

THE JOURNEY

A FLYING HORSE FARMS MAGAZINE

NO
LIMITS



Journeying On

FOR ME, CAMP HAS ALWAYS been about Damion Dane, my nephew who died from Ewings Sarcoma. It's been about my brother Tom, who never recovered from the loss of his son.

It's been about each one of our campers and each one of our families. About making joy. About expanding possibility. About healing spirits.

Together, we've grieved over loss. We've rejoiced over transformation. We've learned that fearless is free, that with trust comes relief and that we can indeed celebrate every milestone.

My time spent here has been the most fulfilling of my life. Seven seasons living the magic of camp. With our campers. With our fierce team. With every volunteer, donor and advocate who knows the greatest gift you can give is that of childhood, confidence and independence.



As I retire from Flying Horse Farms, I do so with the absolute certainty that this team is on fire to keep pushing camp forward.

As each of you knows, camp is not just a place on a map; it's a part of our soul. While reading about our quest in these pages, let's celebrate all we have accomplished and dream about what we still can do.

Thank you for the privilege of being part of this journey. For proving that

love is a verb. And for teaching me that the answer is not *no*—the question is *how*.
Flying Horse Farms, you rock.

Mimi D

MIMI DANE
CEO/President, Flying Horse Farms

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a seriousfun camp

LETTERS: kristy@flyinghorsefarms.org

Flying Horse Farms, located on 200 scenic acres in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, provides magical, transforming camp experiences for children with serious illnesses and their families—free of charge. It is the first camp in the Midwest to become a fully accredited member of the SeriousFun Children's Network, a group of camps and programs worldwide founded by actor, philanthropist and Ohio native Paul Newman.

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Mission Support

Community partners have sold goodies galore to benefit Flying Horse Farms. Here are a handful of get-and-give highlights.



● LOVE AT FIRST BITE
During Restaurant Week, the pie-slinging gurus at Paulie Gee's donated \$1 of every pizza sold to Flying Horse Farms.



● CHEERS
All summer long, the soulful team at Native Cold Pressed donated \$1 of each Pitaya Punch sold to Flying Horse Farms.

● THE WRITE THING
Igloo Letterpress teamed with leadership training group Next Level Gives to host a journal-making event. Each participant made two journals—one to keep and one for a camper. Plus, cash proceeds supported camp, too.



● LIGHTING OUR (CAMP) FIRE
Kindred Beer developed Camp Fire beer specifically to benefit camp, and a portion of every beer sold—in stores, restaurants or bars—supports us. Bonus: You'll even find us on the six-pack packaging!

● STYLE WITH SOUL
Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister Co. and abercrombie kids invited shoppers around the world to round up for SeriousFun Children's Network camps all summer. Donations benefited The A&F Challenge, which supports SeriousFun camps, including Flying Horse Farms.



GOOD FUN
From road races to dinner parties, partners have also supported camp by hosting stellar events. Be inspired on page 28.



● HOMERUN
From May to August, our friends at Watershed Kitchen & Bar donated a portion of every "The Money Pitch" cocktail sold directly to camp.

PHOTOS COURTESY: (T-SHIRT) ABERCROMBIE & FITCH / (COCKTAIL) WATERSHED KITCHEN & BAR



Building Wings

This year, Flying Horse Farms welcomed its 5,000th camper. As camp matures and evolves, so does its impact.



HE BRACES WERE CUMBERSOME and, for an 8-year-old boy, embarrassing.

But the rheumatoid arthritis attacking Caleb Thurman's body was weakening his ankles, causing them to roll inward. Without these, doctors said, his knees would buckle.

So every day, Caleb stepped into the hard-as-a-toilet-seat braces, which started beneath his feet, stretched behind his calves and wrapped around his legs just below the knee. People stared. And pointed. And wondered.

Caleb lives with more diagnoses, too—a heart murmur, asthma and Crohn's, a chronic inflammatory bowel disease that long forced him to wear adult diapers. Still, it wasn't the hospital visits, transfusions, pills or even diapers that bothered him most. It was the contraptions attached to his limbs that prevented him from running fast, jumping high and feeling normal.

Eventually, Caleb refused to wear shorts.

"I was very self-conscious," he said. "It made me feel like a freak."

In the summer of 2012, the little boy who had learned not to trust the world arrived at Flying Horse Farms in pants—and found his people. As the week progressed, he noticed children with braces. Colostomy bags. Feeding tubes.

If they can be strong enough to do what they're doing, he thought, I can be strong enough to wear shorts.

He pulled on beige cargo shorts and played by his cabin.

"It was freeing," he said.

When Caleb left, he cried.

"I think camp opens doors that parents didn't know could be opened," said his mother, Charice Fort. "This opened up a whole world of possibilities for him: I have this, but it doesn't have me."

Caleb spent much of the next year talking about camp.

But in Mt. Gilead, the camp team couldn't rest on its laurels. It questioned how it could take a kid like Caleb and go deeper. It did the same the next year, too, and the year after that.

This year, Flying Horse Farms turned 7 and welcomed its 5,000th camper. But camp is not just celebrating breadth, it's celebrating depth. Yes, camp has served more campers each year. The true success, though, is that thanks to lessons learned and wisdom earned, camp is serving more medically acute and emotionally complex campers than ever before—and in the most meaningful possible way.

"We're going deeper on so many fronts—with campers, with families, with volunteers, with donors," said Flying Horse Farms CEO Mimi Dane. "But the best part is, nobody here is satisfied. This team is hungry to deliver more. Their ideals, their passion—I don't know what's next,

Summer staffer Zack Patton helps camper Braedon, who uses a wheelchair, conquer the high ropes course.



Camp High

It's been over a week since we picked Braedon up from camp, and he is still on his "camp high." That's what we call it when he comes home from FHF and is happy, talkative and smiling.

When we dropped him off to you all, he was pretty exhausted mentally and physically. It was a bad year for him health-wise.

We loved hearing about all the things he got to do (special thanks to those who encouraged him) and the friends he made. He loves looking through the pictures on Facebook and pointing out different things to us.

We are so grateful to all of you for giving him the best week he has had all year and making him feel special.

Flying Horse Farms is one of the few places where Braedon fits in and feels comfortable. Thank you!

—Jill Pollman, camper mom

but I know it just keeps getting better."

THE SUMMER THAT CAMP opened, one young boy learned to swallow his pills whole for the first time in his life.

"That was a huge victory for us," Flying Horse Farms Chief Program Officer Ryan Brownfield said.

It was life-changing for the child and, notably, his mother, who until then spent hours tediously grinding every pill into powder.

But back then, camp couldn't even accept children who used wheelchairs, let alone adapt activities to their needs. This past summer, the team helped a camper who uses a wheelchair conquer the entire ropes course.

"The programming is a lot more high-risk," Brownfield said, "and a lot more nuanced."

Camp clearly has evolved in myriad ways. The team has grown—from those who

raise money to those who mas-
termind camp programming.

Systems have been perfected—from the camper admissions to staff training to coordinated communication between the medical, program, kitchen, facilities and even marketing teams.

Volunteers are now seasoned—from retired men who paint buildings and fix shelving to nurses who return year after year.

Partnerships have blossomed—from corporate donors to hospitals and universities who send doctors, nurses and dietary experts.

While camp as a whole was always outcome-based, now, every single activity is outcome-based. While camp was always adequately staffed, now, every cabin has its own nurse, and every nurse has an iPad with easy access to medical histories. While camp has always had friends, now, it has a community of supporters that span the state and beyond.

As a result, camp has been able to accept more challenging campers, whether that be a boy who needs to be turned in bed every couple hours all night or a girl with a history of self harm.

"These kids really need camp, and now we're able to give it to them. It's really exciting," said Flying Horse Farms Medical Director Barb Galantowicz. "The kids who struggle the most are also the ones who get the most out of it."

As time passes, camp also is learning to navigate a cruel reality: loss.

When Flying Horse Farms opened the gates for its inaugural summer session, it welcomed among that crew a cabin of girls with various heart conditions who quickly became known as Sparkle Five. They wore matching scars, toothy grins and plenty of glitter.

Their memories through the years are colorful.

Remember when we painted Grandpa's head with palm trees? And when we put makeup on Dr. Boyle?

What about the year we made the green slime wrong and got it stuck in our hair?!

How about when the boys tee-peed us, and we got them back by blasting Barbie music outside their cabin early the next morning?

There have been fashion shows. Outpost sleepovers. Crushes. And now, as teens, text messages that keep them connected year-round.

Sarah Bush, who had undergone two open-heart surgeries by age 5, was among them. When the kind, outgoing Northeast Ohio girl arrived for that very first camp, she spent her first hour convincing a nervous kid that this was going to be amazing—despite the fact that she, like



Longtime camper Caleb Thurman, at right, is now a Ranger prepping to graduate high school.

everyone, was new.

"Mom, some people's scars are worse than mine," she told her mother, Wendy, after camp. "So it's no big deal if I wear a swimsuit."

Her mom was wowed.

"For her whole self-image, it was great," Wendy said.

And as the years passed, Wendy knew Sarah's bond with Sparkle Five was strong for reasons she would never fully understand.

"I don't have to explain myself to them," Sarah would say. "I don't have to explain if I need a golf cart to get somewhere. I don't have to explain if I'm tired and need to rest for a minute. I never feel like I'm holding anybody up."

When camp applications opened in January 2017, Wendy filled out Sarah's, plus one for Sarah's brother, Matthew, who was finally old enough for Siblings Camp. Sarah wasn't exactly thrilled. Camp was her thing. She wasn't sure she wanted to share it. Matt was excited to experience the place his sister loved.

In March, Sarah became achy and exhausted. Her temperature spiked. She was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive form of leukemia. She began chemo immediately. Soon,

All In

As camp evolves, so too do the **donor relationships** that make it possible. These examples highlight how.



ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.

What began as one A&F associate excited about Flying Horse Farms has grown into a five-year, \$15 million partnership between the international fashion giant and SeriousFun Children's Network. First, A&F associates began volunteering at Flying Horse Farms. Then, the

company gave camp proceeds from a sample sale. Eventually, A&F leadership began holding retreats at camp. Creative teams painted the WellNest treatment rooms. The company donated thousands of T-shirts to SeriousFun camps. Now, The A&F Challenge—which brought in \$3.2 million in 2017—is the world's largest fundraiser for SeriousFun. A&F sent more than 100 associates to camps around the globe to serve as summer camp counselors. And Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister Co. and abercrombie kids stores worldwide are inviting guests to round up at the register for camp.



COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS FOUNDATION

The Foundation's partnership with camp focuses on pediatric cancer—one of its four priorities. The relationship started in 2006 with a capital donation of \$25,000 to build the Columbus Blue Jackets sport court. In 2013, the Foundation began supporting Hematology/Oncology camps with grant

funding and hasn't stopped. Beyond that, several 50/50 raffles at games have benefited camp, the Lady Blue Jackets raffle has raised money for camp, the team has provided auction items for fundraisers, and the Foundation has provided game tickets to camper families. In 2017, the Foundation brought its "sticks in hand" programming to Hematology/Oncology campers and helped fund camp's inaugural neuro-oncology family weekend in the fall. Stinger also has visited camp to greet campers, and campers have been featured as Blue Jackets Heroes.



CARDINAL HEALTH

Cardinal Health Foundation began generously giving money to camp in 2010 and hasn't stopped, most recently funding psychosocial services and Child Life Specialist training. In 2011, Cardinal Health began a workplace-giving program, matching gifts for employee donations to camp. In 2014, the company

began sponsoring fundraising events, from Flyathlon to Campfire. Cardinal Health CEO George Barrett has co-chaired Campfire, served on SeriousFun Children's Network board of directors and generously supported camp personally. Former Cardinal Health Chief Human Resource Officer Carole Watkins serves on camp's board as past chair. She generously donated \$100,000 upon her retirement to establish the Carole Watkins Leadership Fund at camp, which supports seasonal staff and the Ranger program. Current Cardinal Health Senior Vice President of Enterprise Marketing, Kathyne Reeves, also serves on camp's board. And Cardinal Health's HR and Learning Management teams provide HR support, talent searches, security training and professional development sessions to camp's fulltime staff.



SAM'S FANS

Columbus couple Nikki and Dan McCarthy, whose daughter Sam died of Fanconi anemia, donated \$100 to Flying Horse Farms in 2010. Soon, their sons were raising money for camp by participating in Flyathlon, a duathlon for kids. At Campfire 2016, Nikki and Dan donated money but asked how the

family could better support camp. By then, Nikki had founded Sam's Fans—a nonprofit that honors her daughter by supporting music and art therapy programs for children who are seriously ill. The organization gave \$1,500 to camp in 2016, and Nikki visited camp to dream up a bigger relationship. In 2017, she and Dan served on the honorary committee for Campfire, and Sam's Fans donated \$4,510 to support music therapy at camp. The money funded a seasonal staff member's salary to lead Music/Spotlight Club, purchase ukuleles and other instruments and write Flying Horse Farms' first-ever camp song. After being featured on the Today show in late summer 2017, Sam's Fans donated another 10 ukuleles to Flying Horse Farms.



Family Matters

Camp isn't just a game-changer for children who are ill. It's healing and respite for siblings and parents, too.

This year, after longtime camper Sarah Bush died, her brother Matt was able to find joy during Siblings Camp at the place his sister loved.

For Charice Fort, camp also has worked wonders. She is a medical coder, a devout Christian and a stern single mother who doesn't date because her son comes first, period. When she first learned of Caleb's medical diagnosis, she sobbed. Then, for two full years, she didn't shed a tear: "I had shut down." She felt guilt-ridden and alone. Nobody got it.

Then, she and Caleb arrived at Family Camp. The parents gathered together to sit, to talk, to listen. And all the tears Charice had stored emerged.

"It was a healing," she said. "I was able to breathe. You are not alone."

Charice connected with families she stills stays in touch with today.

"At that point in my life," she said, "that did more for me than anything else could have."

she was admitted to the hospital for 24-hour care.

As her condition worsened, visitors were banned. But a couple of camp friends at the Cleveland Clinic, where Sarah was treated, made it a point to say hello. Longtime Flying Horse Farms volunteer Dr. Jerry Boyle, who wasn't caring for Sarah but knew her from camp, popped in.

"I see—you just want to go to two camps now," he joked about her multiple diagnoses.

Another Clinic employee who volunteers at camp visited Sarah regularly to create art.

"That connection with the camp followed her to the hospital," Wendy said. "It was the one thing that made her happy."

Sarah, who wore her camp T-shirts most days in the hospital, one day looked at her mother.

"Are they still going to let me go to camp this year?" she asked.

"They are keeping your spot open," Wendy promised.

She texted her Sparkle Five friends.

I'm fine, she assured them. Don't worry about me.

Sarah died on April 27 at age 14.

The more than 800 guests at her funeral included the girls of Sparkle Five, who gathered from around the state to celebrate their friend.

"There's no words to explain (camp)—it's amazing," says Wendy Bush. Her daughter Sarah, shown here in white, attended the first weekend long camp session at Flying Horse Farms. She died in April 2017. Her son Matt, shown below, attended his first Sibling Camp in August.



And when they regrouped for Heart Camp in June, it was with orange T-shirts spelling Sarah's name and extraordinary emotion.

"Now, death is not this theoretical thing we'll have to deal with someday. It's not 'campers.' It's Sarah," said Ryan Brownfield. "We've gone from theoretical to actual, and actual's a lot harder and more painful."

Sarah's 8-year-old brother, Matt, attended his first Siblings Camp in August with a heart heavier than most. He most enjoyed archery, just like his big sis, and finished the week with a stash of playing cards earned by hitting them with arrows. When Wendy arrived to pick him up, he was strumming a counselor's guitar, and his first words alluded to a newfound passion.

"I want a guitar for Christmas," he said.

Wendy said she and her husband are awed by Flying Horse Farms.

"Camp means more than what we will ever know," Wendy said. "There's no words to explain it—it's amazing."

Brownfield relishes such stories. Still, he wants more.

"I'm really proud of how far we've come," he said. "But I also know we've got a lot further to go."

2012

Weeks: 1
Rangers: 13

2013

Weeks: 1
Rangers: 16

2014

Weeks: 1
Rangers: 17

2015

Weeks: 2
Rangers: 27

2016

Weeks: 3
Rangers: 30

2017

Weeks: 3
Rangers: 39

Ranger Revelation

They are the servant leaders. The kitchen ninjas. The sign builders. They are the Rangers. The Flying Horse Farms Ranger Program, which runs concurrently with select camp sessions, provides leadership training for former campers in their later teens. Here's how the program has evolved.



2017 Highlights

Conquering the Wall

One Ranger fell and hurt himself a few hours before the Rangers were supposed to attempt the wall—an event many consider the epitome of the Ranger experience. Staff gathered the Rangers to deliver the news. The injured boy said the rest of the crew could tackle the wall without him. “Not all of our team is present,” another Ranger said, “so we cannot do the wall.” The Rangers voted unanimously to wait—even if it meant missing the opportunity to do it at all. The injured Ranger was better by departure morning, and the group united to overcome the wall—in near record time.

A Simple Thank You

One of camp's core values is “A simple thank you goes a long way.” To embrace that, we taught Rangers the art of writing a thank-you note. They each wrote thank-you notes to a servant leader at camp—members of our development, marketing and leadership teams. As we wrapped up the activity during one session, the Rangers asked if they could take more cards. They then began to write thank you notes to each other, the Ranger leaders and some of their past counselors.

Ingredients for a Happy Life

Executive Coach Regan Walsh led a workshop for Rangers to help them create a list of ingredients or requirements life needs to be happy. Their list proved that their wisdom is beyond their years. A few items on the list included: Accepting criticism. Nothing is given, everything is earned. Allow yourself to feel everything. Allow yourself to love your life even if it isn't going as planned. Learn from your mistakes. Stand up for yourself. Do what you're good at and love doing. More singing.



Ranger Reflections

■ “The Ranger Program showed me you don't have to be loud to be a leader.”
—Sarah, Ranger

■ “I think that everything happens for a reason, and I came here to find myself.”
—Kyle, Ranger

■ “I don't dance, but here I dance. It's one of the few places where I can 100% be myself. We don't have to talk about it, we just know. Camp has taught me... what love is, what joy is, what laughter is, what happiness is. I don't know where I'd be without camp.” —Elizabeth, Ranger

CALEB STOOD IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE of camp this past July—a Ranger in a dance-off with a young camper—and hit the beat with his flashiest move.

The little guy twisted into a dazzling spin.

“Whoa—I can't match that,” Caleb smiled. “You win.”

He bowed and backed off the stage, prodding the crowd to cheer for its champion.

In many ways, camp and Caleb have grown up together.

Now 17, he is a wrestler at Akron's Firestone High School who overcame a winless freshman season to become city champ as a junior. This year, the team captain aims to qualify for the state tournament. He also is senior class treasurer, president of the men's chorus and former drum major in the school band.

Camp, he said, gave him the confidence to become who he is.

“I think it all started with the brace thing,” he said. “You push yourself a little bit further. You learn to not care what people think. You're challenged to be the best you can be.”

The Ranger program—a servant leadership program for teens who have aged out of camp—has been an entirely different experience, he said. One female Ranger said she wouldn't attempt the low-ropes wall unless Caleb pulled her, which wowed him. And after Ranger camp, the parent of a younger camper contacted Caleb's mom and said her son wanted to talk with Caleb.

“It was awesome,” Charice Fort said.

Caleb was thrilled.

“I'm making an impact on a kid?” he said. “That's all I've ever wanted.”

Of course, Caleb is buoyed by the love of a mother that is whole and pure. Charice prays with him daily. She has carefully surrounded him with positive male role models since birth. She is his chef, his homework helper, his toughest critic and his biggest fan.

Camp, she said, has impacted them both.

It didn't just help Caleb realize possibilities; it helped her realize his possibilities, too.

Like the parents of many children with illnesses, she said, she parented with blinders. She wanted to make the world as safe as possible for her son. Camp allowed her to let go a bit—to see beyond the tunnel on which she was focused.

“It's like you realize, wow—this is what the big picture is,” she said.

“It's been really cool to watch his growth,” she said. “Flying Horse Farms is a gift that campers can open every single day after coming here.”

Caleb, she believes, will continue opening those gifts.

His mission now? To share them with others.

As a senior class officer, he already is planning the speech he will give classmates at graduation.

“It's going to be a motivational speech about working your butt off and not allowing people to tell you that you can't,” he said.

“I want to move other people,” Caleb said, “because camp moved me.”

“You learn to not care what other people think. You're challenged to be the best you can be,” says Ranger Caleb Thurman, shown here being doused in paint by younger campers during Color Olympics 2017.



Superstar

Caleb was invited by SeriousFun Children's Network to perform at its annual gala in New York City. He sang with other SeriousFun campers in front of President and Hillary Clinton, met Tom Hanks and talked backstage with Jimmy Fallon. Fallon later invited Caleb and other campers to perform on The Tonight Show, which earned him worldwide attention. “I got to perform in front of Bill and Hillary Clinton,” Caleb said. “That was amazing!”

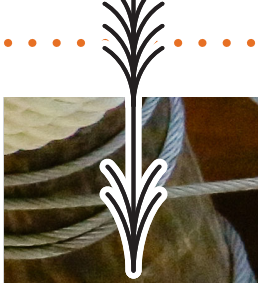
Camp's team criss-crosses Ohio physically—and the world virtually—to recruit a summer staff dream team. The interview process is intense and competitive, and the chosen few are people who won't just shake the world someday, they're also shaking it now. Here, meet a handful of stellar young people who, through the years, have spent summers changing lives—and leaving changed.



THE

FUTURE IS NOW





ABBY BLOOMFIELD

Abby, 25, began her camp journey as a summer cabin counselor in 2012—and never left. Throughout college, and then after being hired as a neonatal intensive care nurse at The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, she continued volunteering at camp. Now, the Cleveland native and Ohio State graduate works at Flying Horse Farms year-round as nursing program coordinator while maintaining her NICU job in Columbus.

On favorite memories

I think one of my favorite memories is when Nellie's Catwalk for Kids came to camp. I was the counselor for a cabin of 8- to 10-year-old girls. Nellie's brought in a giant closet of dresses, shirts, purses and accessories for the girls to dress up and walk down a red carpet. Even the quiet campers broke out of their shells as they strutted down the runway. After the program, we had conversations with the girls about how they felt. All of them shared that they have never felt the confidence they did that night and told us how pretty they felt. It was such a rewarding moment to watch these girls

realize they are all special in their own way and could walk a little taller.

On camp impact

They say camp is magical and it can change you, but you really don't know the impact until you have experienced it. I have been impacted by getting to serve these families that deserve to have fun. I feel the joy from giving children the power to make their medical challenges take a back seat so they can have all the experiences of being a kid. It has given me the mentality to not take life for granted and celebrate every day for what it is worth.

On lessons learned

Camp has taught me to always remember to see the best in people. It is like that quote by Wendy Mass: "Be kind. For everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about."

To me, camp means...

Transformation. It is a place where you get the chance to witness nervous kids come into the gates and walk out with more confidence than ever before. There are challenges that are being overcome constantly. It is not only transformational for our campers, but you also see the best come out in the families, volunteers and staff as well. I truly believe that camp changes you and makes you become the best version of yourself.



TEAM FHF

Several other former seasonal staffers also now call camp home year-round



DANI WILKINSON

Camp Director

Seasonal Staff: 2012

To me, camp means...

Discovery. We often talk about how camp is transformative—how the shy kid takes center stage. But the joy and sense of self that camp brings out is already inside of us. Camp uncovers what we're truly capable of in ways we could never do so quickly on our own. We push boundaries, take risks, tell kids "yes" when they've only heard "no," encourage each other and keep campers our number one.



OLIVIA MILLER

Camper and Family Liaison

Seasonal Staff: 2012

To me, camp means...

Freedom from the day to day, freedom from medical treatments and diagnosis, freedom for parents, freedom from the coulds and shoulds, freedom to be your truest self, freedom to be silly and laugh again, freedom to transform, freedom to fly!



KRISTEN CAPADONA

Child Life Specialist

Seasonal Staff: 2013

To me, camp means...

A place where our campers and families can be silly, be a bit selfish, take chances and be bold. Camp allows people to come as they are, be as they are and experience joy and self-care in a way they don't get to any other time of the year.



ALEXA DONNER

Program Coordinator

Seasonal Staff: 2014, 2015, 2016

To me, camp means...

An opportunity to finally be the silliest, goofiest, most authentic and unapologetic form of yourself. Campers, counselors and everyone in between are given permission to come exactly as they are, and the even better part is that they are accepted exactly as they are. Camp is where campers find the freedom to be themselves, to fly (or zipline), and face their fears, one whacky step, leap or hop at a time.



CHRISTY MCKINLEY

Nursing Director

Seasonal Staff: 2015

To me, camp means...

Healing. Healing the soul from all the hardships in life. For the campers, they get to experience being a kid again, and not the kid who is sick, but the kid who gets to do archery, fishing and high ropes. For the families, they heal as a unit. And for the siblings, they get to come to camp for a week and have some special time where they get to be the number one priority. This goes for me, too—camp heals the soul!



EMMA NOVINS

Since spending summer 2011 as one of camp's inaugural seasonal staffers, Emma has lived a mission-based life: She spent a year in AmeriCorps, serving low-income, mostly Spanish-speaking communities in Texas by teaching sustainability and health programming. She then spent two years teaching English in Granada, Spain. Now, the Vermont native and Kenyon College graduate is back in her home state, working for one of the few mission-based law firms in the country.

On her proudest achievement

I'm proud of myself for moving to Spain when I didn't know anyone at all, finding housing by myself, finding freelance work and really pushing myself to master Spanish and get out of my comfort zone.

On her favorite camp memory

It was a swimming afternoon during one of the heart camps, and I remember realizing how special it must have been for the campers to not feel different because of their scars. That was something so simple, and I had never thought of it before. One of the boys in my group who was about 8 loved doing cannon balls and asked me to rate each one on a scale of one to 10. I must have done it for at least an hour, but he was so happy that it made me so happy to get to share in that joy.

On lessons learned

I learned that I really enjoy working with kids. I was an only child and didn't have a lot of experience working with kids. I was surprised by how much fun I had, and my experience there helped me pursue the teaching job in Spain.

On examples

I still use Flying Horse Farms as an example of the ideal work place: an entity that is well organized and run effectively, that does incredibly good work and that truly cares about its employees. That's the holy grail.

To me, camp means...

Goodness and happiness. At its heart, camp is full of good people doing good things for kids. It can't get more pure than that.

ROBERT KIRIAN

Robert, 26, was part of camp's inaugural class of counselors in 2011. Inspired by camp to make a difference, the Northeast Ohio native is now working as a research associate at RoosterBio, Inc. in Washington, D.C., developing a system to culture stem cells that could ultimately save lives.

On camp memories
During hematology week, there was one camper who was not my biggest fan. At the end of the week, however, the camper gave me his nametag so that I would be able to remember him.

On lessons learned
Camp taught me a lot of new campfire songs. But camp also taught me how to step outside of my comfort zone to sing those new campfire songs around a fire in front of others. This is something I would never have done before camp.

On camp impact
Camp inspired me to choose a career path where I could make a positive impact on people. Since camp, I have worked at a biopharmaceutical company developing a RSV vaccine, and I am now at a biotech startup developing a bioreactor system to culture stem cells for different regenerative medicine applications.

On dreams
My dream is to start my own company that somehow improves the quality of life for people.

To me, camp is...
A magical place that has the power to transform the lives of its staff, volunteers, donors and, most importantly, its campers.



ERIN SUMAN

Erin, 28, was an inspiring, creative force as camp's arts specialist during the summer of 2012. Some of the artwork she and her campers made is still on display today, from the giant logo piece on the Big Red Barn's mantle to the juice-box map in the dining hall. Now, she's a painter who has traveled the world and teaches art at Davis Middle School in Dublin, Ohio.

On lessons learned at camp
I learned how to be creative in order to help meet individual needs in my classroom, and I use this lesson every single day as a teacher. Not everyone can make art in the same way, but everyone deserves to be able to make art. It is my job to figure out a way to help them. Camp also has helped me approach each child with compassion and zero pre-judgment.

On archery art
We spent time filling latex-free balloons with paint and air to be exploded by the campers at archery. When a camper hit a balloon on the target, it exploded all over the paper "canvas" under the target and made the most incredible abstract art!

On favorite memories
We collaborated with everyone at camp—from the facilities staff to counselors to nearly every camper who came that summer of 2012—to create a Chuck Close-inspired, large installation project of the camp logo. We painted the logo on a massive piece of plywood. Then we up-cycled toilet paper rolls, painted them and glued them on to create texture. It hangs in the main barn still today.

On colliding worlds
My first year teaching, I received an email from camp about one of my all-time favorite campers, Nicholas. He was hosting a mile of a marathon and was asking for origami cranes to line his mile. Traditionally, it is believed if one person folds 1,000 paper cranes, his wish will come true. The paper crane is a symbol of hope. I taught about 90 fourth graders how to fold paper cranes to help Nicholas line his mile, and we sent as many as we could make. They were so excited to help someone close to their age!

On reflecting
I get a little teary eyed. I believe the campers and their passion for life through illness taught me more than I could have taught them, and I am beyond grateful for that.

To me, camp means...
The purest form of love. The people who work there have the best hearts and are willing to pour them out for every wonderful and deserving camper who comes to camp. They truly make magic happen, every week, all summer.



CORINNE HONE

Originally from Ireland, Corinne, 26, now lives in Antigua, Guatemala helping children living in poverty. The 2014 seasonal staffer—who also spent two summers at Barretstown, the SeriousFun camp in Ireland—has a degree in speech and language pathology. She is the volunteer and group program coordinator at Niños de Guatemala.

On her proudest achievement
Being able to make a life for myself in Guatemala. It was a daunting thought, moving across the world to live in a new country where I did not speak the language and where I didn't know anyone. What I did know, though, was that I had a passion to serve and to make a difference, no matter how small. I have not changed the world. But I know I have been able to make the world a little better for a small few, and that is all the reward I need.

On lessons learned
The biggest lesson I took away from camp and still use today is that you grow as an individual when you push yourself out of your comfort zone and into your stretch zone. It is so easy to get into a rhythm at work or school and fall into a comfortable routine. I am guilty of this too, but I have had the most fun and learned more about myself and the world around me when I have been *uncomfortable*.

On camp impact
Camp taught me how to be silly. It gave me more confidence in myself than I ever thought I could have. Camp has filled my life with laughter, good friends and the strength to follow my heart, even when my heart led me to the other side of the world! Camp is a transformative experience, not just for campers but for staff, too. Without a doubt, camp has made me the woman I am today.

On dreams
My dream is to always have a passion and purpose and to empower others to find theirs.

To me, camp means...
Magical, life-changing fun.

EMMA BARRETT

Emma, 24, graduated from Brown University, where she spent four years working with Health Leads—an organization that helps low-income families access resources. She also was a founding member of Kappa Delta sorority and musical director of her cappella group. She spent a year researching glioblastoma at The James, Ohio State's cancer hospital. She volunteered as a grief facilitator at Peter's Place, a center for grieving children and families. And she spent three summers—2014, 2015 and 2017—as a seasonal staffer at Flying Horse Farms. Now, the Philadelphia native has joined camp fulltime as a fellow before starting medical school in 2018.

On camp impact
Camp is the reason I want to be a doctor. I knew the first day I set foot on camp that my life had changed. I found purpose and power and magic, and I never looked back. Because of camp, I applied to a career-changing program so that I could take all of the pre-med classes I needed to apply to medical school after having been an anthropology student.

On career aspirations
To become Dr. Barb! I want to go into pediatrics and eventually become the medical director of a SeriousFun camp.

On lessons learned from campers

Our campers have shown me what resilience and strength look like. They have taught me that playing and being silly are ways of healing. They have taught me that in order to care for people, you have to know their story and heal them as whole people, not just a series of symptoms. They have taught me that no one can be defined by a diagnosis.

On lessons learned from camp

I have learned how to be a resourceful and creative problem solver. I have learned how to listen even though I love to talk. I have learned there is no issue too big or too small that I can't tackle when I am working with people who are united by a common vision.

To me, camp means...

Home. Magic. Happiness. A place where we all belong and we are all our absolute best and strongest selves.



PRESCRIPTION FOR JOY

Three other 2017 seasonal staffers are also studying to be doctors.



BEN MARHULIK

Ben Marhulik, 24, is a Northeast Ohio native and student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. After volunteering at several camp sessions over three years, he joined camp's 2017 seasonal staff as a fish-catching, belly-laughing, stretch-zone-loving cabin counselor.

On career aspirations

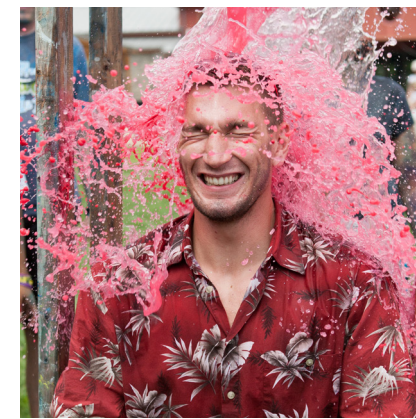
Before coming to camp in the summer of 2015, I had no focus of what type of medicine I wanted to practice. Ever since that week, I have been thinking about pediatrics and loving the path that camp has put me on.

On empathy

Empathy is a huge part of any health profession, and campers have helped me see its importance first hand. It's easy to say, "I'm sorry." Getting to understand what someone is going through and being there with them through it is harder. But being empathetic is also more rewarding. It creates a strong relationship and is something I will always thank camp for.

To me, camp means...

Home. I am surrounded by like-minded people and get to enjoy all the little things in life. Memories are made with friends that I will have for the rest of my life. Bellies hurt from laughter. Fish are caught, kissed and released. Camp is my perfect place.



ZACK PATTON

Indiana native Zack, 21, brought an impressive resume to camp: captain of the Wabash College basketball team, Beta Theta Pi president and academic chair, College Mentors for Kids, Best Buddies. But it's his X factor that wows: The 2016 and 2017 seasonal staffer relishes being with the most medically challenged campers, dances like a squirrel with gusto and lives in the moment like he means it. He plans to enter medical school after graduating in 2018.

On career aspirations

Camp has solidified my decision to be a doctor and a pediatrician. Seeing how strong the kiddos are and to see their ability to persevere is so inspiring. I want to spend my life working with families like the ones I meet at camp.

On what camp has taught him about medicine

The campers don't have to worry about their illnesses when they are at camp; it is their time to be free from worry and be a kid. The amazing medical staff and volunteers have taught me a ridiculous amount about medicine. But most importantly, they've shown me how and when it is appropriate to make medicine fun. I have also learned how important it is to be sure that the kiddos understand their diagnosis.

To me, camp means...

The world. It is my happy place, and there is literally nowhere else in the world I would choose to be above Flying Horse Farms.



SCOTT WEBER

Scott, 24, is a biochemistry major and marching band president at Brigham Young University. He spent two years serving a church mission on Madagascar, one year working with a research group trying to find solutions to antibiotic resistant bacteria and the summer of 2017 as a cabin counselor at Flying Horse Farms. The Dublin, Ohio native will head to medical school to pursue a career in pediatrics after graduating in 2018.

On lessons learned from campers

Our campers are strong, and they have taught me that even through the bad times, we can wear a smile and persevere. They have strengthened my resolve to make an impact on the world. Our campers have taught me that caring for people is about treating the whole person and that everyone should be treated as an individual person and not defined by the illness they may have.

On career lessons learned

Camp has taught me to pay attention to details. Often, kids are not forthcoming about how they may be feeling, but you can notice if you pay enough attention. Camp has also taught me the importance of inclusion, and that will impact not only my medical career, but also me as a person.

To me, camp means...

Everything. Camp has filled a part of my soul that I didn't realize needed filling. To me, camp means new lifelong friends, the ability to impact young campers' lives and for my life to be forever impacted by them.



IMPACT & INSPIRATION

Campers, families, staff and volunteers reflect on the power of camp.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Last cardiology camp for this big guy.
So blessed to have Flying Horse Farms in our life. He has grown so much. His medical care has gotten so much easier for him. He has become an advocate for himself. He has become so much more confident and comfortable in his own scarred skin.

The power of camp is unbelievable.
-JEN MCMULLEN, CAMPER MOM



SWEET SURPRISE

Unpacking from Hematology/Oncology camp at Flying Horse Farms and I found this sweet little note ("Have the best day!") tucked into my backpack from one of my littlest campers.

I had the pleasure of spending the week with seven spunky, sweet, intelligent and wise-beyond-their-years ladies who have taught me more about how to approach life than I've learned in 30 years of being on the planet.

This was truly an experience I will never forget. Thank you Flying Horse Farms for changing my life and Abercrombie & Fitch for this incredible partnership.

-ERIN MCCARTHY, A&F CAMP COUNSELOR



INTRODUCING... SMALLS!

Thank you, Flying Horse Farms and all the staff for turning my 9-year-old cancer survivor into a Chicken Head who now refers to himself as "Smalls."

You guys are killing me!

But we do love you, and Luke had "the best week!"

-KANDA VECCHIARELLI BENNER, CAMPER MOM



THE WILD GORK

Have you heard of the wild gork? It's a rare, endangered animal that is half lizard and half monkey and has golden eyes. Its diet? Poop.

You can find this rare animal at Flying Horse

Farms in Mt. Gilead, Ohio. See, the gork was made up by a group of special 11-year-old boys who are cancer survivors, struggling with sickle cell anemia, or dealing with hemophilia. These boys get to come to camp every summer, free of charge, to be regular kids making poop jokes.

Camp thinks of every single thing in order to make campers feel at home and never left out due to their illness. If a kid needs to take medicine while he's fishing, a nurse will run it out to him so he can continue. Even a child in a wheelchair can still complete the zipline and high ropes course.

Through my work at Abercrombie & Fitch, I was fortunate enough to spend a week at camp with these nuggets, and it was truly life-changing. These kids have been through so much, and yet they still have such a bright outlook on life. The bonds formed with these children is something I'll never forget. One even called me his best friend and the "coolest" counselor.

I really felt at home with these kids and fellow counselors and staff at Flying Horse Farms, and it's something I'll take with me wherever I go. The week was filled with smiles, laughter, dancing, costumes and everything that comes with being a kid.

It's hard to put all of this into words.

-IAN RUBINI, A&F CAMP COUNSELOR



MAGIC

Man, I'm really missing this place.

Flying Horse Farms is a summer camp for kids with different kinds of diseases or deformities, and it's one of the most friendly places in the entire world.

It was my last year as a camper, and I would give anything to go back there.

It's a place where I'm not criticized for the things I do or for how I look. Where I'm not judged for things.

This is a magical place that I love and will never forget about. It's a place where I feel safe.

This is my home away from home, and it forever will be.

-TRAVIS, CAMPER



NEW ADVENTURES

Isabelle is very shy and had never spent a night away from home prior to going to camp.

The first thing she said when I picked her up was, "I can't wait to go

back next year, Mommy."

Thank you for bringing Izzie out of her shell and for helping her feel like a "normal" kid. We can never repay you for everything you have done for her!

-JENNIFER BALDRIDGE, CAMPER MOM



HOME

There's something special about home. A place where you never really can get away from the endless love that pours out. A place where you aren't afraid to express yourself. A journey you take through life, and a place you can rest when you are weary.

I love everything about this home. About Flying Horse Farms.

Camp is always gonna hold a special place to me.

I met some beautiful people there, and I felt normal. I felt more understood than ever.

Thank you for giving me the experience of a lifetime, and I'll see you as a counselor! Just you wait!

-LILLY, CAMPER



#SQUADGOALS

This past week has been the best week of my life.

Between me and Lil Pops going in on every dance to singing along to Taylor Swift and 1D (and singing for my bling) to playing the uke and doing the Cupid shuffle, this past week has been everything to me.

But my favorite part about it was hanging out with the “toasted” squad and making new friends.

You guys have helped me become who I am today. You guys taught me that even though we’re different from everyone else, there’s still people just like us. You guys have helped me through a lot this past year. Thanks for everything and thank you for letting me be the weird person I am and still accepting me.

I can’t wait for the years to come. Hopefully we all make it to Ranger camp and maybe even become counselors together.

I’ll miss you guys so much. Again, thanks for everything. You only get a one-year break from me and Squid, so enjoy it while it lasts!

-ALEX, CAMPER



FINDING THE LIGHT

I was blessed with a cabin counselor and ropes director whose names were Jill and Jordan. They’ve been such a huge part of my camp experience. I can’t even describe how important they are to me.

They let me talk to them about Sarah. Being comfortable to tell someone personal things is very hard. They were there, and I opened up to them, and they helped me. I am honestly so beyond grateful for them. They made a huge impact on my life. They gave

me such good advice and saved me.

I would give anything to tell them this face to face. I really wish I could tell them everything. I wish I could tell them how I was feeling, what made me upset today, the best part of my day. Most of all, I wish I could tell them how much I miss them. How much they’ve helped me find the light at the end of the tunnel, how there’s hope left when I feel like there is none.

This Earth needs more people like them.

-ZOE, CAMPER



IN A TOTALLY AWESOME WAY

Thanks to Flying Horse Farms, after walking through the Big Red Barn, I have been able to put my medical needs behind me like never before.

The activities, the people, the friends, the places, the adventures, the food—it all adds up to one big week, the best week ever.

The energy around this camp is always and only loving, positive and fun.

Camp brings out this part of me that just makes me so much more confident and makes me feel like, Yeah, I am different... in a totally awesome way!

-LIZZIE, CAMPER



BRINGING THE JOY

Camp is a place where you aren’t defined by your illness.

For our family, there is a BC (before cancer) and an AC (after cancer).

Kids who go through cancer lose a lot. There are lots of blessings through that struggle, but it changes everything.

FHF offers these kids opportunities to get a little of that back. Camp is a happy place where campers can try new things, meet new friends, and have fun in a nurturing environment.

-MARY DAVIS, CAMPER MOM AND VOLUNTEER



BIGGER & BETTER

Working with the Rangers was so rewarding and heartwarming—watching them all grow into servant leaders throughout the week

was a true gift. It brought me so much joy to work alongside them in our Ranger service rotations and then reflect with them afterwards.

This program is a very special one, and I consider myself blessed to have been able to be a part of it.

My job has a lot to do with service learning and training servant leaders, but the Rangers brought something very special and different to the table than my students do, and it is humbling to know that I got to be a part of that experience for them.

With my sister being on Seasonal Staff, I had a general idea that camp was going to be great, but the reality of camp is so much better, bigger and more magical than anyone could describe.

It was an absolutely amazing experience, and I cannot wait to come back and continue to make the magic happen for the campers.

-ANNE WEIDNER, VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Family Sidekicks — Ages 19 & up. Partner with a family for a weekend family camp. Sidekicks help campers feel welcome and supported while exploring group and individual activities. These volunteers are hosts who focus on creating a wonderful weekend for the entire family.

Cabin Counselors — Ages 19 & up. Volunteer during a weeklong, kids-only summer camp. Counselors participate in activities, eat with their cabins during meals and provide support and supervision to campers. These volunteers are energetic, positive, patient and ready to make magic happen.

Activity Counselors — Ages 19 & up. Volunteer as the leader of a specific activity for an entire weekend family camp or weeklong summer camp. Areas include waterfront, nature and discovery, Angie's Arts & Crafts, archery and spotlight.

Kitchen Volunteers — Ages 18 & up or 16 & up with a guardian. Join us for a weekend or week to help prepare and serve meals to keep camper bellies full and happy. These volunteers are a vital part of the camp experience.

Lifeguards — Ages 16 & up; must be certified. Ensure that our campers are safe while swimming, boating and fishing. Certified lifeguards are needed throughout the year when waterfront activities are open. Scheduling is flexible.

Interested? Email Pete Aubry at pete@flyinghorsefarms.org. He will send you a link to an application when they go live in November 2017.

MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS

Provide medical care and support during weekend family camp or weeklong summer camp. We need these medical volunteers: physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and pharmacists (for camper arrival). Medical volunteers serve under the scope of their professional practice. You will be interviewed by our staff and asked to provide proof of license and other documentation. Interested? Email Christy McKinley at christy@flyinghorsefarms.org.

CAMP CREATORS

With a fulltime facilities team of two, camp relies on corporations, organizations and individuals to help make camp pristine by making beds, cleaning cabins, helping with yard work and otherwise prepping for the next set of campers. Interested? Email Pete Aubry at pete@flyinghorsefarms.org.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Help spread the word about camp by volunteering to staff an event. These volunteers help coordinate event-day details and assure everything runs smoothly. Interested? Email Liz Antel at events@flyinghorsefarms.org.

HOW TO HELP

Want to make magic?
Join the mission.
Here's how.

PARTY FOR A CAUSE

Our community partners rock. Handfuls of individuals and organizations have hosted events to support camp, from company holiday parties to road races around Columbus. Here, meet three groups making magic.



BERKSHIRE TRIATHLON

The Berkshire Triathlon is an annual event in Upper Arlington put on by a group of community members with three simple but significant goals: be active, be merry and help kids who are sick. More than 100 participants raced in the family-friendly sprint triathlon in June, raising \$18,000 for camp.



NEXT LEVEL

Next Level Trainings is a leadership program that connects leaders with worthy causes in Columbus and beyond. Its summer class of 35 members—including the mother of a Flying Horse Farms camper—chose to adopt camp. The goal? \$85,000. The timeline? Three weeks. They hosted a dance party and a holistic wellness night, created a coloring book, sold candles and did more, too. The result? \$100,000 for camp.



HARVEST BELL

Northeast Ohio's Harvest Bell Farm teamed with Cleveland Field Kitchen, Southern Tier Brewing Company, Watershed Distillery and more for an intimate pop-up dinner to build bridges, celebrate the everyday and benefit camp. More than 40 guests raised \$870 for Flying Horse Farms.

CAMPERS FIRST

Our campers' safety is our top priority. That means our volunteers must be the best of the best—and that the somewhat-lengthy and in-session application process includes a background check and medical records. We promise the payoff is worth it!

DONATE

RECURRING GIVING

A recurring gift allows a donor to select regularly scheduled gifts on a monthly basis. Donations of any amount are accepted and appreciated. For details, email us at giving@flyinghorsefarms.org.

CASH GIFTS

Unrestricted cash gifts allow for a wide range of projects and programs to be funded. For details, email us at giving@flyinghorsefarms.org.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts often are planned with help from your professional advisors. They are typically made from your estate and come to fruition upon your passing. For details, email us at giving@flyinghorsefarms.org.

MATCHING GIFTS

An easy way to double your gift? Ask your employer if they have a charitable gift-matching program. For details, email us at giving@flyinghorsefarms.org.

GIFTS OF STOCK

Gifts of stock are an efficient way to donate to Flying Horse Farms. Upon transfer, the stock is sold and the proceeds are made available to Flying Horse Farms. For details, email us at giving@flyinghorsefarms.org.

GIFTS IN KIND

Gifts in kind are products and services that help meet the needs of campers, staff and our facility. For details, email Don Wiggins at don@flyinghorsefarms.org.

THIRD PARTY EVENTS

Gather friends and colleagues to raise funds for and awareness about Flying Horse Farms. For details, email Liz Antel at events@flyinghorsefarms.org.

DONATE NOW!
FlyingHorseFarms.org

A person is ziplining over a calm lake at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and grey, with some clouds. The person is a small figure in the distance, suspended on a rope. The water in the foreground is still, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The overall mood is peaceful and adventurous.

I WANT TO
MOVE
OTHER PEOPLE

BECAUSE

CAMP MOVED ME.

—CALEB THURMAN, RANGER



a serious fun camp

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"CAMP HAS TAUGHT ME WHAT LOVE IS, WHAT JOY IS, WHAT LAUGHTER IS, WHAT HAPPINESS IS."
-ELIZABETH, FLYING HORSE FARMS RANGER