

Saluting Credit Suisse

From carnival set-up to generous financial giving, the firm finds many ways to give to camp. **Page 3**

"Camp Grabs Your Heart"

Nancy Hunter has volunteered at Summer Camp almost every year. Camp, she says, is life-changing – and not just for the campers. **Page 4**

Road Race Update

The 13th running of the Keencheefoonee was a lucky one with over \$200,000 raised for camp programs. **Page 8**

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



POSTCARDS

Camp Sunshine House Celebrates 10 Years as Home Away from Home

Camp Sunshine House is a place to come together for support, information and fun. Here are just some of the offerings. For an expanded list, check out the calendar in this issue or visit www.mycampsunshine.com.

- ★ Spa Sydell Night
- ★ Fall Festival
- ★ Next Steps: Off-Therapy Workshop
- ★ Teen Lock-in and Winter Dance
- ★ Planning for College Program
- ★ Preschool Music Class
- ★ School-Age Overnight
- ★ Sibling Overnight
- ★ Remember the Sunshine Family Night
- ★ New Camper Orientation
- ★ First Steps Family Dinner

Camp Sunshine House opened in 2003. Throughout its first decade, the house has served hundreds of children with cancer and their families, providing support, informational programs and fun events. Part refuge, part gathering place, the house is a home away from home. On its 10th anniversary, two families share what Camp Sunshine House has meant to them.

The Phillips Family

For the Phillips family, perhaps the most precious feature of Camp Sunshine House is a small nick in the entryway. In 2003 their daughter Stephanie was four years into her battle with Ewing's sarcoma. "The house was brand new, and we were on our way in for the first Family Night," Patti Phillips recalled. "Stephanie was in a wheelchair, and somehow we nicked the door. My husband Steve said to Sally (Hale) whatever you do, please don't fix it. Every time we go in, it's a little reminder of what the house meant to Stephanie."

Stephanie was 12 years old in 1999. "I remember sitting in the oncologist's office and being told *your daughter has cancer*. But I also remember Missi Hicks (a former Camp Sunshine child life specialist) handing us a notebook and saying *you also have Camp Sunshine*."

For the remainder of Stephanie's life, Camp Sunshine was a lifeline. Their first experience was a Family Weekend. "It was amazing," Patti recalled. "It was a camp – but it was much more. I felt like I could finally take a

deep breath. I looked around at all the other bald-headed kids, and I understood this was where we needed to be."

The next few years brought summer camps, family weekends and sibling weekends. When the family learned about Camp Sunshine House, they were thrilled. "We were

living in Fayetteville at the time, so this was our own special place to go in Atlanta."

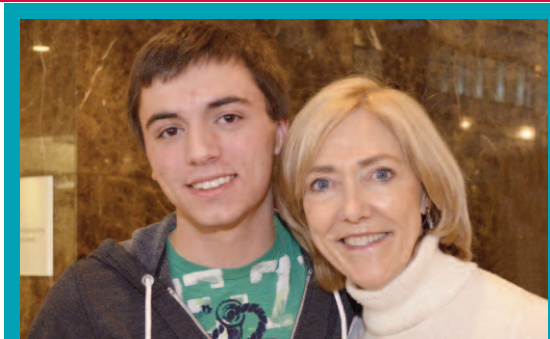
With the opening of the house came even more programs. "There were Teen Nights and Spa Sydell Nights and so many activities. Once Stephanie had her own car, she could go by the house any time. It was her chance to get together with friends and talk about things she

couldn't talk about with me. It was her home away from home. It was our home, too. We were welcome any time. You didn't have to call for an appointment. If you wanted to stop in, you stopped in."

Stephanie died in 2005. Yet, even today Camp Sunshine House is an important part of the family's life. They are particularly grateful for Remember the Sunshine



Continued on Page 4

**DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,**

Wow! Can Camp Sunshine House really be 10 years old? It seems like yesterday that we opened the house, allowing camp to grow to the year-round resource it is today for children with cancer and their families. We thank the Phillips family and the Hackney family for sharing what Camp Sunshine House has meant to them in their cancer journeys. When we hear these families call it *home away from home*, it not only warms our hearts, it also energizes our spirits.

This *Postcards* is filled with reasons to celebrate: two awesome weeks of Summer Camp, a great year for the Keencheefoonee Road Race, Founder Dorothy Jordan's 11Alive Community Service Award. We also recognize the 29-year volunteer service of Nancy Hunter and the terrific community partnership of Credit Suisse, led by camp volunteer Jamie Wall, who, ironically, shares cabin counselor duties with Nancy each summer.

What better way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Camp Sunshine House than with a commitment to expand Camp Sunshine's programs to reach even more children and families? It's our pleasure to announce Elizabeth Phelps' appointment as Program Coordinator for the Savannah area. Working closely with the staff of Memorial University Medical Center, Elizabeth will be responsible for connecting families with Camp Sunshine. A graduate of Georgia College and State University with a certification in Child Life from Georgia Southern University, Elizabeth is a childhood cancer survivor herself, having been diagnosed at age 4. We are confident she will strengthen our services to families in this area.

Our progress continues, but our commitment to children with cancer and their families remains unchanged. Here's to the next decade of Sunshine!

– Sally Hale, *Executive Director*

MOVING?

Have you moved recently?

Are you about to move?

Do we need to change
your mailing address,
e-mail or phone number?

Contact Chanteasea@
mycampsunshine.com or call
404-325-7979, ext. 10.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Dorothy Jordan Receives 11Alive Community Service Award

Camp Sunshine Founder Dorothy Jordan was one of 11 Who Care Honorees recognized at the 38th Annual 11Alive

Community Service Awards dinner on April 23. Recognized for 30 years of extraordinary dedication to Camp Sunshine, Dorothy was introduced by WXIA-TV news anchor and Camp Sunshine parent Ted Hall, who told of his son Keaton's own battle with childhood cancer and experiences at Camp Sunshine. Keaton then presented Dorothy with

her award, making the moment even more memorable.

"You honor not me, you honor a community of remarkable individuals

known as Camp Sunshine," Dorothy told the audience. "It has been my honor to be a part of Camp Sunshine for 30 years. Camp has thrived on the love and dedication of hundreds of volunteers; an active, focused Board; and a powerhouse staff led by my dear friend and colleague Sally Hale.

"We really thank the parents of these incredible little warriors for giving up what we know is the most precious thing to them – time with their beautiful children. We honor those most important to us – our campers – who by their example teach us more in a day of sharing their lives than most could learn in a lifetime."

A pioneer and visionary, Dorothy proposed the idea for a camp for children with cancer when she was completing her Masters of Nursing in Child Health from Emory University in

1982. At that time, there were fewer than 12 such camps in the country. Dorothy researched model camps, established medical and community support, developed the programs, and recruited and trained staff. She has served continuously on the Board of Directors and as a camp volunteer. Through her leadership, Camp Sunshine has grown from a one-week summer camp to a year-round resource.

A founding board member of Camp Kudzu for children with diabetes, Dorothy also volunteers with many other community organizations including Camp Twin Lakes, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is a valued resource to numerous camps for children with special needs and was a founding organizer of Children's Oncology Camping Association – International. ✨



**"You'll never know, Dorothy,
how much we love you."**

– From a Camp Sunshine camp song

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Credit Suisse Finds Many Ways to Give



When Jamie Wall sees enthusiastic friends and co-workers from Credit Suisse Atlanta arrive at Camp Sunshine to help set up the carnival, it invigorates her. "Camp Sunshine is hugely important to me," said Jamie, Assistant Vice President, Credit Suisse, and a volunteer cabin counselor for Junior Week. Thanks to Jamie's personal commitment and the generous practices of their employer, her colleagues now embrace Camp Sunshine, too, giving of their time, talent and treasure.

Jamie was 21 when she lost her twin brother Tye to cancer. "Tye never ended up going to Camp Sunshine," she said. When her friend Lisa (King) Coleman, a longtime Camp Sunshine volunteer, suggested that Jamie might like volunteering at camp, Jamie gave it a try. Lisa was right — this summer camp was Jamie's seventh, sharing duties in Cabin #2 with co-counselor Nancy Hunter (see Volunteer Spotlight).

Jamie quickly found ways to grow her commitment to camp. Credit Suisse, a leading international financial service company, is strongly philanthropic and encourages community service. For any employee who gives more than 40 hours of volunteer service to a particular charitable organization, Credit Suisse will give that organization a monetary gift. Moreover, employees in the Atlanta office choose a handful of charitable groups to support each year, not only monetarily

but in hands-on ways. Camp Sunshine has been a favorite for the past several years.

At summer camp, Credit Suisse volunteers help set up the carnival, run the booths and break it down. Another group helps with sign-in duties. "It started with just a handful of volunteers from our Atlanta office," Jamie said. "But when people reported back about their experience at Camp Sunshine, the numbers just grew."

Last year the bond between the company and camp grew even stronger when the 60-person Atlanta office chose Camp Sunshine as the designated charity for its annual Holiday Charity Initiative. "The organization is posted on our website as a charitable organization that we are supporting, and people from the Atlanta office and outside the Atlanta office are encouraged to give," Jamie explained. "People can give a donation as small as \$20 and the company will match their gift." In all, more than 100 individuals gave to Camp Sunshine, resulting in a gift of \$34,000 and bringing the company's total giving to \$52,000 since 2007.

"My enthusiasm for camp is infectious — I love to tell people about camp. And once they see camp in action they feed off the enthusiasm. At camp you immediately see the impact of your volunteer efforts. You can see it in the campers' faces, and that means a lot to the volunteers."★

"My enthusiasm for camp is infectious — I love to tell people about camp."

- Jamie Wall





Camp Sunshine House Celebrates 10 Years as Home Away from Home, *continued from page 1*

bereavement programs, including the group that meets on the first Thursday of every month at Camp Sunshine House. "Our group has grown through the years," Patti said. "We rely on each other. Sometimes we need support for ourselves and sometimes we can be there to support a new family."

The Phillips have two surviving daughters. Paige works for Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge. Shannon is an elementary teacher in LaGrange and mother to the Phillips' grandson. "It has been rough, but we are here and we are grateful," Patti said. "If it weren't for Camp Sunshine and Camp Sunshine House, I don't know where we would be."

The Hackney Family

William was just shy of his 4-year-old birthday in 2010 when his mother Robin noticed a lump on his bottom about the size of a clementine. Their pediatrician sent them for tests at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite. "They did an ultrasound and got on the phone right away with an oncologist," Robin recalled. "I was so in the dark at the time I didn't even know for sure what an oncologist was."

William was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma. "His tumor was large enough to be Stage III, but it had not metastasized," his mother continued. William began a 42-week treatment protocol that included chemotherapy, surgery and radiation.

"At the beginning, your world is just crashing down around you. I don't know who it was more traumatic for – William or us."

Fortunately, early in the process, the family was introduced to Camp Sunshine. "A friend's child had had a brain tumor. She told us to get connected with camp. When you are going through something like this, you need other people who are going through similar situations. You need the support – and you need a break to have some fun together as a family."

The family's first experience at Camp Sunshine House was the Fall Festival. "William went straight to the jumpy," his mother said.

"The kids were having such a blast. For me and my husband Jeff, it was just so nice to relax and be with all these people who had smiles on their faces." Next came Pre-School Music Class which meets at Camp Sunshine House on second and fourth Thursdays of each month. "We met another family there whose child also has rhabdo and is a month behind William in treatment. They've become great friends."

Through the years, the family has participated in many programs, including Family Camp, Seasonal Sunshine and family outings. The programs, Robin said, are "wonderful," but the house itself also draws them to Camp Sunshine's warming rays. "I don't even know how to describe it. It's like your own house; it's that comfortable – except at Camp Sunshine House, you don't have to cook or clean! The staff and volunteers are always so inviting to everyone. They greet you with smiles on their faces, and the love they have for all those kids is so apparent."

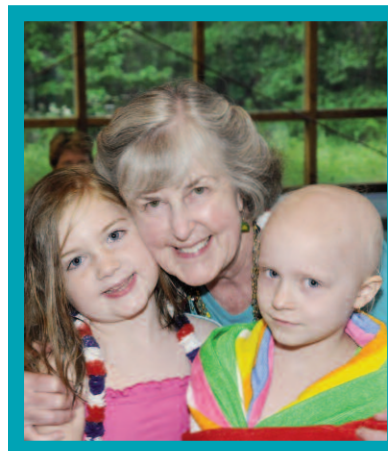
Now six and in kindergarten, William is busy playing soccer, learning to read and being "good buddies" with younger brother Cash. "He is doing great," his mother said. "You would never know he had cancer." Robin, for her part, started volunteering at Camp Sunshine House, helping in the office on Mondays. "For the support we got through Camp Sunshine, this is something I want to do. I'll tell anyone it was a huge blessing."★



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"Camp Grabs Your Heart"

When Jane and Mo Thrash were recruiting friends in 1983 to help with a new summer camp for children with cancer, Nancy Hunter had to decline because of a commitment at her church. That



was the first and just about the only time Nancy missed summer camp. "Camp Sunshine will grab your heart and won't let go," she said.

Nancy and her husband David are close friends with the Thrashes, who had lost their son Callaway to

childhood cancer. "I had no qualifications to be a camp counselor; I was a school teacher. I hardly knew anything about childhood cancer," she recalled. In camp's second year, however, she was there, ready to support her friends. For almost three decades Nancy has served as a cabin counselor for 7- to 9-year old girls, helping to shape their camp experience. But it's the campers, she insists, who have had the greater influence: "Camp is truly life-changing."

Nancy has fond memories of camp's earliest days. "We were in the mountains; it was very hilly. I can remember Mo carrying kids – *carrying* them – up to the hall. And then (longtime volunteer) Duncan Dobie came along and would drive them up." She reflects on the campers she has known, many of whom have survived cancer and grown to adulthood – completing their education, finding career paths, marrying, and having children of their own. Many return to camp as leaders-in-training, counselors and volunteers: "That is a beautiful thing to see." When anxious mothers drop off their child at camp for the first time, Nancy is sure to introduce them to a camper-turned-counselor. "It gives them hope."

Retired from teaching, Nancy spends much of her time and considerable energy in volunteer service. She recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Darlington School in Rome, and together the Hunters received a Heart of the Community Award from their hometown of Rome for their work for Good Neighbor Ministries.

Summer camp dates are already highlighted on her 2014 calendar. "It is humbling to us that the parents leave their children with us, entrusting them to our care," she said. "Therefore, it is up to us to give their child the best camp experience we can possibly give them, and that's what we do."★



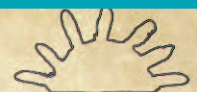
SUMMER CAMP 2013



Buy a Brick: Build a Walkway

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Camp Sunshine House by purchasing an engraved brick or stone paver in honor of or in memory of someone special. Be a part of Camp Sunshine's Brick Walkway program and help create a brick and natural stone plaza at Camp Sunshine House. It's a great way to thank someone who has helped you along the journey, honor co-workers, and celebrate loved ones. What's more, your purchase helps support Camp Sunshine's year-round programs. Brick options range from \$100 to \$500. Visit www.mycampsunshine.com or call 404-325-7979 for details.

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CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

SPA SYDELL NIGHT At Camp Sunshine House

September 9 and November 11

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 Thursday each month

12:15 PM-1:45 PM

Call to RSVP

Join us for lunch and music class. 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 19

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

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.



Connect with Camp Sunshine online to stay up to date on the latest news and happenings! Join us at www.facebook.com/campsunshine and on Twitter @mycampsunshine.

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

OCTOBER 2013

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



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

NOVEMBER 2013

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

SAVE THESE DATES

January 24-25, 2014

Winter Dance and Lock In

February 23, 2014

SHREK at the Alliance Theatre

March 2014

Teen Retreat

March 2014

Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-
Rutledge

April 2014

Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-
Rutledge

April 13, 2014

Spring Fling

DECEMBER 2013

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

September 22-29

Coffee precedes at all RaceTrac gas stations in Georgia will benefit Camp Sunshine for the entire week!

HD MARINE AND WENDY'S BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

September 28-29

Fishing tournament and family fun to benefit Camp Sunshine at Laurel Park at Lake Lanier, contact HD Marine at 770-614-4080.

**FIRST STEPS
FAMILY DINNER
At Camp Sunshine House**

September 15

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Call to RSVP

Are you new to Camp Sunshine and want to learn more about the recreational, educational and support programs we offer? Join us and meet other new families for dinner and fun as we introduce you to all the programs and events we provide year round.



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Toll-Free 866-786-2267
www.mycampsunshine.com

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Rains Don't Dampen Keencheefoonee Run

Even the threat of rain couldn't keep the 13th Annual Keencheefoonee Road Race from shining. Named for the road that leads to camp, the race netted over \$200,000 (and counting) for camp programs. Over 100 individuals helped raised funds, drawing 1,469 donations—more than a 20 percent increase in donors over last year. Including the volunteers who stay with the campers during the race, the event drew close to 150 participants in all.

"It rained so much the first week, we almost had a rainout — much like the Peachtree Road Race," said Gary Palgon, race chairman and member of Camp

Sunshine's Board of Directors. "But it went off without a hitch — and started raining 15 minutes later! For many people, 13 is considered an unlucky number, but in reality, it's a really lucky number. Lucky because so many kids have been able to go to Camp Sunshine for free because of the more than \$1.8 million that has been raised during the 13 years of the Keencheefoonee Road Race.

The race has grown to be one of Camp Sunshine's top annual fundraisers. "Who would have thought it," Palgon said. "And all taking place surrounded by the sunshine of camp!"★

