

Camp Talk

Fall 2012

Camp... By The Numbers

During the summer of 2012:

729 campers helped cook their dinner over a campfire

210 bottles of sunscreen were used

660 large #10 size cans of green beans were prepared

4,460 pieces of luggage were unloaded by the Camp John Marc staff

4,460 pieces of luggage were reloaded on the buses (hopefully)

105 campers learned how to swim

837 volunteers (ages 19-72) gave their time and talents by working at Camp (don't miss the story about two long-time volunteers in this newsletter)

1,165 campers had fun at Camp John Marc!



Deborah was a seven-year-old camper at Camp Sanguinity with a rare form of cancer called ETANTR. This aggressive form of cancer develops at a very young age, so Deborah has been battling it for most of her life. Deborah's story, however, is not her diagnosis, but her fantastic Camp experience. Deborah made the most of her week at Camp. She danced at the talent show with pure abandon; she rode a horse and laughed the whole time; she learned to cook over a campfire; and she filled her

week at Camp with complete joy.

Salyoon, a Camp Reynal camper, is eleven and has kidney disease. Thirteen months ago, she was living in a refugee camp in Kenya. Salyoon's child life specialist had to convince her mother that

it was safe to send her to Camp because her mother was used to very different types of camps in East Africa. When Salyoon arrived at Camp, she bravely shared that she had never been in a swimming pool. After being

encouraged by her cabinmates, Salyoon signed up for the swim lessons project. Within one week, Salyoon went from being a non-swimmer

to swimming a length of the pool! Salyoon's determination and perseverance allowed her to learn a new skill and overcome her fears.

Even though he is only eight years old, Brian already has had several heart surgeries. The surgeries left Brian with a large scar on his chest that embarrassed him. At Camp Moss he lived in a cabin with six other campers. During the week, he did a lot of things, like swim and have fun with his new friends. But the one thing he did not do was worry about his scar. When Brian returned home, his mom sent a letter to Camp: "Just a

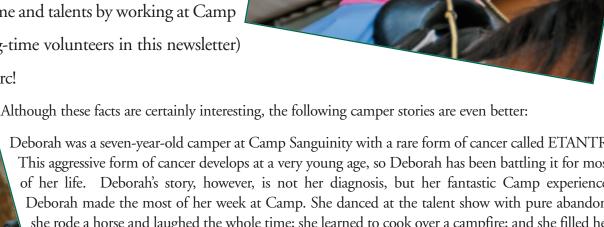
> week after coming home, Brian started planning his birthday party with his school friends and, to my

great surprise, is planning a swim party. I asked him about his friends seeing his scar because this is something he's never wanted to let happen. He said, 'Well everyone at Camp saw my scar!' I didn't go into the fact that most of them had the same scar! I was just glad it was no longer an issue."

This year, nine boys with hemophilia (ages 8-10) learned to self-infuse at Camp Ailihpomeh. Or as they put it, "We learned to stick ourselves." By self-infusing, the boys can now inject a clotting replacement called Factor into their veins that allows the blood to clot normally and prevent damage to muscles, joints, and organs. These nine boys took an important step toward independence during just one week at Camp.

To do something important for the *first* time—such as dance in front of a large crowd, cook over a campfire, swim the length of the pool, be carefree about a scar, or learn to be independent with your medical protocol—is an amazing step in a child's life. Camp John Marc

makes a commitment to each camper to give them an opportunity to learn, gain independence, laugh, and appreciate those around them. Camp John Marc is a place where firsts happen every week.







Marc at Camp Moss

Marc's Musings

y friend Rob Farrell says his week at Camp John Marc is almost the best time he spends all year, second only to the time he spends with his grandchildren. For several years Rob and I have been Leadwalkers at Camp Moss (for kids from the cardiac clinic at Children's Medical Center) which is hosted at Camp John Marc.

Our time with the campers is indeed time well spent. The joy of Leadwalking is having enlightening conversations with the campers. I learn about many things from the rider I am working with, like which sport team they are fond of, what they think about school, pop culture, and how good Camp food is. When all is said and done, I learn a bit about life and once again see the strength and tenacity that children possess when dealing with a serious illness like a heart condition. Of course I first learned this lesson from my son, John Marc. Although John Marc did not win his battle with cancer, it gives me hope to see so many children who appear to be on the road to recovery and then onto a long and productive life.

During this season of my life, I have taken on the role of Camp John Marc's Board Chair. My predecessors have created a solid foundation for our organization. Using skills I have honed in the business world, this year we assessed the current needs of our facility and program. After twenty-two years in operation, a thorough evaluation of Camp was warranted. We found that our facility needs some upgrading, the road to Camp needs some attention, and we need to plan for the future well-being of our overall program. You can learn more about our specific plans elsewhere in this publication.

It is indeed an exciting time for Camp John Marc as we prepare for our twenty-third season.

> J. Marc Myers Board Chair & Capital Campaign Chair

"I truly believe that the purpose of Camp is to remind them (campers) that being a kid is both perfectly acceptable and encouraged. To remind them that a community exists only for them, whose ultimate purpose lies only with them, I feel plays a larger role than any of us can truly imagine." Steve two-year CJM staff member, first year medical student

at Johns Hopkins

2012 MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

MEMORIALS

Juhmetreal "BB" Ates (Esperanza camper) Jean Barton

Helen "Kay" Bedrick

Louis A. Beecherl, Jr.

Carlos Benitez (Esperanza camper)

Mildred Bennett

Cordell Betts (Jubilee camper)

Jordan Brooks (Sanguinity camper)

Harold Brumley

Dr. Ken Bryce

Judy Burke

Destiny Camacho (Esperanza camper)

Joann Cashion

Jacqueline Chandler

Charles "Corky" Clark

Robert Trammell Crow

Jack Davis

Dr. Paul T. DeCamp Bettye Ray DeJon

David Russell Delatour

Broun Dossett

Drew Ducatelli

Bob Eccleston

Jim Ellis Dale Elmore

Lt. Col. William Henry Fields

Howard Fitch

Wally Freeman

Gretchen Fronterhouse

Frank Fuentez

Alice Crawfish Gilmore

Grace Green

Jeff Guver

Joe Haggar

Mrs. Wallace Hall

Fred Higginbotham Ellis Hoffman

Cynthia Kay Murphree Holland

Olin Humphries

Bess "Goody" Irwin Curtis Johnson

Elton Jones

Marie G. Keast

Karmen Nellie Killgore Margaret "Peg" Kennedy Kutner Efren Lerma (Sanguinity camper)

Alexander Lieber

George A. Love

Dawson Lowe (Esperanza camper)

Douglas Maclay

Tony Madkins (MDA camper)

Christian Marente (Reynal camper)

Amanda Mauppin (Esperanza/CMC Family camper)

Brian McGuire (TLC camper)

Arbbara Lora McQuigg

David Millet

Lisa Milonovich

Patricia Fitzgerald Montague

Theo Montfort

Mary Mori

John Richard Morris

Ray Murski

Nicky (a Cocker Spaniel) Camren Patterson (Esperanza camper)

Roe Poellot

Mary Louise Griffin Prestidge

Anthony Rahhal (Esperanza camper)

Dustin Rodriguez

Mercedes Rogers

Ted Rotto

Jane Rushing

Claudia Brooks Scifres

Steve Seay

Ruth Marie Self

Victor Shamp

Cole Shook (TLC camper) Sierra (a Cocker Spaniel)

Anne Stewart

Erma Striklin

Steven Gillespie Stroube

Bill Teplow

Rosa Galindo Villarreal

Jordon Webb

Jeanne C. White

Johnnie Sue Walker White

Louise "Sweetie Pie" Willoughby Dorothy Wright

Maureen Valentine Jo Ann Youngman

Edith Zuttermeister

HONORARIUMS

Todd Abbott

Janie & Roland Anderson

Monica Baca

David Bell Bob Blanshard

Karen Brooks

Harold Brumley

Amber Burk

Pam & Dan Busbee

Lucretia & David Cargill

Cheryl Carpenter

Terry Cloninger

Brandon Colby & Kristen Johnson

Mary Cook

Stephanie Crownover Brooks Cullum

ginger Daniel

Joanne & Ben Gates Karen & Vance Gilmore

Lorrie Girton

Sarah Hawn

Debra Hayner Sondra & Leigh Holt

Jahnke Family

Sherry & Tim Joines

Denise Joines & Kenny Hamm

Clark Jones Amir Khanzadeh

Mr. & Mrs. Clair Leonhardt Mike Levy

Michelle & Chris Lindsay

Ellen & Jay Loar

Margaret & Donald Mahony Maggie Mathis Dr. Gregory Matter

Pam & Dick McCallum

Cecilia & Marvin Moore

Jan & Marc Myers

Susie O'Neal

Barbara & Jon Page Cacey Patton (TLC camper)

Nell Perry

Katherine & Michael Phillips

Jane & Chick Pierce

Loyd & Michal Powell Dr. Claude Prestidge

Henry Rathjen

Dean Renkes Marlie Roose (Moss camper)

Dr. Joann Sanders

Diane & John Scovell Marion & George Scragg

Lynn Sears

Lauren & Ron Serratt

Trey Shannon Donna Tanner & Al Lubran

Mimi & John Tanner

Mike Tanner Family

Carol Touchstone

Ann Marie & Terry Volk Linda & John Vorhies

Denise & Bill Wallace

Sonja Wood

Camp Volunteers Receive Awards

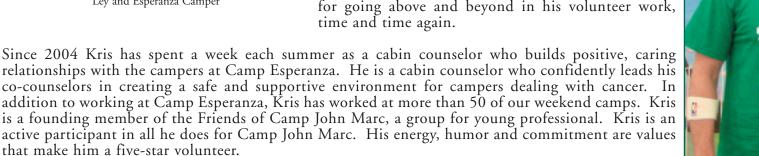
The value of finding significance in one's volunteer work is the ultimate reward. However, on occasion, volunteers go above and beyond the call and their service is noted by others. Two long-time Camp John Marc volunteers have recently been chosen to receive prestigious awards.

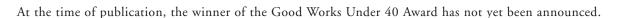
Ley and Esperanza Camper

LEY WAGGONER has been chosen as the 2012 recipient of the George Washington Honor **Medal** presented by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Ley was selected for his many hours of service to the City of Dallas and specifically for his work with children who have a chronic illness or major physical disability. Since 1990 Ley has been a volunteer at Camp Esperanza which is hosted by Camp John Marc. Camp Esperanza serves children and teens who have cancer. Since 2004 Ley has also been an active member of the Camp John Marc Board, serving in many leadership roles, including Board Chair 2010-2011.

Ley is the ultimate volunteer and the George Washington Honor Medal is very fitting for this gentleman and servant leader.

KRIS BUNN has been chosen as one of four finalists to receive the Good Works Under 40 Award sponsored by the Dallas Foundation. This award recognizes the efforts and achievements of young Dallas citizens under the age of 40 who are truly making a difference in North Texas. Kris was chosen for this award for his innovative leadership skills and for going above and beyond in his volunteer work,







Kris at Camp

"True survivors are made here. Forged by cancer, bonded by friendship." Ed, Camp Esperanza Graduating Camper

Camp John Marc Embarks On **\$3 Million Capital Campaign**

The heartbeat of Camp John Marc is the Medical Building (*Quack Shack, Band-Aid Box, Health Hut) and the procedures and treatments that take place there. The medical teams that attend Camp do an unbelievable job of treating the campers. Over the course of a summer, within the walls of the 6,600 square



Campers Heading Home

foot building, these dedicated medical teams insure that hemodialysis takes place, campers with hemophilia are treated and learn to infuse, inhalation treatments occur, physical therapy takes place, chemotherapy administered, medications distributed (on an average 500 medications are distributed every day or 2,500 a week), and much more.

When Camp John Marc opened 22 years ago, we expected medical treatments to be given on site. In 1991 we served 551 campers; in 2012 we will serve about 3,100 (summer and weekend) campers. As the medical teams have experienced the great value of camp over the years, a trend has developed for the groups to bring the campers with the greatest medical needs to Camp. This is an amazing feat. Based on the growth of the number of campers and this trend in increased medical needs, the Camp John Marc operation has outgrown the Medical Building. Our plan to update the Medical Building includes adding 1,000 square feet, reconstructing the medical distribution area, adding an exam room, and many other improvements suggested by the medical teams.



Ailihpomeh Camper

In addition to remodeling the Medical Building, the Capital Campaign will raise funds to:

🔁 Remodel the current Facility Manager's House (2,568 sq. ft.) to become additional Volunteer Housing for fourteen.

Build a new Facility Manager House (1,500 sq. ft.) plus a 1,100 sq. ft. workshop. The new Facility Manager House will be located near the front gate to increase yearround security.

Repair four critical miles of County Road 1110. Based on the County's limited funds and the amount of Camp John Marc traffic that uses this part of the road, we will re-grade and resurface it, per the recommendations of our engineering

After 22 years of hard use, our facility requires repairs and improvements. With a physical plant of 80,000 square feet under roof (25 buildings, 5 out buildings, 12 recreational areas), we want to insure our facility maintains the quality in which it was originally built. New cabin roofs are needed, exterior stone added to the Dining Hall (as the original plan called for), and improvements inside the Dining Hall.

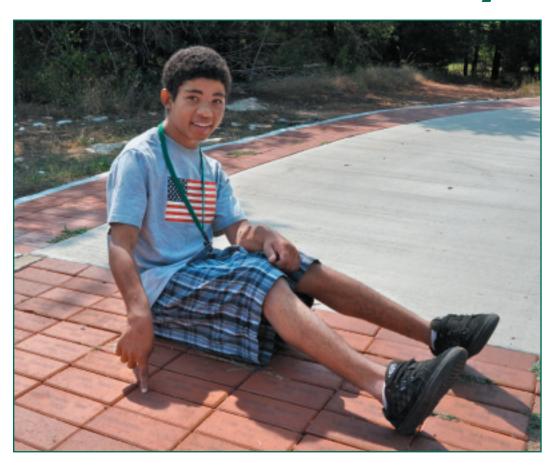
The Capital Campaign is now underway! The goal is to get the dirt flying on these projects in December 2013.

*Camps often nickname the Medical Building to give it a fun, whimsical feeling.



Camp John Marc

"I found my brick!"



Camp John Marc campers fly down the zip line, paddle in a canoe, play Red Light Green Light while riding a horse, and.... find their bricks!

Every Camper who has ever attended a Camp John Marc weekend or week-long camp is honored with a brick that is engraved with their name and placed on the Live Oak path. Finding their brick is one of the first things many returning campers do when they get to Camp. And when a camper finds their brick he or she feels remembered, empowered, and special.

This Thanksgiving Season you will have an opportunity to purchase a brick that will be engraved with the name of a first time camper and placed on the Live Oak Path. Watch your mail and email for more information on how you can purchase a brick that a Camp John Marc camper will love to find!

"This place must be magic because every time I come here I feel better."

Mattie, eight year old camper at Camp NOW (Neuro Oncology Weekend)

Inside	
	Page
Marc's Musings	2
Memorials/Honorariums	2
Camp Volunteers Receive Awards	3
\$3 Million Capital Campaign	3

Camp Talk Photos by Karen Gilmore

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