



The voice of Camp Boggy Creek • campboggycreek.org

Spring
20
23

Creek Speak



**A place of dreams, joy,
and endless opportunities...**



Greetings from Camp Boggy Creek! So far in 2023, Camp sessions have been filled for the first time since 2019. It is an absolute joy to see so many campers and their families attending our Spring family retreat weekends. Knowing that we are making an enormous impact in their lives makes this work such a privilege. The thing that never ceases to amaze me at Camp is watching our team and our dedicated volunteers rally to ensure that every weekend provides campers and their families with a truly remarkable experience. From our Camp recruiters, our programming team, our medical staff, and all our support staff, there are so many hands that come together to make this work. I'm grateful for every one of them.

When campers and families are not laughing, singing, playing, and experiencing all that Camp Boggy Creek has to offer, our facilities team is working diligently to keep Camp in tip-top shape. You would be amazed how many light bulbs get changed, beds get refreshed, floors get polished, and debris gets cleared. In addition to the daily maintenance work that happens, the team has been working diligently on re-imagining our Archery area and have made substantial progress on building the June Clark Trail of Joy. We have also welcomed a camera and production crew from Flip My Florida Yard who has enhanced the trail with a healing garden made up of Florida native plants. The finished production will air on Public Television later this year, so stay tuned!

As I settle into my role at Camp, I am celebrating many firsts. The Heart of Fashion, one of our signature events, was recently held at the beautiful Alford Inn in Winter Park. The sold-out crowd enjoyed a beautifully themed experience centered on going "back to camp," and we were blessed to surpass our fundraising goal. So many people came together to make this event simply beautiful. None of this would have happened without the direction of Mrs. Diane Holm, Event Chair, or our many sponsors and volunteers. I am deeply humbled by the generosity that was shown by our guests. It was exceptional. Thank you again to everyone that supports Camp! You all help us make the magic happen.

Summer is right around the corner, and I'm also excited to welcome hundreds of campers back to camp. Some returning, some new, all eager to just be a kid for the week; to be loved, accepted, safe, and to have the time of their lives. As you can imagine, an immense amount of planning, intentional programming, and medical support goes into each camp, and it is critical that we continue to provide these life-changing experiences at no cost to these amazing families. Your gifts to Camp make an impact beyond archery, beyond camp songs, and beyond the campfire. Your support builds resilience in our campers so they can continue to face what waits for them at home with the strength and courage that comes from knowing they're not alone. It is truly life-changing.

Thank you! We cannot do this work without you!



INNOVATION STATION: HURRICANE RELIEF FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND

While living in Florida has a copious amount of weather benefits, it can also wield some of the most devastating weather events in the United States. Hurricanes are a real part of living in Florida, and if you've never been through one, they can quickly change your life and leave a mental scar. Last year, Hurricane Ian made landfall in late September around Cape Coral, on the west coast of Florida. This particular hurricane left a trail of devastation. Sadly, 109 people lost their lives as a result of this storm, and hundreds were left homeless as the storm churned like a buzzsaw. Thousands of lives were changed within the blink of an eye and a coastal community was left with the daunting task of rebuilding.

As a camp that specializes in providing life-changing experiences for children with serious medical illnesses, a huge portion of what's happening at camp is addressing their mental health. Our Board of Directors saw an opportunity to provide this same type of experience for children going through illnesses not seen by the eye and wanted to address mental health. Thanks to a generous \$100,000 grant from Universal Orlando Foundation, 31 families who suffered from Hurricane Ian in 2022 made their way to Camp for an impactful weekend. There was laughing, playing, togetherness, and time to chat with mental health professionals if needed throughout the weekend. We hope to provide more opportunities for children processing trauma in addition to the work that we're already doing for children with serious medical conditions.

READ THE FULL STORY HERE >
<https://www.boggycreek.org/news/a-much-needed-respite>



“Children today are suffering from depression on an unprecedented scale. It’s our hope at Camp that we can provide a life-changing experience for children who are going through challenging issues through recreational therapy. I was so proud of our mental health team, our programming team, and our Camp recruiters for all of their efforts. I know that we made an impact on the lives of some very deserving children.”

— Dan Jurman, CEO



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FLIP MY FLORIDA YARD FLIPS CAMP BOGGY CREEK

An army of eager landscapers, mulch movers, fountain installers, native plant experts, and irrigation pros converged on Camp recently to flip the yard in front of our camp operations building. And WOW. What an amazing transformation. Flip My Florida Yard is a TV show that airs on PBS and basically helps homeowners elevate their yard game. The team received our application and sprang into action. It was simply remarkable. Stay tuned for the show's air dates!

READ THE FULL STORY HERE >

<https://www.boggycreek.org/news/flip-my-florida-yards-flips-camp-boggy-creek>



UPCOMING CAMP DATES!

Your camper will absolutely LOVE Camp this season! We're in full Camp prep mode and cannot wait to welcome your children! Here are the Camp dates for 2023, there are still some spots open, so be sure to get your application in today! Visit [boggycreek.org/camper-application](https://www.boggycreek.org/camper-application).

- June 4-8: North Cancer Week
- June 12-16: Arthritis/Hemophilia Week
- June 20-24: Heart Week
- June 28-July 2: Epilepsy Week
- July 6-10: South Cancer Week
- July 14-18: Gastro/Immune Week
- July 22-26: Asthma/Craniofacial/
Kidney/Spina Bifida Week
- July 30-August 3: Sickle Cell Week

JUNE CLARK TRAIL OF JOY PROJECT UPDATE

The June Clark Trail of Joy is coming together! This peaceful and serene path that meanders through the woods has been cleared, paved, and now includes a wonderful seating area. We're beyond excited to see the trail utilized by our campers, volunteers, and team members. A huge thank you to all who have helped to make this project happen.



MEET ERIC!

Each person's life is comprised of "moments", remembering special times and places. Eric Quinn, a former camper from South Florida, has plenty of these "moments" to share over the past 20 years he has spent at Camp.

Eric was diagnosed with cancer at age 2, and when he was old enough, he attended a summer session at Camp Boggy Creek. Recalling a "moment" from his first week at Camp, he remembered crying a little on his return home. He knew then, one week at Camp was not enough and he could not wait to come back.

As Eric reflects on some of his first-time experiences and 'moments' he recalls many of the fun Camp activities. Some include riding the biggest horse in the stable; shooting an arrow to make 30 targets in 10 minutes (beating his counselors!); becoming the messiest during Silly Olympics (covered with chocolate, spaghetti, paint, you name it!); and performing a special magic trick on Stage Day which was the talk of Camp for the rest of the week! This made him feel accepted, loved, and safe to be himself, corny jokes and all!

To give back the feeling of acceptance to future campers, Eric signed on to be a volunteer counselor during summer Camp sessions. While at Camp, Eric finds joy and fulfillment knowing that he is helping to create those same special moments for campers. He loves to make the campers laugh and feel good about themselves because he knows what it was like having cancer as a child and feeling isolated from children his age who did not understand his health challenges.

Currently Eric works as a pyro technician at Universal Studios Orlando and his future wish is to play a Transformer character, which is just one more way he can affect lives in a positive way. Eric states, "In the world today there is so much negativity and this is one way I can bring smiles to people's faces, especially children."

Eric's positive and giving spirit is always on display while he volunteers at Boggy Creek's Summer Camp. When asked to describe Camp in a few words, Eric replied "Camp is heaven on earth, my second home, a safe haven, peaceful, no judging, a place where kids can be themselves, and escape from the world." His "moments" have come full circle, and now, he helps create those "moments" for others, in both his work and volunteer life. Eric's joy comes from his heart and from his time at Camp Boggy Creek.



"Camp is heaven on earth, my second home, a safe haven, peaceful, no judging, a place where kids can be themselves, and escape from the world."

— Eric





“I would describe it as a community. A community of individuals who not only love what they do, but love what they do for our campers and their families, and that includes feeling safe, respected, and loved, and also inclusive of everyone’s different backgrounds and experiences. It’s a special place in that regard.”

— James



VOLUNTEER AT CAMP!

Come and be a part of an amazing community. A community of love, acceptance, safety, and joy. We’re looking for volunteers who LOVE working with children, that can help us provide life-changing experiences for children with serious medical conditions. When you volunteer at Camp Boggy Creek, you not only help change the lives of our campers, your own life will be greatly impacted.

LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE >

<https://www.boggycreek.org/summer-camps>



TELL US YOUR CAMP STORY!

Camp has impacted the lives of so many and we’d love to hear your story! We invite you to share your story with us, whether you’re a camper, past camper, volunteer, counselor, donor, or camper mom or dad, we want to hear from YOU! Visit <https://www.boggycreek.org/share-your-story> and share away!



HOW CAN YOU HELP CAMP BOGGY CREEK?



There are several ways to give back to Camp or to provide a life-changing experience for our campers. Please find some ways that you can get involved!

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 for our Campers and families and this is because of you — our faithful donors, partners, volunteers and camp friends who support us throughout the year.

- Consider supporting a Camper for a week of summer Camp.
- Support a family for a Family Retreat Weekend
- Sign up to be a Boggy Buddy — text BOGGYBUDDY to 26989 or visit <https://www.boggycreek.org/boggybuddy>
- Consider a tribute gift to celebrate a special day (e.t. birthday, anniversary or to honor a special person)
- Sponsor and/or participate in one of our events. Visit <https://www.boggycreek.org/events>
- Include Camp Boggy Creek in your will, donate stock, and donate from your IRA or Donor Advised Fund.

ESTATE PLANNING

Planning Ahead Provides a Legacy of Joy

A gift to Camp Boggy Creek in your will or living trust directly helps children with serious illnesses and their families. These children count down the days all year until they can come to Camp Boggy Creek. The limitless joy and possibilities that these children experience while at Camp are priceless and life changing, you can be a part of making that magic happen.

If you consider leaving a charitable bequest to Camp Boggy Creek, not only will you help Camp continue its important mission, but this gift also offers benefits to you:

- Giving is simple: Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. The official bequest language for Camp Boggy Creek is: “I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Camp Boggy Creek [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”
- Giving is versatile: You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.
- Giving may provide tax relief. If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift’s full value.

Other simple ways to give may include a gift from your IRA, naming Camp Boggy Creek as a beneficiary in a life insurance plan, or directly giving from your Donor Advised Fund. Along with bequests, these gifts are some of the easiest ways to support Camp Boggy Creek and the programs and services that help a child with a serious illness to forget about being sick and enjoy just being a kid!



For more information, please visit our website at campboggycreek.org, under “Support,” or contact Lisa Hicks Lhicks@campboggycreek.org or call 352-483-4124.

NEWMAN *Circle of Friends*

Camp Boggy Creek is proud to welcome the **Chiera Family Foundation** and the **Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida** as the newest members of the Camp Boggy Creek Newman Circle of Friends.

The Newman Circle of Friends, established in 2016, honors our steadfast donors who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to sustain the mission of Camp Boggy Creek. Paul Newman believed that giving back to help those less fortunate is the greatest opportunity to make our world a better place.

In honor of Paul's vision of enriching the lives of seriously ill children, we are delighted to recognize the Chiera Family Foundation and Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, as members of the Newman Circle of Friends. The Chiera Family Foundation has been an integral part of Camp Boggy Creek's history, sending supporting Campers from South Florida to attend Camp Boggy Creek each summer. The Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida has been giving to Camp since Camp's inception in 1996 and has been an instrumental healthcare partner. Both of these very generous partners have helped to fulfill the dream of thousands of seriously ill children and their families to experience the magic of Camp

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, and the more than 90,000 children and families we have served, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Chiera Family Foundation and the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida for reaching this remarkable giving milestone!



THANK YOU...



The Chiera Family Foundation



To donate to Camp Boggy Creek, please visit our website at campboggycreek.org



a seriousfun camp
founded by paul newman



30500 Brantley Branch Rd.
Eustis, FL 32736
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campboggycreek.org

MISSION

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.