

VOLUNTEER

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2023



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE!



LETTER *from* Tricia

*O*ne of the best parts of my job is watching our volunteers grow and mature over the years. At Camp Rainbow, we have gotten to experience graduations, marriages, new puppies, retirements, and even the joy of parenthood through the many volunteers we engage with each year.

*O*f course we love watching the campers grow and change over the years too. We love to see the child that we first met as a Day Camper join us for their first teen camp weekend or the members of a Family Camp family show up at SIBS Camp and Oncology Overnight Camp.

*I*n 2023, more than 20% of our volunteers were new to a Camp Rainbow camping program. We are hopeful that the magic and memories they shared bring them back to our camps for many years to come.

*T*his fall, our Leadership Team will begin recruitment for our 2024 camps. We are gearing up for the excitement that a new camp season brings – volunteer appreciation events, dreaming up camp games, crafts, and wowy evening programs, organizing the warehouse, meeting new campers at Camp-In, and most importantly welcoming and training our new Director of Camps.

A huge THANK YOU for your time and dedication to Camp Rainbow and for continually going above and beyond during unprecedented times to help us serve our campers. We hope 2024 will bring back more campers, more volunteers, and more wonderful camp memories.

Tricia McCaffrey

Volunteer & Acquisition
Coordinator

Looking Ahead



Dear Camp Volunteers,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we conclude our 2023 year of camps, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment and dedication to Camp Rainbow.

You are the backbone of our camp's success, and your tireless efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of our campers. It's through your passion and hard work that we create an environment where children can grow, learn, and create lasting memories.

As we prepare for the upcoming camp season, I wanted to share some important updates and express our collective excitement for what lies ahead:

PREPARATION FOR A REMARKABLE 2024 YEAR OF CAMPS | *We are already in the midst of planning spectacular camp experiences for our campers in 2024. Our recreational and nurturing environment provides campers and their families with space to create positive memories, build self-esteem, make new friends and experience relief from the everyday stresses caused by their illness. The feedback received at the conclusion of each session has been invaluable and we are looking forward to putting it to good use creating another amazing year at Camp Rainbow!*

We are also excited to make a move in 2024 to Camp Sunnyhill for our Oncology Overnight Camp, Day Camp, and SIBS Camp. This move allows for expanded programming opportunities to our campers as well as fully air-conditioned spaces.

TRAINING & SUPPORT | *To ensure you have the tools and knowledge needed for a successful camp, we modified the training offered in 2023 to include a New Volunteer Orientation as well as re-imagined Onsite Orientation sessions for our camp programs. We will continue to build on these sessions in 2024 offering increased opportunities for the sharing of camp policies, emergency procedures, updates on our camp programs, as well as opportunities to create strong team bonding. We're here to support you every step of the way, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.*

APPRECIATION EVENTS | *Throughout the 2023 camp season, we hosted two Volunteer Appreciation Events. We hope you joined us at one or both! We will once again be hosting fun events in 2024 to express our appreciation for your hard work and dedication. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and we want to make sure you feel valued and cherished.*

BUILDING STRONG CONNECTIONS | *One of the beautiful aspects of our camp is the sense of community it fosters. Your interactions with each other, as well as with campers, help build lasting friendships and unforgettable experiences. Borrowing from Allen Brockman, one of our founders, "we come as individuals and leave as a family." Thank you for being part of the Camp Rainbow family in 2023 and we look forward to your continued connections in 2024!*

Cheers!

Heather Bachman
Executive Director



ANNIVERSARY *Spotlight*

Each year our volunteers help to create special and magical camp experiences at Camp Rainbow.

We are so proud that many of our volunteers choose to return year after year. While we are grateful for and want to celebrate all of our volunteers, we especially want to spotlight the following volunteers celebrating a milestone anniversary at Camp Rainbow.

5

MAGGIE BOHANNON
BRIANNA PFIEFFER

10

KYLEE LOWES
BARBIE RICKEN

15

DEBBI BRAUNSTEIN

20

MARY MCKEE

25

JESSICA DAVIS
STEPHANIE DUMMERTH

US
BR
EA
TE

MEET OUR AMAZING 2023 Volunteers

CHAZ ALLEN
BRIANA ANDERSON
SARA ANDERSON
MCKENZIE ASHURST
HALEIGH BACHMAN
MITCH BARTOLA
MATHEW BILICKI
DAVE BISHOP
KATHY BISHOP
MARIA BISHOP
JOE BLAIR
CATE BLUNDA
MAGGIE BOHANNAN
BRADEN BOND
MARK BOZADA
DEBBI BRAUNSTEIN
JOSH BRAUTIGAM
BARRY BRIMER
ALYSSA BRIMER
FARAH BRIMER
GINA BRIMER
RONNIE BROCKMAN
LEANORA BURGESS
KATIE BURGIO
KENZIE BYRKIT
DOMINIC CAPUTA
CHRISTINE CHEN
JO LINDA COHEN
CAT COLE
ERIKA COLE
ALEXIS COLE
GAVIN COLE
PARKER COLE
AMY COOPER
JEFFREY COOPER
COLLEEN CRAWFORD
ASHLYNN CREECH
ERIN CROMER
KRISTIN DALY
ELENA DAVIS
JESSICA DAVIS
CAITLIN DIFFLEY

ERIN DRUMMOND
ANDREW DUMMERTH
STEPHANIE DUMMERTH
ROBBIE DUTTON
KELLY EASTMAN
RACHEL EDIDIN
JACK ELKING
LUKE ELKING
SYDNEY FELSEN
MEYER FENSTERMAN
ZACH FERNAU
AMANDA FICKBOHM
MADDIE FLOWERS
CLARA FRAZIER
ELIZA FRAZIER
MARY FRAZIER
GINA GARBO
DENISE GERINGER
ANDI GODFROY
COURTNEY GONZALEZ
CURTIS (CJ) GOOT
EVA GRAY
HALLE GREEN
ADAM GROSMAN
JOEY HANKS
JOELLE HATHAWAY
NATALIE HEATH
ALLY HENNING
JULIA HERIGODT
JAMES INGOLIA
LUKE KAHRHOFF
ISHIKA KANJERLA
BETHANY KELLY
ZACH KERNS
CLAIR KHERIATY
DANIEL KHERIATY
JACOB KHERIATY
JOSEPH KHERIATY
NICK KHERIATY
SARAH KHERIATY
CONOR KILLEN
DIRK KILLEN

HEIDI KLADIVA
CARSON KLENC
KARA KLETTE
SANDY KOMEN
SALLY KREBS
MARK KRONEMER
ANNABELLE KUJAWA
KATIE LAWLESS
SAMMI LEIDEL
MADISON LEONARD
MAGDA LIJOWSKA
ANN LOJTERSTEIN
KYLEE LOWES
JONAS MCCAFFREY
KENADI MCDILE
MARY MCKEE
RYLEIGH MCKINNEY
HALA NAZZAL
GARRETT NELSON
JC NGUYEN
MEAGHAN O'CONNELL
JENNA OVERSTREET
JENNY PETZOLDT
JORDAN PETZOLDT
BRIANNA PFEIFFER
REYHAN (HAPPY) PHATAK
EMMA POGUE
ASHLEY POLITTE
DEBRA POLITTE
GENE POLLMAN
VICKI POLLMAN
DOMINIC POLLMAN
BEN PTASIENSKI
BRANDON PORTER
LAWSON PORTER
MARY PORTER
OWEN PORTER
EMILY REAMES
STEVE REISS
GEDDY RICE
BARBIE RICKEN
GERRY RICKEN

HEIDI RICKEN
SHEILA RICKEN
SARA ROTHMAN
HANNAH RUCKMAN
TAYLOR SCATURRO
CALEB SCHRODER
EMILY SCOTT
CLAIRE SEDLAK
COLIN SEDLAK
EMILY SEDLAK
WILL SEDLAK
SCOTT SEDLAK
BEN SEITZMAN
REBECCA SENNARAJ
GLORIA SHAIKUN
ABBY SHARAMITARO
ADAM SHERBERG
KATIE SHEMWELL
RYAN SLAGLE
EMMA SLIGER
RAIZEL SMALL
MIRIAM SOKORA
AARON SPARKS
KIM STAATS
JESSICA STEINBERG
LILY STOUT
CAROL STROBL
DAVID STUCKEL
ALLISON THORNSBERRY
AVERY THORNSBERRY
MARK THORNSBERRY
ASHLEY UNDERWOOD
RANDI VELICK
ZACH WAGNER
RYLEIGH WALSTON
LILLIAN WEIHERT
KAILEY WENTZEL
ALEX WILCOX
AVA WOLLIN
SARENNA WOOD
SAMMIE YARNELL

The HUEY BLAKE Scholarship

The Camp Rainbow Foundation is pleased to offer an academic scholarship in memory of Huey Blake. Huey was diagnosed with cancer as a young child. He attended Camp Rainbow in 1989 and continued to be part of the Camp Rainbow community as a camper then a volunteer until his death in 2023. This scholarship was created to honor his service and commitment to Camp Rainbow.



Words Barry Brimer shared at Huey's Funeral . . .

I am honored and humbled to be able to speak with you today about HUEY THE GREAT also known as "Uncle Huey" to my kids. I've been privileged to volunteer with Huey for 30 of his 35 years at Camp Rainbow. Huey was well known for doing whatever it takes to put smiles on our campers, counselors and staff members' faces.

Many of you may also remember Huey entertaining people with his magic tricks. At Camp Rainbow we were fortunate enough to see Huey demonstrating real magic – no tricks. Countless times, new campers would come to Camp Rainbow and be scared or nervous to leave their parents and siblings and to stay overnight with people they didn't know in an unfamiliar place, and who could blame them. These concerns ended abruptly when these kids saw Huey because they all knew Huey from one of the many pediatric cancer organizations that he had devoted his time and his love to.

As a bystander, you and I would call this "magic" but it wasn't a trick nor was it a performance. It was Huey just being himself and this was the result of the time and love that he has invested in the pediatric cancer community. This was seen all over camp, but it was seen the most at our day camp which serves our 4-6 year old campers, which Huey spent many, many summers with. One summer due to some extreme weather conditions, all of the fish in our fishing pond had died. Undeterred by the minor inconvenience of NOT HAVING FISH, Huey remained determined to teach our campers how to fish.

He immediately went about removing hooks from his fishing lines and began setting out hula hoops in one of our fields. He then proceeded to teach our campers how to cast with the goal of landing your bobber in a hula hoop. That might have been enough for many, but not HUEY THE GREAT! He also walked around erratically in the middle of his "pond" with a bucket on his head and encouraged campers to "catch him" by landing the bobber in the bucket on his head. If you "caught him" hilarity would ensue as he put up a fight as the campers tried to reel him in. Those that did so received a prize.

In 2019 I brought Huey to visit our Camp Rainbow SIBS camp. You would have thought that I had brought Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Mick Jagger, Garth Brooks, Michael Jackson or a combination thereof. Activities stopped cold as kids came over to see him. Unsurprisingly, ALL of our campers knew Huey there too! Remember, these aren't our cancer patients themselves, these are their siblings. In one of his last Facebook posts when he was explaining that if people were coming to visit him or send him cards in the hospital, that they should address them to "Clark Blake" and mentioned that most people assumed that his name really was "Huey", and when questioned about this he said that his code name was Clark and his real name was HUEY THE GREAT! I couldn't agree more.

I don't know anyone who couldn't benefit from the example that he set by devoting his time and his love to help others. When I grow up, I want to be just like him.

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .



BRADON BOND | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLUMBIA | HEALTH SCIENCES

Among the many lessons I've learned at camp, the most impactful has been the value of putting others before oneself. This principle has seeped into every aspect of my life, from job applications to social interactions. I've come to realize that true authenticity and meaning come from doing things I genuinely enjoy. Medical school, for instance, presents numerous opportunities for students to check boxes and accumulate experiences. However, I am committed to seeking meaning and impact in my endeavors, similar to the profound impact Camp Rainbow has had on me. When people ask me about my experiences, I share the same truth every time: "Do what you love, because it becomes effortless to talk about." My involvement and positions at camp have been instrumental in shaping the person I am today, and I can effortlessly talk about these experiences because they hold genuine significance in my heart that will be there forever.



CURTIS (CJ) GOOT | UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA | OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

The two stones in my name tag knocked against each other. The sound they made reminded me of my two campers whose names I wrote on each stone. Adam and Lazlo. I didn't know Adam and Lazlo yet—they would arrive at Camp Rainbow the following morning—but I knew what my responsibility was. On the back of each stone I wrote, "CARRY THEIR WEIGHT." I obtained these stones from the opening memorial service reflecting on those who had succumbed to their illnesses, and the stones were a continuous remembrance to me of the opportunity I had to impact these campers. I love the saying by the founders: "we come as individuals, and we leave as family." I couldn't agree more... after two summers as a counselor, I have made lifelong friendships with the other counselors in B2 and some of the best summer memories that I will never forget. I cannot wait to come back and join my family for one incredible week for many summers to come. There are many things I cannot change, including a nine-year-old's cancer diagnosis. But I can be a companion on their journey. I can help carry the weight of their burdens.



REYHAN (HAPPY) PHATAK | UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Camp Rainbow has affected my life in ways that I never thought possible. It has added value to every single minute of each day and allows for an opportunity to be truly grateful to be where your feet are. It is a place where little things are worth celebrating like going tree climbing even if you were scared at first, sleeping in a bed that's away from home, or participating in songs at the campfire. It is a place where smiles are in abundance and love runs rampant.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

THE RICKENS

Camp Rainbow has been so fortunate to have so many incredible family members volunteer together over the years, many of which came to us as referrals from friends or camp families. Here are just a few highlights of some of our special families from 2023.

Meet the Ricken Family. Gerry (dad), Sheila (mom), and their kids Barbie, Heidi and Will. Over the years, The Ricken family has played many incredible roles in the Camp Rainbow Family. Barbie Ricken first got involved with Camp Rainbow through working as a Hematology/Oncology nurse at St. Louis Children's Hospital in 2014. From there, she engaged the rest of the family to help create SIBS Camp. This past year, we were fortunate to have Barbie back as the SIBS Camp Director, along with her sister Heidi who did an amazing job heading up SIBS Logistics. Both mom and dad, (Sheila and Gerry) also volunteered at SIBS Camp this past summer. Gerry also serves as Treasurer on the Camp Rainbow Board.

I absolutely love getting to volunteer at SIBS Camp with my sister Heidi. It's a time where we don't have outside distractions of work, life, etc. and we get to be silly and fun and have the greatest time at camp together. Besides our family vacations, SIBS Camp is the most time we spend together every year. Our oldest sister Mary Beth had cancer when we were younger, and we really love getting to volunteer at SIBS Camp together to create memories for other siblings who also have a sibling who has had cancer. - Barbie



Favorite Memory

I'd have to say the most memorable camp moment was 6 years ago when we were scoping out our first SIBS Camp campsite. We were canoeing out to the jumping rocks on our site tour when we hit some white caps and ended up flipping our canoe in ice cold water, fully clothed, without towels or extra clothes on hand. We were rescued by some local fisherman and had to cut our tour short to head to the local Wal-Mart, get a change of clothes, and warm up after our adventure! -Heidi Provost

Meet Jack (21) and Luke Elking (19). Jack first volunteered at Camp Rainbow in 2022 as an overnight oncology camp counselor. Jack was so moved by his experience at camp that he convinced his younger brother Luke to join him in 2023. Together, the two young men gave it their all for 4 days to show the boys of "B2, "how important and special they are!" They swam hard, sung loud, climbed fast and danced the night away at the dance party.



It's family volunteers like the Elkings that make camp so special. Jack and Luke are both busy college students and have part-time jobs. Despite how busy many of our volunteers are outside of camp, they still make time for the most special week of the year. We are crossing our fingers they can join us in 2024...and bring a friend or two.

“Camp is amazing. Never did I think I would lead a conga line! - Jack”



THE DUMMERTHS

Meet the Dummerth Family! Jenny (Dummerth) Petzoldt and her sister Stephanie Dummerth got involved volunteering in our summer camp programs (what is now the Overnight Oncology and Day Camps) in 2012 after receiving a flyer in the mail looking for additional volunteers for the 25th summer camp! Jenny attended Mini Camp back in the 90s as a camper. For 12 years, Stephanie has continued to volunteer at Camp Rainbow in a variety of roles. Jenny has volunteered for 9 years and their brother, Andy, volunteered for 7 years. Their parents, Patty and Glenn were co-directors of Family Camp for many years until they retired in 2017 at which time they handed off the leadership roles to the next generation. Stephanie Dummerth and David Stuckel are the current Family Camp Directors.



“We love that we get to be together and give back to a cause that we all really care about! We grew up volunteering at a family camp together with our parents as well, so getting to continue that even into adulthood is just a great experience. No matter what we have going on in our lives, we still find time to come together to volunteer—which is awesome! - Stephanie”

LET'S MEET THE BOARD

FOUNDERS & LEGACY BOARD MEMBERS

ALLEN BROCKMAN
RONNIE BROCKMAN

BOARD MEMBERS

DEBBI BRAUNSTEIN	GREG MEYER
BARRY BRIMER	GRACE NEARY
KATHY BISHOP	DR. JOHN PUETZ
LEE KLEPPER	EMILIE SCHAFFER
DEBBIE LEFTON	LAURA WELBY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

SCOTT SEDLAK, PRESIDENT
TRACI GRIFFIN, VICE PRESIDENT
GERRY RICKEN, TREASURER
CARLY SCADUTO, SECRETARY
PENNY CUTRELL, PRESIDENT EMERITUS
CHRIS SLAGLE, MEMBER-AT-LARGE
STEVE WELBY, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

DR. JOHN PUETZ, MEDICAL DIRECTOR	AMANDA FICKBOHM, RN
DR. JACQUELYN CARTER	DR. ROB HANSON
DR. ANDREW CLUSTER	DR. CHRISTOPHER HUGGE
DR. LAUREN DRAPER	SALLY KREBS, RN
KELLY EASTMAN, RN	BARBIE RICKEN, RN
ABBY EASTWOOD, RN	ABIGAIL SHARAMITARO, PNP

BOARD

Spotlight



DEBBIE LEFTON 24-YEAR BOARD MEMBER

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH CAMP RAINBOW?

I was a volunteer at Camp Rainbow when I was a Child Life Specialist at St. Louis Children's Hospital from 1991-1997. May of 1998 is when I had Sydney, so camp was a no go. In 1999, I joined the Board and have been on the board since. I have volunteered at camp on and off throughout those years.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CAMP MEMORY?

My favorite camp memory is watching the kids on the last day and seeing how far they have come out of their shell during camp, how many friends they have made, how much more confident they are and knowing the overall impact attending camp has made on their lives.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A NEW VOLUNTEER?

I would tell a new volunteer that the more you give the more you get back. That in all my years of volunteering in many different communities throughout the community there has never been a great impact on my life as well as the lives we touch than from being involved in Camp Rainbow. Feel the magic and feel the honor of being able to volunteer for Camp Rainbow and run with it you will not be disappointed.

I am extremely grateful and honored to have served in so many different ways on the board over the last 25 years. Camp Rainbow has come a long way over the years and I am so proud of where the foundation is at and what it is doing for those we serve. I have enjoyed playing a very small part in the growth and success and look forward to seeing all the amazing opportunities Camp Rainbow will continue to provide to so many.

AMANDA FICKBOHM 2-YEAR MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH CAMP RAINBOW?

I have always loved volunteering at camp when I worked at different hospitals in the past and was glad to finally have the opportunity to join the Camp Rainbow family. I volunteered as a camp nurse last year and this year I was the oncology overnight camp Charge Nurse.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CAMP MEMORY OR TRADITION?

Making Tie-Dye t-shirts. I love seeing everyone's creativity and all the shirts they've made over the years.

WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK TO CAMP RAINBOW?

I love getting to see kids being kids. They have so many restrictions during treatment so for them to have a place where they are safe and can make new friends who have had similar experiences is awesome. It's also great to see how much of an impact Camp has had on past campers and how excited they are to come back as counselors!





PLEASE JOIN US

volunteer appreciation night

MO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Garden glow

CAMP RAINBOW VOLUNTEERS + FAMILY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

CAMP RAINBOW HAS PURCHASED A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TICKETS FOR A 5:15PM ENTRY. WE WILL MAIL TICKETS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE WEEK BEFORE. PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER.

questions? email tricia@camprainbow.com



SCAN ME



VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION

Barbecue



CAMP RAINBOW
until there is a cure



We had a blast! Thanks so much, we are really lucky to participate.



We're super appreciate for EVERYTHING, and plan on coming back EVERYTIME we're invited...We love camp rainbow. Thank you all for your hard work and giving our kids a great weekend.



Camp Rainbow you did it again. This week was...magical and needed and so amazing! ...I am going to cherish these memories from this week forever.



Beckett comes home from Camp Rainbow today! I am still surprised he slept away from home for four nights...It was definitely harder for mommy and daddy than it was for Beckett! Thank you, Camp Rainbow, for this amazing experience for our warriors! Our big kids cannot wait for SIBS Camp in a few weeks.



We were able to connect with more families this year and provide lasting friendships for ourselves and our kiddos. Thank you all so much!!!



We truly cannot thank you all enough for a wonderful weekend. My family and I are so grateful to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to helping kids with cancer and their families.



Your volunteers went above and beyond. So very happy with everything. We had a wonderful time.



It was an amazing time. We loved it so much!!!!



My daughter had an amazing time. I am so thankful for Camp Rainbow.



B is 100% living her best life this week! ...seeing her in that beautiful space walking with other amazing warrior sisters who have similar stories and heartache and building awesome friendships....I am so happy to see B and H together. They built a unique friendship last summer, kept in touch throughout the year, and were both so happy to be at camp together this week. Huge thank you to Camp Rainbow for building an environment to foster these meaningful relationships for our kids and giving them an experience that is really life changing.

Go for the

GOLD

IN 2024...

WE PLAN TO HOST CAMPS
THAT ENCOURAGE OUR CAMPERS
TO GO FOR THE **GOLD!**



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

ONCOLOGY OVERNIGHT CAMP

June 2 - June 6, 2024 | Camp Sunnyhill

DAY CAMP

June 3 - June 5, 2024
Camp Sunnyhill

SIBS CAMP

June 11 - June 15, 2024
Camp Sunnyhill

FAMILY CAMP

Aug. 30 - Sept. 2, 2024
Trout Lodge

TEEN CAMP

Nov. 1 - Nov. 3, 2024

* We are making a move in 2024. Oncology Overnight, Day Camp, and SIBS Camp will now be held at Camp Sunnyhill located in Dittmer, MO. This camp offers expanded programming opportunities to our campers as well as fully air-conditioned spaces.

CAMP RAINBOW

until there is a cure

108 Matrix Commons Drive
Fenton, MO 63026

