

SPRING 2017

THE DREAMCATCHER

News from Camp Māk-A-Dream



GOLD CREEK, MONTANA



Our founders joining in the fun at Camp.

Honoring the Memory and Life of Sylvia Granader

FEW PEOPLE can say they truly had an impact on the lives of others, but Sylvia Granader was among those rare souls who did. As co-founder of Camp Māk-A-Dream along with her late husband Harry, Sylvia touched the lives of countless campers, volunteers, staff, board members and supporters alike—not only at Camp but in many aspects of her life.

Most summers, you could find Sylvia helping campers on the weaving loom in the art studio, chatting with volunteers over lunch in the main lodge, or by Harry's side, telling people how to support Camp Māk-A-Dream in Montana.

Sylvia was a wife, mother, grandmother (and surrogate “grandmother” to many campers), great-grandmother, friend, teacher, former World War II Wasp pilot and overall kind and generous soul who left us after 96 amazing years on earth.



We will miss you, dear Sylvia, and your warm smile that lit up each room you entered. Fortunately, your memory will live on and always have a home in our hearts and at Camp Māk-A-Dream!

Our Mission

Camp Māk-A-Dream provides a medically supervised, cost-free Montana experience, in an intimate community setting, for children, young adults and families affected by cancer.

2016 Annual Report

11 CAMP SESSIONS

from April through September

556 CAMPERS

(250 new) from 43 states (including Hawaii!) and Canada

159 VOLUNTEERS

from 25 states and Canada

15 SUMMER STAFF

from eight states

12 PHYSICIANS &

24 NURSES

from nine states

MORE THAN \$43,500

in travel scholarships

409 RIDERS

registered for the 15th annual RATPOD ride and fundraiser

SOLD-OUT SHOW

for the first annual Lip Sync Battle fundraiser

Inaugural social media fundraising campaign that

RAISED NEARLY \$77,000

Board President Message

Dear Friends of Camp Māk-A-Dream,

TIME TRAVEL. When I was little (and I'm showing my age here), "The Jetsons" was my favorite weekend-morning cartoon. Whereas "The Flintstones" pulled us into the past, there was something about whirling around the skies in a futuristic spaceship and having a robot make lunch with a push of a button that appealed to me. The fact that this season's Camp theme of time travel coincides with my first year as board president is a wonderful twist of fate.

But what might time travel mean to our campers and retreat participants? I doubt it's a trip down memory lane to a favorite cartoon, but rather, a more important peek into a future where cancer is in the past and not a burdensome reality. In a sense, every season at Camp is about time travel, because for that one precious week during their stay with us, kids get to be kids enjoying the rituals of summer camp and women get to connect with other women, all without having to explain how it feels to have (or have had) cancer. They don't have to worry what anyone else thinks about how they look or how they feel, because everybody is in the exact same boat. There is nothing more sacred and life affirming.

Just as the promise and hope of what the future holds binds our participants, we as a board and staff are inspired by what connects the past, present and future of Camp Māk-A-Dream: YOU. It is only through your invaluable support—whether it be your time, your dollars or your commitment—that

“...we as a board and staff are inspired by what connects the past, present and future of Camp Māk-A-Dream: YOU.”

we are able to provide these glimpses of a better future for the campers and participants who entrust us with a precious week of their lives. I cannot thank you enough for your remarkable support so that we, in kind, can continue to provide remarkable glimpses into a cancer-free future, one week at a time.

All my thanks,
Margot O'Leary
Board President

New Board Members



Laurie Carter, MD
Pediatric Hospitalist
Missoula Pediatric Associates



Andrew Larson
Vice President,
Commercial Lending
First Security Bank



Blake Underminer
Managing Partner
Walla Walla Valley Honda

2017

Cost-free Programs

Open to cancer patients in or out of treatment



May 4–8

Ovarian Cancer Retreat, Spring

Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer
(21+ years old)

June 6–12

Young Adult Conference

Young adults diagnosed with cancer
(18–35 years old)

June 15–21

Heads Up Conference

Young adults diagnosed with a brain tumor
(18–35 years old)

June 26–July 2

Teen Camp

Teenagers diagnosed with cancer
(14–18 years old)

July 5–11

Teen Heads Up Conference, Session #1

Teenagers diagnosed with a brain tumor (13–18 years old): geared toward new teen participants or those who have attended Teen HUC once before

July 14–19

Siblings Camp

Siblings and children of cancer patients
(6–13 years old)

July 23–28

Siblings Camp

Siblings and children of cancer patients
(13–18 years old)

July 31–August 5

Kids Camp

Children diagnosed with cancer (6–13 years old)

August 8–14

Teen Heads Up Conference, Session #2

Teenagers diagnosed with a brain tumor (13–18 years old): geared towards teens who have attended Teen HUC two or more times

August 17–20

Family Camp

Call for more information

September 7–11

Ovarian Cancer Retreat, Fall**

Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer
(21+ years old)

September 14–18

Women's Cancer Retreat**

Women diagnosed with any type of cancer
(21+ years old)

Camp Māk-A-Dream

Gold Creek, Montana
(406) 549-5987
www.campdream.org

Applications for spring and summer are available online. | **Fall applications open June 1.

For more information on our programs or for participant application questions, email shirley@campdream.org.

For information on volunteering, summer staff positions or being a presenter at camp, email jennifer@campdream.org.

Family Camp 2017 Pilot Program

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, Camp Māk-A-Dream has been a place for people with cancer to meet for a week of fun, adventure and shared experiences with others who understand what they are going through. The reality is, however, that a cancer diagnosis affects more than the person with cancer; it impacts the entire family. Since 2002 Camp Māk-A-Dream has offered sessions for children who have a sibling or parent with cancer, with the goal of giving these young people a week of their own. In 2017 we are excited to offer a pilot program that allows the entire family to experience Camp together. Families will have the opportunity to spend quality time with each other and share adventures with other families going through similar journeys. We believe that the benefits of the Camp experience last beyond the week itself. People are strengthened by the memories made and the friendships formed. It is our goal to continue to expand our programming to share the Camp experience with as many people as possible. We look forward to helping families who have a child or parent with cancer move through and beyond the cancer experience together.

For more information about Family Camp, please visit our website or contact our office.

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE



GABBY L.
KIDS CAMP

CAMP GAVE MY DAUGHTER GABBY a week of normalcy while she was going through chemo treatments. It also allowed me, as a parent, to relax and not worry because I knew she was in very good hands with Camp staff. Gabby had a dream about ziplining, to which I told her, “Not until you’re 18.” Well, unbeknownst to me, there is a zipline at Camp. When I arrived to pick her up, she was beaming and proudly announced that she had gone ziplining. It was very cute, and she occasionally teases me that she got to zipline at age six and not 18.

“Camp was a way to get away from all the chemo treatments and be a normal kid.”

As we drove away, Gabby asked if she could go back to Camp again next year. Now that she is done with her chemo treatments, I hope she can be a good friend to someone going through chemo while at Camp too. Gabby says she’d like to be a Camp counselor when she gets older. Camp has been such a wonderful experience for her and has helped her boost her confidence in making new friends!



JOSHUA D.
YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

MY SOCIAL WORKER had mentioned Camp MāK-A-Dream to me during my treatment. After completing treatment, I was going through a rough time. I was not working or in school, and my personal life was greatly suffering. I was hoping Camp might be a place to escape those harsh realities.

I had completed my chemotherapy treatment less than a month prior to attending Camp in the summer of 2016 and had no idea what to expect. I was excited to meet others I could relate to.

“Upon arriving at Camp, I was graced with immense kindness, respect and empathy.”

I could feel the fantastic energy from staff members, volunteers, medical personnel and campers. Everyone was so empowering and positive, and I felt a great sense of community...like one big, happy family.

I made lasting relationships with people from all across the country and have kept in touch with them. Camp greatly impacted me and made me feel so much love that I plan to return next summer both as a participant at the Young Adult Conference and as a volunteer!



ELLEN H. (RIGHT)
OVARIAN CANCER RETREAT

ON MARCH 16, 2015, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I received the news on a Tuesday morning. I was shocked, but I never looked at it as a death sentence. I knew I would do what

was right for me, and at that point in my life, I was going to fight. I looked at it as a diagnosis that was not going to get the best of me, and I was going to face it head on, with honesty, openness and, of course, a positive attitude.

By the following Friday, I was at Mayo Clinic consulting with a gynecological oncology surgeon. He explained the procedure and the steps that would be taken depending on what they found along the way. By Monday, I was in surgery. Eight hours later, the diagnosis of stage 3 ovarian cancer. The sheer number of people who extended their hands was unbelievable and their generosity was huge. A year later, there is no evidence of disease, and I continue to teach my fitness classes with all the gusto I can muster.

I had friends who were understanding and very helpful, although none had ever gone through a cancer diagnosis. I also had a few who disappeared after they heard. I believe it hit too close to home for them, and they were unable to deal with the fact that someone so close could get sick.

I have attended Camp twice and have met magnificent women. Going to Camp gives me the chance to connect with a community of women who understand, have knowledge and share everything. During my first visit to Camp, I bonded with my cabin mate. We just connected and continue to be fast and close friends; I love her as if she were my sister.

Camp is also pure camp, where we hike, ride horses, have arts and crafts, stay up late, sing, dance, eat great food and are supported by great staff. It's a time to dress up and be silly, enjoy late-night chats, sing and sleep in a bunk!

“When I leave Camp, I know that I am not alone. I have my “sisters.”

I have seen many join the group and many pass away, but through it all, I am grateful and I am blessed.



MARYLUE D. (LEFT)
VOLUNTEER, PARENT, DONOR AND FUNDRAISER

IN HIS RELATIVELY SHORT LIFE, my son Mike absolutely loved Camp. He loved the whole experience in the Montana setting. He loved the many friends he made there. Camp was a very special part of his life. When Mike died, we really wanted to do something good in his memory. Mike came from a very small town in Pennsylvania where everyone knew Mike D., the kid with the brain tumors. Mike touched an enormous number of people in many different settings. He was outgoing, compassionate and extremely upbeat. He was an amazingly positive person despite his medical history and its many long-term challenges. These many friends of Mike's continue to be unbelievably supportive of our fundraising efforts on behalf of Camp Māk-A-Dream in memory of their friend.

As Mike's mom, I was slightly apprehensive before my first visit as a volunteer. I didn't know if being at Camp would make me feel better or worse.

“What I discovered is that volunteering on the Dream Team (although a ton of work) is the best hard work I've ever done and has helped me come to terms with Mike's death.”

His life led me to an amazing place that I would not have experienced otherwise. Camp Māk-A-Dream is addictive and the experience has been beyond amazing for me!

CAMPERS REMEMBERED

All of our past campers are remembered in Granader Gardens at Camp.

Jessica Barker
Littlestown, PA

Melody Bialkowski
Avenel, NJ

Aislinn Bleck
Chevy Chase, MD

Dian Bloom
Farmington, MN

Joanna Butler
Ottumwa, IA

Isabelle Cohrt
Simi Valley, CA

Hunter Danielson
Coon Rapids, MN

Stephen Dzialowski
Brighton, MI

Mary Beth Greffin
Minneapolis, MN

Lou Anne Guilford
Lafayette, IN

Claire Harding
Lakewood Ranch, FL

Brian Haskin
Grand Rapids, MI

Pat Heidrick
Beloit, KS

Joshua Jones
Clearfield, UT

Tyler Keeton
Odessa, TX

Christa Little
Whiting, VT

Trish McDaniel
Franklin, OH

Maggie McGovern
Ririe, ID

Tom McGowan
Danbury, CT

Carol McKillips
Golden Valley, MN

Kay McPherson
Missoula, MT

Maddy Nelson
Cambridge, MN

Nora Orr
Kenosha, WI

Tarek Rayan
Fort Worth, TX

Dorothy "Dot" Reynolds
Corsicana, TX

Lili Rodriguez
Forney, TX

Kay Scholtz
Granton, WI

Linda Shultz
Hayden Lake, ID

Jody Stage
Grafton, WI

Sean Taylor
Montezuma Creek, UT

Janice Willett
Pasadena, CA

Brenda Woelfel
Racine, WI

Rodney Yuan
Baltimore, MD



Karol and Lorne Fonteyne

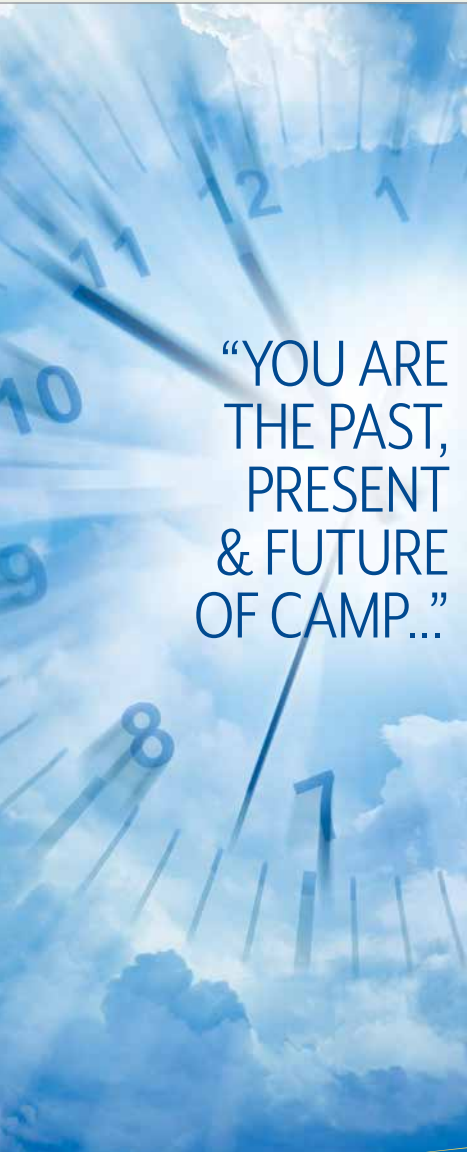
Donor Perspective

WE BECAME AWARE of Camp Māk-A-Dream seven years ago, and after meeting with the executive director, we quickly decided it was an organization we wanted to support. Our philanthropic work has always focused on helping children in need, supporting local endeavors and ensuring that donated funds are dedicated to the program rather than administrative expenses. Camp definitely meets those criteria. Because our family has been directly impacted by adolescent brain tumors, we elected to sponsor the travel to and from Gold Creek for youngsters with brain tumors so they can experience a week filled with medical, therapeutic and recreational support.

Our “labor of love” is hand-making candles and selling Montana Birch Bark Candles in Bigfork, Montana. This “hobby” is ongoing throughout the year, with all sales proceeds dedicated to sponsoring campers. Our customers love this cause and are enthusiastic supporters. And what a thrill for us to meet those courageous and inspirational kids when we travel to Camp. Their smiles make a person’s heart sing! We have loved our involvement with Camp and our personal relationship with Camp’s outstanding staff. We look forward to being a part of Camp Māk-A-Dream well into the future.



“...what a thrill for us to meet those courageous and inspirational kids when we travel to Camp. Their smiles make a person’s heart sing.”



“YOU ARE THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF CAMP...”

KIM McKEARNAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME, what would I tell myself about the incredible journey Camp has been for me this year? Twelve months ago, I was living in Qatar with my family and preparing to embark on the adventure of returning to Montana and joining Camp Māk-A-Dream. I couldn’t have possibly imagined the sheer number of inspiring people I would meet in the next 365 days. Likewise, it seems hard to believe that a year ago, I had not heard our campers’ amazing stories or reveled in a generous donation or witnessed such encouraging demonstrations of kinship. This is Camp...an unexpectedly diverse and profound community where time spent in and around the beauty and people magnifies and multiplies the blessings of this life.

Camp has served more than 7,000 campers in its nearly 22 years. We are embarking on exciting, positive changes to keep Camp fun, meaningful, safe and accessible for at least the next 22 years. We have added a health center coordinator, Claire, who will bring her years of nursing experience to the consistent medical supervision and wellness of campers, volunteers and staff alike. We will be tackling crucial renovations of the lodge and camper cabins, in addition to strategically adding programs like the new Family Camp to ensure we are meeting the needs of our participants. We are undertaking an update of our website in order to share the stories of the campers, volunteers and donors that make Camp so amazing. And, we will be celebrating the past, present and future through our time travel theme this season.

I am disappointed to say I never got to meet our founders, Sylvia and Harry, although a vibrant picture of them hangs above my desk. Their spirit, intention and generosity continue to guide me and the Camp team in providing dynamic programs, safe facilities and memorable experiences for our participants. We aspire to embody our founders’ love, passion and benevolence in the hopes our future is equally as remarkable as our past. Thank you for being part of that vision. You are the past, present and future of Camp, and we couldn’t be more grateful for your partnership in this journey.



Children's Oncology Camp Foundation

P.O. Box 1450

Missoula, MT 59806-1450

www.campdream.org

2017 Camp Māk-A-Dream Events



2nd Annual Lip Sync Battle

April 9, 2017

LipSyncMissoula.com

Missoula Community Theater

Missoula, MT



16th Annual RATPOD

Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day

June 24, 2017

RideForAll.Ratpod.org

Ratpod.org

Dillon, MT



Showin' Off for Camp Māk-A-Dream Car Show

July 16, 2017

campdream.org

Fort Missoula Regional Park,

Missoula, MT

2017 Wish List

Many everyday items are needed at Camp! These are just a few. For a complete list, visit our website. Donations may be tax-deductible.

- ★ Gift cards (Visa or MasterCard) to: Target, Michael's, Best Buy, REI, Costco, Staples, iTunes
- ★ Nylon, hemp, silk, lanyard and leather cord for jewelry making
- ★ Glass beads
- ★ Sharpies
- ★ Themed decorations (*Space/time travel to the future*)
- ★ New, plain white cotton t-shirts and ankle socks (*child & adult sizes*)
- ★ Balloons (*12" assorted colors*)
- ★ Office copy paper (*letter and legal size*)
- ★ USB thumb drives (*2 GB or larger capacity*)
- ★ External hard drives
- ★ Batteries (*AAA, AA, D*)
- ★ Unopened bottles of sunscreen
- ★ New cans of insect repellent
- ★ Full-size scissors
- ★ Embroidery thread (*assorted colors*) for friendship bracelets
- ★ Inflatable/pool toys and games
- ★ Arcade games – free standing (*call for details*)
- ★ Pool cues

How You Can Help

- Support someone's week at Camp by making a donation
- Give in memory or honor of someone or a special occasion
- Make a pledge or planned gift
- Give an item from our Wish List (see our website)
- 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 Camp facility for a meeting, group retreat or family reunion
- Host an event in your area (contact us for ideas and more information)
- Donate unused ad or media space
- Take advantage of your company's corporate matching gifts program
- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, Pinterest, Flickr and YouTube
- Tell someone else about Camp

There is always a lot going on at Camp, so please visit our website at www.campdream.org for information on programs, volunteering, upcoming events, facility rental, our Wish List and lots more!

