

SPRING 2020

THE DREAMCATCHER



News from Camp Māk-A-Dream

GOLD CREEK, MONTANA

Once Upon a Time in Gold Creek, Montana . . .

A helicopter touched down in the grassy field in Gold Creek, Montana on July 21, 1995 and out stepped General Norman Schwartzkopf. His arrival was met by puzzled stares from the excited group of campers standing at the edge of the field. They were expecting Arnold Schwarzenegger,” Melanie Nedrud says, laughing. “They were so cute, they all kind of looked at each other like ‘Who’s that?’ They did like the helicopter, though.”

It was a momentous day. Schwartzkopf, along with hundreds of others, including Camp founders Harry and Sylvia Granader, Governor Marc Racicot, board members, donors, staff, volunteers and most importantly, 46 campers raised the flag on Camp’s inaugural session.

The day is a vivid memory for both Melanie Nedrud and Paulette Fisher, charter members of Camp’s Board of Directors, who also served as its first and second Board Presidents respectively.

“The grass wasn’t all in by the cabins, and the kitchen wasn’t complete, but the dream had become reality. Magic happened.” said Paulette.

As Camp marks its 25th Anniversary this year, Melanie and Paulette were gracious enough to talk with us about what those early days were like after Harry Granader announced he planned to build a camp for kids with cancer on 87 acres of his Montana ranch in Gold Creek and that he needed their help in making that dream become reality.

Paulette Fisher – Missoula resident and school teacher – and her husband, Dave, owned a construction company in Missoula, Montana that built a home for Harry and Sylvia Granader on the 6C Cattle Company property in

Gold Creek. The two men became friends and eventually Harry convinced them to not only construct Camp on some 80 acres of this ranch land, but enlisted Paulette to help get the organization off the ground as well.

“We needed to launch a 501c3, form a board of directors and raise around a million dollars,” recalls Paulette. They also had to find families with kids diagnosed with cancer who would send their children to a beautiful, but remote location in western Montana.

As daunting as this all sounds, it was that and more - but Paulette agreed and immediately enlisted the help of her friend Melanie Nedrud. With lots of hard work and help from an ambitious and dedicated group who volunteered their time, talents, resources, connections, determination and good old elbow grease. The group’s aim was high. The odds of building a cancer camp in a remote state

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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.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

- + *16 camp sessions*
- + *716 campers/participants*
343 new, 373 returning
- + *184 volunteers*
from 24 states and Canada
- + *15 summer staff*
4 brand-new to Camp, 7 returning staff,
6 former volunteers, 6 former Campers
- + *10 physicians & 21 nurses*
(14 new) volunteered to provide care
at one or more Camp sessions
- + *More than \$55,000*
in travel scholarships awarded to 105 new campers
- + *539 riders*
at the 18th annual RATPOD fundraiser bike ride
including 131 on the short route
- + *25 acts & more than 800
in attendance*
at the University of Montana Dennison Theater
for the 3rd annual lip sync battle
- + *Successful new healthcare
professionals Caregivers
Retreat*

Save the Date!

You are cordially invited to celebrate our 25th Anniversary at the

Gold Creek Gala

October 3, 2020

Hilton Garden Inn | Missoula, MT

Tickets for the event will go on sale in August 2020

For more information and updates, please visit

<https://www.campdream.org/events/25thanniversarycelebration/>

We hope to see you there!

If you can't make it to the Gala, but would still like to help us celebrate, contact us to learn more about some smaller celebrations we are holding at the Camp facility in Gold Creek throughout the summer season.

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with a tiny population and no pediatric oncology center are long. But together they made Harry's dream a Montana reality. "We raised that flag at the first camp session just four years after we started fundraising," said Paulette.

"I didn't know what I didn't know" admitted Paulette, "and that was probably a good thing. We just knew that Camp would make a difference to these kids. And if you can make a difference in even one person's life, that's what it's all about. Camp allowed us to give people a little fun, some hope and the opportunity for new friendships at a hard time in their lives. Camp brings so many people together whose paths might never cross otherwise."

"My dad died of brain cancer when I was 14, then my mom died when I myself was a young mother," Melanie said. "If you've been touched by cancer, you know what they're going through; it's still fresh in my mind about how unfair it all seemed. Cancer doesn't care who it affects."

"We saw such amazing community support for this new camp project" Melanie continued, "it was such a fabulous example of communities coming together to support something they believed in. And here we are, 25 years later, and it's still going strong!"

Twenty-five years, 240 camps and over 8,000 campers later, Melanie and Paulette still support Camp and find deep meaning in its mission. Our thanks to them both for sharing their memories of the early days before Camp even existed, for their dedication and for bringing along so many other dear friends who made Harry and Sylvia's dream come to life.

2020 Cost-free Programs

Open to cancer patients in or out of treatment

April 30-May 4

Ovarian Cancer Retreat

Women diagnosed with Ovarian cancer (21+ years old)

May 7-11

Women's Cancer Retreat

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

June 3-8

Young Adult Conference

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

June 11-16

Heads Up Conference

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

June 25-30

Teen Camp

Teenagers diagnosed with cancer (14-18 years old)

July 6-11

Teen Heads Up Conference Session #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 and children of cancer patients (6-13 years old)

July 30-Aug. 4

Teen Siblings Camp

Siblings and children of cancer patients (14-18 years old)

Aug. 7-12

Teen Heads Up Conference Session #2

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

August 14-17

Family Camp

Families including a child survivor (up to age 12), parents & siblings

August 27-31

Ovarian Cancer Retreat

Women diagnosed with Ovarian cancer (21+ years old)

Sept. 10-14

Women's Cancer Retreat

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

Sept. 25-27

Caregivers Retreat

Cancer survivor and their care giver (21+ years old)

Oct. 23-25

Medical Caregivers Retreat

Medical professionals; continuing education and fee applies

For more information or to apply visit www.campdream.org or call (406)549-5987

First Ever Retreat for Survivors and Their Caregivers

In 2019, Camp hosted a successful pilot Caregiver Retreat geared towards enhancing the emotional and physical wellbeing of healthcare providers. This year, we are excited to expand our vision of supporting the caregiver community by offering our first ever family focused Caregiver Retreat September 25-27th. This three-day session will be packed with fun and learning and will focus on four important goals: introducing techniques for improved communication, addressing anxiety over the "unknown" of cancer diagnosis/treatment/care, improving self-care and personal wellbeing, and providing outlets for fun and respite. We are excited to welcome participants from across the country!

Tessa Heuermann is our new Wellness Programming Manager. This will be her first time leading workshops

at a Camp Mak-A-Dream retreat. She is excited to meet everyone, enjoy the community created at Camp and learn from survivors and their caregivers. Tessa also looks forward to working with veteran Camp presenters like Patrick Marsolek and Cynthia Favara. Patrick will lead discussions focused on listening for and expressing our needs and emotions, and self-care for dealing with stress and anxiety. Cynthia will lead group sessions, using yoga practice and breathing techniques to support body healing and relaxation.

Thanks to all that provided support to help get these Caregiver Retreats off the ground! We look forward to implementing this new program to meet the growing needs of our community. Stay tuned for details on what is to come.

Live with. Live beyond.



1995

- Grand opening and first Kids Camp session at Camp — 44 campers from 9 different states for one week

1996

- Inaugural Young Adult Conference, Siblings Camp and first Women's Cancer Retreat sessions held
- High ropes course constructed by members of Missoula Sunrise Rotary and service members at Malstrom Air Force Base

1997

- Hosted the inaugural Ovarian Retreat for 19 campers, and first Winter YAC session
- Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream established in Michigan
- Philipsburg, Montana officially "adopts" Camp Mak-A-Dream



1999

- Surpassed 1,000 campers crossing the Bridge of Dreams



2000

- Celebrated Camp's 5th Anniversary

2001

- Kids Camp cancelled due to wild fires in the area



2002

- First annual RATPOD (Ride Around the Pioneers in One Day) cycling event raises \$36,000 for Camp
- Inaugural Teen Camp







2003

- Groundbreaking ceremony for new Health Center building
- Surpassed 2,000 campers crossing the Bridge of Dreams



2004

- Grand opening of the new Health Center

	Number of camp sessions	1	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	9	9
	States represented	9	21	20	29	26	21	26	26	33	31	31 plus Canada & Chile	31
	Number of campers	44	121	212	252	246	152	199	190	234	191	277	252
	Ratpod riders								112	167	263	360	400
YEAR		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006

2005

- Welcomed 277 campers from 31 states, Canada and Chile
- Camp celebrated its 10th Anniversary

2006

- Harry Granadar, beloved founder, passed away
- Camp receives a sweet, new ride: a brand new, custom built, blue school bus! (thanks to National Auto Body Council)



2007

- Grand opening of the tree house zipline

2008

- Inaugural Heads Up Conference (HUC) for young adult brain tumor survivors
- The debut of the new Lewis & Clark themed mini golf course



2009

- Due to increased demand, addition of second annual ovarian cancer retreat — now offering both spring and fall sessions

2010

- Inaugural Teen Heads Up Conference (Teen HUC) for teenage brain tumor survivors
- Camp celebrates its 15th Anniversary

2012

- Surpassed 5,200 campers crossing the Bridge of Dreams

2015

- Camp celebrates its 20th Anniversary
- Grand opening of the new Wellness Center



2016

- Held the first annual Lip Sync Battle event, 'fun' draiser for Camp



2018

- Expanded women's cancer retreats by adding second session in the spring
- Hosted inaugural family camp

2019

- First caregivers session offered (program for medical professionals)

2020

- Camp celebrates its 25th Anniversary

25 Years of Camp!

TOTAL CAMPERS *over* TO DATE **8,000**

9	8	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	13	15	16
33	36	34	37 plus Canada	41 plus Canada	39 plus Canada	37 plus Canada & Jordan	36 plus Canada	41 plus Canada	41 plus Canada	43 plus Canada	43 plus Canada	45 plus Canada	44 plus Canada	
258	203	216	315	329	354	379	429	447	536	556	568	645	716	
400	450	500	550	550	650	650	650	650	650	459	364	521	539	
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Campers REMEMBERED

Terri Barragan
Lincoln Park, MI

Marie Chavez
Hamlin, TX

Brittany Crosby
Georgetown, TX

Cat DeMoranville
Lakeville, MA

Terri Gerace
Prairieville, LA

Sharon Grammer
Charlotte, NC

Lori Hamilton
Spokane, WA

Mary Lynn Hardesty
High Point, NC

Jamie Johnson
Missoula, MT

Candy Jones
Norristown, PA

Kathy Jones
Paso Robles, CA

Niki Kallstrom
Victorville, CA

Taylor Lieber
Edina, MN

Maggie Long
Helena, MT

Susan Matthews
Hamilton, MT

Laurie McAndrews
Rockford, IL

Heather Medford
Oconomowoc, WI

Kim Michaelson
Waterford, WI

Shelley Moreno
The Colony, TX

Cristal Ortega
Cicero, IL

Anita Otero
Memphis, TN

Kate Pepper
McKinney, TX

Cynthia Perez
Walker, MI

Sue Quick
Fremont, OH

Dana Scatton
Weatherly, PA

Patricia Sena
San Clemente, CA

Renae Sheibley
St Louis Park, MN

Mary Strachan
Pace, FL

Linda Sullivan
Smyrna, DE

Nancy Theis
Greendale, WI

Chris Trachtenbarg
Portland, OR

Truc Tran
Whitehall, PA

Crystal Vargas
New York, NY

Jodi Vetter
Colorado Springs, CO

Christine Williams
Holton, MI

Jamiah Williams
Detroit, MI

Terah Young
Nampa, ID

These campers have passed away in the last year. List current at time of printing.



Impact of Camp

Camper Stats:

I made new friends at Camp (98%)
Camp helped me to build a support community (87%)

Parent Stats:

I would recommend Camp to another family (100%)
My child gained self-confidence at Camp (89%)

Quotes from Campers, Families and Volunteers:

“Since attending Camp, I don’t feel so lost, alone, and defined by my cancer experience. I feel a sense of belonging and hope that I didn’t before.”

- YAC Participant

“The connections we made with the other families going through the same ordeal of childhood cancer diagnosis make our family stronger.”

- Jingle, Mom from August Family Camp

“While doctors attempt to heal our bodies, Camp restores our spirit, our souls and our minds. It is an amazing place.”

- Pam, Ovarian Cancer Retreat

“Camp has shown me it’s ok to be different.”

- Nicholas, Kids Camp

“Every day was full of energy, fun, humbling moments, and inspiration.”

- Taylor, First Time Volunteer

“Camp gives Natalie a week of being around kids with similar challenges and medical histories, and in turn, this helps Natalie to see that she is not alone. She always comes home from camp being more positive and sure of herself.”

- Kids Parent



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

The Granader Family Legacy

Some 25 years after Camp Mak-A-Dream opened its doors, thanks to the vision and generosity of Camp founders Harry and Sylvia Granader, the Granader family remains supportive of the programs in Montana, even from afar. Here is what Harry's brother Hadar and son Neil had to say about the legacy that continues today in Gold Creek and their dreams for the future of Camp.

What do you recall about Harry and Sylvia's dream of starting a Camp in Montana?

Neil: "What I most recall is that my father came up with the idea and my mother jumped on the bandwagon. Over their long marriage, they each had many independent interests and activities. I think that camp was special to them because they were both 100% committed to starting Camp Mak-A-Dream and it was an opportunity to work together on something very meaningful to both of them."

Hadar: "In 1996, Harry asked me to join a board in Michigan to help support Camp he & Sylvia had just started. He wanted to create a group of supporters who would fundraise for Camp including making sure kids from Michigan could attend."

Why is it important to you to stay involved and continue supporting the Camp after all these years?

Neil: "Louise and I have chosen to be involved in Camp as a way of honoring my parents and because we have a wonderful time with the campers and the staff. Being at Camp is one of the high points of our year."

Hadar: "You might think it's the Granader family connection, but that's not my motivation. I believe in Camp. That's it. I believe it's essential that there's a place like this in the world for those affected by cancer."

What is your vision of the Granader family involvement in helping sustain Camp for the next 25 years and beyond?

Hadar: "I hope our family will continue to pledge their support and want to build on the commitment of those of us in Michigan — to make it even stronger. I am excited to have Harry's son, Neil, and his wife Louise moving to Michigan (from their current residence in California) this year. I think their passion for Camp will help us strengthen the connection between Camp and those of us here in Michigan who want to support what's happening in Montana."

Neil: "I believe that Hadar and fellow Granader family members are very committed to doing whatever they can to sustain Camp in the future — and Louise and I hope to be able to help out once we get to Michigan. I am positive that my parents would be thrilled to know how many lives Camp has touched. They were modest people, my mother especially, but I am sure they would be touched to know how many people remember and appreciate them. My parents would also want all of Camp Mak-A-Dream's supporters to know how much their support has meant to so many people."



Live with. Live beyond.



Children's Oncology Camp Foundation
 P.O. Box 1450
 Missoula, MT 59806-1450
www.campdream.org

Camp Māk-A-Dream 2020 EVENTS

5th Annual Lip Sync Battle

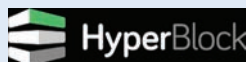
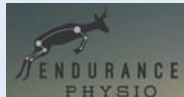
May 17, 2020 | Missoula, MT
LipSyncMissoula.com

19th Annual RATPOD

Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day
 June 20, 2020 | Dillon, MT
Campdream.org/events/ratpod/

GOLD CREEK GALA

25th Anniversary Celebration
 October 3, 2020 | Missoula, MT
Campdream.org/events/25thanniversarycelebration/



2020 sponsors as of March 1, 2020.

CONTACT US > www.campdream.org | P.O. Box 1450 Missoula, MT 59806 | 406-549-5987 | info@campdream.org

