

# Camp Ronald McDonald For Good Times



Where Healing Happens

## Special Edition: 2015 Impact Report



## M Meet Griselda

Griselda “Grizzly” Ramirez, superstar camper turned counselor, has been involved with Camp for the past 27 years. Griselda was introduced to Camp in 1988 when she experienced her first summer session of Camp Good Friends—the sibling exclusive program Camp ran before merging patients and siblings into one summer program. Her brother Robert—Camp name Rocky—was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma (cancer of the eye) when he was three-years-old.

Though Griselda is six years younger than Robert, she still recalls witnessing the latent effects cancer had on her brother. Having lost his eye, her brother struggled with his prosthetic eye and often felt angry and frustrated. Robert found great comfort at Camp. Griselda too was greatly impacted by Camp. Her ten years at Camp were magical and truly helped her come out of her shell. Griselda shares that her summers at camp were filled with “adventure, time with friends who could relate to [her] life experiences and struggles...it was nice to have a community of support.”

Fast forward to 2014 when Griselda reconnected with Camp. When a friend of hers shared that she was going to volunteer for a week as a counselor at Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times, all of Griselda’s fond childhood memories came rushing back. Griselda had always intended to go back to Camp as a counselor and her friend’s chance mention of her volunteer plans felt like no coincidence. As a counselor Griselda was pleasantly surprised to find not much had changed at Camp. She felt transported in time and

was able to relive her fondest Camp memories. “It felt wonderful to have so much fun with the campers but to also have the responsibility of providing a memorable experience for them. As counselors it’s our job to create the space for campers to just be kids—they don’t see all of the hard work that goes on in the background. Becoming a counselor really helped me appreciate my counselors and all they did for me when I was a camper.”

Griselda is taking her commitment to the next level. She has formed a Walk for Kids team at Westlake Financial where she’s been working for five years.

*“I’ve formed a Walk for Kids team because I want Camp to continue for our young people. Everyone has been impacted by cancer in some form or another, so it’s easy to share why a program like Camp is so important for children and families dealing with childhood cancer. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have an even greater impact on a place that has had such a profound impact on my and my brother’s life.”*

Join Griselda and Walk for our Campers! Walk for Kids - Sunday, April 3, 2016. Visit [www.walkforkids.org/camp](http://www.walkforkids.org/camp) to sign up or donate today!

A program of  
Ronald McDonald House Charities™  
of Southern California



# 2015 Program Highlights & Outcomes



2015 was an exciting year for Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times! From the opening of our new Dining Hall, to the rebirth of Winter Camp, to hosting our first Family Camp Reunion weekend, it was a year of renewal, growth and deepening of our impact. In 2015 we served 1,653 campers during five Summer Camp sessions, one Winter Camp session, and six Family Camps. That's more than 200 additional campers who were able to participate in 2015, all thanks to our new 12,400 sq. ft. Dining Hall/Activity Center, which can now comfortably fit more campers.

## Summer Camp Impact

We had an eventful summer with campers and counselors alike excited to spend a week communing and connecting with their second family. We survey our parents after each summer session to ensure Camp is producing the outcomes we intend for our campers. Feedback we received from parents included:

- 93% of campers came home with more self-confidence;
- 91% of campers had increased ability to cope with challenges; and
- 95% of our campers had the opportunity to experience normal childhood activities while at Camp.

A recent camper graduate and Camp intern, Emeline Beltran, summed up what many of our campers feel about their time at Camp that goes beyond numbers. Emeline shares: *"When I was diagnosed with cancer my life was changed forever. I felt so abnormal. Kids would always stare and laugh at me. It seemed like the only safe place was the hospital. A few years*

## Gifts & GRANTS

Thank you to our 2015 Foundation, Corporate & Community Partners

Astro Food Service, Inc.  
Azteca America  
Bank of America  
Barco's Nightingale's Foundation  
BCM Foundation  
Bel Air Investment Advisors  
Beneto Foundation  
Bert-Co  
Employees Community Fund of Boeing California  
John W. Carson Foundation  
CBS Television Network  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
City National Bank  
The Crean Foundation  
Davis Elen Advertising  
The Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Finish Line Youth Foundation  
The Billy Foreman Fund  
Fox Group

Don & Lorraine Freeberg Foundation  
Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation  
The William Gumpert Foundation  
The Hale Corporation  
H. Leslie & Elaine Hoffman Foundation  
Hunter Douglas  
Kaiser Permanente  
KOA Care Camps  
The Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Foundation  
Living Spaces  
Los Angeles Kings  
Lasarmo Enterprises, Inc.  
Martin Investment Properties, Inc.  
Maurice Marciano Family Foundation  
McDonald's Owner/Operators of Southern CA  
Milken Family Foundation  
MJF & Associates  
R.J. and D.A. Munzer Foundation  
Dan Murphy Foundation  
Native Daughters of the Golden West Children's Foundation

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation  
The Steven M. Perez Foundation  
The Pez Convention  
Robins Kaplan LLP  
Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation  
Lon V. Smith Foundation  
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.  
South Bay Plastic Surgeons  
St. Jude Enterprises, Inc.  
T.E.L. Foundation  
Thousand Oaks Rotary Club  
Toyota Motor Sales, USA., Inc  
Harriet H. Samuelsson Foundation  
Swift Memorial Health Care Foundation  
Sysco  
Valley Management Association  
The Valley Wide Kayak Club  
Vesture Group Inc.  
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation  
Carl E. Wynn Foundation  
Yahoo!





*later, I heard about a place where we were the “normal” ones. Camp is a place that makes everyone a big family. Where any activity can be done by any child no matter what disability. Thank you...Camp has changed my life.”*

## Winter Camp for Teen Patients & Siblings

Thanks to support from the William Gumpert Foundation, we re-introduced Winter Camp in 2015, focusing on our Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Program (W.O.L.P.). Having halted Winter Camp in 2010 in response to the recession, we were happy to bring back a teen focused camp experience. Campers had expressed how much they missed this invaluable weekend to not only reconnect with friends, but to also have the opportunity to learn important leadership and life skills that is the focus of the weekend. We had a total of 101 teens join us for a four day, “Academy of Fine Arts” experience in January 2015.



## Family Camp: Keeping Families Close

We were excited to introduce our first ever **Family Camp Reunion** in 2015. We heard time and time again from camp families that have aged out of Family Camp how much they missed the opportunity to come up to Camp as a family to reconnect amongst themselves and with other families. Always looking for ways to better serve our families, we heeded the call and had our first Family Camp Reunion with 100 family members in attendance. We received positive feedback that the weekend was everything families needed and more. The Family Camp Reunion will be back in the fall of this year by popular demand.

Our other five Family Camp sessions, two of which we offer in Spanish every year, proved impactful once again. Here are some outcomes that parents reported to us:

- *100% reported* connecting and bonding with other families undergoing similar experiences;
- *99% reported* that their family was able to rest and relax away from hospital visits or daily treatments; and
- *100% reported* reduced stress and their family’s improved ability to cope with their patients.



## The Power of Volunteers

Camp would not be possible without our dedicated, passionate volunteers. In 2015, Camp utilized the skills and expertise of 679 individual volunteers whose services totaled an astounding 52,301 hours. The impact of our volunteers’ generosity is significant on our annual budget. Without their service, Camp’s budget would increase by more than \$1 million.

Volunteer Role	Total Volunteers	Hours Served	Value of Service
Counselors	311	44,680	\$1,030,768
Doctors & Nurses	27	768	\$53,368
Site, Event, Outreach, all other	341	6,853	\$158,099
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>52,301</b>	<b>\$1,242,235</b>

## Thank You for Making Camp Possible

For the thousands of donors that make our programs possible each year, this is the impact of your donations. On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you for making such a huge impact in 2015 – and we hope you will continue to partner with us in 2016!

# 2016 WALK FOR KIDS Ambassador Family

Kimberly and Sean Bush were thrilled to discover they would be adding one more boy to their happy family! It was always an exciting time in the Bush house with four boys; Justin, Andrew, Austin and baby Jayson. Life was great and everyone was happy and healthy.

Then in November of 2013, when Jayson was just six years old, the family received the terrifying news that Jayson had Burkett Lymphoma, a form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His aggressive chemotherapy treatments began right away as did the difficult side effects of the treatment; nausea, vomiting, hair loss, extreme fatigue.

Fighting the cancer was very hard on Jayson. He was sad to be out of school and away from his friends. Watching him deal with the pain of treatment was difficult for the entire family. By March of 2014, Jayson's cancer was stabilized and the road to recovery began.

It was at a follow up appointment with Jayson's oncologist, where the Bush family was introduced to Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times by their social worker, who felt a week at summer camp would be a great opportunity for Jayson. While a week away from his family was initially not appealing to Jayson, the Bush Family jumped at the opportunity to attend a Family Camp weekend. It was a wonderful weekend full of fun and healing for the whole family. Mom Kimberly explains, "Our experience with Camp has

been great! Camp is a place to momentarily forget that your child had cancer because you're so at peace and in a place where the focus is on being a family, making friends, and having fun with people who truly understand what you have been through. Camp is a very loving and accepting environment. As a family we have spent quality time together and we have created lasting memories with our children. Camp



Jayson with his counselor, Toothpick

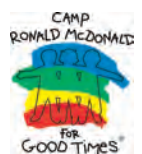
*"Walk for Kids is important to us because it means that new generations of camp families can benefit from Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times just as our family has"*  
- The Bush Family

is a special place to form new friendships and strong bonds, it's a fun experience and it's always so hard to say goodbye when it is time to return home."

Jayson, who now attends summer camp with his teenage brothers, shares "Camp is the best time I EVER had!"

The Bush Family is proud to represent Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times as the 2016 Walk Ambassador Family. On April 3rd, join the Bush family and thousands of others who will come together to show their love and support for Camp at the Walk for Kids Los Angeles Exposition site.

[www.walkforkids.org/camp](http://www.walkforkids.org/camp)





## From our Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®, I am honored to serve as Camp's newest Board President. I have been part of the Camp family for four years and my passion for this unique program has grown with each year of service.

I can still remember the first time I visited Camp. I was not prepared for the level of love, compassion, and healing I witnessed that afternoon. Having worked in the healthcare industry myself for more than a decade, I have come to appreciate the community of healers and supporters that it takes to keep us healthy and to uplift us when we are facing challenges with our health.

What I've come to appreciate about Camp is that it truly is part of the cure for cancer. Camp is a place where patients, siblings, and parents come together to create a unique community of support that allows them to be who they truly are. It's a place where cancer is not an oddity and where unspoken realities are left at the door to make time for what's important—love, compassion, fun, and self-exploration.

Even I have been changed by my time at Camp. My son and I have come up to Camp during work weekends in an effort to restore old buildings and prepare the site for the restoration of mind, body and soul that Camp provides campers year after year. I am proud to work alongside everyone who also loves and calls Camp home.

- Jodie Lesh, *Board Chair*



Jodie Lesh with her son DJ at Camp Ronald McDonald

## Board Recognition

It is Board of Trustees of Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times® that are at the helm, advocating and raising funds for Camp year round! Our volunteer leaders go above and beyond because they believe in our mission and the impact of our programs. We would like to take a moment to thank **Ed Lodgen**, immediate past President, for his three years of service as Camp's Board President. We would also like to welcome **Alita Bernal** and **Jonathan Kuai**, our newest trustee members to our board.

## 2016 Board of Trustees

**Jodie Lesh**, *President*

*Senior VP, Strategic Planning and New Ventures  
Kaiser Permanente Southern California Region*

**Edward Lodgen, Esq.**, *Vice-President*

*Principal, Lodgen Mediation*

**Martin Breidsprecher**, *Treasurer*

*Chief Executive Officer, Azteca America*

**Emily Camp**, *Secretary*

*Active Camp Volunteer*

**Ken Teasdale, CPA**

*Partner, Audit, Armanino LLP*

**Alita Bernal**

*Principal, The Urban Point, LLC*

**Jonathan Kuai**

*General Counsel, Korn Ferry*

**David Molina**

*McDonald's Owner/Operator, Active Camp Volunteer*

**Jerry Puzey**

*Partner, PwC*

**Victor Quiroz**

*McDonald's Owner/Operator*

**Genna Rosenberg**

*Principal, GennComm*

**Judith Sato, M.D.**

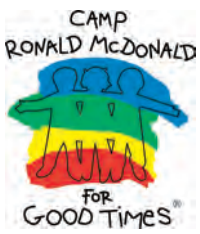
*Director, Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology  
Director, Musculoskeletal Tumor Program, City of Hope*

**Stuart E. Siegel, M.D.**

*Former Director, Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles*

**Tracie Vargas**

*Director, Human Resources  
McDonald's, LLC—Southern California Region*



A program of  
Ronald McDonald  
House Charities™ of  
Southern California



*Making a positive, long-lasting impact on children with cancer & their families since 1982*

## Ways You Can Help

Through each session, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times® is touching the lives of children living with cancer, and their families. Please help us fulfill our mission today.

- Sign up online for **CLUB GOOD TIMES** and make a monthly, quarterly or annual reoccurring gift.
- Join our major donor **CAMPFIRE CIRCLE** with a donation of \$1,000 or more.
- **HOST A FUNDRAISER** for Camp! Contact Nicole Ring for ideas and support at [nring@rmhcsc.org](mailto:nring@rmhcsc.org) or (310) 268-8488 Ext 183.
- Include Camp in your **ESTATE PLANS** (i.e. bequest, will, life insurance, IRA, etc. Contact Fatima at [fdjelmane@rmhcsc.org](mailto:fdjelmane@rmhcsc.org)).
- Become a **VOLUNTEER** (contact David at [dgary@rmhcsc.org](mailto:dgary@rmhcsc.org) for details).
- Follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER!**

[www.rmhcsc.org/camp](http://www.rmhcsc.org/camp)

## The IRA Charitable Roll-Over is **PERMANENT!**

How can you benefit? Are you looking for an easy way to help Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®?



Congress has extended the IRA charitable rollover and made it permanent. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift from your IRA account to help support the work of our organization and benefit. Gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They also qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD) which can lower your income and taxes.

To learn more about the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift, please contact Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez at 310.473.4258 or [fdjelmane@rmhcsc.org](mailto:fdjelmane@rmhcsc.org).

A program of  
Ronald McDonald House Charities™  
of Southern California

