

SPRING 2019

# THE DREAMCATCHER



News from Camp Māk-A-Dream

GOLD CREEK, MONTANA

## Firm Foundation. Fantastic Future.

2019 will mark Camp Mak-A-Dream's 25th season. Yes, **25 seasons** of welcoming individuals and families from all over the U.S., Canada and beyond to walk across the Bridge of Dreams and experience an unforgettable, often transformational, week at Camp. This accomplishment was made possible first by the benevolence and vision of Harry and Sylvia Granader. Following their example, thousands of donors, volunteers and staff have built a robust organization that has served nearly 8,000 participants. If you're reading this, you've likely been part of that history and effort. Thank you. Because of you, we've accomplished some foundational goals in recent years. We've completed key renovations to ensure the sustainability of our facilities for years to come. We have hired talented team members and invested in professional development bringing renewed energy, additional knowledge and added capacity to our organization. We have added new programs such as Family Camp that are flourishing. But, we're not done.

We want to be here for survivors, their families and those who care for individuals with cancer for at least the next 25 years. Heading into 2020, our 25th anniversary, we are looking to the future. We want you to be part of that future. It is imperative we continue to evolve and provide relevant experiences to our participants. We must adapt to changes in the way we financially support our organization to keep our programs as cost-free as possible. **You can help.** Read on. Send us your thoughts and ideas. Share posts on social media. You are—we all are—the fantastic future of Camp and together we will usher Camp into the next 25 years of meaningful experiences for those affected by cancer.

CAMP • 1995

Live with. Live beyond.

## Our Mission

Camp Māk-A-Dream empowers survivors and their families to live with and beyond cancer through life-changing Montana experiences where they strengthen life skills, gain resilience and develop lasting relationships.

## Board President's Message

It's hard to believe this will be our 25th season. While I've been on the board for nearly four years, I am new to the role of Board President. But, what an exciting time to assume this leadership role. After a successful inaugural session in 2018, we will be hosting three family camp sessions this year. We are developing caregiver retreats—one for family members and the other for healthcare providers—to help bolster those who care for the survivors and families that attend our programs. We paid off our newest building, the Wellness Center, and have no long-term debt. After sold-out, packed shows over the last two years, we are moving the "Battle to Beat Cancer" lip sync contest to a bigger venue (Dennison Theater at the University of Montana). We'll be riding both the traditional 126-mile route and the shorter 62-mile route in RATPOD this year and hope to have nearly 600 riders participate. We have built on our revised mission statement and created a vision and core set of values for our organization. Our past has been remarkable, but our future is shaping up to be as good if not better.

How have we done all this? One word: YOU. Camp is made possible by the ongoing generosity, dedication and support of individuals and organizations. You will continue to be the foundation for our future. You will help us empower even more individuals and families to live with and beyond cancer. As someone who has experienced the impact of cancer on a family, I am grateful for all of "YOU." You help us improve the lives of others experiencing the challenges, grief, isolation and sadness cancer can cause. We all look forward to the day when a cure is found rendering our programs obsolete. But, until then, we are thankful to have partners like you as part of our past successes and, even more important, vital to our hopeful and vibrant future.

With sincere gratitude,

Dan McGee  
Board President



## 2020 will be our 25th Anniversary!

Please plan on joining us in the fall of 2020 for a grand celebration of our silver anniversary. Be on the lookout for more details on our website and a save the date card in your mailbox. Hope to see you then if not before!

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

- + **13 camp sessions**  
from April through September
- + **645 campers**  
(309 new) from 45 states and Canada
- + **138 volunteers**  
from 24 states, Canada and Australia
- + **16 summer staff**  
5 brand-new to Camp, 5 returning staff and 8 former volunteers (4 of whom were former Campers)
- + **8 physicians & 16 nurses**  
(7 new) from 10 states volunteered to provide care at 1 or more Camp sessions
- + **More than \$66,000**  
in travel scholarships
- + **521 riders**  
at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual RATPOD fundraiser including 148 on the new, shorter route
- + **25 acts & another sold-out show**  
for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Battle to Beat Cancer" lip sync contest at MCT
- + **Successful new family camp program**  
in August
- + **Launched an Electronic Health Record (EHR: CampDoc)**  
at Camp to facilitate registration and improved medical care



## 2019 Cost-free Programs

Open to cancer patients in or out of treatment

### April 25-29

**Ovarian Cancer Retreat, Spring**  
Women diagnosed with Ovarian cancer  
(21+ years old)

### May 2-6

**Women's Cancer Retreat, Spring**  
Women diagnosed with any type of cancer  
(21+ years old)

### June 4-10

**Young Adult Conference**  
Young adults diagnosed with cancer  
(18-35 years old)

### June 13-19

**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 #1**  
Teenagers diagnosed with a brain tumor  
(13-18 years old)

### July 14-19

**Kids Camp**  
Children diagnosed with cancer  
(6-13 years old)

### July 22-27

**Siblings Camp**  
Siblings or children of cancer patients  
(6-13 years old)

### July 30-Aug. 4

**Teen Siblings Camp**  
Siblings or children of cancer patients  
(14-18 years old)

### Aug. 7-13

**Teen Heads Up Conference #2**  
Teenagers diagnosed with a brain tumor  
(13-18 years old)

### Aug. 16-19

**Family Camp**  
Open to families with a child 12 or under  
diagnosed with cancer

### Sept. 5-9

**Ovarian Cancer Retreat, Fall**  
Women diagnosed with Ovarian cancer  
(21+ years old)

### Sept. 12-16

**Women's Cancer Retreat, Fall**  
Women diagnosed with any type of cancer  
(21+ years old)

Visit our website  
for more information  
or to apply:

www.campdream.org  
or call (406)549-5987.

## Coming Soon: Camp Māk-A-Dream Caregiver Retreats

Since 1995, Camp Mak-A-Dream has been nationally recognized for providing meaningful, life-enriching programs to those affected by cancer. To date, we have focused on those who have or have had cancer, the siblings or children of those who've experienced cancer and families impacted by cancer. But the negative impact of cancer and other chronic illnesses is much greater. Those caring for someone with cancer face compounding and devastating stress, trauma and emotional turmoil culminating in compassion fatigue, a "form of burnout that manifests itself as physical, emotional and spiritual exhaustion." (*American Academy of Family Physicians, Pffifferling & Gilley, 2000*).

We are excited to announce we are developing Caregiver Retreats—one for family caregivers and one for healthcare providers. We want to extend our mission of empowering survivors to live with and beyond cancer to also empowering those who help care for them. Partnering with wellness practitioners and the cancer care community including regional hospitals, oncology programs and survivor groups, we will develop robust, 2 to 4-day retreats aimed at providing opportunities for caregivers to gather, learn, refresh and connect. We will focus on education, self-care, creating support networks, and ideas to enhance wellness in the home, community or workplace environments of the caregivers.

Live with. Live beyond.



# Camp Māk-A-Dream : The People, Programs and Place

## ★ The People

Last year, we celebrated Shirley Hummer—an employee who was devoted to Camp more than 23 years. But, she is not alone in her longevity. Jennifer Benton has served in nearly every capacity at Camp for more than 20 years and remains both a fountain of information and a respected servant leader in our organization. She’s also a belay champ. Beth Jones surpassed 10 years and is instrumental in keeping our programs relevant and our operations smooth. Oh, and she’s a seemingly tireless zip line rope returner running up & down the ravine with ease! Liandra Rheam started at Camp in 2011. She’s been a camper, mentor, cabin leader and residential coordinator. She is known for her patience and warmth. We’ve had board members like Will McCarthy and Dan Ortt serve a decade in their leadership roles—both of whom continue to offer their expertise when needed. Nurse Mo (M’reen Rastetter) first came to camp in 1996. After a hiatus, she joined us again in 2010 and hasn’t missed a year since. She easily establishes rapport with all whom she encounters and often is referred to as “camp mom.” Over 15 years of volunteering at Camp, Brian Piggott has washed dishes, wrangled horses, shuttled campers, mowed lawns, disposed of the trash and loaded and unloaded innumerable pieces of luggage. Don’t let his gruff exterior fool you, he has a soft spot for Camp and our campers.



CMD employees Beth, Jennifer and Shirley

Drs. Phil Gardner, Jeff Haller and Karl Westenfelder have been fundraising for and riding in RATPOD for more than 16 years. Corky Christman, Charlie & Julie Helbach and Opal Halla have made consistent monthly donations to Camp. Their reliable support is invaluable and inspirational. What do all these people have in common? Commitment. Compassion. Conviction. Generosity of time, talents and resources. These, in addition to our amazing campers, are just some of the people of Camp.

The good news is that there are more similarly dedicated, talented and passionate people engaging at or on behalf of Camp each year. Jen Emendorfer-Wade started her journey at Camp as a volunteer and is now our

invaluable Camper Manager with the patience of a saint and organizational skills to envy. Dr. Laurie Carter joined the board in late 2017 and almost immediately stepped up to be our Medical Director. She’s devoted countless hours to reviewing camper applications, improving our medical care policies, answering questions from volunteer medical staff at Camp and implementing our new electronic health record. Owen Gue joined the RATPOD committee and has fervently engaged his Cycling House followers in both riding in RATPOD and raising award-winning dollars for Camp. Kids like Keira and Eli Imhoff have created show-stopping acts for our “Battle to Beat Cancer” lip sync contest and have shown blossoming philanthropist qualities including fundraising for and spreading awareness about Camp. We’ll have six summer staff this season who will have gone from camper to volunteer to staff. YOU are people of Camp. By receiving this newsletter, you’ve shown commitment to our mission in some way.

The people of Camp will continue to be one of our strongest assets in the years to come. We hope you’ll become or continue to be one of those people. Whether it be as a volunteer, donor, board member, staff, event attendee or all of the above, you are essential to our future success. Through the individual and collective efforts of caring people, Camp is sure to thrive for the next 25 years.

## ★ The Programs

The first Camp program in 1995 was based on a simple idea, to give kids with cancer an opportunity to visit western Montana and have an adventure with people who could understand what they were going through. This simple idea, that people with shared experiences can learn and benefit from each other, has shaped our programming for the last 24 seasons and continues to guide us today. We learned early on that cancer’s impact goes beyond the person who has been diagnosed and that Camp was a place for everyone affected by cancer. Siblings and children of cancer patients began joining us in 1996 and we expanded our programs in 2018 to include the entire family. As we move into the future, we are committed to finding new ways to meet the growing needs of and share the Camp experience with even more members of the cancer community.

Over the years, we have also learned cancer treatment is just one step of the journey and Camp offers a space for people to gain resilience and connect with others. Camp activities like the climbing wall, art and zip line are more than just fun, they help campers learn about themselves and expand their understanding about what they can and cannot do. Conversations with others who share similar experiences can lead to friendships that can help people get through the toughest of times. Camp

is also a place to try new things and develop skills to better cope with the impact of a cancer diagnosis.

We also understand we are not alone in offering programs that help people affected by cancer and have seen the benefit of developing relationships with partners in the field. Our ovarian cancer retreat began in 1997 through a connection with a local survivor. We have been hosting brain tumor specific sessions in collaboration with the Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation since 2008 and will join forces with Cancer Support Community Montana to offer three family camps in 2019. These partnerships that have been an important part of our past are also key to our future success and will be instrumental in our ability to carry out our mission of empowering people to live with and beyond cancer.

## ★ The Place

As Camp’s late founder Harry Granader said, “You don’t have to have cancer in your family to want to do something special for these kids. I want them to camp, to fish, to be outdoors...” With the generous gift of 87 acres of their Montana cattle ranch, Harry and his wife, Sylvia, rallied friends, business associates and community members to raise funds, build Camp and make the dream of giving kids with cancer the chance to escape their everyday challenges and see the stars in Big Sky country a reality. When Camp

Mak-A-Dream opened its doors in 1995, we welcomed 46 campers from Montana and the Granaders’ home state of Michigan. Montana Governor, Marc Racicot, raised the ceremonial Camp flag with hundreds of onlookers including Harry and Sylvia, supporters, volunteers, board members and of course...campers!

Harry’s dream lives on as Camp has grown in many ways over the last 25 years such as adding new buildings (including a modern health center and multi-use wellness center) and the Granader Memorial Gardens to honor campers we have lost. His dream is alive in the staff, programs, activities, off-campus fieldtrips and the number of campers served (now nearly 8,000 from each of the 50 states and several foreign countries). As one camper put it, ‘this place is flat-out special.’

This magical place has a profound impact on people. It has seen friendships formed, challenges overcome, hope found and memories made. It is special because generous people continue to support what happens here – and YOU can too. If you have not been to Camp, please plan to attend one of our fall open house events, lend your talents as a guest presenter or volunteer for a week during our summer season, or rent the beautiful facility for your next meeting, retreat or family gathering. All of these things will help Camp continue to grow and welcome more deserving individuals to this land of dreams for the next 25 years and beyond.



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

# Campers REMEMBERED

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Eileen Albert<br><i>McKinney, TX</i>          | Jane Flanders<br><i>Augusta, GA</i>               | Susan Navarra<br><i>Spokane Valley, WA</i> |
| Sue Alvarez<br><i>Little Canada, MN</i>       | Grace Fulcher<br><i>Niceville, FL</i>             | Hayley Osegueda<br><i>Glendale, CA</i>     |
| Sherrie Arendt<br><i>Santa Rosa, CA</i>       | Tammy Godfrey<br><i>Huntington Beach, CA</i>      | Casey Pack<br><i>Coon Rapids, MN</i>       |
| Ben Barbatsis<br><i>Edina, MN</i>             | Jackie Goldberg<br><i>San Diego, CA</i>           | Karol Patzer<br><i>Eagan, MN</i>           |
| Ryan Bendel<br><i>Salem, OR</i>               | Viki Huegel<br><i>Lakeland, FL</i>                | Judy Pawlisz<br><i>Manitowoc, WI</i>       |
| Donna Blomquist-Boothe<br><i>Rockford, IL</i> | Lori Jacobson<br><i>Rockford, IL</i>              | Charlie Poole<br><i>Fayetteville, NY</i>   |
| Allyne Borqueta<br><i>Bay Point, CA</i>       | Avis Johnson<br><i>Cascade, MT</i>                | Jordon Reckling<br><i>Allentown, PA</i>    |
| Betty Burnell<br><i>Machesney Park, IL</i>    | Michael Komar<br><i>Springfield, PA</i>           | Laurie Salimbeni<br><i>Mount Joy, PA</i>   |
| Ariel Caro<br><i>Cape May Court House, NJ</i> | Laurie Lange<br><i>Kenosha, WI</i>                | Laura Salley<br><i>Wendell, NC</i>         |
| Arleen Chester<br><i>Vancouver, WA</i>        | Christian Larson<br><i>Coon Rapids, MN</i>        | Suzan Selewski<br><i>Taylor, MI</i>        |
| Derrina Chezem<br><i>Atascadero, CA</i>       | Saroj Lucht<br><i>Arden Hills, MN</i>             | Tina Susko<br><i>Chesterfield, MI</i>      |
| Linda Cirincione<br><i>Hot Springs, MT</i>    | Ian Mass<br><i>North Bellmore, NY</i>             | DeNise Waker<br><i>Denver, CO</i>          |
| Jerry Culberth<br><i>Detroit, MI</i>          | Rachelle Mertz<br><i>Fort Wayne, IN</i>           | Barbie Wallace<br><i>Belgrade, MT</i>      |
| Lisa deFilippis<br><i>Euclid, OH</i>          | Christine "Crickett" Mingo<br><i>Lakeport, CA</i> | Justin Wargelin<br><i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>    |
| Jo Dunn<br><i>Stevensville, MT</i>            | Marion Moeller<br><i>Fox Lake, WI</i>             | Tracey Young<br><i>St Louis, MO</i>        |

*These campers have passed away in the last year.*

## A Note From:

Kim McKearnan,  
*Executive Director*

In reading this newsletter, I hope you are relishing our past successes at Camp and dreaming about our secure future. It is truly our privilege to stand on the shoulders of all those who've come before us to make Camp possible while rising to the challenge of ensuring its future. To that end, our board of directors and staff gathered in the Wellness Center this past January to create a vision statement that complements our newly revised mission statement and affirm a core set of values to guide our organization in the years to come. They are:

**Vision:** We will be an exceptional experience for those affected by cancer—a dream community built on friendship, learning, fun and hope.

### Values:

**Compassion** - We genuinely care for others and promote self-care and wellness for participants, volunteers and staff alike.

**Accountability** - We are responsible stewards of all our resources and place the health and safety of our participants above all.

**Mutual Respect** - We appreciate and value our team and various constituents. We wholeheartedly embrace the diversity we represent.

**Partnership** - We are endlessly grateful for our many partnerships with donors, volunteers and other organizations that make Camp possible.

We hope these embody the Camp Mak-A-Dream you know and love while simultaneously inspiring you to contribute to the extraordinary experience that our participants deserve.

# Hold Your Next Event at Camp

Camp Mak-A-Dream may be the perfect place to hold your next group function. Our fully accessible facility sits on 87 beautiful acres in Gold Creek, Montana and is available to outside groups for rental in the off-season, late September through April.

The main lodge is ideal for large group meetings or activities, seats 110 people comfortably for meals, and is available for day use or in multi-day events. For overnight stays, we have five lovely cabins, which accommodate 12-24 people each, as well as additional housing and meeting rooms in our health center and wellness center buildings.

Over the years we've hosted a variety of groups including state agencies, other non-profit organizations, businesses, quilting groups, church groups and private family functions. If your group would like to use our facility for your next function, visit our website for photos and pricing information: [www.campdream.org](http://www.campdream.org) or contact us at (406) 549-5987.



## How You Can Help

- ★ Make a donation – in honor or memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion
- ★ Give an item from our Wish List
- ★ Invite us to speak at your civic organization or business meeting
- ★ Volunteer your time – at Camp, in our office or at a fundraising event
- ★ Rent our facility for your next meeting, group retreat, or family reunion
- ★ Become a corporate sponsor
- ★ Lend your talents as a presenter during one of our Camp sessions
- ★ Take advantage of your company's corporate matching gifts program
- ★ Follow Camp on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube)
- ★ Tell someone else about Camp!

There is always a lot going on at Camp, so visit our website: [www.campdream.org](http://www.campdream.org) for information on Programs, Volunteering, Upcoming Events, Renting the Facility, our Wish List and lots more!

## 2019 Wish List

There are lots of everyday items needed at Camp! Here are just a few:

- ★ Gift cards to: Target, Michael's, Amazon, Costco, Staples
- ★ Sharpie markers – assorted colors
- ★ New, plain white cotton t-shirts (child-adult sizes) for tie dye
- ★ Balloons (12"-assorted colors)
- ★ Office copy paper (letter and legal size)
- ★ Clear stacking storage containers with lids (large sizes)
- ★ USB thumb/flash drives (2 GB or larger capacity)
- ★ Batteries (AAA, AA, D)
- ★ New cans of insect repellent and sunscreen
- ★ Embroidery thread (assorted colors) for friendship bracelets
- ★ Clear packing tape
- ★ Inflatable/pool toys and games

For a complete list, visit our website. Donations may be tax-deductible.



Children's Oncology Camp Foundation

P.O. Box 1450  
Missoula, MT 59806-1450  
www.campdream.org

# 2019

## Camp Māk-A-Dream Events

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lip Sync Battle

April 7, 2019  
LipSyncMissoula.com  
Missoula, MT

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual RATPOD Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day

June 22, 2019  
Ratpod.org  
Dillon, MT



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