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LOVED ONES  
HOW MUCH YOU CARE –  
EVERY DAY**

**P**urchase an engraved brick or stone paver and add a permanent message of caring, hope or inspiration to our Brick Walkway at Camp Sunshine House.

Located adjacent to our playground, the walkway and plaza are an important, special and lasting part of our landscaping. Pay tribute to someone whose life has been touched by Camp Sunshine, while supporting our year-round programs. Complete this order form and mail with your check (payable to Camp Sunshine) to: Camp Sunshine, 1850 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033.





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Sibling Closeness Sets Cathy on Volunteer Path

Growing up the only girl among three brothers, Cathy Loibl has always felt a special closeness to her siblings. The bond served the family well when her younger brother Matt was diagnosed eight years ago at age 10 with an osteosarcoma. "We pulled together more than ever – we had to," Cathy recalled.



Cathy, who was 13 at the time, remembers the family being pulled into an unfamiliar world of chemotherapy, surgical procedures and hospital stays. She also remembers learning about Camp Sunshine during one of Matt's hospitalizations. Cathy was the first to participate, attending Sibling Camp. "I came back and told my family *we have to go to Family Camp*. I was young, but I just knew this was an amazing place. After that very first Sibling Camp, I was hooked," she said. "Camp Sunshine was the place for me – and for us."

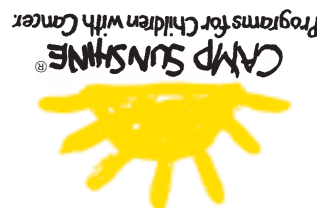
The family took Cathy's advice and attended Family Camp together, loved it, and returned again and again. Matt participated in Summer Camp and then never missed a year. Cathy attended Sibling Camp for four years: "I looked

forward to that weekend all year long." She enjoyed the camp activities and appreciated learning about what her brother was facing. Even more, Sibling Camp was a chance for Cathy simply to be herself. "Everyone there is going through the same thing. At Camp Sunshine, there is an understanding that if you want to talk about it, fine. And if you don't, that's fine, too," she said.

Summer camp volunteers must be 21 years old, but when the Camp Sunshine House opened in 2003, Cathy, then 18, became a faithful office volunteer, helping with administrative tasks during summer months and school breaks. When school keeps Cathy from her volunteer post, her mother Carol steps in. This summer Cathy's wish came true. Now 21, she completed all the necessary training and became a volunteer at Teen Camp, working as a counselor for the girls in Cabin 8. "Camp wasn't what I expected – it was so much more," she said. "Hearing stories about camp and actually being there are two completely different things. When you see a kid who had chemo on Wednesday and is climbing the ropes course on Friday...it's incredible. It's hard to put into words, but this is my favorite place in the world."

Her experiences also have influenced her college and career paths. Cathy is in her senior year at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville finishing a nursing degree and considering a career in pediatric nursing. Cancer-free since 1999, Matt is a sophomore at Georgia Tech. "Camp Sunshine has touched my family in so many ways, and that's why I volunteer," Cathy said. "I want to give back at least a smidgeon of what they have given me." ✨

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# C A M P S U N S H I N E



# POSTCARDS

## Camp Sunshine Covenant: Here for Families All Year Long

With both parents being physicians, 9-year-old Florence and her brother Charlie, age 7, are not unfamiliar with the world of doctors, nurses and medicine. Their mother Margaret, a pediatrician, and father Richard, an obstetrician-gynecologist, serve a broad and largely rural community near Hartwell, Georgia. Occasionally on Saturday mornings, while their parents complete their hospital rounds, the children wait in the nurses' station-absorbing all that's going on around them.

Still nothing could prepare the family for the turn life took in February of 2006. Florence, an aspiring artist and outgoing student at the Athens Montessori School, was not feeling well and missed a couple of days of school. Her initial symptoms were a fever and persistent cough. A finger stick revealed severe anemia and necessitated more tests. Within hours, Florence was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a type of cancer in which the bone marrow makes a large number of abnormal cells. In AML, these cells crowd out the normal cells, inhibiting the production of platelets, red cells and white cells.

At Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's (CHOA's) Scottish Rite campus, Florence began intensive treatment. Each

treatment cycle included 10 days of high-dose chemo followed by an expected 30-day hospital stay. After three full cycles, Florence underwent a bone marrow transplant at CHOA's Egleston campus on July 25th using bone marrow harvested from Charlie, her sibling match. Three weeks post-transplant, Florence said she was feeling "awesome" and was preparing to return home ahead of schedule.

From the day of diagnosis, the family has pulled together to aggressively confront this formidable foe, even using the language of super warriors to stay focused on the task at hand. Florence's moniker is Princess Warrior and her brother's is Super-Charlie. "You do what you need to do," said Richard. "In our case, it's *mobilize the troops; pack your sabers; sharpen your swords; we're going to war!*"

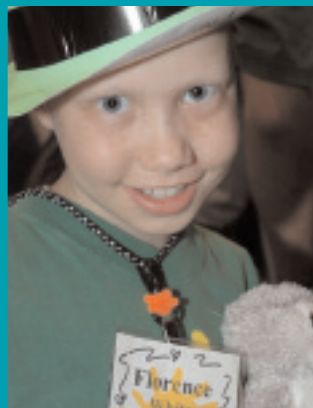
Shoring up the family's fight are the people and programs of Camp Sunshine. As physicians, Richard and Margaret knew of Camp Sunshine, but it was the Child Life specialists at CHOA who insisted the

family give it a try. Charlie and Richard were first. They attended **Family Camp** last April, while Margaret stayed with Florence who was hospitalized at the time. Richard admits he went "begrudgingly," not knowing exactly what

*Continued on Page 4*



Florence's dad Richard and brother Charlie at Family Camp.



**"To all the volunteers  
at Camp Sunshine:  
You are awesome!"**

It is an inspiration to see people do things right. How come there isn't a Nobel Prize for people who do good?"

– From Florence's  
**Caring Bridge Website**

**DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,**

With memories of Summer Camp so wonderfully fresh in our minds, how can the calendar be telling us it's back-to-school time? It is hard to believe that two months have passed since our 24th Annual Summer Camp. Just as the afterglow continues long after the last summer camper leaves Camp Twin Lakes, the programs of Camp Sunshine carry on throughout the year. Consider these highlights just since Summer Camp ended:

- **Eight teens completed an Outward Bound course in the Colorado Rocky Mountains;**
- **Twenty-five young adults attended our two-day cancer survivors' workshop;**
- **Twenty-one families attended Spa Sydel Nights in July and August;**
- **Thirty-eight people attended a preschool outing at Cagle's Dairy Farm in Canton;**
- **On July 30, 247 people enjoyed our annual "Hit a Home Run Day" at Turner Field;**
- **Fifty-one people from north Georgia attended the Rome Braves game on July 31; and**
- **Families continue to attend Family Night and preschool Music Class held twice each month at Camp Sunshine House.**

At Camp Sunshine, we are here year-round for children with cancer and their families, and the fall promises to be one of our busiest seasons yet!

In this issue, you'll notice a recurring theme – the important role Camp Sunshine programs can play in the lives of the entire family facing childhood cancer. We are grateful to Florence, her parents and her brother Charlie for sharing their camp experiences. Florence was diagnosed with AML in February and is recovering from a bone marrow transplant (with Charlie as her sibling match).

Even before this outgoing 9-year-old could go to summer camp, her father and brother attended Family Camp. Charlie called it "the best weekend of my life," and his dad found it to be "tremendously important." We are thrilled that Florence could join us for Summer Camp and wish for her a complete recovery.

Our Volunteer Spotlight is on Cathy Loibl, who is a wonderful spokesperson for Sibling Camp. Cathy first experienced Camp Sunshine when her younger brother Matt was diagnosed eight years ago. Today both Matt and Cathy are active college students; Cathy shares how the family's Camp Sunshine experiences are influencing her volunteer, college and career paths. Likewise, our "Then & Now" profile is of popular counselor Patricia, whose fight against Hodgkin's disease 11 years ago inspired her college and career decisions. As much as she loves Summer Camp (returning for 12 consecutive years), Patricia feels equally passionate about Family Camp in fall and spring. She urges every family to attend.

This issue would not be complete without including several "postcards" from Summer Camp (see center pages). **More than 360 children with cancer attended one of our two sessions held June 18-July 1 at Camp Twin Lakes.** We extend our deepest thanks to the 220 volunteers (forty of whom are childhood cancer survivors) who helped make the camp experience unforgettable. Thanks to the generosity of our ever-growing number of supporters, our professional staff will continue to create special opportunities for our families – for every season of the year.

– Sally Hale, Executive Director

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Camp Sunshine enriches the lives of children with cancer and their families through recreational, educational and support programs allowing them to share similar experiences and to participate in activities that promote normal childhood development as they cope with the challenges of childhood cancer.**

## Honor Friends, Clients, Employees, Loved Ones

**Honor the VIPs on your holiday shopping list with a gift that truly matters – a donation in their name to Camp Sunshine.** An honorarium not only pays tribute to a special person in your life, it also helps support our year-round programs. Honorariums can be made securely on-line at [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com) or use the enclosed envelope and mail your gift. All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged according to your wishes. **Make a difference in the life of a child with cancer. Give the gift of sunshine.★**

## THEN &amp; NOW

## Patricia's Story

**From childhood cancer survivor to pediatric hematology-oncology nurse, it would be easy to characterize Patricia's life as coming full circle. But that would be too simple, because Patricia, a former Camp Sunshine camper and now a faithful volunteer counselor, sees the shape of her life unfolding in new and interesting ways every single day.**

Eleven years ago, when Patricia was 15 and a freshman in high school, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a cancerous disorder characterized by steady enlargement of the lymph glands, often first in the neck. "I was sitting in class and I realized I had a big, swollen lump on my neck," Patricia recalled. "My teacher probably thought I just wanted to get out of class." Patricia thought she might have sustained a sports injury, and the clinic nurse gave her ice for the swelling. But a hasty trip to the pediatrician revealed a much greater concern. "My doctor said it could be Hodgkin's disease. I had no clue what that

scared me, though my parents were very good about holding it together for me. I saw the impact on my sisters, too (both younger than Patricia). It was tough on them."

The week also brought a positively life-changing event: "While I was in the hospital, we heard about Camp Sunshine. Summer Camp was starting that Saturday, and I thought there is no way I'm going. But my mother is the one who told me to go. I am so thankful that she was so insistent." At camp, Patricia made friends whom she counts among her closest friends to this day. She also found confidence, support and the chance to be herself. "You're a teenager with cancer, and you're trying to grasp on to whatever is normal that's left in your life," she said. "At Camp Sunshine, you can do that. You can just be a normal kid."

Patricia's treatment protocol of chemotherapy and radiation started in June of 1995 and ended in November of that year. On top of her medical challenges, she also had transferred to a new

school at the start of her sophomore year. Despite the odds, she finished the year on time and graduated from the Greater Atlanta Christian Academy with her class in 1998.

Patricia attended the University of Georgia, earning a degree in child and family development. Always interested in medicine, she had at one time considered becoming a physician. With one degree in hand, she decided to pursue a second

bachelor's degree, this one in nursing, graduating from Emory University in 2005. Today Patricia is a pediatric hematology-oncology nurse at the AFLAC Cancer Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Egleston. While she appreciates the "full circle" analogy, she believes her career path has only just begun. She is enrolled in a dual master degree program at Emory in nursing and public health, and is eager to see where her dreams will lead.

Patricia has been involved with Camp Sunshine for 12 years – first as a camper, then as a counselor-in-training and for the past several years as a counselor. Additionally, she volunteers at a clinic in downtown Atlanta, is involved with her church, participates in recreational league sports and spent part of this summer on a mission trip to Peru. While Summer Camp holds a special place in her heart, Family Camp weekends are her passion. "Somehow it always come up at Family Camp that I am a cancer survivor," She said. "The parents will say *really*? You can just see the way their faces light up. It gives them hope."

She also believes Family Camp can provide many tools to help families through an overwhelmingly challenging time. "A lot of families come together when their child has cancer, but unfortunately a lot of families do fall apart," Patricia said. "Family Camp is for the entire family to be together and do things together. It is about the entire family unit, and I truly wish that every family would go." ✨

was. When I got home and looked it up in a Mayo Clinic book and it talked about malignancy and cancer, I thought no way, it couldn't be," she said.

It was a Tuesday in June when Patricia found the lump. On Friday she had a biopsy which confirmed the diagnosis. On Monday she started chemotherapy. She remembers the difficulties of that first week. "I had a rough first round of chemo," she said. "Seeing my dad upset is what



## Camp Sunshine Covenant, continued from page 1

to expect or how a camp weekend could strengthen the family's reserves. He came away completely convinced of the benefits. "I had a great time. For me, it was an opportunity to talk with adults who are going through what we are going through and connect with a whole community of people whose lives are affected by cancer," Richard said. Charlie summed it up in refreshing 7-year-old style: "It was the best weekend ever—even if I didn't catch a fish."

Florence was discharged from the hospital the week before **Summer Camp** began, and thus was able to experience the Sunshine for herself. "It was lots of fun," she said. Being with friends, making pottery and earning a karate award were among the highlights of her first Camp Sunshine stay. "The carnival, the fishing, the horseback riding—I loved everything," she said. "I'll be back next year and the next year and the next year until I'm old enough to be a counselor, and then I'll be back again!"

"Florence had a fantastic time," Margaret said. "She never got homesick. Part way through the week, we heard from the nurses that Florence was having the time of her life. As parents, we found that so reassuring."

She also was touched by a staffer's kind words when Margaret arrived to pick up her daughter at week's end: "She thanked me for letting Florence attend Summer Camp. I got so choked up, because here I was so grateful that my child had a chance to go to a place like Camp Sunshine." She encourages other families, especially those who are newly diagnosed, to seek out Camp Sunshine programs. "I was completely confident in the staff and their dedication to these kids," she said. "I wouldn't hesitate to send my child. Camp Sunshine is terrific."

In the short time between camp and Florence's bone marrow transplant, the family traveled to Aspen, Colorado for an unforgettable outdoor vacation. According to her father, Florence is "a very social child who wears her baldness like a badge" and sometimes starts up conversations with others who look as if they've lost their hair to chemotherapy. "She never meets a stranger – not even on vacation," Richard said.

For now the family is taking recovery one day at a time. They plan to participate in as many Camp Sunshine programs as possible, including **Spa Sydeell Night** and **Family Night** offered each month at Camp Sunshine House as well as Family Camp in October (see calendar pages). "As we have the opportunities, Camp Sunshine programs will be a priority in our family," Margaret said. ★



**"I love horseback riding and going down the slide at the pool. Without Camp Sunshine, I think I would be so lonely. At camp you don't have to be sad or feel bad that you don't have hair or you're in a wheelchair. Nobody is making fun of you, or laughing or staring at you. Everybody is happy here, and we always have somebody to talk to."** – Aissati, age 15



# Summe



**"Camp Sunshine gives kids with cancer a feeling that they are normal and just like everybody else."** – Raissa, age 13





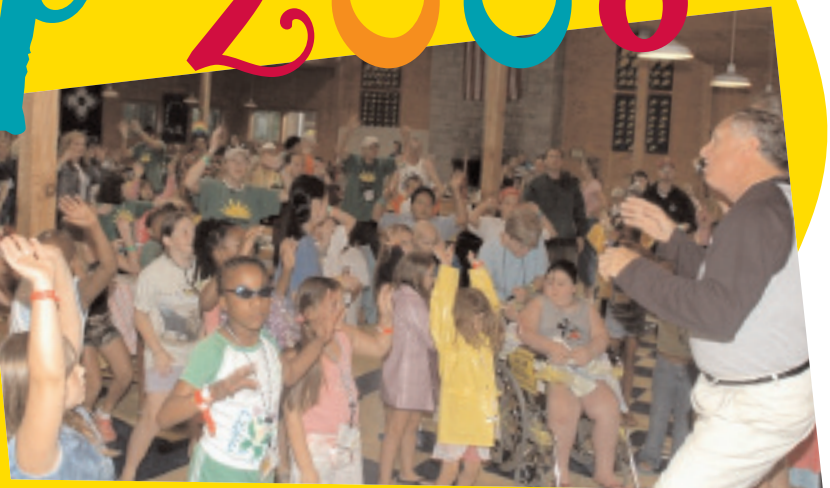
**"I have been coming to camp for seven years.** I love seeing all my friends, and everyone knows a little bit about what you've been through. The experience is like no other. Nobody stares when you're missing your hair." – **Erin, age 14**



# Our Camp 2006



**"If it were not for Camp Sunshine supporters,** I would not meet over a hundred other people who have the same thing I have – cancer. Because of you, I know I'm not alone with my cancer." – **Prince, age 17**





# CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### FAMILY NIGHT

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month

5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

6:30-7:30 PM Group Meeting

Call to RSVP

Meet and share dinner with others in similar situations. Then participate in professionally facilitated groups to discuss pertinent topics. Parents meet together; children meet with other children and childcare is provided for children under age 5.

### TEEN GROUP

2nd and 4th Thursday each month

5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

6:30-7:30 PM Program

Call to RSVP

For 13- to 18-year-olds. Meet, hang out and get support from other teens who also have or had cancer. For those who are on treatment or were diagnosed as a teen. Dinner is followed by discussion or activity.

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

3rd Thursday each month

5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

6:30-7:30 PM Program

Call to RSVP

For 18- to 23-year-olds who are currently on treatment. Dinner is followed by discussion or educational topic of interest.

## SPA SYDELL NIGHT AT CAMP SUNSHINE

2nd Monday each month

6:00-8:00 PM

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

## PRESCHOOL MUSIC CLASS

2nd and 4th Thursday each month

10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Join us for lunch, music class and a fun activity. For campers birth - 6 years old and their preschool age siblings.

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

## SEPTEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)	5 Family Night	6	7 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	8	9 Preschool Program - Apple Orchard Teen Lock-In→
10 →	11 Spa SydeLL Night Family Night in Central Georgia	12 Columbus Family Outing	13	14 Teen Group	15 Back-to-School Program	16 Wild Adventures in Valdosta
17	18	19 Family Night	20	21 Young Adult Group	22	23 HD Marine and Wendy's Fishing Tournament
24	25	26 Planning for College	27	28 Teen Group	29	30

## OCTOBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Family Night	4	5 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	6 Back to School Program	7 4th Annual Chris Young Golf Tournament
8	9 Spa SydeLL Night Family Night in Central Georgia	10	11	12 Teen Group	13 Family Camp →	14 →
15 →	16	17 Family Night	18	19 Young Adult Group	20 Family Camp →	21 →
22 →	23	24 BTFC and Camp Sunshine Teen Night	25	26 Teen Group	27 Remember the Sunshine Weekend →	28 →
29 Fall Festival	30	31				



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

## NOVEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	3	4
5	6	7 Family Night Thanksgiving Dinner	8	9 Teen Group	10	11 Northwest Georgia Family Program
12 CTL Spin for Kids	13 Spa Sydel Night Family Night in Central Georgia	14	15	16 Young Adult Group	17 Teen Retreat →	18
19 →	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving (Office Closed) →	24	25
26 →	27	28	29	30		

## DECEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 Family Night	6	7 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	8	9
10	11 Spa Sydel Night Family Night in Central Georgia	12	13	14 Teen Group	15	16
17	18	19 Family Night	20	21 Young Adult Group	22	23
24	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### SAVE THESE DATES

February 3-4, 2007  
Teen Winter Dance and Lock-In

February 11  
Camp Sunshine Day at  
Big Apple Circus

March 2007  
Teen Retreat

April 13-15, 2007  
Savannah Family Camp

April 2007  
Family Camp

April 2007  
Family Camp

### SUNSHINE PALS

#### Program for Teens and Young Adults

We are beginning to launch the first phase of the Sunshine Pals Program. This program will connect teens and young adult survivors with interested newly diagnosed children and teens. If you are between 13-25 years old and would be interested in serving as a mentor in this program, please contact Missi at 404-325-7979 for an application. The first training will be held this fall. Over time, the program will expand to include parents and siblings.

### INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

This program provides support and counseling for children and teens regarding illness-related issues. Call Missi Hicks, CCLS, LPC, RPT, at 404-325-7979 for details.

ADD YOUR MESSAGE OF HOPE TO CAMP SUNSHINE'S BRICK WALKWAY

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State

Zip

Email address

I am purchasing

bricks for Camp Sunshine House.

Enclosed is my check for \$

Brick Options:

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4 x 8 Brick Paver = \$100.00

1 to 3 lines of Text

☐

8 x 8 Brick Paver = \$250.00

1 to 4 lines of Text

☐

12 x 12 Natural Stone Paver = \$500.00

1 to 5 lines of Text

☐

12 x 12 Natural Stone Paver with Camp Sunshine Logo = \$500.00

1 to 3 lines of Text

All lines are 16 characters per line including spaces and punctuation.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Line 5

Please make a copy of this form for each brick purchased.