



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Dear Camp Friends,

Last year I told you that there was no way that COVID-19 would stop us twice. We started the countdown to the summer 2021 season right then because it was imperative that we come back stronger than ever for our campers. Our kids needed their friends, nature, and all the traditions that make Happiness Is Camping their second home. But first we had to ask ourselves was it possible to safely open our doors while the world was still in the grip of a pandemic?

Our reopening strategy was based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of New Jersey, best practices from the American Camp Association, and the expertise of the Happiness Is Camping Medical Council. Our entire camp community was responsible for the successful implementation of our plan, and our network of staff, campers, families, and volunteers came together to do the impossible.

All paid staff, volunteers, and medical staff were required to be vaccinated in order to attend camp. Admins and counselors remained on-site at Happiness Is Camping for 8 weeks in a summer camp "bubble" to eliminate the possibility of outside exposure. All campers and staff, regardless of vaccination status, were required to take a PCR test within 72 hours before arriving at camp, a rapid test upon arrival, and another PCR test on Day 4 of each session. We administered over 500 COVID tests this summer!

Everyone wore masks except when eating, swimming, relaxing in their cabins, or when outdoors and physically distanced from other cabins. The cabins participated in all camp activities as cohorts of 6-10 campers and 2 staff. Medical triaging occurred outdoors on the porch of our Health Center, which was affectionately referred to as the "Lakeside Clinic." Parents were not allowed to enter our site. We changed our usual camper drop-off and pick-up to a drive-through format. Meals were consumed outdoors, disinfectant UV lights and additional air flow units were added to all camp buildings, and frequently touched surfaces were disinfected multiple times a day.

One thing was crystal clear through all the added safety precautions and programming changes: we were willing to do whatever was necessary to have a safe and successful summer. Was it easy? Not even a little bit! The better question might be...was it worth it? The answer to that question was a resounding yes! A million times yes! We are very proud to share that there were no cases of COVID at camp this summer. The happy sounds of campers filled Happiness Is Camping after a year and a half of silence and that is the biggest victory of all.

Summer 2021 also marked our 40th anniversary of providing free camp to children with cancer and their siblings. Our anniversary season would have been an emotional summer in a normal year, and we don't need to tell you that this year has been far from normal. The overwhelming emotion at camp was gratitude. We were all extremely thankful to be back at camp with our friends after a year of isolation, and the campers had a renewed appreciation for the donors who make their magical summers possible. None of this is possible without you and we do not take that fact lightly. We thank you for believing in us and for joining us on our journey this summer.

We need to make sure the journey continues until there is an end to pediatric cancer and our camp is no longer needed. I respectfully ask you to make a gift to Happiness Is Camping this holiday season. Your donation will help us give children with cancer and their families a community to lean on during the darkest times of their lives and a chance to recapture the fun of their childhood. The holidays are always the best time to bring joy to children and I cannot think of a place that does so more than our camp.

Warm regards,



Richard Campbell
Executive Director



GO ALL IN

Photographers are often told not to shoot what an image looks like, but what it feels like. This photo feels like Summer 2021 for all of us at Happiness Is Camping. If we were going to do this, we were going all in! And boy, did Saul go all in during a pond ecology activity.

Summer 2021 had its challenges. The weather for Session 1 was not our friend. We battled extremely hot and exceedingly wet conditions. There were masks, and testing, and distancing. But we were all back together at Happiness Is Camping so it was magical once again.

Every. Single. Family. went all in and adhered to our strict testing policies and our altered drop-off and pick-up schedules to get their kids to camp. We had a young staff that went all in by arriving June 19th and not leaving our grounds (for anything!) until August 1st. We are so incredibly grateful to our Medical Council who went all in believing that we could host camp safely. These dedicated healthcare professionals supported us in every way imaginable.

We did it. It was a big NO to Covid-19, and a huge YES to fun, laughs, new friendships, creative programming, and another summer to remember! It might have looked a bit different, but it felt just the same. Thank you to our donors who believe in our mission and go all in year after year to support this incredible place.



Here's to Summer 2022 being a little less challenging, but full of all the joy, enchantment, creativity and love that Happiness Is Camping has to offer!

THANK YOU!

Laura San Miguel
Board President

SAFETY PRIORITIZED, BUT FUN NOT SACRIFICED!

SUMMER IN REVIEW

This summer was all about returning to in-person camp and celebrating the 40 years of traditions and people that make Happiness Is Camping so special. The first day of camp was filled with big smiles hidden behind masks and tearful reunions.

Our program staff worked hard to make our activities COVID safe without sacrificing any fun. Instead of our usual free choice activities, cabins participated in all activities together. This system also provided campers with unique opportunities to slow down the pace and develop new skills that they honed over the course of the summer. Campers still participated in classic camp activities such as arts and crafts, sports, swimming, nature, ropes, dance, and many more.

The entire camp came together each night to safely engage in all-camp activities. We hosted new versions of old favorites including Hussey's Casino Night, Hollywood Premiere, Guinness Book of Camp Records, Talent Show, a pool party, and even a block party! Color Wars was replaced with Cabin Wars and became the highlight of the summer. Campers are normally divided into either the Blue Team or the Green Team during Color Wars. To maintain the COVID cohorts, campers competed in daily challenges as a cabin rather than as a Color Wars team. The Cabins earned points for winning activities such as Lip Sync Battle, Counselor Hunt, Hollywood Premiere, and Last Jedi. While we had multiple winners each session, the second-youngest boys cabin the Mohawks ultimately impressed us with their enthusiasm and won the coveted Cabin of the Year Award!

New virtual reality kits made their arrival at camp this summer as part of our robust STEAM program. The Mohawk cabin was the first to test our kits. The Mohawks traveled on a virtual reality field trip to the pyramids, took a quick break and then began a quest to climb Mt. Fuji! Other trips included the Great Wall of China and the Galapagos Islands. All without leaving the comforts of New Jersey. Campers also participated in daily STEAM workshops that included robotics making, circuitry building, computer coding on iPads, and musical keyboard lessons.

Another exciting first was our first ever outdoor prom. Camp would not be complete without prom on the last evening of camp, even during a pandemic. This year's theme was Under the Sea. Campers donned their best attire and ate a catered meal. Prom included a major twist. We held a silent disco! Campers danced the night away underneath our large party tent while listening to our live DJ through individual headphones. Our outdoor venue offered possibilities for unique activities including karaoke, lawn games, and an ice cream party. Of course prom would not be prom without plenty of Janis Juice! Prom 2021 may have looked and sounded a little different from our past proms, but the joy and sense of community was the same as in past years.

Once the prom festivities ended, tears began to flow as the 16 year-old campers shared what Happiness Is Camping means to them during our annual aging out ceremony. The evening concluded with an announcement of "WE DID IT," followed by the entire camp erupting into joyful tears and celebrations. For many of us, being together at camp and doing the impossible made this the best summer of our lives. There was a lot that was new and different at Happiness Is Camping this year, but the bonding and feeling of family was always as it has been. The truly important part of Happiness Is Camping remained constant. Safety was prioritized, but fun was not sacrificed.



MY BROTHER, MY FRIEND

I saw him lying in the hospital bed, hooked up to multiple machines. It was the spring of 2006, and I was less than four years old. We were in Florida on vacation when my baby brother Patrick began vomiting and unexpectedly fell ill, abruptly ending our trip. I was too young to comprehend the dire circumstances. I later learned that Patrick had been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and needed to be hospitalized while receiving surgery, extensive chemotherapy, and a stem cell transplant. Our family largely spent the new few years going back and forth to various hospitals and medical appointments for therapies, transfusions, and checkups.

Thankfully, my brother survived. Unfortunately, he continues to suffer from the neurological and behavioral side effects of his treatment. Patrick struggles particularly with self-control, communication, and emotional expression. The causes of his erratic actions are often unclear. Patrick's behavioral patterns had a significant effect on our family life. At times his behavior became so challenging that we invited behavioral therapists into our home morning and night. Their efforts unfortunately failed and merely ended up disrupting our home further. Patrick has developed progressively frequent seizures in recent years. Because we share a bunk bed, I have had to overcome my paranoia of nocturnal seizures and curb my ritual glances over the bed railing whenever I hear the slightest movement below.

There were moments when I was younger that I was jealous of the attention Patrick received from our parents. As I matured, these sentiments dissipated as I realized that our roles may have been reversed had fate been different. I now fully understand the necessity of the extra care he receives in coping with his uniquely difficult challenges. My family and I have learned to be cognizant of key verbal cues, tone of voice, and body language to anticipate and de-escalate tense situations.

Patrick and I have shared many wonderful experiences at Happiness Is Camping throughout the years. We spent precious weeks engaging in all sorts of camp activities. Hardwick, New Jersey provided the respite we both needed and allowed us to bond in a way we hadn't before. These times have been foundational for me. I would not trade them for anything in the world. Even in the middle of the year, months after camp had ended, we would break into song. Our constant renditions of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" harken back to the 2019 camp lip-sync battle. One highlight was

when Patrick was voted Camper of the Week. It was incredibly heart-warming to watch my ecstatic brother accept the award from Ryan, and it was a powerful platform for him to make progress in his exploits beyond camp.

Happiness Is Camping also provided Patrick and me with the opportunity to connect with other children and families afflicted with cancer. It was eye-opening to realize that our family's predicament was not unique and that others had faced similar, and in some cases, worse situations. Patrick and I both made special friendships. I later became a camp counselor and thoroughly enjoyed leading my own cabin. This leadership role has helped tremendously in my development as a young adult and person.

Patrick's condition and its repercussions have had an enormous influence on me. He has broadened my outlook on life and helped me to appreciate the complexities and uncertainties of our world.

Through our special and unique relationship and my experiences, I have developed an appreciation for the value of connecting with others, keeping an open mind, and being flexible with changing circumstances. Our family has been incredibly fortunate, not only for the medical advances that have kept my brother alive, but also for the incredible people—medical professionals, teachers, camp staff, and many more—that have helped him thrive and guided us all through the most difficult of times. I am also blessed to have a strong family that has provided me with unconditional support and love. I would include Happiness Is Camping as part of this family, as they were foundational in my life and relationship with my brother. Camp gave even the most difficult of circumstances a positive and uplifting spin, and I will be forever grateful for that. As I look ahead, I aspire to emulate the many examples I have witnessed

at Happiness Is Camping of commitment to others and collective effort towards a greater cause.

by James Bowers, Sibling/Counselor



From left to right: William, Patrick, and James Bowers

JAMES BOWERS

is the proud winner of the 2021
Happiness Forever Scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must be graduates of the Counselor and Mentorship Program, accepted into a vocational or college program, and demonstrate through a written essay that they have the utmost respect for those in their community, unwavering integrity in the face of challenges, and a dedication for service to others. James is a first-year at Carleton College. We wish James continued success on his collegiate journey and thank him for his exemplary work at camp this summer.

WE'RE BACK!

Family Camp was held at camp on June 25-27, 2021. It was exciting and fulfilling to have campers back on our grounds once again! Family Camp is an opportunity for children with cancer and their families who are new to Happiness Is Camping to experience camp life with the comfort of having their family in attendance. Many parents of a child with cancer are nervous to send their child away to camp.

Family Camp gives the parents the chance to meet our staff and form

the relationships that allow them to feel comfortable to send their seriously ill child to Happiness Is Camping during the summer. The weekend is also a wonderful bonding experience for the entire family as they all get to take a break from their everyday stresses and enjoy a weekend at camp. 10 families attended Family Camp this summer. What could be better?



HAPPINESS IS CAMPING CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

Our annual benefit is one of our favorite days each year. It gives us a chance to socialize with our current donors and an opportunity to spread awareness about our mission to potential donors who are new to the Happiness Is Camping family. The benefit funds a significant portion of camp expenses. Last year's event was canceled due to COVID. We're happy to share that we were able to safely gather this year. On June 8th, 2021, we held our first sporting clays shoot at the Hudson Farm Club in Andover, NJ. Mother Nature threw some rain and lightning at us, but bad weather doesn't stop the fun at camp so why would it stop a camp fundraiser? You can see from the smiles

in these pictures that the day was a big success.

Thank you to all the donors and sponsors whose generosity made our clay shoot the most successful fundraising benefit yet. Special thanks to our event hosts Ron and Trish Iervolino and Alex and Laura San Miguel. We are humbled by the support. We will meet again next year! Please mark your calendar for September 20, 2022.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS (YET STILL AT CAMP!)

Our first Virtual Holiday Camp was held December 27-30, 2020. Our amazing volunteers from around the world hosted nightly sessions. Our campers were thrilled to see their favorite counselors from past years! Our 16 volunteers included alumni campers and siblings, former staff, current staff, and even a few new faces who jumped right in and instantly became part of the Happiness Is Camping family. The dynamic activities included arts and crafts paper gingerbread houses, Boys vs. Girls Game Show Night featuring Wheel of Fortune and Family Feud, My Counselor Can, a household scavenger hunt, a Holiday Bingo Extravaganza and a new game called The Grinches (our counselors) vs. The Whos (the campers). This fast paced game pitted the campers against the counselors in challenges including the most snorts in 10 seconds, typing your name with your eyes closed, blackjack, shooting a paper ball into a trash can, and naming as many colors as possible in 10 seconds. The campers seized the night and exacted their revenge after an improbable streak of bad luck for the counselors in blackjack! Thank you to all who contributed their time and talents to make the camp a big success. When we cannot be together in person, our award-winning virtual camps are truly the next best thing!

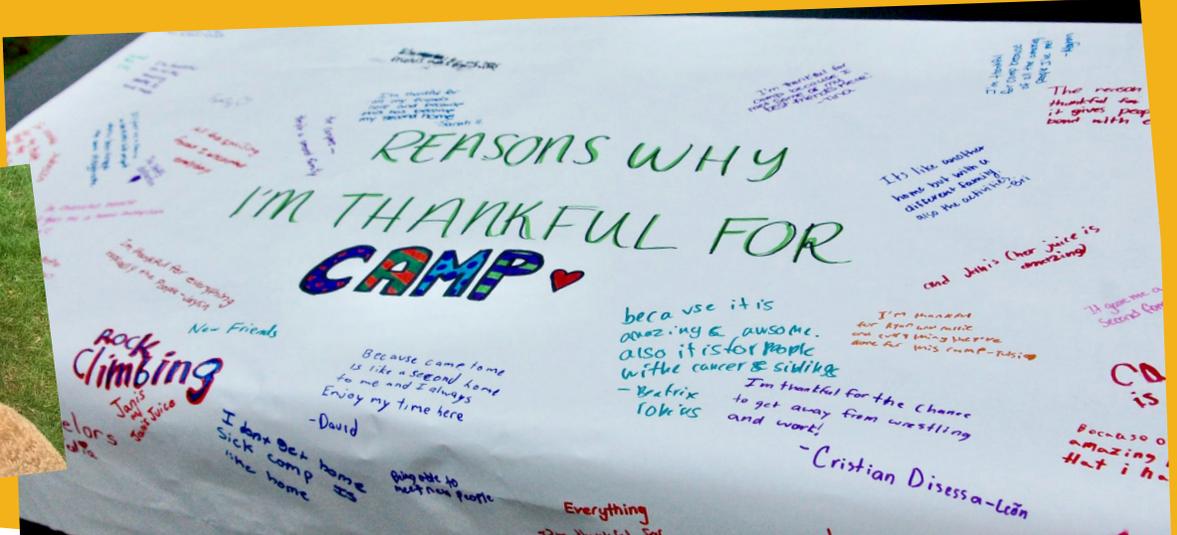


40 YEARS OF HAPPINESS

A 40th anniversary is always something to celebrate! Monumental changes occur in that period of time. Did you know that the price of gas 40 years ago was \$1.25 a gallon? Prince Charles and Lady Diana were about to get married and get ready for the most mind-blowing one yet...the word "internet" was first mentioned in 1981! Boy, how times have changed. One thing that has not changed is Happiness Is Camping. Of course our buildings and grounds look much different, and our staff has changed, but our mission has always remained the same. We exist to provide free residential camp to children with cancer and their siblings. We hold fast to our belief that camp, play, and friendship are crucial to our campers.

Cancer takes away so much from our kids. We refuse to let it take away their childhoods as well.

Our 40th anniversary reunion was held at camp on August 21, 2021. Together we celebrated four decades of Happiness! It was an amazing day filled with camp activities, great food, and time spent catching up with old and new friends. It was our joy to welcome back alumni from years past. The friends you meet at Happiness Is Camping are the friends who turn into family. Thank you to all who attended. It was wonderful to reminisce about old memories while creating new ones!



WALKING ON SUNSHINE



The Virtual Walk for Happiness was also back this year! 133 participants joined together to send children with cancer to camp...one step at a time. Our supporters walked, ran, hiked, and biked 3.1 miles from their location on September 24-26, 2021. Together we raised close

to \$6,000 for camp. \$6,000 funds 3 campers to attend Happiness Is Camping for a week. Great job! Thank you for lacing up your shoes, and hitting the trail, road, or treadmill to raise money for camp. We loved the posts you shared on our social media and the feeling of community that was felt across the miles. Until next year!



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ADVENTURES ARE CALLING

A huge thank you to Madison Rhine for painting a new mural in our Health Center. We could not love this mural more! Thank you, Madison, for sharing your talent at camp. Your art will cheer many campers as they wait to begin their treatment in the Infirmary.



SAVE THE DATE!

- Happy New Year 50/50 - December 31
- Family Camp - May 28-30
- Summer camp begins - July 3
- Charity Clay Shoot - September 20



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NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

You can leave a lasting legacy and further our mission by pledging your support to a building or designated space at Happiness Is Camping. Your gift presents a unique chance to be permanently recognized at camp. We encourage our donors to take advantage of these opportunities, either through an outright gift or through a gift that is pledged for up to five years. You may also choose to honor a family member or friend through a naming. The impact of your gift will last more than a lifetime!

Naming of the Camp	Please Inquire	Swing Shed	Named
Infirmery	Named	Pool Pavilion	Named
Kitchen/Lodging Main Lodge	\$350,000	Playground	Named
Africa Camper Cabin	\$40,000	Outdoor Basketball Court	Named
Asia Camper Cabin	\$40,000	GaGa Pit	Named
Australia Camper Cabin	\$40,000	Beach Volleyball Court	Named
Europe Camper Cabin	\$40,000	Campfire Circle	\$20,000
North America Camper Cabin	\$40,000	High Ropes Course	\$15,000
Swimming Pool	\$50,000	Pickleball Court	\$20,000
Gymnasium	Named	Archery Range	Named
Gramercy (4 Cabins)	\$100,000	Climbing Tower	\$10,000
Arts & Crafts Loft	\$50,000	Zip Line	Named
Recreation Hall	\$50,000	Lakeside Amphitheater	Named
Game Room/Teen Lounge	Named	Giant Swing	Named
Nature Center	\$10,000	Pool Cabin Cabana	Named
The Barn	\$20,000	International Village	Named
Administrative Building	Named	Picnic Area	Named

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate online at www.happinisscamping.org
- Make a memorial or honorarium donation for a friend or family member
- Give an in-kind gift from our Wish List
- Select Happiness Is Camping as your charity on www.smile.amazon.com
- Rent our facility
- Invite us to speak at your next function
- Pledge a monthly donation
- Send a child with cancer to camp with a "campership"
- Camp naming opportunities
- Employer matching gifts
- Donate stocks or bonds
- Leave a legacy
- Host a fundraising event
- Corporate sponsorship
- Volunteer at camp
- Attend our annual benefit
- Join our TCS New York City Marathon team
- Join our United Airlines NYC Half team
- Register for our Virtual Walk for Happiness
- Purchase a 50/50 ticket

FOLLOW CAMP ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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