

SPRING 2022

THE DREAMCATCHER



News from Camp Māk-A-Dream

GOLD CREEK, MONTANA



Honoring Hadar Granader

We are excited to welcome some new faces and spaces at Camp this year! We hope you will read on and meet some of our new “People of Camp” in the center of the newsletter, but we are also excited to announce the addition of a barn on our campus in fall of 2022. This 1700+ square foot building will not only be a home to our horse program, but will also provide an accessible bathroom and shelter for our campers when they are up riding horses, climbing the rock wall or demonstrating courage on the high ropes course. We are thrilled to add this facility to our campus and it would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of Hadar Granader, his family and friends.

Hadar, brother of camp-founder Harry Granader, has been an avid supporter and advocate of Camp Mak-A-Dream for over 20 years. He first became a board member of the Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream organization in Michigan, taking over the presidency twice. His enthusiasm and love for Camp has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars providing an opportunity for Michigan kids to have a life changing experience in Montana. As the

current president of the board, he has worked tirelessly sustaining and creatively implementing Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream’s fundraising efforts through the pandemic.

A regular visitor to Camp, he often brings friends and family to give them a glimpse of Camp’s magic. In doing so, he helps them understand the value and impact of this meaningful experience. Hadar is quick to share accolades about the staff and board of directors that make Camp possible while engaging supporters in realizing how their generosity empowers survivors from all over the U.S. to live with and beyond cancer.

Hadar is also devoted to his family, friends, faith and community... oh, and maybe tennis. His contagious enthusiasm for life, can-do spirit and compassion for others is unparalleled. This year marks a milestone birthday for Hadar and his family wanted to be sure to honor not only the love and support he has given them, but also the significant impact he has made in the lives of those affected by cancer. We, his Camp family, could not agree more and are pleased to dedicate our newest building, the barn, in his honor. Happy birthday, Hadar!

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.

2021 VIRTUAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

- + **8 Virtual Sessions**
This includes the new “Game Night for Grown-Ups”
- + **2 In-Person Sessions**
Women’s Retreat and Family Camp
- + **263 campers/participants**
63 kids; 200 adults
201 virtually; 62 in-person
- + **114+ hours of virtual programming offered**
- + **Over 200**
“Camp-in-a-Box” and Camp t-shirts sent
- + **219 riders**
in the 20th Anniversary RATPOD in Dillon, MT (rider number limited due to COVID)
- + **17 acts**
at the 5th Annual Lip Sync Battle--- held outdoors at Ogren Stadium

Executive Director and Board President Message

“Resilience is silent and deep, like roots. It doesn’t announce itself. It doesn’t explode outward. It doesn’t fall. It doesn’t break. It simply always is. And you are.”

Poet Victoria Erickson captures the essence of resilience and reminds us that the human spirit is inherently resilient. At Camp, we are fortunate to witness glimpses of the inspiring resilience of survivors and their families in both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. The resilience part of our mission has been tested and never more important over the past couple of arduous years. Our team rose to meet the challenges and our community thrived despite physical distance.

You can imagine we are more excited and grateful than ever to be looking forward to a “mostly normal”, in-person season this year. We will never again take for granted the small moments, life-giving interactions and pervasive spirit of hope, friendship and connection that fills our campus each season. We are looking forward to campers crossing the Bridge of Dreams for a week of building lasting relationships, laughing until your side hurts, trying new things and being present in and thankful for the moment.

The new faces at Camp are bringing a fresh perspective and contagious energy while our familiar faces have found a renewed vigor for the work we are privileged to do. Regardless if it is your first time at Camp or your 27th season here, we are family and we are thrilled to welcome you home.

This is only achievable with the support of countless people and organizations who donate resources, time, talent and advocacy. We are fortunate to have diverse supporters who believe in empowering survivors and show up for Camp in a myriad of ways. They ride bikes to raise money, wash dishes, volunteer their expertise for a camper activity, serve on the board, share social media posts, lip sync and dance their hearts out and more. They--- YOU--- make Camp possible.

While the past two years may have been difficult, we are proud of the resilience our Camp community has shown. It is deep, like roots, and will continue to be the foundation for exceptional seasons and meaningful experiences to come.

With heartfelt gratitude and giddy anticipation,

Kim McKearnan and *Dan McGee*
Executive Director Board President



Returning to Camp in Person— We Couldn't Be Happier!

It has been pretty quiet around campus these past couple of seasons, but things are finally changing and we are excited to be hosting in person programs once again in Gold Creek, Montana! The first folks to step back onto campus were several Montana families last fall for Family Camp (in partnership with the Cancer Support Community of MT), followed by a lovely group of ladies for a Fall Women's Retreat.

Once the ball dropped marking the New Year, the 2022 season got underway with the first ever in person Caregivers' Retreat (that we had planned to hold back in 2020), followed closely by the Spring Women's Retreat in May.

Plans are to hold a slightly modified Summer Season throughout June, July and early August as well as our usual Fall Retreats, including an Ovarian specific, a general Women's and two more Caregiver's Retreats in September and October. It's GREAT to be back to hosting people in person again!!!!!!

Camp Mak-A-Dream offers programs for nearly every member of families affected by cancer, empowering them to live with and beyond cancer through life-changing Montana experiences where they strengthen life skills, gain resilience and develop lasting relationships.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please check out our website at www.campdream.org and see the 2022 Program Schedule for specific dates and session information.

2022 Cost-free Programs

Open to cancer patients in or out of treatment

Spring

April 21-24 Caregivers Retreat

Cancer survivor and their caregiver (ages 21+)

May 12-16 Ovarian & Women's Cancer Retreat

Women diagnosed with any type of cancer (ages 21+)

Summer

June 7-12 Young Adult Conference

Young adults diagnosed with cancer (ages 18-35)

June 16-21 Heads Up Conference

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

Partner program with Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

July 6-11 Kids & Young Siblings Camp

Children diagnosed with cancer & siblings/children of cancer patients (ages 6-12)

July 15-20 Teen Siblings Camp

Teen siblings and/or children of cancer patients (ages 13-18)

July 25-30 Teen Heads Up Conference

Teenagers diagnosed with a brain tumor (ages 13-18)

Partner program with Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Aug. 3-8 Teen Camp

Teens diagnosed with cancer (ages 13-18)

Aug. 11-14 Family Camp

Families affected by cancer (survivor, parents, siblings)

Fall

Aug. 25-29 Ovarian Cancer Retreat

Women diagnosed with Ovarian cancer (ages 21+)

Sept. 8-12 Women's Cancer Retreat

Women diagnosed with any type of cancer (ages 21+)

Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Caregivers Retreat

Cancer survivor and their caregiver (ages 21+)

Oct. 21-23 Professional Caregivers Retreat

Medical & professional caregivers

Applications online at: www.campdream.org/apply/

Late January (for Spring sessions)

Mid-March (for Summer sessions)

Early June (for Fall sessions)

WELCOME TO THE MANY NEW FACES AT CAMP



Kelly Scariano

Joined the Board in September 2021

“Cancer took my mom's life. Witnessing her suffering and walking with her and our family motivated me to become involved with Camp Mak-A-Dream. This is one small way I can give to others and be part of an amazing organization that touches the lives of both campers and their families.”

Laura Churchman

Laura has been with the Marketing and Risk Management team at ALPS since 2011. She enjoys bringing a creative flair to everything she is involved in, including organizations with missions that light her up. Laura has paired her love of the outdoors with helping people through a connection with the natural world. She served on the board of Missoula Urban Demonstration Projection (MUD) from 2008 to 2012 to educate and facilitate self-sufficiency and sustainability in everyday life. Together with her husband Matthew and his employer, Blackfoot River Outfitters, she helped plan and fundraise for the biannual Memorial Float in support of the Clark Fork Coalition and Montana Trout Unlimited. This event gives people the opportunity to honor lost loved ones through a day of reflection on the river. Most recently, Laura connected with the mission of Camp Mak-a-Dream's to help survivors of cancer and their families to heal through the natural beauty of Montana. She and Matthew had the opportunity to participate in RATPOD Unlimited in 2021, riding in celebration and support of their dear friend and her 5-year-old son who is now currently in remission from a Wilms tumor. She joined the Board in October of 2021.



Allie Maffit, MD, MS

Dr. Maffit is a born and raised Montanan. She grew up in Helena and completed her undergraduate work at Carroll College. While attending High School she was able to volunteer at Camp Mak-A-Dream which helped ignite her passion for pediatric oncology. She earned her medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska and performed her residency in pediatrics at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She completed her fellowship in pediatric hematology and oncology at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon prior to moving back to Montana. While in fellowship Dr. Maffit obtained a Masters of Science in Healthcare Management, participated in research focused on the bone marrow microbiome, and served as a children's health care advocate to encourage policy changes for children both locally and nationally. When she's not at the clinic, Dr. Maffit enjoys taking advantage of our great outdoors by hiking, kayaking, biking with her family.





**Lauren Bender
(Camp Co-Director)**

Lauren grew up in Idaho and graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Social Work. She spent 8 years as the Program Director at a camp in Idaho and is excited to be a part of the Camp Mak-A-Dream team. Lauren enjoys any and all sports, music, and exploring the outdoors.

“Camp is all about the people! I can’t wait to meet all the incredible people who are part of the Mak-A-Dream community and share in the magic and fun of Camp!”



**Kelly Lorton
(Deputy Director)**

“This will be my first summer at camp, and I am unbelievably excited to become part of the Camp Mak-A-Dream community and support this incredible organization. Camp touches the lives of so many people across the country and I’m looking forward to working closely with our volunteer staff

and program team to create an unforgettable experience for our campers.”

Kelly was born and raised in Minnesota and earned her undergraduate degree from Drake University in business management. She then moved to North Carolina and began her career in finance with SBA Lending, while completing the MBA program at UNC Charlotte. She moved to Missoula in the spring of 2020 and fell in love with the mountains, the people and the endless adventures. Kelly spends all her free time hiking, riding horses and backpacking through the gorgeous Montana wilderness.



**Stu Kaplan (Director of
Medical Operations)**

Stu has served at camp in the past as a volunteer cabin counselor, volunteer physician, Board Member, and on staff as Camp Director and Executive Director. After 10 years away pursuing an MBA overseas and a career in Eating Disorder Care and Advocacy, he is thrilled

to return to Missoula and Camp Mak-A-Dream. Stu's passions include baseball (Let's Go Mets) and performing arts and he has been a longtime volunteer at the Missoula Children's Theatre.

“Camp is where everyone can leave baggage at the door and be celebrated for who they are, not judged for what they have. Camp is the epitome of the community we all crave. I think we have all learned that lesson the past few years. It's great to be home.”

**Matt Beck
(Deputy Director)**

Matt is a native of Michigan where he graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. He was previously a cabin leader for Camp Mak-A-Dream during the 2018 and 2019 summer seasons. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to work for camp. Matt enjoys being able to get outside and experience Big Sky Country. Matt loves to watch sports especially when it comes to the Lions or Penguins.

“Camp is truly extraordinary and holds a special place in my heart. I love that I now get to be a part of an amazing staff and work to ensure camp is a special place for campers. My favorite part about camp is creating memories and friendships.”

**Gary Strong
(Camp Chef)**

Executive Chef Gary Strong has been in the hospitality industry for over 30 years and has worked at such places as the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was the Executive Banquet Chef for the Double J Resort in Rothbury, Michigan where he was in charge of all the weddings and corporate events and large parties and the Executive Chef of Michigan Princess Riverboats in Lansing, Michigan going up and down the Grand River serving amazing lunches and dinner cruises. He also has been in the camp world before as the Executive Chef for Camp Newaygo and Ridge Specialties Catering. Chef Strong is very excited to be back in the camp world!

“I love children and food so what better place than camp Mak-A-Dream to bring them both together and give back, it means the world to me!”



Campers REMEMBERED

Carson Bailey
Huber Heights, OH

Brianna Bentley
Lansing, MI

Gail Burruss
Roanoke, VA

Samantha Call
Brooklyn, OH

Sharron Cornutt
Eugene, OR

Lisa Flynn
Longmont, CO

Flo Francis
Minneapolis, MN

Tammye Gregoire
Oro Valley, AZ

Ni Guttenfelder
Fort Worth, TX

Jackie Janssen
Shepherd, TX

Joan Janssen
Sun Prairie, WI

Angel Jolivette
Temecula, CA

Gina Kopack
Edgewater, MD

Lindsey Kozecke
Concord, NC

Tiff Krause
Elgin, IL

Eva Leisure
Ontario, Canada

Tina Manore
Ottawa Lake, MI

Gretchen Mokry
San Francisco, CA

Lori Noone
Mechanicsburg, PA

Bryan Paredes
Bronx, NY

Stephanie Perez
Mazomanie, WI

Grace Richardson
Arlington, TN

David Rodriguez
Arlington, TX

Eileen Stanley
Rockford, IL

Alan Strahota
Elko New Market, MN

Sue "Trap" Trapper
Homer, NY

Marianne Turnbull
St. Paul, MN

Zander Wainhouse
Snoqualmie, WA

Carol Wilson
Lakewood, CO

Elaine Wronski
Sturbridge, MA

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



Quotes from Campers & Families

“I am a 1st time participant in the camp and although we had to be virtual I had a great time laughing talking and connecting with fellow campers. They received me with open arms and it felt amazing.”

Gladys

“Being able to connect with other survivors this year has meant the world to me. There’s a feeling of family, belonging, and acceptance that’s like nothing I’ve ever felt before.”

Amanda

“Family Camp allows us to step away from the busy-ness of every day life and spend quality time together in a healing environment.”

Montana family

“Camp Mak-A-Dream creates a safe space to explore emotions, ask questions and relax from the pressure of being a cancer patient. From the moment they meet you at the airport until the last breakfast, you can tell the staff really cares about our physical and emotional health. It’s a true gift.”

Ann

“I simply did not realize just how much I needed this camp. It has been vital to my healing journey.”

Cyndy

“It’s so cliché, but there is something magical about camp. I come back from being there and feel so refreshed and renewed. It’s a place of acceptance and understanding.”

Katie



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

How Can I Help Camp?

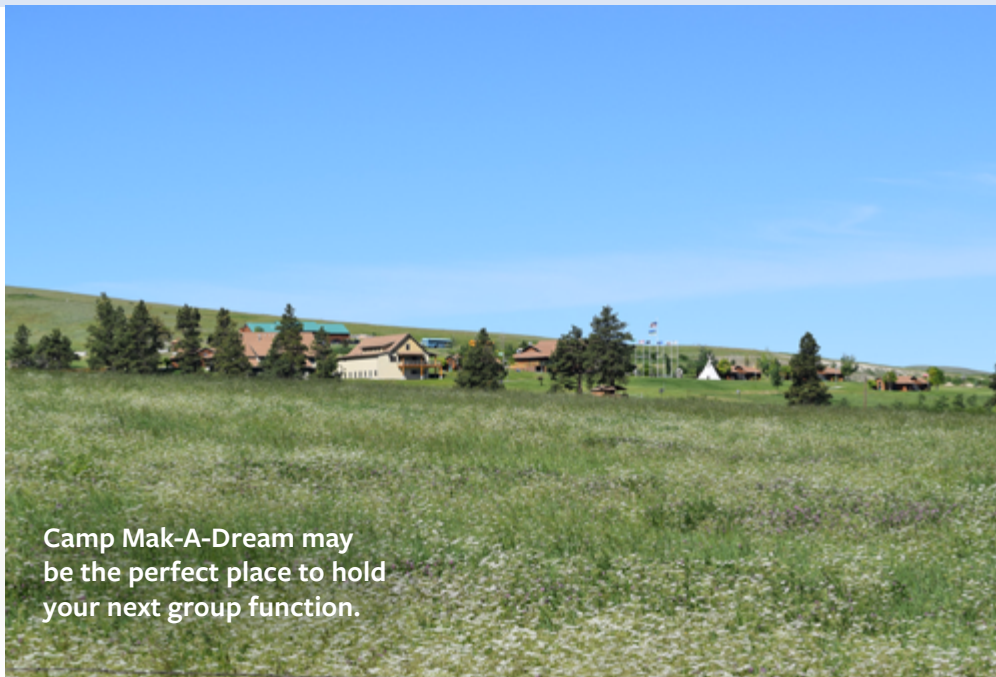
- ▶ Make a donation – in honor or memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion
- ▶ Give an item or two from our Wish List - see our website for a complete list
- ▶ Invite us to speak – we can present at your civic organization or business meeting
- ▶ Volunteer your time – at camp, in our office or at a fundraising event
- ▶ Rent our facility – Camp is a great place for meetings, group retreats, or family reunions
- ▶ Become a corporate sponsor – we hold a number of annual fundraising events
- ▶ Lend your talents – share useful information 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 - we offer programs for almost everyone!

There are lots of everyday items needed at Camp, so please consider donating a gift card or something from our Wish List(s). Donations may also be tax-deductible. For a complete list and link to our Amazon Wish List, please visit: www.campdream.org/ways-to-support/our-wish-list/

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 October through March.

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 or contact us at (406) 549-5987.



Camp Mak-A-Dream may be the perfect place to hold your next group function.

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



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

Camp Māk-A-Dream 2022 EVENTS

6th Annual Lip Sync Battle

Dennison Theatre, UM Campus
 April 24th | Missoula, MT
www.LipSyncMissoula.com

21st Annual RATPOD

Ride Around The Pioneers in One Day
 June 25th | Dillon, MT
 Two routes (127 mile road or 68 mile part-gravel, plus virtual 'Unlimited' option)
www.ratpod.org

Thanks to our 2022 event sponsors for their generous support

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