



The voice of Camp Boggy Creek • [campboggycreek.org](http://campboggycreek.org)

Fall  
20  
23

# Creek Speak



**Making friends.  
Making memories.**





One of the many things that I love about working at Camp Boggy Creek is hearing the sounds of pure joy, laughter, and fun coming from our all around camp during summer camp and family retreat weekends. This summer was amazing and extra loud! We hosted 549 kids, had 51 counselors, and 199 volunteers. Our campers experienced all kinds of firsts: the first time riding a horse, the first time shooting an arrow, the first-time swimming, the first time catching a fish, the first time a child touched grass with her bare feet. This place is all about firsts. Sometimes it's the first time a child has had the freedom to be themselves away from home and outside of a clinical setting.

As I reflect back upon Camp this summer, I'm grateful for so many people who make this magic happen: our program staff, our volunteers who give so much, our healthcare foundation partners, our donors who give to ensure that these campers have the time of their lives, our board, and our community. It truly takes an army to create the magic that occurs for the children of Camp Boggy Creek. Thank you to all of you for helping us to provide life-changing camp experiences. You matter more than you'll ever know.

The truth is, the cruelty of serious and life-threatening illnesses can be devastating to a child. Those illnesses don't just affect the body. They can also steal part of a person's childhood. Your gifts to Camp help us give a piece of that stolen childhood back to every camper who comes through our gates. That is such a priceless gift.

With the holiday season and the end of the year fast approaching, please consider making an end of year gift to Camp Boggy Creek. Every donation ensures that more children and their families can experience the healing and magic of Camp at absolutely no cost to them.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity!

Gratefully,

Dr. Dan Jurman, DMin  
President and CEO

"I told Dr. Aron something he didn't already know."  
- Moe,  
Book of Firsts

"I saw a snail in real life for the first time."  
- Lazley,  
Book of Firsts

"I took pills with water for the first time."  
- Sunita,  
Book of Firsts

"This place is all about firsts. Sometimes it's the first time a child has had the freedom to be themselves away from home and outside of a clinical setting."



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Bruce O. Rossmeyer\*

Betty Campbell\*

The Family of Jennifer Masi

\* In memorium

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# Our counselors make a difference

“I want to thank my counselors for teaching me to be kind.”  
- Cassidy, Web of Kindness



“Thank you to all the counselors who keep us motivated and help us be safe.”  
- Camper, Web of Kindness



**51**  
counselors  
shared the  
love!



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# Meet our Newest Board Members!

## Mr. John Hamlin

John Hamlin is an entrepreneur and the owner/CEO of Hamlin and Associates, a company he founded in 1988, located in Ormond Beach, Florida.

The primary focus of Hamlin and Associates is to provide automotive dealers with cutting-edge service and support through marketing and training. The company has a significant presence, serving over 2,000 dealers across the United States.

One notable aspect of John Hamlin's leadership is his commitment to service, which is reflected in both the company's motto, "Service in Mind," and his philanthropic efforts.

He has been actively involved in the community and has shown dedication to various charitable causes.

One such cause is the Bruce Rossmeyer Ride for Children, where John Hamlin has served as the leading sponsor and committee chair for well over a decade.

Additionally, John Hamlin holds a board position on the Volusia County Sheriff's Board of Directors, and is involved in law enforcement and community safety initiatives within Volusia County.

He is proud of his daughter Autumn and has a passion for animals, sharing his ranch home with horses and dogs. He is a successful entrepreneur, community leader, and philanthropist who has made a significant impact on the automotive industry and the local community.



## Mr. John Doonan

As International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) President, John Doonan is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the sanctioning body, which sanctions seven different racing series in North America, including its flagship IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. Doonan joined IMSA in October 2019 after nearly 17 years with Mazda North American Operations, where he most recently served as the company's director of motorsports.

Doonan also was a member of the board of directors for the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in Daytona Beach, Florida, and has served as the organization's chairman of the board. A lifelong motorsports enthusiast and native of the Chicago area, he attended his first race at Road America when he was just six weeks old.

Doonan earned his MBA from Western Illinois University after receiving Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Marketing, Advertising and Spanish from Augustana College. He was a development officer for Augustana for nearly 10 years before joining Mazda in 2003.



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# Allie Yesbeck's Camp Boggy Creek Journey

When I was 11 years old I was diagnosed with Arthritis or JRA, which is a pretty awful and painful disease to be diagnosed at any age, but especially as a kid. The new term I kept hearing was “kids get Arthritis, too” which my 11-year-old self couldn't understand because everyone who I met with Arthritis was old people. I felt really alone in my illness, and I think my doctor saw that because she recommended to my parents that I go to Camp. That summer I was diagnosed I attended not just any random camp but a truly magical camp. That camp is Camp Boggy Creek.

Here at camp, I got to do arts & crafts, ride a horse, get messy at Silly Olympics, perform Hannah Montana on Stage Day, and I got to meet other kids with Arthritis. I wasn't alone in my illness anymore. I had friends who were dealing with the same challenges as I was. That week I got to spend at camp was my favorite week of the year. The rest of the year was filled with me at doctor's offices getting tests done and getting poked and prodded. I couldn't wait to be back at camp to just be a normal kid. For six amazing summers, Camp Boggy Creek became my home away from home. My last time at Camp as a camper was such a special time. Still, it was bittersweet because I was saying goodbye to my camper years, but I was not saying goodbye to Camp. I learned how to make grilled cheeses, change a tire, advocate for my medical needs, and learn leadership skills that I continue to use with the Leaders in Training program.

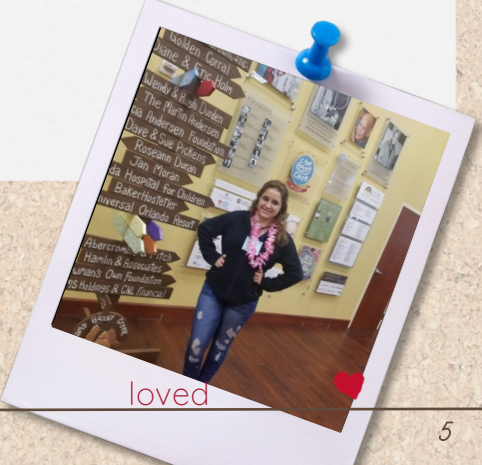
As soon as I was old enough, I signed up to start volunteering during family weekends. I loved volunteering because I got to see a glimpse of how the magic is created. I knew in my heart I needed to work at Summer Camp so I applied and got a position as an Arts & Crafts Activity staff member for the summer of 2020. Sadly we had to cancel Summer Camp due to Covid 19; however, even a global pandemic couldn't keep me away. I danced for a video on Beyond the Gates (Virtual Summer Camp Edition), and I attended Zoom family weekends.

When I got the email that Summer Camp was returning after the pandemic, I almost jumped out of my seat, and for the next two summers, I led the Green Pride group. That has been my favorite experience so far. Getting to watch our campers fall in love with this place makes all the hard work we put into it worth it. Camp wouldn't be able to run without the hard work of everyone involved at Camp.

The campers, staff members, and volunteers that I got to work with will truly hold a special place in my heart. Camp has shaped me into the kind, strong, and passionate person I am today and I wouldn't be who I am today without Camp Boggy Creek.

I have found myself back at Camp getting to be the Marketing/Communications intern. I got my degree in Marketing at the University of Northern Florida (UNF) and needed some experience in the field. I turned to the place I called home for so long. Thanks to Camp Boggy Creek, I know that “kids get Arthritis, too,” but they don't have to go through it alone.

We are pleased to announce that Allie has come full circle at Camp Boggy Creek. She recently joined the staff as a Volunteer Coordinator & Marketing Associate!



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# Summertime



**549**  
campers spent  
part of their  
summer with us!

*"Thanks for the  
Patch for  
keeping me  
alive."  
- Camper,  
Web of Kindness*



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# Fun Time!

*"I'm going to do a backbend. I can't do it from standing, but I do it my own way. I have stage fright, but I'm facing my fears."*

...lliana, stage day



**199**

volunteers  
helped make  
their summer  
magical!



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Save the Date!



# SUGARLOAF CLASSIC

Benefiting



TAVARES, FL  
04 NOVEMBER 2023  
CAAM EVENTS CYCLING SERIES  
www.CAAMCyclingSeries.com



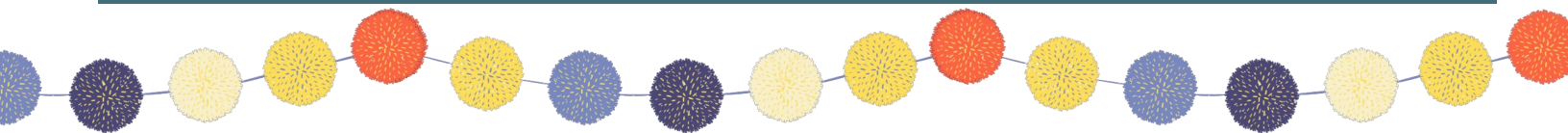
Registration is now open!

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Lake Dora, Tavares, FL

<https://sugarloafclassic.raceroster.org/>

We welcome you, your company, and organization to engage in fundraising for Camp by hosting an event or creating a special fundraising page. To see a complete listing of community events, please visit [camboggycreek.org/events](http://camboggycreek.org/events). If you have any questions or need more information about our Community Events, please contact Karina Garcia Vazquez at [kvazquez@camboggycreek.org](mailto:kvazquez@camboggycreek.org) or call 352-483-4120.



Thank you!

Thank you again for letting my son come to camp. He has laughed the whole way home and told me a million stories about what fun he had. The counselors were awesome and he said they really made him feel good about being there. Thanks for being willing to accommodate him last minute and give him this wonderful experience. He really needed this and we are so grateful to everyone involved!

Sincerely,  
Michelle



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# Thank you to our Ride for Children Sponsors

29<sup>TH</sup> Annual Bruce Rossmeier



We cannot express enough gratitude for your generous support in helping make the 29th Annual Bruce Rossmeier Ride for Children a great success. Thanks to your kindness, we were able to raise significant funds to support Camp Boggy Creek. We deeply appreciate your commitment to the well-being of children with serious illnesses and your belief in our cause. Your sponsorship allowed us to provide a life-changing experience for these children who often face so many challenges in their daily lives. Please know that your support has not gone unnoticed, and we are honored to have you as partners in our mission to improve the lives of children. Thank you for your incredible support and generosity.



The  
Rossmeier  
Family



Jeanmarie and  
Collin York



John  
Whittenhall

Joe  
O'Brien



Vern  
Buchanan



Gib  
Dannehower



Wendy & Hugh  
Durden



The Perryman  
Family



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# How you can help!



Camp Boggy Creek is a place where children can reach beyond their illness and enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood. Our programs are always provided free of charge to our campers and families, and this is because of supporters like you!

Here are some ways you can make a difference in the life of a child with a serious medical condition.

- Consider supporting a camper for a session of summer camp or a family for a Family Getaway Weekend <https://www.boggycreek.org/donate>
- Become a monthly donor by joining our Boggy Buddies <https://www.boggycreek.org/boggybuddy>
- Sponsor or participate in one of our Signature Events <https://www.boggycreek.org/events>
- Corporate Partnerships <https://www.boggycreek.org/corporate-partners>
- Community Events <https://www.boggycreek.org/community-events>
- Fundraise for Camp <https://www.justgiving.org/campaign/promiseofcampboggycreek>



*Mission:* Camp Boggy Creek's Mission is to foster a spirit of joy by creating a free, safe and medically-sound camp environment that enriches the lives of children with serious illnesses and their families.



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# Did you know you can support Camp through a Planned Gift?

Everyone wants to have a life with meaning. Part of that meaningful life is to live on in the memory of family and friends through the cause about which you are passionate. An effective estate plan creates a legacy for your family and chosen charity that gives added meaning to your life. You can turn your compassion into action and set an example for others by remembering Camp Boggy Creek in your will, trust, or other planned gift. An estate gift also offers you many potential advantages: the opportunity to increase spendable income, the elimination or reduction of capital gains taxes, and possible federal and state estate tax savings. Below are just a few of the many ways you can use a planned gift to support Camp.

**Bequest** – Naming Camp Boggy Creek as a beneficiary in your will or your estate is a simple way of giving a legacy gift that enables you to achieve your financial goals while benefiting Camp. Please visit [camboggycreek.org](http://camboggycreek.org) to see our recommended bequest language to share with your attorney/advisor.

**IRA Distribution** – A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution of funds from your IRA directly to a qualified organization, such as Camp Boggy Creek. Because the gift transfers directly to Camp without passing through your hands, the dollar amount of the gift can be excluded from your taxable income up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually, with some exceptions. QCDs can be made by IRA owners who are age 70 ½ or older. If you are required to take money from your IRA but do not need it for living expenses, you can roll it over and gift all or part of your distribution to support the mission of Camp.

**Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** – a DAF is like a charitable investment account that is set up for the sole purpose of supporting charities. You can contribute cash, stocks, or other assets into the DAF and receive an immediate tax deduction. Those funds are invested for tax-free growth and you can make gifts to qualified charities like Camp over time.



For more information on leaving your legacy through a planned gift, please visit our website or contact Wendy at [wproctor@camboggycreek.org](mailto:wproctor@camboggycreek.org) or call 352-483-4126.



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