Inspiring Confidence For Life

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 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.

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.

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."
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.”

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.

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 the 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 Hoffmann
Louise Willoughby Estate
Edward & Wilmeth Ackerman Foundation
A.L. Chilton Foundation
Rotary Club of Park Cities
Lamar Norsworthy
Camp TLC
Camp Jubilee
Coin Campaign

Marc’s Musings

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

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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 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 day was now a “Camp story.” After her first time to ride the zip line (and an incredible time that I cherish, just because my beautiful girl was allowed to do what I used to do), the rest of her first week at Camp than she had in months. Thanks to the amazing staff and volunteers, Allison “lived” more than you could have dared to hope. From the moment they arrived, they were embraced by the Camp community. They were not just campers, but also a part of the Camp family. Allison enjoyed every moment of her time at Camp, and it was clear that she had found a place where she belonged.

Allison passed away on September 11, 2011. While we were devastated by her loss, we knew that she was at peace. We knew that she had found happiness and support at Camp, and that she would always be remembered by the Camp community.

The Camp community has honored Allison in many ways. Her name has been added to the Camp Wall of Honor, where bricks are placed by families in memory of their loved ones. The Camp staff has also ensured that Allison’s legacy lives on, by providing support and resources to other families who are facing similar challenges.

Today, we look back on Allison’s time at Camp with pride and gratitude. We are grateful for the memories that we shared together, and we will always treasure the time that we spent at Camp together.
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.

### Inside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marc's Musings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs Kindred Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorials &amp; Honorariums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Brick Has A Story</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“At Camp John Marc, campers learn that many previously perceived physical limitations, driven by ‘I can't’ 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

Way to go!

Friends

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know: mail@campjohnmarc.org