www.camprainbow.com, for event updates! As always, we truly appreciate your support!





“As an oncology nurse, seeing the kids we treat smiling, dancing singing & having fun at camp is priceless.”

SUMMER CAMP BY THE NUMBERS...





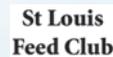
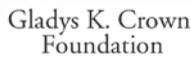
camp rainbow

Serving children with cancer
and blood-related disorders

The Camp Rainbow Foundation is one of 87 members of COCA-I (Children's Oncology Camping Association, International), whose mission is to strengthen the international community of camps for children with cancer and their families through networking, advocacy, education and other resources. Camp Rainbow has been awarded the Gold Ribbon Camp designation, an honor bestowed upon camps which demonstrate a high level of commitment to serving children with cancer and their families for the third consecutive year.



CO-SPONSORS OF THE CAMP RAINBOW FOUNDATION INCLUDE:



Camp Rainbow Foundation
13990 Olive Blvd., Suite 203-3
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017