



Camp Talk

Fall 2013

Inspiring Confidence For Life



Fun in the Sun

It has been 26 years since the creation of our Camp for kids with chronic illnesses and major physical disabilities. From concept to reality, Camp John Marc has had the same logo. After 26 years, it's time for a change! Here's why:

The original logo focused entirely on younger children. Now, Camp John Marc also serves many teens and families with children of all ages. A new logo would represent the wide spectrum of people now served by Camp John Marc.

As time passed, we learned that the original motto, "Special Camps for Special Kids," was confusing to some of our stakeholders. In listening to them, we realized that it was time to change how we summarized our purpose.

Taking these ideas into consideration, we determined that the Camp John Marc logo would benefit from a fresh, new look. Because the original logo served us so well from its creation 26 years ago, it served as the inspiration for the new design. Now that

you know the factors behind the decision, we proudly present to you the new logo of Camp John Marc, as featured in the Camp Talk banner above.

The new motto, "Inspiring confidence for life," comes as a result of serving 54,213 campers over the past 23 years at Camp. For many campers and their families, their experiences at Camp John Marc have been life changing. "Inspiring confidence for life" would not have been a good fit for Camp John Marc when it first opened, but the new motto makes sense now, given Camp's history of success. Here are some examples of the impact Camp John Marc has had on the lives of its campers:

A gentleman with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), who was a camper for ten years, said that Camp taught him that it was okay to ask others for help, rather than just his parents. Among other things, this gave him the confidence to apply for and attend the University of Notre Dame. He is now a graduate of Notre Dame and has a full-time job as a contributing financial analyst.



A Girl & her Horse

A young lady was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at the age of eight. After a year of chemo-therapy treatments, the doctors decided that the best course of action to treat her bone cancer was to amputate her right leg above the knee. The next summer was her first year at Camp. "It was exactly what I needed to boost my self-esteem as a cancer survivor with a prosthesis," she said. Despite being on active treatment and dealing with the challenge of her recent amputation, she was determined to learn to swim. She reached her goal during her second summer at Camp, and attended Camp for eight years. At her Camp graduation, she said that her experiences at Camp gave her the confidence to join her high school marching band. Not only did she join the marching band, her confidence took her to college, and now, law school.



Slipping & Sliding

According to a camper at Camp John Marc's camp for children with spina bifida, "The 'away from home' experience gave me confidence. I used the skills I learned from the staff when I worked on a project evaluating the effectiveness of UNICEF-sponsored schools in six different countries." He attended Camp for eight summers. He now holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Services from Georgetown and a Master's degree in African Studies from the University of Southern California. His "off roading" experiences in his wheelchair at Camp helped him have the confidence to spend three years studying Afrikaans at the University of Cape Town (which is not a very wheelchair-accessible location).

Another young lady attended Camp John Marc's camp for burn survivors for nine summers. When she was 19 months old, a pot of hot coffee spilled on her, which scarred about thirty percent of her body with second and third degree burns. She attended Camp for the first time

when she was nine. It was the first time she had seen another person with scars like hers. She embraced the experience and enjoyed making friends with campers of all ages who were experiencing the same daily struggles. "I truly believe Camp made me feel alive and confident in my own skin," she said. Today she is a pediatric nurse who practices with compassion and a special love for those who may look a little different.



Fun with a Kite

These are only a few of the many stories about our campers from our past 23 camping seasons that capture the Camp John Marc experience. Camp John Marc campers learn new skills, make friends, and learn more about their diagnosis and how to manage it. Campers bond with their medical team by having fun and seeing them as more than just doctors and nurses. But more importantly, after experiencing Camp, the campers seem more self-assured because Camp John Marc is "Inspiring confidence for life."

Marc's Musings



Marc and Jason Garrett at the
CJM Campership Drive Kick Off Meeting

A lot has happened at Camp John Marc since my last column. As you see on the cover, we have a new logo! This came to life thanks to the efforts of many people, but the project was led by Camp John Marc Board Members Scott Miller and Craig Innes.

I am pleased to tell you that this summer our campers traveled to Camp on a smooth, well-built road. Five miles of road, County Roads 1105

and 1110, were rebuilt last spring in a unique joint partnership between the Bosque County Commissioners and the Board of Camp John Marc. Larry Wilson, a good friend of Camp John Marc, chaired this project. These roads are now referred to by some as the “Pride of Bosque County!”

Wow! To date we have raised \$2.6 million in our Capital Campaign and construction at Camp has begun. It is our goal to have all of the work finished before summer camp 2014.

I think you will agree with me that it has been a busy year for the Board and Staff of Camp John Marc.

I would like to express my best wishes to Children’s Medical Center of Dallas on their 100th anniversary of serving children. I am proud that Camp John Marc has been partners with Children’s Medical Center since our founding in 1988. That means for one-fourth of Children’s history, or 25 years, we have worked together. So for all 100 years of Children’s service, we salute them.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude for the many donors who support our organization and for the 1,420+ volunteers who work at Camp John Marc throughout the year.

Marc

“For a child with cancer, Camp John Marc is an extraordinary place. They climb the rock wall, go down the zip line, ride a horse, jump off the diving board and make lifelong friendships with the support of amazing counselors. The experience at Camp inspires the confidence that they can accomplish all their dreams that they thought were stolen by cancer.”

Dr. Tamra Slone,
Oncologist at Children’s Medical Center &
Camp Doc for Camp Esperanza

Camp John Marc Hosts Special Needs Kindred Gathering and International Camping Fellowship

On February 9-12, 2013, preceding the American Camp Association (ACA) National Conference held in Dallas, Camp John Marc hosted the Special Needs Kindred Group at Camp. 113 special needs camping professionals came from 38 unique camping programs, hailing from 19 states (from California to Florida), Canada, and Ireland. It was a tremendous time of sharing and learning. The Special Needs Kindred Group showed a great deal of passion and empathy for individuals with special needs.

On Monday the Group was joined by 51 members of the International Camping Fellowship (ICF), representing Russia, Mongolia, China, Canada, Australia, Ghana, and Nigeria. These individuals came to Dallas early for the ACA Conference just so they could tour Camp John Marc. Linda Pulliam, ICF Membership Chair, said, “It was a thrill to see the camp’s unparalleled facilities, but the explanations and interpretations of the Camp John Marc volunteers and staff made the visit even more rewarding.”



International Camping Fellowship Members at Camp John Marc

The time spent last February with these special needs camping professionals from across the country, along with the international camping directors, will be a benchmark in the history of Camp John Marc.

Capital Campaign Reaches \$2.6 Million

Because of the generosity of many donors, the \$3 million Capital Campaign has reached the \$2.6 million mark. The goals of the Capital Campaign are:

- Update the Medical Building, plus add 1,000 more square feet
- Build 2,568 square feet of housing for weekly Medical Team volunteers
- Build a new Facility Manager’s House near the entrance to Camp, which will also add extra security
- Perform major repairs and renovations to the existing Camp John Marc facility
- Create a sustaining fund for the underserved camps of Camp John Marc

Thank you to the following individuals who are the heroes of this Campaign, as of October 23, 2013:

- Camp John Marc Board
Morning Star Family Foundation
Hawn Foundation
Amon G. Carter Foundation
Anonymous
Pit Dodson
Gil & Dody Weaver Foundation
Asante Foundation
Camp Esperanza/Bridewell Foundation
Hillcrest Foundation
Camp Sanguinity
Perot Foundation
Jean & Tom Walter
Winn Family Foundation
- Hoblitzelle Foundation
King Foundation
William & Katie Weaver
Leland White
Lupe Murchison Foundation
Camp Joint Adventure
Dr. Ernest Beecherl
Hoglund Foundation
Sapphire Foundation
Nancy Hoffman
Louise Willoughby Estate
Edward & Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation
A.L. Chilton Foundation
Rotary Club of Park Cities
Lamar Norsworthy
Camp TLC
Camp Jubilee
Coin Campaign

Memorials

Natalie Alexander (Camp TLC)
Bobby Neal “Papa” Armstrong
Ernest C. Barker
Cynthia Bartholow
Jimmie Shaw Barton
Milena Bogicevik
Mildred Burnadette Bolek
Kathleen D. Bruce
Lewis C. Bryan
Dr. Kenneth L. Bryce
Mrs. Judy Burke
Courtney Canfield (Camp MDA)
W. Lee Carter
Joan A. Casey
Charles “Corky” Clark
Robert S. Condon
Bill Conner
Rod Cook (CJM Staff Alumni)
Tom Cooper
Will Cox
Robert Trammel Crow
*ginger Daniels
Ralph H. Davis
Harriet Deison
David Russell Delatour
Dale Elmore
Alexis Enriquez (Camp Sanguinity)
Alice Evand
Fisher Floyd
*preferred spelling

Alice Crawfish Gilmore
John Gosslee
Jo Lynn Graham
Patrick C. Guillot
Frank Harrison
Walter Hay
Madeline “Maddie” Higgins (Camp Sanguinity)
Billy Hodge
Ellis Hoffman
Clara Johnson
Stephanie Rutherford Jones
Margaret “Peg” Kennedy Kutner
Chris Kyle
John Lehman
Lucy (a Cavalier)
Donald Mahony
Grace Katherine Manns
Christopher Matteson
Callie McClain (Camp Esperanza)
Dr. James M. McLaughlin
Bonnie Miller
Vance Miller
Lisa Milonovich
Charles “Buck” Myers
Ruthie Pantfaeder
Monica Patell (Camp Sanguinity)
Mack Payne
Paul Pond
Clara Porter
Lorraine Rasey

Lynn Redman
Nancy Ritter
Mercedes Rogers
Billy Rudd
Jordan Sanders (Camp Esperanza)
Ann Schroeder
Matthew Shamburger
Cole Shook (Camp TLC)
George A. “Tom” Shutt
Q Sims (Camp Sanguinity)
Will Sinclair (Camp Sanguinity)
Jennie Smith
Olivia Smith (Camp Esperanza)
Lillian Herrick Snell
George T. Snyder
Ruth Carter Stevenson
Dwayne Streetman
Jared Strogon (Camp Moss)
Steven Gillespie Stroube
John W. “Trey” Sylvester, Jr.
Rob Tanner
Michael William Taylor
Darla Tobianski (Camp Night Owls)
Maureen Valentine
Rayborn A. Waits
Les Wall
Paul Wayrauch
Morgan Wildman (Camp Sanguinity)
Betty Lu Williams

Honorariums

Maggie Chisholm Abbott
Janie & Roland Anderson
Monica Baca
Robin & Bo Beauregard
Mary Cook & Bob Blanshard
Bob Brown
Pam & Dan Busbee
Kathryn Busch
Lucretia & David Cargill
Jahnke Family
Karen & Vance Gilmore
Rob Goodman
Janis & Bill Gould
Nell & William Gould
Tracey E. Hamilton (Camp MDA)
Debra Hayner
Ralph Heinz

Sondra & Leigh Holt
Byron Howard
Sheila Broderick Johnson
Clark Jones
Rochelle Lentscke
Margaret Mahony
Linda Leonhardt & Will Matthew
Mike Levy
Ellen & Jay Loar
Holt Lunsford
Susan & Steve Marum
Maggie Mathis (Camp Reynal)
Kathryn Miller (Camp Night Owls)
& Monty Busch
Cecilia & Marvin Moore
Kate Nelson & Jonathan Lu

Barbara & Jon Page
Katherine & Michael Phillips
Jane & Chick Pierce
Michal & Loyd Powell
Aiden Ross
Judy Sanders
Joanie & John Scott
Diane & John Scovell
Marion & George Scragg
Kyle Shook
Patty Sloan
Mimi & John Tanner
Linda & John Vorhies
Jan & Ley Waggoner
Denis & Bill Wallace
Dr. Lalan Wilfong

Every Brick Has A Story

by Vicki Long, Allison’s and Travis’ mom

When we arrived at Camp the first time, one of the first things I noticed was the walkways with the bricks and the names. Going back well into the early 1990’s, they had the names of various camps and names of campers. We were attending Camp NOW (Neuro-Oncology Weekend) 2010, a family weekend camp. Our daughter, Allison, had been diagnosed in March of that year with a terminal brain tumor. She had initially not wanted to go to Camp – she had first been invited to a week-long camp that she would attend by herself. She determinedly declined that invitation, but when the chance for a family camp came around, we were able to convince her to give Camp a try. Allison fell in love with Camp, despite the lack of televisions and electronics. And I think, in a way, Camp fell in love with her as well. That September, we discovered the magic of Camp John Marc, and just as Allison would become a permanent part of Camp when her brick was placed in the Live Oak Path, Camp would carve out a special place in our hearts as well.

Watch your mailbox after Thanksgiving for information on how you can add a brick to the Live Oak Path that will serve as a testimony for a Camp John Marc camper!

Allison could not wait to return to Camp the next summer and was marking the days off the calendar as the days got warmer. Finally July arrived. We packed up both

Allison and her brother and drove them to Camp Sanguinity. Allison was in hospice care and more sick than any of us wanted to admit. But she would not have missed Camp for anything. Thanks to the amazing staff and volunteers, Allison “lived” more in that week at Camp than she had in months. Somehow, all of the day-to-day needs that Allison had become transparent at Camp, despite being in a wheelchair, needing oxygen at times, and more medications than I could count on my fingers and toes. The Camp staff and volunteers somehow made all of that seem to disappear so that Allison could be a camper.

The story of Allison and the Zip Line from that year has now become a “Camp story.” After her first time to ride the zip line (and an incredible effort by everyone to make it happen for her), her response when asked how it she liked it was, “It was all right.” She was the kind of kid that didn’t want to be the center of attention and was pretty low key when in a large group. When we picked her up that Friday, however, she was radiating with happiness, and bubbling with excitement. For five days she had been able to just be a kid, and do kid things at Camp. It is one of those moments in time that I cherish, just because my beautiful girl was happy.

Allison passed away on September 11, 2011. While her passing has created an indescribable sadness, some of our happiest memories of her we created at Camp John Marc. We got to share another precious moment in 2012 while at Camp Morning Star, a camp for bereaved families. That weekend



Travis Long laying his sister Allison’s brick

also happened to be the annual Camp Work Day, so there were many staff and volunteers there doing various tasks around Camp. One of the activities that day was placing all of the bricks on the Live Oak Path for the previous year. We were offered the incredible gift of being able to place Allison’s and Travis’ Camp Sanguinity bricks. When it was time, we had Travis place his sister’s and his bricks in the path.

Whenever we visit camp now, the first thing I do is go and find our bricks, Allison and Travis’ first, then our family bricks. I love to wander along the path and see all of the names of the campers that came before us and now to see the names that follow ours. Allison’s brick is not a memorial, but a testimony to the part of her that she left at Camp, just as all the amazing kids at Camp do. I think it is so appropriate that the path is called the Live Oak Path, because that is exactly what our children do at Camp—they live.

Would You Like To Make A Gift For The Future?

Your thoughtful gift of a bequest is another wonderful way to support Camp John Marc. Often it is as simple as setting up a gift in your Will. If you would like more information about helping the Mission of Camp John Marc shine well into the future, send a note to mail@campjohnmarc.org or call Karen Campbell at 214-360-0056.



Friends



Way to go!

“At Camp John Marc, campers learn that many previously perceived physical limitations, driven by ‘I *can’t* do that’ thinking, are indeed surmountable. When campers experience these successes, an infusion of confidence occurs that improves self-image and causes them to approach other obstacles in their lives with the thought, ‘You know, maybe I *can* do that!’”

Dr. Tim McCavit
Physician at Children’s Medical Center &
Camp Doc for Camp Jubilee

Camp Talk Photos by Karen Gilmore

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An official publication of
Camp John Marc
2824 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204
214-360-0056
www.campjohnmarc.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit No. 755