

**The Gift That Keeps on Giving** Learn how you can become a "Faithful Friend" to Camp Sunshine and give all year long. **Page 2**

**Then and Now** Two mothers of former campers talk about letting their sons attend Camp Sunshine and the impact it had on all of their lives. **Page 3**

**Camp Twin Lakes** The camp that became a permanent home to Camp Sunshine in 1993 is celebrating its 25th year. **Page 5**

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



# POSTCARDS

## Making Memories at Camp Sunshine for 35 Years



If postcards had been made of the early summers at Camp Sunshine, they would most likely capture scenes of beautiful mountain lakes, open fields, horseback riding trails, rustic cabins, evening campfires, and a rising flag in morning light. If you added children to those scenes, they would be jumping into the deep blue waters of the lake, playing kickball in the fields, riding horses along the trails and singing around the campfire. The sounds in those pictures would be of children playing and laughing and the messages would be of the lasting friendships formed.

These are all images of the places Camp Sunshine has called home. This year we look back on our 35-year history and in this

story, the four camps that have been home to our summer camp. All have been a part of creating memories and opportunities for the children and teens at Camp Sunshine – giving them a place to grow, laugh, play and just be kids.

In 1983, 40 children gathered at Camp High Harbour on Lake Burton for the inaugural year of Camp Sunshine. "It was our very

first camp and it took a leap of faith to try something so new for the first time," says Camp Sunshine Executive Director Sally Hale.

*Continued on Page 4*



**Camp High Harbour 1983**



## DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,

Remember flipping through the day's stack of mail, the envelopes and catalogues – and suddenly discovering a personal postcard?

One side featured a photo; the other, a handwritten note from a friend or family member sharing experiences from another world. In the moment you read the message, you were taken to that place to be with that person.

The unexpected joy of receiving a postcard has been replaced with scrolling through texts and peering at multi-pixel photos. While such modern-day correspondence is welcome, there's just something special about getting a postcard.

This edition of *Postcards*

is special, too: We're taking you back in time as we commemorate the 35th summer of Camp Sunshine in 2017.

In our cover story, you will find a rich retrospective of the places Camp Sunshine has called home. We spent a decade at three different camps in north Georgia before Doug Hertz had the vision of finding a permanent home for Camp Sunshine and other special needs camps.

Camp Sunshine of course eventually settled at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, and it is the featured "Community Partner" in this issue. This year is all silver for Camp Twin Lakes as it celebrates its 25th anniversary, and the arc of its growth and impact is something to behold.

Our "Then and Now" profiles two mothers of campers, Nancy Burrow and Vicki Cherry, who now are part of the Camp Sunshine staff. Nancy and Vicki exemplify the courage parents often must summon when sending their children away to camp – and they remind us that the trust parents place in us is a gift – to us and to their child.

The world has changed so much since the first days of Camp Sunshine 35 years ago. But like the joy of receiving a postcard, one thing that hasn't changed is the inspiring support of our donors and volunteers – many of them former campers – who come back year after year.

For all of you, I am especially grateful!

— Sally Hale, *Executive Director*

## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

The lives of children with cancer will be restored and strengthened by the embrace of our Camp Sunshine community.

## Become a "Faithful Friend" to Camp Sunshine

We could not accomplish the things we do at Camp Sunshine without the generous support of our donors. We are grateful for gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations and civic groups.

We also have a special group we refer to as our "Faithful Friends" – individuals who make monthly contributions.

We are so thankful for our "Faithful Friends" and would be delighted to add your name to our list! You can sign up online to make an automatic monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring gift, and you will help us provide life-changing programs to children with cancer all year long! Here are some ideas:

- ★ Go to [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com) and sign up to make a monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring gift.
- ★ Donate via employee giving thru payroll at your place of business.
- ★ Write a monthly check to Camp Sunshine when you pay monthly bills.

To learn more about the different ways to give to Camp Sunshine, please visit our website at [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com).





## THEN &amp; NOW

## Nancy and Vicki's Story

***"It's the best week of their lives, and they make friendships that last forever."*** – Vicki, Reese's mom

When Hayes Burrow was leaving on the bus to Camp Sunshine for the first time in 1999, his mother, Nancy, dropped him off with a box full of medication and waved goodbye in tears.

"I knew it would be good for him, but I couldn't imagine him being away for a week," remembers Nancy. "He was only nine years old and very sick."

Just the year before, Hayes was diagnosed with a peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor. His treatment required 52 weeks of chemotherapy, with a hospital stay every three weeks. It was during his treatment that the Burrows learned about Camp Sunshine.

"The nurses at the hospital really encouraged us," Nancy says. "I knew it would be good for him to go."

Vicki Cherry was also a little reluctant to let her son, Reese, go to summer camp as he was in the throes of his treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). He had been diagnosed at age seven in October 1999. While at the hospital, other mothers told Vicki about Camp Sunshine and encouraged her to attend Family Camp. The Cherrys went in the spring of 2000 and after that, all Reese could talk about was going to summer camp.

"I knew that because of his treatment schedule, Reese would be sick the week of camp," Vicki says, "but he was determined to go."

Nancy and Vicki are among the hundreds of parents who have entrusted Camp Sunshine to care for and nurture their children for a week of summer camp over the last 35 years. And these two mothers – like so many others – say that the experience for their children was "transformative."

"Hayes came back so much more independent," Nancy says. "At the time he had to take 16 rather large potassium pills. I would cut them in half for him. When he returned, he said 'watch this' and took them all by himself without me cutting them or helping him in any way. He was very proud."

Vicki says that Reese did have a tough time and the counselors actually thought they were going to have to send him home, but by Wednesday of that week he was much better, which gave him confidence and made him more hopeful. "He learned that it's okay to not feel good, and you can still participate in things," she says. "When he came home, he had transformed back into a normal kid."

After their first year, Hayes and Reese returned to Camp Sunshine every summer until they were 18. Their mothers also got involved. Vicki volunteered at Camp Sunshine House over the years, and joined the staff as Camper Services Administrator in January 2016. Nancy volunteered at CURE Childhood Cancer Atlanta and became Camp Sunshine's Special Events and Communications Manager in December 2015.

"We are both here because we had the courage to drop our children off," says Vicki. "We believe in Camp Sunshine's mission because we saw what it could do."

Both mothers agree their sons' camp experience shaped the young men they have become, instilling in them a sense of compassion and a desire to help others. When he graduated from high school, Reese donated all the money he received to Camp Sunshine in honor of three camp friends who didn't live to see their high school graduation. Hayes was a Leader in Training (LIT) one year at Camp Sunshine, and then went to work for Camp Twin Lakes for an entire summer. He is now in dental

school and plans to be an oral surgeon.

Nancy and Vicki both encourage new families to attend Camp Sunshine Family Camp where everyone in the family can experience Camp Twin Lakes and all the activities. The children then feel more comfortable with the camp when they go on their own.

"It's very difficult to let a seriously ill child go," acknowledges Vicki. "But you can't let your fears get in the way of an incredible life changing experience. It's the best week of their lives, and they make friendships that last forever."★



Nancy and her family



Vicki and her family



## Making Memories at Camp Sunshine for 35 Years, continued from page 1

"It was there we began so many of our camp traditions: the first friendship bracelet, the first campfire, the first camper awards and writing our camp song!"

After two years at Camp High Harbour, Camp Sunshine moved to Camp Coleman in Cleveland, Ga., in 1985. A new home brought new traditions and memories, including more activities just for teens and the annual bus trip back to Lake Burton for a day.

As Camp Sunshine continued to grow, so did the need for space. Staying in the north Georgia community of Cleveland, Camp Barney Meditz became Camp Sunshine's home from 1987-1992. The staff there taught our campers there were no limitations to what they could do, adapting activities to their abilities – waterskiing, horseback riding, ropes course, archery or swimming. The last summer, campers painted two murals – one to leave behind at Camp Barney and one to take to the new home at Camp Twin Lakes.

Camp Sunshine was THE turning point in my son's recovery. He came home from his camp with a new purpose and understanding that he can beat cancer, he is normal and that he will be just like everyone else.

**– Mother of a camper, 2016**

Our son had a marvelous time. He came home a different child. He is more sure of himself. The camp also taught him to be independent. Thank you for making this one of the best summers for him.

**- Mother of a camper, 1983**

Throughout the years in North Georgia, Camp Sunshine continued to return to the place where it all began – Lake Burton. "We had 'Thursdays at Lake Burton' where we bussed everyone back to Lake Burton and were met with a fleet of pontoon boats," remembers Sally. "It was a special place for us where strangers really did open their homes and hearts to kids who just wanted to be kids again."

In 1993, after much anticipation, Camp Sunshine had a new camp to call home, Camp Twin Lakes. "We finally had a home built just for us, allowing us to have programs all year long," says Sally. "At Camp Twin Lakes, we have grown our summer camp and added camps for families, siblings, teens and for families who return to remember their child who is no longer with us."

Camp Sunshine's budget has gone from \$25,000 the first year to over \$1.8 million today. The camp has



Camp Sunshine at Camp Barney Meditz



Camp High Harbour 1983





**Day at Lake Burton 1986**

grown from 40 campers and one week of camp to serving 400 campers in two weeks of summer camp plus 140 additional programs and over 7,000 participants today. But with all those changes, some things have remained the same.

"Home is where we are together," Sally says. "These camps have been part of our journey where our campers have made lasting friendships and a lifetime of memories together. Our parents tell us Camp Sunshine has the same profound impact on the lives of children with cancer today as it did during our first camp in 1983 at Camp High Harbour." ✨

*When parents were surveyed about summer camp, 100 percent reported their child was able to meet other campers going through similar situations and that camp helped their child experience normal childhood activities. And nearly all said their child came home with more self-confidence, increased independence and a sense of pride about something they had accomplished at camp.*

## COMMUNITY PARTNER

### Camp Twin Lakes Celebrates 25 Years

In the late 1980s, it became apparent that Camp Sunshine needed a permanent home. Doug Hertz, a Camp Sunshine board member, took on the challenge and commitment and started the long journey of building a camp to be used by Camp Sunshine as well as other camps for special children.

At that time there were not many camps for children with special needs around the country. Doug Hertz and the Camp Twin Lakes team turned to Camp John Marc in Texas as a model for the new camp in Georgia. The team took what they learned and designed a camp with a full medical facility, air conditioned cabins and other features to make the camp comfortable and accessible for campers. Georgia-Pacific generously donated the initial land near Rutledge. In 1993, Camp Twin Lakes opened to seven non-profit community organizations, including Camp Sunshine, to provide summer camp serving 1,000 children.

For the last 25 years, Camp Twin Lakes has given thousands of Georgia's children with serious illnesses, disabilities, and other life challenges a chance to experience summer camp like other children. These include children with arthritis, asthma, epilepsy, hearing disorders, heart problems and kidney disorders, as well as those experiencing grief.

*Continued on Page 8*



## Camp Twin Lakes 1993





# CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

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

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### Yoga

At Camp Sunshine House

2nd Thursday each month

9:30-10:30AM

Call to RSVP

Come join us for Sunshine and Yoga time with the amazing instructors from Infinity Yoga.

## M A Y 2 0 1 7

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>3</b> Washington DC Trip For Teens Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	<b>4</b> Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> →
<b>7</b> →	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Yoga at Camp Sunshine House Sunshine 2 U in Savannah	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Staff Orientation for Summer Camp
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Seasonal Sunshine at Camp Sunshine House	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### Rides to Remember

June 10, 2017

### Keencheefoonee Road Race

June 20 and June 27, 2017

Camp Sunshine's volunteer-driven annual fundraiser! Support your favorite volunteer or join us as a virtual runner to help send more kids with cancer to summer camp.

### Roopville Ramble

May 20, 2017

The Roopville Ramble is a century ride in beautiful rolling West Georgia, benefiting Camp Sunshine. Distances of 15, 37, 50, 67 (Metric Century), and 104 miles are offered. Registration information can be found at [www.roopvilleramble.org](http://www.roopvilleramble.org).

### Pirates of Lanier Poker Run

July 21-23, 2017

[www.piratesoflanier.com](http://www.piratesoflanier.com)

Join the Pirates of Lanier for their annual poker run benefiting Camp Sunshine – a wild weekend of pirates and parties!

## J U N E 2 0 1 7

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> Remembering the Sunshine Family Night Sunshine 2 U in Savannah Parents Night Out at Art Bosh Studio – Savannah	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	<b>6</b> New Camper Orientation at Camp Sunshine House	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> →	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Rides to Remember
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> →	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Teen Summer Camp at Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Keencheefoonee Road Race at Camp Twin Lakes	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> →	<b>23</b> →	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Junior Summer Camp at Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Keencheefoonee Road Race at Camp Twin Lakes	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> →	<b>30</b> →	



Connect with Camp Sunshine online to stay up to date on the latest news and happenings! Join us at [www.facebook.com/campsunshine](http://www.facebook.com/campsunshine), [twitter.com/mycampsunshine](https://twitter.com/mycampsunshine), [Pinterest.com/mycampsunshine](https://www.pinterest.com/mycampsunshine) and [Instagram.com/mycampsunshine](https://www.instagram.com/mycampsunshine)



# CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS



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

## JULY 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	12 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2 U in Savannah	13 Yoga at Camp Sunshine House	14	15 Teen Leadership Challenge →
16 →	17	18	19	20 →	21	22 Savannah Banana Baseball game at Grayson Stadium
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUGUST 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	2 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2 U in Savannah	3 Remembering the Sunshine Family Night	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Yoga at Camp Sunshine House	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Sibling Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge →	19
20 → Hit a Home Run at SunTrust Park	21	22 Seasonal Sunshine BBQ and Bingo	23	24	25	26 Teen Lock In at Camp Sunshine House →
27 →	28	29	30	31		

### SAVE THESE DATES

**September 9, 2017**

Preschool Apple Orchard Excursion  
Hillcrest Orchards, Elijay, GA

**September 9, 2017**

Wild Adventures

**September 11, 2017**

Spa Night at Camp Sunshine House

**October 6-8, 2017**

Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes

**October 13-15, 2017**

Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes

**October 20-22, 2017**

Remember the Sunshine Weekend at  
Camp Twin Lakes

**October 22, 2017**

Fall Festival at Camp Sunshine House

**November 7, 2017**

Seasonal Sunshine Thanksgiving Dinner  
at Camp Sunshine House

**November 17-19, 2017**

Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes

**December 10, 2017**

Holiday Party and 35th Reunion

### REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

We now provide programs in all areas of the state in addition to programs in the metro Atlanta area. Check our website [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com), the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.



**CAMP SUNSHINE®**

A ray of hope for children with cancer.™

1850 Clairmont Rd. ✱ Decatur, GA 30033

404-325-7979 ✱ Toll-Free 866-786-2267

[www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com)

### Is Your Info Up to Date?

Email [Chanteasea@mycampsunshine.com](mailto:Chanteasea@mycampsunshine.com)

Or call 404-325-7979, ext. 21

Or go to [www.mycampsunshine.com](http://www.mycampsunshine.com)

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## C A M P S U N S H I N E P O S T C A R D S

### Camp Twin Lakes Celebrates 25 Years, continued from page 5

And like Camp Sunshine, Camp Twin Lakes has grown over the years and expanded its programs.

"Today, Camp Twin Lakes collaborates with 64 different partner organizations to facilitate year-round camp programs at three medically supportive, fully-accessible campsites in Rutledge, Winder and Warm Springs," says Jill Morrissey, Chief Executive Officer of Camp Twin Lakes, adding that they also provide "Camp-to-Go" programs at children's hospitals throughout Georgia. "In 2016, we served 10,000 campers," she says.

The camp also has also expanded to include a working farm with 50 head of cattle, 200 chickens and five alpaca. Morrissey says last year, the camp harvested more than 10,500 pounds of produce, 4,600 pounds of grass-fed beef and 16,000 eggs from the farm that was used in the dining hall as well

as to provide educational programming about healthy eating and where their food comes from.

"We are so grateful for our partnership with Camp Twin Lakes," Camp Sunshine Executive Director Sally Hale says. "It has allowed us to grow our programs and focus on our mission to enrich to lives of Georgia's children with cancer and their families." ✱



### Save the Date – 35th Reunion and Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for **December 10, 2017**, at the Westin Atlanta Perimeter North for the Camp Sunshine 35th Reunion and Holiday Party. Current families, alumni, and past and current volunteers are all welcome. We hope to see you there!