



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!



Although these facts are certainly interesting, the following camper stories are even better:

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 Ailhipomeh. 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

My 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)	Efren Lerma (Sanguinity camper)
Jean Barton	Alexander Lieber
Helen "Kay" Bedrick	George A. Love
Louis A. Beecherl, Jr.	Dawson Lowe (Esperanza camper)
Carlos Benitez (Esperanza camper)	Douglas Maclay
Mildred Bennett	Tony Madkins (MDA camper)
Cordell Betts (Jubilee camper)	Christian Marente (Reynal camper)
Jordan Brooks (Sanguinity camper)	Amanda Mauppin (Esperanza/CMC Family camper)
Harold Brumley	Brian McGuire (TLC camper)
Dr. Ken Bryce	Arbbara Lora McQuigg
Judy Burke	David Millet
Destiny Camacho (Esperanza camper)	Lisa Milonovich
Joann Cashion	Patricia Fitzgerald Montague
Jacqueline Chandler	Theo Montfort
Charles "Corky" Clark	Mary Mori
Robert Trammell Crow	John Richard Morris
Jack Davis	Ray Murski
Dr. Paul T. DeCamp	Nicky (a Cocker Spaniel)
Bettye Ray DeJon	Camren Patterson (Esperanza camper)
David Russell Delatour	Roe Poellot
Broun Dossett	Mary Louise Griffin Prestidge
Drew Ducatelli	Anthony Rahhal (Esperanza camper)
Bob Eccleston	Dustin Rodriguez
Jim Ellis	Mercedes Rogers
Dale Elmore	Ted Rotto
Lt. Col. William Henry Fields	Jane Rushing
Howard Fitch	Claudia Brooks Scifres
Wally Freeman	Steve Seay
Gretchen Fronterhouse	Ruth Marie Self
Frank Fuentez	Victor Shamp
Alice Crawfish Gilmore	Cole Shook (TLC camper)
Grace Green	Sierra (a Cocker Spaniel)
Jeff Guyer	Anne Stewart
Joe Haggar	Erma Striklin
Mrs. Wallace Hall	Steven Gillespie Stroube
Fred Higginbotham	Bill Teplow
Ellis Hoffman	Rosa Galindo Villarreal
Cynthia Kay Murphree Holland	Jordon Webb
Olin Humphries	Jeanne C. White
Bess "Goody" Irwin	Johnnie Sue Walker White
Curtis Johnson	Louise "Sweetie Pie" Willoughby
Elton Jones	Dorothy Wright
Marie G. Keast	Maureen Valentine
Karmen Nellie Killgore	Jo Ann Youngman
Margaret "Peg" Kennedy Kutner	Edith Zuttermeister

HONORARIUMS

Todd Abbott	Margaret & Donald Mahony
Janie & Roland Anderson	Maggie Mathis
Monica Baca	Dr. Gregory Matter
David Bell	Pam & Dick McCallum
Bob Blanshard	Cecilia & Marvin Moore
Karen Brooks	Jan & Marc Myers
Harold Brumley	Susie O'Neal
Amber Burk	Barbara & Jon Page
Pam & Dan Busbee	Cacey Patton (TLC camper)
Lucretia & David Cargill	Nell Perry
Cheryl Carpenter	Katherine & Michael Phillips
Terry Cloninger	Jane & Chick Pierce
Brandon Colby & Kristen Johnson	Loyd & Michal Powell
Mary Cook	Dr. Claude Prestidge
Stephanie Crownover	Henry Rathjen
Brooks Cullum	Dean Renkes
ginger Daniel	Marlie Roose (Moss camper)
Joanne & Ben Gates	Dr. Joann Sanders
Karen & Vance Gilmore	Diane & John Scovell
Lorrie Girton	Marion & George Scragg
Sarah Hawn	Lynn Sears
Debra Hayner	Lauren & Ron Serratt
Sondra & Leigh Holt	Trey Shannon
Jahnke Family	Donna Tanner & Al Lubran
Sherry & Tim Joines	Mimi & John Tanner
Denise Joines & Kenny Hamm	Mike Tanner Family
Clark Jones	Carol Touchstone
Amir Khanzadeh	Ann Marie & Terry Volk
Mr. & Mrs. Clair Leonhardt	Linda & John Vorhies
Mike Levy	Denise & Bill Wallace
Michelle & Chris Lindsay	Sonja Wood
Ellen & Jay Loar	

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, time and time again.

Since 2004 Kris has spent a week each summer as a cabin counselor who builds positive, caring relationships with the campers at Camp Esperanza. He is a cabin counselor who confidently leads his co-counselors in creating a safe and supportive environment for campers dealing with cancer. In addition to working at Camp Esperanza, Kris has worked at more than 50 of our weekend camps. Kris is a founding member of the Friends of Camp John Marc, a group for young professional. Kris is an active participant in all he does for Camp John Marc. His energy, humor and commitment are values that make him a five-star volunteer.

At the time of publication, the winner of the Good Works Under 40 Award has not yet been announced.



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 is administered, medications are 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.



Ailipomeh 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 year-round 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 study.

🏠 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)

Camp Talk Photos by Karen Gilmore

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