

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



POSTCARDS

35 Years of Transformation

Camp Sunshine is a place where memories are made, friendships are formed and deep bonds are established – intangible things that last long after a camper has been to camp. This has been going on for 35 years.

The idea for this idyllic place grew out of a simple concept: give kids with cancer a normal childhood experience. In other words, let kids be kids, and they discover their inner power to achieve more than they imaged.

In 1983, a year after founder Dorothy Jordan conceived of the idea, 44 campers gathered at Camp High Harbour on Lake Burton for a week of normal summer camp activities. Volunteers served as counselors. Doctors and nurses were there to administer care and medication – including chemotherapy – and Camp Sunshine was born. Back then no one could have imagined what Camp Sunshine would become over the years.

“I had no idea the impact that one week would have,” says Sally Hale, Camp Sunshine’s Executive Director, who served as the head nurse that first summer. “Kids were free to be kids, and the magic, which has continued for 35 years, began. It transformed all of us.”

Now, 35 years later, that community has grown into more than just a summer camp. Camp Sunshine now offers year round programming for all ages, all with the goal of enriching the lives of children with cancer and their families. And these programs are provided at no cost to the family.

Continued on Page 4

Celebrating Camp Sunshine

We enjoyed “Celebrating 35 Years of Camp Sunshine” in style on February 22 at the Atlanta History Center with more than 300 of our friends and supporters.

It was a fun, memorable and very special evening made possible by our many sponsors. The event raised over \$380,000, helping us to continue spreading the sunshine for years to come.

We especially want to recognize our Presenting Sponsor **The Coca-Cola Company**; and, Georgia Gold Sponsors **RaceTrac Petroleum**, **The Family of William B. Schwartz, Jr.**, and **Thrivent Mutual Funds**.



Camp Sunshine Past and Present Board Chairs



DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,

The year 1983 somehow seems both nearby and far away.

Apple Computer had not yet rolled out its Macintosh, and researchers were only beginning to assemble the "network of networks" that became the Internet. Sally Ride became the first woman in space; Michael Jackson made the first

"moonwalk" on national TV. "Annie" closed on Broadway – and Camp Sunshine opened its summer camp at Camp High Harbour on Lake Burton.

Anniversaries are occasions to look back and think ahead. As we look back at Camp Sunshine over the past 35 years, we see a trajectory that's quite extraordinary (see page 4). With every

milestone reached, and all along the way, we've gained knowledge that shaped our collective wisdom.

Our thoughts aren't just on the past, however. Our desire to try new things, to find more ways to serve children with cancer and their families, is stronger than ever. Which is why we're now developing a blueprint for future growth – a strategic plan that will be completed this spring.

Beyond our 35th anniversary story, this edition of *Postcards* looks back and ahead in other ways. Our "Then and Now" profile introduces you to Adam Podber, who spent many summers as a camper. His Camp Sunshine experience inspired him to return as a volunteer last summer; now, he sees himself returning for years to come.

We also introduce you to Bonita and Marlon Atlow, a married couple who have volunteered at our summer camp for over two decades. These years of service have shaped a meaningful relationship with Camp Sunshine. The Atlows call the camp "an extension of our family."

Other members of our extended family of supporters and friends are spotlighted as well. Our holiday party in December and recent anniversary celebration reunited alumni and supporters. And we highlight the "Marist Shootout," a fundraiser orchestrated by Maryann O'Connor, a former camper and now Marist Mom.

When I look back on these 35 years, I see growth and impact I never could have imagined. At Camp Sunshine, we all take great pride in how far we've come. And share great joy in the prospect of serving so many more in the years ahead.

— 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.

Give the Gift of Summer Camp

Your gift to Camp Sunshine can help a child with cancer experience an unforgettable week at camp. Gifts of any size are welcomed, acknowledged and gratefully received. Simply fill out the enclosed donor envelope and return it with your check today. Or donate online at mycampsunshine.com.

Provide arts & craft supplies for a cabin	\$ 50
Provide snacks for one day	\$ 100
Provide cabin welcome gifts – T-shirts, water bottles & more	\$ 250
Provide an evening program	\$ 500
Sponsor a camper for a week	\$ 800
Sponsor one camper EACH week	\$1,600
Provide bus rides to camp for 200 campers	\$2,500
Sponsor a full cabin of campers!	\$5,000



**Summer Camp
2018**
Start planning now!

**Teen Week at
Camp Twin Lakes –
Rutledge**
June 17 – 22

**Junior Week at
Camp Twin Lakes –
Rutledge**
June 24 – 29

Register online at
www.mycampsunshine.com

THEN & NOW

Adam's Story



"I always wanted to come back because of the impact my counselors had on me. I want to give back as much as was given to me."

– Adam Podber, former camper and volunteer

When Adam Podber was a camper, he would look at the volunteers who were former campers and think to himself, "that's going to be me someday."

And last summer Adam made that happen. He returned to the camp that has had such an impact on him from the time he was ten years old.

"I always wanted to come back because of the impact my counselors had on me," says Adam, who worked on the arts and crafts activity staff and also as a "Cabin Dad." "I want to give back as much as was given to me."

In the summer of 1998, just before entering fourth grade, Adam was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and began two years of chemotherapy. He learned about Camp Sunshine from the nurses at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Egleston campus, where he was being treated. He and his family attended Family Camp, and then he went to summer camp in 1999 and returned every year.

"I really felt like I belonged there," he remembers. "You have such a special connection with the other campers; it's a deep bond. You go through so much with them – being sick, feeling sick, seeing friends pass away. I looked at them more as brothers and sisters."

While he has many special memories of camp, he says one of his favorites was doing the high ropes course with fellow campers who had lost their legs.

"I remember being in awe that they could still do it. Seeing everyone accomplish what they wanted to without limitations was inspiring."

While Adam was undergoing treatment, the otherwise athletic boy had to find something to pass the time away – so he turned to

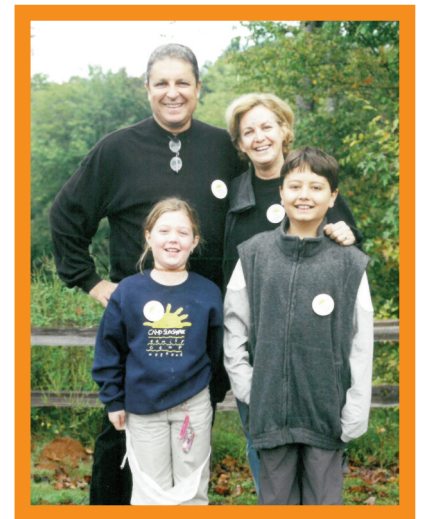
art. He started drawing and painting, and found he loved it, and it was therapeutic. He even entered art contests for the Aflac Cancer Center at Egleston. In middle school and high school he took as many art classes as he could and decided to turn it into a career.

In 2013, he graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a bachelor's of fine arts degree in industrial design. After working in Savannah in a metal shop, he moved back to Atlanta where he works in the creative field doing graphic design, painting murals and making commissioned art. Some of his murals can be seen on buildings and walls in downtown Atlanta.

One of his paintings can also be seen at Camp Twin Lakes. During last year's Teen Retreat, Adam took an 8' by 8' wall to camp the with a design sketched on it based on the theme "What Lifts You Up?" As part of their service project, the teens painted the entire wall.

He says his art is one good thing that came out of his cancer. The other is Camp Sunshine.

Just as he pictured himself as a volunteer one day, he now sees himself returning to Camp Sunshine for years to come. "I look at some of the counselors now who have been there for such a long time, and think, 'that's going to be me.'"**★**



Adam and his family



35 Years of Transformation, continued from page 1

In looking back at its 35-year history, Sally points to three transformative moments:

1. Thinking beyond summer camp

Sally credits Bill Schwartz, Jr., a donor and a mentor, for encouraging the organization to listen to the needs of the families and expand programs beyond the summer camp. He also led the charge for a fulltime Executive Director and a Board to help guide the vision for the future. "The first board meeting was held at the Commerce Club downtown," remembers Sally. "The individuals gathered in that room were focused on getting Camp Sunshine what was needed to truly launch the organization we have become."

Through the years, Camp Sunshine has introduced a variety of programs for children with cancer of all ages, as well as programs designed for the entire family – brothers, sisters and parents.

2. Establishing a permanent camp home

After moving to three different camps in North Georgia over five years, the need for a permanent home for Camp Sunshine became evident. Thanks to the vision of board member Doug Hertz, Camp Twin Lakes was built and opened in 1993. "Having Camp Twin Lakes allowed us to dream bigger than ever before and for so many other camps for children with life challenges to develop," says Sally.

With a permanent home, Camp Sunshine could expand its programming to include more family camps, sibling camps, teen retreats and "Remember the Sunshine" weekends.

3. Building Camp Sunshine House

Once again, through board leadership and vision, the bold idea to build a permanent home was conceived, with the goal of providing a safe haven and community of support for families throughout the year. A capital campaign was launched and Camp Sunshine House opened in 2003. Camp Sunshine House became a place where families could come together for special events, family dinners, spa nights, and educational and support programs.

At the heart of Camp Sunshine's growth throughout the 35 years has been the desire to serve children with cancer and their families. "We have been very intentional in our growth," says Sally. "We evaluated each program, asking parents for their feedback. We asked very specific questions about their needs and we responded."★

Camp by the Numbers

Over **\$40 million** donated

7,613 children attended summer camp

636 teens
participated in Washington, DC Excursion

13,076 family members
participated in Family Camp

114 Family Camps with **2,741 families**

245 teens
completed our Teen Leadership Challenge

1,897 have attended a Sibling Camp

\$2,985,604 has been raised
through the Keencheefoonee Road Race

297 families attended
Remember the Sunshine Family Camp

167 college scholarships
have been awarded

To see the complete timeline of how Camp Sunshine has grown over the years, please visit:

<http://www.mycampsunshine.com/history/camp-sunshine-history/>

Celebrating Camp Sunshine – February 22, 2018



First year campers from 1983, Edith Yeargan and Tee Bridges



Former campers now current volunteers



Dorothy Jordan and Sally Hale with past Camp Directors



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Shooting Hoops for Camp Sunshine



On a Sunday afternoon in January, 60 Marist School basketball players participated in the fourth annual "shoot-a-thon" – their team fundraiser. This year, for the second time, funds from the shoot-a-thon went to Camp Sunshine.

Community service is a large part of Marist's mission. Every student is required to perform a certain number of community service hours and each sports team must participate in a fundraiser for a worthy cause.

"As coaches, our job is to assist our student athletes in forming a conscience by emphasizing the dignity and integrity of the individual, respecting themselves and one another," says Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Kevin Moore, who is also a Marist School alumnus. "In all of those pursuits and goals, community service and outreach are excellent opportunities for our players to grow and connect to something bigger than themselves."

In 2015, when the team was looking for an idea for a fundraiser, Kevin and basketball "team mom" Maryann O'Connor came up with a shoot-a-thon. Players raised money by getting sponsors. In 2016 and 2018, Camp Sunshine was selected as the recipients of the funds. The ALS Center at Emory and Project S.A.V.E. have also benefitted from the basketball team's efforts.

"I really like the idea of kids working together for other kids," says Maryann, who suggested the funds go to Camp Sunshine in 2016, "and Camp Sunshine is near and dear to my heart."

Maryann, who is also a graduate of Marist, was diagnosed with leukemia when she was eight. She went to Camp Sunshine

for several years and then became a counselor. Her parents were also early supporters of the camp.

And even though she no longer has a son on the team, Maryann helped coordinate this year's shoot-a-thon. "Both Marist and Camp Sunshine were an important part of my teenage years," Maryann says. "This is a great way to give back to both organizations."

Another person who has ties to Camp Sunshine is Marist employee Patrick Young. His daughter was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2014. In fact, Patrick spoke to the boys about what Camp Sunshine has meant to his family before the event began.

"Marist has been one of the biggest supporters for our family during the more than two year treatment plan," Patrick says. "So it means the world to us that Marist would choose Camp Sunshine to support. We are proud to be a part of both organizations."

Between the two shoot-a-thons, the Marist Boys' Basketball team has raised nearly \$20,000 for Camp Sunshine – \$10,800 this year alone.

"The money raised is obviously vital in helping a worthwhile cause, especially when we all know somebody who has been affected by cancer in our community," Kevin says.

"But there are benefits for the team in volunteering and helping others. It gives them a sense of accomplishment they don't get in school or on the court."✱



CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

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

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Yoga

At Camp Sunshine House

One Saturday a month

10:00-11:00AM

Call to RSVP

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Roopville Ramble

May 19, 2018

The Roopville Ramble is a century ride in beautiful rolling West Georgia. Distances of 15, 37, 50, 67 (Metric Century), and 104 miles are offered. The ride starts and finishes at the Roopville Baptist Church 18 Old Franklin Road, Roopville, GA. Lunch will be served following the ride. The event is brought to the community by Citizens of Georgia Power to benefit Camp Sunshine.

Rides to Remember

June 2, 2018

Rides to Remember brings together childhood cancer patients and exotic car owners. At this annual event, kids and their families get the opportunity to create joyful and exhilarating memories in one special weekend.

Keencheefoonee Road Race

June 19 and June 26, 2018

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.

MAY 2018

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	3 Washington DC Trip For Teens Remember the Sunshine Family Night	4 Star Castle Family Fun Night in Savannah	5 →
6 →	7 Spa Night	8	9 Sunshine 2 U in Savannah	10	11	12 Yoga at Camp Sunshine House
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Staff Orientation for Summer Camp
20 Seasonal Sunshine at Camp Sunshine House	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Office Closed	29	30	31		

JUNE 2018

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



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](https://www.pinterest.com/mycampsunshine) and [Instagram.com/mycampsunshine](https://www.instagram.com/mycampsunshine)

CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS



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J U L Y 2 0 1 8

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

SAVE THESE DATES

September 8, 2018
Preschool Apple Orchard Excursion
Hillcrest Orchards, Elijay, GA

September 10, 2018
Spa Night at Camp Sunshine House

September 22, 2018
Wild Adventures for south Georgia
families

October 5-7, 2018
Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes

October 12-14, 2018
Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes

October 19-21, 2018
Remember the Sunshine Weekend at
Camp Twin Lakes

October 21, 2018
Fall Festival

November 4, 2018
Seasonal Sunshine Thanksgiving Dinner
at Camp Sunshine House

November 12, 2018
Spa Night at Camp Sunshine House

November 12, 2018
Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes

December 9, 2018
Holiday Party

A U G U S T 2 0 1 8

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

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, the newsletter and your mail for programs coming to your area.



CAMP SUNSHINE®

A ray of hope for children with cancer.™

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Or call 404-325-7979, ext. 121

Or go to www.mycampsunshine.com

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and supporters of Camp Sunshine.



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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bonita and Marlon Atlow: Still Going Strong After 22 Years

Bonita Cason-Atlow thinks about the girls in her cabin at Camp Sunshine all year long. She stockpiles things she thinks the teenagers will like – nail polish, make up, clothes and even makes sure she's up on the dance moves. She brings everything in a big trunk for something she calls "the big share."

This is an example of the dedication Bonita and her husband Marlon have been bringing to Camp Sunshine since they started volunteering 22 years ago.

"Camp Sunshine is like Utopia," Marlon says. "It's a place where everyone is valued, cared for, cherished and loved. It's a place kids can be themselves without worrying if they fit in, because everyone fits in. We feel honored that we are allowed to do this."

In 1995 co-workers of the Atlow's at Dun & Bradstreet Software told them all about Camp Sunshine and encouraged them to volunteer. They decided to try it and came to camp during Teen Week in 1996. They have never looked back.

Bonita, who was expecting their first child that summer, worked in arts and crafts. Marlon started as a counselor and has been in the same cabin of 13–15 year olds with the same co-counselor all but one of those 22 years.

When their children were younger – they have a daughter and a son – Bonita took a few years off, and then they alternated weeks.

Bonita continued in arts and crafts for Junior Week and Marlon stayed with Teen Week. Four years ago, they started coming together and Bonita became a cabin counselor. Through the years, they have always made it a priority. They have also volunteered at other Camp Sunshine events as their schedules permitted.

"Camp Sunshine is an extension of our family," Marlon says. "You

establish personal connections and you get to be a family for a week. You are a surrogate friend and a surrogate parent all in one."

Though they arrive at camp together, the Atlows – whose wedding anniversary falls during Teen Week – say they make an effort to put the campers first and keep themselves separated. "It's an unspoken rule we don't hang out together during camp," Bonita says. "We are dedicated to the kids. Some people don't even know we are married."

Like most Camp Sunshine volunteers, Marlon and Bonita agree they get much more out

of camp than they put in and view it as an honor to be able to volunteer. "Every camper has a special place in my heart," Marlon says. "They have given me so much. My hope is that I've given them something as well."

"Camp Sunshine is my little piece of heaven," adds Bonita. "It brings me to tears to say goodbye to the campers. I feel privileged that I get to do this every year. I hope to never let it go." ✱

