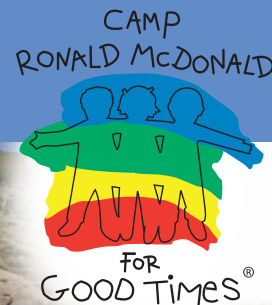


# Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times®



## Summer 2019 Highlights

For many of our campers, attending a summer session is the highlight of their year. And in addition to enjoying such classic Camp activities as horseback riding, the 50-foot climbing tower, and communing with friends new and old around the campfire, our campers are also given opportunities to learn and grow through teamwork.

This year, campers broke into teams to design and build carts that would protect an egg as it traveled down a ramp and into a brick wall. What followed was a camp-wide egg cart race in the dining hall that was enjoyed by all!

We were also visited by Crossroads School, who performed their version of the classic teen movie "Bring It On" for our campers. For our annual summer "Harley Day," retired and reserve firefighters from the Wind & Fire Harley Club spent an afternoon playing games with our campers, joining them for lunch, and showing off how slow they can ride in "the slowest bike" competition. The Barco Uniforms team joined us to celebrate their 90th birthday as well—we were happy to celebrate the milestone of one of Camp's biggest champions!

We also brought yoga and meditation back to Camp, thanks to donated yoga mats we received through one of our weekly "Wish-list Wednesday" drives in which our supporters are invited to purchase and donate needed items to Camp!

At each of our summer sessions, teen campers participating in our Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Program (W.O.L.P.) successfully lead and facilitated the overnight backpacking trip they participate in during their stay at Camp – a special trip that is reserved for campers aged 15 and up. Our W.O.L.P. campers also successfully planned and facilitated the activity periods for our younger campers, created each session's commemorative slideshow, and facilitated each session's final campfire. They work hard and play hard, and in the process of being "WOLPers," they begin to realize their leadership potential. Here's what one of our teens had to say about the experience of participating in W.O.L.P. this summer:

*'There's a lot to say. I've faced addiction, depression, anxiety, the death of a loved one, and toxic relationships, but no matter what, I could always go to camp and be at home, where none of that mattered. I just went through my last year of camp, and I'm going to miss it a lot. I'm really grateful for what everyone from camp has done for me. Camp has taught me to be the person who I want to be, to not be afraid to try new things, teamwork, and it's taught me that there's still good in the world. I've met some of the greatest people I know at camp. I don't talk to them every day, but I love them dearly and with all my heart. Thank you for everything.' -Donny*

## Donor Spotlight: Jeanne Harrison



Since we've relaunched our monthly giving program this fall, we feel there's no better time to shine a light on one of Camp's longest-serving monthly donors - Jeanne Harrison of Westlake Village, CA. Jeanne shares she was inspired to begin giving to Camp because of her son David's passion for Camp. Dr. David Harrison is a Pediatric Cardiologist who first began volunteering at Camp more than eight years ago when he was still a resident at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Now a Fellow at Boston Children's Hospital, he still opts to spend it volunteering up at Camp whenever he has time.

Jeanne shares that her son, who "works his tail off," has told her that he gets more out of his time up at Camp than he does from an actual vacation. His joy in volunteering at Camp is contagious, and each time Jeanne has seen David "in action," she's witnessed his commitment to Camp and the children who attend.

When asked why she opted to become a monthly recurring donor specifically, she had this to say: "It reminds me that my family and I have a monthly stake in the well-being of Camp. A one-time donation is a tax write off, but through monthly giving, we make an ongoing investment."

Are YOU interested in deepening your investment in Camp? Then consider joining our Circle of Healing today!

Visit: <https://rmhsc.org/camp/page/circleofhealing> for more information and to sign up.



## Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

### How the Camp Community showed their support in September for CCAM

The numbers are in! Thanks to supporters like you, Camp's efforts to shine a light on Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM) and our life-changing programming for children with cancer and their families were a success.

First off, with help from supporters like you, our CCAM Direct Match Appeal raised \$14,906.00!

On September 3rd, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month started off with a bang when our very own campers joined the audience on NBC's America's Got Talent to support Tyler Butler-Figueroa, a childhood cancer survivor and incredibly talented violinist. We'll never forget the excitement of seeing our kids flashing light sabers as Tyler made his way to the stage for his riveting semi-finals performance. **You can watch it at <http://bit.ly/2IYp2Nr>.**

Camp also received a \$6,000 honorarium from America's Got Talent shortly after the performance, which will help make the dream of Camp a reality for more kids facing cancer in the coming months. Thank you, AGT!

In addition, we'd like to thank Kevin Bacon, PJ Byrne, Ever Carradine, Wendy Euler, Vivian Fabiola, Jennifer (@darlingiloveit), Luke Milton, The Odells Shop, Paige, Barrett Pendergast, Ashley Petrone, and Lindsay Price. Their Instagram posts in support of CCAM and Camp helped us reach 2,267,500 individuals on social media!



And if you followed our daily Instagram stories, which included facts about childhood cancer, THANK YOU. We hope you found them both informative and inspiring, because we still have so much work to do to make sure that families facing a pediatric cancer diagnosis (and its aftermath) are given the tools they need to thrive.

Sartorial dynamos PAIGE and THE ODELLS also teamed up to support CCAM, by launching a denim tote that paid tribute to the signage we have up at Camp! Between tote sales and in-store point of sale donations, they collectively raised more than \$5,300 for Camp!

We must also give a big Camp shout out to Barco Uniforms and the nurses who work at our local hospitals. Barco Uniforms donated scrubs embroidered with Camp's CCAM logo to our nurse partners who work unceasingly to bring healing and care to local children who are battling cancer. Truly, along with parents and pediatric oncologists, they are our frontline heroes!

And finally, thank you to everyone who changed their profile photos and posted about Camp on social media — or simply talked about Camp to their network! Each person reached helps us spread awareness about Camp's unique impact. Teamwork truly makes the dream work, friends!

## Camp's 2019 Heroes for Healing Campaign was a **HUGE** success!



On Sunday, October 20th we held our 4th annual Heroes for Healing Gala at Vibiana in Downtown Los Angeles, the culmination of a six-week spirited fundraising competition between our 11 Heroes to raise funds for Camp.

Our 2019 Heroes were VP Alvarez, Carlos Arroyo, Mia Bayuga, Scott Boczek, Parker Brockway, Tino Franco, Monica Le, Lulu Quintero, Blake Robinson, Monica Villamil, and Romteen Youssefi.





# Making an Impact

## *A Study on Family Camp and Its Impact on Our Families*

Thanks to a generous grant from The Gumpert Foundation, in 2018, Camp participated in a Project Impact study lead by a team of researchers from Dialogues in Action, an organization committed to fostering a developmental approach to leadership, evaluation and strategy. The results of that study were published earlier this year.

Executive Director Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez, Development Director Marlene Stang, Program Director Chad Edwards, and Program Associate Shannon Edwards participated on behalf of Camp in a cohort that included five other non-profits from across California. Our collective goal? To define and evaluate our impact within our respective organizations, and then use our discoveries to expand and deepen those impacts.

During the first half of 2018, the Camp team travelled monthly to Leightag Commons in Encinitas, California to learn how to conduct an effective evaluation of our Family Camp program, which is designed for families with a child aged infancy to 8 with cancer. For so many of the families we serve, our weekend-long Family Camp sessions are a lifeline – their first experience of community and hope after a devastating pediatric cancer diagnosis.

First we interviewed 12 families, either in-person or over the phone. We focused on families who have attended Camp at least twice to better assess Camp's impact over time. The interview process with those families was both enlightening and incredibly moving.

Our team was able to learn how attending Family Camp is a transformative experience, often connecting them to resources and support they never knew existed, while also teaching them how to live (and thrive) in the present moment.

As one father shared, childhood cancer puts families on an emotional roller coaster. Program elements such as walking in nature, playing games, being disconnected from technology, and spending time together outside of the normal daily responsibilities gives campers an opportunity to practice self-care and mindful engagement in present activities as opposed to worried thinking.

Evidence of this finding was expressed when this father shared of his emotional distress at learning that his son's recent urine test revealed abnormalities. When he began to ask himself, "what if questions," he found grounding in his son's ability to calmly face their upcoming meeting with his doctor to discuss the test results.

We were honored to highlight some special heroes, Micah Bernstein our Camper of the Year as well as Tami Okumura-Nieders, the recipient of the Barco's Nightingales Foundation Nurse Award.

Our 2019 Hero of the Year is Camp Counselor, Tino Franco, who raised more than \$28,000, and close behind with a total of over \$22,000 raised is runner up Romteen Youssefi, who is also a Camp Counselor.

The grand total our heroes raised is...\$142,450 and growing! That equates to the program costs of 3 full summer sessions for our Camp Families! With nearly 100% participation from those in attendance during the live Fund-A-Camper, our Heroes, their supporters and Camp friends like you helped us raise a grand total of more than \$350,000 total for the entire event!

You can still donate to support our candidates at: <https://give.classy.org/Heroes4Healing> and to experience the photo highlights of our event visit us on Facebook.

We'd like to thank our Heroes for their commitment and love for Camp! It's because of incredible and dedicated supporters like YOU that our transformative camps for children with cancer and their families is made possible.



**HEROES  
FOR  
HEALING**  
Benefiting Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times



This child expressed to his father his own conviction that no matter what the results, they could handle dealing with them. Our interviewee credited Camp with giving his son this ability to be confident and remain present without spiraling into worries about the future.

We also learned of the various ways in which families struggle once they leave Family Camp and resume their normal, day-to-day lives. Integrating quality recreational family time into their days proves challenging for many as they juggle work, school, and cancer treatments, for example. Moreover, families also sometimes struggle to stay in touch with the friends they make “up the mountain.” This learning in particular served as the impetus for the new weekly Family Support Services-led support groups located at Southern California Ronald McDonald Houses, which are open to families who have attended Camp, as well as the first-ever RMHCSC Family Camp in November of this year, which is geared toward any families who have ever stayed in a Ronald McDonald House.

Our study concluded with the distribution of an online survey to Family Camp participants in the fall of 2018, which included questions such as “What new activities have you tried since Camp in order to spend quality time with one another?” and “What are the three most helpful new resources that you learned about at Camp?” The survey also included demographic questions for context, such as “How long ago was your child diagnosed?” and “How many times have you attended Family Camp?” The results, along with our learnings from our interviews, will inform the evolution of our Family Camp program moving forward.

Are you interested in reading our full report? You can purchase Project Impact Reports 2018 on Amazon at: <https://amzn.to/31s1dnG>.



## 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 Executive Director Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez at **(310) 473-0351**.

## Your Impact: 2019 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 days for children and their families this year:**

6 Youth Camps	630 Campers Impacted
3 Family Camps, 1 Campamento Familiar (Spanish language Family Camp) & 1 RMHCSC Camp	478 Campers Impacted
5 Mission Partner Camps	446 Campers Impacted
<b>Total Individuals Impacted in 2019</b>	<b>2,101 Impacted</b>

**Here is one family's feedback about their experience at Camp this year:** *"This has been a great blessing for many years to our family and kids! They have gone to camp from family camp to camp on their own. Each of our kids have taken away so many great things - compassion, confidence, values and much more. They have all as of this year graduated and want to return as counselors."*



## Heartfelt Thanks from Camp's Executive Director

**Dearest Friends of Camp,**

As 2019 comes to an end, we reflect on all we have to be grateful for! We are most thankful for our incredibly supportive community - our campers, parents, board members, medical volunteers, counselors, annual volunteers, dedicated staff, and YOU, our committed supporter.

In this addition of our quarterly newsletter, you'll read a detailed account of how your investment is not only allowing children with cancer and their siblings to reclaim their childhood, but is also a lifeline for our parents. The carefree days our campers spend at Camp is about so much more than having fun, our programs are intentionally created to heal places that medical treatments cannot reach—the mind, the body, the soul. We're excited for what is in store for Camp in 2020 and look forward to continuing to deepen our impact with your support!

With gratitude,  
**Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez**  
Executive Director