

## For Good Times



Where Healing Happens



### Meet Camper Ruby

On Ruby's 5th birthday, she didn't seem like herself. She had no desire to play and was feeling cold the whole day. The following week, the family went on vacation and Ruby ended up sleeping through the entire trip. Over the next couple of days, Ruby continued to feel worse and worse, until one day Ruby just collapsed to the floor. She was rushed to the hospital and,

at that point, she was unable to walk.

Ruby was admitted to Children's Hospital of Los Angeles where she would immediately begin three days of blood transfusions.

**Mom Jannel said, "It was painful not knowing what was happening, everything was a blur."**

After lengthy testing, Ruby was diagnosed with acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. "I think I stopped breathing and I knew we had a long road ahead of us" explained Jannel. Ruby was constantly in and out of the hospital, even staying there for weeks at a time.

One day, a nurse introduced the Spencer family to Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times. "At that time we kind of felt alone. Your family and friends are there for you but they don't fully comprehend what you are going through. You see and meet families in the hospital but in our everyday life our daughter was different than other kids, separated if you will," shared Robert, Ruby's father. In the spring of 2012 Jannel and Robert decided to attend what they knew was going to be an innovative and different experience.

Family Camp is a place where families connect, not only with one another, but with others who understand the repercussions and effects of cancer. According to the Spencer family, Camp is a place where no one is judged. A place where you bond, laugh and gain hope. It was "healing and therapeutic for the family," Jannel said. They now know they are not alone and have made lifelong friends.

At a time when Ruby was unable to walk and play, she found joy and was able to smile. It was at their first Family Camp that the Spencers experienced their joy of once again seeing Ruby play just like any other kid. Camp is a safe place and home for the Spencers. Ruby said it best, "Camp is so much fun and I want to live there." In August of 2013, maintenance treatment ended for Ruby and now she is back at school and doing great.



Ruby and Ronald at our 2014 Walk for Kids!



To show their support of Camp, the Spencer family is our 2015 Walk for Kids Ambassador Family and "Team Ruby's Valor" will walk on April 12th at Exposition Park. Join the Spencers and thousands of others as we walk to support the healing programs of Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times!

A program of  
Ronald McDonald House Charities™  
of Southern California



# Walk for Kids - April 12, 2015

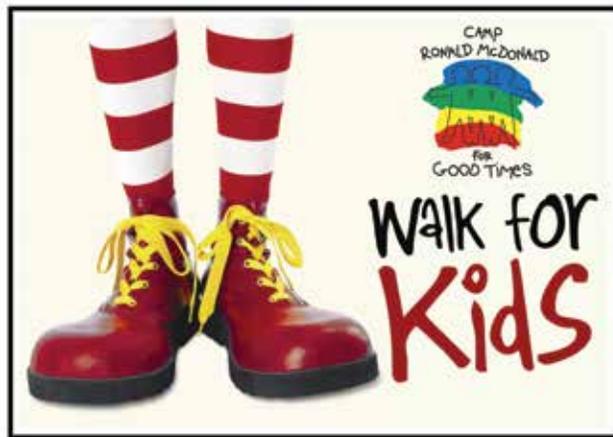
The excitement for Walk for Kids is building! Join us on Sunday, April 12th, a day filled with hope, laughter, friends and family all gathered for one purpose – to raise funds and awareness for Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California. Our goal is to raise \$275,000 to support Camp programs for children with cancer and their families.

To achieve our goal, we need the help of generous people like you and incredible walkers and teams who are committed to Camp. Teams like 'Turn the World Around' Counselors United for a Cure: This 120 member team is comprised of dedicated volunteer camp counselors and is in the top fundraising position with more than \$25,000 raised so far!

One of the Team Captains, Shannon Edwards has been a volunteer camp counselor since 2006. She shared, "My own involvement with Camp has shaped and directly influenced my life path, my goals and aspirations. I'm hon-

ored to support a program I hold so dearly to my heart. After losing my twin sister to cancer in 1998, I knew then that I would find a way to give back to the Ronald McDonald Charities of Southern California. I'm filled with gratitude for the many blessings Camp has bestowed upon my life, and the opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting impression on the lives of kids with cancer and their families."

Another fired up Walk for Kids team is a group of Campers from our Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Program (W.O.L.P), who were so inspired by the counselor team they formed their own! Team 'WOLP' consists of more than 25 teen campers, who have dedicated their efforts to current and former WOLP'ers. Team Captains Annie and Jocelyn shared "We wanted to unite together to give back to a community that has given so much to us!"



Please visit [www.walkforkids.org/camp](http://www.walkforkids.org/camp) and register your team to fundraise for our children and families. We have a great day planned for you to include giveaways, music, face painting, games for the kids and more! If you can't join us at one of our four walk locations, you can still participate as a virtual walker and why not make a donation to one of our incredible teams? Thank you so much for your support of Walk for Kids, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times' biggest fundraiser of the year. We look forward to celebrating with you on April 12th!

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



Walk for Kids Kick Off Breakfast with team members from our Counselor and WOLP teams.



## a Tip of the Hat



Thank you to the **Pezcific Convention** goers who participated in the auction to support Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times! We are grateful for Maheba Marhi, the founder of the Pezcific Convention – California's longest running PEZ collection convention; and Darren & Veronica Angelos - who work so very hard to coordinate the auction year after year. We appreciate your continued support!

During this Walk for Kids Season - thank you to all **McDonald's** Owners/Operators who are supporting RMHCSC in their stores with the paper shoes campaign! Extra thanks to Patty Yoon for donating the food for our Walk for Kids Kick off Breakfast and to Owner/Operators Richard and Tawnie Blade, Steven Ho, Keith Lopaty, Janet and David Molina, Victor Quiroz and their staff members who are selling Walk for Kids Camp Buttons at their stores. Thank you all so much!



## 2014 Program Impact

At Camp Ronald McDonald, there are a number of ways that we think about the impact of our programs – by the smiles on our campers' faces, the friendships formed, and the special moments when campers find new courage and hope. We also measure our impact in numbers.

In 2014, **Camp served 1,433 campers** (1,075 children/youth and 361 parents) during our Summer and Family Camp sessions. As we look to 2015, this number will grow with the opening of our new Dining Hall and the addition of a Winter Camp Session.

One of the most unique aspects of our program is our use of volunteers and their expertise/talents. Our volunteer counselors come from all over, ranging in age from 19 to 72 years-old, with professional backgrounds including pilots, dentists, prosecutors, teachers, accountants and firefighters, to name a few. In 2014, **volunteers filled 640 staff roles, donating 39,710 hours of service!**

In addition, our volunteer medical staff from the region's leading pediatric oncology hospitals provided 1,876 volunteer hours during our sessions,



**valued at more than \$120,000.**

Finally, we want to hear what our families have to say so that we can ensure our programs are meeting our outcomes. After summer camp, parents fill out a survey about what they see when their child comes home from camp. In 2014, parents reported that 95% of campers came home with more self-confidence; 87% demonstrated increased independence; and 89% had increased their ability to cope with challenges.

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 2014 – and we hope you will continue to partner with us in 2015!

## Meet Members of the Fred & Fran Hill Legacy Society

Rick Kessler has a long history with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California – with both Camp and the Los Angeles Ronald McDonald House. His journey spans 26 years and began when a family friend experienced the devastating effects of childhood cancer. A close friend of Rick's son was diagnosed with leukemia at age 16 and passed away at age 17. To honor his memory, Rick joined with family and friends to form the Jeffrey Katz Fund to support uninsured bone marrow transplant patients.

Rick's involvement with the Jeffrey Katz Fund led him to the LA House, where he was invited to serve on the Board of Directors. At the same time, Rick's 19 year-old daughter Liz "Spot" Kessler wanted to take up the cause, and began volunteering as a Camp counselor.

Over the years, Rick and his wife Pat have generously donated to Camp and the LA House. And now, they are members of our Legacy Society, including both programs in their long-range plans. "By nature, I'm an estate planner," Rick said. "A well-designed estate plan can include a charitable plan for the charity you feel strongly about and still take care of your family."

Rick encourages others to join as well. "Talk to your financial advisor and see if you can include your favorite charity without taking a big bite out of your family estate." Some of the ways you can give are through personal benefits, bequests, retirement funds, life insurance and direct cash gifts.

Legacy gifts are one of the best ways to make a long term, significant gift to a charity. The Fred and Fran Hill Legacy Society recognizes families

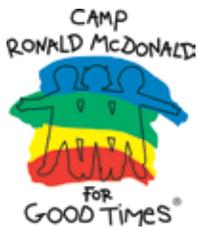
# Gifts & GRANTS

*Thank you to our recent funders:*

AS&F Foundation  
Beneto Foundation  
John W. Carson Foundation, Inc.  
The Crean Foundation  
Disney Volunteers Community Fund  
The Green Foundation  
The William Gumpert Foundation  
H. Leslie & Elaine S. Hoffman Foundation  
Lakers Youth Foundation  
The Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Foundation  
Maurice Marciano Family Foundation  
Harriet H. Samuelsson Foundation  
Lon V. Smith Foundation  
Swift Memorial Health Care Foundation  
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation



who make a legacy gift to programs of RMHCSC. For more information about planned giving or to talk to us about making a gift, please contact Sarah Orth at [sorth@rmhsc.org](mailto:sorth@rmhsc.org). "Get involved," Rick said in closing. "There are many ways you can ensure that these programs are here for generations of families yet to come."



A program of  
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*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 [dgarry@rmhcsc.org](mailto:dgarry@rmhcsc.org) for details).
- Follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER!**

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

## Off to Camp!

*There's nothing like the experience of heading off to camp – the excitement, meeting counselors and friends for the first time, and preparing for a week away from home. For kids with cancer, going off to camp has an extra edge of excitement because for one week these kids get to have a normal camp experience – just like their friends.*

*So, this summer we invite you to experience the thrill of Camp right here in Los Angeles, as campers get ready to board the busses that will take them to our site in the San Jacinto Mountains. Join us for lunch, meet our campers and counselors, and hear camp songs and see our kids' excitement as they head off to camp.*

*This year's Off to Camp events will be held at 11:30 AM on the following dates:*

- Tuesday, June 16
- Wednesday, July 8
- Thursday, July 30
- Monday, August 10

*To RSVP or learn more, contact Nancy Davidson at [ndavidson@rmhcsc.org](mailto:ndavidson@rmhcsc.org) or (626) 204-0410. Come join us as we head Off to Camp!*



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