

CHOOSE A HOLIDAY GIFT THAT TRULY INSPIRES

Honor friends and loved ones this holiday season with a gift that shows you care...every single day. Purchase a brick or stone paver and add a permanent message of hope 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.

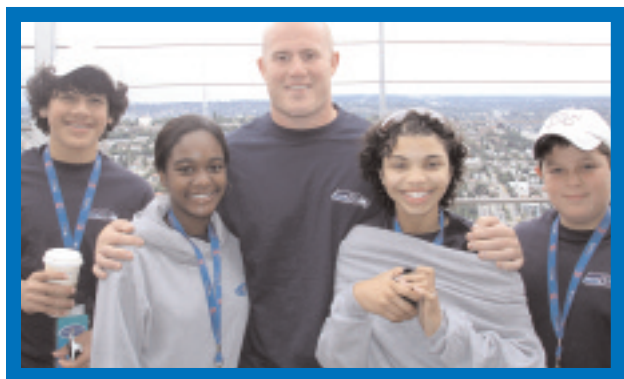




COMMUNITY PARTNER SALUTE

NFL Players Form Circle of Friends To Help Kids with Cancer

Atlanta Falcon Austin King holds a special place in the heart of Camp Sunshine families. The 6-ft., 3-in. 288-pound center is Atlanta's representative in a caring organization called the Wunsch Family Foundation.



Through its Circle of Friends program, the foundation gives NFL players the opportunity to champion activities for children with cancer and blood disorders.

Based in Tampa, Florida, Circle of Friends was started several years ago by

NFL player Jerry Wunsch, then a Tampa Bay Buccaneer and now a Seattle Seahawk. In his senior year at the University of Wisconsin, Wunsch lost a young cousin to cancer and made a promise to himself to help children with cancer and chronic blood disorders. As he started his NFL career, Wunsch was introduced to Children's Cancer Center in Tampa and saw a way to make his promise a reality.

Jerry and his wife Melissa created the Wunsch Family Foundation, and the Circle of Friends was born.

Working with player-partners in a number of NFL cities, the Circle of Friends offers programs for kids, ages 8-16, who have cancer or blood disorders.

One of the most popular is the Winter Week trip to Wunsch's hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin, for an unforgettable time of downhill skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, horse-drawn sleigh rides and, most especially, peer bonding.

Through his commitment and financial support, King is the Falcons player who helps make it possible for Camp Sunshine campers to enjoy the program. Camp Sunshine campers Ongie, Priya, Dave and Stephen, are among those who have experienced the Circle of Friends' warm embrace. They joined kids from nine other NFL cities who made the Wausau journey.

"Our goal is to increase self-esteem and self-confidence for the kids, while promoting growth through self-discovery and experiences," said Michelle Pierson, Executive Director of the Wunsch Family Foundation.

The organization's mission is very much in keeping with Camp Sunshine's, Pierson noted, making the two organizations strong partners. "Kids come away from Winter Week knowing *I am not so different; I am not alone; I am not facing this struggle by myself*," she said. For more information on the program, visit www.wunschfamilyfoundation.org. ✨



1850 Clairmont Road
Decatur, GA 30033
404-325-7979
www.mycampsunshine.com

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

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATLANTA, GA
PERMIT # 1156

Scott's Story Scott reflects on how his battle 20 years ago with cancer, his survival and triumph have influenced his life. **Page 3**

Big Apple Circus Returns Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Step right up for Camp Sunshine Day at the Big Apple Circus. **Page 5**

Winning Formation Atlanta Falcon Austin King and other NFL players form the Wunsch Family Foundation's Circle of Friends to help kids with cancer. **Page 8**

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



POSTCARDS

Preschoolers Feel the Warmth of Camp Sunshine Programs

Programs for Young Children

Children don't have to wait until they are old enough for Summer Camp to experience the warmth of Camp Sunshine. Plenty of programs are available for even the youngest children facing cancer and their families.

Ongoing Programs

Family Camp: Offered four times a year at Camp Twin Lakes and once a year at the New Ebenezer Retreat near Savannah, this is a time for families to be together in a relaxed environment away from the stresses of the hospital and clinic.

Family Camp is an opportunity for families to share with others their experiences and feelings about having a child with cancer.

It is a crisp, sunny morning at Camp Sunshine House, and six precious preschoolers – an assortment of moms, dads and siblings in tow – scoot into the playroom ready for Music Class to begin. Several children are baldheaded from chemotherapy drugs and some say outright that they are not feeling well today. But when the teacher takes out her guitar and starts gently singing an old folk song, smiles light up the playroom like so much sunshine.

Music Class is just one of many Camp Sunshine programs offered throughout the year for preschool children and their families. Cancer knows no age limit. While Camp Sunshine is renowned for its programs for children with cancer, including its week-long summer camps for teenagers and youngsters age 7 and up, an array of programs is also available for even the youngest children facing the battle of a lifetime.

Music Class was four-year-old Isabella's first experience with the people and programs of Camp Sunshine. Isabella, her mother April and her brother

William, age 2, first visited Music Class last year. "I really had no idea what to expect," April recalled. "As soon as we walked through the door, I felt embraced by a family. Ann Baker (Camp Sunshine

Program Coordinator) is particularly special to us, because she was the first person we met at the house. Isabella acts like Ann is a movie star. Every time we see her, Isabella smiles and whispers, *Look, there she is.*"

Music Class opened the door for April, her husband Randy and their children to experience many Camp Sunshine offerings, including Family Night, Spa Sydel Night, Family Camp and the Big Apple Circus. The programs are just what the family needed following Isabella's diagnosis at age 1

and subsequent struggle with Stage 3 neuroblastoma. "Isabella went in for her one-year infant checkup on December 30, 2003. When the doctor got to her belly, he could feel hardness there," April said. "I thought she had been eating too much – her belly was so big and full."



Isabella and her brother William

**DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,**

I would like to share a fish story with you, except in this story every word is true. Camp Sunshine will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2007. We are proud of this milestone – a quarter century of helping children with cancer and their families. But accomplishments, milestones and progress are only possible through the commitment and support of an ever-growing community of friends.

In September HD Marine in Buford, in partnership with Wendy's and a host of other supporters, dedicated funds from its annual **Big Ole Bass Benefit Tournament** to Camp Sunshine. For two glorious fall days, approximately 200 teams of fishermen gathered with their families and friends along with Camp Sunshine families at Lake Lanier for fun, fishing, food and fundraising. The winning team reeled in 10 fish, weighing a total of 37.08 pounds. While our hats are off to these skilled anglers, the real winners were all who were touched by this terrific family event.

As HD Marine owner Lee Dodgen said, "I do not want to see a child suffer, and I do not want to see children sick. Anything we can do to make their life better, we are there."



Camp Sunshine is there year-round for children with cancer and their families. On the eve of our Silver Anniversary, I want to thank all of our friends and supporters, old and new, for making this possible. I am particularly struck by the growth we have experienced over the past three years:

- 526 new families registered with Camp Sunshine;
- A 60 percent increase in the number of recreational programs;
- An 80 percent increase in the number of programs at Camp Sunshine House;
- A 90 percent increase in the number of days per year that a Camp Sunshine program is available to children and families.

These are impressive statistics. But as I have said many times, *Camp Sunshine is about children*, not numbers, and we need to be doing more to reach out to every child and family in need of our programs. In this issue, we offer a detailed look at our offerings for preschoolers as seen through the eyes of 4-year-old Isabella and her family. Isabella was diagnosed at her one-year infant checkup with neuroblastoma. Cancer does not discriminate by age. That is why Camp Sunshine provides programs even for the youngest children.

Also in this issue, Camp Sunshine counselor Scott shares his encouraging story of his battle with cancer 20 years ago when he was 13 and diagnosed with Stage II-B Hodgkin's disease. Additionally, you can read about the excitement of the upcoming Big Apple Circus benefit performance and the champion-style support of the Wunsch Family Foundation's Circle of Friends. This program gives NFL players, including Atlanta Falcon Austin King, the opportunity to help kids with cancer or blood disease.

Finally, as the holidays approach, we offer you, our friends and supporters, the opportunity to add your message of hope to our inspirational brick walkway at Camp Sunshine House. Our engraved brick and stone pavers are an appropriate and lasting way to show loved ones how much you care. We are casting our nets always wider to strengthen our programs, and that is no fish story. A safe and healthy holiday season to all!

– Sally Hale, Executive Director



THEN & NOW

Scott's Story

When Camp Sunshine counselor Scott tells people, "Cancer saved my life," he is not saying it for shock value. He resolutely believes his battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma at the age of 13 has positively influenced every step of his life's journey for the past 20 years.

"Even though I wish it on no one, I often think what path would I have taken if cancer had not been part of my life," said Scott. His illness, treatment, survival and triumph have inspired virtually every major decision he has made about college, career, relationships, spirituality and more: "If I can express just one overall message it's that all things work together for good."

Scott was a middle school student in March of 1986 – a strong enough basketball player that even as a seventh grader he was playing on the eighth grade team. What appeared to be a persistent bout with bronchitis, however, began to slow him down. "A family member had walking pneumonia, and my overprotective mom insisted I needed a chest x-ray," Scott recalled. The x-ray revealed not pneumonia, but a grapefruit-sized tumor in his chest.

Scott was sent directly to what was then Egleston Children's Hospital, now Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. A two-week series of tests revealed Stage II-B Hodgkin's disease. His doctors recommended an 18-month protocol, including chemotherapy followed by radiation therapy.

"The first day I got the news was the only time I let my mind drift to *what if, what if*. Once the battle started, I never allowed myself to think that way again," he recalled. "Instead I thought I have to hurry up and get better because I have to get ready for the next basketball season. It

was all about playing ball; it was all about getting well."

As Scott was nearing the end of his treatment, his medical problems were critically compounded when he was exposed to chicken pox; his immune system already compromised, Scott contracted a severe case of shingles. "It was a very serious situation," he said. "My mom was told that I might not survive."

With high-dosage antibiotics and tremendous fortitude, Scott did survive. In fact, at the end of his treatment for shingles he required no further chemotherapy or radiation. He has been cancer-free ever since.

In addition to excellent medical care, Scott believes he experienced "a kind of divine healing" at that point in his life. He knows for certain he was the recipient of steadfast love. One of his most vivid memories of that time is his mother's constant presence. "She was always there either at my side or in the chair bed trying to get a little sleep," he said. "I felt I was extremely blessed."

Adding to his blessing was the encouragement of other friends in treatment to try Camp Sunshine. "I was 13 years old, I was still on cancer treatment, it was the first time I had ever been away from home, and I loved it," Scott said. "I was just so glad to be with other kids who had cancer. I was glad there were no parents around and that we could stay up late and have fun. It was a whole new world for me – a world where I was totally welcome and could be myself without having to prove myself to anyone."



Scott has been a part of Camp Sunshine now for two decades, first as a camper and for the past many years as a volunteer counselor. He credits his early camp experiences not only with helping him survive cancer, but also guiding him on a college and career path. Scott is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in psychology. After working for several years with Atlanta Public Schools, Scott heeded a call to youth ministry and is the Director of Street Jam Ministries, an outreach program of the interdenominational Church in the Now in Conyers. It was through Street Jam that he met his wife Lindsey, a volunteer for the ministry.

"Street Jam is an outreach that goes into at-risk communities and seeks out at-risk kids," he explained. The ministry offers a wide range of services from tutoring and mentoring, to organizing basketball and other sports, to providing school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets and holiday gifts. "Street Jam is not just delivering a religious message," Scott noted, "we are also teaching life skills." In Scott, the ministry has quite a role model. ✨

Preschoolers Feel the Warmth of Camp Sunshine Programs, continued from page 1

Family Night: 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month with dinner 5:30–6:30 PM and group meeting from 6:30–7:30 PM. A time for parents to meet with other parents and children to be with other children, while child care is provided for children under age 5. At Camp Sunshine House.

Family Night in Central Georgia: 2nd Monday each month. Same great program as listed above, but at a location convenient to families in Central Georgia: Peyton Anderson Health Education Center, Medical Center of Georgia.

Preschool Music Class: 2nd and 4th Thursday each month with class from 10:30–11:15 AM and lunch from 11:15 AM–12 noon. A fun and interactive class offered by the The Music Class, a professional organization of music educators. Plenty of singing, dancing and instrument playing for preschoolers and their parents. Sibs are welcome, too! At Camp Sunshine House.

Spa Sydell Night: 2nd Monday, 6–8 PM. A time to be pampered by the wonderful volunteers from Spa Sydell. At Camp Sunshine House.

Special Events

Holiday Party: Annual gala traditionally held on a Sunday afternoon in December at the Westin Hotel Atlanta North at Perimeter. An afternoon of sweet treats, live music, face painting, and fun, topped by a visit from Santa.

Big Apple Circus: The second Sunday in February marks the annual special performance for Camp Sunshine by this fabulous troupe of acrobats, jugglers, trapeze artists and clowns. The dancing horses amaze children of all ages.

Early Childhood Outings

Camp Sunshine offers a series of Saturday programs periodically throughout the year that vary in nature, including:

- Autumn Apple Orchard Outing
- Spring Fling & Egg Hunt
- Trip to Cagle's Dairy Farm
- Chattahoochee Nature Center Adventure

An ultrasound revealed an abdominal mass. On the following day, New Year's Eve, the family was in the pediatric oncologist's office for more definitive testing. "The doctors told us it was one of the biggest masses they had ever seen in a child her size," April said. "It was about the size of a Nerf football. It was pressing on her vena cava (one of two large veins returning blood to the heart)." It proved to be malignant.

Baby Isabella began a treatment regimen, which included four rounds of chemotherapy and surgeries at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) at Scottish Rite. Even in the darker moments, the family found great hope.

"It was on New Year's Eve, the very night we had been to see the oncologist that Isabella took her first steps," her mother recounted.

"Somehow that helped us to see further down the road for Isabella." The family is thankful for the special care they received at CHOA. "Dr. (Louis) Rapkin is our hero...he and his wonderful nurse Stephanie Romanelli," April said.

After 11 months of treatment, Isabella's cancer was in remission – and her baby brother William had been born. Isabella was off-treatment when April first learned about Camp Sunshine from another mother of a child with neuroblastoma. "At first, I hesitated about going, because I thought it was for families who were in the middle of dealing with their child's cancer,"

April said. "But what I realize is that childhood cancer affects the whole family and not just in the crisis moments but at other times, too, as you continue down this path."

In addition to Music Class, the family thoroughly enjoyed last year's Big Apple Circus (see circus story in this issue). Isabella and her mother have attended Spa Sydell Night at Camp Sunshine

House. "Spa Sydell Night is amazing – just amazing," April commented.

"Isabella was like a little diva. She had her fingernails done, her toenails done, and even put on a little lipstick. She felt pampered and cared for."

Last spring's Family Camp was a hit not only with Isabella, but with her parents and brother, too. "There were so many fun activities," her

mother said. "We all painted birdhouses and loved it. Isabella still talks about the weekend."

As a parent, April's favorite program is Family Night held first and third Tuesday each month. "It is incredible being able to share with others what it is like to live with childhood cancer," she said. "You come looking for hope and continue finding hope. We talk about real stuff – real issues. I thought I would be an encouragement to others, and I hope I have been that. But I also found that I had unresolved issues and confusion of my own, and other parents with similar experiences have been there for me. I would really encourage families to try it." ✨



"CAMP SUNSHINE IS A PLACE OF SOLACE AND UNDERSTANDING."

– April, 4-year-old Isabella's mother

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls! Step Right Up for Camp Sunshine Day at Big Apple Circus

The third annual Camp Sunshine Day at the Big Apple Circus is set for Sunday, February 11, 2007.

Thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, all proceeds from the 4:00 PM performance will benefit Camp Sunshine's year-round programs for children with cancer and their families.

Children of all ages are sure to delight in the acrobats, jugglers, dancing horses and, most especially, the clowns under the Big Top at Stone Mountain State Park. At the performance in February of 2006, more than 1,300 spectators including more than 100 Camp Sunshine

families, attended the event, which raised more than \$90,000 for Camp Sunshine programs. This year's show, Step Right Up!, will sweep the whole family away to a bygone era of a wondrous Amusement Resort by the Sea.

The Big Apple Circus is a unique, not-for-profit performing arts organization dedicated to children and their families. The antics, artistry and awesome showmanship of the Big Apple Circus have been wowing audiences for 29 years. See you under the Big Top!★

Be a Sponsor – Send a Camp Sunshine Family to the Circus

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the Big Apple Circus benefit performance on Sunday, February 12.

High Wire.....\$1,000

Acrobatic.....\$2,500

Center Ring.....\$5,000

Ringmaster.....\$15,000

Full-page or half-page program book ads are also available for purchase for \$500 or \$250 respectively. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, call Camp Sunshine at 404-325-7979.





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.

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.

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

JANUARY 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Young Adult Conference in Montana	4 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	5	6
7	8 Spa SydeLL Night Family Night in Central Georgia	9	10	11 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	12	13
14	15	16 Family Night	17	18 Young Adult Group	19	20 School Age Overnight
21	22	23	24	25 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	2 Back to School Program: School Personnel	3 Teen Winter Dance/Lock In
4 Savannah Family Program	5	6 Family Night	7	8 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	9	10
11 Big Apple Circus	12 Spa SydeLL Night	13	14	15 Young Adult Group	16	17
18	19	20 Family Night	21	22 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	23	24
25	26	27 Back-to-School: Advocating for Your Child's Educational Needs	28	Feb 22: Family Program in Columbus Area		



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

MARCH 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	2 Teen Retreat →	3
4 →	5	6 Family Night	7	8 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	9	10
11	12 Spa Sydel Night	13	14	15 Young Adult Group Family Program in NW Georgia	16	17 Off Treatment Workshop
18	19	20 Family Night	21	22 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	23	24
25 →	26	27	28	29	30	31 Spring Fling

APRIL 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Family Night	4	5 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	6	7
8	9 Spa Sydel Night	10	11	12 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	13 Savannah Family Camp →	14
15 →	16	17 Family Night	18	19 Young Adult Group	20 Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes →	21
22 →	23	24 Parenting Through Illness	25	26 Pre-School Music Class Teen Group	27 Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes →	28
29 →	30					

SAVE THESE DATES

May 11-13, 2007

Young Adult Retreat Weekend
(NEW PROGRAM!)

June 17-23, 2007

Summer Camp – Teen Week

June 24-30, 2007

Summer Camp – Junior Week

July 19-20, 2007

Young Adult Workshop

August 24-26, 2007

Sibling Camp

Back to School: Advocating for Your Child's Educational Needs

February 27, 2007

6:00-8:00 (dinner included)

Camp Sunshine House

This program designed specifically for parents will focus on what school services are available for chronically ill students and how to access them. There will be time for question/answers specific to your child's needs.

The Next Steps:

Off Treatment Workshop

March 17, 2007

10 AM- 2 PM (lunch provided)

Camp Sunshine House

Topics addressed at this educational program will include:

- Medical Follow-up
- Cognitive Late Effects
- Family Life After Treatment
- Helping Your Child Transition

Parenting Through Illness

April 24, 2007

6:00-8:00 (dinner included)

Camp Sunshine House

This educational program will address some concerns and challenges parents may face when parenting through illness. Topics will include:

- Developmental Impact of Illness
- Coping with Illness
- Limit Setting/Boundaries/Normalization
- Sibling Concerns

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

Name

Address

City

Phone

State

Zip

Email address

I am purchasing

bricks for Camp Sunshine House.

Enclosed is my check for \$

Brick Options:

☐

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.