



**Shining Bright For 15 Years**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Camp Boggy Creek – Enriching the Lives of Florida’s Kids for 15 Years**

**EUSTIS, FL (June 1, 2010)** -- The arrival of summer campers to Camp Boggy Creek on June 12 marks the beginning of the Camp’s 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of caring for seriously ill children. By the close of 2010 the Camp will have served over 50,000 children and their family members throughout Florida, all at no charge to them.

Camp Boggy Creek first welcomed campers in the summer of 1996 following an intensive two year construction program on its 232 acres located in Lake County. Over 200 area contractors were involved in the build out of 44 buildings including 16 camper cabins, a swim center, sports and recreation building, dining hall, horse barn and state-of-the-art medical center. Since opening, a performance theater, nature center, climbing tower and mini-golf course have been added for the camper’s enjoyment.

The camp’s original name of The Boggy Creek Gang Camp was modified in 2003, along with the logo to Camp Boggy Creek. The name was in fact “lifted” from Boggy Creek Road in southwest Orange County, Florida. At the time that area was undeveloped and the camp organizers liked the way it sounded.

“We wanted even the first campers to feel like they were coming to a place that had been around a long time. The name ‘boggy creek’ sounded old and a little mysterious,” said J. Patterson Cooper, the current Chairman of the Board of the organization.

The mission of the camp is to allow kids with chronic or life threatening illnesses to enjoy traditional camp experiences in a medically safe environment so that they can forget they have what they have and just be kids. Founded by actor/philanthropist Paul Newman, it was his vision to create a place where kids could in his words, “kick back, relax and raise a little hell.” Newman was joined early on by co-founder; Tampa resident retired U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

Camp Boggy Creek, a non-profit organization, relies on the generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations and healthcare partners to reach its \$4 million annual budget. Additionally, it relies on nearly 2,000 volunteers each year to fulfill its mission.

Camp President and CEO, June Clark remarked that, “this celebration of our 15<sup>th</sup> year of service allows us to reflect on our accomplishments to date. Perhaps more importantly, it causes us to re-commit ourselves to serving these brave kids and their families that endure so much.”

Camp Boggy Creek is a year-round medical camp for children, ages 7 through 16, who suffer from chronic or life threatening illnesses. Programming includes week long summer sessions and family weekends the rest of the year. There is no charge to attend camp. It is a proud member of The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps and is accredited by the American Camping Association. For more information visit [www.BoggyCreek.org](http://www.BoggyCreek.org) or call toll free 866-Go-Boggy (866-462-6449.)

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