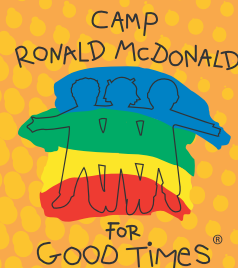


Welcome to Camp's Summer 2021 Newsletter!



SPRING FAMILY CAMP @ HOME



What's New at Camp?

Our virtual Spring "Family Camp at Home" weekends were a smash! Our first session was held Friday, April 30th through Sunday, May 2nd, while our second session (Campamento Familiar, in Spanish) was held Friday, May 14th through Sunday, May 16th.

Camper Dylan had this to say about his family's experience: "When my mom first got the package ("Camp in a Box" kit) and read the card, she was literally crying and said 'I miss Camp, I miss Camp, I want to go back to normal.' I'm glad you sent this down the mountain to us because we're having a lot of fun with it."

Another HUGE thank you to Puratos for providing our camp families with ingredients for an incredible S'mores Party Experience!

And there's more!

- Camp's Executive Director Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez was one of three panelists for the "Innovation Through Crisis: New Ways to Think About Mission Delivery" workshop at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Global Summit in March.
- We've welcomed 9 new Teen Advisory Committee (TAC) Members, which brings our total TAC membership to 13!
- We've launched our own news program, "Good Times News." Head on over to our YouTube channel to subscribe and tune in!
- Our new Let's Go to Camp! Activity Book is a recruitment tool that will be distributed to 500+ children. This was made possible by our partners the Downey Rotary Club, ACS Group, and the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce.
- Camp is now on TikTok thanks to our New Development Associate & Social Media Manager Brenda Escoto!
- The Walk for Kids numbers are IN. Thanks to our mighty Walk teams and generous donors like YOU, Camp's to-date fund raising total for the Walk for Kids is \$310,657! We exceeded our \$240,000 fundraising goal by a whopping \$70,657!
- Over Labor Day weekend, we will hold our first in-person session since January of 2020! Teens who graduated from high school in 2020 and 2021 will head "up the mountain" for this special session.
- Please join us for our 2021 "Heroes for Healing" Gala on November 14th at Vibiana! Purchase tickets at: <https://bit.ly/Heroes4Healing2021>, or by scanning the QR code below.



What Camp Means to ME

by Parker Brockway



When I think of Camp, I think of joy, laughter and a vacation away from life. And when I say that Camp is a vacation from life, I mean that it's a chance to leave the city of L.A., get away to the quiet of the mountains, and be in nature with amazing people.



Joy is what I feel every time I go to Camp. Seeing old friends and making new ones are some of the best things about Camp. Some of my favorite activities are creating skits to perform at the opening and closing campfires, and making crafts like the infamous "gopher's eye" or "monkey's fist." Camp gives me a sense of belonging and friendship. But most of all, it is interacting with people who have had similar experiences that always warms my heart and reminds me that I am not alone.

Camp gives me time to be happy for where I am and who I am rather than think about the bad things that have happened in my life, like cancer. It's almost like Camp is a bubble that surrounds us and at the same time shields us from the world. Camp is my warm blanket on a cold night. We get to escape for a short while but even that short amount of time can alter your life forever.

Laughter is a great way to pick yourself up when you are down. During this lockdown period, it's been really easy to get lost in our own thoughts and feel shut out from the world. It's been especially important to have Camp during this time - even though it was virtual - to hear the laughter and happiness that is such a big part of Camp. It is crucial for everyone get together, even if through a screen, and let dark spirits out. In the past, I myself have taken laughter for granted and I do not think I'm alone in saying so. The power of Camp is real - it is a community, a place to feel heard, and a place to feel special. It is also a place to learn about yourself and others, a place to explore, and a place to be yourself or even reinvent yourself. It is a place to be adventurous and try new things while also feeling comfort in old friends and a place that is familiar.

Camp is my safe space, which I think is any place where you feel good and have no limits or boundaries. This is what Camp means to me.



Circle of Healing Spotlight

Camper Alumni and Board Trustee, Tom Clobes

Tell us a about your journey from camper to your current position as a member of Camp's Board of Trustees .

I was diagnosed and treated for a Wilm's tumor in 1981 by one of Camp's co-founders and a fellow member of Camp's Board of Trustees, Dr. Siegel. Once I was old enough, Dr. Siegel regularly encouraged me to attend but I was too much of a mama's boy to do it! I finally attended my first summer session in 1989....and loved it! I remained a camper through high school and signed up to be a counselor as soon as I was eligible. After having my second child, it got harder and harder to justify spending so much time away from them, so I transitioned to supporting Camp through fundraising. I am proud to serve on the Board of Trustees.

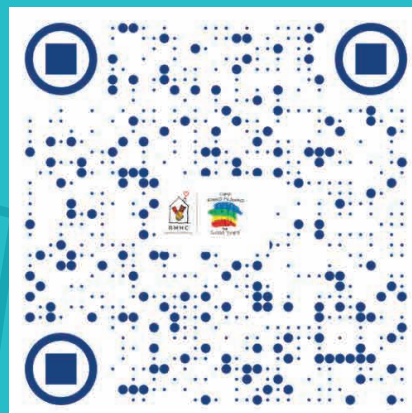
Over the years, you've consistently supported Camp's fundraising efforts, most notably as a Hero for Healing. So what inspired you to become a monthly Circle of Healing donor?

Since I knew I wanted to support Camp, joining the Circle of Healing was the easiest way to do it. My chosen donation amount is automatically charged to my credit card every month.

What would you say to anyone, who is thinking about supporting Camp as a Circle of Healing member?

It's easy, so just try it. It takes just a few minutes to sign up and then you do not need to think about it again...and you know your money and support are going to a great cause, Camp!

To learn more about our Circle of Healing or to sign up, visit:



A program of
Ronald McDonald House Charities™
of Southern California



YOUR LEGACY AND CAMP



The Fred & Fran Hill Legacy Society is a group of people who are committed to preserving the purpose, values and traditions of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California (RMHCSC) for years to come. Fred & Fran Hill Legacy Society members have included Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times in their long-range estate plans or made a planned gift to the legacy fund during their lifetimes so their gifts generate income. If you would like more information, please contact Development Director Marlene Stang at mstang@rmhcsc.org.



A Message from the Executive Director and Our New Board President

Here at Camp we are setting our course for the next five years through a program needs assessment. This past year of navigating the pandemic has taught us so much, particularly about the strength, flexibility and resilience of our community!

Our campers are the driving force of all our efforts, and as the vehicle for our programming during these challenging times, Camp at Home has been a resounding success. The learnings of this year will guide our needs assessment, which is unfolding in concert with the Chapter's development of its strategic plan.

We will continue to host Town Halls every quarter, so we can keep you abreast of what's going on in a space that enables you to ask questions and provide feedback.

Seeing one another again up at Camp sure will be special, though. And in preparation for all the good times we'll have "up the mountain", construction of our new cabin village is underway!

We have so much to be thankful for and to look forward to. Thank you for making it all possible with your support.

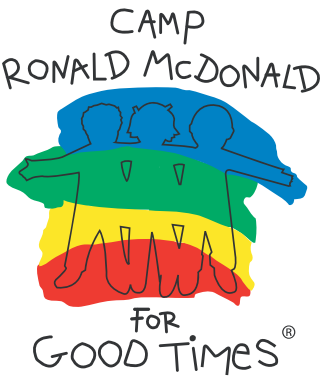
Warm regards,

Fatima Djelmane Rodriguez
Executive Director

Carmen Herrera
President, Board of Trustees

Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times
1250 Lyman Place
Los Angeles, California 90029

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



TO _____

