

WINTER 2018

Volume 16 • Number 3

A Publication for Families and
Friends of Camp Sunshine – A Ray
of Hope for Children with Cancer

Volunteer Profile Rick
Dascher gives his time
and his talents to Camp
Sunshine every year.
Page 3

The Wizard of Oz Make plans
to join us at the Alliance
Theatre on March 24 for a
performance of this classic
favorite. **Page 5**

It's all in the Design Atlanta
advertising agency Fitzco has
been helping Camp Sunshine
for years by donating design
services. **Page 8**

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



POSTCARDS

Camp Sunshine Awards 34 Campers with Sunshine Scholarships

"Camp Sunshine has given me and many others hope in difficult circumstances. Giving these scholarships takes it even further as we campers venture into the real world and beyond summer camp."

This is what Matthew Willis wrote in his scholarship essay, and it sums up what the Sunshine scholarship program is all about: 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.

Since establishing the program in 1992, Camp Sunshine has awarded over 200 scholarships – provided through generous donations – to Camp Sunshine alumni who plan to attend a college, university or technical school. This year, 34 deserving childhood cancer survivors received college scholarships. They are attending a variety of schools and have different career plans, but they all have the same goal: to give back and help others.

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



Jack Consolie, University of Notre Dame Throughout my seven years of attending the various retreats, camps and parties put on by Camp Sunshine, I have felt nothing but love from the people there and those that run

the programs, and because of that, I would like to dedicate a large portion of my future to helping children who have had their lives affected by cancer. I plan to pursue a double major in Theology and Neuroscience and Behavior. With these two degrees, I plan to engage in some form of ministry that combines compassionate servitude with societal productivity. I wish to be able to combine the lessons and practical experience that I will learn from these two degrees and spread a message of hope and liberty to young men and women out in the world, whether they have physical, emotional or spiritual challenges. No matter your religious, cultural or ethnic background, this message of hope and love is one that needs to be widely disseminated across Georgia and the rest of the world. With these two degrees, I plan to do just that: make people feel loved and wanted, especially those kids who attend Camp Sunshine.

Kylie Kersh – Huntingdon College

Being diagnosed with cancer puts the entire world into a different perspective. You learn the importance of life's opportunities and most importantly, giving back. It was through Camp Sunshine I learned the value of life and how important it is to make it count. It was my friends at camp that inspired me to be the best person I can be. I knew I wanted to do them justice and give back what my doctors and medical staff gave to me, which was a second chance. I am currently a cell biology major with aspirations to go to medical school to eventually become a neurosurgeon. I want to help change children's lives for the better. I want to eventually work with pediatric oncology patients so I can help other children that are in the same position I was.



Nyoni Jones – University of West Georgia Being diagnosed at the age of 14 with cancer was devastating, but it allowed me to be a part of Camp Sunshine. By the end of my first week at camp, I had made so many friends and couldn't wait for next year. I hope to be able to help many children through my career goal, which is to be a child life specialist. I will have many opportunities through this job to make an impact on someone's life, and I will take every chance I get to do so. To have the chance to help those that are in the same place that I once was is why I chose this as my career choice.

Continued on page 4



DEAR CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS,

As I read the stories in this issue of Postcards, I am overwhelmed by the legacy that has developed from the commitment, giving, and gratitude of the individuals featured. The longevity of the contributions of our Volunteer Spotlight and Community Partner, and the commitment to give back displayed by our alumni are inspiring examples of our history and future.

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.

Rick Dascher is a good example. For 14 summers, Rick has given a week of his time to volunteer as a cabin counselor and creative video producer. A longtime friend, Dan Newberg, helped to get him involved as a summer camp counselor. And, if you've ever seen one of our "thank-you" videos in recent years – we have Rick

to thank for those, too. He's put his creative talent as a VP at Turner Studios to work for us as well.

This issue also features the advertising and branding agency Fitzco. You have to go all the way back to 2002 to see when Fitzco first provided design support for our communications, and they've helped us ever since.

I see our future legacy reflected in the 34 alumni awarded Camp Sunshine Scholarships this fall. Supporting these former campers is an investment in their future and ours, as so many go on to work in healthcare or professions serving others. I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading some of the thoughts shared by this year's class of scholars in our cover story. If past scholars are any indication, more than a few of these will return to camp someday as volunteers.

Finally, please add March 24, 2019, to your calendar to enjoy the Alliance Theatre's production of "The Wizard of Oz" with all of us at Camp Sunshine. As stories go, it's a timeless classic; as events go, it's for the entire family and you will be supporting Camp Sunshine's ongoing programs.

With heartfelt thanks for all of you,
Sally Hale, *Executive Director*



'Tis The Season of Giving!

As you consider how you would like to make a year-end gift to support Camp Sunshine's mission, we want to share with you some tax-advantageous ways that you can make an impact on the children and families that we serve.

IRA Charitable Rollover If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. The IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of your minimum required disbursement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift.

Appreciated Stock Gifts Securities and mutual funds that have increased in value and been held for more than one year are one of the most popular assets to use when making a gift. You can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer, and you may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer.

Want to make a traditional gift? Use the enclosed envelope to send in your gift via check or cash, or head over to our website (www.mycampsunshine.com) to make your gift securely online.

For more information on the many ways you can give to Camp Sunshine at holiday time or anytime of the year, please contact: Alicia Brady, Development Director, 404-329-7979 or alicia@mycampsunshine.com.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult an attorney or tax advisor.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Rick Dascher: Bringing a Playful Spirit to Camp Sunshine

Rick Dascher, a regular volunteer during Junior Week almost every summer, is known for his playful spirit, love of pranks and outgoing personality. Since 1999, he has shared this with the seven and eight year old boys in his cabin.

The funny thing is, he wasn't even sure he wanted to be a cabin counselor.

"When I first started volunteering, the thought of being in charge of kids with cancer unnerved me," he said. "It sent me into a panic. Instead, I asked them to put me in an activity."

So the first summer he came to Camp Sunshine, he rotated around the first couple days helping in activities as needed. Then in the middle of the week, a cabin counselor had to leave early. Rick was called upon to fill in. He found it wasn't as scary as he imagined.

And on and off since then – he estimates about 14 summers – he has been a fixture in Cabin 22.

"It is life affirming to be around these kids," he says. "I learn so much from them. 'I really enjoy the opportunity to see them discover their own confidence. And to see them share such empathy with one another is yet another incredible aspect of camp.'"

Rick had heard about Camp Sunshine from several friends but it was his childhood friend Dan Newberg, a longtime Camp Sunshine volunteer, who encouraged him to give it try. He now serves alongside Dan in Cabin 22, enjoying the time to reconnect with his old friend each summer.

"It's a week out of the summer that we can spend time together for a good cause," he says. "And we are constantly trying to find interesting and unexpected ways to make it fun for the boys in our cabin."

He also counts fellow volunteer Doug McGaughey as a fellow partner in crime. "Doug sums up what I tell people about camp: full of people who are all there to make the week the best it can be for the kids. Dan and Doug show me how to do that every day at camp."

Aside from giving a week out of his summer each year, Rick also donates his talents as a video producer to help Camp Sunshine. As Vice President of Creative Services at Turner Studios, Rick leads a team of editors,



"I really enjoy the opportunity to see them discover their own confidence. And to see them share such empathy with one another is yet another incredible aspect of camp."

– Rick Dascher (top row, right) with Cabin 22

sound engineers and designers for Turner's Entertainment Networks. For nearly 10 years, he has helped produce the "thank you" videos that are sent to donors. He has also helped with other video projects as needed.

"Because of my position, I can tap into talented people to help Camp Sunshine," Rick says. "It also allows me to expose new people – such as producers and editors – to summer camp. Some of them have turned into volunteers themselves. That's the powerful draw of Camp Sunshine."

Rick says he enjoys the family-like atmosphere at Camp Sunshine and the camaraderie among all of the volunteers. The chance to experience that is one of the main things that keeps him coming back.

"'Magic' is the word everyone uses to describe Camp Sunshine," he says. "But it's even more than that. It's a place where a volunteer leaves feeling inspired, and a child with cancer leaves feeling normal. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?" ✨



2018 Scholarship Recipients, *Continued from page 1*

Diosymar Morales – Augusta State University



Camp Sunshine presented me with opportunities to improve my life in all aspects while giving me lifelong friends to lean on. Camp

Sunshine is that ray of light during my darkest hours. It has become my home away from home to share my experiences with my fellow Sunshine brothers and sisters and cry with them in moments of joy and sadness. That is why I am inspired to pursue a career as a child life specialist and to be involved with Camp Sunshine as a counselor and be on the Board of Directors.

Brendan Stotler – Georgia Southern University

When I was nine I was diagnosed with a Wilm's Tumor and whether I liked it or not, it would change my life in many ways. My first Summer Camp was when I was ten and I have not stopped going since. The people I have met at camp – my cabin mates and counselors – have had such a great impact on me and have created truly unbreakable bonds. My hope is to one day be a Camp Sunshine counselor. Cancer is horrific, but the experience and everything that goes with it has had a positive effect on the person I am today. I will be attending college at Georgia Southern University and I will be pursuing a pre-medicine degree. My interest in medicine is directly because I was diagnosed.



Lauren Garger – Franciscan University of Steubenville

I knew from the first moment I set foot in Camp Sunshine House that there was something special surrounding this building. Who knew that an event as negative as cancer would bring one of the biggest blessings I could ever receive? The effect that this organization has had on my life and the lives of those I love most is something that I could never truly articulate. To grow up surrounded by people that care for me in such an intimate and special way, regardless of our differences, has allowed me to take the lessons I've learned within a camp surrounding to the outside world. This world is one that tells us we are not worthy if we are different. Camp Sunshine tells you that it is your differences that make you worthy. The impact Camp has had on my life will never amount to any monetary value, but I will try my hardest to give other kids in my same situation the joy that I have received.



Hayley Hunter – University of Oregon I have been attending summer camp since I was diagnosed in 2008. I truly believe that I would not be the same if I had never attended Camp Sunshine. I hope to go into photojournalism after college, working as a freelancer and contributing to newspapers. My dream for quite some time now has been to work for National Geographic. My goal as a photojournalist would be to use photography to shine a light on issues or topics that may not be getting the attention they deserve, childhood cancer being one of those topics I hope to explore and bring attention to.

Rachel Rypkema – The University of West Georgia

Ever since I was pushed out of my comfort zone to go to Camp Sunshine 10 years ago, I have never looked back. Camp Sunshine has been a safety zone where I will always feel welcome. There is no judgment towards the people who have lost their hair, lost a limb, or those who are wheelchair bound. Camp has allowed me to get to places in life that I never dreamed possible. I have learned through the years that cancer has made me who I am and Camp Sunshine has helped me realize that it is a part of my life and simply makes me unique. In college, I plan to pursue a pharmaceutical degree.



Olivia Litke – Georgia Southwestern State University

The silence in the room of the radiology department on a July morning in 2009 was so deafening I will never forget it. They told my mother they found a tumor on my kidney. I realize now this was the moment in time I would never forget. This is really the chapter of my life that shaped who I am and who I want to become in my adult life. The compassion of the nurses and techs that were not only by my side but also by my family's side throughout the entire process didn't truly hit me until I was older. It seemed as if they always knew just what to do or say. This has been my constant motivation to pursue nursing as my career choice. I knew as I grew and matured that I wanted to become that nurse that always made children feel safe, made them smile, made those injections hurt less and in the end, their visits seem shorter.



2018 Scholarship Recipients, *Continued from page 4*


Emily Puckett – Georgia College Camp Sunshine has undoubtedly been the biggest blessing in my life. This program has given me the most wonderful friends, newfound confidence in myself, and the aspiration to dedicate my life to giving back to these wonderful people and other cancer patients. I would not be who I am without the people who have made an impact on me throughout this experience. I have decided to give my all to become either a pediatric nurse or a pediatric oncologist.

APPLICANT	HOME TOWN	UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE ATTENDING
Andrew Appert	Johns Creek, GA	University of Notre Dame
Katherine L. Athanassiades	Decatur, GA	Emory University
Nichelle B. Coltrain	Grayson, GA	Georgia Gwinnett College
John "Jack" Consolie	McDonough, GA	University of Notre Dame
Grace Lawton Davis	Atlanta, GA	Wright State University
Giovanni Egbe	Covington, GA	Georgia State University
Lauren M. Garger	Newnan, GA	Franciscan University of Steubenville
William D. Hennessy	Marietta, GA	University of Michigan
Charles B. Heyde	Oxford, GA	Georgia College and State University
Hayley L. Hunter	Ball Ground, GA	University of Oregon
Madison R. Ice-Canupp	Lawrenceville, GA	Gwinnett Technical College
Breyana N. Isler	Durham, NC	Florida International University
Nyani A. Jones	Jonesboro, GA	University of West Georgia
Christina N. Karem	Atlanta, GA	Rhodes College
Kylie E. Kersh	Conyers, GA	Huntingdon College
Lukas G. Kersh	Atlanta, GA	University of Alabama
Olivia C. Litke	Hoschton, GA	Georgia Southwestern State University
Imoter "Mo" Mngerem	Tyrone, GA	Georgia College and State University
Ahmed A. Mohamed	Lilburn, GA	Kennesaw State
Diosymar E. Morales	Evans, GA	Augusta State University
Kristina M. Norris	Cleveland, GA	Gwinnett Technical College
Shane A. Porter	Douglasville, GA	Columbus State University
Emily F. Puckett	Temple, GA	Georgia College and State University
Caroline Redd	Marietta, GA	Elon University
Luke E. Ronco	Roswell, GA	University of Georgia
Rachel A. Rypkema	Senoia, GA	University of West Georgia
Florence Sherman	Hartwell, GA	Agnes Scott College
Katelyn D. Story	Loganville, GA	Georgia State University
Brendan J. Stotler	Acworth, GA	Georgia Southern University
Allyson B. Wakenigg	Gainesville, GA	University of North Georgia
Michael W. Waters	Powder Springs, GA	Georgia Institute of Technology
Kevin M. Weindorff	Atlanta, TX	Texas A&M
Mary K. Wheeler	Adrian, GA	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Matthew E. Willis	Canton, GA	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Alliance Theatre on March 24

Campers, families and friends are invited to attend a spectacular afternoon of theatre on Sunday, March 24, 2019 as Camp Sunshine Presents *The Wizard of Oz*, an Alliance Theatre production in the Rich Theatre at the Woodruff Arts Center. Performances are at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

This 70-minute, family-friendly production features iconic songs like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" from the original movie score. While remaining true to the well-known story and familiar characters, the Alliance's version of *The Wizard of Oz* uniquely draws inspiration from American Folk Art to create a magical production that will surprise and delight all ages.

We are grateful for the generous support of our Presenting Sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, and all of the sponsors and donors that have made the Alliance Theatre production the annual signature fundraising event for Camp Sunshine. Proceeds support the year-round programs that Camp Sunshine provides for children with cancer and their families. For more information about sponsoring or participating in this event, contact Nancy Burrow at 404-325-7979 or nancy@mycampsunshine.com. ★

Camp Sunshine has attained another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. We are proud to have earned our fifth consecutive 4-star rating, the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator.

"Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Camp Sunshine exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work," says Michael Thatcher, Charity Navigator President and CEO. "Only 9 percent of the charities we evaluate have received at least five consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Camp Sunshine outperforms most other charities in America."





CAMP SUNSHINE POSTCARDS

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

JANUARY 2019

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Camp Sunshine Presents
The Wizard of Oz
Sunday, March 24, 2019
1:00 and 3:30 show times

In the Rich Theatre at the
Woodruff Arts Center
1280 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Join Camp Sunshine for one of two special performances of *The Wizard of Oz*, an Alliance Theatre production, in the Rich Theatre at the Woodruff Arts Center. Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now through the Camp Sunshine website for this family-friendly, magical version that will surprise and delight all ages. Call 404-325-7979 for more information.

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

SPA NIGHT At Camp Sunshine House

January 14 and March 11
6:00-8:00 PM
Call to RSVP

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

FEBRUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 NW Georgia Regional Program	4	5 Sunshine 2U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	6 Sunshine 2U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2U in Savannah	7 Remember the Sunshine Family Night	8	9
10 Seasonal Sunshine – BBQ and Bingo	11	12	13	14	15	16 Preschool Program at the Alliance Theatre
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



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



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

MARCH 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Teen Retreat at Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge	2 →
3 →	4	5 Sunshine 2U at Aflac Cancer Center/Egleston	6 Sunshine 2 U at Aflac Cancer Center/Scottish Rite Sunshine 2U in Savannah	7 Remember the Sunshine Family Night	8	9 Oatland Island Wildlife Center for Savannah families
10	11 Spa Night	12	13	14	15	16
17 NE Georgia Regional Program	18	19	20	21	22	23 Spring Fling
24 Camp Sunshine Presents The Wizard of Oz at the Woodruff Arts Center	25	26	27	28	29 Family Camp at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge	30 →
31 →						

SEASONAL SUNSHINE

Four times a year Camp Sunshine families are invited to the Camp Sunshine house for dinner and fun family activities such as bingo or improv. Please see the calendar on our website for all the dates and details.

SAVE THESE DATES

Staff Orientation

May

New Camper Orientation

June 4, 2019

Summer Camp – Teen Week

June 16 –21, 2019

Summer Camp – Junior Week

June 23 – 28, 2019

Sibling Camp

August 16 – 18, 2019

APRIL 2019

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

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, your email 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 ✱ 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.

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



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

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Fitzco: Design for a Cause

Throughout its 35-year history, Camp Sunshine has been fortunate enough to receive not only financial donations, but also contributions of time and talent from both individuals and companies. Fitzco, a full service advertising agency based in Atlanta, is one of those organizations that has consistently provided its services – in this case design – to Camp Sunshine.

The connection started in 2002 when Susan Willoughby Evans, a Camp Sunshine volunteer who worked at Fitzco, discovered that Camp Sunshine needed new collateral materials reflective of the organization's growth.

Designers at Fitzco created brochures for Camp Sunshine, and then invitations for their signature fundraising event, which at the time was the Big Apple Circus. Since then, the firm has used their creative skills to design the invitations each year as well as other collateral pieces as needed.

Though Susan left Fitzco several years ago, the bond between the agency and Camp Sunshine has remained strong, which is indicative of the agency's corporate culture.

"Fitzco has always had a history of helping nonprofits," says Helen Bautista, Senior Vice President Group Account Director at Fitzco. "Being in Atlanta, we want to make sure the community we are in is as strong and healthy as possible. Atlanta is our hometown and we are proud of that. So we help where we can."

Alix Hendry, a senior designer with Fitzco who oversees the design department, says it's fun for the staff to work on a different type of project such as design for Camp Sunshine. "We get to flex a different creative muscle," she says. "The brief is always so fun and playful and allows us to tap into design style we don't get to use on



a day to day basis. Since there are very few parameters to work within, we have a lot of flexibility and creative freedom."

Not only has their work been a nice showcase for Camp Sunshine, one of the invitations received a design award in the prestigious Communication Arts Design Annual.

Helen is also lending her extensive advertising and marketing experience as a member of Camp Sunshine's Communications Committee, whose role is to help promote a communications strategy around Childhood Cancer Awareness month and other events. "Our goal is to help Camp Sunshine become part of the conversation," Helen says. "So we help with whatever we can."

That attitude of wanting to help Camp Sunshine with whatever is needed is also prevalent at Fitzco. When a design project for Camp Sunshine comes in, Helen and Alix say it is not hard to find people at the agency willing to jump on board.

"Our teams are always excited to work on projects for Camp Sunshine," Alix says. "Our creative contribution to the greater good of these children's lives is really rewarding." ✱