

Then and Now Erin Gibson Hulseley has been a regular at Camp Sunshine since she was seven. **Page 3**

Swimming for Camp Sunshine The Brookwood Hills Bullfrogs turn laps into cash at their annual fundraiser. **Page 4**

Paying it Forward Bryan Ferris is a tireless volunteer for Camp Sunshine. **Page 8**

CAMP SUNSHINE



POSTCARDS

Making Connections Through Family Camp

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, a family's world is turned upside down, and the word "normal" takes on new meaning. Giving families the opportunity to connect with others who understand the challenges of caring for a child with cancer is what Family Camp is all about. Below you'll hear from two mothers who call Family Camp "life changing."

THE GRIMM FAMILY

After a weekend at Family Camp, Amy Grimm didn't want to leave. "It was amazing and life-changing for me," Amy says. "I felt so free, happy and relaxed being there. The activities for children and adults were great, and the team-building activities helped break the ice in meeting other parents who were going through the same thing."

Last October, the Grimm's 8-year-old daughter, Gabriella, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Suddenly the family – which includes 4-year-old Darrow and husband Ray – was launched into a journey that included eight months of treatment. During the first four months, Gabriella spent 32 days at Scottish Rite.

It was at the hospital that Amy learned about Camp Sunshine. They attended two Spa Sydell nights at Camp Sunshine House before going to their first Family Camp in April. Amy and Ray, who didn't know quite what to expect, hoped that attending the camp as a family would get Gabriella interested in summer camp.

The weekend went well beyond their expectations. "This place changed my life and brought new insight into our journey," Amy says. "It gave us time together without the stress of daily life and things that get in the way of family time."

She says she is also grateful for the supportive and comforting environment that Family Camp provides. "I met people from all different places and backgrounds," she says. "Even though we may not have spoken with everyone there, I consider them family."

Gabriella is now in remission and undergoing a rigorous maintenance program to keep the cancer at bay. And her parents' original goal for attending Family Camp was achieved: She attended her first junior camp this summer.

THE BROWN FAMILY

One of the families the Grimms may have run into is Shavonn Brown and her children, Justice and Arianna. Since 2012, the Browns have been to six Family Camps.

"It's like going to Disney World," Shavonn says. "The activities, the camaraderie, it is the best thing ever!"

The Brown's first experience at Family Camp was transformative

Continued on Page 5



Held at Camp Twin Lakes–Rutledge, Camp Sunshine offers Family Camp four times a year, twice in the spring and twice in the fall. Fall Family Camp dates:

October 2-4 and October 9-11





DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,

I remember attending Camp Sunshine's first Family Camp in 1987. I was amazed watching the powerful transformations as families connected with others sharing the challenges of childhood cancer. Family Camp is now a longstanding Camp Sunshine tradition and its community of hope and shared experiences is as strong today as ever. Family Camp is also often a first introduction to Camp Sunshine for so many families.

In this issue of Postcards, you'll hear from two mothers, Amy Grimm and Shavonn Brown, who share how their experience at Family Camp was "life changing." Shavonn talks of how the weekend transformed the attitude of her son,

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Sunshine enriches the lives of Georgia's children with cancer and their families through recreational, educational and support programs.

Justice, returning him "to his old self." And Amy, whose daughter Gabriella was in treatment for ALL, found great comfort connecting with other parents who were also experiencing their child's cancer journey.

Our volunteer spotlight shines on the unstoppable Bryan Ferris, who makes it a personal goal to never miss a Camp Sunshine camp, whether it's a week in the summer or weekends throughout the year. Beyond the countless hours Bryan has given over the years, he has also made a lifetime commitment through his involvement in the Circle of Sunshine.

Another volunteer who never misses a camp – no matter what's going on in her life – is Erin Gibson Hulsey, our Then and Now profile. Erin first heard about Camp Sunshine when she was being treated for Leukemia at age five and was deeply disappointed when she learned she had to wait two years to attend. She came the summer of 1987 and has been every summer since.

In this issue we acknowledge our many corporate sponsors who made our event, *Camp Sunshine Presents James & the Giant Peach*, at the Alliance Theatre such a tremendous success! We also applaud the efforts of a special group of kids, the Brookwood Hills Bullfrogs swim team, whose annual swim-a-thon raises money for Camp Sunshine.

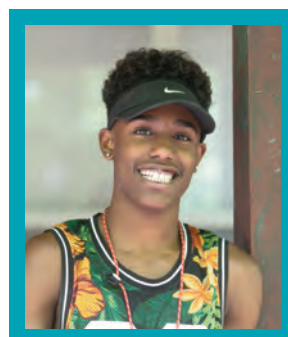
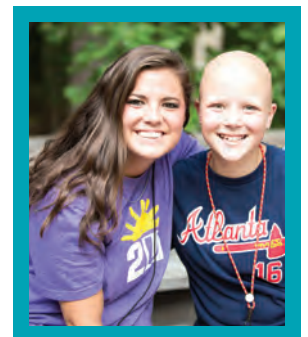
I am grateful for those who continue to keep Camp Sunshine at the top of their priority giving list both in time and resources.
– Sally Hale, Executive Director

Spread the Sunshine Through Monthly Giving

Want to help Camp Sunshine provide great programs *throughout the year*? Then consider giving throughout the year. Simply designate a monthly gift through our website, www.mycampsunshine.com, by clicking on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. It's easy, convenient and so effective in helping us support children with cancer and their families all year long. You can choose a gift of any size and help provide a steady source of income to Camp Sunshine.

If you'd prefer to not go through the website, consider sending a contribution to us on a monthly basis. And be sure to ask your employer about Corporate Matching to make your gift go even further.

Supporting Camp Sunshine through monthly giving is just another way to stay connected with Camp Sunshine and help spread out the sunshine through the entire year! ✨





THEN & NOW

Erin's Story



“There has hardly been a milestone in my life that isn’t wrapped up in Camp Sunshine in some way. I often tell people that it is the most restorative and refreshing place I can imagine, both as a camper and a counselor.”

– Erin

When Erin Gibson Hulsey was at Scottish Rite Hospital in 1985 receiving treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), she had an important goal in mind: to attend Camp Sunshine.

“Someone had placed a Camp Sunshine yearbook in my hands and I carefully and longingly studied every black and white photo,” Erin recalls. “The children and teens were laughing and messy and outdoors, and I thought, ‘where could I sign up?’”

Erin, who was just five at the time, was crushed when she learned that campers had to be at least seven years old to attend. She became fixated on the future date when she could go to camp, often asking the staff, “Are you sure I can’t go?”

“I don’t think I wavered once,” says Erin, who was in treatment for three years and has been cancer free ever since. “I was

looking forward to a week away from the hospital, labs and fistfuls of pills.”

In 1987, when she was finally old enough, she realized her dream of going to Camp Sunshine, creating life-long memories and making new friends. And



Erin in 1987 (middle) with two friends at camp

she’s been every year since, first as a camper, and then as a volunteer. She returned this summer for her 29th year.

“Camp means so much to me,” Erin says. “There has hardly been a milestone in my life that isn’t wrapped up in Camp Sunshine in some way. I often tell people that it is the most restorative and refreshing place I can imagine, both as a camper and a counselor.”

Erin graduated from Berry College in 2002 and has worked in public relations

for a German company and as a sixth grade language arts teacher. She married her husband, Logan, in 2006, and says it was part of their “unspoken vows” that she continue to volunteer at summer camp for a week as well as family camp for two

weekends a year – no matter where they were living or how many children they had.

Logan supports that and takes a week off from work to care for their two children, Amelia, 5, and Caleb, 2, when Erin is at summer camp. Over the years, nothing has stopped her, even her two pregnancies.

In fact, in 2010 she had to leave camp early to come home to deliver Amelia, who was born ahead of schedule.

Erin considers it a gift to volunteer, and says the experience gets better every year.

“It is so amazing to be able to watch kids thrive,” she says, “like seeing a non-swimmer learn how to swim, or describing fireworks to a blind child. To observe those miracles while helping the camp run smoothly means so much to me. I am honored to be a part of that team.”★

Did You Know...

Twenty-four percent of Camp Sunshine’s 2015 summer camp volunteers are former campers, like Erin.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Brookwood Hills Swims for Camp Sunshine

On May 30, over 100 members of the Brookwood Hills swim team – known as the “Bullfrogs” – were traversing the lanes of the swimming pool not in a race, but in efforts to raise money for Camp Sunshine.

For the last 12 years, the Brookwood Hills swim team has held a Swim-a-Thon, earning money for each lap they swim.

“We ask swimmers to go out and get pledges from friends and families,” says Brookwood Hills swim coach Tim Storsteen. “Then on the day of the swim-a-thon, the swimmers have two hours to complete as many laps as possible in that time frame. Tim says this year there was a six-year-old girl who completed over 100 laps (about a mile and a half) and two 11-year-olds who swam 248 laps each (about three-and-half miles) in two hours. “It’s a great event for everyone,” Tim says.

The Swim-a-Thon started as a fun way for the swimmers to raise money for charity. After two Brookwood Hills families were touched by childhood cancer several years ago, Tim decided to direct the funds towards Camp Sunshine.

“I felt a closer connection to Camp Sunshine than the other charities we had raised money for because we had families who were directly affected by the generosity of the organization,” he says.

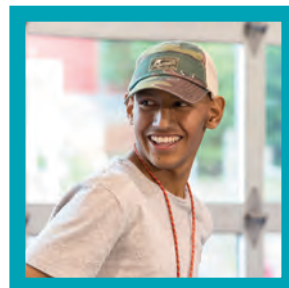
“We also have a family that volunteers their time each summer to camp. So, it just felt right that our community could reach out and help Camp Sunshine.”

Last year the team raised just over \$4,700 and this year the swimmers surpassed that by bringing in \$6,100.

“This swim team is really a great program and schedules many social activities beyond just practices and meets,” says Mary Clancy Peak, chair of the Swim-a-Thon. “This is the one activity that helps the kids give back to the community.”

They also had fun while doing it. Mary Clancy worked with Chick-fil-A, Inc. to get chicken biscuits and a prize basket donated, and the Chick-fil-A at Peachtree and Collier also brought the Chick-fil-A cow for photo ops and treated the participants to plush cows and free sandwich offers.

“Also, we had a tie-dye party after the event for the kids to extend the fun,” Mary Clancy says. “Prizes for the most money raised were Chick-fil-A and Coca-Cola gift baskets. Camp Sunshine and the swim team also provided prizes for most laps and other fun categories. It was a great success and we’ve already started thinking about how we can make next year’s event even better!”*



Go Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

Five Ways to Go Gold

- ☀ Turn your social media profile “Gold” for September – use Camp Sunshine’s social media resources to help
- ☀ Tweet using #gogold
- ☀ Plan a gold-themed fundraiser, birthday party or awareness-building event like a bake sale, fun run or performance
- ☀ Decorate your office, mailbox, car antenna or baby stroller with a gold ribbon
- ☀ Make a donation to Camp Sunshine in honor or memory of someone you care about

Check out Camp Sunshine’s Pinterest boards for inspiration to “Go Gold” www.pinterest.com/mycampsunshine

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Camp Sunshine is asking friends and supporters to *go gold* to help raise awareness and resources. From tying a gold ribbon on your mailbox to hanging a workplace banner to planning a fundraiser to making a financial donation, you can join Camp Sunshine in taking action against childhood cancer.

Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the U.S. with more than 10,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Approximately 430 children in Georgia are diagnosed with cancer each year. With your help, we can be a driving force in increasing awareness of childhood cancer and enhancing financial support for children fighting this disease – and the clinicians and researchers making inroads against it.

For more information about how you can make a difference, visit mycampsunshine.com. Go gold in September, and help beat childhood cancer! *

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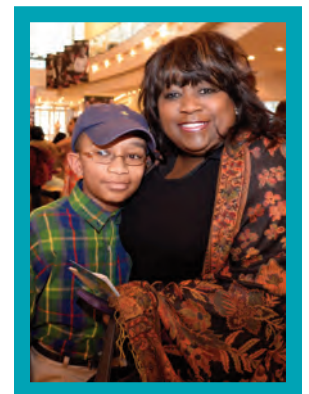
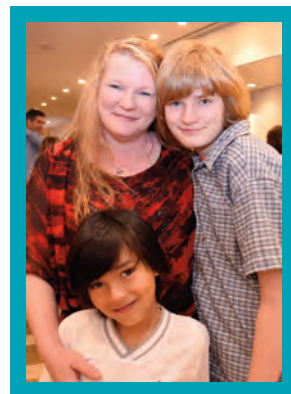
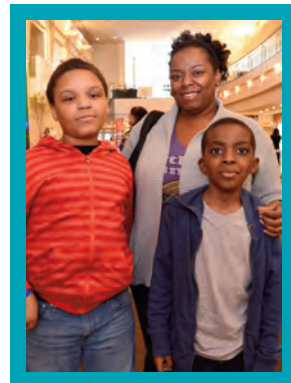
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“James and the Giant Peach” Wows Camp Families

On March 22, Camp Sunshine campers, families and supporters gathered for a delightful afternoon at the Alliance Theatre to enjoy two performances of “James and the Giant Peach.” Audiences reveled in the story of James’s amazing journey in a larger-than-life enchanted peach as it unfolded before them. It is a story that speaks so much to what campers experience at Camp Sunshine: overcoming fears, trying new things and finding a place where you belong! Over 350 Camp Sunshine campers and family members attended the performances, along with hundreds of other guests and friends.

The event raised more than \$187,000 for Camp Sunshine, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. We are so grateful to the corporations and individuals, such as our Presenting Sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, (listed at left) who helped us bring this unique fundraiser to fruition. Giving Camp Sunshine families an opportunity to experience the theatre truly makes this a distinctive special event. Every level of sponsor and every host committee member is essential to its success.

Camp Sunshine is excited to continue this wonderful tradition with the Alliance Theatre in 2016! ✨



Making Connections Through Family Camp, continued from page 1

for the entire family, especially 10-year-old Justice, who was undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

“After his second surgery, he was mad and depressed,” Shavonn recalls. “It was heartbreaking to watch.” She was looking for something positive that would lift his spirits, and thought Family Camp would be just the thing.

She was right. “It turned his mood around,” she says. “He was so happy on his first day. He didn’t have to explain about not having any hair or why he didn’t want to be out in the sun. Nobody made it a big deal. We were just a normal family. After that weekend, he was back to being himself.”

Justice, who has been cancer-free for two years, has been a regular at summer

camp. His younger sister Arianna attends Sibling Camps. And having just turned 13, he’s looking forward to Camp Sunshine’s Teen Retreat.

Still, Family Camp is a favorite of the Brown Family.

“Family Camp saved us during our saddest time ever,” Shavonn says, “and made things so much better.” ✨



CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

For any House program, we ask that you RSVP to 404-325-7979

SEPTEMBER 2015

SPA SYDELL NIGHT At Camp Sunshine House

September 14 and November 9
6:00-8:00 PM
Call to RSVP

Come have dinner and be pampered by the talented professionals from Spa SydeLL.

PRESCHOOL MUSIC CLASS

2nd and 4th Wednesday each month
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Call to RSVP

Join us for music class and lunch. For campers birth-6 years of age and their preschool age siblings.

WHAT'S NEXT? Planning for College

PROGRAM FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

September
6:00 PM-7:30 PM
Camp Sunshine House

Featured Speaker: Dave Graves, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, Operations & Evaluation, University of Georgia

Topics to Include:

- Navigating Admission Process
- Getting into the College of Your Choice
- Scholarships for Survivors

RSVP required. Call (404) 325-7979

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	2 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/SR	3 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)	8	9 Pre-School Music Class	10	11	12 Preschool Apple Orchard Program Wild Adventures in Valdosta
13	14 Spa SydeLL Night	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Pre-School Music Class	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	2 Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	10
11	12	13	14 Pre-School Music Class	15	16 Remembering the Sunshine Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	17
18 NE Georgia Regional Program	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Fall Festival	26	27	28 Pre-School Music Class	29	30	31



Connect with Camp Sunshine online to stay up to date on the latest news and happenings! Join us at www.facebook.com/campsunshine, twitter.com/mycampsunshine, [Pinterest.com/mycampsunshine](https://www.pinterest.com/mycampsunshine) and [Instagram.com/mycampsunshine](https://www.instagram.com/mycampsunshine)



For any House program, we ask that you RSVP to 404-325-7979

NOVEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Seasonal Sunshine Thanksgiving Family Night	4 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/SR	5 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	6	7
8	9 Spa Sydell Night	10 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	11 Pre-School Music Class	12	13 Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 School Age Overnight
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)	27	28
29	30					

SAVE THESE DATES

January 15-16, 2016

Winter Dance and Lock In

March 20, 2016

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe at the Alliance Theatre

March 19, 2016

Spring Fling for Preschool families

SPECIAL EVENTS

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Coffee proceeds at all RaceTrac gas stations in Georgia will benefit Camp Sunshine. Watch for the announcement for dates on FaceBook!

REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

We now provide programs in all areas of the state in addition to programs in the Metro Atlanta area. Check out our website www.mycampsunshine.com, the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.

DECEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	2 Sunshine 2 U at AFLAC Cancer Center/SR	3 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	4	5
6	7	8	9 Pre-School Music Class	10	11	12
13 Holiday Party at Camp Sunshine House	14	15	16	17 Young Adult Holiday Party at Camp Sunshine House	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30	31		



CAMP SUNSHINE®

A ray of hope for children with cancer.™

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Or call 404-325-7979, ext. 21
Or go to www.mycampsunshine.com

Camp Sunshine Postcards is published three times annually for friends and supporters of Camp Sunshine.

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CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Living Life to Give Back



At the beginning of each year, Bryan Ferris fills in his calendar with Camp Sunshine dates: Family Camps, Sibling Camps and the week of Teen Camp.

"Volunteering at Camp Sunshine is such an important part of my life that I set those dates in first," Bryan says. "Then

everything else falls into place around those dates. I can miss out on other things, but I don't want to lose my spot at camp."

Bryan has held that spot since 2004, when a friend suggested he volunteer at Camp Sunshine. Until then, he'd been spending his volunteer hours coaching 9- and 10-year-olds in swimming, an activity he did for 15 years.

"I watched those kids grow up," he says, "and I really didn't realize I was having an impact on them until their parents told me later. So, as I was transitioning out of swimming, I was looking for an opportunity to continue to make an impact on kids."

He worked first at Camp Sunshine's Teen Retreat, and then moved to Summer Camp, where he's been a counselor in Cabin 14 with kids age 15

to 18. He also volunteers at the various weekend camps throughout the year.

"The best thing about volunteering at Camp Sunshine is the opportunity you have to make a positive impact in a multitude of ways," says Bryan. "You build relationships, not just with the campers, but with the counselors as well. I look at it as my way to pay it forward."

As much time as Bryan gives to Camp Sunshine, he says he gets back more than he gives. "The environment at camp is so positive and geared towards letting kids reclaim their lives as kids versus patients," he says. "There are campers who just blow you away with their incredible outlook on life. That changes your perspective."

Beyond giving his time, Bryan has made plans to give his money to Camp Sunshine after he's gone. He is a member of Circle of Sunshine, Camp Sunshine's planned giving program, which encourages individuals to include Camp Sunshine in their estate planning.

"I know I am giving to an organization that will put the gift to good use, and I am confident they will be good stewards of my money," he says. "It's important to me to have an impact. Leaving money to Camp Sunshine will be that last opportunity to have an impact."*

