

**Story of Two Sisters**

For Paige Phillips and her late sister Stephanie, camp was a life-changing experience. **Page 3**

**Lasting Bond**

Volunteer Lisa Davol reflects on how her late brother's journey has influenced her own. **Page 4**

**Gifts of Sunshine**

Camp Sunshine offers creative ways to make your holiday giving matter. **Page 8**

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



**POSTCARDS**

**Sibling Programs: Brothers and Sisters Need Sunshine, Too**

**C**hildhood cancer affects the whole family. Relationships shift; routines turn upside down; and the word normal takes on an entirely new meaning. Brothers and sisters are special, too. Camp Sunshine offered the first Sibling Camp Weekend in the summer of 1997 and continues to provide programs just for brothers and sisters. Siblings are invited and encouraged to participate in an array of programs throughout the year. Here, two families share how Camp Sunshine programs can help siblings navigate the storm of childhood cancer.

**The Litke Family  
Hoschton, GA**

Brittany Litke is a freshman at Winder Barrow High School, but is mature in many ways beyond her 14 years.

Brittany was an early sign-up for the Atlanta Half-Marathon on Thanksgiving Day to benefit Camp Sunshine. Her entire family, including her younger sister Olivia, their mother Carolyn and father Doug, are supporting her run.

"An hour of my life is the least I can do to raise awareness and money to give these kids a chance for something normal in their life, like camp," she said. "My aches and pains for 13 miles are

nothing compared to the last six years of my sister's life – and what some of the other kids have gone through."

Olivia was diagnosed at age 4 with rheumatoid arthritis. "She started limping, even when she got out of bed in the morning or after sitting for awhile," her mother recalled. During testing for this condition, a scan revealed a congenital defect affecting Olivia's right kidney. Because Olivia required strong medications to

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**The Adams Family  
McDonough, GA**

Ashley Starr describes her children Jordan, Hannah and Garrett Adams as strong kids with normal, healthy sibling bonds. Even so, when Jordan was diagnosed at age 11 in 2006 with Hodgkin's lymphoma, the family's strength was tested. "I remember a teacher who was a cancer survivor told us, whatever you do, try to keep it as normal as possible. So we tried to have the same people taking the kids to school, the same people surrounding them at home." When the family learned about Camp

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When a child is diagnosed with cancer, siblings are deeply affected. Camp Sunshine has long recognized that cancer has an impact on brothers and sisters. Since 1997, we have offered Sibling Camp Weekends in addition to many other programs – some for brothers and sisters only and others for the entire family – throughout the year. The effects of childhood cancer on siblings was the subject of my graduate thesis at Emory University. It is a matter close to my heart. I am especially pleased that this Postcards focuses on and is dedicated to siblings.

Read about the Litke family of Hoschton and the Adams family of McDonough and you will begin to understand the popularity – and vital importance – of these programs. Sibling Camp allows brothers and sisters, ages 7-18, the opportunity to participate in many of the same activities offered at Summer Camp. Like Summer Camp, it is held at Camp Twin Lakes and many of our Summer Camp counselors volunteer at Sibling Camp, too.

Then & Now is a favorite standing feature in this newsletter. Ordinarily we tell the story of someone who came to camp as a child with cancer (Then) and look at his or her life today (Now). For this special issue, we

thank Paige Phillips for sharing her story as a sister of the late Stephanie Phillips, a camper who died in 2005. Paige reflects on how Stephanie's journey influenced her own. She describes what Camp Sunshine meant to her and encourages others to give Sibling Camp a try.

Our Volunteer Spotlight also shines on a person whose life path was shaped by a sibling with cancer. Lisa Davol is an invaluable volunteer and dear friend to Camp Sunshine. She was introduced to Camp Sunshine at age 10 when her 13-year-old brother, the late Steve Davol, was diagnosed in 1983. In those days, we didn't yet offer Sibling Camp. But Lisa acknowledges the role many other Camp Sunshine programs played in the lives of her entire family and her own. We are deeply grateful to Lisa not only for her years of volunteer service but also for telling her story. The holidays are a time to reflect on all the close relationships in our lives. Remember that Camp Sunshine offers creative and meaningful ways to honor loved ones at this special time of your year. Your gift brings sunshine to children with cancer and their families. Have a safe and healthy holiday season. – Sally Hale, Executive Director

**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.

**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.

**Have You Ordered Your Camp Sunshine Specialty Tag?**



The deadline is fast approaching to sign up for a Camp Sunshine license plate. We need 1,000 pre-orders to make the license plates a reality. Once we reach the required number and the tags are manufactured, Camp Sunshine will receive a portion of the proceeds from the annual tag fees. Visit

mycampsunshine.com and click on the license plate. Complete the printable order form and send it with a check or money order for \$25 to: Camp Sunshine, Attn: Lindsey Monroe, 1850 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033. **Don't wait! Order your tag today.**

## THEN &amp; NOW

## Paige's Story

**When Paige Phillips' high school softball team won the state championship in 2003, the teammate who influenced her the most and whom she loved best couldn't be on the playing field with her.**

Three years into a battle with Ewing's sarcoma, Paige's favorite teammate – her younger sister Stephanie – was just coming off a difficult hip surgery. No one expected Stephanie to make the trek to Columbus to watch the finals.

"But she showed up. She told her doctors she had to get to the championship game," Paige recalled. "She was in a wheelchair and feeling very sick. But she was stubborn in that way. She wanted to be there – and she was." And when Fayette County won the final, Stephanie passed out championship ring pops for all her teammates.

Paige was 14 years old when Stephanie, 16 months younger, was diagnosed with cancer. The world turned upside down for the entire family – not only for Stephanie and her parents, but for Paige and her oldest sister Shannon, too. "I didn't completely understand what was going on," Paige said. "It was hard

to grasp that all the attention would be on Stephanie and that's how it was going to be."

Missi Hicks, then a child life specialist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) who later became Camp Sunshine Program Director, suggested the sisters might benefit from Camp Sunshine programs. At first they resisted. "We thought we were too cool to go to camp, especially at that age," Paige said. In due time, Missi convinced them to go. The decision, Paige said, was life-changing.

Paige attended her first Sibling Weekend in 2000, where she met another girl her age named Cathy Loibl, whose brother Matt had cancer. The two became fast friends and are still close today. "Our friendship happened from just one weekend," Paige said. "It is wonderful how quickly you make connections at Sibling Camp."



Sibling Camp helped put Paige at ease: "We all knew why we were there. It was very easy to talk to one another, and not necessarily about our siblings or about cancer. It was just a chance to talk if we needed to. It was OK to cry and OK to laugh, too." Sibling Camp helped Paige open up; she even spoke publicly on occasion about her camp experiences: "I couldn't believe I could do that – stand in front of people and talk." Stephanie loved camp, too. "After going to camp and seeing all the other kids who were bald and what they had been through, Stephanie just didn't care anymore about things that were unimportant."

Stephanie died in 2005 when Paige was a student at Tallahassee Community College. Her sister's life influenced Paige's college and career paths, and continues to inspire Paige. "At first I wanted to be a child life specialist because of Missi and what she did for us," she said. But eventually she decided to pursue a career in camp programs. "Camp Sunshine made me want to work at camp and provide that kind of support for all the campers who pass through these gates."

She started working summers at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge in 2005 and began full-time in January of 2010. Camp Twin Lakes provides camp programs and facilities to children with serious illnesses, disabilities and other challenges. It is home to more than 40 different camp partner organizations, including Camp Sunshine.

Paige sometimes thinks about a career in nursing like her friend Cathy Loibl, who is a nurse at CHOA at Eggleston: "But for me, this is a dream job to work at camp, be with these kids, play with them and support them." She offers this piece of advice to young people considering Sibling Camp: "Take a chance and go. You don't have to explain anything; you can make life-long friends; it's fun and relaxing; it's a weekend away from it all; and it's a chance to have 'you' time." ✨



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## From Sibling Bond Grows Lifelong Commitment

**A long-time advocate and well-loved volunteer, Lisa Davol is so dedicated to Camp Sunshine that she'll even take a pie in the face to help raise funds and awareness.**

In her role as Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation for Oconee County, Lisa recently orchestrated Penny Wars, a community service project for young students in the after-school program. The goal was to raise \$500 – the cost of sending a Camp Sunshine camper to Summer Camp for one week – simply by collecting pennies. If they reached their goal, the kids could smooch Lisa with a pie. They raised close to \$800, collecting almost 80,000 pennies. A pie in the face, she said, was a small price to pay.

"The penny drive drew an incredible response from the kids," Lisa commented. "And it was tremendous to incorporate that service learning component into the after-school program and see it work so successfully."

Lisa's Camp Sunshine roots run deep. She was 10 years old when her older brother Steve, then 13, was diagnosed with cancer in 1983. Steve was one of Camp Sunshine's very first campers. He had a tenacious, aggressive cancer that he fought for many years. Steve died in 1997 at the age of 27, but he left an irreplaceable legacy.

"He was a symbol of strength and survival for many, many people," Lisa said. "He had such a positive spirit, a terrific sense of humor and a magnetic personality. There was just an incredible life force around him."

Lisa didn't understand much about cancer when her brother was first diagnosed, but she knew life had changed. "Any time a child is diagnosed with cancer it affects the whole family," she said. "A lot of my childhood memories are about Steve, his treatments, his bouts with cancer."

At the time Camp Sunshine was so young and new that Sibling Camp was not yet available for kids like Lisa and her oldest brother David. But through the years as Steve's involvement with Camp Sunshine became more profound (as an adult, he became a beloved volunteer and eventually served on the Camp Sunshine Board of Directors), the Davol family's ties to camp grew stronger, too. "Camp Sunshine was a big part of our family's lives," Lisa said. "Over the years, we attended Family Camp, Family Nights, holiday parties...any opportunity to be there for Steve and with the other families."

Lisa holds an undergraduate degree in health and physical education and a master's degree in education. At one time, she had thought of being a camp director, but her career path turned toward community parks and recreation. "It's like being a camp director on a large scale," she said with a laugh.

Eight years ago, at the persistence and encouragement of Camp Sunshine enthusiast Tricia Benson, Lisa began volunteering faithfully during Junior Week, often leading sports and games. Moreover, she is a cabin counselor for Sibling Camp. "It is really important for siblings to have the opportunity to be in the spotlight even for a little while and to be around other kids who are going through what they are going through," she said.

"All the siblings are so different. Some have a good understanding of what is going on and some are more sheltered. But wherever they are in the journey, they can benefit from Sibling Camp. It can be a strong support system for them." \*

**The Litke Family,** Continued from Page 1

combat her debilitating arthritis, doctors kept a close watch on her kidney function. Last year during a regular checkup, a fast growing mass was discovered on her left kidney and diagnosed as renal cell carcinoma.

"When my sister was diagnosed with arthritis, I felt devastated, scared and a little left out," Brittany recalled. "When she was diagnosed last year with cancer, I felt more scared than anything. I was older this time. I realized what was going on. My parents needed to be there for my sister and my sister needed them."

Fortunately, Camp Sunshine programs were available to help both sisters. First, Olivia attended Summer Camp. "It meant so much to me that I cannot put it in sentences," she said. "But I can describe it in single words...like love, family, friends, happy, fun, comfort and belonging." Next came Brittany's chance to go to Sibling Camp. "I had seen pictures from Olivia's Summer Camp and heard stories and hoped that Sibling Camp would be all of these same things," Brittany said. "You know what? It was all those things – and more!"

Brittany's favorite part of Sibling Camp? "Meeting new people that I had something in common with and being able to relate to how they felt," she said. "It was an amazing time. It was nice not to have that uncomfortable conversation of getting to know one another. It was like we already knew each other."

Brittany wants to someday be a pediatric rheumatologist: "My sister was misdiagnosed so many times; no kid should have to go through that." She wants to see improved medicine and follow-up. "And I want to help as many kids as I can," she said. ✨

**The Adams Family,** Continued from Page 1

Sunshine programs not only for Jordan but also for her brother and sister, they jumped right in.

"We tried hard not to make Jordan the 'sick' child and to spread out the attention over all three kids," Ashley said. "Still when we heard Camp Sunshine has a camp just for siblings, we thought this is great!"

Jordan was in seventh grade when she developed an unusual lump on her neck. She was first sent to an ENT specialist, but tests revealed the true nature of the problem. She responded well to initial treatment, but at her six-month checkup, doctors found a growth that required more aggressive treatment.

During this time the family learned about Camp Sunshine. Jordan participated in Summer Camp first and loved it. "Camp Sunshine is an incredible place where kids can build lifelong relationships," she said. Off treatment for two years and cancer-free, Jordan, now 15, volunteers with Make a Wish Foundation and the Tim Hudson Family Foundation and one day plans to become a camp counselor.

Hannah, 13, and Garrett, 12, now students at Ola Middle School remember their sister's diagnosis and treatment as a scary time. "I remember her neck started hurting and she thought it would go away, but it didn't," Garrett said. Hannah and Garrett were too young to remember many specifics about Jordan's diagnosis and treatment, but they do remember being introduced to Sibling Camp. "I was excited and nervous about going," said Hannah. "Nervous because I didn't know anybody, but excited because Jordan really loved Camp Sunshine, and now we were going, too."

What they love most is being with other kids who "get it." "We have really good friends there and a really good time," Hannah said. "At camp, we don't have to think about cancer—we can get away from it." In addition to Sibling Camp, Garrett and Hannah have participated in many other Camp Sunshine programs and activities, including holiday parties and Family Camp (where Garrett particularly enjoys the rock wall.) "Jordan drops everything for Camp Sunshine," Garrett said. For sibling and family programs, Garrett, Hannah and the rest of the family aren't far behind. ✨

*"As a team, we emphasize that childhood cancer doesn't just affect the camper; it affects the whole family," noted Michele Rothstein, Program Director responsible for Family Camp, Sibling Camp and school-age programs. "That's why we offer programs just for siblings and programs for the entire family, in addition to our camper programs."*

A family doesn't have to wait for a camper to participate in Summer Camp to join in Camp Sunshine programs and activities. Depending on the time of year a child is diagnosed and the family's readiness, "they can jump right in at any time," Michele said. Many families like to start with a Family Camp weekend. For others, their introduction is Summer Camp for the child with cancer. "It really is up to the individual family, and their individual circumstances and needs," Michele said.

Of all Camp Sunshine programs, Sibling Camp has the longest waiting list. "Siblings love it. At camp, they are allowed to be who they are, and they are surrounded by people in a situation similar to theirs," Michele commented. "Siblings realize they aren't the only ones facing this experience. They realize they are not alone, and it takes a weight off their shoulders."

In addition to Sibling Camp, Camp Sunshine offers many programs and activities for siblings and parents, including:

- Family Night
- Family Camp Weekend
- Fall Festival
- Holiday Party
- Spa Syde!! Night

*For a full listing, check the calendar in every issue of Postcards or on the Web at [mycampsunshine.com](http://mycampsunshine.com). Look for more sibling programs coming in 2011!*



# CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### FAMILY NIGHT

3rd Sunday of each month.

5:30 – 6:20 Dinner

6:30 – 7:20 Groups meetings

Call to RSVP

Meet and share dinner with other families affected by pediatric cancer. Following dinner, groups will meet to share, encourage, support and learn from others in similar situations. Parents will meet, teens will gather and school age children will get together. Childcare is available for those under 5.

### TEEN GROUP

TEEN GROUP meets the 4th Thursday of each month at Camp Sunshine House from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Call to RSVP

For 13 – 18 year olds who are currently on treatment or were diagnosed as a teen. Meet, hang out and get support from other teens who have or have had cancer. Dinner is served at all groups.

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

## JANUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Eglston	6 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	7	8
9	10 Spa Sydell Night	11 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	12 Pre-School Music Class	13	14 Savannah Regional Program	15
16 Family Night	17 Office Closed	18	19	20	21 Teen Winter Dance/Lock In	22
23	24	25	26 Pre-School Music Class	27 Teen Group	28	29 Sibling Overnight at Camp Sunshine House
30	31					

## SPA SYDELL NIGHT AT CAMP SUNSHINE

January 10 and March 14, 2011

6:00-8:00 PM

Call to RSVP

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

## PRESCHOOL MUSIC CLASS

2nd and 4th Wednesday each month

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Call to RSVP

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

## FEBRUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Eglston	3 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	4	5
6	7	8 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	9 Pre-School Music Class	10	11	12
13	14	15 Seasonal Sunshine	16	17	18	19
20 Family Night	21 Peter Pan Show	22	23 Pre-School Music Class	24 Teen Group	25 School Age Overnight	26
27	28					



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

## MARCH 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Eglston	3 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	4	5
6	7	8 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	9 Pre-School Music Class	10	11	12
13	14 Spa Sydell Night	15	16	17	18	19 Next Steps: Off Treatment Workshop
20 Family Night	21	22	23 Pre-School Music Class	24 Teen Group	25 Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes →	26
27 →	28	29	30	31		

### SAVE THESE DATES

May 21, 2011  
Staff Orientation

June 25 – July 2, 2011  
Summer Camp – Teen Week

July 2-8, 2011  
Summer Camp – Junior Week

August 19-21, 2011  
Sibling Camp

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

**Camp Sunshine Presents Peter Pan Monday, February 21, 2011**

Save the date for Camp Sunshine's newest and most unique event - the story of Peter Pan like you've never seen it before! An amazing stage show and dazzling special effects will transport you to Neverland for an afternoon. For sponsorship opportunities and to purchase tickets, please contact Lindsey Monroe.

## APRIL 2011

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

### REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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. Check out our website [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com), the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.

### THE NEXT STEPS: OFF TREATMENT WORKSHOP

March 19, 2011  
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





**CAMP SUNSHINE®**  
Programs for Children with Cancer.

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Decatur, GA 30033  
404-325-7979

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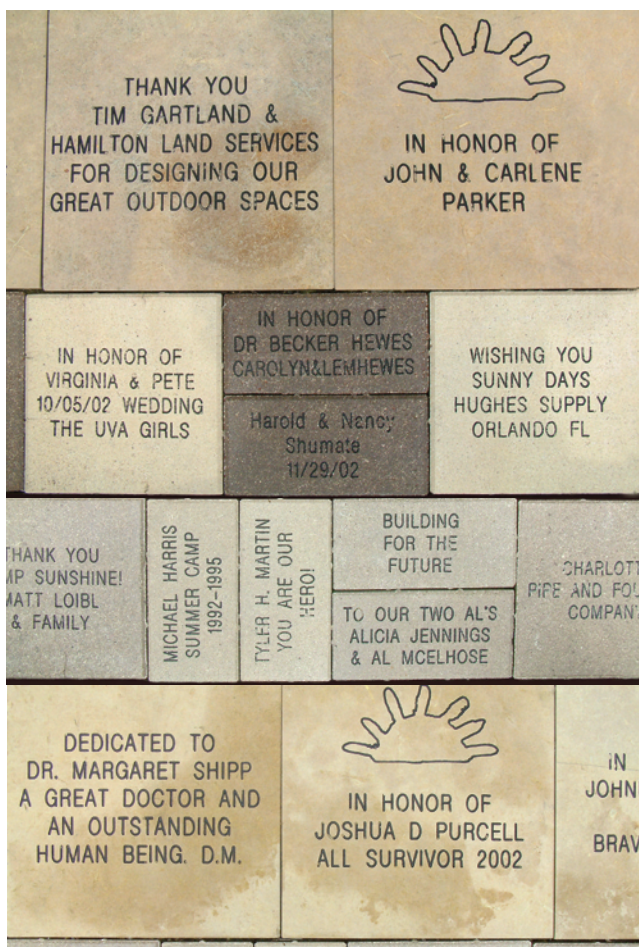
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## CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

### Give a Holiday Gift That Makes a Difference



**Camp Sunshine offers creative ways to make your gift-giving easier and more meaningful this holiday season.**

**Support Our Brick Walkway:** Secure a permanent place in the hearts of Camp Sunshine campers. By purchasing your engraved brick today, you help spread the sunshine for years to come. Your name and personalized message on a brick or stone paver will become a permanent part of the plaza adjacent to the playground at the Camp Sunshine House. Pay tribute to a friend or loved one who has been touched by Camp Sunshine. Brick options range from \$100 to \$500. You will receive a certificate which may be given to others as a gift.

**Craft a Special Message:** Honor your friends, family and business associates with a gift to Camp Sunshine, supporting year-round programming for children with cancer. We can help you craft a special message to let someone know you've made a gift in his or her name. Give us the names and addresses of those you wish to honor, and we can personalize and mail special Camp Sunshine holiday acknowledgement cards for you. Your gift will bring joy and hope to a child with cancer this holiday season.

**For details, visit [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com) or contact Lindsey Monroe at 404-325-7979.**