The Dreamcatcher

CAMP MAK-A-DREAM

GOLD CREEK, MONTANA • A Publication of the Children's Oncology Camp Foundation • SPRING 1999 • ISSUE # 12

Summer Camp — Headed Our Way

And so they came... they came from as far away as New Jersey, Texas, and Florida... they came from our own neighborhoods of Billings, Butte, and Missoula. In fact, 252 campers from 32 different states came to Camp Mak-A-Dream in 1998. Now approaching our fifth summer, Camp Mak-A-Dream continues to experience phenomenal growth, and we have only just begun.

This summer we will be hosting five more camps: two camps for children ages 6-17 who have been diagnosed with cancer; two for young adults ages 18-25 with cancer; and one week for siblings of cancer patients, ages 6-17. Because of our professional staff of volunteer doctors and nurses, we are able to provide proper care and supervision, even to children in the midst of treatment. Many of our campers find their eight days at Camp Mak-A-Dream an opportunity to feel healthy and free of their diagnoses. The volunteer staff has commented that it is easy to forget that the campers are sick at all. It also gives them a chance to be surrounded by other individuals who understand their position. Those who attend our Siblings Camp share this empathetic experience. Camp Mak-A-Dream has recognized the far-reaching effects of cancer, beyond the individual who has been diagnosed. We are committed to serving the brothers and sisters whose lives have also been touched by the presence of cancer in the family.

The Young Adult Conference continues to serve 18 to 25 year olds, an age group which historically has fallen through the cracks of appropriate support. The Young Adult Conference aims to create a safe, fun environment where participants can talk, listen, learn, and share. The Young Adult Conference provides educational and motivational speakers. Individuals can participate in workshops and small group discussions on topics ranging from pain control and intimacy, to interview skills and money management.

What Is a Bone Marrow Transplant?

Bone marrow transplantation has become a standard of care for many types of cancer. Although many people have heard of this procedure, often from community screenings for potential donors, it is not well understood just what is involved in a bone marrow transplant. Most people are surprised to hear that there is no surgery involved. The actual procedure of bone marrow transplantation looks much like a simple blood transfusion. The patient is awake and feels no pain during the procedure.

The first basic question is "what is bone marrow?" Bone marrow is a liquid, which is inside the bones of our bodies. This liquid organ is responsible for the generation of all blood cells in our bodies. These include white blood cells to help prevent infection, red blood cells to help give our tissues oxygen and energy, and platelets to help prevent bleeding by clotting our blood. To donate bone marrow, a needle is inserted into the pelvic bone, and some of the liquid bone marrow is extracted.

This procedure can be a bit uncomfortable, but there is little risk, and recovery is rapid. The liquid bone marrow is then treated and given to the patient through an IV.

There are two types of basic bone marrow transplants. The first type is when a patient receives the bone marrow of someone else. This is called an allogeneic bone marrow transplant. The second type is when the patient receives his or her own bone marrow back; this is called an autologous bone marrow transplant. Both types of transplants, the patient is given very high doses of chemotherapy starting about a week before the transplant occurs. In fact, the doses of chemotherapy are so high that, without the transplant, the patient would never be able to make any blood cells again. This, of course, is incompatible with life. What the transplant does, then, is to allow us to give this very high dose of chemotherapy, which will kill cancers that conventional doses of chemotherapy will not, and then "rescue" the blood cells of the patient with the bone marrow transplant.

Many people are surprised to hear about the existence of autologous transplants. They ask, "What good does it do to give patients their own bone marrow back?" The answer is that the patient who gets this type of bone marrow transplant does not have cancer in either the bone marrow or the blood cells. The cancer is in another part of the body. Therefore, the point of giving a patient an autologous transplant is to allow us to give very high doses of chemotherapy, which will hopefully kill the cancer. We can then give that patient his or her own bone marrow.

Continued on page 2
President’s Message

As the fall and winter of 1998 quickly give way to spring and summer of 1999, I understand the importance of a place called Camp Mak-A-Dream and the work that is done there by so many wonderful people. I lost a dear and close friend in December after a four-week battle with cancer. As her life was ending before my eyes, I could only think how fragile life really is and how inconvenient the timing of her illness was. Part of the vision of Camp Mak-A-Dream is to be able to host children and young adults with cancer and let them enjoy a week of camp—at no cost. Lots of good things happened for our foundation outside of the 1998 summer camp season. Montana continued to be amazingly supportive: a third-grade class in Polson raised money for camp and did the HoopFest basketball tournament; the Lowman $1000 motorcycle ride; the 16th annual Western Montana Wine Festival put on by Earl’s Distributing; the Missoula Federal Credit Union’s K100 radio station’s selling of Harley Davidson raffle tickets at the fair; and our own Board of Directors... just to name a few. We continue to grow and gain additional support from outside of Montana as well, including a golf tournament in New Jersey and ongoing support from our Michigan Chapter, Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream.

One of the highlights of last summer was the planning, naming and dedication of the Gransier Memorial Gardens at camp, in honor of our founders, Harry and Sylvia Granadier. The gardens will provide a quiet place for campers to go to reflect, relax and meditate about the friends they have lost, as well as their own illnesses. It will also be a place of remembrance where donors can purchase various landmarks to remember those they love.

Humor and optimism keep these young people in the mainstream of life. I invite you to take part in the excitement of this summer camp season through your support in helping to send a young person to camp. Your help is the key to our mission. Through a Campership contribution, you can sponsor a camper to attend a week at Camp Mak-A-Dream, plus have the option of having your name permanently honored at camp with an engraved brick on the lodge patio area.

We look forward to a fun-filled summer and a full slate of campers throughout July and August.

Paulette Fisher - President, Board of Directors

Executive Director’s Report

As we approach our fifth summer of operation, one of many outstanding things that has occurred is our phenomenal growth. In 1995 we had one week of camp with 45 children attending. In 1999 we will have five camps and, between them, host close to 300 children and young adults at Camp Mak-A-Dream this year alone. I feel this is a testament to the direction the Board of Directors took in those early years: creating a camp that could be a leader in the industry; a testament to the staff members who are so passionate and giving of themselves; a testament to the thousands of people who have given time, money and goods; and, finally, a testament to all of the children and young adults who have come to Camp Mak-A-Dream and gone back to their communities spreading the word of what we have to offer.

It truly has been a remarkable five years, and I know the next five years will be just as remarkable in terms of growth, challenges and changes.

Gregg Doerfler - Executive Director

In memory of the children and young adults who enriched our lives

Please join with us in honoring the lives of six of our campers. We extend to their families our deepest sympathy and also appreciation for sharing them with us. While their lives were shortened due to cancer, they will continue to enrich our lives. The following children and young adults have passed away since the publication of our Spring 1998 Dreamcatcher.

Kenneth Graham
Gettysburg
Age 22

Larry Griswold
Washington
Age 12

Kevin Lucas
Michigan
Age 15

Ashley Fenner
Montana
Age 13

James Broom
Washington
Age 13

Elizabeth Hamilton
Michigan
Age 11

Bone Marrow Transplant

Continued from page 1

marrow back, which greatly lessens the occurrence of side effects from a transplant. If the patient has cancer in the blood cells, however, we cannot give his or her own marrow back. We therefore perform an allogeneic bone marrow transplant. Here, again, we give very high doses of chemotherapy, which will hopefully kill the cancerous blood cells. We then give the patient the healthy bone marrow of someone else, which will mature into normal, non-cancerous blood cells. In fact, if the donor has a different ABO blood type from the patient, the patient converts to the donor’s blood type. There is the potential for severe side effects with allogeneic bone marrow transplants, such as graft-versus-host disease, where the donated blood cells recognize the patient’s body as “foreign” and can cause reactions similar to organ rejection in the skin, GI track, and bones of the patients. This is why it is important to have the bone marrow of the donor be as similar genetically as possible to the patient’s original bone marrow. The more similar the bone marrow, the less likely graft-versus-host disease will occur.

Bone marrow transplantation has greatly improved the outcome for several types of cancer. However, the risks are greater than with conventional chemotherapy. Therefore, this is an active area of research, and great strides are being made quite rapidly.

Stuart Kaplan, MD

Send us an E-Mail
camp@montana.com
Visit Our Web Site
www.campdream.org

Camp Mak-A-Dream is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and relies on the generosity of others to continue this necessary work. Please feel free to contact the camp office for details on how to financially support.

Senders Coordinator: Jennifer Bosen
Layout, Production & Proofing: Jolene Hanley
Advertising Coordinators: Darryl Honey, Ron Shideler
Contributing Photographers: Many members of the community
Contributing Writers: Jennifer Bosen, Darryl Honey, Stuart Kaplan, MD
Production & Printing: The Belstudio, Inc., Lakewood, CO

RSVP
Thank you for your support.

Many thanks to the volunteers at RSVP who helped prepare this special publication for printing.

CAMPERS AND PARTICIPANTS... PLANT YOUR PATH FOR THE SUMMER. CALL FOR AN APPLICATION TODAY!

Believe it or not it’s almost that time of year again. We have been so busy at the camp office getting everything ready for a terrific, fun-filled season. Again this year we will have five summer sessions to meet the needs of a variety of participants. Two sessions are for children between the ages of 6 and 17 who have had cancer; two sessions will be devoted to our Young Adult Conference, an experience that is both educational and recreational for participants between the ages of 18 and 28 who have or have had cancer. Finally, our highly successful Siblings Camp, for brothers and sisters of cancer patients, will be offered again this season. See the schedule on pages one and six for specific dates.

For kids 6-17 who have or recently had cancer, there is a fun-filled, action-packed week of activities ahead. You can look forward to swimming, horseback riding, a camp-out, making amazing works of art, and hanging out by the camp fire. This week will go by so fast, you’ll wonder where the time went.

The Young Adult Conference (TAC) will have, as always, a good balance of educational opportunities, including keynote speakers and workshops, as well as recreational activities such as a raft trip, the high ropes course and a barn dance. Siblings can look forward to a week of exciting activities. It is a chance to be around other kids who are growing up with a family member with cancer and to share experiences. The emphasis, though, is on a fun-filled week when you are the center of attention.

Applications need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Our medical committee is selecting this year’s campers. We strive for a careful balance of children and young adults in various stages of cancer therapy, including some who have completed their therapy. Any application that arrives after the medical committee meetings will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. So call our office soon if you know someone who would benefit from a week at Camp Mak-A-Dream. (406) 549-5987

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

All of us have hopes and expectations. Some of us hope for wealth; some for exotic vacations; others for fame. The problem with many hopes and fantasies is two-fold: they don’t always come true, and when they do, the reality is sometimes not as exciting as the expectation.

Well, our experience with the “fantasy” of creating Camp Mak-A-Dream violates that principle. Not only did our hopes and fantasy come true, but the reality far exceeded our expectations.

We are very proud of the children, campers and counselors of Camp Mak-A-Dream. Over the years, never did we envision all the rewards we would enjoy from its creation. We have enjoyed the relationships we created in planning and building the camp. We have reaped immeasurable benefits from the Board of Directors and professional suppliers who continue to pour so much of themselves into the camp. We have been in awe of all the volunteers who similarly have made wondrous sacrifices.

And finally, of course, there are the children. We never stop marveling at their courage, their vitality, and their gratitude. Whenever we feel a little down at home, we simply read a few letters from campers, and our spirits soar.

Yes, we can truly say that our hopes and expectations for Camp Mak-A-Dream have been more than realized. And for that we say thanks to all those who made it happen.

Harry & Sylvia Granader - Founders

MICHIGAN CHAPTER: FRIENDS OF CAMP MAK-A-DREAM

I must be candid and indicate that when I was first approached to serve on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream, Michigan Chapter, I was hesitant to do so. Like all of us, the demands on my time were substantial, and I did not want to take on added responsibilities. Realized to hand-haunted “pressure” and, indeed, I am happy that I did.

The last three years have been more rewarding than I could have anticipated or imagined. My colleagues elected me to this leadership position, and I was flattered and honored by the trust they placed in me. The rewards have been many, including working with such wonderful people as Harry and Sylvia Granader, founders of Camp Mak-A-Dream, and members of their family; raising $250,000 for Camp Mak-A-Dream in 1997 and 1998, watching our volunteer directors give so much of themselves to the cause; and knowing that more than 100 children and young adults from Michigan have attended camp, but most important and most gratifying is knowing that we have helped some very courageous children and young adults deal with a very traumatic and insidious disease.

Our work assures us that, at least for the time those individuals are at camp, they have a little respite from their suffering. More than anything, I like to see the smiles on the faces of campers in the many photographs we receive. That alone has more than given me—to use the language of the business world—“a return on my investment.” Yes, it’s been very gratifying and satisfying. My hope is that we will continue to have the support we have enjoyed from so many generous contributors.

To those who “proceeded” me to join the Board and serve as president, I say, “Thank you so much! You gave me an invaluable experience which I will savor and cherish for many years.”

Harry Szyper - President, Board of Directors

MICHIGAN CHAPTER: FRIENDS OF CAMP MAK-A-DREAM

1999 WISH LIST

We ask that any items on this list be provided in good condition and in working order, and that you please call and tell us if you would like to donate. Our foundation office phone number is (406) 549-5987

EQUIPMENT:

Tools & Furniture:

- 35 mm cameras
- Overhead projector
- Copy machine (high volume & working order)
- Typewriter: IBM Selectric
- Wheelchair or Action writer
- Woodland Roundrock chairs
- Old fashioned popcorn cart
- Snowcone machine
- Foodball table
- 5000 watt generator
- Log splitter
- 6 & 12 volt battery charger
- 3200 psi power washer
- 20" chainsaw
- (in working order)
- 1.5 hp air compressor (4 ga. gallon tank)
- 10" table saw
- 8" bench grinder
- 14" metal cut-off saw
- 32/4 belt sander
- Cordless drill
- (Makita or DeWalt)
- Assorted hand tools
- (call us for details)
- Hand gardening tools & gloves
- Potter’s wheel for art studio
- Portable CD & tape player
- Boom boxes
- Free-standing wooden coat & hanging racks

KITCHEN & DINING ROOM:

- Kitchen Aid hand mixer
- Assorted glass salt & pepper shakers
- Nonstick surface pans:
  - (1-doz.) bundt pans
  - (1-doz.) angel food cake pans
- (1-doz.) bread/loaf pans
- Full size sheet pans
- Half sheet pans
- Ice machine
- (call us for details)
- Cambro square food storage containers:
  - 2 qt. with lids
  - 4 qt. with lids
  - 6 qt. with lids
- Solid color 96" square linen tablecloths
- New solid color linen napkins
  - (5 doz. per color min.)
- Dorm-size refrigerator
  - (in working order)

HOUSEKEEPING:

- (100) twin size mattress pads
- (50) twin fitted sheets
- (50) fiber-fill standard size bed pillows
- Rollaway beds

DECORATIONS:

- New candles: tapers, pillars, votives
- Glass taper candle holders
- Nice wooden bowls & trays
- Solid color paper napkins
  - (ass. sizes & colors)
- Solid color paper plates
  - (ass. sizes & colors)

CAMP ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS:

- Silly wigs, hats and scarves
- Dance costumes
- Costumes & uniforms for dress-up, skits & dances
- Props: decorative umbrellas, fans, fun purses
- Hand percussion instruments: tambourines, maracas, bells, xylophone, etc.
- Popular & classical music: tapes & CDs (new or used, other than country)
  - (1 doz.) team jerseys
- Megaphone
- Lightweight softball mitts
- Indoor rubber horseshoe set
- Croquet sets
- Nerf balls
- Air horns
- Badminton birdies
- Shinny pucks
  - (in good condition)
- Folding camp stools
- Balloons
  - (various sizes & colors)
- New white t-shirts for tie-dying
- Pool cues (in good condition)

INFLATABLE POOL TOYS & AIR MATTRESSES

MEDICAL ITEMS:

- Unopened packs of fun cartoon Band Aids
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Insulin needles
- Cases of 8 oz. bottled drinking water

LITTLE THINGS:

- 300 brown paper lunch bags
- 200 white paper lunch bags
- “Goody-Bag” Candy
  - (individually wrapped)
- Life Savers
- Gum
- Mini-Smokies
- Mini-Butterflyers
- Hershey Kisses
- Hershey Hugs & Kisses

* Donated items can be mailed or delivered to our foundation office at: 3700 S. Russell Street, Hld., Suite 101 in Missoula, MT 59801.
Thank You!

...to our volunteers

Non-profit organizations count on volunteers to survive. Camp Mak-A-Dream is no exception. Without the hundreds of people who offer and volunteer of their time, energy and resources, this program would not be the success that it is today. To date, Camp Mak-A-Dream has served more than 700 children and young adults with cancer, hosted several adult cancer retreats and put on professional conferences—all with the assistance of volunteers. So many people give of themselves and their time during the summer at camp, speaking and presenting at conferences, during fund raising and community events, making quilts and pillows for camp and every day all year around at the foundation offices in Missoula. Thank you to each and everyone of you who has helped us make dreams come true!

...to contributing businesses

Community businesses of Montana and across the country continue to be generous and grant request after request, donating goods and services to camp as well as items for our annual fund raising auction. You make such a difference in providing an experience of a life-time for these deserving children.

...to our donors

None of this could happen without funding and in-kind gifts from our many, many donors. For everyone who has ever given to Camp Mak-A-Dream, we thank you for your past support and hope you will continue to support this special program in the future.

...to our Board of Directors and Founders

These people are also volunteers who give of their time, resources and energy on a continuous basis—raising funds and setting policy and goals for the future. Thanks to all of our local, regional and honorary board members for their continued support.

...to the wonderful communities of Montana

So many people give in ways we cannot even begin to describe. Our undying gratitude to you for your generosity and open arms. Our campers and participants all feel welcome in Montana because of you!

...and last but not least to our campers' and young adults' families

Thank you for allowing your loved one(s) to attend the camps and conferences at Camp Mak-A-Dream in beautiful Western Montana. It is a pleasure to serve them all! We love to hear how everyone is doing, so please keep in touch.

---

Lawman 1000
"Ride of Dreams"

Once again this year, the Lawman 1000 motorcycle ride will take place in June and benefit Camp Mak-A-Dream. The concept of this charity ride is to team law enforcement officers with civilians to "ride on the side of the law" for a just cause. Riders raise money by collecting pledges for each mile they ride; the entire ride will cover 1000 miles in just two days. Starting points for this year’s ride will be Missoula, Great Falls, and Butte, with the halfway point being Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, and ending in Butte, Montana, on June 27.

If you have interest in riding or pledging please call or write to:

MONTANA LAWMAN 1000
P.O. BOX 4154
BUTTE, MT 59701
406-949-KIDS (5437)

---

CAMPERSHIPS

Contributions for camper sponsorship are called "Camperships" and help support camp programs for children and young adults with cancer. Participants attend Camp Mak-A-Dream at no cost to themselves or their families, even though the estimated cost of hosting one child during one week of camp is approximately $500. You can sponsor a child for a week at Camp Mak-A-Dream in Gold Creek, Montana, by purchasing a “Campership.” In addition, you have the option of having your name permanently engraved on a brick at the camp facility in front of the main lodge for an additional $25. Please complete the form to the right and return by fax or mail to the Missoula office.
It takes people like you to turn dreams into reality

It is estimated that over 10,000 children and young adults will be diagnosed each year as having some form of cancer. Because of their special medical needs, most are unable to attend traditional summer camp programs. The benefits of these camping programs, however, can be even more valuable for an individual who has a life-threatening illness. Programs that encourage self-confidence, self-esteem and the development of friendships support resilience and coping; the ability to bounce back from the adversities of illness. Similarly, adults with cancer are often in need of the opportunity of the camp or retreat experience that aids physical and mental recovery.

The Children's Oncology Camp Foundation is now in Phase II of our Capital Campaign – not only for bricks and mortar but also for endowment.

COCF is proud of the accomplishments of Phase I. Our 3.5 million dollar Capital Campaign enabled Camp Make-A-Dream to become a reality. Phase II, also for $3,500,000, will enable us to enlarge our campus, it will help us feel secure as income generated from the endowment will support facility maintenance, camperships and enhanced and expanded programs.

For more information, call Gregg Doerfler, Executive Director at (406) 549-5987.

DO YOU HAVE FREQUENT FLYER MILES?
Camp Make-A-Dream would love to accept your unused frequent flyer miles to help children who are unable to afford transportation to camp! If you have 25,000 miles (or more) on Northwest, Delta, or Alaska/Horizon airlines that you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. Airline policy requires a 25,000 mile minimum for all mileage transfers. Gary Granader donated enough miles for six children to fly at no charge to Montana, and Horizon Air provided camp with six round-trip tickets. These are wonderful examples of how extra miles can help put a smile on the face of a child with cancer. You can contact us by calling our foundation office in Missoula at (406) 549-5987.

CHARITABLE GIVING
HELP GROW OUR ENDOWMENT

In 1997 the Montana Legislature created a law to help charitable organizations grow their permanent endowment funds by giving a tax credit to individuals, corporations, and estates when certain irrevocable contributions are made. The law provides for a 50% Montana state income tax credit with a maximum of $10,000 per year irrevocable planned gift for an individual. To take advantage of this opportunity one needs to act before December 31, 2003, when the law will terminate.

To find out more, and what exactly qualifies, call our office at (406) 549-5987.

Help send a kid to camp - buy a Campership

Donor Name(s).__________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip.__________________________________________________________

Phone # ____________________________ I would like to purchase ______ Campership @ $500 ______ Campership, plus an engraved brick for $525

Name(s) as you would like it to appear on the brick. (Maximum of 30 characters)

Amount enclosed $_________ Paid by ______ Cash ______ Check ______
____ Mastercard ______ Visa ______ American Express ______ Discover

Account # ____________________________ Expires __________________________

Signature _________________________________________________________

Mail to: Camp Make-A-Dream • P.O. Box 1450 • Missoula, MT 59806
Children's Oncology Camp Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID: 81-0470050

Spring 1999, Issue #11
1999 Schedule of Events

Winter
Young Adult Conference
Conference for young adults with cancer, ages 18-25
January 3-10

Spring
Professional Caregivers Conference
Conference for professional medical health care providers
May 13-16

Summer
Kids Camp
Camp for children with cancer, ages 6-17
July 6-13
Young Adult Conference
Conference for young adults with cancer, ages 18-25
July 16-23

Siblings Camp
Camp for siblings of cancer patients, ages 6-17
July 26-August 1

Young Adult Conference
Conference for young adults with cancer, ages 18-25
August 5-12

Kids Camp
Camp for children with cancer, ages 6-17
August 15-22

Fall
3rd Annual Ovarian Cancer Retreat
Retreat for women with ovarian cancer, ages 18+
September 9-13

Camp Limberlimbs
Camp for children with arthritis
September 24-26

4th Annual Women's Cancer Retreat
Retreat for women with cancer, ages 18+
October 7-10

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us in various capacities at these events. If you are interested in receiving additional information on volunteering, or know of someone we should invite to any of the above programs, please call us at (406)549-5987.

Rent Gold Creek Lodge

Home of Camp Mak-A-Dream

When you choose to hold your business, family or group retreat at Gold Creek Lodge, you'll be enjoying more than just fine facilities in a mountain landscape. You'll also be helping to support the programs of Camp Mak-A-Dream. This facility is available for rental groups of 10-120 people, for a day long meeting or for a several day retreat. So, make your next retreat one to remember.

Some of the things Gold Creek Lodge has to offer:
- Fully accessible buildings
- Main lodge with meeting rooms, recreation room and dining hall
- Four cabins with common rooms & kitchensettes
- Accessible heated swimming pool & hot tub
- Outdoor patio area with BBQ grills
- Sleeping capacity of 90 people
- Art Studio building
- Health Care Center
- Meeting & activity rooms
- Smoke-free facility & grounds
- Ropes Course and archery range
- Fine dining & variety of menu options
- Competitive rates & excellent service

Medical Support:
This facility is equipped to provide medical care for groups that have unique medical needs. This service can be designed and arranged to fit a variety of needs. Please contact the foundation office for additional information.

The Gold Creek Lodge facility is a great place to hold team-building workshops, meetings or private family gatherings. It is available for rent from September through mid-June with a few exceptions. Let us help you create a retreat to remember with our professional staff and programming options. Call our foundation office for more information or to book your reservation at (406)549-5987.
A WONDERFUL WAY TO REMEMBER THOSE YOU LOVE

Help make a dream come true for a child or young 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 1450, Missoula, MT 59806. All gifts will be acknowledged with a personalized keepsake card.

This gift is made in ________ honor ________ memory of ________

Given by ____________________________

Send the card to:

Name: ______________________________
Address: ____________________________
City / State / Zip: ____________________

Credit card contributions may be made by calling (406) 549-5987, or by fax at (406) 549-5933.

The Mailbox

We often receive wonderful letters from campers, parents, and adult participants, and we’d like to share a couple of them with you.

“Thank you sooooo much for letting me come to camp. I had the time of my life. The people were wonderful, the activities were extraordinary, the spirit was great, the food was fabulous—all in all it was an experience to remember. The staff at Camp Mak-A-Dream was so friendly and helpful, I couldn’t have asked for more. The counselors helped us deal with everything from answering questions to encouraging us...they were great. And last but not least the campers...they were so friendly, accepting, and faithful as anyone had hoped. The activities you planned for us were nothing short of phenomenal. To name a few: battle and tie-dyeing, Fimo, warm fuzzy bags, volley ball, basketball, poled campfire, the Empathic Players theater group, hoop dancing, jitterbug dancing, archery, lower light show, trip to Philipsburg, BBQ dinner, casino night, humor speaker, virtual reality hunting gallery, drum circle, movies, high ropes course, squad caring, speakers who talked about cancer and transplant, raft trip, disgorge-making workshop, stained glass workshop, art show, talent show, etc—which I personally participated in. The spirit at camp was a spirit of giving, helping, caring, learning, happiness, joy, friendship, loving, kindness, hope, camaraderie, awareness, understanding, trust, honesty, respect, and much more.”

Jared, Young Adult Conference participant

“My daughter is a childhood cancer survivor. She attended your Young Adult Conference this past summer, much against her judgment. Even though her hair has grown back, as her mother I knew that she was in need of healing that she could only get from others who knew firsthand what she had endured. At your camp, her growth was truly amazing—the girl I droze to camp was very different from the girl I brought home. She met girls who became, in her words, her ‘best friends in the world’. Even though these girls live on different sides of the United States, they long to be reunited. I wish to thank each and every person at Camp Mak-A-Dream for every kindness extended to my daughter last summer. You are a wonderful organization of people.”

Parent of young adult participant

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU, TOO.
PLEASE WRITE SOON!