

"Camp Is in My Heart"

Counselor, volunteer, survivor. Adam gives back in countless ways. **Page 3**

Volunteer Spreads Sunshine

Julie Sullivan Mayfield loves introducing others to the warmth of camp. **Page 4**

Mortgage Bankers Lend

a Hand Professional group literally digs in to help camp. **Page 8**

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



POSTCARDS



"Camp Sunshine provides opportunities for these kids to just have fun and be themselves. For us, it gives us a chance to be around a community of people who really understand what we are going through. That is priceless."



Fall Festival: Community Friends Help Spread the Sunshine

More than 200 campers, families and friends gathered on October 30 at the Camp Sunshine House for the annual Fall Festival. The weather was picture-perfect and the atmosphere enchanting, as pint-sized witches, ninjas, princesses, pirates and ghouls enjoyed the autumn afternoon. Make-believe is fun, but at Fall Festival and other camp activities throughout the year, the dedication and hard work of community volunteers is very real. Camp wouldn't be camp without them.

"Win-Win Opportunity"

Stationed at the candy art table were Alisha Virani and Hanna Hastesoudi, two students from Emory University's School of Nursing, both interested in pediatric nursing. On festival day, they were helping young campers make their own sweet treats – and enjoying every minute of it.

Standing in front of the table, dressed as a rippling muscled Transformer, 5-year-old camper Rohan Kumar eyed the candy art. Rohan was diagnosed in 2009 with Wilms' tumor and underwent treatment at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite. Thanksgiving marks two years off-therapy for Rohan. "This is a wonderful event," his mother Shruthi Shankar commented. "What the staff and volunteers do for these children is incredible."

Maevie Howett, director of pediatric nursing at Emory, said Fall Festival and programs like it are "win-win opportu-

nities" for campers, families and community volunteers. For campers and families, volunteer participation helps makes the events possible. For the nursing students, who spend most days undergoing extensive in-hospital training, the festival is a welcome and needed break outside the hospital walls. "Opportunities like this give the students the understanding that there is life after diagnosis," she said. "It is important for them to see the kids having fun in a festive setting."

Camp Sunshine Rocks

Embracing the spirit of the day, Mark Adams wore a long, black wig and sunglasses, looking more like a rock star than a community volunteer. A member of a local band, Mark entertained





MOVING?

Have you moved recently?

Are you about to move?

Do we need to change
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Contact Chanteasea@
mycampsunshine.com or call
404-325-7979, ext. 10.

At Camp Sunshine, autumn's golden glow makes us especially thankful. Even as we brace ourselves for chilly days ahead, we are warmed by thoughts of caring friends, donors and volunteers who make our year-round programs possible. They are steadfast partners, and their support enables us to offer true community to children with cancer and their families, whatever the season.

Partner is an interesting word. More often, it is used as a noun. But at Camp Sunshine, it is a very active verb. This *Postcards* includes many examples of special people who partner with us – sharing their time, talent and financial gifts to spread the Sunshine.

Fall Festival is one of our most popular events, this year attracting more than 200 campers, families and friends. Through partnership, our outside area at the Camp Sunshine House is transformed into an autumn fun park, where costumed campers, their siblings and families are treated to a day of joy

and relaxation. It takes more than 50 volunteers to make Fall Festival happen. We are deeply grateful to our community partners who send groups of volunteers, as well as to our faithful camp volunteers, who are always ready to help.

Our Volunteer Spotlight features Julie Sullivan Mayfield who exemplifies partner as an action verb. For 13 years, Julie has volunteered for summer camp and many other Camp Sunshine programs. Remarkably, for eight of those summers, Julie was living and working in Los Angeles. The 2,200 miles in between never stopped her from participating in camp. Camp tops her passion list, and she is eager to share her enthusiasm, introducing many friends and loved ones to the joy of volunteering here.

The Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia is our featured Community Partner. This professional association of bankers, brokers and affiliated members has literally dug in for camp, planning, organizing and installing last year's landscaping project at our Clairmont Road campus. The association's Lend-A-Hand Foundation has become a valued partner, sponsoring Fall Festival and our Holiday Party and sending needed volunteers to ensure the success of these events.

Partnering with Camp Sunshine takes many forms – even that of a whoopee cushion. That was Adam Kessler's costume at Fall Festival this year. Adam is a former camper, a childhood cancer survivor and a priceless volunteer. A successful restaurateur who teaches cooking class to young campers, Adam understands the importance of building community – whether at work or at camp. We are thankful to him for sharing his story.

One way to partner with us is to support Camp Sunshine at holiday time. We are thrilled to team up with the Alliance Theater and presenting sponsor The Coca-Cola Company for two benefit performances of *The Wizard of Oz*. Tickets make great holiday gifts for children, grandchildren and kids of all ages. Dorothy learned there is no place like home; we know there is no place like camp. May your holidays be safe, healthy and filled with brilliant sunshine. – Sally Hale, Executive Director

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Make Your Holiday Giving Count

Camp Sunshine offers creative ways to make your holiday gifts count.

Tuck a ticket in a child's stocking. Children and grandchildren of all ages can follow the yellow brick road at the Camp Sunshine benefit performance of *The Wizard of Oz* at the Alliance Theater, February 26, 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm.

Buy a brick: Purchase an engraved brick or paver for our brick walkway at the Camp Sunshine House. A meaningful way to pay tribute to a friend or loved one whose life has been touched by camp, brick options range from \$100 to \$500.

Send a special message. Honor friends, family and business associates with a donation to Camp Sunshine. Along with

your financial gift, send us the names and addresses of those you are honoring, and we'll send them a personalized card designed by one of our campers.



For more information on the many ways you can give to Camp Sunshine at holiday time or anytime throughout the year, contact Mary Kyle, Development Director at 404-325-7979 or mary@mycampsunshine.com.*

THEN & NOW

Adam's Story

The way Adam sees it, falling off a moving bus when he was 10 years old might have been one of the best things that ever happened to him. "It was a freak accident," he said, "but it probably saved my life."

The year was 1993, but Adam, a well-loved camp counselor and volunteer, remembers it like it was yesterday. He was helping his parents at a band competition. He was standing on the bus steps, stamping students' hands. The bus door was open, and when the bus lurched forward, Adam fell off and hit his head.

He was rushed to the hospital. Adam had developed a knot on his head, but otherwise seemed OK. His mother, concerned about a possible concussion, insisted on a CT scan. The scan showed a mass, not caused by or related to the bus accident in any way. Adam was taken to Scottish Rite Hospital (now Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), where an MRI helped confirm astrocytoma, an



intertwining tumor at the back of his brain stem.

Adam underwent a 14-hour surgery to remove the tumor and was hospitalized for three weeks. He required no chemotherapy or radiation treatment. "The tumor had been growing for some time," Adam said. "If I hadn't fallen off the bus and if it hadn't been discovered, the doctors said within a month I would have experienced some very serious, very severe symptoms. I had a guardian angel to push me off that bus."

On to Camp Sunshine

Adam and his family first heard about Camp Sunshine while at Scottish Rite. "Some of my nurses talked about it and encouraged me to go," he recalled. "At first my mother wasn't too keen on it due to concerns about my condition." The more she learned about camp, however, the more convinced she was that Adam should go.



As Junior Week drew near, Adam became hesitant: "I was a homebody; I had never been away from my parents. I cried the first couple of days. But once I got over the hurdle, it was fantastic. The best part was being able to relate to seven other cabin mates – all going through what you are going through. Cancer wasn't a crutch at camp; it was the norm."

Adam never missed Summer Camp and has many fond memories: "The carnival, the Atlanta Braves coming to camp, REM being there." One summer, he was tour guide for comedian Jeff Foxworthy and his Aunt Rose. "These are huge things to experience as a kid, things you never forget."

When Adam graduated from camp at age 18, he wasn't ready to leave the sunshine behind. He began counselor training and has been an invaluable volunteer ever since. "Camp Sunshine is truly in my heart," he said. "The counselors were a huge influence in my life. I made lifelong friends at camp. I want to give back so that these kids can have what I had."

After graduating with honors from high school, Adam started in the restaurant business with his brother Brian. Today, they own and operate two successful eateries: Capozzi's Pizza on Shallowford Road in East Cobb and Capo's Restaurant in Acworth. Combined, the restaurants employ 45 people, and Adam is so connected to the business that customers call him "Mr. Capozzi."

But always he finds time for Camp Sunshine – volunteering for Family Camp, Savannah Family Camp, the Fall Festival and many other camp programs. One of his latest ventures is sharing his passion for and knowledge of food to Junior Week campers, offering the popular cooking class. "I'll do whatever it takes to be there for these kids," he said. "I let them go ahead and throw flour up in the air. I have a broom. Seeing the smile on their faces, now that is priceless."✱



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Camp Tops Julie Sullivan Mayfield's List of Favorites

Julie Sullivan Mayfield is a study coordinator for the American Cancer Society, runs BTB CrossFit Vinings with her husband Charles, and with Charles has co-authored a best-selling

cookbook, *Paleo Comfort Foods*. Her passions are many, but at the top of the list is Camp Sunshine.

A 1996 graduate of Emory University with a degree in psychology, Julie first worked in child advocacy for Egleston Children's Hospital (now Children's Healthcare of Atlanta). She liked her job but found even more satisfaction as a volunteer at the Aflac Cancer Center at Children's. When former Camp Sunshine Program Director Tricia Benson called her one day in the

summer of 1998 and asked her to escort media representatives from CBS News on a tour of Camp Sunshine and inform them about childhood cancer, Julie began a volunteer commitment to camp that has lasted more than 13 years. "I came out that day and fell in love with camp," she said. "I knew it was where I had to be."

Julie's career path took her to the American Cancer Society (ACS) as a research study coordinator in California. "By that time, Camp Sunshine had gotten into my blood," she said. So even though she had relocated to Los Angeles, Julie

would fly back to Atlanta and dedicate a week's vacation time to being a cabin counselor at summer camp. She did this for eight years, coming in second only to Carla Asplund, who flies from Portland, Oregon, as the person who traveled the farthest to take part in camp.

This past summer of 2011 numbered Julie's 13th as a cabin counselor – sometimes to young kids during Junior Week, sometimes to older teens during Teen Week. "I love both volunteer jobs," Julie said. "The junior campers are so excited about everything – the activities, the opportunities, making new friends. With the older teens, it's more about relationships. It is such a huge privilege and an honor to be a part of their lives."

Julie's work with the ACS brought her back to Atlanta in 2006. In addition to summer camp, she has volunteered for any number of camp programs, including Family Camp, Teen Retreat, Family Night, Spring Fling and many school-age programs. She and Charles also participate in Fall Festival each year, this year coming in costume as a fried egg (Julie) and bacon (Charles).

Julie also loves introducing friends and loved ones to camp and encouraging a true spirit of community voluntarism in others. From BTB Fitness, she rallies a number of people to volunteer at Fall Festival and other events. "I love when a friend has that aha! moment, realizing this is a way they can get involved and make a difference. That can mean giving of their time through a camp program, supporting camp by donating to the Keencheefoonee Road Race, stuffing eggs for the Spring Fling or contributing cakes for the Fall Festival cake walk."

Camp, Julie noted, offers a full calendar of year-round programming: "So the more people we can get involved, the more we can do for the campers and their families. The reward is the seeing the joy of these children – and the joy you experience yourself by being a part of camp."★



We're Off to See the Wizard!

Join Camp Sunshine at the Alliance Theatre on Sunday, February 26, for one of two magical performances of *The Wizard of Oz*!

Performances are at 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm. Camp Sunshine is excited to partner with Presenting Sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, and Atlanta's nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre to offer this exclusive private charitable event. Proceeds will benefit our year-round programs for children with cancer and their families.

The classic story of *The Wizard of Oz* is about finding strength, love and courage, which truly speaks to Camp

Sunshine's own mission and vision. Please join us for this heart-warming musical that reminds us of the importance of love, friendship and home.

Sponsorships are now available for individuals and corporations. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$35 for children (under age 18). Tax deductible portion is \$15 per ticket. For more information, contact Lindsey Monroe at 404-325-7979 or lindsey@mycampsunshine.com.★

Fall Festival, Continued from Page 1

festival-goers by playing drums and letting the kids take a turn, too: "This is a great day. All the kids dressed in cool costumes; everybody so excited to be here; so many activities for the kids. What's not to like about Fall Festival?"

Mark was introduced to Camp Sunshine through friends at BTB CrossFit Vinings, which sends a number of volunteers to help at Fall Festival each year. "There is such an outpouring of love and support for the kids on the part of the staff and volunteers," he said. "It's a great sense of community here. Everybody is so committed to these families. Camp Sunshine creates the chance for everybody – the kids, their families and the volunteers – to have fun."

The opportunity to relax and be together as a family drew the Carrasquillos – parents Erin and Tony, camper Gus (dressed as a farmer) and his sister Audrey (dressed as a ladybug) – to festival day. Gus was diagnosed in June of 2010 with medulloblastoma and is still in treatment. At Fall Festival, the family can leave behind the world of hospital stays and clinic visits. "Camp Sunshine provides opportunities for these kids to just have fun and be themselves," said Erin. "For us, it gives us a chance to be around a community of people who really understand what we are going through. That is priceless."



This marked the ninth Fall Festival for volunteer Susan Willoughby: "This is one of my favorite camp activities. I love the costumes, the fun, the atmosphere. I've seen how the festival has grown through the years. It's exciting to be a part of it."

The Rowan family – parents Robby and Victoria, camper Catherine and her sister Sabrina – are deeply grateful for the commitment of community volunteers. Diagnosed with optic

**CAMP SUNSHINE SALUTES
FALL FESTIVAL SPONSORS**
BTB CrossFit Vinings
Big Canoe Chapel
Chuy's
**Emory University
Nursing Students**
Veredus


glioma, Catherine is two and a half years off-therapy. In addition to Fall Festival, the family has participated in several camp activities, including Spring Fling, Music Class, Family Camp, Family Night, the Holiday Party and Spa Night. "Camp Sunshine gives us the chance to get away from the everyday challenges and be part of a very special community," Victoria said. "The staff is so on the ball and the volunteers – they are amazing."*



For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Ann Baker at 404-325-7979 or ann@mycampsunshine.com.



CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

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

JANUARY 2012

SPA SYDELL NIGHT AT CAMP SUNSHINE

January 9, March 12 and April 30

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.

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

THE NEXT STEPS: OFF TREATMENT WORKSHOP

March 24, 2012

Camp Sunshine House

RSVP required. Call 404-325-7979

Topics addressed at this educational program will include:

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

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.

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Eglston	2 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	3	4 Sibling → Overnight
5 →	6	7 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/SR	8 Pre-School Music Class	9	10	11
12 Athens Regional Program	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Pre-School Music Class	23	24	25
26 Wizard of Oz	27	28 Seasonal Sunshine	29			



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MARCH 2012

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

SAVE THESE DATES

May 19, 2012
Staff Orientation

June 17-22, 2012
Summer Camp – Teen Week

June 24-29, 2012
Summer Camp – Junior Week

August 17-19, 2012
Sibling Camp

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

Camp Sunshine Presents
The Wizard of Oz
Sunday, February 26, 2012
1:30-3:30

Let Camp Sunshine take you over the rainbow to the Land of Oz with Dorothy and Toto for an amazing production at the nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre! Join us for one of two matinee shows of "The Wizard of Oz" and enjoy this story of love, courage, and friendship as it unfolds. For sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, please contact Lindsey Monroe.

APRIL 2012

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



1850 Clairmont Road
Decatur, GA 30033
404-325-7979
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CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

COMMUNITY PARTNER SALUTE

Mortgage Bankers Lend a Hand

One reason Fall Festival looks so festive and fall-like is the attractive landscaping around the Sally J. Hale Center, in the area where the festival takes place. The landscaping was made possible through the generosity and volunteer efforts of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia's (MBAG) Lend-A-Hand Foundation.



Representing 150 member companies, the professional association is comprised of mortgage bankers, brokers and associates, explained Debbie Pennington, Senior Mortgage Banker with Fidelity Bank Mortgage and last year's chair of the Lend-A-Hand Foundation. The MBAG established Lend-A-Hand in 1990 as a means of giving back to the community. Past projects include renovating homes for the elderly,

providing Hurricane Katrina relief and sending foster children to summer camp.

In 2010, the group chose Camp Sunshine as the recipient of its good works. Camp Sunshine Board Chair Mo Thrash is a member of MBAG, Ms. Pennington noted: "I knew of Mo's involvement with Camp Sunshine, so I met with him and Sally Hale to discuss how our organization could help camp." The landscape beautification project was a good fit. "We had a landscape plan drawn up by Property Masters, one of our associate members, and we had about 40 members volunteer to participate in a two-day work detail in fall 2010." The group planted trees, shrubs, flowers and sod. They also installed pine straw and spruced up the areas around the playground and the Camp Sunshine House in preparation for Fall Festival.

From there, the group went on to sponsor the holiday party. "We had 10 members volunteer for the event," Ms. Pennington said. "We helped with check-in, refreshments and activities for the children. We were so inspired by the children and families that we decided to be involved again this year. We cannot thank Camp Sunshine enough for letting us be a part of their community." Camp Sunshine is deeply grateful to MBAG not only for lending a hand, but for opening their hearts to our campers and their families. ✨