### **WINTER 2017**

Volume 15 • Number 3 A Publication for Families and Friends of Camp Sunshine – A Ray of Hope for Children with Cancer Volunteer Spotlight Geoff Jackman is one of the many dedicated volunteers who travels across the country to attend summer camp. Page 3 It's Going to be a Celebration! Make plans to join us at the Atlanta History Center on February 22 as we celebrate 35 years of Camp Sunshine. **Page 5**  Frostys for a Cause Wendy's supports Camp Sunshine in many ways, especially through their Jr. Frosty promotion. Page 8

# CAMPSUNSHINE POSUNSHINE POSTCARDS

# Camp Sunshine Awards 29 Campers with Sunshine Scholarships

he 2017 Camp Sunshine scholarship recipients are planning to become doctors, nurses, a dietician, and even a pilot. They are choosing different careers with the same goal: giving back and helping others. These former campers are grateful for all they've received, and they all hold a special place in their hearts for Camp Sunshine.

Established in 1992, these scholarships are awarded to Camp Sunshine Alumni who plan to attend a college, university or technical school. Camp Sunshine has awarded college scholarships to 29 very deserving childhood cancer survivors this year and they will be attending a variety of institutions – both near and far.

Providing these scholarships – thanks to generous donations – is a way for Camp Sunshine to continue to support these future leaders on their journey, and a wonderful way to stay connected to them as they move forward in life.

Each applicant must submit an essay when applying for the scholarship. Here are some excerpts from some of this year's inspiring scholarship recipients.



**Collier Cayce, Georgia Southern University** Having cancer opened my eyes to a whole new world and the fact that there are so many kids who are fighting this nasty disease. Battling and surviving a rare form of cancer molded me into the stronger, better and more optimistic person I am today. I have met lifelong friends that I talk to on a daily basis through Camp Sunshine. As I look for a way to give back, one of my goals is to become a Leader in Training and then become a counselor. I hope to be part of Camp Sunshine for years to come.

**Grace Lawton Davis, Agnes Scott College** In crucial ways, the light and joy of Camp Sunshine helped me grow into the soon to be college student I am today. I created memories and friendships that I will never forget. At Camp Sunshine, I could do all the activities that the other kids could do even though I am in a wheelchair. The people at camp could look beyond my disability and see me as a young girl who wanted to make new friends and enjoy similar experiences even though I had to do things a little differently.



I enjoy speaking about disabilities at school and being a part of a diverse and inclusive community. But I want to do more, help more kids and help the

world see the survivors and the disabled as more than what we've suffered, but as capable and caring people. Many people gave their all for me; now it's my turn.

Madeleine Dreesman, University of Georgia Thanks to Camp Sunshine, I have friends for life.



This summer was my last time as a camper, but I plan to return as a counselor in training as soon as I can. At UGA, I will major in physics with plans to go to medical school. My experience with childhood cancer has impacted that decision. I saw a whole new world: hospitals, emergency rooms, ICUs and radiation centers. I experienced firsthand different medical specialties, learned what they did and how each one helps their patients. I hope to become a pediatric anesthesiologist because of those who helped me feel comfortable during a very scary time in my ten-year-old life.



A few years back, the English soul singer Heather Small released a song called "Proud." One of the signature lines was "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" The song perfectly captures the essence of looking back, facing forward and sharing in a good feeling.

Pride – the humble, happy version, not the boastful kind – is rooted in past accomplishment. Yet it's also powerfully motivating, calling us to step up and work hard to achieve

**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. something big in the future. And a moment of pride is experienced purely in the present. It's sharing in the warm happiness of others because of what they've done.

This issue of *Postcards* highlights four good reasons that I am proud of Camp Sunshine and all that we have accomplished. **Reason no. 1: Our scholarship winners.** There are 29 of them this year, all former campers who persevered in school and life, and who now have their sights set on college. In their stories, you'll see how Camp Sunshine inspired them to give back. (You'll also feel good about the future leaders of our country.)

**Reason no. 2: Wendy's.** They're so much more than burgers and fries. They're a generous community partner – especially the Wendy's franchisee groups throughout Georgia, who have been our steadfast supporters. Their Jr. Frosty promotions alone have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit our camp and campers.

**Reason no. 3: Good people like Geoff Jackman.** For two decades, Geoff has given his talent and time to Camp Sunshine, which is why he's in the Volunteer Spotlight this month. He is also one of the many volunteers who travel to camp from outside the state to help out.

**Reason no. 4: Dorothy Jordan.** We're thriving today because of her vision 35 years ago to create Camp Sunshine. Today, Dorothy is still on our board and still volunteers. You'll get a chance to thank her – and share in the pride of Camp Sunshine's success – if you come to our February celebration of the camp's 35th anniversary.

So: What makes *you* most proud of Camp Sunshine? I would love to hear – email me at sally@mycampsunshine.com, and we'll share your good thoughts and those of others on social media.

Most of all – *thank you* for helping to build and continue a legacy of love for children with cancer. You make us proud. – Sally Hale, *Executive Director* 

### Support Camp Sunshine in Honor of our 35th Year





**Honor a friend, camper, alumni or volunteer with a financial gift** Your gift to Camp Sunshine this holiday season is a wonderful way to honor your friend or loved one while supporting us at the same time! You can make your donation securely online at www.mycampsunshine.com by clicking the donate button at the top of the page. Or mail your gift to: Camp Sunshine, 1850 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033

**Be a part of our 35th Anniversary Celebration** Join us on February 22, 2018, at the Atlanta History Center as we celebrate the success of Camp Sunshine over the past 35 years. If you cannot attend, consider donating your ticket for a Camp Sunshine Alumni to attend. For more details on this event, please see page 5.

**Create a lasting legacy through a planned gift** Join the Circle of Sunshine – our legacy giving program – by making a gift as part of your financial or estate plan. You can donate via a stock gift, 401K designation, trust, life insurance policy, or most commonly, a bequest.

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

### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

# Geoff Jackman: Traveling Across the Country for Camp Sunshine



Each summer, Camp Sunshine is fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers – many who come back year after year – give their time during Teen Week and Junior Week. They travel to camp from near and far, no matter where they call

home. This summer, volunteers came from 18 different states. Dr. Geoff Jackman is one of those committed volunteers.

The doctor, who goes by "Jackman" to all who know him at camp, uses words like "fate" and "luck" when describing how he got involved with Camp Sunshine 20 years ago.

At the time he had just completed his residency in pediatric emergency medicine at a children's hospital in Dallas, and had come to Atlanta to do a fellowship at what was then known as Henrietta Egleston Children's Hospital (now part of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta). He moved into a house with three other people, all whom volunteered at Camp Sunshine. They encouraged him to join them that summer.

That was in 1998, and Jackman hasn't missed a Teen Week at Camp Sunshine since, despite the fact that he only lived in Atlanta for three years before taking a job in Salt Lake City, Utah. He says it was never in question that he would make the trip back to Atlanta every summer for that one special week.

"I can never give as much to Camp Sunshine as what it gives back," he says. "The week I spend at camp puts me in a good frame of mind. To see what the kids can accomplish just makes it all worthwhile."

Although he is a doctor, he doesn't volunteer in that capacity. Instead, he has served as a cabin counselor to 16, 17 and 18-year-old boys each summer. He has been coming so long that he has had the privilege to watch many of the campers grow up.

"Kids that were in my cabin are now counselors, and some are married with kids of their own," he says. "It has been great to see these kids grow, and grow up."

One of his favorite memories is of a young girl doing the ropes course for the first time, without the use of her prosthetic leg. This caused her to be late for lunch. When she entered the dining hall, the entire place erupted in cheers and gave her a standing ovation. "To me, that just speaks volumes about the camp," says Jackman. "Something like that puts your whole life in perspective."

This past summer Jackman and his wife moved to Southern California where he took a position at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. But he plans to continue to make the cross country trek to Camp Sunshine.

"Camp Sunshine is like a family," he says, "and once you're part of it, that never changes. It's a unique bond where everyone wishes each other success both inside and outside of camp. I am grateful to be a part of it." \*



### 2017 Summer Camp Volunteer Stats



### States represented: 18

Georgia, Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.



### **2017 Scholarship Recipients**, Continued from page 1

Kayla Watt, University of North Georgia If I had not gone to Camp



Sunshine, then I would be a completely different person. With the support of my nurses, doctors, family and friends, I progress every day both mentally and physically. Ever since I was a little girl, I always wanted to be in the medical field working with kids. I truly do not see myself doing anything else in the future but working at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Egleston. When I was in the hospital, I always felt so

alone because no other kid had the cancer and the surgery I had, and I know in my heart when I become a nurse there is going to be a kid around the age of eleven who unfortunately will be going through what I went through, and is going to feel alone. And I will be their nurse and share all my experiences and advice with them.

### Erik Harstad, Middle Georgia State



**University** After I was diagnosed with cancer, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta was the primary hospital where I would go to receive treatment as a young boy. As a result, we drove from Columbus, Ga., to Atlanta quite

frequently. The route we came took us right next to Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. I was always amazed to see these large pieces of machinery descend out of the big blue sky and land. I looked forward to going to the hospital since I knew I would have a chance to see a few airplanes on final approach into the airport. Ever since that first instance where I saw the planes come out of the sky, flying has been a great part of my life and dreams. My goal is to graduate college with my commercial multi-engine pilot's certificate. I plan to fly as often as possible with any company or organization and to build a safe and professional flying record.



Mitchell Odendahl, Clemson University | plan to follow my childhood fascination of building and creating things and pursue a future as a mechanical engineer. I hope to enter the mountain bike industry after college, combing my passion for downhill mountain bike racing with my fascination for creating. I hope that I have left nearly as much of an impact on the people of Camp Sunshine as the people of Camp Sunshine have left on me. I will never forget the times I had as a camper and hopefully

John Palmer Moise, Brown University

I was diagnosed with Acute B-cell Lymphoblastic

years old. Because my treatment spanned most

of my childhood, my experience had a profound

impact on my outlook on life, and gave me an

appreciation for life and a strong desire to help

others in the very same way that I was helped. I

techniques and new treatments to increase

survivorship rates in the hope of eventually

mitigating cancer's effect on society.

plan to pursue medicine as a profession and work as an oncologist, developing and refining new

Leukemia in November 2000, when I was two

will have the opportunity to return in the future as a counselor. I intend to work hard in my future and give back to camp the way it has given to me.

Mary Kaitlyn Wheeler, Abraham Baldwin College At the age of four, I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. My tumor was at the top of my left femur, and while my doctor was able to perform a limb salvage surgery, I was left needing the use of a cane to walk. When I started high school, I wanted to earn a letterman jacket. I discovered that I qualified for wheelchair track and field events with my high school's team. During high school, I earned 11 gold medals, a bronze medal and have four team trophies – and a letterman jacket – to show for my efforts. I plan to continue to be an advocate for childhood cancer awareness and help others make the most of every day.



Katelyn Story, Georgia State University | plan to earn my bachelor's degree in Dietetics and Sports Medicine. I then plan to work at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. I was not only given a second, but a third chance at life and I want to use this life to help others the way that my doctors helped me. As a dietician, I would create meal plans for patients who have specific dietary needs and for children battling obesity. This career is a perfect fit, because since the young age of three, I have battled weight and nutritional problems that were caused by my cancer treatments. My personal experience with these problems gives me an edge that a lot of other dieticians won't have, because I've actually been through it.



# Celebrating 35 Years of Camp Sunshine

Make plans to join us for our signature fundraising event on Thursday, February 22, 2018, at the Atlanta History Center as we celebrate our own history: 35 years of Camp Sunshine. We are so appreciative of the many donors and volunteers that have helped Camp Sunshine continue to enrich the lives of Georgia's children with cancer and their families. We will come together at this fundraising event to remember and celebrate the many years, the many volunteers, the many supporters and the many children that have made Camp Sunshine so special. **\*** 

Presenting Sponsor – The Coca-Cola Company Honorary Chair - Dorothy H. Jordan Event Co-Chairs – Barbarella Diaz and Vicki Riedel

Cocktails and Dinner Thursday, February 22, 2018 • 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM Atlanta History Center 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW. Atlanta, GA 30305

### To purchase tickets, go to our website: http://www.mycampsunshine.com/fundraisingevent/celebrating-35-years-of-camp-sunshine/

### 2017 Scholarship Recipients, Continued from page 4

Imoter Mngerem, Georgia College and **State University** As I enter college, my plan is to major in Athletic Training. I have overcome many obstacles, and during my illness and since, I have continued to work out three or four times a week, even while on treatment. My doctors believe that my ability to tolerate chemotherapy with very few side effects as well as a very short stay in the hospital for my bone marrow transplant was due in some part to my body being strong. My oncologists encouraged me to continue to exercise and stay fit. I was an athlete prior to becoming ill, so I knew the importance of being fit. However, I now truly understand the mind/body connection. I hope to someday help others using this same method of exercise and training to overcome medical challenges.

Allyson Wakenigg, University of North **Georgia** My future plans are finally beginning to happen with going to play college softball at the University of North Georgia. This has always been a long-term goal of mine, even before I had a small bump in the road. Camp Sunshine helped me through this journey, as I always had it to look forward to. I was introduced to others who made me realize I wasn't the only one and that I wasn't alone. My bump in the road didn't hold me back, but pushed me to strive even more towards this goal. With everything I have been through, my desired career path is to work towards a major in nursing, then move forward to be a Physicians Assistant. I got to witness firsthand the duties of being a nurse and I would love to help others the way the nurses helped me.

NAME	HOME CITY	UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE ATTENDING
Alyssa Ansell	Niceville, FL	Florida State University
Andrew Appert	Johns Creek, GA	University of Norte Dame
Kate Athanassiades	Decatur, GA	Emory University
Maia Barton	Atlanta, GA	University of Colorado, Boulder
Collier Cayce	Cumming, GA	Georgia Southern University
Grace Lawton Davis	Atlanta, GA	Agnes Scott College
Caitlin Donahue	Suwanee, GA	Georgia College and State University
Madeleine Dreesman	Roswell, GA	University of Georgia
Erik Harstad	Columbus, GA	Middle Georgia State University
Breyana Isler	Lithonia, GA	Florida International University
Jarel Jones	Stone Mountain, GA	Georgia State University
Katelyn Kirby	Locust Grove, GA	Georgia Southern University
Ben Marchese	Milton, GA	Georgia Institute of Technology
Imoter Mngerem	Tyrone, GA	Georgia College and State University
John Palmer Moise	Vienna, WV	Brown University
Kristen O'Brien	Marietta, GA	University of Florida
Mitchell Odendahl	Johns Creek, GA	Clemson University
Caroline Redd	Marietta, GA	Elon University
Greg Richardson-Aguirre	Kennesaw, GA	Georgia State University
Luke Ronco	Roswell, GA	University of Georgia
Amber Sanford	Stockbridge, GA	Georgia State University
Katelyn Story	Loganville, GA	Georgia State University
James Usrey	Warrenton, VA	University of North Georgia
Allyson Wakenigg	Cataula, GA	University of North Georgia
Michael Waters	Powder Springs, GA	Georgia Institute of Technology
Kayla Watt	Auburn, GA	University of North Georgia
Preston Welborn	Demorest, GA	Toccoa Falls College
Mary Kaitlyn Wheeler	Adrian, GA	Abraham Baldwin College
Nathan Wood	Phenix City, AL	Troy University

...

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

0

The Jung	le B	ook				
Presente	d by	the	e All	iance	The	atre
Sunday,	Febr	uar	y 18	3, <mark>20</mark> 1	.8	
3:30 PM						
	-	-				-

SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

Shown at the family-friendly theatre of the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center 3181 Rainbow Drive Decatur, GA 30034

Adapted from the novel by Rudyard Kipling, families will enjoy this lively, youthful, and ultimately powerful adaptation. Tickets are complimentary to Camp Sunshine families while they last. Please look for the invitation in the mail with an RSVP card or call 404-325-7979.

### SPA NIGHT At Camp Sunshine House

January 29 and March 12 6:00-8:00 PM Call to RSVP

Come have dinner and be pampered with facials and table massages.

### REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

We now provide programming in all areas of the state in addition to programs in the Metro Atlanta area. Check out our website www.mycampsunshine.com, the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.



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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	<b>3</b> Sunshine 2U Savannah	<b>4</b> Remember the Sunshine Family Night	5	<b>6</b> Yoga
7	8	9 Sunshine 2U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>10</b> Sunshine 2U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Scottish Rite	11	<b>12</b> Teen Dance and Lock In Savannah Tire Hockey Classic	13
14	<b>15</b> MLK Day Office Closed	16	17	18	<b>19</b> Sibling Camp at Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	<b>29</b> Spa Night	30	31			

### FEBRUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> Remember the Sunshine Family Night	2	3
<b>4</b> Preschool Program at Alliance Theatre – DINASOUR	5	6 Sunshine 2U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>7</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2U in Savar		9	<b>10</b> Yoga
<b>11</b> Seasonal Sunshine – BBQ and Bingo	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>18</b> The Jungle Book	19	20	21	<b>22</b> Celebrating 35 Years of Camp Sunshine	23	24
25	26	27	28			

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

MARCH 2018							
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
				<b>1</b> Remember the Sunshine Family Night	<b>2</b> Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge	3	
4	5	<b>6</b> Sunshine 2U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>7</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2U in Savar	<b>8</b>	9	<b>10</b> Yoga	
11	<b>12</b> Spa Night	13	<b>14</b>	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Spring Fling for Preschool Families	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

### SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

**Celebrating 35 Years of Camp** Sunshine Thursday, February 22, 2018 6:30-9:30 PM Atlanta History Center **130 West Paces Ferry Road** Atlanta, GA 30305 Join Camp Sunshine for a special fundraising event to Celebrate

35 Years of Camp Sunshine with cocktails and dinner at the Atlanta History Center. Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now through the Camp Sunshine website or call 404-325-7979 for additional information.

### SAVE THESE DATES

**Staff Orientation** May 19, 2018

**New Camper Orientation** June 5, 2018

Summer Camp – Teen Week June 17-22, 2018

Summer Camp – Junior Week June 24-29, 2018

**Sibling Camp** August 17-19, 2018

### APRIL 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	<b>3</b> Sunshine 2U at AFLAC Cancer Center/Egleston	<b>4</b> Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2U in Savan	i anni y Niyin	<b>6</b> Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	7
8	9	10	11	12	<b>13</b> Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	14
15 Remember the Sunshine Day at Camp Twin Lakes	16	17	18	19	20	<b>21</b> Yoga
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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

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

### Is Your Info Up to Date?

Email Chanteasea@mycampsunshine.com Or call 404-325-7979, ext.121 Or go to www.mycampsunshine.com

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



### COMMUNITY PARTNER

### Camp Sunshine Benefits from Wendy's Commitment to the Community

Wendy's restaurants are known for their burgers, fries, and of course, Frostys, their signature ice cream. But the company is also known for its commitment to giving back to the community

it serves, a philosophy instilled into all its franchisees by the company's founder, Dave Thomas.

And the Wendy's restaurants in Georgia are no exception. Groups of Wendy's franchisees – known as DMAs, or Direct Marketing Associations – have supported Camp Sunshine in various ways over the years.

"Wendy's has always had a philosophy of giving back to the community," says Matt Van Paepeghem, president of WennMarr Management, which owns 44 Wendy's locations in the

metro Atlanta area. "Dave Thomas was always talking about the importance of this. So our work with Camp Sunshine is in keeping with that corporate philosophy."

Support for Camp Sunshine began in 2006, when the group started a fishing tournament at Lake Lanier as a way for members to get together and unwind from the daily grind of running a restaurant. The proceeds from the tournament went to several organizations, including Camp Sunshine.

When the tournament ended, the group came up with a Frosty promotion where customers bought a key fob shaped like a Frosty for a dollar, and then enjoyed free Frostys all summer. At first the



proceeds were split between the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Camp Sunshine. Eventually, all proceeds went to Camp Sunshine. Last year a card with the Camp Sunshine logo on it replaced the key fob. Four

> DMAs – Atlanta, Chattanooga, Macon and Savannah – participate in the Frosty promotion to benefit Camp Sunshine.

"A six-ounce cup of ice cream goes a long way," Matt says. "It can enlighten people to the mission of Camp Sunshine, and can put a lot of smiles on the faces of those eating ice cream as well as those who come to camp."

The first year of the promotion raised \$30,000 for Camp Sunshine, and support has only grown through the years. In 2016, Wendy's presented Camp Sunshine with a check for over \$250,000.

In 2012, a group of from Wendy's visited Camp Sunshine for the first time and returned even more eager to help. A Frosty machine was installed for the campers' enjoyment, and now a group goes to camp one night during both Teen Week and Junior Week to cook dinner for everyone. They serve hamburgers, chicken, hot dogs, side dishes and Frostys. To Matt and his colleagues, this is just another way to support a worthwhile organization.

"I am blown away by how much Camp Sunshine does and the number of volunteers they have," Matt says. "We are fortunate to be involved with such a well-run organization that makes such a big difference in the life of a child, and in the lives of their families." **\***