CAMP CONNECTION
CAMP MÁK-A-DREAM

A publication of the Children's Oncology Camp Foundation
An Outdoor Experience for Children and Adults Affected by Cancer

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Children's Oncology Camp Foundation is to provide an appropriately supervised, cost-free camp program (Camp Mak-A-Dream) for children with cancer, in order that these children may have the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun-filled camp activities, learn new skills, form positive peer relationships and develop greater independence and self-esteem.

The camp will be available on a priority basis to:
2. Adults with cancer.
3. Other individuals and groups with special needs and interests who wish to participate in a camp experience.

1995 GRAND OPENING-
WOW! WHAT A SUMMER!

After two and a half years of planning and work, Camp opened with a grand and glorious celebration! The grand opening took place on July 21st. Several campers arrived early to help Governor Marc Racicot raise the "dream" flag. As the flag went up, two bald eagles soared overhead.

More than 500 guests enjoyed the celebration including hot dogs, popcorn, a shooting star cake (donated by local merchants), and "Dreams do come true" cups (donated by Chicago businessman David Longacre). The weeks before Camp were humming with activity as hundreds of volunteers spent numerous hours getting ready. Preparations included hammering, nailing, raking, planting trees and flowers, cleaning and even decorating the cabins with donated Monte Dolack prints. Without our volunteers Camp would not have become a reality for all of the summer's special campers.

Campers arrived the morning of Saturday, July 22nd and were treated to one of the best weeks of their lives. Activities included swimming, hunting for sapphires, learning about birds, dancing with Native dancers, craft projects, a barn dance, horseback riding, sports and games. A grand time was had by all!

Time was also set aside for campers to take quiet walks and share in conversations about their individual experiences and living with cancer. Lasting friendships developed between campers and counselors. And those feelings have been expressed time and time again in letters and phone calls, reminding us all how valuable this Camp and the experiences it provides really are!

"How many of us will make it? Nobody knows. But we'll keep cherished memories of our new found friends... All because of a place called Camp Mak-A-Dream."

Love & Thanks,
Sara, Age 13
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In October, 1995 I had the great privilege of beginning my term as President of Children's Oncology Camp Foundation. With the tremendous leadership and dedication of the Foundation's founding president, Melanie Nedrud, Camp Mak-A-Dream became a reality. The facility was opened and the campers came for "A Summer of Dreams." Everyone who believed in the dream had the tremendous satisfaction of seeing the vision become a reality. Now, as we embark on the next phase of development for the organization and the camp, I am very grateful for, and appreciative of, a dedicated Board of Directors, staff and countless volunteers who are taking this journey with me.

What continuing challenges face the new President and Board of Directors?

FIRST: We must continue our fundraising efforts. There is still much to be done! Not only are we raising funds to complete payment for the facility, we have also accepted the challenging goal of raising $3,000,000 in endowment funds to provide cost-free camping.

SECOND: We must keep up with all the wonderful projects that so many volunteers initiate for Camp! We can't say "thank you" enough to everyone who carried out, and participated in, the Blockbuster Video-Radio Campaign; the Christmas Tree Poster for Campers; the 1996 Wine Festival; the upcoming Flathead Lake Lodge fund-raiser in May; and the Southgate Mall-Dinamation event scheduled for August.

Additionally, we have many businesses and foundations to thank for contributions in the past months. Further, we give thanks to a tremendous number of individuals who have contributed funds, as well as to volunteers who have updated our computers, participated in our office and programs, designed our graphics, and who continue to share the Camp Mak-A-Dream vision with friends and neighbors.

THIRD: The Board of Directors will study and utilize information gained from a consultant who specializes in non-profit organizations. This study is resulting in action plans that will enable the Foundation to become even more effective in carrying out our mission.

FOURTH: We will anticipate the realization of our goal for 1996: 200 summer campers! This is a big leap from our first summer of 46 campers. However, Summer '95 proved how important our work is for children with cancer, and we are determined to extend our commitment to even more children and young adults.

FIFTH: (but not last) Our work will never be complete as long as new children are diagnosed with cancer, we will celebrate the lives of the children and families we have served and all of you who make Camp Mak-A-Dream possible through your donations of time, resources, and talents!

Sally Francis Kehayes, President
Board of Directors, Children's Oncology Camp Foundation

DREAMS ON THE NET

Thanks to Suzanne Steinbrenner, VP of Marketing for Infomine of the Rockies, in Butte, MT, Camp Mak-A-Dream is now on the Internet. Our address is: http://www.imagine.net/dream

"We live our lives day to day, we never plan in the future. We only dream. Some of us make it, some of us don't. I send a special thanks to the dreamers & workers who made camp possible.

Thank You!
Thad, Age 17"

"I can't say how thankful I am because there aren't enough words to express my feelings. Everyone who helped put this camp together deserves an award...I guess the biggest award you can get is knowing how much you have changed our lives...I've been so happy this week!"

Shanna, Age 16
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This past summer the Camp Foundation was blessed with 46 motivating campers from nine different states. These children reminded the volunteers, board members, donors and staff why we are raising seven million dollars for children with cancer. The outcome of our first session was beyond what we dreamed of, and everyone wants to return to share another summer!

Thanks to so many individuals, organizations, businesses, foundations and corporations, the Camp has been a tremendous success. Such dedication shows that amazing things can be accomplished when people unite for a great cause.

Now we are looking forward to the future. This summer is the start of year-round operations for the Camp. We're counting on your continued support and enthusiasm. Once again, thanks for all the help over the past three years to get Camp off the ground.

Tim Furey, Executive Director
Children's Oncology Camp Foundation

THANK YOU MELANIE!

The Board of Directors of Children's Oncology Camp Foundation would like to thank Melanie Nedrud, former President of the Board, for all of her hard work and dedication. Melanie started as the first president of the foundation back in 1992. She recently turned over her presidency to Sally Francis Kehayes of Missoula. Sally joins Vice Pres., Dave Calahan, Secretary, Kim Visser and Treasurer, Jan Cogdill. Several new board members joined this fall, including Larry Riley, Carole Erickson and Dale Moore. Welcome to all!

SPECIAL VISITOR COMES TO CAMP.

Campers were treated to a visit from General Norman Schwartzkopf. The General came via helicopter to visit with each and every camper. He rode in the Camp Hum Vee, but said he wasn't interested in driving it. The General is an advocate of cancer camps as demonstrated by his current efforts in building a camp in Florida called the Boggy Creek Gang Camp, also for kids with cancer.

DJ'S & BLOCKBUSTER "CAMP OUT FOR KIDS" TO RAISE LIFETIME CAMPERSHIPS.

Cindy Kay, DJ at Country 94.5 in Great Falls, spent seven days on the roof of her local Blockbuster Video store to raise money to send Great Falls kids to Camp Mak-A-Dream. Residents lived up to their town's "great" name by helping Cindy raise nearly $40,000 in those seven days.

"Camp out for kids" was the brainchild of Blockbuster Manager Mechel Nelson, whose brother died John, of cancer in 1995. Mechels' brother had spent time at a camp for young adults with cancer and felt it was the highlight of his summers.

After the success in Great Falls, Blockbuster Manager Patty Johnk, camp board member Dale Moore, and Blockbuster General Manager David Frazee organized a statewide project. The Blockbuster Video campaign "Camping Out For Kids" was a statewide success involving radio DJs in seven cities, raising a grand total of more than $160,000. It captured every imagina-ble audience from children raiding their piggy-banks, to corporations chal- lenging one another and even to cities challenging other cities. The sports fans were also in a frenzy. They created a touchdown club which rallied around the Grizzly versus Marshall game by making donations for touchdowns and extra points.

During this four day event in December, many live interviews were conducted including the founder of Camp Mak-A-Dream as well as last year's campers, counselors and nurses. These interviews helped raise the awareness of childhood cancer and added a heart warming touch to the campaign. Even local businesses were touched by the cause as evidenced by the story of one young camper who spoke of wanting a goldfish for her birthday. Before the interview had even ended, a local pet store responded to her plea by donating a fish and additional supplies.

Once the dust settled and the radio personalities from KLCO, KDBR, KZLO, ROCK 95, and Y-95 came down, the Blockbuster Video stores totaled up donations and came up with more than $160,000!

Thanks to all the campaigns' participants and donors, the following monies were collected enabling children with cancer to attend Camp Mak-A-Dream free of charge:

- Missoula $29,000
- Kalispell $42,000
- Bozeman $5,500
- Butte $2,700
- Helena $835,000
- Billings $7,000
- Great Falls $40,000
A BIT ABOUT OUR HISTORY

Deeply affected by the struggles and victories of more than 100,000 children with cancer in the United States, entrepreneur Harry Granader and his wife, Sylvia, donated 87 acres of their ranch in Gold Creek, Montana, to establish a new year-round resident camp.

Inspired by the success and positive impact of Paul Newman's Hole In the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut, Montana's Camp Mak-A-Dream is a wonderful, exciting opportunity for thousands of individuals who need an adventure-filled week focusing on opportunity rather than limitation. Camping helps build independence, self-confidence and self-esteem. Children and adults whose lives and attitudes are shaped by serious illness flourish when they have fun, learn new skills, and develop friendships with peers who understand their challenges.

Camp Mak-A-Dream serves children and adults with medical disabilities, the physically challenged, and siblings and parents of children with cancer. With fully winterized facilities, Camp Mak-A-Dream has the capacity to serve over 1,000 individuals in the summer months and an additional 4,000 youth, adults, and parents throughout the year.

The Children's Oncology Camp Foundation Board of Directors was formed to oversee the development of the Gold Creek camp. Bylaws and 501(c)(3) non-profit status are in place. Construction costs of Camp Mak-A-Dream have been estimated at $4,000,000 and a separate endowment fund of $3,000,000 will be established for operational expenses and camperships. There is no charge for youth attending Camp Mak-A-Dream.

Camp Mak-A-Dream, with its four-season facilities, fills a need for thousands of children, teens, and adults living with cancer. This year-round facility will accommodate youth and adults whose lives are touched with cancer and with other serious illnesses.

Thank you for helping us provide the chance of a lifetime for those who need and deserve this opportunity and experience.

CAMP AVAILABLE—PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE KIDS!

The Camp Foundation has built a state of the art facility in Gold Creek, MT. There are several buildings available for rental including: four cabins complete with fireplace and kitchen, an art barn, an outdoor pool, a basketball court and the main lodge. We encourage your group to consider our facilities when you start planning your next camp, seminar or workshop. Call the Camp office for more information at (406) 549-5987.

All proceeds will assist in providing cost-free programs for our campers.

HELP SEND A KID TO CAMP—BUY A CAMPERSHIP

Camp Mak-A-Dream is committed to the mission of providing a cost-free camping experience for children with cancer. Help us meet this mission. The cost for sending one camper is $500.00. You can sponsor a child you know, or sponsor a child who is unable to afford to go to camp. Fill out the form below and send to to the Camp Mak-A-Dream office at P.O. Box 7456, Missoula, MT 59807.

Name: ___________________ Phone: ___________________
Address: _____________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________ # of Years Pledged:
Amount Enclosed #: ______________

*HELP MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE. CALL (406) 549-5987 OR (800) 484-5890 EXT. CAMP (2257) *
CAMPER ROUNDUP 1996

If you know someone who might be interested in coming to Camp Mak-A-Dream this summer, please be sure to call the Camp office and we'll send out an invitation. Camp is free of charge to all young people ages 6-23 who are in the midst of cancer treatment or have had cancer in the past. Applications are reviewed by Connie Hanson, RN, Director of Health for Camp Mak-A-Dream and by Medical Director Dr. Tim Carte. We will be glad to send an application or answer any questions you may have. Just call the Camp office at (406)549-5987 or (800) 484-5890, ext. 2267.

CAMP STAFF 1996

We will be recruiting individuals, both volunteer and staff, for the 1996 summer session at Camp Mak-A-Dream. We are seeking counselors, program specialists, medical staff, maintenance help, housekeeping personnel, drivers, secretarial workers, kitchen help and lifeguards. If you are interested, or you know someone else who may be interested, or you just want more information, please call the Camp office at (406)549-5987 or (800) 484-5890, ext. 2267.

Plan your vacation around the summer schedule and make a child's dream come true!

COCF HOSTS YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER CONFERENCE (YACC) PLANNING SESSION.

On February 23rd and 24th, 1996, the Children's oncology Camp Foundation hosted 35 Health Care and Camp professionals from throughout the U.S.

These professionals came together at Camp Mak-A-Dream to help plan a summer program for older adolescents and young adults—the YACC—Young Adults with Cancer Conference.

The participants were from California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah and Washington.

A panel consisting of 4 young adults sharing their personal experiences with cancer started off the discussions. They described the struggles and challenges they faced due to having cancer at this unique time of life. The physical and psychological challenges of 17-23 year olds are different than those faced by children or older adults. The uncertainty of the future, the loss of peer support, the impact on career/education decisions and effects on socialization are all concerns that are specifically challenging to young adults with cancer. The participants spent many hours discussing and deciding on the best ways to provide a fun, exciting and beneficial experience for these young adults.

Camp Mak-A-Dream and the Board of Directors of Children's Oncology Camp Foundation are very proud to take a leadership role in this pioneering work. The outcome of these 2 days will be visible in August, 1996, at the first YACC and in the continuation of this program in years to come.

We want to thank all the wonderful participants of this weekend for their valuable input and also those who worked so hard to make it happen.

If you would like more information or want to become involved in the YACC program, please contact Connie Hanson, RN, Director of Health for Camp Mak-A-Dream, at (406)549-5987.
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
By Annie Pontrelli

Camp Mak-A-Dream special events create funds, friends and fun! We've had some successful events already and look forward to even more in the future.

For the Christmas sponsorship drive, Christmas tree posters were distributed to many Missoula businesses and office staffs bought star stickers to decorate the trees. The stars each represented $25.00, and a tree of 20 stars, totaling $500.00, meant another child could be sent to Camp. Thanks to the many "stars" out there, more than $12,000.00 was raised! Special thanks to the creative gals who made this project possible: Kitty Lusse, Kim Visser, HJ Hanson, Melanie Nedrud and Judy Brodsky.

The most recent event was the annual Wine Festival on February 10th which raised $20,000, an all-time high. Coordinated by Earl's Distributing and the Village Red Lion, the festival offered a variety of fine wines and delectable food samples supplied by local vendors. The highlight of the evening came when the auction began. Generous donations included travel packages to Arizona, Seattle, California, tickets to a Mariner's game, fine art, wine and several other high-quality auction items. Camp Mak-A-Dream has been the beneficiary of the festival proceeds for the past two years. Many thanks to all of the sponsors, generous donors, bidders as well as co-chairs Sharon Snavely and MJ Schulte.

An LPGA golf tournament is planned for the fall. Details are still being confirmed, so look in the next newsletter for more information. Thanks to everyone who has helped make our events a success and thanks to all who help make dreams come true.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
By Deb Greer

Horseback riding, sapphire mining, fishing, swimming, canoeing, pottery, archery, fimo jewelry, poetry, hayrides, basketball, theater and camping out! These are just some of the great ways the kids spend their time at Camp Mak-A-Dream. There truly is something for everyone, even learning to line dance at a western style barn dance. It's a wonderful time for all.

STAFF PROFILE-CONNIE DOPP HANSON

We are pleased to announce that Connie Dopp Hanson, Director of Health for Camp Mak-A-Dream will now be with us full-time. Connie is originally from Kalispell and graduated from St. Patrick School of Nursing in 1974. She has 22 years of nursing experience in oncology, pediatrics, Hospice Care, medical/surgery and camp nursing.

For almost three years now, Connie has been working to recruit campers and plan for their care at Camp Mak-A-Dream. She, along with Dr. Tim Carre, have developed and coordinated a health care program to accommodate the numerous health care needs of the campers.

Connie resides in Missoula, Montana with her husband, Keith, and their children Erika, Tyler and Derek. Hats off to you, Connie, for all of your hard work and dedication.

$7,000,000
$6,000,000
$5,000,000
$4,000,000
$1,000,000
$2,000,000
$1,000,000

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS GEARING UP.

By Susan Klein and Bob Kelly

The volunteers and staff have raised nearly $4,000,000 in the first 3 years of operation. Nearly $1,000,000 of the campaign came from in-kind gifts of material, supplies, equipment and labor. Our Grant writers are busy searching for available funds through the various foundations and we need your continued support!

We are very thankful for all of the support in the past, and now as we embark on a new year we have a renewed need for Camp funds.

We are offering four separate sessions this coming summer, all of which require additional funding, so please do not hesitate to call the camp office with any and all ideas you may have for how to help Camp Mak-A-Dream continue to make dreams come true for kids with cancer.

Thanks and we hope to hear from you soon!

HOW TO VOLUNTEER.

We are gearing up for several spring workdays at camp. There will be planting, weeding, brick work, cleaning, etc. that needs to be done before camp opens this summer. If you would be interested in helping in this way, call our Gold Creek number at (406) 289-3030 and leave your name and number.

CALM LINES COME TRUE.
CALL (406) 549-5987 OR (800) 484-8970 EXT. CAMP (2267)
"DREAMS CAN COME TRUE: WASHINGTON SCHOOL SIXTH GRADERS SEND KIDS TO CAMP MAK-A-DREAM."

By Conor Devlin, age 13

Washington Middle School's three sixth-grade teams had high hopes of sending one kid to Camp Mak-A-Dream before their fund-raising bazaar began on Tuesday, December 12, 1995. They knew they needed to raise $500 to do it.

Students worked hard to get the projects ready for the bazaar. In Technical Design, students made little wooden vehicles and animals with wheels. One class made wooden shelves. Another made glass ornaments for Christmas trees. Many students even made crafts at home.

One sixth grader brought in a stained glass Nutcracker that sold for $95.00. Donated Montana Grizzly memorabilia was also sold at the silent auction, and the purchasers were very pleased when the Griz won the I-AA national football championship just four days later!

Dreams came true when teachers added up the final receipts and there was over $2,020- enough to send four kids to Camp! The big winners at the bazaar, though, were the kids-the sixth graders at Washington Middle School. They feel great about the money they raised and the four kids they'll be able to send to Camp Mak-A-Dream this summer!

OUR VERY VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS!

MICK GRAY—CAMP COUNSELOR
by Jennifer Benton

Mick Gray, who was the camp's oldest volunteer, says camp was the experience of a lifetime. "Camp Mak-A-Dream just kept coming up in our lives...in the Butte newspaper, in a video we saw playing in a Missoula department store, in our church bulletin. It just kept coming up. So we decided to get involved."

Mick says he learned a lot about himself and about life while at camp, all through the eyes of the children. "Life is so uncertain for them," he said. "They have no promises of tomorrow, so they live for the moment." He says he conducts his own life differently since sharing time with these children, that life is precious and that there isn't time for strife.

Mick and his wife own and operate a marketing business in Warm Springs, Montana.

HELEN STREET—OFFICE VOLUNTEER
by Jennifer Jasek

Helen Streit believes in giving back to the community where you live. That is why every Friday for the past two years she has volunteered her time at the Camp Mak-A-Dream office in Missoula. Helen writes the thank-you notes. "The thank-you notes take about all day on Friday which is a wonderful way to spend my day," she said. Helen grew up in Butte, MT then went to the University of Montana where she met her husband David. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in November. Helen is still active in her Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority as well as in a Philanthropic Educational Organization that stresses education for women and helps women earn scholarships. She loves to play golf and bridge and enjoys her volunteer time as well. "I'm awfully glad I got involved. Camp Mak-A-Dream is such a wonderful organization and all the people that volunteer their time are so enthusiastic."

CHARITABLE GIVING

By Brian Solonen

Charitable contributions may generate deductions against federal income, gift, and estate taxes. There may be some limitations for the charitable deduction for income tax purposes, but the deduction for property passing to a qualified charitable organization is unlimited against the federal gift or estate tax base. It is possible for a donor to generate an income tax deduction and an estate tax deduction if the value of the property is included in the donor's gross estate.

We will discuss the charitable remainder trust in our upcoming newsletter. Contributions to Camp Mak-A-Dream enable children with cancer to experience a lifetime of smiles and memories.

DINOSAUR EXHIBIT COMING TO LIFE AT SOUTHGATE MALL.

A Jurassic Park-like setting comes to Southgate Mall when Dinamation is on display from August 2nd to September 15th. Dinamation is a museum quality exhibit of seven life-sized, robotic dinosaurs. The dinosaurs have traveled throughout Europe, Japan and North America. Paleontologists will be conducting informative tours, kids will participate in hands-on activities and thousands of people will visit the impressive presentation.

Dinonight is a special activity for kids who want to spend the night with the dinos. Participants will receive a special Camp Mak-A-Dream t-shirt, watch the movie "Jurassic Park," eat snacks in the evening and enjoy a continental breakfast. It will be fun for all getting acquainted with those imposing creatures. The exhibit is sponsored by Southgate Mall, with Camp Mak-A-Dream receiving its proceeds. For more information please call the mall's marketing director, Kimberly Albrecht at (406)721-5140, ext. 14, or watch for more information in our next newsletter.
A WONDERFUL WAY TO REMEMBER THOSE YOU LOVE.

Help make a dream come true for a child or adult with cancer. If you or someone you know would like to make a generous gift in a loved one's name, just fill this out and forward it along with your gift to the Camp Mak-A-Dream office at P.O. Box 7456, Missoula, MT 59807. All gifts will be acknowledged with a personalized keepsake card.

This gift is in honor of...

This gift is made in memory of...

Given by...

Send the card to

BULK RATE

Permit #560

PAID

Missoula, MT

Fatty Wolf - Merry Christmas
Fugly Rowe - Happy Birthday
Roger & Sue Frismer
Thad Anton
Dr. Tim & Mrs. Judy Cartie & Family
Pat & Harri French - Happy Anniversary
Jason Greer

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