Many people know Camp for its kids and young adult programs, but did you know that we also offer adult women's retreats in the spring and fall, too? Well, we do! Here is what one of our participants posted on her blog and shared with us about her experience at Camp.

CAMP’S FOR GROWN-UPS TOO!

I am missing about 50 ladies after returning from Camp Mak-A-Dream’s Women’s Cancer Retreat in Gold Creek, Montana and I don’t have all the adjectives that I need to describe the experience, the setting and the women!

It was an indulgent experience to simply show up at the main lodge and have a steaming breakfast, lunch and dinner awaiting with the bonus of no dishes to wash!

A diverse group of women – from twenty-somethings to that age range where it is impolite to ask for a number – came together and didn’t do much sitting around!

Some women had conquered cancer years ago, others were fresh from the fight and a few were still in the throws of the battle. However, the group was so overflowing with life and laughter that one would never guess. They were open to everyone emotionally and willing to take on just about anything physically. Wheelchairs and canes were cast aside in the big tree house to sail down the zip line. There were hikes, a climbing wall and an art studio to keep us busy. There were educational sessions on everything from healing after cancer to gentle yoga. Above all, there was a spirit of connection with a lovely group of ladies and breathtaking scenery punctuated by the distant bugling elk.

By Jennifer Faddis, women’s retreat participant from Missouri
Now entering Camp’s 20th summer season, we wanted to give you an idea of what a week of camp looks like and a bit about the things that happen in this special place.

**Bridge of Dreams:** Everyone coming to Camp crosses the Bridge of Dreams… it is where the magic begins.

**Warm Fuzzies** are notes written between campers and staff. They help us share the joy of Camp with each other and are placed into camp ‘mailboxes’ made by each individual and hung up in the main lodge.

**Tiles:** Campers and staff create tiles to leave behind as a reminder of the fun they had and the friends they made during the week. Tiles from every year of Camp adorn the walls of the art studio.

**Cabin Chat** is a time each day when campers come together to share their thoughts, hopes, joys and fears in the safe and supporting environment of Camp.

**Workshops:** Educational workshops are designed to meet the specific needs of each group. The goal is to send participants home with new tools to help them in their cancer journey.

**Outdoor Activities:** Experiencing the outdoors is a big part of the Camp experience. Participants explore new ways to challenge themselves and interact with new friends. Activities include the pool, high ropes, climbing wall and zipline, sports and rec, horses, archery, camp-out and more!

**The Art Barn** is a place where campers get to explore their creative side and make keepsakes to remind them of Camp. There is always something amazing happening in this wonderful space.

**Off Campus Days:** Each session we set off to explore the beauty and activities that our local communities have to offer. Field trips may include a water park or a visit to a historic Montana town.
Celebration of Life is a time to share memories or simply sit and reflect about loved ones that have passed away. Campers who have died are also remembered on a special wall in the Granader Memorial Gardens.

Camping out under the Montana sky is an experience not to be forgotten.

Theme Parties: One day of each week Camp is transformed into a new world. Campers might take a walk down the red carpet, attend a county fair, go through a haunted house or live it up with a luau.

Closing is a time to come together as a community and strengthen the bonds that were created and will last well beyond the week we shared and often includes a special group activity and sharing of the week’s highlights.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

BLAKE UNDERRINER first attended Camp Mak-A-Dream as a camper back in 2001. Since then, he’s returned as a camper, a volunteer and most recently, as a member of our full summer staff. Not only has Blake contributed in a hands-on way at Camp, but also as a donor, an outreach ambassador raising both awareness and funds and a participant at our annual RATPOD cycling event. Blake is a native Montanan who, after graduating from Gonzaga University and gaining professional work experience in California, returned to Montana and is working in the family business at Underriner Motors in Billings. Thank you, Blake, for the many ways you support Camp Mak-A-Dream!
LETTER FROM A PARENT

I wanted to thank you the staff at Camp Mak-A-Dream for providing such an amazing camp experience for my daughter, Claire. She came home positively glowing and overflowing with tales of fun times and adventures. The “parade” car ride in a red Corvette was a big hit, the trip to a water park, sifting for sapphires, race to putting up tents, new friends, skits at meal time - the stories just keep coming. She said the counselors were so nice, the cabin deluxe, the food great and she was so sad to leave.

Claire has been cancer free for three years now, but has very vivid memories of huge chunks of time in the hospital, fighting for her life. As a young teen now, she so wants to be like all the other kids, just fit in, pretending as if the cancer never ever happened. It was very special for her to be able to meet other kids, like her, who have struggled with cancer. She told me she and her new friends talked about their experiences with chemo, scars, doctor appointments, surgeries, physical limitations –wow – she never talks about that stuff! Camp Mak-A-Dream really helped her realize she is not “alone” as a young cancer survivor, that it is not something she needs be embarrassed about.

Thank you for all that you do, for Claire and the many other children like her. Even after the cancer is gone, the healing continues and Camp Mak-A-Dream is a wonderful positive step in that process for these children’s.

Sincerely,
Naomi, Mom of a camper

Campers Remembered

We honor the memory of those who have joined us at Camp in the past and are no longer with us. They will continue to be remembered here and honored in the Granader Memorial Gardens.

Ashley Bacchus
Durand, MI
April, 2013

Robbin Kane
Dalton, PA
February, 2014

Katia Macario
Wyoming, MI
2013

Tim Pratt
 Freemont, MI
June, 2012

Ginger Surcamp
Black Diamond, WA
August, 2013

Elaine Carter
Portland, OR
January, 2014

Annabelle Kong
East Lansing, MI
February, 2014

Patty Manton
Santa Rosa, CA
October, 2013

Allyson Ramiller
Mt. Morris, MI
October, 2013

Jennifer Taylor
Oak Park, MI
March, 2014

Heidi Epp
Montefalco, Italy
July, 2013

Susan Lawson
Cornelius, NC
August, 2013

Cathy Mooney
South Sandy Pond, NY
February, 2014

Susan Morris
KalisPELL, MT
June, 2013

Penny Smith
Cocolalla, ID
June, 2013

Eugenio Vasquez
Ewing, NJ
December, 2013

Queen Harris
Brooklyn Park, MN
January, 2013

Susie Lewis
Mont Belvieu, TX
January, 2014

Bonnie Stockman
Oregon City, OR
October, 2013

Jean Hodge
Broomfield, CO
February, 2013

MaKenna Loerwald
Argyle, TX
February, 2014

Monica Patel
Arlington, TX
August, 2013

Monica Patel
Arlington, TX
August, 2013

Monica Patel
Arlington, TX
August, 2013

Monica Patel
Arlington, TX
August, 2013
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Wow! What a FANTASTIC year 2013 was….and what an AMAZING year 2014 is lining up to be! Campers, family members, donors, volunteers, staff, presenters, board members – each of you helped make 2013 a wonderful year at Camp Mak-A-Dream. Some key highlights:

• We added a second Sibling Camp to meet the needs of our sib campers ages 6-12 and 13-18
• The American Cancer Society’s Teen “Look Good, Feel Better” pilot program at Camp was so successful, that they are returning again this year
• We awarded $32,000 in travel scholarships to help participants get to Camp
• More than 400 children, teens, young adults and women were able to spend time at Camp to find hope, friendship and support!

YOU helped make all this possible by giving of your time, talent, treasure and trust - Thank you!

But as exciting and wonderful as 2013 was, we have even more to accomplish in 2014! It is hard to believe, but this year marks our 20th Camp Season! We’ve grown from a single camp for 46 campers in 1995, to 7 camps and 3 retreats planned for 2014! Over the years, we’ve expanded our Women’s retreats and Young Adult camps and added sessions with an educational component for teen and young adult survivors of brain tumors.

There is still much to be accomplished so we are not resting on our laurels – and we’re hoping you won’t either! We need your continued support to provide amazing camp experiences for our participants, offer additional travel scholarships, and collaborate with medical facilities and other invested partners to further develop our programming with emphasis on wellness, life skills, post-treatment transitions, long-term follow-up and support…just to name a few!

How can you help? By giving of your Time, Talent, Treasure and Trust!

• Give of your time by volunteering at Camp, at our office or by joining an Advisory Board
• Share your talent, whether it’s personal (are you an artist?!) or professional (can your business provide in-kind services or goods?)
• Invest your treasure in Camp by making a financial contribution – a gift of any size will help transform someone’s life for one week this summer
• And finally, trust us with your family members and friends – encourage those affected by cancer to check us out at: www.campdream.org

Our 20th Camp Season starts May 1 – I hope you can join us for another amazing, inspiring year! Together, we are impacting lives and making a difference for those affected by cancer!

Laura Bianco Hanna
Executive Director
**2014 SPECIAL EVENTS**

Proceeds from these fine – and fun! – events benefit Camp Mak-A-Dream.

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**13TH ANNUAL RATPOD**

June 28, 2014

Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day

BIG HOLE VALLEY, MONT.

- 130-mile bicycle ride around the Pioneer mountains, starting and ending at UM-Western in Dillon
- Riders pay a registration fee and are asked to raise at least $100 for Camp Mak-A-Dream
- Grand prizes awarded to the riders who raise the most money
- To sponsor a rider, make a general donation or learn more, please visit: www.ratpod.org

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**CAMP OPEN HOUSE & FAMILY DAY**

August 17, 2014

CAMP MAK-A-DREAM FACILITY, GOLD CREEK, MONT.

- FREE family friendly day at Camp Mak-A-Dream
- Includes lunch & tons of fun activities like art projects, zip line, climbing wall, sports games, open pool, mini-golf and more!
- For more information, call (406) 549-5987 or visit www.campdream.org

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There are also many public events taking place throughout the year in communities across the country. To learn more about upcoming events, visit the Events pages on our website at: www.campdream.org or contact Jennifer Benton, Marketing & Special Events Director at (406) 549-5987.

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**2014 SPONSORS**

**PLATINUM**

- Home Health of Montana
- Jackson Construction Group
- Missoula Anesthesiology P.C.
- Garlington, Lohn & Robinson

**GOLD**

- Good Food Store
- Hammer Physical Therapy
- PlumCreek

**SILVER**

- Active Physical Therapy
- Advanced Imaging
- Barrett Hospital & Healthcare
- Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Big Sky Brewing Co.
- Campus Drive Community Medical Center
- Five Valleys Urology
- Great Harvest Bread Co.
- Merrill Lynch KLO Group
- Missoula Surgical Associates
- Monida Healthcare
- Stryker Orthopaedics
- Wells Fargo KLO Group
- Western Montana Medical Society

**ADDITIONAL IN-KIND SUPPORT:**

- Big Sky Commerce
- Community Hospital of Anaconda
- Farmers State Bank
- Garlington, Lohn & Robinson
- Hands in Motion Occupational Therapy
- Missoula Nissan
- Patagonia Outlet Store – Dillon
- Subway - Dillon
WELCOME!

Camp is happy to announce the addition Steve Stultz (Food Service & Rental Manager), Meredith Daviess (Program Manager) and Kathleen Cotter (Administrative Assistant) to the foundation staff.

Meredith Daviess, Program Manager - Meredith started with Camp Mak-A-Dream right out of high school as a volunteer cabin counselor in 2009, and just one week wasn’t enough! She studied Community Health at the University of Montana, graduating in May 2013, and spent the following four summers on Core Staff as the Lead Program Specialist and then as the Activities Director and has now joined Camp full-time as the Program Manager. Meredith also teaches an Emergency Medical Responder & CPR/AED course at the University and is a volunteer EMT for Frenchtown Rural Fire Department in her free time.

Kathleen Cotter, Administrative Assistant - Kathleen was born and raised in Montana and graduated from the University of Montana in 2012 with a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing. She spent the past year living and working in the Czech Republic teaching English as a foreign language. She began working for Camp in 2010 as a member of Core Staff and has come back every summer since to work in the office in Gold Creek and will now be working full time in the Missoula office. Her favorite part about working with Camp is to see the most timid of campers turn into the boldest within the space of a few days.

Steve Stultz, Food Service & Rental Manager - Steve grew up in Southern California before moving to Brady, Texas (home of the world Championship Barbeque Goat Cook Off)! Since 2007, Steve has been living and working in western Montana until joining Camp Mak-A-Dream in July 2013. He’s an avid fly fisherman and enjoys most any outdoor activity, including bird hunting with his 12 year old dog, Lou. Steve has been cooking or managing kitchens for his entire working life, and finds food preparation and service to be both rewarding and fun!

We are also pleased to welcome new members Dr. Brian Abbott (Medical Director) and Jami Maves, RN to the Board of Directors.

Brian’s medical training and work in hematology/oncology led him to practice in Great Falls, Montana where he lives with his wife, Karlie (an oncology nurse). He joined Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc. in 2010 and currently serves as Vice President of Oncology Medical Affairs. Brian has been volunteering with camp since 2001 and has recently taken on the role as Medical Director.

Jami studied at the University of Wyoming and has worked as a nurse since that time. She’s volunteered on the medical staff at Camp and currently serves as the Director of Patient Services at Rocky Mountain Hospice in Missoula where she lives with her husband, Doug and two children.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Sponsor a Camper with a Campership
- Make A Memorial or Honorarium Donation
- Make A Pledge or Planned Gift
- Give an item from our Wish List (see our website for a complete list)
- Display our Literature in your business or professional office
- Have us Speak at Your Civic Organization or Business Meeting
- Volunteer with Us – at camp, in our office or at a fundraising event
- Rent our facility for your next meeting, group retreat, or family reunion
- Donate Frequent Flyer Miles to help us get campers and presenters to camp
- Host a Community Event or Dream Tour in Your Area
- Donate Unused Ad Space
- Take Advantage of Your Company’s Corporate Matching Gifts Program
- Like us on Facebook & Follow Us on Twitter
- Participate in the Missoula Marathon as part of the Dream Team (contact us for details)
- Tell Someone Else About Camp!

There is always a lot going on at Camp, so please visit our website: www.campdream.org for information on Programs, Volunteering, Special Events, Renting the Facility, our Wish List and lots more!