Journeying On

FOR ME, CAMP HAS ALWAYS been about Damion Dane, my nephew who never recovered from Ewing’s Sarcoma. It’s been about my brother Tom, who passed away of Leukemia. It’s been about transformation. We’ve rejoiced about what we still can do. 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 — the question is.

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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.

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

**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.

**THE WRITE THING**
Igloo Letterpress teammed 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.
This year, Flying Horse Farms welcomed its 5,000th camper. As camp matures and evolves, so does its impact.
HE BRACES WERE CRIED OVER and, for an 8-year-old boy, embarrassing.

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

So every day, Caleb stepped into the hard-as-steel-seat, which started beneath his feet, striped behind his calves and wrapped tight on 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 or jumping or feeling normal. Formally, 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 he learned not to trust the world, too.

Eight years later, Caleb is still here, scars from surgeries a far-off memory—despite the fact that he, like 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,” she would say. “I don’t have to explain if I wear a dress or go deeper. It did the same the first year, too, and the year after that.

This year, Flying Horse Farms turned 7 and welcomed in 5,000 campers. 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 Diane. “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, but I know it just keeps getting better.”

THE SUMMER THAT CAMP OPENED, one young boy learned to swallow his pihis 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 mastermind 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 shelves 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 ad-hoc, 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 cancer.

“The 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 Galatianovic. “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 crust 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 were marching scars, toothy grins and plenty of glitter. Their memories through the years are colorful.

Remember when we painted Grandpa’s beard with palm trees? And when we put makeup on Dr. Boyle? What about the year we made the green slime and got it stuck in our hair? How about when the boys tre-peed us, and we got the back of Marty’s musicB out his cabin early the next morning?

There have been fashion shows. Outpost sleepovers.Crashes. And now, in tears, text messages that keep them connected year-round.

Sarah, who had undergone two open-heart surgeries by age 5, was among them. When the kind, outgoing Northwest 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 Sarah, was new. She was making friends.

“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.”

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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 wear a skirt that I got from 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 ex- actly 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 ex- hausted. Her temperature spiked. She was exhausted. Lost weight.lost weight. Her temperature spiked. She was exhausted. Lost weight.

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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,
FLYING HORSE FARMS

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 2011, the Foundation began supporting hematology/Oncology camps 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.

SAM’S FANS

Catherine Joseph Nikki and Dan McCarthy, whose daughter Sam died of Fanconi anemia, donated $110 to Flying Horse Farms in 2010. Since, their sons have raised money for camp by participating in Flying Horse, a duathlon for kids. At Campfire 2016, 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 $4,110 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.

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

CARDINAL HEALTH

Cardinal Health Foundation began generously giving money to camp in 2010 and hasn’t stopped, most recently funding psychoosocial services and Child Life Specialist training. In 2011, Cardinal Health began a workplace-giving program, matching gifts for employees donating to camp. In 2014, the company gave camp proceeds from a sample sale. Eventually, A&F leadership began hanging rehtats at camp. Creative teams painted the WestEnd 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—to the world’s largest fundraisers for SeriousFun, A&F went more than 100 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.

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.

What began as one A&F associate excited about Flying Horse Farms has grown into a five-year, $5 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 hanging rehtats at camp. Creative teams painted the WestEnd 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—to the world’s largest fundraisers for SeriousFun, A&F went more than 100 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.

Family Matters

Camp isn’t just a game change 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 he was beloved.

For Chase Fort, camp also has worked wonders. She is an embalmed colorado born Christian and a stern mother who doesn’t shed because her son comes first. When she first learned of camp’s medical diagnosis, she sobbed. Then, for two full years, she didn’t shed a tear “I felt shut down.” She felt guilt-ridden and alone. Nothing helped.

Then, she and Caleb attended at Family Camp. The parents gathered together to talk, to laugh, to listen. And all the tears she hadn’t stored amassed. “It was healing,” she said. “I was able to breathe. You’re not alone.”

Chase connected with families she still stays in touch with today.

“How pure life was then, she said, “that did more for me than anything else could have done.”

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 well have to deal with someday. It’s not camps,” said Sarah’s father, “Sahib,” said Bryan Brownfield. “We’ve gone from theoretical to actual, and actual is a lot harder and more painful.”

Sarah’s 9-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 counsellor’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 proud of how far they’ve come, “Don’t worry about me,” she said, “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.”

The more than 800 guests at her funeral included the Columbus Blue Jackets, the Columbus Dispatch, the Columbus Dispatch’s FirstNet board of directors and generously supported personally. Former Cardinal Health Chief Human Resources Officer Cathy Watkins serves on camp’s board as past chair. She generously donated $50,000 upon her retirement to establish the Cathy Watkins Leadership Fund at camp, which supports seasonal staff and the program range. 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 search, security training and professional development sessions to camp’s full-time staff.

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2017 Highlights

Conquering the Wall

Caleb

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 news. The injured boy said the rest of the crew could tackle the wall without him.

One of camp’s core values is “A Simple Thank You.”

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 included that 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 your convictions. Do what you’re good at and love doing. More singing.

The Ranger Program showed me you don’t have to be looked at 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 responsibility is, what life is. It’s like you realize, wow—this is what the big picture is.”

–Charice, 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.”

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 role models since birth. She is his chef, his homework helper, his toughest critic and his biggest fan.

Caleb, she believes, will continue opening those gifts.

“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.

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 Hillory 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. “It got to perform in front of Bill and Hillary Clinton,” Caleb said. “That was amazing!”

Ranger Reflections

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 Olympians 2017.

Caleb was challenged to be the best he can be, and he’s honoring that challenge. Caleb Thurman, shown here being doused in paint by younger campers during Color Olympians 2017.

2017 Highlights

2017

Weeks 3

Rangers: 39

2016

Weeks 3

Rangers: 30

2015

Weeks 2

Rangers: 27

2014

Weeks 1

Rangers: 16

2013

Weeks 1

Rangers: 13

2012

Weeks 1

Rangers: 12
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.
**ABBY BLOOMFIELD**

Abby, 25, began her camp journey as a summer cabin counselor in 2014—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 Camp 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, skirts, pants 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 those 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 mental tool not to 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.

**OLIVIA MILLER**

Camper and Family Liaison Seasonal Staff 2013

To me, camp means...

Freedom from medical treatments and diagnosis, freedom for parents, freedom from the worry and stress, freedom to be your true self, freedom to be silly and laugh again, freedom to transform, freedom to fly!

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**TEAM FHF**

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

**CHRISTY MCKINLEY**

Camp Director Seasonal Staff 2008

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 quickly on our own. We push boundaries, take risks, fail kids “yes” when they’ve only heard “no,” encourage each other and keep campers our number one.

**EMMA NOVINS**

Since spending summer 2012 as one of camp’s inaugural seasonal staffers, Emma has fired 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 reaching 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 missing 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 be 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, 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 BoosterBio, 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.

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.

On her proudest achievement Originally from Ireland, Corinne, 26, now lives in Antigua, Guatemala helping children living in poverty. The 2014 seasonal staff—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 Nitos de Guatemala.

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.

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 believe I had the most fun and learned more about myself and the world around me when I have been out of my comfort zone.

On camp memories Close-inspired, large installation project summer of 2012—to create a Chuck-inspired, large installation project. From the facilities staff to counselors and everyone at camp, we collaborated to create an incredible, abstract art installation. The 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 her proudest achievement The purest form of love. The people who taught them, and I am beyond grateful for that.

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

ROBERT KIRIAN

FLYING HORSE FARMS

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FLYING HORSE FARMS • 2017

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FLYING HORSE FARMS • 2017
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 a cappella group. She spent three years working with Peter’s Place, a center for grieving children and families. And she spent three summers—2014, 2015 and 2018—as a seasonal staffer at Flying Horse Farms. Now, the Philadelphia native has joined camp’s 2018 fulltime as a fellow in pediatrics and loving the path that camp has put me on.

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.

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

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

Ben Mahrulk, 24, is a Northwest Ohio native and student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. After volunteering at several camps over the 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 2017, I had no focus of what type of medicine I wanted to practice. Even 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 and camp staff 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. Babies hurt from laughter. Fish are caught, kissed and released. Camp is my perfect place.

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 camp
Our campers are strong. They have taught me that no one can wear a smile and persevere. They have taught me the importance of 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
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.

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

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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

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

IMPACT & INSPIRATION
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

INTRODUCING... SMALLS!

New Adventures

Isabelle is very shy and had never spent a night away from home. From 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 Izie 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 Baldrige, 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

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 hope 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

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

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

– Lilly, Camper
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

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

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 get 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

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

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 feel like, ‘Yeah, I am different... in a totally awesome way!’

–LIZZIE, CAMPER

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–LIZZIE, CAMPER

BRINGING THE JOY

BUILDING BETTER

IN A TOTALLY AWESOME WAY

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–LIZZIE, CAMPER
HOW TO HELP

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 fulfilling 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 ensure everything runs smoothly. Interested? Email Liz Antel at events@flyinghorsefarms.org.

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.

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.

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.

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
Gif ts 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
Gif ts in kind are products and services that help meet the needs of campers, staff and our facility. For details, email Don Wiggins at dwan@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

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 TRIATHALON
The Berkshire Triathlon is an annual event in Upper Arlington put on by a group of community members with these 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 $8,000 for camp.

NEXT LEVEL
Next Level Training 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? $35,000. The timeline? Three weeks. They hosted a dinner party and hosted wellness night, created a coloring book, sold candles and did more, too. The result? $50,000 for camp.

HARVEST BELL
Northeast Ohio 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.

DONATE NOW!
Flyinghorsefarms.org
I WANT TO MOVE OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE CAMP MOVED ME.

—CALEB THURMAN, RANGER
“CAMP HAS TAUGHT ME WHAT LOVE IS, WHAT JOY IS, WHAT LAUGHTER IS, WHAT HAPPINESS IS.”

-ELIZABETH, FLYING HORSE FARMS RANGER