

**OUR MISSION:** *The Camp Rainbow Foundation provides free camping experiences to children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases and disorders. We provide a recreational and nurturing environment for campers and their families where the children can create positive memories, build self-esteem, make new friends and are relieved of the everyday stresses caused by their illness.*



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**Volume 12: Fall 2018**

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## MESSAGE FROM MATT

I am honored to serve as the newest President of the Board at the Camp Rainbow Foundation. In 2018, Camp Rainbow provided camp experiences to more than 800 campers. Throughout my years of service as a Camp Rainbow board member, I have witnessed the outpouring of love, support, time, and talents of so many volunteers and donors as we have grown the Foundation to include seven camp programs.

In 2018, we reached the milestone of 7,000 campers participating in one of our camp programs since inception. I am humbled that the Camp Rainbow Foundation has been entrusted with the task of creating special camp memories for these children and families battling the diagnosis of cancer or a blood-related disease.

As the 2018 camp season comes to a close, I am energized and excited about what we accomplished in 2018 as well as what we will create together for our campers in the future. Thanks to all who have contributed to our efforts this year. Without the support of our extraordinary volunteers and staff, the awesome work of creating “magical memories” would not be possible.

-Matt McClelland, President, The Camp Rainbow Foundation



CAMP MEMORIES MAKE  
THE BEST MEMORIES

## TEEN CAMP 2018

*"Thank you for allowing me and all of us to have the time of our lives. It is easily my favorite time of the year and I cannot imagine not having camp in my life." - Dominic C., teen camper*

Teen Camp 2018 was a fun filled weekend held in March at Babler Outdoor Education Center in Wildwood, MO. Throughout the weekend, the teens participated in a variety of activities centered on the theme Limitless! Activities included acts from a guest magician, a highly competitive no-bake dessert contest, canvas art painting, Zumba, large yard games, and archery. The highlight of the weekend was the casino night festivities, complete with special guest dealers, prizes, root beer floats, snacks, and a photo booth.

Around the campfire, special memories were shared. "Camp Rainbow [Teen

Camp] is a life-changing experience that I look forward to every year," said Robbie D.

Special thank you to the volunteers and special guests who collectively helped to create this magical weekend for our teen campers.



## DAY CAMP 2018

*"We swim, we fish, we play! Eat snow cones every day! The best day is MESSY day, it's the only way to PLAY! Day Camp Rainbow! Day Camp Rainbow! Day Camp Rainbow!"*

For one week this summer, Babler Outdoor Education was filled with the Day Camp Rainbow cheer as eleven campers experienced Day Camp 2018. Held during the same week as Summer Camp, our youngest campers experienced the magical excitement of Camp Rainbow while still returning home each evening.

Day campers enjoyed all of the traditional camp activities of archery, fishing, arts & crafts, and swimming. Special activities included becoming Super Heroes with special capes, gym bus fun, train rides from Santa Needs Help, and messy day! Daily activities were created using the theme Lights! Camera!

Camp! and there was no shortage of laughter, joy, and magical memories made throughout this week.

With much appreciation, we want to acknowledge the counselors and

volunteers who spent this week with our young campers. In addition, we are extremely grateful to the donors and businesses that gifted us with their items and services throughout the week. With your support, we were able to create magical camp memories with our day campers.





## TEENS-N-TWENTY

By Ben Seitzman

The Teens-n-Twenty (TnT) Program provides opportunities for participants in their late teens and early twenties to have amazing experiences with their Camp Rainbow family. Through these experiences, they are able to bond with one another, learn about themselves, and form memories that will endure.

In our first year of existence, TnT attended two baseball games, as well as Mizzou’s homecoming football game. We were able to go on the field before each game, spend quality time with our friends, and cheer for our favorite teams. Over winter break we played life-sized foosball and made gingerbread houses. The camper who designed the most creative gingerbread house (according to our judges) won Blues tickets! Finally, we rounded out our year with a day of paintball and then a fun-filled trip to Six Flags.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to TnT and other Camp Rainbow programs. Your generosity, time, effort, and love are sincerely appreciated. To the TnTers- thank you for coming to the programs and for being yourselves. I look forward to our next adventure!



## “LIGHTS! CAMERA! CAMP!”

By Zach Fernau

Every year I am blown away by the magic that happens at Camp Rainbow Summer Camp. This year in particular was one of the best that I can remember. Summer Camp 2018 was a Hollywood inspired week filled with fun, friendship, and wonderful magical memories. The 79 campers walked the red carpet to enter camp and kick off the high energy week with daily themes related to favorite movies: Marvel Super Heroes, Harry Potter, Campers of the Caribbean, Dr. Seuss, and Space Jam.

“I am so glad I got to come to Camp Rainbow. This was the best week ever!” according to camper Grace G. Not only did we have more campers at camp this year but we also packed the week full of new activities and guests. Throughout the week, campers enjoyed traditional camp activities such as archery, arts & crafts, swimming, sno cones, drama, music, and sports. Each day brought new themes, guests and activities. Campers had fun interacting with parrots and puppies, crafting a pirate map and playing on the pirate ship, and participating in the tri-wizard tournament, before dancing the night away at the Harry Potter Ball, and sharing special campfires throughout the week.



“Being a former camper, I know firsthand how special Camp Rainbow is and the impact it has on the lives of those in attendance. The friendships that are made will last a lifetime,” Chance W. shared.

Summer Camp would not be possible without the nearly 300 volunteers who selflessly fill the roles of counselors, unit heads, staff, and volunteers. We are extremely grateful to these many volunteers as well as the donors that support Camp Rainbow. Together we created a magical camp that allowed each child to leave their worries behind and have the time of their life.

I saw unlimited smiles all week long. That is the tradition I hope to keep going for many years to come.

# SIBS CAMP 2018

By Barbie Ricken

New this summer, Camp Rainbow hosted 49 Super Important Brothers & Sisters (SIBS) for one week at Camp Manitowa Cedar Point in Makanda, IL. July 3-8. Our SIBS ages 7-15 had a great time at camp doing typical summer camp activities like swimming, boating, kayaking, tree climbing, arts & crafts, and making tie dye shirts. The SIBS also had the choice of participating in activities such as a no bake cooking competition, writing a song with Kids Rock Cancer, doing Zumba, playing capture the flag, going on nature hikes and drumming. It was really special to see these siblings bond over their shared experiences while having fun and getting to just be kids for the week.

At SIBS Camp, everyone was assigned to a Tribe for the week – campers and volunteers of all ages played and bonded while enjoying a variety of games, activities, and meals. The highlight of the week was the super fun (and very messy!) Color Wars. The Blue Bear Bandits took home bragging rights for winning the Color Wars this year. We had a great time playing Tribe Games, having a Luau, watching an incredible outdoor movie, busting a move at the dance party, and eating s'mores around the campfire.

As a sibling myself, having SIBS Camp was truly a dream come true. My older sister, Mary Beth, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1999 when I was in middle school and she earned her angel wings in 2001. I am so grateful and honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as the first program director for SIBS Camp to help make this dream a reality. Just having this camp for my siblings and I, and kids just like us, is so incredibly special. Thank you to everyone who made SIBS Camp possible! Huge shout out to our programming team (Tribe Leaders), the Camp Rainbow staff and all who worked very hard over the past year to make SIBS Camp possible. I am so thankful for all our SIBS Camp volunteers and everyone who was a part of this successful new program. Each day, I was

able to hear stories from our campers about their favorite parts of camp and many of them asked me if camp could be two weeks because they were having so much fun. There were lots of smiles and tons of happy campers! We can't wait to start planning for SIBS Camp 2019 so even more Super Important Brothers and Sisters can experience the Camp Rainbow magic!



## MEET BARBIE, SIBS CAMP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Barbie's older sister Mary Beth was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1999, and she first attended a camp for siblings of children with cancer the following summer. Barbie volunteered at that camp for 10 years, serving as a counselor, group leader and the director of their sibling camp program. As a sibling, Barbie knows how important it is to have opportunities for siblings of children with cancer to meet others who are going through a similar situation. When Barbie heard that Camp Rainbow was interested in starting a sibling camp, she knew she wanted to be a part of it!

Barbie first experienced Camp Rainbow in 2014 as a camp nurse for Summer Camp

and she has been one of the camp nurses every summer since then. She has also volunteered as a nurse at Teen Camp and events with the TnT program.

When Barbie isn't volunteering for Camp Rainbow, she enjoys working as a staff nurse/charge nurse on the pediatric hematology/oncology floor at St. Louis Children's Hospital and spending time with family and friends. She is a 2009 graduate of Miami University and a 2013 graduate of Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College. Barbie can't wait to bring the sibling perspective to SIBS camp and create an inclusive and exciting week where children whose siblings have had cancer can have fun and just be kids.



## KIDS HELPING KIDS

“ALL KIDS NEED A LITTLE HELP,  
A LITTLE HOPE, AND SOMEBODY  
WHO BELIEVES IN THEM.”  
MAGIC JOHNSON



During our recent camp season, we have been blessed by these Kids Helping Kids moments.

- The Girl Scouts of Ascension Parish donated blankets to be gifted to our Summer campers.
- The teens at Columbia High School raised funds and made a donation in honor of their classmate and Camp Rainbow Camper, Lucas.
- Jason Slagle raised funds by his nomination as a Mr. PCH Candidate.
- Zayda Mathews nominated Camp Rainbow to be the beneficiary of funds raised through Cor Jesu Academy Penny Queen festivities.
- Eli Lieberman donated Dr. Seuss books to Summer Campers as part of his Mitvah project.
- Hailey Tracy raised funds through her annual Lemonade Stand.
- The St. Gabriel Girls on the Run group held a bake sale to raise funds to craft blankets which were donated to Summer Campers.
- St. Paul Lutheran National Honors Society made a donation which benefited SIBS Camp.
- The Patengill children raised funds through a Lemonade Stand.
- The many teens from NFTY Missouri Valley Region that held spaghetti dinners, walkathons, and outstanding events to raise funds for Camp Rainrowers.

## WHAT IS BETTER THAN DISNEY WORLD? FAMILY CAMP 2018!

When asked if he enjoyed the family camp weekend, Tanner replied “It is more fun than my trip to Disney World!”

We love to hear Tanner’s experience as well as all the stories shared from families that attended Camp Rainbow Family Camp 2018. The Family Camp weekend held at Trout Lodge in Potosi, MO over Labor Day weekend provided much needed respite for thirty nine families dealing with their child’s diagnosis of cancer or a blood-related disease. Tessia describes family camp as an opportunity to “unwind, relax, and reconnect as a family unit. We enjoyed the chance to try new things and share our story with other families just like ours.”

The families enjoyed activities like Cowboy Camp, a visit to the blacksmith shop, a dance party, a carnival, a beach party, and so much more. Our youngest campers spent time playing with furry and scaly animals in the nature center, completing one-of-a-kind art projects, boating, and enjoying a hayride while the older campers tested their abilities to scale the Alpine Tower, swing through the air on the Alpine Swing, and climb to new heights on the climbing wall. Parents had special activities too! While their children played, many parents took advantage of the free time by taking a walk on the nature trails, creating a craft in the art room, or taking a much needed nap.

“Camp Rainbow is awesome! It’s a refreshing break from the realities of having a child with a serious medical condition. Thank you for providing a wonderful weekend retreat full of happy memories,” said Melanie G.

Thank you to the many volunteers and donors that made this weekend possible. The Hatfield family told us “Camp Rainbow is the BEST CAMP EVER!” Without your generosity we would not be able to create these best camp memories!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DAVID HOFFMAN



Last year, Dave Hoffman and his wife were watching KSDK evening news when a story about Camp Rainbow Camp-In was featured as part of Mike Bush’s Making A Difference segment. “Kids were coloring and painting wooden toys and I told my wife, “I can do that.” At her suggestion, Dave contacted Camp Rainbow Executive Director Heather Bachman. “I was thrilled to get his phone call,” she reports. “We were investigating new vendors for our wooden toys so the timing was absolutely perfect!”

Dave began woodworking the toys for the very next Camp-In session. The children paint and color his creations during each Camp-In session at the three local hospitals. His trains, trucks, helicopters, and airplanes are wonderfully made and always a hit!

Visit [www.camprainbow.com/wish-list](http://www.camprainbow.com/wish-list) for a list of ways you can apply your special skills and talents to help Camp Rainbow create magical memories for our campers.



*You're off to great places  
Today is your day  
Your mountain is waiting...  
Get on your way!  
-Dr Seuss*

THE RACE TO CURE LYMPHOMA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAMP RAINBOW IS PROUD TO AWARD THE SURVIVOR COUNSELOR SCHOLARSHIP TO JASON SLAGLE AND ALEXANDRA YAROLIMEK. THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED TO HONOR CAMILO CLAVIJO WHO WAS AN ADVOCATE FOR CANCER ORGANIZATIONS. JASON WILL BE STUDYING AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY WHILE ALEXANDRA WILL BE EARNING A BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE AT THE KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE. CONGRATULATIONS!

## CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION

New in 2018, The Camp Rainbow Connection provides young professionals, ages 21+, with the opportunity to support Camp Rainbow by hosting social events and fundraisers throughout the year. The Camp Rainbow connection strives to create at least four events annually for young professionals to connect with each other while contributing to the growth of Camp Rainbow.

Meet The Camp Rainbow Connection Team!

Bree Banaszynski - Bree started volunteering with Camp Rainbow in 2009 and since then has been involved with Summer Camp as a counselor and unit head, Teen Camp as a staff member and on the programming committee, Teens-n-Twenty, and now the Camp Rainbow Connection! Bree is excited for the Camp Rainbow Connection to get more young professionals involved in supporting the magic of the Camp Rainbow Foundation.

Emily Ketcherside - Emily first became involved in Camp Rainbow when she and her mother, Mary, started donating meals and volunteering their time during summer camp. They quickly fell in love with the joy it brings to children battling cancer. Emily has since been in many different roles including counselor, unit head and staff member in Summer Camp, Teen Camp and Camp In. Her hope is that Camp Rainbow Connection can provide further opportunities to the Camp Rainbow Foundation through fundraising and marketing to the young professional age group.

Samantha Leidel - Samantha first became involved with the Camp Rainbow Foundation at age 9 as a camper. She has since spent the last 18 years involved in many capacities including camper, counselor, and staff member at Summer Camp and Day Camp, and programming committee member and staff member at Teen Camp. Samantha hopes that The Camp Rainbow Connection can give young professionals, those familiar with camp as well as new faces, an opportunity to get involved with Camp Rainbow through fundraising and marketing!

Additional Support From – Brett Bunsick, Mary Schroeder, Chris Southerland, Mary McKee.

Details regarding our events can be found on the Camp Rainbow Facebook Page, Camp Rainbow webpage or by directly emailing [rainbowconnection@camprainbow.com](mailto:rainbowconnection@camprainbow.com).

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## MATCHING CAMPAIGN

Childhood memories are among the most treasured of our lives. Childhood is a magical time, a time of wonder and innocence, of exploration and discovery, making new friends and having as much fun as possible.

Sadly, for a child living with a diagnosis of cancer, this precious time seems to be stolen from them, as they fight for their lives amid treatments, hospital stays and endless lab infusions. Is there even a chance for these youngsters to create happy memories, to cherish and cling to when the ravages of their disease threatens to overcome them?

The answer is Camp Rainbow. Escaping the reality of cancer through one of our programs enables our campers to experience these magical moments of childhood as they immerse themselves in a world of playing, personal development, and simply having fun living the life that should never be stolen from them.

At the Camp Rainbow Foundation, we create more than just unlimited smiles; we allow our campers to make wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. We often receive feedback after a Camp Rainbow program, when the children report how "camp memories are the best memories". This is our goal, this is the dream we continue to pursue: returning childhood innocence to these brave children, if only for a few days, allowing them to hold onto mental snapshots that are happy, fun and become treasured.

In support of even more camp memories, a matching campaign has been offered to Camp Rainbow, sponsored by The Sound Room and an anonymous donor. This group of dedicated individuals has pledged to match all charitable contributions made from now through December 31, 2018. With the help of caring and compassionate individuals such as yourselves, whose goal is to keep putting unlimited smiles on the faces of these brave young children, we can continue to provide free camping experiences and expand our programs to include new and exciting opportunities for families and patients battling cancer and other blood-related diseases.

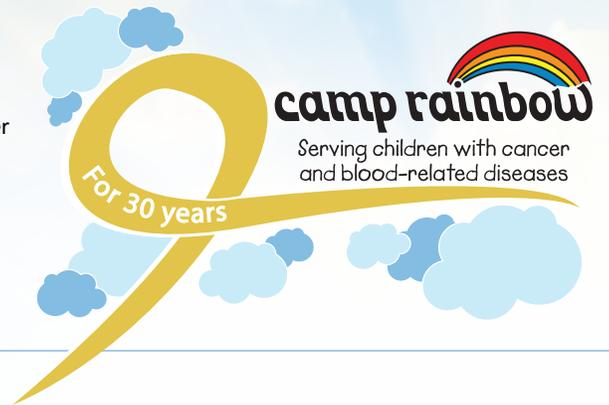


To donate, please visit our website and click the DONATE box or you can send checks to the office with "matching" in the memo. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Camp Rainbow Foundation  
 13990 Olive Blvd., Suite 201  
 Chesterfield, Missouri 63017



The Camp Rainbow Foundation is one of 132 members of COCA-I (Children's Oncology Camping Association, International), whose mission is to strengthen the international community of camps for children with cancer and their families through networking, advocacy, education and other resources. Camp Rainbow has been awarded the Gold Ribbon Camp designation for the fifth consecutive year. This is an honor bestowed upon camps which demonstrate a high level of commitment to serving children with cancer and their families.



**CO-SPONSORS OF THE CAMP RAINBOW FOUNDATION INCLUDE:**

