

Words of Comfort

You make Camp possible for children with cancer and their siblings

Rejoicing, Recovering, and Rebuilding

Camp and the Cranston Fire: Why your support means more than ever

This was a summer like no other.

From June through August, you helped us welcome more than 1,000 young campers. Happy Campers went “up the mountain” (and away from their parents!) to play, learn, and grow into their full potential for six adventure-filled days and five nights.

Sessions 1 – 3 were as magical as ever. With the help of specially-trained volunteers, campers flexed their “courage muscle” by navigating Camp’s Bob Chandler Courage Course, complete with a 50-foot climbing tower. They practiced skits and archery, made crafts, and more.

And then, just days before Session 4 was scheduled to begin, the Cranston Fire broke out in the San Jacinto Mountains where Camp is located. Authorities have determined that it was caused by arson.

children’s long-awaited week away at Camp would be cancelled.

One mother agonized, “My son said Camp was going to get him through his next round of chemotherapy. What are we going to do?” We

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You make summer an especially magical time at Camp!

Camp staff and volunteers evacuated, as well as the horses who were promptly moved to Garner Ranch. Everyone was safe.

We then faced the very difficult task of calling our Session 4 families to let them know that their



You provided fun-filled programs that helped kids make lasting friendships.

INSIDE: *Like you, volunteer Liz “Spot” Kessler helps kids thrive . . .*



Like You, Volunteer Liz “Spot” Kessler Has a Big Heart for Kids

Liz shares how volunteering at Camp changed her life forever

Liz “Spot” Kessler first encountered cancer when her brother’s best friend was diagnosed with leukemia at age 16.

After his death, two people suggested that she reach out to Brian Crater, Camp’s then-new director. Liz and Brian hit it off, and she became a Camp volunteer soon after. She even served as a Camp staff member at one point, before returning to volunteering as she juggled her corporate career.

“. . . No matter how much you give to these kids, you will always walk away feeling like you got more from them.”

Five years ago, Liz went back to school to become a pediatric nurse specializing in hematology, oncology, and blood and marrow transplants. Although she currently lives in Seattle, she returns to Camp every summer as a volunteer nurse.

At Camp’s upcoming Heroes for Healing Gala, Liz will receive the Nursing Award of Excellence from Barco’s Nightingales Foundation.

“I am incredibly honored to be receiving this award. I met the founder, Michael Donner, several years ago, and I have always been impressed with his support of nurses,” she says.

Liz encourages anyone to become a Camp volunteer. She is inspired by the impact that Camp makes on the kids’ lives ... and on her own life.

When she served as a support director for the oldest children, she saw how kids of all different backgrounds came together to create a respectful, fun, and supportive community.

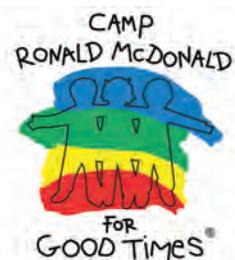
“That is why you should go to Camp,” Liz explains. “Because no matter how much you give



At Camp, Volunteer Liz Kessler discovered her calling as a pediatric nurse.

to these kids, you will always walk away feeling like you got more from them.”

We’re so grateful to friends like Liz, and YOU, for caring about kids facing cancer!



You're Invited to Celebrate Camp's "Heroes for Healing"

Join us Sunday, October 21st, at the historic Vibiana's in downtown Los Angeles

The Heroes for Healing Campaign is already in full swing! It's a spirited, six-week fundraising competition for friends of Camp who are determined to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families.

The competitors are selected to participate in the campaign by nomination and are challenged to raise funds for Camp in creative ways. Each dollar raised is counted as one vote. The person who gets the most votes will be crowned Hero of the Year!

Will you join them at the finish line? As is our tradition, we will mark the

campaign's conclusion with a gala celebration to honor the participants' efforts to raise awareness and direct funds to Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times.

Our evening at the historic Vibiana's in downtown Los Angeles promises to be memorable. It will bring family, friends, team members, and Camp supporters together for a very special celebration.

Tickets are \$250 each, and \$125 from each ticket purchase is tax-deductible. And if you can't join us for this unforgettable and inspiring evening, you can still support this fundraising



*"Camper of the Year"
Natalie Dalmau takes the stage at the 2017 Heroes for Healing Gala.*

effort with an event sponsorship or donation to support one (or more!) of our stellar candidates.

For additional information, please contact Nicole Ring at (323) 644-3003 or via email nring@rmhcsc.org.

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Rejoicing, Recovering, and Rebuilding

understood. We know how important this experience is to the kids we serve.

Although the fire was 96% contained just over a week later, we realized, with heavy hearts, that we would have to cancel Session 5 as well. A special weekend session is already being planned for 2019 to help make it up to the disappointed kids.

With your help, we will rebuild. Losses totalling \$30,000 mean that your donations mean more now than ever.

In the mean time, we'll continue comforting our Camp families.

Never before has a fire come so close to destroying the place we all hold so dear. But because of YOUR support, we'll emerge from this experience stronger than ever. Thank you for making it possible.



We'll come back from this setback stronger than ever, thanks to you and your generosity!



Heartfelt Thanks from Camp's Executive Director

Dear Friend,

While this summer's wildfire brought challenges we never expected, I'd like to share some happy news. You gave more than 1,000 children with cancer and their siblings a fun-tastic summer. Because of you, kids were able to leave cancer "down the mountain" and reclaim their childhood once again.

We couldn't do it without you. Special thanks also go to donors Jim Parks, Doug Kanner, and an anonymous friend, for giving our campers a beautiful new shaded equestrian center, equipped with new bathrooms. The gorgeous shaded area made it much more comfortable for our campers to enjoy their time with the horses, one of our most popular Camp activities amongst our campers.

It comes as no surprise that the families we've spoken to see Camp as an invaluable community of support. We've also heard about how the cancer journey doesn't end at remission and how vital Camp is in navigating the uncertainty of the different phases of our families' cancer journeys.

While our Camp site suffered damage from the Cranston Fire, we're more determined than ever to make Camp a magical place where kids can thrive. Your continued support is more important now than ever.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, we thank you for being a critical part of our community.

Sincerely,

Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez

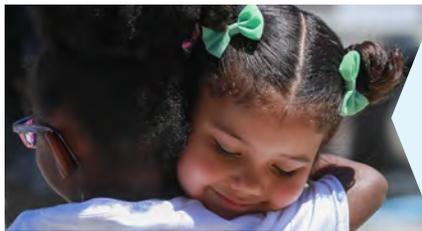
Executive Director
Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times

Your Impact: By the Numbers

One of the most amazing things about Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times is that we offer each and every Camp session free of charge. This is only possible because of individual donors, foundations, businesses, and volunteers like you.

Here's a snapshot of what your gifts provide to create happy summer days for more than 1,600 kid campers:

Summer Camp Session	\$1,900
Family Camp Session	\$380
Summer Camp Meals	\$100
Summer Camp Transportation	\$50
Horse Program	\$50
Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Program	\$45
Family Camp Transportation	\$40
Family Camp Meals	\$30
Adventure Program	\$25
Camp T-Shirts	\$10
Summer Counselor Meals	\$100
Family Camp Counselor Meals	\$30
Counselor T-Shirts	\$10



Thank you for making moments like this possible!

Your Legacy of Compassion

If you own stocks, mutual funds, or other securities that have increased in value, and you have owned them for more than one year, it can be wise to use them to make charitable gifts. As a result of reduced estate taxes, it will no longer be necessary for most to set aside funds for payment of taxes on gifts to individuals.

This means it may now be more practical to use all or a portion of your tax savings to fund charitable gifts as part of your estate plans, because your heirs will still receive the same amount or more than they would have after paying taxes under the prior law.

For more information on options for making charitable gifts as part of your estate and financial long-range plans, please call Development Director Marlene Stang at (323) 644-3008.