

Hamilton Jordan

Camp Sunshine pays
tribute to a friend and
advocate. **Page 3**

Greetings from Summer Camp

A photo gallery captures the
spirit of two unforgettable
weeks. **Page 7**

Doggone Great Partners

The UGA football team
champions Camp Sunshine
campers. **Page 10**

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



POSTCARDS

Survivor-Counselors Represent Hope

Of all the record-breaking statistics from summer camp this year, perhaps the most exciting is the number of counselors and volunteers who are themselves childhood cancer survivors. Nearly 25 percent understand first-hand that kids with cancer sometimes just need to be kids. We are grateful to each of our wonderful volunteers for making summer camp possible. We hope the interaction with survivors who have grown into adulthood inspires campers and their families. Here, three survivor-counselors share their stories.

Alan Gilmer

Ironically, a summer camp experience in 1983 led to Alan's diagnosis of acute lymphocytic leukemia at age 11. He was swimming, when suddenly he could not move his limbs. Alan was helicoptered to a local hospital, then transferred to Egleston (now Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), where he began three years of chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Alan's cancer was in remission within six months,

and he has lived cancer-free ever since. Shortly after his diagnosis he learned about another camp – Camp Sunshine. "I had just been diagnosed and was in the clinic when Dorothy Jordan approached me," Alan recalled. "She was starting a summer camp for kids with cancer and asked me if I wanted to go." Alan passed on that first invitation, but was ready to go the next year. Since then, he has rarely missed, attending first as a camper and for the past many years, as a volunteer counselor.

The 36-year-old Lilburn resident spends most weeks practicing law. But each year during Teen Week, he trades his briefcase for a duffel bag and counsels boys in Cabin #17. "I want to show them that they can beat this. When they get nauseous and are throwing up, I can talk with them from a very personal perspective. I tell them, I had cancer, too. There's a battle going on in your body, and it's chemo versus cancer. I think it helps them to hear that."

Alan cherishes the "hundreds and hundreds of friends" he has made through Camp Sunshine: "But, of course, I have lost a lot of wonderful friends, too." He also lost his mother to cancer when he was 19 years



Alan's Cabin

**DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,**

Each summer camp week is unique, providing its own special memories and reasons for celebration. The summer of '08 will stand as a testament to survivorship. In witness to the great strides in survival rates, nearly 25 percent of our more than 200 volunteer staff and counselors at this year's camp had waged their own cancer battles as children or young teens.

Curesearch.org (from the Children's Oncology Group, the premier childhood cancer research organization) states that overall survival rates have risen to 77 percent. At Camp Sunshine, our survivor-volunteers provide an invaluable perspective and deep empathy. In this issue, we profile three exceptional individuals whose stories offer hope. We are grateful to them and to every one of our incredible volunteers for making camp possible. Their selfless giving of time, talent and energy enabled a record 401 campers (218 Teens and 183 Juniors) to experience an unforgettable week of Sunshine.

As we grow in the number of children we serve and geographic areas we reach, we realize the importance of developing and sustaining our overall financial strength. You will hear more from us in the weeks and months ahead about planned giving opportunities, including remembering Camp Sunshine in your will and estate planning. I cannot overemphasize the positive and

lasting impact of such gifts. For example, a generous bequest made possible the purchase of the land on which Camp Sunshine House is built. By remembering Camp Sunshine in this way, you can influence childhood cancer and survivorship programs for years to come.

More immediately, I am deeply grateful to the organizers of and participants in the annual Keencheefoonee Road Race. As if giving a week of time to camp isn't enough, these volunteers truly go the extra mile, raising funds for Camp Sunshine. Also, in this issue (and just in time for football season), we salute our outstanding community partners – the University of Georgia football team. Thank you, Dogs, for all you do for our kids.

Finally, I encourage you to read the heartfelt tributes to Hamilton Jordan both here and on our website. The loss of this dear, personal friend strengthens my resolve against cancer. I hope these warm remembrances do the same for you. May your autumn days be filled with sunshine.

- 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.

MOVING?

Have you moved recently? Are you about to move? Do we need to change your mailing address? Contact Chanteasea@mycampsunshine.com or call 404-325-7979, ext. 10.

Make Camp Sunshine Part of Your Estate Planning

At 26 years young, Camp Sunshine has many donors who have supported us from the very beginning as well as others who have joined us in more recent years. One common denominator is the desire to enrich the lives of children with cancer. Help us to grow our programs and reach even more children by supporting Camp Sunshine through planned giving. It can be as simple as naming Camp Sunshine as beneficiary of your will, IRA or life insurance policy. To learn more about the many mutual and lasting benefits of planned giving or to notify us of a planned gift, contact Sally Hale, Executive Director at 404-325-7979 or sally@mycampsunshine.com.★



Hamilton Jordan
1944 ~ 2008

On May 20th, Camp Sunshine lost a dear friend with the passing of Hamilton Jordan, beloved husband of Founder Dorothy Jordan and father of Hamilton, Jr., Kathleen and Alexander. Jordan served as President Jimmy Carter's Chief of Staff, and in later years was an impassioned advocate for cancer research, having waged his own battles with multiple cancers. To many campers, he will always be remembered as the much-loved MC of the talent show and a caring friend. "Camp Sunshine has lost one of its dearest sons," noted longtime Camp Sunshine volunteer Duncan Dobie, "and I have lost a brother."

Hamilton was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things. I never laughed so hard in my life as those nights at camp...How ironic that Hamilton would immerse himself into the world of childhood cancer and then become a cancer patient, warrior, survivor and advocate.

– **Becky Lavender, Longtime volunteer & social worker at Aflac Cancer Center**

My cabin decided to play a prank on Tricia (Benson). When Hamilton called us up for our skit, we gathered our sleeping bags and blankets, and draped them over us so that we transformed into a giant caterpillar. No one knew that we also were hiding water bottles! Somehow Hamilton convinced Tricia to come up on stage and lie down in front of the caterpillar. We let loose with our water bottles and got her soaking wet. I remember walking off that stage and seeing Hamilton smiling and clapping along with the rest of the audience.

He made us feel so clever...that our skit was the best ever.

– **Kelly Ross, Former camper**



I've had two or three friends in my life who were not only my best friends, but also my heroes. Hamilton was one of them.

– **Tom Beard, Founding Board Member & personal friend**

One of my first and fondest memories of Hamilton is when he took us to a Michael Jackson concert in Knoxville, Tennessee. I was a teenager and had never been to a concert, nor had I been that far away from home without my parents. I remember Hamilton's kind eyes and warm smile. He teased me just like my brothers did and made me feel comfortable and safe. He made us all feel like VIPs.

– **Molly Casey, Former camper & current volunteer**

That first camp was magical in many ways, and Hamilton was largely responsible for making it so. Hamilton gave everything he had to those amazing campers. After camp, he freely gave his phone number to several kids and they called him at home regularly. Steve Davol often bragged about the fact that he could "get Hamilton Jordan on the phone" any time he wanted to! And he could!

– Duncan Dobie, Longtime volunteer

What a blessing to have known Hamilton and to have his sunshine brighten our lives. For as many years as Camp Sunshine exists, one ray of the sunshine logo – coming from the sun and heading toward the sky – will be his.

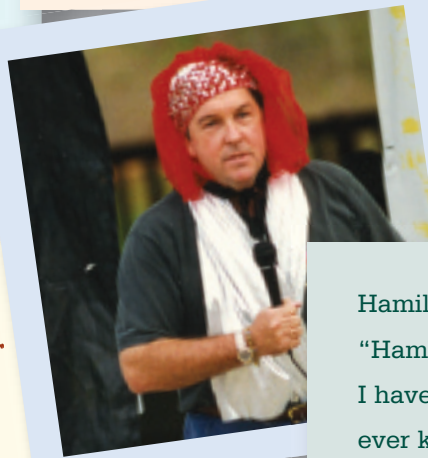
– Jay Beck, Founding Board Member & childhood friend

I have Hamilton Jordan, my brother Steve and my mom to thank for my first concert experience, the Michael Jackson "Thriller" concert. Today, I still proudly tell friends that my first concert was Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

– Lisa Davol, Volunteer & sister of camper, the late Steve Davol

Hamilton dedicated his life to the service of others and to the greater good. Whether it was in the public sector, in his fight against his own cancers, in the world's battle against cancer, or in support of Dorothy in her creation of Camp Sunshine, Hamilton saw things that others couldn't see, thought things others did not grasp, and dreamed beyond what most could imagine.

– Michael Siegel, Chair, Board of Directors



Hamilton Jordan...better known to me as "Hambone"...was the most Intelligent person I have ever know, the Wittiest person I have ever known and the most Caring person I have ever known...with a capital I, W and C. Hambone Jordan will always be remembered not because of his political achievements, but for what he did for other people.

– Mo Thrash, Founding Board Member & longtime volunteer

From the moment I registered my Talent Show act on Sunday to the Thursday night event, my confidence had completely vaporized. But Hamilton insisted, "You can do this." Whether it was his overwhelming logic and reason or the warmth of that big hand on my shoulder, I do not know. I just know that an awesome sense came over me that this man believed I had it in me to do what I set out to do.

– Vinnie Skelly, Former camper & current volunteer



Survivor-Counselors Represent Hope, continued from page 1

old. "I couldn't have asked for a better mother throughout all that I went through," he said. He wants to instill in each camper a lesson learned from her: Never give in.

Kathy Keye

Kathy was 2 years old when her right kidney was surgically removed due to cancer. Two years of chemotherapy and radiation therapy followed. While Kathy was too young to remember every detail of her treatment, today the accomplished 30-year-old knows she wants to touch the lives of children with cancer: "I want to be the example that my camp counselors were for me. I want to give back the fun, hope and encouragement that were shown to me."

This summer marked Kathy's 12th year at Camp Sunshine – seven as a camper and five as a volunteer counselor. She vividly remembers her first week at Camp Sunshine as a young girl: "I sang 'God Bless the USA' for the talent show, and (radio station) Y106 heard about it and asked me to sing it on the radio, so I did. Duncan (Dobie) was with me. I sang the song, and I just wanted to keep on singing!"

She brings the same exuberance to the girls she counsels in Cabin #12, Junior Week, singing, laughing and having so much fun that, this year, she lost her voice: "The girls thought that was hilarious."

After a few years' hiatus, Kathy returned to camp this summer and was thrilled to bring with her the support of the company she works for, Strong Environmental, Inc. "They helped sponsor our cabin and gave the girls so much stuff – bath accessories, sun products," she said. "The girls loved it!"

Being a counselor brings back strong memories of camp. "You just couldn't wait to see your friends," she said. "At camp, no one cared what kind of shoes you had or what you wore or what you looked like. Camp Sunshine is all about the connection, and except for family, it's a stronger connection than in any other relationship."



Kathy and a camper

Jason Velasquez

Jason was 17 years old when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Bordering on adulthood, he began his treatment at an adult hospital. "At 17, you're not quite an adult," Jason said. "No matter how tough you are, you want to be taken care of when something like this happens." Eventually, he was transferred to Egleston (now Children's Healthcare of Atlanta).

There he heard about Camp Sunshine. "Being a 17-year-old, you think you're way too big for a summer camp," he recalled. It wasn't until last year, Jason's first year at the Medical College of Georgia, that Camp Sunshine came up again. A fellow med student had volunteered at camp and encouraged Jason to do the same. "I was ready – I wanted to do something, to give back and get involved," he said.

At age 24, Jason headed off to Camp Sunshine as a volunteer counselor (Teen Week, Cabin #15). "I had an amazing time," he commented. "All the orientation and training cannot prepare you for the power of camp." His only regret is that he didn't attend as a camper those many summers ago.

Jason's favorite part was hanging out with the boys, talking with them and being inspired by them. "I heard that one of the boys gets home sick every year and goes home. Well, he did get homesick, but the other boys recognized it and helped him through it. It really inspired me to see kids doing this for one another."

Jason felt free to discuss his own cancer journey with the boys, but never forced it on them: "I just let it be a natural process; if it came up, it came up – and it did. They asked me questions, and I answered them...honest, straight...I think it helped."★



"It's good for the parents and kids to have hope in knowing that I was a camper, also, returning now as a counselor." – JASON VELASQUEZ



Keencheefoonee Runners Go the Extra Mile for Camp

By the numbers, this year's Keencheefoonee Road Race was impressive: 95 runners; 924 donors, 9 corporate sponsors; and \$132,000 raised (and climbing). Even more impressive are the volunteer staff and counselors – already giving so much time, talent and energy to camp – who have made the road race a camp tradition and fundraising success.

"We thought 2008 would be a challenging year, given we were coming off of the 25th anniversary of Camp Sunshine in 2007 where we had set a special goal and raised \$222,000," said organizer Gary Palgon. "Even against the backdrop of a tough economy, we raised \$132,000 beating the previous high of \$126,000 in 2005 (with the exception of last year). The road race has become the largest annual fundraiser for Camp Sunshine, and next year we're hoping to raise over \$120,000 to surpass the overall \$1,000,000 mark!"

Named for the road that leads to Camp Twin Lakes, the race inspires volunteers, literally, to go to great lengths for Camp Sunshine. "For returning volunteers, it's the opportunity to let their friends and families know about Camp Sunshine and allow them to participate in sending kids to camp," Palgon said. "Even more amazing is that new volun-

teers want to jump right in and help to raise funds, too. This year, nine of 21 new counselors participated in the race. That's 43 percent participation, which is phenomenal."

Lauren Evans, a former camper and now volunteer counselor (Teen Week, Cabin #3) raised over \$2,000. "After telling people that I went to Camp Sunshine myself and it was the one place I truly felt like a normal teenager, people gave freely," Lauren said. "Most of my sponsors have known me throughout my personal journey through cancer, and anyone who knows me knows about Camp Sunshine. People are touched by my story and by these amazing children who are currently fighting this disease."

The Keencheefoonee is a way to make a difference in kids' lives, Palgon said: "For me, it's an opportunity to inspire adults to spread the word about camp, while raising funds to send kids with cancer to camp without their families having to absorb the financial costs. It's a win-win for the counselors, their friends and families, and, most especially, the campers and their families." ✨

It's not too late to donate. Visit www.mycampsunshine.com. Click "Make a Difference – Give Now" and designate your gift to the 2008 Keencheefoonee Road Race.

Sum



"When I
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happy."
– Abi, 13



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Summer Camp 2008



"Everyone is so joyful and full of life that it gives you an emotional high. You feel so happy, and you never stop laughing or smiling." – Laura, 16



"No matter what you say, you will always be accepted." – Jordan, 13

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart everyone who gives their time. For one week the kids get to be normal and have fun with the time of their lives." – Tanner's mom



"My new year starts on the first day of camp, because there is no better way to begin something new than in the presence of Camp Sunshine love." – Sydnee, 16





CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

ONGOING PROGRAMS

FAMILY NIGHT

1st Tuesday and 3rd Sunday 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.

PARENT GROUP

3rd Wednesday each month

10:00-11:00 AM

Call to RSVP

Meet for coffee and share with other parents in similar situations. Childcare available with advanced reservation only.

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 Wednesday each month

12:15 PM – 1:45 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 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day Holiday (Office Closed)	2 Family Night	3	4 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	5	6 Teen Lock-In Preschool Program: Apple Orchard
7 →	8 Spa SydeLL Night Family Night in Central Georgia	9	10 Music Class	11 Teen Group	12	13
14 NE GA Program: Dahlonega	15	16	17 Parent Group	18 Young Adult Group Athens Family Night	19	20 South GA Program: Wild Adventures
21 Family Night	22	23	24 Music Class Planning for College: 6-7:30	25 Teen Group	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	3 Remember the Sunshine Weekend →	4
5 →	6	7 Family Night	8 Music Class	9 Teen Group	10 Family Camp →	11 →
12 →	13 Spa SydeLL Night	14	15 Parent Group	16 Young Adult Group Athens Family Night	17 Family Camp →	18 →
19 → Family Night	20	21	22 Music Class	23 Teen Group	24	25
26 Fall Festival	27	28	29	30	31	



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

NOVEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Family Night/ Seasonal Sunshine Thanksgiving Dinner	5	6 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	7	8
9	10 Spa Sydell Night	11	12	13 Teen Group	14	15
16 Family Night	17	18	19 Parent Group	20 Young Adult Group Athens Family Night	21 Teen Retreat →	22
23 →	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving (Office Closed) →	28	29
30 →						

DECEMBER 2008

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

For more information go to
www.mycampsunshine.com

SEPT. 10: 5th Annual Brad Gambrell Memorial Golf Tournament, 404-316-9713, www.bradgambrell.org

SEPT. 27 & 28: Big Ole Bass Fishing Tournament, 770-614-4080, www.hd-marine.com

OCT. 27: The Scotty Classic Golf Tournament, www.carecuredream.org

NOV. 14-16: Home for the Holidays Show, www.booksandshows.com

SAVE THE DATE

FEB. 15: Big Apple Circus

WHAT'S NEXT? Planning for College

Program for Juniors and Seniors in High School

September 24, 2008, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
Camp Sunshine House

Featured Speaker: Dave Graves, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
University of Georgia

Topics to Include:

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

Call Terri at 404-325-7979 to RSVP.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Camp Sunshine offers support and counseling for children, teens and young adults ages 5 - 23 regarding illness-related issues and concerns. Call Terri Sexton, LMSW, at 404-325-7979 for details.

Camp Sunshine will now offer support and counseling for parents of children, teens and young adults regarding illness-related issues and concerns. For more information, please contact Terri Sexton at 404-325-7979.

REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

Camp Sunshine continues to provide regional programming. We will now provide programs in all areas of the state in addition to programs in the Metro Atlanta area. Checkout our website www.mycampsunshine.com, the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.



COMMUNITY PARTNER SALUTE

Bulldogs Champion Camp Sunshine Kids

Check It Out!

Bulldog Knowshon Moreno is wearing his Camp Sunshine friendship bracelet on the cover of Sports Illustrated 2008 College Football Preview!

Autumn means one thing in the South — football. At Camp Sunshine, we are grateful to the University of Georgia football team, including the Athletic Association, Coach Mark Richt and the indomitable players, for their ongoing support of our campers and programs, helping to make every season a winning season for our kids.

Camp Sunshine and the Georgia Bulldogs share a long tradition of partnership, dating back to the earliest days of camp when the venerable Vince Dooley served as a Trustee. He and his wife Barbara became ardent supporters, rallying players and coaches to be involved.

This summer, as in summers past, Coach Richt and a squadron of players took summer camp by storm, visiting with campers and spreading their own brand of sunshine. The Bulldog visit is a highlight of camp week.

As if this gift of time and energy were not enough, last year the Bulldogs presented Camp Sunshine with a generous donation of \$12,500 from sales of the Bulldog-red I'M GEORGIA spirit towels. "Camp Sunshine does amazing work, and we are honored to be a part of it," said Alan Thomas, Associate Athletic Director.★



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